# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

16

**Actor Junior Mehmood dies of cancer** at 68



**NATIONAL** 

**Zoram People's Move**ment leader Lalduhoma sworn in as Mizoram CM **INTERNATIONAL** 

18

**'Will turn Beirut into Gaza':** Netanyahu warns Hezbollah against all-out war



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| 7

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### **India bans Onion Exports till March 2024**

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): The Government has banned exports of onion till March next year with a view to increase domestic availability and to keep prices in check.

"Export policy of onions... is amended from free to prohibited till March 31, 2024," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification.

### **Intense** cold grips Kashmir, Srinagar records season's coldest night at minus 2.6°C

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): There was no let up in severe cold weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir as Srinagar recorded season's coldest night at minus 2.6°C on Thursday.

A meteorological department official here siad that further drop by 1-2°C is expected in next three days before some relief from the freezing cold conditions.

Till December 10, he said, mainly dry weather is expected in J&K. On December 11. he said, weather is expected to be generally cloudy.

From December 12-15, he said, weather is likely to be generally cloudy with light rain/ snow at isolated higher reaches.

"Fall in Minimum temperature by 1-2°C is expected during next 3 days over all the stations and thereafter slight improvement till

December 15," he said.

Regarding the minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.6°C, the coldest so far this season, against 2.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal for this time of the year in Srinagar.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.2°C against minus 2.0°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 1.4°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the official

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 4.9°C against minus 5.1°C on the previous night
Turn to page 9

# Police to ensure strict compliance of SoPs to I am servant of Law And avoid Eidgah like attacks: ADGP Law & Order

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police Friday said all the officers and other ranks have been directed to follow Standard Operating Procedure (SoPs) in spirit while on leave or on duty to avoid incidents like the one in which a police inspector was attacked on October 29 at Eidgah, Srinagar.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the wreath laying ceremony slain police inspector



Masroor Ahmed Wani, who was injured in a terrorist attack while playing cricket at Eidgah on October 29, and succumbed yesterday at AIIMS, at DPL Srinagar,

ADGP Law and Order Vijay Kumar said and the officers and other ranks have been directed to follow the SoPs in spirit.

"Fresh directions passed to one and all

to follow SoPs while on leave or while performing the duties to avoid becoming soft targets," Kumar said, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Inspector Wani succumbed at AIIMS yesterday after battling for life for 39 days. A bullet had stuck his head. Wani's body was brought to Srinagar from AIIMS this morning. ADGP Kumar while

replying to a query admitted that police had

Turn to page 9

# **Constitution: CJI D Y** Chandrachud

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Friday said that as a judge, he is a "servant" of the law and the Constitution and has to follow the position that has been laid down.

As soon as a bench headed by the CJI assembled for the day's proceedings, advocate Mathews J Nedumpara mentioned a matter



before the court. The lawver then told the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj

Misra, about the need for reforms in the collegium system as well as abolition of the senior advocate designation.

"You have the freedom to pursue your heart's desire. As the Chief Justice of India, but more importantly. as a judge first, I am a servant of the law and the Constitution," Justice Chandrachud said.

Turn to page 9

### UPI payment limit to hospitals, Educational institutes raised to Rs 5 Lakh: RBI

MUMBAI, Dec 8 (Agencies): In a major decision, the RBI on Friday announced to raise the UPI payment limit to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh presently and hiked the cap for e-mandates for recurring payments to Rs 1 lakh.

Unveiling the December bi-monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said the limit for various categories of



Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions has been reviewed from time to time.

"It is now proposed to enhance the UPI transaction limit for payment to hospitals and educational institutions from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction," he said.

The enhanced limit will help consumers make UPI payments of higher amounts for education and healthcare purpos-

He further said that e-mandates for making payments of a recurring nature have become

■Turn to page 9

### Arms, ammunition recovered during searches in Rajouri



JAMMU, Dec 8 (Agencies): Security forces in Friday recovered arms and ammunition in Nowshera area of Rajouri district.

An official said that a search operation was launched by joint team of Police and army in the Patrari Rajalkote forest area. During searches

Turn to page 9

### announces winter vacation in phased manner from **Dec 11** SRINAGAR, Dec 8

**DSEJ** 

(Agencies): Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) Friday announced winter vacations in winter zones in a phased manner from December-11 to February-29.

DSEJ in an order said that all government schools and recognised private schools upto Higher Secondary Level of winter zone of Jammu Division shall observe winter vacations.

DSEJ said that the classes upto 8th standard shall observe the vacations from December-11-2023 to February-29-2024 and the classes from 9th to 12th standard shall observe the vacations from December-18 to February-29 respectively.

The directorate further ordered that the Chief **Education Officers shall** ensure online classes for Class 10 and 12th Turn to page 9

Turn to page 9

# LG Ladakh grieved over loss of lives in Zojila accident

LEH, Dec 8 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh, Brigadier B D Mishra (Retd) on Friday expressed grief over the tragic road accident near Zojila, in which five Kargil residents lost their lives.

"My heartfelt condolences to the grieving families in Sankoo who lost their loved ones in the tragic road accident at Zoji-la on Thursday. May the soul of the departed ones rest



in eternal peace and may their families find strength in these challenging times" the office of Lieutenant Governor Ladakh posted on X.

'Two Crore Tourists visited JK upto

Nov this Year', Says Union Minister

Notably, in a tragic road accident near Zojila Pass on Srinagar-Leh highway on Thursday five persons died after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident after it rolled down into a deep gorge near Zojila Pass.

The ill-fated vehicle was on way from Sonamarg to Kargil. All the deceased were residents of Kargil district. This was the second fatal accident in three

### arrested with weapons in separate incidents in J&K

JAMMU, Dec 8 (Agencies): Five people were arrested with weapons in separate incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. police said on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the Ramgarh area in Samba district and arrested hardcore criminal Vivek Singh on Thursday night. A country-made pistol and a 12-bore gun were recovered from him, they said.

A case was registered against him under the Arms Act at Vijaypur police station, they said. Singh was arrested in 2018 with three others in connection with a kidnapping and attempt to murder case, according to police.

In the second incident, police received information that some people were collecting royalty from the mining mafia at the cricket ground in Sum Toph, Phallian Mandal area. A team rushed to the spot and arrested four people who were identified as Abhishek Singh, Ravi Singh, Harbax Singh and Sachin Singh, officials said.

### IT dept asks tax payers to return 'wrongly-claimed' refunds to avoid penalty

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): Taking note of the fraudulent and bogus deductions, the Income Tax department has urged all tax payers to return the "wronglyclaimed" refunds before 31st December to avoid penalty and prosecution, officials said today.

"If you have claimed any deduction in your ITR for FY 2022-23 (Assessment Year 2023-

24) for which you have no supporting documents and you have claimed refund of your TDS wholly or partly, you may soon land up in trouble and pay heavy price for claiming such refunds by paying penalty of 200%," said a spokesman, in a written statement.

He said Income Tax Department is keeping a

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

#### ism. "The ambassadors tourist arrivals in 2023 ism Minister G Kishen compared to 2021 and 2022. "85 lakh foreign Reddy Thursday said that for the first time tourists visited India this after Independence, year so far," he said.

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): Union Tour-Jammu and Kashmir has recorded the arrival of two crore tourists up to November this year.

Replying to a query in the Parliament, Reddy, said that for the first time after India's Independence, Jammu and Kashmir has seen two crore tourist arrivals including foreigners up to November this year. "The figure is set to go up further by December end," he said.

He said that there has been a 155 percent increase in the overall

The Union Minister said that PM Narender Modi has played a huge role in showcasing India's tourism potential and tourism Industry. "PM Modi has been the brand ambassador of India's tourism industry. In his (PM's) every foreign visit, Modiji showcased India's huge tourism potential that attracted lakhs of tourists to India," he said.

The Union Minister said G-20 meetings have played a great role rather than the representatives sent by over 30 countries were the cream of foreign countries. Almost 200 meetings of G-20 were held across India including one in J&K. The participants went back to their respective countries as ambassadors of tourism," he said, adding that the Tourism Industry of India got a big push after a successful G-20 meeting this year.

in promoting India's tour-

Interestingly, Tourism officials in J&K believe that the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar in May ■Turn to page 9

■Turn to page 9

### 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

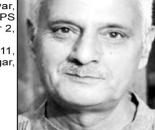
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on December 11 2023 (Monday) at 8:30 AM at Gang Nahar, Murad Nagar Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-

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

Grand Children: Amyra, Rayhan, Moulik, Sia Mobile No: 9810052025 / 7021488089 / 9910906685



Shri Kishen Jee Koul

### Sh. Vijay & Meena Peer

#### 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 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

Sister-in-Laws & Brothers Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Gopal Krishen Bucha

Sunny Gupta- Son

Smt. Neelam & Sh. Vijay Kumar Smt. Anju & Sh. Rakesh Kumar

Akash Ćupta, 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

### 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 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



Smt. Raj Dulari

Gupta

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 orginally resident of Arigam (Budgam) presently at H.No. 353, Secor 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

### OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sac 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 Dassi

Smt. Retica Raina & Sh. Ranjan Dubey

Miss Tanishqa (Great Grand Daughter) Contact no: 7006836499, 9906603710, 9149806648



KARAMYOGI

SH. SHIV JI PANDITA

Smt. Uma Shorie Raina

### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Jugal Kishore Khajuria S/o Tirth Ram Khajuria (Lambi Gali Wale) Retired Store Keeper from MES Department R/o House No 72, EWS, Housing Colony, Udhampu near Move India, who left for heavenly abode on 30-11-2023.

The **Tenth Day** shall take place on 09-12-2023, 11:00 AM at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony and Kriya on 10-12-2023 at Devika Ghat **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Sarita Khajuria (Wife)

SON AND DAUGHTER FAMILY

Pallav Khajuria (Son)

Kannav and Shikha Khajuria (Son & Daughter-in-Law) Bhawna Bharti and Late Vishal Bharti (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Paarth and Pranav Khajuria Abhi and Ayush Bharti (Grand Children)

Arvind Khajuria (Brother) Jatinder and Sushma Khajuria (Brother and Sister-in-Law)

Akshu Khajuria (Nephew) 6006298335, 9906220559, 9821063385



SH. JUGAL KISHORE **KHAJURIA** 

### **OBITUARY**

Shri Chaman Lal Pandita S/o Shri Jia Lal Pandita H/o Smt. Veena ji Pandita, affectionately Known as "Boba ji" R/o Siruru Dangerpora Pattan (Baramulla) A/P 84/3 Adarsh Nagar, Bantalab, has left for his heavenly abode on 30.11.2023 after a brief illness.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace and give courage to his bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Mutthi Ghat Jammu on 9.12.2023 at 9 am. Grief Stricken:

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Sh. Mohan Lal Koul Sh. M.L. Saproo & Smt. Santosh Saproo

Sh. S.K. Raina & Smt. Khema Raina

Sh. M.K. Bhat & Smt. Nancy Bhat

Sh. Sanjay Pandita & Smt. Sangeeta Pandita- Nephew

Dr. Vijay Pandita & Smt. Anju Pandita- Nephew Smt. Jai Kishori Pandita- **Bhabhi** 

Sh. Ramesh Pandita & Smt. Tosha Pandita- Brother & Bhabhi

### **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



Shri Chaman Lal

**Pandita** 

SH. RATTAN LAL **VERMA** 

Shri Ashok Gupta

### 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

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

2023 from 9 am onwards.

Dr. Abhishek Gupta & Dr. Chetna Mahajan

Dr. Loveleen Gupta and Sh. Ankush Gupta

Son and Daughter-in-law Daughter and Son-in-law Mob: 9829722027

### **TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Usha Hustoo W/o Late Sh. Girdhari Lal Hustoo on 04-12-2023 at her residence: 907/T-2, Parsvnath Majestic Floors, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad [originally from Chattabal/ Chanapora, Srinagar, Kashmir]. The 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Murad Nagar Ghat (Chota Haridwar) on 13-12-

GRIEF-STRICKEN: Rakesh Hustoo & Nishi (Son & Daughter-in-law) [9971396161/ 9818216174]

Sunil Hustoo & Ruppcy (Son & Daughter-in-law) [9891221696 / 7982540533]

Sunita & Ashvani Kalpushu (Daughter & Son-in-law) [9910604755/ 9650126238] Aseem Hustoo & Sneha (Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-law)

Amit Hustoo & Diksha (Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-law) Shivam Kalpushu, Sakshym Hustoo, Ayush Kalpushu (Grandsons) Aarna Hustoo (Great Grand-Daughter)

Hustoo's, Pandita's, Mattoo's, Kaul's, Motta's, Bhat's

### TENTH DAY KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

It is unfortunate to inform you the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Rattan Lal Dogra R/o H.No. 203, Palace Road, Kachi Chawni, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 30/11/2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at Guru Ravi Dass Temple, Krishna Nagar, Opp. Science College on 9/12/2023 (Saturday) at 12.00 to 1.00 pm - Satsang, 1.00 pm onwards - Bhandara.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala shall be performed at Guru Ravi Dass Temple, Krishna Nagar on 9/12/2023 at 3.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Dogra Family Phone No.: 9419198497, 7006313290



Smt. Usha Hustoo

(Bengashi/Rani)

Dogra

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF SH. ASHOK KUMAR KOUL, ON 5TH DECEMBER 2023.

DECEMBER 2023, 9:00 AM AT MUTHI GHAAT (NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION). WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU. YOU WILL STAY IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

SMT. SUSHMA KOUL -WIFE MOTHER- SMT. KAUSHALYA KOUL **AUNTY & UNCLE** SMT. ASHA JI & SH. J.L KOUL **BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW** DR. S.L KOUL & SMT. RAJNI KOUL SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW

SMT. KHEMA & SH. R.L BHAT **DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW** SMT. SAKSHI & SH. RAHIL CHADHA SMT. SHEVETA & SH. ASHESH BHAT NIECES & NEPHEWS-IN-LAW SMT. MEHAK & SH. AYUSH DHAR SMT. NIDHI & SH. SUKSHM PANDITA NEPHEW: SH. HARSH BHAT GRAND CHILDREN: MASTER KABIR, BABY PRISHA, MASTER SUHAAN, BABY SHIVAKSHI

UPPER BARNAI, JAMMU CONTACT NO: 9906043071, 90116 68149, 9419196331, 9419133092, 6005358823



WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM ALL OUR NEARS AND DEARS THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHER LT. SMT SHANTA W/O LT. SH. DINA NATH BHAT AT PRESENT 27/A EXT NEAR RAMLEELA GROUND JANIPUR COLONY JAMMU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE 06 DEC. 2023

15 DEC. 2023 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 9:00 (FRIDAY).

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON

GRIEF STRICKEN MRS. MEENAKSHI BHAT & MR. SUMIT BHAT (GRAND SON) MRS. NEENU TIKU & MR. AMIT TIKU (GRAND SON IN LAW) SMT. ANJALI BHAT & SH. P.L. BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT. RITA SHAH & SH. M.L.SHAH (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT. CHAMPA KOUL & SH.ASHWANI KOUL (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) PHONE NO. 9055457646, 9149827161, 9596981300, 7006331320

### **OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA**

of our beloved Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar (Retd SSP JKP) S/o Late Sh. Raghu Nath Nazar on 5/12/23 (Tuesday) originally resident of Sallar, Anantnag Kashmir presently residing at H.No 71, Sector-2 Sharika Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu. The Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 13/12/23 Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near (Directorate of School Education) At 9:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Vijay Nazar D/o Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Raina Batagund Krindi Gham, Bijbehara) - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-Law Sunny Nazar & Priyanka Nazar Rohit Nazar & Rohi Nazar

Or 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

### Mob No.: 7889477519, 7006942522

but in our hearts, you're always there"

Directorate of School Education at 9:00 AM. **FONDLY REMEMBERED BY** 

Shri Poshkar Nath Kisroo & Pushpa Ji Mr. Sandeep Kisroo & Monika Ji Mrs Sneha Kisroo Dhar & Vishal Ji Miss Sapna Kisroo & Shivanshi Dhar MOB: 9596414310, 9622043894

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform th 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 Bantalab Jan

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Mut Ghat Jammu on 9/12/2023 at 9 am.

Grief Stricken emt Jai Kishori Pandita (Bhabhi Smt Veena Ji Pandita (Wife)

Sons & Daughters in Law Smt Sunita Pandita & Sh Rakesh Pandita- 9672222588 Smt Suneeta Pandita & Dr Sanjay Pandita- 7051211613 Smt Sohali Pandita & Sh Sandeep Pandita - 7006343703

Grand Children Aditya, Shivansh and Saisha

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

Smt. Raj Karni (Wife)
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Sonika Mahajan & Manohar Gupta
Monika & Brij Mohan Suri
Dr. Sonalika & Dr. Gaurav Sharma Dr. Sonalika & Dr. Gaurav Sharm Brothers & Sisters-in-law Dr. Arun Jandial & Prem Gupta Sanjay Gupta & Richa Gupta Nephews & Nieces Pranav Jandial, Ritwik Gupta, Pragya Mahajan, Falguni Gupta

Mob.No: 9419101495, 9419211816

Sisters & Brothers-in-law Lalita Gupta Wo Lt. Suraj Prakash Gupta Santosh Gupta Wo Lt. Satya Pal Malhotra Parveen Gupta Wo Sudesh Gupta Sunila Gupta Wo Pawan Gupta

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow we inform sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shyama Kaul** W/o Shri Girdhari Lal Kaul (Karwani), originally from Zaindar Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir, R/o House No. 30, Sector 2, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu. Currently at 7B, Golden Crest, CGHS Plot No 12 Sector 52, Gurgaon.
The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 14-

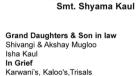
December-2023 at 8.30 am at Gauri Shankar Temple. Block, Phase - 1, Sector - 109, New Palam Viha Gurugram - 122017. GRIEF STRICKEN Girdhari Lal Kaul -Husband Kishni Trisal -Sister in law Sons & Daughters in Law Ravi & Kalpana Kaul Kamlesh & Sunita Kaul Vijay Kaul & Shweta Kaul

Grand Sons & Daughter in law Rohit & Garima Kaul

Satyam Kaul

Krish Kaul

Ayushman Kaul



Phone No. 8800459977, 9953629366

# TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM

demise and untimely death of our beloved Late Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta S/o Late Sh. Rasilu Ram Gupta (Majalta Wale) A/P Dutta Colo Tenth Day will be performed on 9th December, 2023 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM at Jhani Ghar Near Hari Mandir Rehari Chowk, Jammu

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 12th December, 2023 (Tuesday) at 12:00 Noon.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be performed on 13th December, 2023 (Wednesday) at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Hari Mandir, Rehari Chowk Jam

Smt Makhnu Devi -Wife Sons And Daughter in laws
Ashok Paul Gupta and Suman Gupta (Animal Husbandry)
Kuldeep Paul Gupta and Swarna Gupta (K.S Pharma, Raghunath Pura) Daughters and Sons in laws

Smt Madhu Kohli And Sh Sanjeev Kohli (M/S Vasu Textiles Smt Usha & Vikas Gupta (K.S Enterprises, Samba)

Contact No: 7889560674, 7006675946, 9419121629, 9419216632.

LATE SH. KRISHAN LAL GUPTA

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for



Lt. Smt Shanta

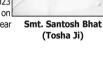
Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar



Smt Phoola Pandita W/o Late A N Pandita - Sister and Brother-in-law Grand Children: Saanvi, Saphal, Bhavik

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

"Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day... No longer in our life to share, With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Santosh Bhat (Tosha Ji) W/o Shri Radha Krishan Koul originally resident of Batpora, Tullamulla Ganderbal, at present House No 54, Sector A2, Laxmi Puram Chinore on 30-11-2023 TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be Performed or Saturday, 9th December at Muthi gath near



### **10TH DAY KRIYA**

Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita

(Bhabhi/Brother) Smt Tosha Pandita & Sh Ramesh Pandita

TENTH DAY KRIYA



Sh.Surinder Kumar Gupta

(1946-2023)



L.t Smt Shakti & L.t Sh Shambu Gupta Ji Smt Sushma & Sh Som Raj Kudyar (Kudyar Automobile

### DISCLAIMER

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





10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 14TH

MISSED BY YOUR FAMILY

ADDRESS- H.NO. 152-A, MAHAJAN MOHALLA,



Sh. Ashok Kumar **Koul** 

# Shiv Sena meets Chief Secretary, submits memorandum



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: Party
State Chief Manish
Sahni along with Vice
President Sanjeev Kohli
visited the office of Chief
Secretary Atal Dulloo
in Jammu Secretariat
and gave him a memorandum regarding the
above demands.

Sahni said that the

local students should have the first right for admission in colleges and universities of every state and union territory including Jammu and Kashmir. Along with this, Sahni demanded to determine the CUET examination centers at the state and district

He said that in 2023,

around 24,000 students of Jammu and Kashmir had found CUET exam centers in other states.

Due to which the students had to face a lot of problems, hundreds of students could not even reach the examination centres. Sahni said that the Chief Secretary assured to consider the above demands.

### Sky Warrior, Shankar Nagar Club win in Chaar Sahibzaade T20



#### **Top News Report**

POONCH, Dec 8: Sky Warrior and Shankar Nagar Club defeated opponents in the ongoing Chaar Sahibzaade T20 Cricket Tournament, organized by Sikh Youth of Poonch at Sports Stadium Poonch, here on Friday.

In today's first match, Sky Warrior defeated Kunyian Rangers by eight wickets.

Batting first, Kunyian Rangers scored 140 runs for the loss of eight wickets, Mohd Yousaf played a knock of 65 runs off 37 balls including six powerful shots and Nazakat contributed 29 runs off 33 balls. JD Javaid took four wickets for 22 runs for Sky War-

rior

In reply, Sky Warrior chased the total in just 11 overs losing only two wickets scoring 143 runs.

Shoib Shaikh hit 47 runs off 17 balls smashing 5 huge sixes while Danish remained unbeaten at 41 runs off 25 balls hitting 3 sixes. Saleem Jaffar took 1 wicket for 22 runs. JD Javaid's exceptional bowling performance earned him the Man of the Match award

the Match award.
Professor Satinderpal Singh graced the match as the Chief Guest encouraging and motivating the players to actively participate in games and sports.

games and sports. In another match, Shankar Nagar Club beat Star Club Arai by 17 runs.

Shankar Nagar Club, batting first, scored 129 runs for the loss of six wickets. Sorab scored 30 runs off 30 balls while Kabal made 17 runs off 14 balls. Abrar claimed four wickets for 30 runs.

In reply, Star Club Arai could only manage 112 rubn s for the loss of eight wickets resulting in a 17-run defeat. Haq Nawaz and Saleem Raza were the top scorers with 24 and 17 runs respectively. Waqar Younis and Bunty took 2 wickets each. For his all-round performance Waqar Younis was declared the Man of the

# MBA students attended 5-day Residential 'Advanced E-SDP Programme' at IIT Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 8: The students of MBA (International Business), International Centre for Cross Cultural Research and Human Resource Management (ICccR &HRM), University of Jammu attended 5-Day residential 'Advanced E-SDP Programme: Building Entrepreneurial Excellence: The Manufacturing Mindset for Make in India' programme at IIT Jammu

gramme at IIT Jammu. The programme was specifically designed for aspiring entrepreneurs who wish to learn about the growing opportunities in India's manufacturing sector. Focused on fostering a manufacturing mindset, the program had key components such as strategic planning, supply chain management, and oper-

ational efficiency. The participants throughout the programme were engaged in case studies thereby gaining insights into effective decision-making, innovation, and risk management in the manufacturing sector.

With sessions over five days, the program aimed to provide a platform to the new generation of entrepreneurial leaders capable of contributing to the success of the Make in India initiative. It is pertinent to mention that the programme is fully sponsored by MSME, Government of India and is curated by organizations such as IIT Jammu, IIT Kanpur, IIT

Delhi, and IIM Jammu.
The students of MBA
(International Business)
shared that their experiences and narrated that
the programme enabled

them to connect with the resource persons, incubation experts, and industry personnel all across the India. Besides, networking, the programme immersed them in the entrepreneurial pedagogy, cases and experiential activities followed by visits to manufacturing setups and incubation cells.

Prof. Hardeep Chahal, Director, ICccR & HRM, University of Jammu, deliberated that such like experiential residential programme, train students with neoteric skill sets, competencies and lifelong learning that further shape their overall personality and career choice.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Isha Sharma and all faculty members at ICccR & HRM, University of Jammu.

# Increase in theft cases creates scare in border areas: Rajesh Kesri

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: Notwithstanding best efforts made by Police regarding foolproof safety and security of masses and effective check on antisocial elements, especially in border areas, it has been observed that the scenario on ground level is guite scary. This was stated by Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri in a press conference organized here in Arnia today.

Addressing media persons, Kesri said that although, a theft or burglary is not a new thing for border areas but from last few days, an unexpected rise has been witnessed in the theft cases, which are being reported from various parts of border areas depriving innocent people of hard-earned money and other valuable assets.

The further matter to worry is that despite reporting of theft cases,



that too at regular intervals, the Police though have initiated some stern action against the accused responsible for the same and arrest or recovery have been made but recurring theft cases is matter of serious concern, said Kesri.

Police, which is responsible for the ensuring safety of life and property of people doing their best, thieves are ruling the roost, without any fear of law. Moreover, looking at the scenario and on directive of the high-ups, the patrolling should be increased and the need of the hour is to activate all sources and carryout a massive operation against thieves or the gang active in area, so that such incidents may

Kesri said thieves are stealing fearlessly, especially the thieves have

not reoccur.

created terror in the empty houses. There has been panic among the people.

He requested the government and top police officers to take serious cognizance and put a check on thieves. He demanded constituting special police team so that these thieves can be caught and dare not to target bedding

Kesri asked the resi-

houses

dents to maintain strict vigil at their ends and install CCTV cameras at their homes and report the suspicious movements of anyone in the area to the nearest police post.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fouji, Rajkumar Baba Ghara Ram, Captain Omprakash, Darshana Devi, Anju Devi, Neeru Devi and Rajni Devi

### Lecture on 'Poet's work and poetry' organized by Hindi Deptt, JU

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: A one-day lecture on the topic 'Poet's work and poetry' was organized by the Hindi Department, Jammu University, Jammu.

Prof. Durga Prasad Gupta, senior poet and critic, Department of Hindi, Jamia Millia Islamia University, was present as the keynote speaker.

The program started with the formal welcome of the keynote speaker which was done by Dr. Bandana Thakur.

The main speaker explained the sattvik nature of love in the context of poetry analyzed the language of feelings between relationships. They said that the music of love has taken over the reins of their relationship. To save the future, it is necessary to create and establish tradition. Talking about poetic work, he

said that he does not believe in imitation in the context of poetry. He also said that language can be made more mature through practice. His poems are poems that come out of family relationships. Talking about his poetic work, he also recited a self-composed poem.

Head of Department, Hindi Department, Dr. Throwing light on the liveliness of the poem, Rajni Bala gave subtle views on the language of the poem . Formal thanks Dr. Purushottam Kumar did it. Dr. Bhagwati Devi conducted the stage.

This program was done under the efficient direction of the chairperson of the department. Dr. Koshisha Sharma took care of the arrangements of the auditorium. More than 70 students and researchers benefited from this program.

### CSU Shri Ranbir Campus celebrates Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav



### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: Central Sanskrit University (CSU), Shri Ranbir Campus Jammu, celebrated Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav under the leadership of campus Director Prof Shreedhar Mishra.

Director of this campus told that our 12 campuses running under the Ministry of Education Govt of India so it is our duty to promote the Indian language and culture that also vision of our Prime Minister so that various competitions are organized in five Languages Sanskrit, Hindi, Odiya, Dogri and English for 100 students.

Dr. Madan Kumar Jha, coordinator of this program, told that 1st 2nd and 3rd will be given to winners.

# Dimple welcomes CJI for announcing verdict on Article 370, on Monday



### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, has welcomed and thanked the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court for announcing the verdict on their petitions related to Article 370, Article 35-A, and Jammu and Kashmir statehood. The judgment is scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 10:30 AM.

Dimple, while addressing a press conference, expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will uphold the dignity and integrity of the Indian constitution

and reverse the decisions made on August 5, 2019, regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A, as well as the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's princely state.

He emphasized the mission's sincere struggle to preserve the identity, culture, demography, and history of Jammu and Kashmir, along with the standstill agreement and conditions of the instrument of accession.

Dimple along with people from all religions in Jammu and Kashmir, has strived from the streets to the Supreme Court to protect the region's identity.

He expressed confidence that the Supreme Court, CJI, and constitutional bench will deliver justice and safeguard the lands, jobs, and overall identity of the people.

Dimple highlighted the

Dimple highlighted the importance of the stand-still agreement and the implementation of the instrument of accession conditions signed by Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh with India.

He stressed that this

agreement is crucial for the happiness and progress of the people of Jammu and Kashmir Dimple mentioned specific demands. including the protection of Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC), Jammu and Kashmir state subject, protection of land and jobs, and the unification of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan in the Jammu and

Dimple announced his plans to be present in Delhi and at the Supreme Court during the announcement of the verdict.

Kashmir state.

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term) MHDJ/e-NIT 200 of 2023-24 Dated: 05.12.2023

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SET OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WINNERSTITE WINN

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Sd/-Executive Engineer nanical & Hospital Division

# **EDITORIAL**

# ILLITERACY-A CURSE

he old times were simple and easy. At that time neither life was so dynamic nor the mean of living were so complex. The needs were very limited. A person used to sleep peacefully after earning two meals a day.

Now desires and aspirations challenge the limits of the sky. In such a situation, a person being deprived of reading and writing is a curse. An illiterate person will neither be able to keep up with the fast-paced era nor will his range of thinking expand. Literacy is the basic mantra of human progress and development. If an illiterate and illiterate person cannot do good for himself, then of what use will he be to the society and the nation. Before attaining independence, the number of illiterate people in our country's population was very high. But due to the tireless efforts of the government, today the society is moving towards the goal of educating every

Education is being promoted from house to house and village to village so that the intellectual level of every person improves. He doesn't have any fingerprints, no one can cheat him. Every person of every class should understand his good and bad and take decisions wisely in his daily life. May his vision expand. May he be freed from superstitions and exploitation.

Education is a blessing, illiteracy is a curse. Today, the target of 100 percent literacy has been achieved in many states of our country by encouraging mobile schools, free education, adult education and women's education. But a lot more efforts still need to be made in this area. How important will be the day when every Indian will be educated. We all should provide full cooperation in this direction.

The importance of literacy is not only in the personal development of an individual but also in the social and economic development of the society. Educated individuals become more conscious, positive and dedicated participants in the society. They not only have adequate knowledge of their own prosperity, but they are also aware of the issues in their society and actively work for the improvement of the society. On the occasion of World Literacy Day, we should be reminded that while education is a part of the mainstream of our society, it is also the key to our personal development. We need to promote literacy through a dedicated effort so that we can provide leadership to the society in a positive direction.

Literacy is a power that can help us move towards a more prosperous, socialist and developed society. World Literacy Day reminds us that the importance of education is not just in studies but in all areas of society and we should remain committed to promoting it.

### Will 2028 COP in India help us to battle climate change?

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

o one would dream of questioning the importance of the international climate conferences during what the United Nations

Secretary-General, António Guterres, calls an "era of global boiling". But many people may wonder if India can afford to host one of these high-powered jamborees of captains and kings such as the latest summit in Dubai that Britain's King Charles III also attended.

One must also ask if Prime Minister Narendra Modi's generous offer at the Dubai COP28 (Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) to host COP33 in 2028 was at all linked with India's general election due to be held next year. Basking in the afterglow of the G-20, which reportedly cost a phenomenal Rs 4,100 crores, Mr Modi appeared to claim in Dubai that India was especially qualified to play host because its population of 17 per cent of the world's accounts for only four per cent of the global carbon emission.

That is precisely the problem, prompting misgivings about the extent of industrialisation and per capita car ownership in a country whose GDP ranks 139th internationally and which languishes 132nd in the UN Human Development Index. Given the state of public health, India is understandably coy about signing the declaration linking it with climate change. The actual cost of COP28 is not known but it was a collective effort with the initial funding estimated at \$475 million. The host, the United Arab Emirates, pledged \$100 million, as did Germany. The European Union promised \$275 million, the United States \$17.5 million, Japan \$10 million and Britain £\$2 billion to the

Green Climate Fund.

Funding COP33 may have seemed less formidable if India had not been burdened with other commitments and extravagances. One such is the world's tallest statue, the \$450-million figure of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose "madein-China" accessories make it a less than national monument. Another is New Delhi's ongoing Central Vista project, which is reported to cost \$1.8 billion and which seems intended to recast the past in unreal terms to cater to present political proclivities.

It's not that other countries do not also indulge in global public relations exercises for domestic reasons. The American saying that "all politics is local" associated with the former House of Representatives Speaker Tip O'Neill could not be more apt. People suspect that the offer by Turkey's authoritarian President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to host COP31 in 2026 has more to do with his consolidation of personal power and Eurasian prestige than concern for global warming. His announcement at the Dubai gathering put Turkey in the race against Australia, whose candidacy was announced earlier this year by the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and won instant support from most West European governments.

However, the Pacific community that Australia traditionally leads is not quite as enthusiastic about Mr Albanese's role. "The Australian government has promised to 'stand shoulder to shoulder' with its Pacific family in response to the climate crisis," said a group advertisement in the Fiji Times. "Yet the response to our natural disasters, sea level rise, heat [and] food insecurity has been to pursue more gas and coal projects -- the very thing driving the climate crisis."

The competition between Turkey,

a candidate for European Union membership, and Australia, which formerly had Asian ambitions but is now a key member of the AUKUS (Australia, UK, US) security pact set up in 2021 primarily as an American instrument to contain China, has interesting implications. AUKUS was announced ahead of the Quad summit, of which India and Japan are members, and promises Australia nuclear-powered submarines.

Although India is not part of the nuclear deal and is silent on containing China, there seems little doubt that Quad membership also expresses the Narendra Modi government's pro-US stance. When the Prime Minister says "We do not have much time to correct the mistakes of the last century", he is ostensibly addressing the threat of global warming, the need for rich countries to transfer technology to help emerging economies fight climate change, and achieve non-fossil fuel targets ahead of deadlines all over the world. But his strong support for Israel in the war on Gaza indicates that Mr Modi might also have in mind those non-alignment vears when Jawaharlal Nehru bluntly told Loy Henderson, the American ambassador: "If there is friction between an Asian and a non-Asian power, I must be on the side of the Asian power". Mr Modi certainly will not endorse Nehru's sweeping view that the fewer Indians who visited the United States the better.

Ideology apart, India's government has so many administrative tasks on its hands that it cannot possibly be involved in one exciting global circus after another without being charged with neglecting the domestic responsibilities for which the BJP was elected to power.

The minister of state for space, Jitendra Singh, boasts that "the Russian moon mission, that was unsuccessful, cost Rs 16,000 crores, and our (Chandrayaan-3) mission cost just around Rs 600 crores". That may be true but the crucial question is: What has the Rs 600 crores spent in landing an craft on a neglected patch of the moon's surface achieved for Indians? Has it reduced a 47 million-strong army of unemployed people by creating a single job? Has it established more schools, public buses or hospitals? Has it even improved the appalling arrangements for disposing of India's dead?

Of course, lavish infrastructure spending accounts for the high 7.6 per cent growth during the July-September quarter. But not all the signature projects on New Delhi's agenda are productive investments. Some, indeed, carry a whiff of party or personal propaganda. Reports that the Chenani-Nashri road tunnel, India's longest, which was ostentatiously dedicated to the nation, was conceived under Dr Manmohan Singh, prompted jibes that Mr Modi might next inaugurate some scheme that the UPA had already launched. Some wondered if a Rs 3,600-crore Chhatrapati Shivaji memorial served any utilitarian purpose. Others feared that a bridge across the Chenab may have been selected in a spirit of one-upmanship to beat the railway bridge across the Beipan river in China. And, of course, the controversial and apparently ill-advised Rs 12,000-crore Char Dham highway from which 41 workers were rescued may have placed religious sentiment above human safety.

Global warming threatens man's future. It deserves to be met seriously with all the resources at our command. It should not be treated as an opportunity to win friends and influence people for political advantage.

# **Equipping Youth with New skills**



By: Vijay GarG

By embracing transformative approach to upskilling youth, we can ensure that they not only thrive but also lead us toward a more sustainable future

In a world marked by rapid evolution and constant change, it is imperative to recognise the significance of preparing our youth for the future. With over 1.8 billion individuals aged between 10 and 24, as highlighted by the United Nations, the potential of this demographic to drive progress and transformation is immense. But it is equally important to acknowledge the challenges they face in a job market that is constantly in flux.

The statistics are revealing: in 92 countries, nearly three out of four young people aged 15-24 lack the emerging skills needed for employ-

ment, as per estimates by the **Education Commission and** UNICEF. This challenge is particularly pronounced in developing countries where access to education and resources can be limited. This glaring disparity underscores the urgency of providing our youth with skills that are not only relevant but also adaptable, transcending borders and empowering. Let's consider India, a nation with a vast talent pool in the information and technology sector. India has the potential to become a hub of technology and innovation, expanding beyond its role as one of the biggest IT exporters globally. However, it is imperative to transition from merely acquiring new skills to creating well-rounded individuals with the capacity to address social issues.

Changemakers Mindset: Fostering a Changemakers mindset leveraging entrepreneurial thinking and problem solving is essential to equip the next generation for the 21st century's challenges and opportunities. Global leadership programs and initiatives offer a unique platform to instill this mindset in young students. By immersing them in a curriculum that emphasises on innovation and entre-

preneurial thinking around some real life challenges, we can prepare students to excel in the 4th Industrial Revolution. Programs aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide students with a sense of purpose and responsibility, reinforcing the importance of change making in creating a more sustainable and socially conscious future.

Nurturing Digital Skills: Technology is a crucial tool for transformative education. It connects students to a wealth of knowledge and experts worldwide, enabling innovative problem-solving. Beyond job readiness, it empowers youth to address pressing issues using advanced tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), and Virtual Reality (VR).

The focus should shift to a holistic, interdisciplinary education, preparing youth for a tech-centric future in various sectors even in traditionally non-technical fields like medicine or psychology. Beyond the Classroom: Learning extends beyond the confines of a traditional classroom. Students acquire knowledge and skills through experiential opportunities, such as engaging in projects centred around

environmental sustainability, social justice, and community involvement. Empowering Youth: Involving youth in shaping their own education is crucial. Instead of imposing a strict, top-down approach, a more flexible, bottom-up method is desirable. This means listening to the ideas and opinions of young people about what they're learning. By equipping youth with new skills, we empower them to pass on their knowledge to the next generation in their communities. This results in a collaborative system where everyone has a role in making sure young people gain valuable skills.

The path to equipping our youth for the future is multifaceted. It involves fostering a changemakers mindset, nurturing digital skills, emphasising socio emotional growth, empowering youth to take charge of their education, and extending learning beyond the classroom. By embracing these transformative approaches to upskilling our youth, we can ensure that they would lead us toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

# **President SGPC Amritsar to inaugurate Sant** Khushal Singh Gurmat Vidyalya at Marh on Dec 9

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: J P Singh Retd, along with Manjit Singh, Balvinder Singh Vice President DGPC Jammu, T P Singh, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Janak Singh, Jatinder Singh Ex Vice Chairman Cantonment Board, while addressing the press conference highlighted the upcoming inauguration of Sant Bhai Khushal Singh Gurmat Vidyalya & Khoj Khendra (Educational Research Centre) at Marh Bagh on 9th December.

The Gurmat Vidyalya (Centre) has been constructed with the hostel facilities in a big chunk



of land with wonderful surroundings of natural

The Gurmat Vidyalya **Educational Research** Centre aims to provide free CBSE education along with religious studies, especially the Knowledge of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, to underprivileged children in 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th grades in the school run and managed by Sant Puta Danna Charitable Trust at Domana.

The aim of the research center is to produce eminent scholers and researchers of Sikh ideology which focuses on humanity & oneness of mankind.

The knowledge and study will be provided by learned Parcharaks, historians, and renowned

Distinguished guests, including Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami President Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandak Committee Amritsar (SGPC) and Rajinder

religious personalities.

Singh Mehta Gen Secretary SGPC Amritsar will grace the inaugural function.

The event signifies a significant step towards empowering young minds with quality education and spiritual guidance. SGSD charitable trust

urges upon civil society of JKUT and community members to attend the inaugural ceremony on 9th December from 11.30 AM to 3 PM to make the event a grand success and to witness the event where Gurmat Centre will be dedicated to the Community. Guru Ka langar shall be served there.

### **KC College of Education conducts** plantation drive



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: The Environmental Club of K.C. College of Education conducted Plantation Drive in the college premises as a part of annual event on December 8, 2023 considering the manifold benefits of trees including that they release oxygen, absorbs harmful gases, protect us from UV rays, provide us with food, prevent soil erosion, maintain ecological balance and most especially in lessen the effects of global warming.

The students of semester III participated in the drive where in, first of all the students demarcated the area with

the help of college gardeners and other helpers, they dug the ground for plantation. Then the students and the faculty planted the fruit trees there.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo appreciated the initiative taken by Dr. Puja Sharma, Convenor of the club, who convened the whole programme and further said that tree plantation is not just something that should be done, instead, it is a necessity, the urgent need of the hour.

To this end, the club members, faculty and students participated in the plantation drive with zeal and enthusiasm.

# **Immediate Release Bandi** Singhs: Varinder Jeet

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: BJP JK UT Vice president Varinder Jeet Singh has advocated release of Sikh political prisoners or Bandi Singhs, who were in jails for the last 2 or 3 decades in militancy related cases.

Many Sikhs booked during militancy continue to remain in jails, although they have completed their prison terms. They are aged and pose no threat to society rather they need family support.

"I appeal to all state governments to sympathetically consider all such cases, the BJP senior leader said. Several Sikh bodies including Gurudwara Prabandhak committee , Delhi Sikh Gurdwara management committee and different fac-



tions of Shiromani Akali Dal have been raising similar demands," he said.

They have also criticized the government for such actions of not releasing them. Chief of Dera Sacha sauda has also been given Parole six times in two years and many people are drawing contrast between this and release of Sikh political prisoners.

Varinder Jeet Singh has appealed to Centre

Govt to intervene and release these prisoners who have long complet-

ed their jail term.

Gurdyal Singh Bali General Secretary National Sikh Front said that on December 10th, known as Human Rights Day, we'll observe BLACK TURBAN DAY. To support Devinderpal Singh Bhullar's release, I'll wear a black turban. He's been in Amritsar's Central Jail hospital for over 28 years for a Delhi State case. For 12 years, he's been treated there for schizophrenia. Decision to release is pending with the Sentence Review Board of Delhi Government led by Arvind Kejriwal.

They urged everyone to show support by wearing a black turban on December 10th,

### Danger on Bonigam—Baihama Link Road, citizens demand action

**Top News Report** 

KULGAM, Dec 8: Bonigam-Baihama Link road of South Kashmir's Kulgam district has suffered a significant collapse, posing a grave threat to the safety of commuters.

A delegation of commuters told that the portion of retaining wall of Bonigam-Baihama link road collapsed suddenly on October 12 this year but since



then authorities are not fixing it. Thus leaves commuters to suffer, adding that despite the dangerous condition of the road, we (commut-

ers) and locals continue to use it as there is no alternative road, raising the possibility of a major accident.

"It has been months

now that the road is in dilapidated condition. Commuters face a lot of hardships as the road is full of danger that end up hindering smooth traffic movement," said Bilal Ahmad, a commuter.

The commuters said that despite the road catering to a huge traffic influx, authorities are not fixing it.

"The residents now live in constant fear. We urge the authorities to take immediate action before any untoward incident occurs," the locals said.

When contacted Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of R&B Division Devsar, Rayees Ahmad said, "We have sent a project plan to higher ups for repairing of the road which is yet to be approved."

"Once project is approved, work will be started on the road," he

### **Unemployment at Chenab Valley is at alarming stage: Ajeet Bhagat**

**Top News Report** 

KISHTWAR, Dec 8: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader Ajeet Bhagat said during different under construction Hydroelectric Power Projects under the banner of different mul-

tinational companies our skilled, unskilled, semiskilled employee are not recruited as par their desire skill due to that youth of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone diverted it's mind towards frustration, drugs, and in different

criminal activities.

Bhagat said that the constructed different online offline recruiting scheme still haven't any result on ground for proper free and fare recruitment processes by districts administration Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts



of Chenab Valley Zone and multinational companies from past so many years.

Ajeet Bhagat request to Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary to intervene this issue and recruit our talented and needy youth as earlier as possible only for betterment and developmental point of view in different depart-

# **Int'l Conference on Inter-disciplinary** Probabilities in Music concludes at **GLDM GDC Hiranagar**



**Top News Report** 

HIRANAGAR, Dec 8: The two-day International Conference, hosted by Girdhari Lal Dogra Memorial Government Degree College Hiranagar has concluded on a harmonious note by bringing together music enthusiasts, scholars, and practitioners from around the globe.

The conference titled Interdisciplinary Probabilities in Music provided a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas and insights of music with all other academic disciplines.

The conference witnessed an impressive lineup of speakers and presenters, featuring experts from various disciplines and fields.

Prominent of whom were Pandit Vidhadhar Vyas, former Vicechancellor Bhatkhande Institute of Music,

Commissioner Kathua, Prof. Pankai Mala Sharma from Punjab University Chandigarh, Prof. Lawanya Kirti from Darbhanga, Bihar, Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma former Principal Higher Education Department, J&K on the

Rakesh Minhas, Deputy

The second day of the conference also embraced a wide spectrum of speakers, experts and participants.

first day of the confer-

ence.

Dr. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector Kathua Campus and a prominent academician from University of Jammu was Chief Guest and Prof. Lalit Magotra, a prolific Dogri writer and an academician was the Guest of Honour.

After the ceremonial lighting of the lamp Dr. Pragya Khanna, the Principal of the College presented a formal welcome address.

The Principal emphasized on the need of such collaborations to make a lasting impact on academics and soci-

Second day also featured expert views by Prof. Lawanya Kirti, a Hindustani Classical Vocalist from Darbhanga, Bihar, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, former Principal Higher Education Department, J&K ,Dr. Luca Moretti and Dr. Lucia Oliva are eminent artists and choreographers from Muscat, Oman.

A number of papers by the participants from different parts of the country were also presented offline and also through online mode. Participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions on the relation and influence of Music on other subjects taught

in the country. The conference facili-

tated meaningful dialogues on cross-cultural collaborations in music, fostering a spirit of unity and understanding. The proceedings of the conference were handled by Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Arun Kumar and Prof. Shapia Shameem. The Conference was also attended by Principals of the adjoining Colleges, participants from different regions, faculty and students of GLDM GDC Hiranagar.

The programme ended with the phenomenal performances by students of the College. In his closing remarks,

Dr. Bharat Bhushan, convenor of the conference expressed gratitude to all experts, Speakers, participants and especially to the Principal of the College Dr. Pragya Khanna for her support in making the conference a suc-

### BLSKS presents musical play "Nasha Je Karge Be Mouti Marge" at RP Public School Bantalab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 8: In order to continue the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ,Government of India, Social Welfare Deptt. J&K Govt. and Sangam Tru Art Production, mounts three days special campaign and presented 393th Dogri Musical Play "Nasha Je Karge Be Mouti Marge" at Raja Public School, Bantalab Jammu today under the overall Directions of Dr.

M.L Dogra. A pledge was also administered by more than 300 students / teachers by Chahat Chadha and the certificate by the Ministry of Social Justice was presented to the Principal

of the Host School. The programe inaugurated by the Chief Guest Swarn Lata, Chairperson, Raja Public School, Bantalab Jammu.

Among the Guest of Honors present were Priya Jamwal, Principal, Omesh Manhas, Vice principal, Pradeep Kumar, Senior Teacher of the host school.

The day commemorated as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region.

The items prepared on the theme "Nasha Khori Ghar Bimari Chutki", "Koi ache Ram

koi alha", "Nasha Nai Kario Munde Kureio" "Swatch Bharat Ho "Mere Hikdu Galdbad", "Kali Mata Bawe basdi- Baian ". "SavdhanSavdhan ae Bhart vasiSavdhan", " Mere Ghar Parbhu aye Hai", Nukkad, Skits, Songs and Dances were presented to aware the

masses.

The Chief Guest in his speech said the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment the Nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction was launched on 15th August 2020, as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs in the country. These vulnerable districts were identified on the basis of findings from the Comprehensive National Survey and the inputs provided by the Narcotics Control Bureau. The risk of addictions lurks for everyone.

Although some people have higher chances of getting addicted than others it depends on multiple factors.

Some of them are Genetics: If you have a family history of

abuse/neglect increase chances of addictions, Peer pressure can lead a person to try hazardous and more addictive substances, and availability of alcohol or drugs in your social circle also increase chances of addiction Psychological. Adolescents and young adults are more likely to getting addicted to substances type of drug used: drugs like cocaine and heroin have severely painful withdrawal symptoms and so are much more addictive than alcohol. Drugs that are smoked or injected into your body tend to be more addictive as they directly go to the bloodstream and brain than those that you swallow where passing through liver can lead to some filtration Mental Illness were lauded the efforts of the organizers in making

addictions you are

more likely to get one

Environmental. lack of

parental involvement or

effective/ The artists of BLSKS presented theme based songs written by

such awareness pro-

grammes colorful and

Dr.M.L.Dogra and the music was the composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor, BLSKS.

The program was also recorded & uploaded online on Social Media for benefit of the peo-

Welcome speech was given by Dr. M.L.Dogra, Chairman, BLSKS said drugs withdrawal symptoms are a combination of physical and mental side effects a person experiences while trying to either stop or reduce the use of the substance they have been using or are addicted to. These are usually unpleasant experiences which make it difficult to reduce or quit the substance.

The singers, musician and actors who performed wereUsha Raina, Zulekeha Farid, Raju Bajgal, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Okheda, M.C. Kotwal, Rahul Kumar, Vandana Gupta, Rajeev Salotra, Akshara Salotra, Daksh Salotra.

Deepak Kumar Dogra, Programme Incharge, presented vote of thanks.

# The band KISS, which has rocked the world for 50 golden years, will now be seen in Al-generated avatars. However, celebs opine that although artificial intelligence is taking over, the human mind will

Fire-breathing, blood-spitting acts, smoking guitars, levitating drum kits; 30 gold albums, 14 platinum albums...one of the best metal and hard rock bands KISS recently gave their last performance as a 'human band'. They had entertained the world with pyrotechnics for 50 years, but saved the most shocking revelation for the last show!

After their last concert of End of the Road farewell tour at Madison Square Garden last week at New York, they staked a astonishing claim — that it was their last outing as a band in 'human form', as they will continue as 'virtual avatars' in future.

"KISS army, your love, your power has made us immortal! A new KISS era starts now," singer Paul Stanley's avatar said in the video before the virtual band took over to play God Gave Rock 'N' Roll to You II.

Balancing act

The move has come as a surprise, but not a shock as Al increasingly becomes accessible. Actor Angad Hasija sees artificial intelligence as a smart sidekick for ideas in creative fields. "Digital avatars can let



artistes stick around, even when they're not here anymore. It's like leaving a cool mark that lasts way into the future. We're on this exciting tech-ride, but it's important to keep an eye on how much we let Al do. It's great for improving things, but we humans should stay in-charge. We don't want machines stealing the spotlight; we need to find the right balance," he insists.

Last year, Al-generated piece Théâtre D'opéra Spatial won the first prize at the Colorado State Fair Fine Arts Competition

Humanoid robots too thrive from the surge in Al development. Nadia, the next genera-

tion humanoid, with real-time perception, compliant locomotion, autonomous footstep placement and dexterous VR-

teleoperated manipulation, is

ready to challenge humans in

a boxing ring! Al is limited

Right from sports to fiction, Al is increasingly knocking on our lives. "The use of artificial intelligence is undoubtedly amazing. But again it is the result of programming done by humans. Al is limited, while the human mind has no limits," says actress Ekta Saraiya. "We just need to move with new finds. There would always be humans in the loop for this world to function." she

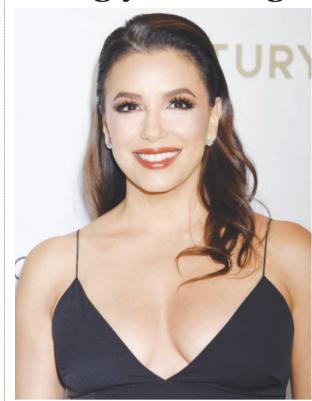
adds.

It's about time to embrace the change sans much distress, feels actor Charrul Malik. "Similar to all other innovations in the past, we need to continue to stay motivated to adapt. Today, we can use AI to write scripts and compose music, but we will always need to review its performance. AI can never match human senses. Since we create content for humans, it's imperative that humans continue to stay involved in the process."

Every new technology always comes with pros and cons, says entrepreneur-turned-filmmaker Nikhil Nanda, "Al brings in a lot of advantages. When computers had just arrived, the shorthand typists lost their jobs. People thought it was the end of manual labour, but over time it has increased and improved efficiency. In the case of AI also we are going to see more advances, but even for the Chat GPT to work you need a human to put in the right input to get the right output. I don't think it would cause any major job losses, but it's going to be a big disruptor; it's time we embrace

and adapt."

# Eva Longoria's confidence comes from her identifying as 'ugly duckling'



Actress Eva Longoria feels like the 'ugly duckling' because she didn't 'identify as a beauty growing up'. The 48-year-old actress has admitted she didn't mind being cast as

Gabrielle Solis on Desperate Housewives in a role that focused a lot on her looks, and joked she's "riding that wave to the beach."

Asked where her confidence has come

from, she said, "For me? The ugly duckling. I did not identify as a beauty growing up and so I don't have a very healthy relationship with it because it didn't define me... When people are like 'You know you're sexy and beautiful and you're on this list,' I'm like 'bring it yes, yes.' "

Longoria joked that being recognised for her looks is 'better than the alternative' and revealed her family keeps her in check. She recently noted how it's unfortunate that young women often compare themselves to others because of "unattainable images" on sites like Instagram and TikTok. She said, "I was lucky not to grow up in a time of social media. I never had that relationship with beauty that I think a lot of young girls grow up with, especially today."

# Esha Deol pens adorable birthday wish for her 'darling papa' Dharmendra

As the 'He-Man of Bollywood' Dharmendra turned 88 years old on Friday, he received a special wish from his daughter Esha Deol.

Esha took to Instagram and shared a priceless picture with her dad on this special day.

In one of the pictures, Dharmendra is seen planting a kiss on Esha's fore-

Sharing the pictures, she wrote, "Happy birthday my darling papa, love you.. I pray for you to always be happy, healthy & strong [?] I just love you so

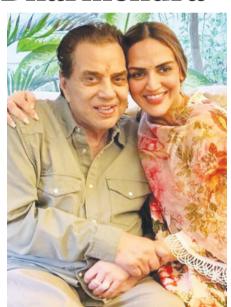
As soon as the pictures were uploaded, fans and industry friends chimed in the comment section to wish the actor on birthday.

Bobby Deol dropped red heart emojis.
One of the users wrote, "God bless to He Man"

Another user commented, "Happy

Birthday dharam paaji."

Dharmendra is considered one of the



best action heroes of Indian cinema and has delivered remarkable performances in films like 'Sholay', 'Pratiggya', 'The Burning Train' and many more.

## **Actor Junior Mehmood dies of cancer at 68**

#### He was suffering from stomach cancer and was not keeping well for the past few days

Kazi, Junior Mehmood

had pain in his stomach

and was getting treated

by a local doctor. But

when he started losing

weight, his family decid-

Character actor Junior Mehmood, known for his roles in 'Caravan', 'Haathi Mere Saathi' and 'Mera Naam Joker', died on Friday following a battle with cancer, his son Hasnain said.

The actor was 68. "My father pass

"My father passed away at 2 am following his battle with stomach cancer. He was in a critical condition for the past 17 days. He had lost 35-40 kg in a month," Hasnain Sayyed, Junior Mehmood's younger son, told agency.

Junior Mehmood, whose real name was Naeem Sayyed, began as a child artiste with 'Mohabbat Zindagi Hai' (1966) and 'Naunihal' (1967). He was given the name Junior Mehm-



ood by late comedy icon Mehmood after they starred together in 1968 film 'Suhag Raat'.

According to the actor's close friend Salaam

ed to take him to Tata Memorial hospital. "They did a check-up and the doctors said he

had cancer in his lung and liver, and a tumour in his stomach. He was also diagnosed with jaundice," Kazi added.

Actors Jeetendra and Sachin visited the actor at his residence on Tues-

at his residence on Tuesday after he expressed a desire to meet them. Jeetendra had shared screen space with the actor in several movies, including 'Suhaag Raat' and 'Caravan'.

In a career of over four decades, Junior Mehmood featured in over 260 films across seven languages. His other popular films include 'Brahmachari', 'Kati Patang', 'Hare Raama Hare

Krishna', 'Geet Gaata Chal', 'Imaandaar', 'Baap Numbri Beta Dus Numbri', 'Aaj Ka Arjun', 'Gurudev', 'Chhote Sarkar' and 'Judaai'.

The actor also appeared on TV shows such as 'Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyaara Pyaara' and 'Ek Rishta Saajhedari ka'.

The actor's burial will take place later in the day at the Santa Cruz cemetery, Kazi said.

"He will be buried in the same cemetery as his mother. Other noted personalities like Dilip Kumar and Mohammed Rafi are also buried there," Kazi added.

Junior Mehmood is survived by wife and two sons.

# 'Animal': Triptii Dimri says cinema is about free artistic expression, it should be that way

Actress Triptii Dimri, who has created a big impact with a small role in the blockbuster movie 'Animal', said that cinema is about free artistic expression and added that she submitted to the director's vision for the film, although it has been tagged misogynistic.

The film is filled with violence, romance, and intimacy. With polarised views coming on 'Animal', does she feel the film was misogynistic in any way?

Triptii, who has been crowned as the new national crush, told agency: "I think cinema is about free artistic expression, and it should be that way."

She then cited two examples. "When I did the rape scene in 'Bulbull' and when I did the suicide scene in 'Qala,' there were a lot of people who reached out to me and said that I should not have performed that scene because it's not a pleasant scene, or you should not have done the suicide scene because it can make people take that step in life."

Tripti Dimri plays an important role in 'Animal':

The actress said that if those scenes were not added, then it would not have made sense.

"So, I think similarly, here, the scenes that people are talking about, they were an integral part of the story, and we had to add those. Those things had to be there for the entire film to feel complete." added Triptii.

The 29-year-old actress, who in just seven days from the release of 'Animal' went from over 600K followers to 2.4 million, said that for her, it is really important as an actor, to not judge the character that she is playing.

"I think this is something that I've learned in my acting classes from my acting coach: that every time you do a character, you're given a character to play, play it with utmost honesty," said the actress, who made her debut in 2017.

She added: "Even if your character is killing people or your character is doing something bad or harming someone, you have to feel everything that the character is supposed to feel because he's also coming from someplace, and in his head, the actions that he's taking



are justified."

Triptii said that she is not like her characters 'Qala', 'Bulbul,' or 'Zoya' and she as a person doesn't agree with what they have done. "I would not have done in my life. But in that situation, in that moment. I have to submit to the director's vision, and I have to do what the character and the script demands of me and do it with full honesty, because people have a right to present their opinion. That is why we make films; that is why every film should be discussed," said the actress, who featured in Forbes Asia's 30 Under 30 list of 2021.

Triptii agrees that people can have views about their likes and dislikes. "There can be people who love the film; there can be people who don't like the film; there can be people who have issues with the film, and it's okay. Everybody's opinion is equally important. People who do not like the film and who are finding problems in the film, they are as correct as people who are not finding anything wrong with the film," she said.

Triptii finds it great that people are talking about the film.

# Aadhya Anand loves the praise for Crushed S3



Aadhya Anand, who plays the role of Aadhya in the Amazon miniTV's riveting romcom series Crushed S3, has expressed her joy regarding the love garnered by the latest season of Crushed. She said, "The response to Crushed S3 has been truly invigorating, exceeding all our expectations. As actors, it is the most rewarding experience to see our work resonate with the masses

The love we have received from the audience for our portrayals in Crushed S3 has been heartwarming, to say the least. We are immensely grateful to our viewers for their overwhelming support. Sending lots of love and hugs to each one of them for showering us with so much love."

The talented actress added, "Other than my character, Aadhya Mathur, I would have loved to play the role of Zoya. She is full of life, carefree, sorted, confident and talks her mind. Her straightforward approach to doing things she believes in makes her an utterly endearing character."

# 'Have at least one destination wedding in Uttarakhand': PM renews appeal at summit

DEHRADUN, Dec 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday renewed his call to have "destination weddings" in India, while speaking at the Uttarakhand Investors' Summit in Dehradun. "Have at least one destination wedding in Uttarakhand," PM Modi said at the event

Last month, the Prime Minister questioned the trend of "big families" organising weddings overseas, and urged them to hold such events in India, instead.

The Prime Minister said that just like 'Make in India', a new movement called 'Wed in India' should be started in the country. He encouraged young people to get married in India, emphasising the country's strength and abilities.



"In our country, it is believed that God forms pairs for everyone. Then, why do these pairs go to foreign countries to start their new journey (of married life)?" PM Modi asked.

He said that young people should have at least one wedding in Uttarakhand as part of the destination wedding trend, so that the hill state becomes a popular "destination wedding

"If 5,000 such weddings happen in a single year, then the infrastructure of Uttarakhand would improve on its own," the Prime Minister said at the Uttarakhand Investors' Summit. During the 107th edition of 'Mann ki Baat', PM Modi said

that he is troubled by the trend of destination weddings outside the country as followed by some "big families". He urged those to be held within India, stressing that it would ensure the country's money does not leave its shores.

"Even poor people will tell their children about your wedding. Can you expand this mission of 'Vocal for Local'? Why don't we hold such wedding ceremonies in our own country?" he asked during 'Mann ki Baat'.

On Friday too, the Prime Minister pinned his statement on the "millionaires and billionaires" of India, among whom the trend of overseas weddings is prominently noticed.

### **BJP CM race: Rajnath Singh,** ML Khattar, Arjun Munda lead BJP observers' list for Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh



NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Setting the ball rolling for the selection of chief ministers, the BJP on Friday appointed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda as the lead observers for the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattis-

Rajnath Singh, BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde and Saroj Pandey will oversee CM

selection and engagement with elected MLAs in Rajasthan.

Haryana CM Khattar. Asha Lakra and BJP OBC cell chief K Laxman will go to MP.

Arjun Munda, Sarbanand Sonowal, and BJP general secretary **Dushyant Gautam will** handle Chhattisgarh.

Sources said ex-CMs Vasundhara Raje in Rajasthan, Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh and Shivraj Chouhan in MP remain in contention unless replaced by new

The party may repeat these veterans as CMs. In Chhattisgarh, tribal faces Lata Usendi, Gomti Sai and Renuka Singh are in contention for major roles along with state BJP chief Arun Sao, Vishnu Sai and Ram Vichar Netam. In MP, Narendra Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Kailash Vijayvargiya are among the

Chouhan. In Rajasthan, Diya Kumari, Mahant Balak Nath, are among those in contention apart from Raje.

probables alongside

The observers will visit states and talk to the MLAs over the weekend.

The input will be given to the BJP parliamentary board, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, which will take the final call, probably by Sunday.

# Report on Mahua Moitra's future as MP tabled in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): A report of the parliamentary committee on ethics that would decide the fate of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the 'cash-for-query' case was tabled in Lok Sabha on Friday.

The report was tabled amid slogan-shouting by a united opposition.

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee protested in the Well saying the copy of the report titled 'The first report of the committee on ethics' had not been made available to the members of the House.

A united opposition protested against the report being tabled and termed it as an attack on a "woman's dignity".

Opposition members have insisted that there should be a discussion on the recommendations before a decision is taken on Moitra.

The committee headed by Vinod Kumar Sonkar, at a meeting on November 9, adopted its report recommending Moitra's expulsion from Lok Sabha over the "cashfor-query" allegation.

Six members of the panel, including Congress MP Preneet Kaur. who had earlier been suspended from the party, voted in favour of the report. Four members of the panel belonging to opposition parties submitted dissenting notes.

The Opposition members termed the report a "fixed match" and said the complaint filed by BJP Lok Sabha member Nishikant Dubey, which the panel reviewed, was not supported by a



"shred of evidence". Moitra can be expelled only if the House votes in favour of the panel's recommendation.

The report was earlier listed in the agenda of the Lower House for December 4 but was not tabled.

Lok Sabha was adjourned till 2 pm immediately after the report was tabled.

# One killed, 14 children injured after school van collides with bus in Jharkhand

The incident took place around 7.30 am near a railway siding in Katkamsandi area, about 130 km from state capital Ranchi.

HAZARIBAG, Dec 8 (Agencies): One person was killed, while 14 children were injured after a school van collided with a bus in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Friday morning, police said.

7.30 am near a railway siding in Katkamsandi area, about 130 km from state capital Ranchi, they said. "The school van driver was killed in the accident, and all the 14 injured students were admitted to Sheikh Bhikari Medical College and Hospital



for treatment. The condition of some of them is stated to be critical," Hazaribag Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rajiv Kumar said.

The driver of the bus, however, fled from the spot, and search

### **Zoram People's Movement** leader Lalduhoma sworn in as **Mizoram CM**

AIZAWL, Dec 8 (Agencies): Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma was sworn in as the chief minister of Mizoram on Friday. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati administered the oath of office and secrecy to Lalduho-

Eleven other ZPM leaders will also take oath as ministers.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Raj Bhavan where Mizo National Front leader and outgoing chief minister Zoramthanga was present. All MNF MLAs, including its legislature party leader Lalchhandama Ralte, attended



the event.

Former chief minister Lal Thanhawla was also present there. On Tuesday, the ZPM Legislature Party elected Lalduhoma as its leader and K Sapdanga as the deputy leader.

With a 40-member

can have 12 ministers, including the chief min-

The ZPM, which was registered as a political party only in 2019, emerged victorious in the assembly elections bagging 27 seats, increasing its tally from 8 in the 2018 pol

### **Supreme Court grants bail to** executive of liquor firm in Delhi excise policy case

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to liquor giant Pernod Ricard's executive Benoy Babu in a money laundering case arising out of the Delhi excise policy scam case.

Noting that the probe agency, ED, cannot keep people in predetention trial for so long, the Supreme Court in its order on Friday granted bail to Benoy Babu, one of the accused in the money laundering case connected with the Delhi excise policy scam case.

"An accused cannot be kept in pre-trial detention for such a long time and it is a fact that he is behind bars for 13 months and trial is yet to begin in the case. More accused still to be brought in. There seems to be contradictions between what CBI and ED are alleging. Let him be released on bail," the Apex Court's two-judge bench, headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna and also comprising Justice SVN Bhatt said, in its order and granted bail to Babu.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleged that Babu, a regional manager of liquor manufacturing company Pernod Ricard, is allegedly involved is facing prosecution in the money laundering case about Delhi excise policy scam case.

The Delhi excise policy scam case also involves high-profile accused persons including AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, who were in jail in the case. The SC further said that the trial in the case has not yet been commenced and also the charges have not been framed against him so

The Apex Court in its order allowed the appeal filed by Benoy Babu and directed that the accused be released on bail.

The court passed the order after hearing the appeal of Benoy Babu challenging the July 3 order of the High Court refusing him to grant him bail.

Senior advocate and former Solicitor General (SG) and noted legal expert of India, Harish Salve, appearing for Babu, pleaded to the Top court that he is inside jail for 13 months. Even he does not have any kind of policy-making power.

Opposing the submissions of Salve, Additional Solicitor General (ASG), senior lawyer SV Raju, appearing for the ED, contended that he played a key role in the case and thereby he should not be enlarged on bail at any cost.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti noted that the accused has been in custody for more than 13 months and the trial against him has still not commenced in the case.

The bench also noted that there were contradictions in the case probed by the CBI and the ED concerning Babu.

"You can't keep people behind bars before trial for long. This is not proper. We still don't know how this will go. There seems to be some contradiction between what the CBI is alleging and the ED is alleging in the case," the bench told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED.

At the outset, senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Babu, said it is a completely 'bogus case' against his client which is being probed by the ED.

### 9 Newborns Die At Bengal Hospital In 24 Hours, **Probe Ordered**

KOLKATA, Dec 8 (Agencies): As many as nine newborn babies and a two-year-old died in a West Bengal hospital in 24 hours. The infants died at the Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital and a committee has been formed to investigate the cause of death, an official said on Friday.

The preliminary information suggests that

most of these children were malnourished and one of them had a severe congenital heart disease, the official told agency.

"We were not able to save some children as most among them were malnourished, had congenital diseases and were born underweight, weighing about 500 gm or 600 gm," Amit Kumar Dah, the Medi-

cal Superintendent cum Vice Principal of the Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital, told agency.

Treatment in such cases is time-bound and we did not have that time, Mr Dah said, adding that the Jangipur Sub-Divisional Hospital is undergoing renovation and all their cases from there are being referred to the Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital.

The patients were first taken to Jangipur and then came to us, which took more than five hours, he said.

"If you don't treat such patients in the first four to five hours then it gets difficult to save them," he said.

Children weighing 800 gms or 1 kg can still be saved but saving a child weighing 500 gm is a huge challenge, Mr Dah said.

He said that they have just 130 beds for the 300 patients they are treating as they are also admitting patients from other districts.

"We have to admit all patients on humanitarian grounds," he said, adding that they have also saved about 900

# Over Rs 100 crore in cash and counting: Congress MP raided in Jharkhand, Odisha

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Cash worth more than Rs 100 crore was recovered from several locations linked to Congress leader Dheeraj Sahu in Odisha on Friday. The development came as the Income Tax Department had been conducting raids on Sahu's premises in Odisha and Jharkhand since Wednesday (December 6). The raids were still underway at the time of writing this report.

According to sources with the Income Tax Department, raids will continue on premises linked to the Boudh Distillery Private Limited in Odisha, from where the cash was recovered.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demanded an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into the matter.

Taking to X, Rajya Sabha



and former Jharkhand BJP chief Deepak Prakash asserted that several other Congress MPs must be involved in such cases. Sharing an image from the

raid, Prakash said, "These are the pictures of the cash recovered in the raid from the house of only one Congress MP. Imagine how many more would be there who have been hollowing

out the country for (the) last 70 years."

"When we talk about the scam worth thousands of crore taking place in the Hemant (Chief Minister Hemant Sarma) government, it is not just a figure but a reality. A small example of which is again in front," a rough translation from his post in Hindi suggested.

Further, BJP's Amar Kumar Bauri also shared the same image on X and said, "According to the information received, the machine called for counting the money stopped working."

According to the details, Dheeraj Sahu's extended family is involved in a major alcohol manufacturing business.

He owns several alcohol manufacturing factories in Odisha.

# Israel Intensifies Attack Against Hamas, Presses Ground Offensive In Gaza

The death number in Gaza has soared above 17,000, mostly women and children, the Hamas-run health ministry said.

PALESTINIAN TER-RITORIES, Dec 8 (Agencies): Israel pressed on with its offensive in and around Gaza's main cities on Friday, more than two months after Hamas's deadly attack sparked a war that has claimed thousands of lives and left the Palestinian territory in ruins.

The death number in Gaza has soared above 17,000, mostly women and children, the Hamas-run health ministry said, and vast areas of the besieged territory have been reduced to a rubble-strewn wasteland of bombed-out and bullet-scarred buildings.

Early Friday, the health ministry reported another 40 dead in strikes near Gaza City, and "dozens" more in Jabalia and Khan Yunis.

Israeli forces have encircled major urban centres as they seek to destroy Hamas over its unprecedented attack on October 7, when operatives broke through Gaza's militarised border to kill around 1,200 people and seize hostages, 138 of whom remain captive, according to Israeli figures.

In a Thursday phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Joe Biden "emphasised the critical need to protect civilians and to separate the civilian population from Hamas", the White House said in a statement.

Biden also called for "corridors that allow people to move safely from defined areas of hostilities".

Backed by air power, tanks and armoured bulldozers, Israeli troops are fighting in Khan Yunis, the biggest city in southern Gaza, as well as in Gaza City



and Jabalia district in the

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said troops had closed in on the Khan Yunis home of Hamas's Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar, 61, vowing "it is only a matter of time until we find him".

Israeli television stations aired footage Thursday of tens of blindfolded Palestinian men wearing only underwear, guarded by Israeli soldiers in Gaza, setting off strong reactions on social media.

"We are investigating to see who is linked to Hamas and who is not," Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari said at a press conference.

London-based news outlet Al-Araby Al-Jadeed said one of its journalists was among them.

'We are dead already'
The fighting has
pushed Gazans south,
turning Rafah near the
Egyptian border into a
vast camp for many of
the 1.9 million displaced
by the conflict -- 80 percent of Gaza's popula-

tion.

"Two months on the road, moving from one place to another. These are the hardest two months we have experienced in our lives," said Abdallah Abu Daqqa, displaced from Khan

Yunis to Rafah.

Air strikes have fol-

t in the lowed them.

Eight more hit Rafah overnight. Agency journalists saw around 20 corpses in white body bags, including a child, at its Nasser hospital, while men gathered nearby to pray.

The mass civilian casualties in the conflict have sparked global concern, heightened by dire shortages caused by an Israeli siege that has seen only limited access for food, water, fuel and medicines.

Israel has approved a "minimal" increase in fuel supplies to prevent a "humanitarian collapse and the outbreak of epidemics", and called on the international community to "increase its capabilities" to distribute aid.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said there were "promising signs" Israel may open the southern Kerem Shalom crossing to aid deliveries.

But Hamas has declared a "state of famine" in northern Gaza, saying no aid has arrived there since December 1.

And Israeli rights group B'Tselem said the "minuscule amount of aid" allowed into the territory was "tantamount to deliberately starving the population".

"We are dying here, without even the need for rockets and bomb the territory's north, and its rockets continue to target Israel, though they have been intercepted by air defences.

Lebanon tensions
Israelis remained

Yunis and Beit Lahia in

Israelis remained deeply traumatised by the horror of the Hamas attack and fearful for the fate of hostages as they headed into the Jewish festival of lights, Hanukkah, from Thursday evening.

One of the worst-hit sites on October 7, the Supernova music festival, was recreated in a Tel Aviv exhibition hall to remember those killed and abducted by Hamas, complete with victims' tents and recovered belongings.

strikes. We are dead

already, dead from

hunger, dead from

displacement," said

Abdelkader al-Haddad,

a Gaza City resident

The Netanyahu gov-

ernment has responded

angrily to United Nations

Secretary-General Anto-

nio Guterres invoking

the rarely used Article

99 of the world body's

charter, calling on the

Security Council to push

The Security Council

will hold an emergency

at 1500 GMT Friday to

The fighting in Gaza

has killed 89 Israeli sol-

diers so far, including

Gal -- the son of war

cabinet minister Gadi

Eisenkot -- on Thursday.

In a Thursday brief-

ing, the Israeli military

said troops had "killed

Hamas terrorists and

struck dozens of terror

targets" in Khan Yunis,

and raided a military

compound of Hamas's

Central Jabalia Battal-

Hamas released foot-

age of its fighters firing

AK-47 assault rifles and

grenade launchers from

abandoned buildings in

what it said was Gaza

City, and said it was bat-

tling Israeli troops "on

all axes of the incursion

The group said it had

destroyed two dozen

military vehicles in Khan

into the Gaza Strip

for a ceasefire.

discuss the crisis.

now in Rafah.

Intense fighting

"My brother Idan Dor, 25, was murdered at this festival and it took eight days for us to be told he was dead," said Daniela Dor-Levin.

"He loved to dance, he had just started his life. He wanted peace."

Meanwhile, on Thursday, an anti-tank missile fired from Lebanon killed a civilian in Israel, the Israeli army said.

There have been near-daily exchanges across the UN-patrolled Israel-Lebanon border, mainly involving Lebanon's Hezbollah which, like Hamas, is backed by Iran.

Netanyahu warned Hezbollah that if it "chooses to start a global war, then it will turn Beirut and South Lebanon... into Gaza and Khan Yunis with its own hands".

An investigation by Agence France-Presse into an October 13 strike in southern Lebanon that killed a Reuters journalist and injured six others, including two from agency, concluded that it involved a tank shell only used by the Israeli army in this region.

DUBAI, Dec 8 (Agencies): The United Nations climate conference on Friday began its final week with negotiators expected to zoom in on the future of fossil fuels on a danger-

Thursday was a rest day, a bit of quiet before talks at COP28 grow even more intense. Negotiators will work to finalize a key document called the Global Stocktake.

ously warming planet.

It evaluates the world's climate change progress since the 2015 Paris agreement and what needs to be done now to avoid blowing past its goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial times.

"You start off very hopeful, euphoria," COP28 CEO Annan Amin said. "Things are happening. Then the negotiations get hard and people start spreading rumors and coniecture and a little bit of depression, and then things start to come up again. And the clarity of the negotiations process becomes clearer. Then you have the political engagement, and that's where the real intensity and excitement comes from.'

A draft of the Global Stocktake was already circulating before Thursday's rest day, although it was packed full of so many possibilities that it's far from clear what the final document will say. Now it's up to global leaders to haggle over what the future should look like and whether there should be a commitment to phase out oil, coal and natural gas — as climate activists, many experts and some nations say — or some-

thing softer.

After day of rest at climate

turn back to fossil fuels

summit, COP28 negotiators

Professional negotiators who have been working on getting options into shape will turn over their work to senior national officials, many at minister levels, who will have to make the tough political choices. A new draft with amendments should be ready for leaders early Friday morning.

EU countries, along with small island countries - oft-victimized by climate change — and some progressive Latin American countries are aligned on calling for a phase-out of fossil fuels, negotiators said. While there will be strong resistance to this measure, officials are confident references to fossil fuels will appear in the final text for the first time and within a timeline compatible with U.N. science reports.

Representatives for poor nations and climate advocates are putting a lot of pressure on negotiators for the fossil fuel sections.

"The success of COP28 will not depend on speeches from big stages," said Uganda climate activist Vanessa Nakate. "It will depend on leaders calling for

a just and equitable phase-out of all fossil fuels without exceptions and distractions."

Meanwhile, headway was made Thursday on deciding the conference hosts for next year's COP29 after Azerbaijan and Armenia released a joint statement agreeing to work toward a peace treaty. It said that Armenia supports Azerbaijan's bid to host the talks by withdrawing its own candidacy.

Countries had been unable to agree on an eastern European host for next year's climate summit with Russia vetoing European Union countries and Azerbaijan and Armenia refusing each other's bids. A decision on the meeting's location and presidency is due within the next week.

Away from negotiations, Friday's theme at the climate conference was youth day, with organizers calling it vital for young people to take part in climate activism because they'll be most affected by the decisions at COP28. Activists are expected to ramp up calls for stronger action Friday and into the weekend.

Notably absent will be climate activist Greta Thunberg, who is skipping the conference. Thunberg, who does not fly because of the carbon pollution it emits, criticized its location earlier this year in a major oil-producing country.

# **Taiwan Spots Chinese Weather Balloon In Strait Month Before Election**

TAIPEI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Taiwan's defence ministry said on Friday that a Chinese weather balloon had crossed the Taiwan Strait median line on Thursday, about a month before Taiwan's presidential election.

"Our initial understanding is that it was a sounding balloon," Taiwan Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng told reporters at parliament. Taiwan, which China

claims as its own territory, frequently accuses Beijing of seeking to exert military or economic pressure to sway its elections toward outcomes favourable to the Chinese government.

The island will hold

presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan. 13. China has stepped up its military pressure against Taiwan over the past four years, including staging two rounds of major war games around the island in the past year and a half.

The defence ministry said the balloon was detected 101 nautical miles (187 km) southwest of the northern Taiwanese city of Keelung, and travelled eastward for about an hour before disappearing.

Earlier this year, the defence ministry said a balloon that came down on a remote Taiwanese-held islet close to China's coast was used for weather monitoring and had no audio-visual recording equipment on board.

# **Taliban Minister Says Women's Education Ban Caused Public Disconnect**

KABUL, Dec 8 (Agencies): Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai has said the main reason people are distanced from the Taliban is the continued ban on women's education, TOLO News reported. TOLO News is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul.

The Taliban appointed Deputy Foreign Minister while speaking at a graduation ceremony, stressed the importance of reopening schools for girl students beyond grade 6 and said a society without knowledge is "dark".

The ceremony was held by the Taliban's Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs to mark the graduation of students who have studied in educational entities under the ministry.

Stanikzai said: "This is

everyone's right. This is the natural right that God and the prophet have given them, how can someone take this right from them? If anyone violates this right, this is an oppression against the Afghans and the people of this country. Try to reopen the doors of the educational institutions for everyone.

Today, our only problem with the neighbors and the world is caused by the issue of education. If the nation is getting distant from us and upset with us, that is due to the education issue."

The Taliban-appointed acting Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs, Noorullah Noori, said that the youth living in far areas that lack access to education, have been enrolled in schools. He also stressed that there is no distance between religious and modern education.

"The issue of distance is not true. There is no distance. The education that is being taught

under Islamic Emirate's rule, I can tell you that there has been no such system before," Noori said, according to TOLO News.

Girl students above grade six have been deprived of their education since the Taliban came to power.

Taliban-appointed Acting Minister of Education Habibullah Agha recently criticised the poor quality of education in the country's religious schools, TOLO News reported.

Habibullah Agha asked the Taliban and religious scholars to pay serious attention to raising the quality of education.

# 'Will turn Beirut into Gaza': Netanyahu warns Hezbollah against all-out war - controlled by Hamas - relent-



JERUSALEM, Dec 8 (Agencies): In a stern warning to Hezbollah, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cautioned the Iranian-backed group against instigating an all-out war, saying that in such a case, Beirut - Lebanon's capital - would be turned into Gaza and Khan Yunis.

"If Hezbollah decides to open an all-out war, then with its own hands it will turn Beirut and southern Lebanon, which are not far from here, into Gaza and Khan Yunis," Netanyahu said during his visit to the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) Northern Command Headquarters with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and IDF Chiefof-Staff Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi.

The warning comes in the aftermath of a guided missile attack

believed to be orchestrated by Hezbollah, resulting in the death of a 60-year-old Israeli man in northern Israel.

"We are determined to bring victory, and we will do it with your help," the Israeli Prime Minister further said.

Netanyahu visited the IDF's northern unit as diplomatic efforts by Israel to contain cross-border incidents continue. This is to ensure that an all-out conflict is checked lest it sees Israel in a battle on two fronts.

Israel and Hezbollah have been trading strikes since October 7 when the Palestinian terrorist group, Hamas - also backed by Iran - launched a surprise and unprecedented attack against Israel. In retaliation, Israel has been bombarding the Gaza Strip

lessly, which has triggered a massive humanitarian crisis and drawn worldwide calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Netanyahu, however, has dismissed ceasefire calls, saying that it would mean caving in to Hamas. The October 7 attack killed more than 1,000 Israelis, while over 16,000 Palestinians, including women and children, have so far died in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry.

The Israeli Prime Minister had earlier also issued a warning to Hezbollah. During his yet another visit to IDF's Northern Command Headquarters in October, Netanyahu said that if the group went to war, "it will regret it".

"We will strike Hezbollah with a force that it cannot even imagine, and it will be destructive for both Hezbollah and the Lebanese state," he added.

Meanwhile, this development comes after the IDF informed on X on Friday (December 8) that its troops struck a series of Hezbollah sites in response to the group's anti-tank missile attack near the community of Shtula on the Lebanon border, which injured two Israeli soldiers.

According to the Israeli military, the Hezbollah sites that their forces struck included a position used to fire projectiles at Israel earlier.

### **Govt failed to propel J&K's industrial landscape** into trajectory of sustained growth: Rattan Lal

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU Dec 8: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K National Conference on Friday said that government's efforts to catalyze transformative changes in the industrial sector of Jammu and Kashmir since 2014 have remained notably insufficient as could be gauged from the health of this sector which is lying on Ventilators bed with no sincere efforts visible on ground by those helming the affairs of the region.

In a statement issued to media fraternity, the senior NC leader maintained that despite the prevailing narrative of progress and development spread by the people in power, a discerning examination reveals a conspicuous lack of the requisite policy initiatives and substantive actions needed to propel the region's industrial landscape into a trajectory of sustained growth.

He asserted that except rhetoric the government has nothing for the people of J&K as record of setting up new industry in the last nearly ten years remained dismal and no progress is done towards this sector. He said as far as the dispensation here is concerned, it has expertise in only signing the MoUs and making colossal promises but on ground the situation is dwindling with industry either running on crutches or ventilators as no one from the ruling side seems to be serious about bringing a meaningful change on ground.

"The incentives and GST handling are also pathetic because the stakeholders are craving for refunds but no one is there to listen to their plight. The industrial ecosystem demands a nuanced and strategic approach, which is missing here to address the unique challenges faced by the industries in Jammu region. Inadequate connectivity, power shortages, and suboptimal logistical support continue to hinder the functioning of businesses", he maintained adding

that bureaucratic red tape and regulatory complexities have persisted as formidable obstacles further deteriorating the situation.

The Provincial President said that NC being the party of aboriginals from J&K can bring the desired change and build up an industrial ecosystem that can change today's lamentable scenario into a vibrant one with industry not only flourishing but also tackling unemployment efficiently, boosting the local economy and bringing prosperity and good fortune for whosoever gets associated with this sector having seamless scope. He said that no other party knows J&K like the NC and therefore only this party could realize the desired development of the region as it did during it tenure by developing Industrial estates in Gangyal, Bari Brahmana. Samba industrial growth centres, Kathua, Batal Balian Udhampur, Rajouri and Akhnoor in this region.

### Law Deptt JU hosts lecture on 'Career Planning in Law' by Prof Risham Garg

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: The Department of Law at the University of Jammu organized a distinquished quest lecture for LL.B 1st semester students on the topic "Orientation towards Studying Law and How to Plan a Career in Law."

The lecture was delivered by the esteemed Prof. Risham Garg from the National Law University (NLU) Delhi.

Prof. Satinder Kumar, Head and Dean, Department of Law, University of Jammu extended a warm welcome to the guest speakers and the attendees, setting the tone for an insightful and engaging session. Prof. Satinder Kumar highlighted that the Department of Law is committed to providing a comprehensive legal education, fostering academic excellence. and preparing students

for the dynamic challenges of the legal profession.

Prof. Risham Garg is a renowned expert in the fields of Business Law, Insolvency, and Bankruptcy Law and has a wealth of experience in guiding students toward successful legal career. Prof Risham Garg highlighted the role of law in the growth of the economy, the importance of the settlement of disputes, the purpose of law, the fundamental principles of contract law, and the role of advocates in society.

The session was conducted by Dr. RK Sandhu, ensuring an interactive and enriching experience for the students.

A one day lecture on the topic 'Kavi Karma and Kavita' was organized by the Department of Hindi, University of Jammu, Jammu.

### Social activists Youth joins NC

### NC committed to steer J&K to new era of peace, development: Sadhotra, Gupta



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 8: Er. Sparsh Parihar, Avnish Sharma Social activists Youth and Nanak Chand joined the National Conference in presence of Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta. The Joining programme was organized by Qazi Jalal

Ud Din Ex-MLA. Welcoming Er Sparsh Parihar, Avnish Sharma and Nanak Chand, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra said National Conference is natural destination for all those public spirited political activists, who want to work for political stability, unity between

various religions and

regions and for peace and progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said joining of Youth leaders reflect the growing realization among the people that National Conference is the only party that can uphold their dignity and steer the state to a new era of peace, progress and development.

Rattan Lal Gupta expressed the hope that with their joining National Conference will be further strengthened at the grass roots level and help in serving the people of remote and far off areas like Chenab Valley. "History stands testimony to the crucial role of National Conference in forging unity and amity between various segments of the society in the regions of Jammu and Kashmir he said and hoped that the cadre will bequeath this spirit to posterity. He said communal amity has been the richest legacy of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, who strived all his life to sustain this glorious tradition of the

Present on the occasion included Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Zaffarullah Rather District President Doda. Shahan Kichloo Sr. Media Analyst, Master Aslam, Randhir Singh Chib and others.

# **APS Rakhmuthi celebrates Annual Sports Day**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: Army Public School (APS) Rakhmuthi celebrated its Annual Sports Day with grandeur and enthusiasm on Friday.

The meticulously adorned sports ground, embellished with flags and T-rods, set the stage for the event presided over by the Chairman as the esteemed Chief Guest and other dignitaries.

The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial torch lighting by the Chief Guest

Following this, Shaswati Ghosh, the Principal, presented the Annual Report, eloquently highlighting the school's achievements. A synchronised March Past by NCC cadets and students from the four houses ensued, accompanied by a pledge to uphold the school motto, "Hardwork Carves Destiny"

The Primary Wing students presented a captivating welcome dance to the tune of 'JiteegaJitega.'

The day unfolded with a

well-organised sequence of sports events. Class-I students eagerly participated in the 50 metres Butterfly and Flower Race, while class-II was engaged in the Carrot and Rabbit Race. Class-III students took part in the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Race (FLN), followed by class-IV in the Step on my Heart Race and class-V in the Sandwich Race. Classes VI, VII, VII and XI partici-

XI joined in additional 400 metres and Relay Race.

Other events included the 50 metres Race for the students of Government Primary School SC BastiKaleeth (Jourian) adopted by the school under Vidyanjali Project, Book Balancing Race for teachers, Orange Balancing Race for Group-D employees, 100 metres Race for male parents and make-up Race for female parents.

Zumba, Yoga and the Pyramid added an extra layer of excitement to the day, displaying the students' talent, vigor and unity. The event concluded with a Grand Finale followed by a prize distribution ceremony where the Chief Guests felicitated the winners of various athletic activities.

The Chief Guest commended the students and staff, acknowledging their valuable contributions to the programme.

The Vice Principal delivered a gracious Vote of Thanks and the day concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

### Super Star Dherileyrote wins District Rajouri Volleyball Women Championship

#### **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Dec 8: Super Star Dherileyrote won the women District Rajouri volleyball Championship organized by District Rajouri volleyball Association at Middle School Bagnoti under the banner of Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir and sponsored by Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council in which four teams from across the district were participated.

On this occasion Headmaster Mohan

Lal was the Chief Guest who appreciated the efforts of District Rajouri Volleyball Association particularly Mohd Tariq Incharge Rajouri volleyball Association towards the youth of remote and border areas of the district.

In the final match, Super Star Dherileyrote beat Haricane Volleyball Club Bagnoti, by 3-0 (25-21,25-18,25-23). Shabnam played extraordinary game for the winning team and Chahat Sharma for the runner up team.

### Police to ensure strict compliance of SoPs to avoid Eidgah like attacks: **ADGP Law & Order**

inputs about possible attack by the terrorists on October 29. "Yes, we had inputs about a possible attack by terrorists. But mistakes happen at some times and in this case also, a mistake happened and we lost an officer," he said, adding that a "foolproof mechanism has been put in place to

avoid Eidgah like incidents." Asked about the attackers involved in Wani's killing, he said: "Those involved will be eliminated or arrested soon. It is not advisable to reveal anything about the ongoing investigations." Meanwhile, senior officers from the administration and police attended the wreath laying ceremony of slain inspector Masroor Ahmed Wani at DPL amid moist eyes. Floral tributes were paid to the fallen cop.

### I am servant of Law And **Constitution: CJI D Y** Chandrachud

"I have to follow a position which has been laid down," he said, adding, "I cannot say this is what I like and I will do it." In October this year, the apex court had dismissed a plea challenging the designation of lawyers as senior advocates, saying the petition was a "misadventure" largely of one of the petitioners as he sought to carry on a "vilification campaign" against all and sundry. In its verdict on a plea filed by Nedumpara and seven others, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul had said the designation as a senior advocate was a "recognition of merit" by the court.

### **UPI payment limit to** hospitals. Educational institutes raised to Rs 5 **Lakh: RBI**

popular among customers. Under the e-mandate framework, an additional factor of authentication (AFA) is required for recurring transactions exceed-

ing Rs 15,000 currently. "It is now proposed to enhance this limit to Rs 1 lakh per transaction for recurring payments of mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium subscriptions and credit card repayments," the governor said.

The measure, he said, will further accelerate the usage of e-mandates.

pated in the 100 metres

and 200 metres races,

while classes VIII, IX and

In another development, the RBI also announced to set up a "Fintech Repository" for a better understanding of developments in the fintech ecosystem and support the

"This will be operationalised by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in April 2024 or earlier. FinTechs would be encouraged to provide relevant information voluntarily to this Repository," Das said.

Financial entities like banks and NBFCs in India are increasingly partnering with

Das also said that the central bank is working on the establishment of a cloud facility for the financial sector in India. Banks and financial entities are maintain-

ing an ever-increasing volume of data. Many of them are utilising cloud facilities for this purpose, he added.

"The Reserve Bank is working on establishing a cloud facility for the financial sector in India for this purpose," he said, adding such a facility would enhance data security, integrity, and privacy.

It will also facilitate better scalability and business continuity.

Das said the cloud facility is intended to be rolled out in a calibrated fashion over the medium term.

### IT dept asks tax payers to return 'wrongly-claimed' refunds to avoid penalty

strict vigil on tax payers, especially the salaried class employees of various government departments, paramilitary forces, armed forces etc. who have fraudulently claimed bogus deductions and exemptions in their ITRs for the past few years.

"Once this scam of claiming bogus deductions by the taxpayers was detected last year, the Income Tax Department of J&K approached in a very lenient way considering the lack of tax awareness among the public and organized numerous outreach programmes & tax awareness campaigns to sensitize the public to refrain from making bogus claims while filing their ITRs along with educating them about the consequences of indulging in this malpractice,"

Various remedial measures to rectify the mistakes made by claiming fake and ineligible deductions by the tax payers were also suggested to avoid unpleasant communication from the department.

However, it has come to the notice of the department that many salaried employees

are still showing cavalier attitude towards filing of income tax returns (ITRs), complete with fake rent receipts, ineligible claims against home loans, false donations and a slew of dodgy practices encouraged by some of the tax practitioners with a promise to slash tax outgo and prop up

FROM PAGE

"This paper has information that based on complete data available with the department for F.Y. 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2022-23 regarding these bogus claim makers, Income Tax Department, J&K has issued notices under section 133(6) of the Income Tax Act to erring employees," said the spokesman.

"Now the deptt is prepared to issue to the almost 15,000 taxpayers all across J& K seeking relevant documentary evidences to verify the authenticity of deduction claims made by them.

"If found culprit of claiming non genuine deductions, the taxpayer apart from paying due taxes calculated on misreported income will also be subject to a penalty of 200% on tax payable.

"Furthermore, the department is also empowered to launch prosecution against repeated tax offenders for which imprisonment could be for a period of 3 months and may extend up to 7 years. Non-compliance to the notices under section 133(6) is also not a resort as the same will attract penalty of Rs. 10,000/- under section 272A for each non-compliance."

The Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, J&K and Ladakh has urged all salaried employees to check their Income Tax Returns for Assessment Years 2021-22. 22-23 & 23-24 filed by themselves or by any tax practitioner/other person.

If there is any claim of deduction under section 10(13A) 80C. 80CCD, 80D, 80DD, 80DDB, 80E, 80EE, 80EEA, 80EEB, 80G, 80GGC and 80U in their ITR, they should cross check if relevant documents/certificates are in their possession. Once the notice under section 133(6) is issued the assessee has to furnish such evidence/ documents within 8-10 days, failing which penalty for non-compliance will be levied and the case will be selected for scrutiny later and in case any deduction is found as wrong, penalty of 200% of the tax evaded will be levied in such cases.

In the past also, the Income Tax Department, J&K had selected large number of cases of A.Y.2017-18 & 2019-20 under scrutiny and besides raising huge demands in cases of wrong deductions, also levied penalty under section 271(1)(c) equal to the tax. The department has also attached salary accounts of such persons in past three months for recovery of tax and penalty and now planning to launch prosecu-

"There is still some time left for the taxpayers to avoid these punitive actions from I.T. department by revising and updating their ITRs. The deadline for revising ITRs filed for F.Y. 2022-23 is 31st December 2023. Similarly, department has also provided facility of filing Updated ITR (ITR- U) for F.Y. 2020-21 & 2021-22 by 31st March, 2024 by paying additional tax of 50% &25% respectively in addition to additional tax liability for those who have claimed

bogus deductions during these years. A senior officer, however cautioned that taxpayers should revise/update their ITRs without further loss of time to avoid selection of their cases under scrutiny. If the Income Tax Return is revised/updated after issue of notice by the Department, penalty will still be leviable in such cases because that revision/updating will not be treated as voluntary. He has revealed that in March 2023, more than 10000 government employees of J&K from education, health, police, revenue and other departments of UT had filed ITR-U for A.Y.2020-21 on the advice of their Heads of Departments who had issued written advisory also.

Similarly large number of CRPF personnel and other paramilitary/forces had updated their ITRs and avoided selection of their cases under scrutiny.

### **Arms. ammunition** recovered during searches in Rajouri

one pistol wrapped in white cloth, 8 cartridges of 9mm pistol and other incriminating material was recovered.

Meanwhile, a case has been registered in this regard and investigation has been

### DSEJ announces winter vacation in phased manner from Dec 11

through CRC's.

It also ordered that the teaching staff shall report back to their respective schools on February-21 so that they remain available for making arrangements regarding preparation of ensuring examinations.

"All teachers shall remain available on demand for any online guidance of students during vacation period," it reads.

DSEJ said that if any default on part of the Head of the Schools or Teaching staff in observance of the instruction schedule shall attract strict action under rules.

### **Two Crore Tourists** visited JK upto Nov this **Year', Says Union Minister**

this year helped lure a large number of foreign tourists to Kashmir. Official source said that this year upto November, almost 50,000 foreign guests visited Kashmir and the number went up after the successful G-20 summit in Srinagar.\

On Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, told the Parliament that J&K will surpass 2 Crore tourist arrivals this year and the previous record set by BJP will be broken by none other than BJP itself. A Tourism official told KNO that exploring offbeat destinations, reviving film and border tourism, promoting home stays were some major steps taken by the Tourism department to lure large number of tourists this year to Valley

### Five arrested with weapons in separate incidents in J&K

During a search, a sharp-edged weapon was recovered from the accused. A case under the Arms Act has been registered against them and an investigation is underway, they said.

### **Intense cold grips Kashmir, Srinagar** records season's coldest night at minus 2.6°C

and it was 1.7°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, record-

ed a minimum of minus 1.4°C against minus 0.5°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal for the place by 0.7°C, the official said. Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.1°C against minus 2.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal there, the official said. Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 2.5°C against minus 2.6°C on the previous night and the latest temperature was 1.2°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir. Jammu recorded a minimum of 9.6°C against 9.9°C on previous night, and it was below normal by 0.4°C for the winter capital of J&K, he said.

# Govt bans use of sugarcane for ethanol production

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): To maintain enough sugar availability in the domestic market in the election year, the government has directed not to use 'sugarcane juice and sugar syrup' for ethanol production in 2023-24. However, the government has allowed B molasses (second molasses) for ethanol production from December onward. India mixes ethanol with petrol to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels.

The government speculated that adverse weather conditions due to El Nino may impact sugarcane production. Traders and Commodity analysts speculate that in the current sugar season, there would be a 12 percent deficit in sugar production. In the last sugarcane crushing season 2022-23, the total sugarcane production was 33.1 million metric tonnes. It is estimated that this year the production will be 29.1 mmt. Last year, 4.4



mmt of sugar was diverted for ethanol while this year it was estimated as 4 mmt for diversion.

In October, the government further extended a curb on the export of all kinds of Sugar (raw sugar, white sugar, refined sugar, and organic sugar) beyond October 31, 2023.

The sugarcane crushing season starts from October 2023 to September 2024. The below-normal rainfall and record deficit monsoon in major sugar-producing regions like Maharashtra and Kar-

nataka has impacted the Sugarcane crop which is known as water-guzzling.

In its order, Sangeet, Director of sugar) directed all sugar mills and sugar syrup distilleries not to use sugar and sugar juice for ethanol manufacturing but to use B-Heavy molasses for the manufacturing of ethanol.

The directive was issued as per clauses 4 and 5 of the Sugar (Control) Order 1966. "Supply of ethanol from existing offers received by Oil Marketing Com-

panies (OMCs) from B-Heavy molasses will continue," the Food ministry said in the letter.

The sugar industry welcomed the order to allow B-Heavy molasses for ethanol. Ethanol manufacturing is a profitable proponent for sugar mills.

But in the election year, the government is not in the mood to take risks as sugar production would fall.

"The government has resolved the concern of industry as there is a huge stock of ethanol made from B-molasses

lying in the country apart from contracted quantities," says Prakash P Naiknavare, Managing Director, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories. However, Naiknavare also underlined the ambiguity in the letter. that states supply of ethanol from "existing offers" received by OMCs from B-Heavy molasses will continue. "Will it be withdrawn after the existing tender is over? There is no clarity," he asked.

Also, some units have been built for making ethanol from sugarcane juice and sugar syrup alone.

These units will become sick if they remain non-operational, he added.

India exported 61 lakh tonnes of sugar during the 2022-23 marketing year, as against a record 112 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

The government has not yet allowed exports for this marketing year.

# India bans onion exports till March next year

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): The government has banned exports of onion till March next year to increase domestic availability and to keep prices in check

"Export policy of onions is amended from free to prohibited till March 31, 2024," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification

Local vendors in the national capital are selling onions at Rs 70-Rs 80 per kg. Earlier, the Centre in October had decided to step up the sale of buffer onion stock at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in retail markets to provide relief to consumers.

To control prices, the government has earlier taken several steps.

It had imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of USD 800 per tonne on onion exports on October 28 till December 31 this year.

In August, India had imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions up to December 31.

The DGFT also said that the exports of onion, however, will be allowed based on permission granted by the government to other countries based on their request. It added that shipments of onion, whose loading had commenced before this notification, are allowed to be exported.

Further, where shipping bill is filed and vessels have already berthed and anchored in Indian ports for loading of onion and their rotation number has been allocated before this notification, that shipment is also allowed for exports.

Exports of onion are also permitted if "consignments of onion has been handed over to the customs before this notification and is registered in their system/ where onions consignment has entered the customs station for exportation before this notification and is registered in the electronic systems of the concerned custodian of the customs station with verifiable evidence of date and time stamping of these commodities having entered the station prior to December 8".

The period of exports for such consignments shall be up to January 5 next year.

Between April 1 and August 4 this fiscal, 9.75 lakh tonnes of onions have been exported from the country.

The top three importing countries in value terms are Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UAE. Onion prices have started inching up amid reports of lag in onion coverage in the ongoing kharif season. Onion is a politically-sensitive commodity

According to the WPI data released on November 14, while inflation in vegetables and potatoes cooled to (-) 21.04 per cent and (-) 29.27 per cent respectively, the annual rate of price rise in onion continued to rule high at 62.60 per cent in October.

### Cos offer discounts to push car sales

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): It is raining discounts in the passenger vehicle (PV) market as carmakers are going extra mile to push sales amid fall in demand after the festive heavy month of November and finish their year-end inventory at dealer showrooms, which according to some estimates are at 'alarming level'.

Dealer association body Fada said PV sector shows potential for growth with year-end offers and discounts expected to stimulate sales, along with an improved vehicle supply and new product launches. However, the market faces hurdles in terms of a preference for 2024 manufactured vehicles and a notable slowdown in demand and bookings post-festivities.

"Current PV inventory, still above 60 days, underscores the need for OEMs to reduce dispatches of slow-moving vehicles, especially in entry-level category," added Fada, India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki is offering one of the biggest discounts of this season on its recently launched SUV Jimny. The carmaker has cut prices by up to Rs 2 lakh on the SUV and has introduced the 'Thunder Edition' at Rs 10.74 lakh in order to push sales of the highly capable 4x4 model. As per dealer showrooms, one can avail a discount of up

to Rs 2.3 lakh for the entry-level Jimny Zeta. Popular model Fronx is being sold at a discount of up to Rs 40,000 on some variants. Maruti is giving benefits of about Rs 25,000 on Grand Vitara SUV. On its Arena showrooms, MSIL is offering offers of Rs 40,000-Rs 70,000 on small cars such as Alto K10, S Presso, Wagon and Celerio. The total benefits vary from model to model.

Shashank Srivastava, senior executive director, sales and marketing, Maruti Suzuki, had recently said while the inventory levels are between 30-35 days, it is expected to come down by December-end, due to aggressive schemes offered by manufacturers.

India's second largest carmaker, Hyundai (HMIL), is also luring customers with discounts. As per information available, the Korean carmaker is giving discounts of up to Rs 1.5 lakh on its lineup. While the discount varies from Rs 25,000-Rs 50,000 for model such as Grand i10 Nios, Verna, Aura, and Alcazar, one can get a benefit of Rs 1.5 lakh on the Tucson SUV.

SUV major Mahindra & Mahindra is offering a huge discount of up to Rs 4.2 lakh on the XUV 400 electric vehicle SUV. The outgoing XUV300 SUV, on the other hand, has been discounted by up to Rs 1.8 lakh on the top-end variant.

# India will address EU's carbon tax issue; will retaliate if required: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): India will address the issue of the European Union's plan to impose a carbon tax on certain imported goods, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said, adding that "I will retaliate" if required.

The CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) or carbon tax (a kind of import duty) will come into effect from January 1, 2026

However, from October 1 this year, domestic companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products, will have to share data with regard to carbon emissions with the EU.

"Bharat will address the problem of CBAM with confidence, and we will find solutions. We will see how we can convert CBAM to our advantage if it comes in. Of course, I will retaliate. You need not worry about it," Goyal said here at an industry chamber event.

According to a report of the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), CBAM will translate into a 20-35 per cent tax on select imports into the EU, starting January 1, 2026.

starting January 1, 2026. India's 26.6 per cent of exports of iron ore pellets, iron, steel, and aluminium products go to the EU. These products would be hit by CBAM. India exported these goods worth USD 7.4 billion in 2023 to the EU.

He also said that India retaliated against the US after it imposed additional customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products.

To resolve the issues,

India and the US ended all the bilateral disputes that they had in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The minister also asked the industry to

asked the industry to help promote the electric vehicle mission of the country to promote sustainable growth. There is a need to

quickly replace the existing public buses and trucks in the country with electric vehicles, besides two and four-wheeler vehicles in a mission mode, he added.

"We have not even started the progress

on replacement of old vehicles. Can we have more vehicles scrapping across the country? Can each one of you start demanding that in your company, all vehicles will be electric, all trucks coming into your companies will be electric," he said.

The minister said that using electric vehicles has economic value prepositions. Citing an example of Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST), Goyal said it was a perpetually lossmaking body, but they are now moving to EV buses.

"Now, in a year or 1.5 years, there will be 100 per cent electric buses and (I have been told that) as soon as all the

buses go electric, they would end losses and covert it (BEST) into a profit-making body," he said.

He appealed that every state transportation body will become a profit-making body by adopting electric mobility.

On foreign exchange reserves in the country, he said the reserves are enough for the next 5-6 years, "if we continue to have the current levels of current account deficit or trade deficit", without any threat to the Indian economy.

India's forex reserves stood at USD 604 billion as of December 1. Further, he said that countries like Chile and Peru are looking at trade pacts with India.

# What does weight-inclusive health care mean?

### A weight-inclusive approach to health seeks to undo the harms caused by weight stigma

SAN MARCOS (US), Dec 8 (Agencies): Weight-inclusive health care means a focus on better health with no weight loss required.

This includes practices such as eating for overall well-being rather than for the number of calories. It may also include prioritizing activities to reduce stress, avoiding smoking, drinking less alcohol and striving to be physically active in enjoyable ways.

A weight-inclusive approach to health seeks to undo the harms caused by weight stigma.

People with larger bodies often experience weight stigma as discrimination, prejudice, negative stereotypes and judgments from others – including their own doctors and other health care providers. More than 40% of U.S. adults across a range of body sizes report experiencing weight stigma in their day-to-day lives.

Avoiding this stigma is likely a major driver behind the great lengths people in the U.S. go to in order to lose weight. Market data shows that Americans spent some US\$72.6 billion on weight loss products and programs in 2021. In addition, weight loss efforts start early, with nearly half of all high school students in the U.S. reporting that they have tried to lose weight.

I am a nutrition epidemiologist and registered dietitian studying the consequences of weight stigma and working to develop weight-inclusive nutrition interventions.

Initially my private practice and research approach were weight-centered. A weight-centered approach focuses on weight loss to achieve health and is widely accepted in health care settings across the world. After over a decade of work in public health nutri-

tion, I have witnessed how, in my view, the weight-centered approach harms individuals and communities. So I have shifted to using a weight-inclusive approach in practice and research.

Overturning the 'lower weight equals

better health' dogma

There is an extensive body of research and public health messaging indicating that higher body weight has links with many long-term health concerns, such as high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes.

As a result, there is a pervasive misconception that a weight-inclusive approach disregards the patient's health concerns. However, proponents of weight-inclusive care argue that a weight-inclusive approach minimizes health problems by destigmatising weight status and promoting health equity. They also acknowledge that there are links between both higher and lower body weight and various health concerns.

The dogma that lower weight is synonymous with better health is being questioned by public health researchers and health care providers. Scientists and clinicians are calling for a paradigm shift away from a weight-centered focus on weight status and body mass index, or BMI, as indicators of health.

Advocacy groups like the Association for Size Diversity and Health have long been promoting the Health at Every Size approach. This weight-inclusive approach affirms a socially just definition of health and advocates for equitable health care regardless of weight status. More recently, the American Medical Association released a statement outlining the harms and shortcomings of using BMI as a clinical measurement.



The evidence supporting weight-inclusive care

Substantial research shows that behaviors such as stopping smoking and drinking less alcohol can prevent disease and support overall long-term health, regardless of body weight. For example, a systematic review of one clinical trial and 152 observational peer-reviewed studies reported that a diet high in nutrient-rich foods with low or moderate alcohol consumption is associated with reduced risk of death for everyone.

Another example: One of my own clients with high cholesterol said that focusing on weight loss over their lifetime had left them stuck in a cycle of weight loss and weight regain, disordered eating, inconsistent and extreme exercise habits and body image concerns. After adopting weight-inclusive practices such as eating more fiber-rich foods and being more physically active, instead of focusing on losing weight, their cholesterol levels returned to normal.

Both the weight-inclusive approach and the weight-centered approach can

include diet changes, increasing physical activity and reducing stress as key components to manage and prevent diseases

However, the weight-inclusive approach works to end weight stigma and acknowledges that factors such as socioeconomic status, culture and access to food and health care – collectively called the social determinants of health – have huge impacts on a person's body weight, shape and size. Even if a person could adhere to strict dieting and exercise routines, there will always be structural, political and other factors affecting health and weight that the individual can't control.

What's more, evidence indicates that people who lose weight generally don't have better long-term health and fail to keep those pounds off.

Finding weight-inclusive health care There are several things that people can look for in a weight-inclusive health care practice.

Look for health care providers who: Make weight checks optional for routine visits.

Treat patient symptoms rather than telling them to lose weight.

Provide patients in larger bodies the same treatment as those in thinner bodies with similar health concerns.

Use measures other than BMI, such as lab results, to diagnose health concerns.

Ask permission before discussing

weight with patients.
For additional resources on weight-

For additional resources on weightinclusive care, check out the Health at Every Size Health Sheets. Consider examining your own weight bias by taking an online test focused on implicit associations around weight.

# Alert against Meftal, painkiller may lead to allergic reactions



NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has issued a drug safety alert stating that mefenamic acid, a constituent of painkiller Meftal, triggers allergic reactions like the DRESS (Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms) syndrome which can

impact internal organs. The commission has advised healthcare professionals and patients to monitor adverse reactions of Meftal. "The mefenamic acid painkiller is prescribed in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, dysmenorrhoea, mild to moderate pain, inflammation, fever and dental pain,"

the alert said.

The commission also stated that in a preliminary analysis of adverse drug reactions from the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India database, it was found that mefenamic acid triggered reaction.

"Healthcare professionals and patients/ consumers are advised to closely monitor the possibility of the adverse drug reaction associated with the use of the suspected drug," according to the alert. The DRESS syndrome is an allergic reaction in which the body reacts strongly to certain medications. The initial symptoms are skin rash and fever.

# ICC rates Ahmedabad pitch which hosted ODI World Cup final as 'average'

ICC match referee and former Zimbabwe batter Andy Pycroft, however, rated the outfield as 'very good'

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): The pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad which hosted the ODI World Cup final between India and Australia on November 19 has been rated "average" by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

ICC match referee and former Zimbabwe batter Andy Pycroft, however, rated the outfield as "very good".

Australia had won the World Cup final after beating India by six wickets on a pitch which was slow and sluggish.

Opting to bowl, India could score just 240 in 50 overs with Australia achieving the target in 43 overs, with opener Travis



Head making a 120-ball 137.
The pitches used in India's league matches against South Africa, England, Pakistan and Australia in Kolkata, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Chennai respectively were also rated as

'average' by the ICC.

However, the Wankhede Stadium pitch on which India face New Zealand in the semifinals received a 'good' rating. There were media reports ahead of that match, suggesting that the

hosts had switched pitch, offering a used surface instead of a fresh one.

The ICC also gave an "average" rating to the Eden Gardens pitch in Kolkata which hosted the second semi-final between Australia and South Africa.

It turned out to be a low-scoring match where Australia dismissed South Africa for 212 in 49.4 overs. Australia then managed to overhaul the target in 47.2 overs, losing seven wickets

ICC match referee and former India pacer Javagal Srinath, however, gave a "very good" rating to the outfield at Eden Gardens

### SA return just a process at moment, my operated arm needs to regain strength: Du Plessis



BENGALURU, Dec 8 (Agencies): While a return to South African national team remains an enticing proposition for him, former captain Faf du Plessis wants to regain his peak fitness and game-touch before seriously nourishing such ambitions.

Recently, Proteas coach Rob Walter had indicated that doors to the national team are open for senior pros like Du Plessis, Quinton de Kock and Rilee Rossouw.

But for that, Du Plessis wanted to reach his highest point of fitness after an elbow surgery that he underwent in September during the Caribbean Premier League (CPL 2023).

"I wouldn't say the process is not on (his SA comeback). I mean, international cricket is still the pinnacle. You still feel like that's where cricket comes with the most pressure and that's what makes you really feel alive as a sportsman," Du Plessis

told agency.

"But now, it's just about getting back into cricket after my operation, and a long layoff with my arm. So yeah, just taking the pressure off and just really enjoying playing some cricket again, and allowing my arm to get back to where it needs to get to," he said.

"It (SA return) is just the process at the moment. South Africa

Ukraine 'Very Concerned' Over Russian

has come out and said that there will be some T20 contracts coming out in March. So, then it's up to the players to perform and do well (in leagues and other international matches) to make sure that they are eligible for selection." In fact, Du Plessis has been one of the earlymoving freelance cricketers hopping across T20 leagues, and he opined that the governing bodies will have to find a way to make inter-

with franchise cricket.

Du Plessis cited the example of New Zealand cricketers Trent Boult and Jimmy Neesham, who declined NZC Central Contracts recently to honour commitments to foreign leagues.

national cricket co-exist

Even England Test captain Ben Stokes declined a three-year contract with the ECB, settling for a one-year deal instead.

"I find that cricket has changed so much now, you have all these amazing cricketers playing around the circuit. Things that's changed probably over the last couple of years or so that there weren't those T20 contracts (earlier).

"Now if you look at the world, there's a lot more players doing it (moving over to T20s). You know guys like Boult and Neesham from New Zealand recently went that way. So, it's good to see that

the leagues are growing in terms of the pedigree that players are coming in. I think both are equally important for the game," said Du Plessis.

However, Du Plessis said the cricket boards should find a middle-path.

"So, it's happening more and more. I think it's important that the countries realise that (players opting for T20s), and make sure that you keep your players playing international cricket.

"The last thing you want is guys stopping playing international cricket when they're 28-29 years old when they are supposed to be reaching their prime," he said

The 39-year-old is currently playing in the Abu Dhabi T10 for Samp Army, and he wants to sharpen his skills and fitness, leveraging on that experience to impress the South African establishment.

In that context, Du Plessis said playing in an all-out attacking format like T10 helped him regain touch with his own game.

"I was here probably about three years ago. As someone who had a template on how to play T20, I was surprised how different T10 was. The first time I was around, I didn't understand how to play the format. So, there's this huge emphasis placed on maximising the power play. And I find that quite tricky.

"But this time around, I got a better expectation around what it looks like in terms of playing those first two overs and now I am certainly a bit more open to attacking," he

# Junior World Cup: Sunk by Spanish Armada

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 (Agencies): Spain were superb from the wings and played a close-knit game to crush India 4-1 in a pool match of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup.

Spain are leading Pool C with six points from two wins, while South Korea are ahead of India on goal difference, with both sides on three points. Dohyun Lim scored all of South Korea's goals in their 4-1 win over Canada earlier.

Canada are yet to open their account after two losses. India will play their last pool match against Canada on Saturday.

Uttam Singh's side, after starting the prestigious tournament on a high with a 4-2 victory against South Korea, were brought down to earth by the tactically superior Spain, who made full use of their opportunities and tight-

ened their defence resolutely to deny India penalty corner conversions.

Pol Cabre Verdiell (1st and 41st minutes) and Andreas Rafi (18th and 60th) were on target for the Spaniards, while for India, the consolation goal came from the stick of Rohit, who converted a penalty corner in the 33rd minute.

Most contests between India and Spain have gone to the wire but today it seemed the two-time champions were low on energy.

Spain's searing pace helped them take the lead in the first minute itself. Cabre Verdiell, who was unmarked just in front of the India goalkeeper, made a lovely deflection.

India tried rotating the midfielders following the jolt but were unable to pierce the sturdy Spanish. Uttam's side did manage a few circle penetrations with their aggressive play but the



equaliser eluded them.
Just when India

Just when India seemed to be finding their bearing, captain Rafi's powerful drag-flick from a penalty corner beat the goalkeeper all ends up.

India did pull one back after missing two penalty corner opportunities in quick succession when Rohit slotted home the third to make it 1-2. But the joy was short-lived as Cabre Verdiell struck his second goal of the match to regain the two-goal lead.

Spain goalkeeper Jan Capellades stood out for his pluck and anticipation, saving at least three-four strikes from Indian forwards.

India earned three penalty corners between the 55th and 57th minutes but Capellades deny them success.

Spain earned a penalty stroke in the last minute

and Rafi didn't miss the opportunity to add to India's misery.

Player of the Match Capellades called on his defence to improve. "What I try to do on every save is to watch the ball a lot, stay calm, and don't lose my position. I think that the team has to improve during the penalty corners, we only have 14 seconds to dress up and we are very late," he said.

# Returning Naomi Osaka Targets Paris Olympics, More Grand Slam Titles

PARIS, Dec 8 (Agencies): A "nervous" Naomi Osaka has targeted a place at next year's Paris Olympics and more Grand Slam titles after she makes her eagerly anticipated return to tennis. The 26-year-old former world number one is set to return to competition at the Brisbane International starting at the end of the month. having not played on tour since September 2022. The four-time Grand Slam champion gave birth to daughter Shai in July and she has also struggled with her mental health and the pressures of tennis.

She told Japanese broadcaster NHK that she feels "nervous and also happy and excited" as she prepares to return.

And Osaka, who lit the cauldron to open the pandemic-postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021, hopes her comeback takes her all the way to next summer's Paris Games.

"In the first chapter of my tennis I kind of got away with just being myself and playing with my instincts," she said.

"I think I want to be someone that understands the game a lot more.

"I definitely want to win



more Grand Slams and I guess put in more time in the French Open and Wimbledon, and play the Paris Olympics," she added.

Playing for Japan at the Tokyo Games, where spectators were mostly banned because of Covid, Osaka lost in straight sets in the third round to Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic.

She has won four major titles, triumphing in the 2019 and 2021 Australian Opens, and winning the US Open in 2018 and 2020.

Osaka will make her return to Grand Slam tennis at the Australian Open in January and says she will have a different mindset now that she is a mother.

"I've never been a person that's really good at playing for myself, if that makes sense," she said.

So I kind of like the feeling of having the responsibility of having to take care of Shai and wanting to show her

around the world.

"I kind of feel more like
I'm playing for her."

# Olympics Call: Sports Minister KYIV, Dec 8 (Agencies): The Ukrainian government is "very concerned" by the call

"very concerned" by the call from sports federations and National Olympic Committees to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete at next year's Paris Olympics, its acting sports minister has told agency. Matviy Bidnyi said Kyiv was concerned that the move gave the impression that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) "does not want to demonstrate the necessary leadership in the matter of Olympic fairness and justice." Bidnyi -- who replaced his former boss Vadym Gutzeit when he was fired in November -- was reacting after the request to the IOC on Tuesday considerably boosted the hopes of Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as neutral athletes in Paris.

The IOC is yet to make a final ruling on whether competitors from Russia and Belarus, a key ally of Moscow in its Ukraine offensive, will be permitted to take part in the Games that run from July 26 to August 11.

The IOC has said it will decide "at the appropriate time".

Bidnyi said he hoped the IOC would act in as responsible a fashion as it has done on previous occasions since the war began when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion in February last year.

"As aptly stated by President Volodymyr Zelensky: 'Obviously, any neutral flag of Russian athletes is stained with blood'," said Bidnyi.

"We count on a responsible decision and leadership of the IOC, which will not allow Russia to use sport for military propa-



ganda. "Even

"Even if it's sport under a neutral flag."

He cited how the IOC had decided not to formally invite Russia as a team to the Games and more recently that the IOC had shown "responsible leadership" by suspending the membership of the Russian Olympic Committee.

"I remind you that Russia is the only country that has violated the Olympic truce three times," said Bidnyi, referring to 2008, 2014 and 2022.

"They do not respect the fundamental values of Olympism: excellence, respect, and friendship. Instead, we respect the principle of neutrality, but 'neutrality' is possible only in peacetime.

"When there is a war and one nation with its passports is destroying another nation, then 'neutrality' becomes irresponsibility."

Bidnyi said there was only one way that including Russian and Belarusian athletes was accept-

able.

"Refusal of the Russian passport -- this is the only possible way today for an athlete to prove Olympic excellence is his first priority, and the athlete does not take on a share of responsibility for the killings of Ukrainians," said the 44-year-old.

He said Ukraine welcomed the IOC's move to allow athletes who had previously competed for Russia to switch nationalities.

"These athletes have proven by their actions that they do not support the Russian war."

- 'Touched everyone' -Bidnyi claimed that Ukraine's desire for Russian and Belarusian athletes to be banned has

support from 40 countries.

However, the threat to boycott the Paris Games appears to have receded as many Ukrainians have expressed their wish to strike a blow for their country by beating the Russians in the

sporting arena.

Bidnyi says he cannot imagine how Ukrainian athletes feel

when they face Russians and Belarusians. "Morally, it is very difficult to

enter the arena with those who want to kill you," he said.
"Not figuratively, but literally

kill you.
"Our athletes constantly face provocations from the Russians

and cannot be in a normal emotional state because of this. "I can't imagine how I would feel if I had to compete with the

Russians. It's very difficult."

Bidnyi argued it was likely
Russian athletes were not far

removed from the battlefield, even if they are not linked to the military.

"There is a well-known soci-

ological theory that any two people on the planet are separated by only six handshakes," he said.

"Imagine that you enter the arena, and in front of you stands a person, behind whom, a few handshakes away, stands a Russian soldier who shot children in Bucha. Just imagine this."

Bidnyi says the war "has touched everyone" and taken a heavy toll on the sporting community, including prospective Olympians.

"We have confirmation that 397 athletes and coaches were killed," he said, including athletes who could have gone to the Olympics, such as shooter Yegor Kigitov or boxer Maksym

Galynichev.

"As for sports infrastructure, our losses have already exceeded 500 facilities for a total of over 300 million dollars.

"They can be rebuilt, but human lives cannot be returned."

# JKMEF Deputation calls on Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: Deputation of JKMEF under the chairmanship of Sheikh Mehraj-Ud-Din along with Sushil Sudan President JKMEF Jammu met Chief Sec-

retary Atal Dulloo and congratulated him for holding responsibility of prestigious. Post as Chief Secretary of JKUT. Shiekh Meraj-ud-Din and Sushil Sudan expressed hope that JKUT will make tremendous progress under the administration of Atal

Others who accompanied the delegation include Syed Showkat Bharat Andrabi. Bhushan Bhagat President JKGPA Kashmir/ Jammu, Parfulat Singh Gen Secretary JKMEF, Jaswinder Singh President JK OT Tech, Mohd Aslam Sr Vice President JKMEF, Neelam Devi President JKFMPHW, Anila Bhagat Sr Vice President JKMEF and Tejinder Singh, Publicity Secretary JKMEF.

# Nandan Tent House & Decorations opened at Patiyali Chak

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: A brief function was held at Rakh Nagbani Patiyali Chak near Shiv Mandir here today by Nandan Tent House & Decorations on account of its Grand Opening Ceremony, in which all members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha and a large number of people from Civil society actively participated.

All congratulated the owner Rohit Nandan on his new business venture and wished that his



business may grow and bring him prosperity. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Messrs Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Duni Singh Motan, Subash Chander Nandan, Mohan Lal Kaith, Raghav Nandan, Sham Lal, Nand Lal, Munish Kaith, Gourav Kaith, Goldi Kumar and Ankit Kumar.

# Jan Kalyan Sangathan acknowledges swift action by DSEJ, CEO Jammu

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: Vinod Sharma, Chairman of Jan Kalyan Sangathan, RS Pura expressed gratitude towards Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu and Director School Education, Jammu for their prompt intervention in addressing the cleanliness and maintenance issues at Government Boys' Higher Secondary School, RS PURA.

Following a media report by our Sangathan, shedding light on the deplorable conditions attributed to the inefficiency of incumbent Principal Suman Lata, CEO Jammu took immediate action.



A committee of six lecturers was formed under the guidance of CEO Jammu and the overall direction of the Director School Education Jammu to oversee cleanliness, maintenance, and discipline at the school.

Vinod Sharma commended the committee's dedication and reported substantial

improvements in the school's condition since their intervention. He highlighted that the committee, having diligently collected funds from staff members, exhibited commendable initiative in ensuring the school's revitalization.

"Jan Kalyan Sangathan remains committed to advocating for the welfare of educational institutions, and we appreciate the collaborative efforts of CEO Jammu, Director School Education Jammu, and the dedicated committee in revitalizing Government Boys' Higher Secondary School, RS PURA," Vinod Sharma

told the media.

### One-Day Awareness Program on "Cyber Crime and Safety" organized at SMVDU



### **Top News Report**

KATRA, Dec 8: A one day awareness program on "Cyber Crime and Safety" was conducted by the faculty members, comprising Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Mr. Ashish Suri, and Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal of the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The faculty members have visited Government High School, Sirah and

Government Degree College, Kakryal for this awareness program. The key objective of the program was to spread awareness and possible safety measures against cyber-frauds. The program coordinator, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU Katra, highlighted the possible reasons and causes of cyber fraud. Mr. Ashish Suri, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU, has focused on the importance of this awareness program. Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU, overviewed the technical depth of the cybercrime reasons. The program coordinator, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, is thankful to the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar and Registrar, Shri Ajay Sharma for their kind approval to organize this awareness program for the benefit of society.

### Reserving single seat for PoJK DPs in J&K Assembly nasty blow to community: Narinder



**Top News Report** 

R S PURA, Dec 8: Social and political activist Narinder Sharma today strongly resented Union Government's decision to reserve a single seat for displaced persons from PoJK in the J&K Legislative Assembly.

He termed reservation of one seat as nasty joke affecting the 17 lakh-strong PoJK community.

In a handout issued here, Sharma said entire PoJK community had been demanding eight seats in the J&K Legislative Assembly for decades.

He argued that this move was a grave injustice and humiliation for the PoJK community, especially since the nominated seat would be chosen by the Lieutenant Governor rather than elected by the community.

Sharma urged the Centre to fulfill the

package announced for PoJK refugees in 2014, including compensation, reservation in professional and technical colleges, and job creation.

He raised concerns about the denial of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to PoJK DPs in specific districts, alleging a deliberate attempt to create divisions within the community.

He appealed to the Centre to reconsider their demands, emphasizing the community's anger and hurt over the decision.

Sharma 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. He demanded that the Government should 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," Sharma said.

# Biotechnology Students and Faculty undertake Industry Visit



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: A one day industry visit as an essential part of the study curriculum was organized by the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, The undergraduates and post graduate students pursuing Biotechnology visited the Kingfisher mineral water bottling unit and food processing unit at Panthal (Katra). Students had the opportunity to explore the different units of a distillation/ food processing plant and engage in insightful discussions with industry experts and were provided with a comprehensive briefing on the essential entrepreneurship skills required for establishing units under the start-up programs initiated by the Government of India. Students were provided with valuable insights into the intricate workings and processing methods involved in the production of various beverages. The students visited the various bio processing sections and had a firsthand experience of the various steps involved including pasteurization, filling, quality control checks etc. The students and the faculty also had an opportunity to interact with the founder chairman of this industry who encouraged the students to go in for start ups and emphasized on starting an industry at the local level generating livelihood opportunities for the local population. The visit was conceptualized and managed by the coordinator of the industrial and educational visits, SoBT,

Dr. Indu Bhushan with coordination of Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology. The other faculty members accompanying the students included Dr. Vinod Singh, Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, Er. Arvind Yadav, and Mr. Pankaj Suden. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed satisfaction towards the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards overall grooming and development of their students as able professionals.pasteurization,filling,quality control checks etc. The students and the faculty also had an opportunity to interact with the founder chairman of this industry who encouraged the students to go in for start ups and emphasized on starting an industry at the local level generating livelihood opportunities for the local population. The visit was conceptualized and managed by the coordinator of the industrial and educational visits, SoBT, Dr. Indu Bhushan with coordination of Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology. The other faculty members accompanying the students included Dr. Vinod Singh, Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, Er. Arvind Yadav, and Mr. Pankaj Suden. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed satisfaction towards the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards overall grooming and development of their students as able professionals.

### PG department claimed I/C KHO-KHO (WOMEN) title

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 8: PG. Department, JU outplayed GCW Udhampur by (07) with match score (17-10) and lifts the Inter-Collegiate Kho-Kho (Women) Trophy in the ongoing Inter Collegiate Kho-Kho (Women) Tournament 2023-24 organized by the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, University of Jammu at Univ

tyKho-Kho Ground.
Earlier, in Semi-final matches:

GCW Udhampurdefeated GDC Ramnagar by(10)points with match score (20-10).

PG.Deppt.JU defeatedGDC Kathua by (05) points with match score



(15-10).

Dr. Vinod Bakshi (Incharge Director Sports Cluster University Jammu)was the Chief Guest of the final match who awarded Trophies & Medals to the winner &runner up teams in the presence of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Mr. Vimal Kishore, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Dr. Vikesh Kumar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Sdr. P.D. Singh, Sh. Ravish Vaid, Sh. Vikas Karlopia, Sh. Raj Kumar Bakshi, Sh. Jai Bharat, Mr. Harinderpal Singh, Mr. Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Mahak, Mr. Rishiv Sharma, Ms. Richa Mandla and Ms. Manu Singh Pawar.The Inter Collegiate Kho-Kho (Women) Tournament 2023-24 was organized under the supervision of Dr. Daug Igbal Baba Director, Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, and University of

The matches were officiated by Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, Sh. Anil Kumar, Sh. Palbinder Singh, Ms.Pooja Sharma, and Sh. Gagan Kumar.

# Kathua campus (JU) organises 5th hands-on training on information technology

### **Top News Report**

KATHUA, Dec 8: Kathua Campus. University of Jammu organized 5th hands-on training on Information Technology under dynamic educational series. The students of Government Higher Secondary School Sallan embarked on a transformative educational journey to the esteemed Kathua Campus. The students were afforded a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in an interactive learning environment, fostering connections and exchanges that transcended classroom boundaries of Kathua Campus.

The students were able to gain unique insights into various academic disciplines, social dynamics, and campus life, which enriched their perspectives and broadened their understanding. Professor Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu in his message



emphasized the importance of such educational tours in facilitating holistic learning experiences. He further expressed his delight at the enthusiastic participation and meaningful exchanges witnessed during the visit. He encouraged the continuation and expansion of such initiatives, highlighting their pivotal role in nurturing a culture of knowledge exchange and fostering academic growth beyond traditional classroom settings. Moreover, Prof. Jasrotia acclaimed the Kathua Campus for its ongoing efforts in organizing and hosting such impactful programs, underscoring the institution's commitment to nurturing an environment

conducive to comprehensive learning beyond conventional boundaries.

Mr. Pranav Ratta, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Er. Sushant Gagal, Er. Archana Salaria, Er. Puneet Kour, Er. Komal Khadotra, Er. Vishawjeet Singh delivered diverse talks throughout the training sessions.

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