

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**'Big Boss' fame Sumbul Touqeer 'eats good food and sleeps well on day off'**



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**India, Nations With High Per Capita Emissions Can't Be Clubbed: Senior EU Official**



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## BRIEFLY

### Drone recovered near IB in Ferozepur

CHANDIGARH, Dec 9 (Agencies): A drone was recovered from a field near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Ferozepur district, said a BSF spokesperson on Saturday. The Border Security Force (BSF) troops intercepted the drone after noticing its movement near Maboke village in Ferozepur at around 10:10 pm on Friday, said the spokesperson.

During a search operation on Saturday, the BSF personnel recovered a China-made quadcopter along with a hold and release mechanism from the field, said the official.

### At minus 4.6 degree Celsius, Srinagar records coldest night of season

SRINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): The night temperature has plummeted further in Kashmir parts with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recording the coldest night of the season at minus 4.6 degree Celsius.

The sub-zero temperature has been recorded across all the stations.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at minus 2.8 degree Celsius while in Gulmarg, a minimum temperature of minus 4.2 degree Celsius was recorded.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist place, recorded a low of minus 5.0 degree Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degree Celsius.

### Zojila accident: Injured Kerala tourist succumbs; toll six

SRINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): A tourist who was seriously injured in a tragic road accident near Zojila Pass on December 05, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here on Saturday, taking the death toll to 6.

An official told Greater Kashmir that a tourist who was injured in the Zojila road

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## LG Sinha urges people to generously contribute to Armed Forces Flag Day fund

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan hosted Army veterans and office bearers of Sainik Welfare Department, J&K for the customary Armed Forces Flag pinning. Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7th December every year to honour the martyrs and express gratitude to soldiers protecting the integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the men and women in the uniform, who are valiantly and selflessly



fighting to safeguard the country's honour, integrity and sovereignty.

The Lt Governor appealed to all citizens to generously contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for welfare and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, Veer

Naris and martyrs' families.

"In J&K, Armed Forces are playing a crucial role in combating terrorism to create a safe and secure environment for people. It is our collective responsibility to look after the families of

Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country," the Lt Governor said.

Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan, Director, Sainik Welfare Department, J&K pinned the Armed Forces Flag on the

jacket of the Lt Governor.

He briefed the Lt Governor on the initiatives of the Department including the enhancement of daughter marriage grant, introduction of widow remarriage grant and other welfare endeavours for the Veterans, Veer Naris, dependents and serving Armed Forces personnel.

Col JS Randhawa (Rtd.); Col BS Sambhal (Rtd.); Col Jitendra Singh (Rtd.); Col Sukhbir Singh (Rtd.); Col JA Mir (Rtd.); Col Manjeet Singh (Rtd.) Subhash Chander and veterans including Bawa Singh;

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## JK High Court imposes Rs 2 Lakh penalty on Health Director over 2003 Decree

SRINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has recently fined the Director of Health Services Kashmir Rs 2 lakh for engaging in futile legal proceedings to obstruct the enforcement of a 2003 decree.

In an order by Justice Atul Sreedharan, the court rejected the plea, imposed costs, and stated that the department's "repeated frivolous litigation" over two decades amounted to an "abuse of process," leaving the decree-holder in limbo.

The case originated in 2001 when legal assistant Iqbal Ahmad Baqal filed a civil suit against

the Director of Health Services and another party for an alleged breach of contract. The court ruled in Baqal's favour in 2003, issuing a decree that the department failed to comply with. Instead of fulfilling its obligations, the department initiated a prolonged legal battle, filing various appeals and petitions to delay the decree's execution.

The department's attempts to stall justice included a time-barred first appeal, a revision petition, a writ petition, and even a second appeal filed after a staggering 13-year delay. Additionally, they filed

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## 372 gentlemen cadets pass out of IMA



DEHRADUN, Dec 9 (Agencies): A total of 372 gentlemen cadets, including 29 from 12 friendly countries, passed out of the Indian Military Academy here on Saturday to be commissioned as officers into the armies of their respective countries.

Addressing the passing out parade as the reviewing officer, Chief of Defence Staff of Sri Lanka Gen Shavendra Silva congratulated them on the successful completion of their rigorous training and wished them the best of luck for all their future endeavours.

Gen Silva said the immaculate parade reflected their high level of training and he was confident that the passing out gentlemen cadets will serve their motherlands with commitment, loyalty and valour.

The coveted Sword of Honour and the Gold medal went to Battalion Under Officer Gaurav Rawat, the silver medal

to Battalion Under Officer Saurabh Badhani and the bronze to battalion under officer Alok Singh.

With Saturday's POP, the Indian Army has got 343 new officers.

The 29 passing out gentlemen cadets from 12 friendly nations include nine from Bhutan, four each from Sri Lanka and Maldives, three from Mauritius, two from Nepal and one each from Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar,

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## New Rehari Welfare Society to hold meeting on Dec 10

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: New Rehari Welfare Society to hold a meeting on December 10 (Sunday) at 12:00 noon at Rana Rajinder Singh Park, New Rehari to discuss the welfare of Society and open election of the new office bearers of the society.

A handout issued by the society on Saturday stated that in the meeting issues like parking of vehicles by outsiders, sanitation of area, construction of temple, defunct street lights, menace of stray dogs,

water supply problems, parking stickers for cars, and appointment of Chowkidar/Security Guard are discussing by the participants.

"There is apprehension that some anti-social elements disturb the meeting therefore police protection is necessary during the meeting," it stated and urged the police department to deploy some police personnel at the aforesaid venue of the meeting to stop any untoward incident.

The handout also appealed to all the people of the area and

members of society to come in a large number and make the meeting successful. It also stated that anyone from the area will be contested for the post of president and other office bearers in the ensuing elections of the society.

Earlier in the executive members meeting held today, all the members in one voice decided to hold elections for the new office bearers of the Society within two weeks for which further discussion is being held in the meeting of the Society on December 10.

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## JKSSB announces vacancies in Social Welfare Department

SRINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) has announced district cadre posts in the Social Welfare Department. The submission of online application forms will commence on December 15, 2023, and will continue up to January 14, 2024.

A total of 201 posts have been advertised or female candidates only for the post of Supervisor. There are 20 vacancies in district Kupwara, 15 vacancies in district Jammu, 13 vacancies in district Kathua, 16 vacancies in district Baramulla, 14 vacancies in district Rajouri, 8 vacancies in district Samba, 12 vacancies in district Budgam, 8 vacancies in district Ganderbal, 9 vacancies in district Pooch, 10 vacancies in district Reasi, 11 vacancies in district Kishtwar, 10 vacancies in district Pulwama, 12 vacancies in district Anantnag, 12 vacancies in district Kulgam, 6 vacancies in district Bandipora, 10 vacancies in district Doda, 5 vacancies in district Shopian, 4 vacancies in district Ramban, and 6 vacancies in district Udhampur.

The applicants must be domiciles of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The maximum age for candidates belonging to SC/ST/RBA/ALC/IB/ EWS/ PSP, Social Caste is 43 years, for physically challenged people is 42 years and for

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## Ahead of Article 370 verdict, security assessment conducted in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): A crucial meeting convened on Friday to address concerns related to "law and order" ahead of the impending Supreme Court verdict on the Article 370 case. Top police and administrative authorities joined the meet.

A senior officer from the Jammu and Kashmir Police said that stringent actions will be taken against individuals involved in any misconduct or inappropriate use of social media.

Chaired by Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, J&K, Vijay Kumar, the joint meeting marked a significant gathering of all district magistrates and senior superintendents of police in the Kashmir division at PCR Kashmir.

This gathering, which was the first of its kind, preceded the forthcoming Supreme Court ruling on Monday regarding the Article 370 case. The attendees comprised Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, IGP Kashmir, Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau, DIGs of all ranges in Kashmir, DIG-CID, and SSP, PCR Kashmir.

Throughout the session, officers provided updates to Kumar on the existing law and order situation and potential developments that may unfold following the verdict.

District heads were instructed to maintain vigilance and undertake necessary preventive and punitive measures against those causing disturbances to the peace.

## Six shops damaged in fire incident at Kangan market

KANGAN, Dec 9 (Agencies): At least six shops were damaged in a fire incident at main market Kangan in Ganderbal district late last night.

An official said that at least six shops have been gutted in the blaze, causing massive damage to the property and the goods.

Soon after the incident police, fire and emergency services reached the spot to douse the fire and after strenuous efforts the fire was brought under control.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained.

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**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

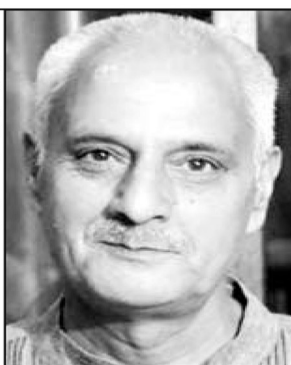
**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on December 11, 2023 (Monday) at 8:30 AM at Gang Nahar, Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Smt. Suman Koul (Wife)  
(Brother & Sister-in-Law)  
Sh. Ramesh & Lalita Koul  
Sh. Suresh Raina (Brother-in-Law)

**Sons & Daughters-in-law:**  
Ajay & Parul Koul  
Amit & Keerti Koul  
Pankaj & Shreya Koul

**Daughter & Son-in-law:**  
Smt. Priyanka & Vinod Bhat

**In-laws:**  
Sh. Parveen & Priya Raina  
Sh. Naresh & Nisha Misri  
Sh. Vijay & Meena Peer  
**Grand Children:** Amyra, Rayhan, Moulik, Sia  
**Mobile No:** 9810052025 / 7021488089 / 9910906685



Shri Kishen Jee Koul

**10TH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA**

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

Gatherings to honour a well lived life

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

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

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:**

Smt. Mangla Devi -Wife  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Dr. Abhishek Gupta & Dr. Chetna Mahajan

**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Dr. Loveleen Gupta and Sh. Ankush Gupta  
**Mob: 9829722027**



Shri Ashok Gupta

**TENTH DAY**

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 RAMELELA GROUND JANIPUR COLONY JAMMU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE 06 DEC. 2023.

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 15 DEC. 2023 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 9:00 (FRIDAY).

**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, 7066331320



Lt. Smt Shanta

**TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA**

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

**TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE GURHA BRAHMANA AKHNOOR ON 12TH DECEMBER (TUESDAY) AT 10 AM  
**RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA** SHALL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 15TH DECEMBER AT 1 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SUDESH KUMARI -WIFE  
**SONS AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAWS**  
DR RAKESH VERMA DR SONIA VERMA  
SIKANDER VERMA RADHA VERMA  
PARVEEN VERMA RASHI VERMA  
**DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW**  
BABY VERMA AND SANDEEP MAHOTRA



SH. RATTAN LAL VERMA

**TENTH DAY 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, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad [originally from Chattabal/ Chanapora, Srinagar, Kashmir].

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Murad Nagar Ghat (Chota Haridwar) on 13-12-2023 from 9 am onwards.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN:**  
Rakesh Hustoo & Nishi (Son & Daughter-in-law) [9971396161/ 9818216174]  
Sunil Hustoo & Ruppy (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)  
Aama Hustoo (Great Grand-Daughter)

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



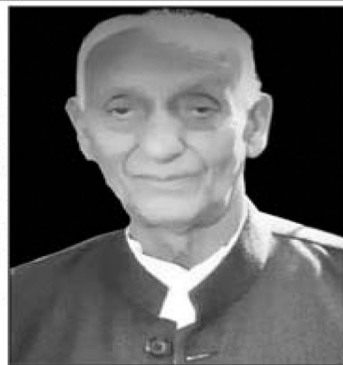
Smt. Usha Hustoo (Bengashi/Rani)

**TENTH DAY**

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

**Grief Stricken:**

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



KARAMYOGI SH. SHIV JI PANDITA

**13TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bhadr Singh** S/o Late Sh. Sunder Singh R/o Teh. Pogal Paristan Ukhral Distt. Ramban.

**13th Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday 10th of December, 2023 at Ukhral.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kushalya Devi - Wife  
Vimal Singh - Son  
Rajan Singh - Son  
Anisha Devi - Daughter  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Anil Singh & Sonika Devi  
**Ph.No.: 6006255808**



Sh. Bhadr Singh

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

**10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 14TH DECEMBER 2023, 9:00 AM AT MUTHI GHAAAT (NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION). WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU. YOU WILL STAY IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

**MISSED BY YOUR FAMILY**

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 SUHAN, BABY SHIVAKSHI



Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul

ADDRESS- H.NO. 152-A, MAHAJAN MOHALLA, UPPER BARNAL, JAMMU  
CONTACT NO: 9906043071, 90116 68149, 9419196331, 9419133092, 6005358823

**OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Ram Krishan Raina (Son)  
Smt. Baby Raina & Rattan Raina (Daughter in law & Son)  
**Grand Daughters & Son in laws**  
Smt. Sony Raina & Sh. Sanju Verma  
Smt. Meenu Raina & Sh. Sushil Khatri  
Smt. Neha Raina & Sh. Pankaj Sapru  
Smt. Ronica Raina & Sh. Binny Dassi  
Smt. Reticca Raina & Sh. Ranjan Dubey  
Miss Tanishqa (Great Grand Daughter)  
**Contact no: 7006836499, 9906603710, 9149806648**



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, Udhampur 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

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bansi Lal Kerni Ji**, (Retd. Principal and Trustee Trikuta Shiksha Niketan School, Reasi), on 2nd December 2023 at our residence Mandiyan Mohalla Reasi.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Reasi on 10-12-2023 at 11:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
(Daughters and Sons-in-laws)

Savita & Bishan Dutt Sharma (Retd.AE)  
Anuradha & Madan Lal Magotra  
(Deputy Commissioner FDA)

Rajni & Pawan Sharma (JE)  
Sarita & Anil Padha (Inspector J&K Police)

**GRAND CHILDREN:-**

Lotika, Abhinav (SM Indian Railways), Dr. Abhinandan (JKAS), Sunandan, Akshita, Rakshita, Lakshya, Akshaya  
**M/S Nandan Palace, IRP Chowk Reasi**



SH. BANSI LAL KERNI JI

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Uttam Chand Dingra (KAS) Retd. Deputy Commissioner. Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala** will be performed at Shri Ravidas Mandir, Krishna Nagar, Jammu on 11-12-2023 (Monday).

**Programme:**

**Shabd / Satsang** - 12:00 Noon to 01:00PM

**Langar** - 01:00 PM Onwards

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Pushpa Devi (Wife)  
Manik Dingra (Son)  
(Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Jyoti Dingra & Mohit Hans  
Sheetal Dingra & Vishal Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Preeto & Late Sh. Bheem Das (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Smt. Pooja & Sh. Bishamber Das (Bhabhi & Brother)  
**Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law**  
Smt. Giano Devi & Late Sh. K.C. Azad  
Smt. Swaran & Sh. Surinder Paul  
Smt. Shakuntla & Sh. Muni Lal  
Smt. Paramjeet & Sh. Suraj Prakash  
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Vinay Bhushan  
Smt. Reva & Sh. Rajinder Kumar  
**Grand Children:** Aamyaa, Aayaan, Armaan, Amay



SH. UTTAM CHAND DINGRA (KAS) Retd. Deputy Commissioner

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Jagjit Singh Raina** (Retd. Dy. Director) S/o Late Sh. Darshan Singh Ji R/o H.No. 26-C, Sector-10, Nanak Nagar, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 6/12/2023.

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path** at our residence on Sunday 10/12/2023 at 9:30 AM on Tuesday 12/12/2023 at 9:30 AM.

**Antim Ardas** will be performed at Gurdwara Bala Pritham Trikuta Nagar on 12/12/2023 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon followed by Guru Ka Langar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

All family members and friends  
**Mob.: 9419181008, 7006614553**



S. Jagjit Singh Raina (Retd. Dy. Director)

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI-UTHALA**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise and untimely death of our beloved **Late Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Rasulu Ram Gupta (Majalta Wale) A/P Dutta Colony, Raipur Bantala Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 9th December, 2023 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM at Jhang 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, Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt. Mahnu Devi -Wife  
Sons And Daughter in laws

Ashok Paul Gupta and Suman Gupta (Annual Husbandry)  
Kuldeep Paul Gupta and Suman Gupta (K.S. Pharma, Raghunath Pura)

Daughters and Sons in laws  
Lt. Smt. Shakti & Lt. Sh. Shambhu Gupta Ji

Smt. Sushma & Sh. Som Raj Kudyar (Kudyar Automobiles)  
Smt. Madhu Kohli And Sh. Sanjeev Kohli (MIS Visu Textiles)

Grand Sons And Daughters  
Smt. Usha & Vilas Gupta (K.S. Enterprises, Samba)

Contact No: 788590674, 7006675946, 9419121629, 941921632.



LATE SH. KRISHAN LAL GUPTA

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely demise of our daughter **Miss Aditideep Singh Jammwal** on 1st December, 2023.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 10th Dec. 2023 at 11 AM at our residence 353/A, Hari Nagar, Ward No. 7, Udhampur.

We will always love you and miss you.

You will stay in our hearts forever.

**MISSED BY YOUR FAMILY**

**Grand Mother**  
Smt. Shakti Rani W/o Lt. Sh. Kartar Singh Jammwal

**Mother & Father**  
Smt. Anita & Sh. Nardeep Singh Jammwal  
Miss Shreya Deep Jammwal - Sister

**Aunty & Uncles**  
Smt. Vandana & Sh. Sunil Jammwal  
Smt. Rashi & Sh. Neeraj Jammwal  
Smt. Neha & Sh. Sandeep Jammwal

**Dadis & Dadas**  
Smt. Sneh & Sh. Dharanter S. Jammwal  
Smt. Arti & Sh. Avtar S. Jammwal

Smt. Vijay Rani & Sh. Sham Singh  
Smt. Monika & Sh. Narinder S. Jammwal - Fufi & Fufar

**Contact Nos: 9419160860, 7006302945, 9419161860, 9419160357**



MISS ADITIDEEP SINGH JAMWAL

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA / RASAM PAGI/UTHALA**

Our beloved mother **Smt. Kanta Devi** W/o Late Sh. Madan Mohan left us for heavenly abode on 01-12-2023.

**Tenth Day** shall be performed at our residence Ward No. 4, Opposite Tehsil Office Lane, Bhalwal (Jammu) on 10-12-2023 (Sunday) at 11:00 AM.

**Kriya** shall be performed at our residence Ward No. 4, Opposite Tehsil Office Lane, Bhalwal (Jammu) on 11-12-2023 (Monday) at 11:00 AM onwards.

**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** shall be performed at our residence Ward No. 4, Opposite Tehsil Office Lane, Bhalwal (Jammu) on 11-12-2023 (Monday) from 4:00 PM to 5:PM (Monday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Er. Jag Mohan (AEE-PWD) and Dr. Deepshikha Kesar - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Anju Bala & Sh. Raman Dutta - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Roohani, Medhasvi, Praniti, Yuvraj, and Swaraj - Grand Children

**Mob.: 9419132625, 9419166343**



Smt. Kanta Devi

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# Congress is running 'Corruption Ki Dukan': BJP

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Congress is running 'Corruption Ki Dukan', said MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma while addressing a press conference at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here on Saturday.

BJP Chief Spokesperson Adv. Sunil Sethi, spokesperson Arun Gupta and spokesperson Altaf Thakur accompanied the MP Jugal Kishore Sharma.

Jugal Kishore, while addressing the media, said that Congress has once again proved itself to be infected with corruption. He said that more than 210 Crore rupees have already been found from the house of Congress MP Sahu and still the searches are going on.

"Rahul Gandhi speaks of 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan', but they are running the 'Corruption Ki Dukaan'", said Jugal.

"Dheeraj Sahu is very close to Rahul Gandhi. Dheeraj Sahu was also with Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra. Despite



finding more than Rs 210 crore in cash, top Congress leaders Sonal Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge are maintaining silence on this. Why?", asked MP Jugal Kishore.

"If a single Congress MP is found with cash amounting to 210 crore rupees, one might wonder about the extent of cash possession by other Congress MPs. Consequently, the Gandhi family is often considered one of the most corrupt families in the world. The reality is that they

have been involved in Corruption from head to toe", Jugal said.

Jugal Kishore also said that where there is a representative of Congress, there is a guarantee that they will engage in corruption. He also said that every now and then, the INDI Alliance indulges in corruption and plunder. When investigative agencies do their job and catch the black sheep, these corrupt leaders level accusations against these agencies.

Sunil Sethi said that the parties like Congress follow the faith of corruption, but PM Modi has made it clear in a tweet that whatever has been looted from the public, every penny will have to be returned, this is Modi's guarantee.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders led by BJP NEM Priya Sethi, J&K BJP Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi, former MLC Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Secretary Veenu Khanna, BJYM President Arun Parbhat, district President Rekha Mahajan, Puneet Mahajan, Jeet Angral, Yash Paul Singh and others also held a massive protest near Press Club, Jammu.

Priya Sethi, addressing in the protest, said that Congress leaders are enriching themselves with the ill-gotten gains of corruption, and all these funds are funneled into the coffers of the Gandhi family.

Yudhvir Sethi, speaking on the occasion, accused the Congress of looting the public while trying to fool them with irrelevant utterances.

# Vacant posts in Hindi, Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy in Universities in J&K have been filled, Indian Philosophy is being taught in all Universities of UT: Sinha



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the 11th Foundation Day function of Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, on Saturday. The event was also attended by Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri Adhokshajananand Devtirth Ji Maharaj.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Trustees, President and all the members of Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust on the occasion. He commended the organization for tirelessly working for the promotion of Sanskrit and its firm commitment to the ideas of selfless service of the needy.

"Sanskrit is our priceless cultural heritage, which is now being looked upon with admiration across the world. It is the greatest treasure of knowledge in Science, Medicine, Botany, Literature and many other subjects," the Lt Governor said.

He called for collective efforts from all stakeholders to pass on the knowledge system of Sanskrit, one of the oldest living languages of the world, to young generation.

"The inter-disciplinary

approach and voluminous work in Sanskrit on different subjects can contribute to the growth of the knowledge economy and develop values, ideals and utilise it for the well being of society," the Lt Governor said.

At the foundation day function, the Lt Governor shared the key initiatives of UT Administration for the promotion of Sanskrit and value-based education in Jammu Kashmir.

He said the vacant posts for Hindi, Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy in Universities in J&K have been filled. Today, Indian Philosophy is being taught in Universities of the UT. This is a testimony to our com-

mitment to promote cultural and linguistic traditions in Jammu Kashmir, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated international mountaineer Col. Ranbir Singh Jamwal and renowned Surgeon Dr. Sanjay Sharma for their significant contribution in their respective fields.

Students from Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basohli presented the Vedic Manglacharan.

Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu; Sham Lal Sharma, former Minister; Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailash Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust were present on the occasion.

# CS reviews progress of ongoing VBSY with DCs & District Prabharies

More than 10 lakh people participated in 2516 panchayats till date

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today took first hand appraisal from the DCs and Gol appointed District Prabharies regarding the progress and participation of people in the ongoing nationwide Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) in the UT here.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles (UT Prabhari); Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, Mining; Secretary, Planning; DG, Planning; DG, E&S; SIO besides others.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary lauded the efforts of the Divisional and District administration for making this yatra successful till now. He impressed upon them to keep the momentum going and not let the enthusiasm of people down. He told them to make it vibrant by holding multiple activities at the venues.

Dulloo further impressed upon the concerned to reach out to all the vulnerable sections of the society



ety and target for saturation of all the beneficiary oriented schemes. He asked them to cover all the Panchayats and display live drone presentations including the dissemination of publicity material among public to create ample awareness about government schemes and programmes.

He called upon the concerned district administrations to be prompt with update of details in the portal. He even directed them to ensure that each activity envisaged under this yatra are practiced in each village and data fed

into the portal. He asked for making the yatra interesting for all age groups including school children, women and old aged.

Dulloo also asked for insights from the concerned Deputy Commissioners and designated District Prabharies about the kind of activities carried out, demonstrations made and peoples participation in such activities. He advised the concerned agency to enhance the number of pilots for drone presentations besides stationing of VBSY vans at centralized locations in each village.

In his remarks the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, GoI, Rohit Kansal, who is also UT Prabhari for J&K showed his satisfaction about the performance of J&K so far. He made out that the gap between the actual activities happening on ground and those uploaded on portal shall be lessened by making the exercise real time doing so on daily basis by each Deputy Commissioner.

Kansal also asked for participation of people especially school children in quizzes by simply scanning QR codes on

the VBSY van. He even stressed on giving due attention towards highlighting the success stories during this yatra in both print and electronic media here.

In his presentation the Secretary, Planning, Piyush Singla threw light on different activities carried out from 15th of November, when the yatra was started here in the UT. It was given out that till date in 2516 Gram Panchayats around 10,47,500 people have participated till date among whom 8,42,955 took Sankalp pledge and 1,25,7625 were 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' beneficiaries.

In addition it was revealed that 107 IEC vans are scheduled to cover all the panchayats here by visiting 2 panchayats each day. During the yatra around 1550 Ayushman Bharat Cards, 7224 Suraksha Bima Yojana, 1006 Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, 1908 Kisan Credit Cards besides thousands of other beneficiaries took benefit during the yatra period till date, as was added during this meeting.

# KPS hails PM, HM for Pro-KPs decision

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) wished to put on record deep appreciation for the commendable initiatives taken by the Union and Union Territory Governments in the recent past, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370, to bring in normalcy in Kashmir Valley choking of the illegal hawala funding to terrorists and their supporters, abrogation of Art. 370 & 35 A and unwavering support extended to the security forces have been successful drives in weeding out terrorism from the Valley.

The KP Sabha applauded and thanked the Union Home Minister for considering the demand of the community and granting representation of Kashmiri Pandits in the assembly.

"Ever since Narendra Modi led Government came to power in May 2014, the hopes of KP Community for an early return to the land of its forefather's soared high," KPS president KK Khosa said in the press conference here on Saturday.

He said KPS pleased when the Government of India initiated the process to build colonies to resettle the displaced community in the Valley.

He added that Sabha wholeheartedly supported the positive move of the government.

In the situation where immovable properties of the Pandits have changed hands either due to distress sale or forcible occupation by land mafia, the efforts of



the governments to provide livable settlements is a commendable task and needs to be expedited to facilitate early return and rehabilitation of the displaced community, he said.

Any further delay in ensuring return & rehabilitation in the valley will prove detrimental to the interest of distinct cultural identity of Kashmiri Pandits which needs to be preserved at all cost, he added.

The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha wholeheartedly welcomes the initiative of the government to set-up settlements for the return and rehabilitation of the KP community in times to come.

It is appealed that settlements be set-up in the three erstwhile district headquarters of the Kashmir valley, namely Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag.

Needless to mention that the settlements should be equipped with all kinds of basic amenities (hospitals, primary/secondary schools, shopping mall, etc.) and fool-proof security to infuse sense of safety.

Both the governments, Union and UT, has taken cognizance of unemployed youth of the KP community and initiated a drive to provide respectable jobs. It is a need of time to launch, yet another special recruitment drive for the community so that more deserving youths are gainfully employed. The employment should be afforded as per their qualification and aptitude. The community is struggling hard with the unemployment of over-aged youths.

The Kashmiri Sabha appealed to mercifully consider engagement of over-aged youths to suitable employment. The members of KP community, who got displaced from the villages, left immovable fertile agriculture and horticulture lands behind which was the major source of income to them. The affected members of community deserve to be compensated adequately for the loss suffered by them as a result of migration from the valley.

The buildings in the Jagti Township (Jammu) and other transit

camps have deteriorated with the passage of time and turned into an uninhabitable condition. The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha appeals for an urgent repair to restore the condition of buildings fit for human habitation.

Further, it is appealed that the relief components received by the displaced KPs, particularly the quantum of dry ration issued every month, for past three decades should not be tinkered with till the community returns to the valley. Further, it is a ripe time to consider enhancement of cash relief to the migrants.

The Kashmiri Pandit owners of the immovable property, who suffered heavy loss of the houses that were torched after the exodus in 1990, are waiting for long to receive the compensation in full. It is, therefore, appealed that the balance amount of compensation be released as early as possible.

The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha assures all cooperation in the venture undertaken by the government for the safe and honorable return and rehabilitation of the KPs.

The Kashmiri Pandit Community appealed to make provision for election of its members to Legislative Assembly. Election of three members from the community should be ensured, one each from the erstwhile three districts namely Srinagar, Baramulla & Anantnag. It would also be appropriate to nominate a member to the Parliament to further empower the KP Community.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
No.: 433-Sig-T-26-23-24 Date: 07.12.23 Closing Date/Time: 29.12.2023, 15:00 Hrs.  
Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-26-23-24 Closing Date/Time 29.12.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Up-gradation of CCTVs & SCADA for tunnel Monitoring and control system with allied work for reliable operation of Pir Panjal Tunnel BAHIL-QZ Section		
Tender Closing Date / Time	29.12.2023, 15.00 Hrs.	Date / Time of Uploading Tender	07.12.2023, 16.33 Hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 2,98,85,826.98	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	15.12.2023
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 2,99,400.00	Period of Completion	4 Months

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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

e-NIT No. 125 of 2023-24 Dated 06-12-2023  
(Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In lacs)	Cost of doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Strengthening of AI/EET Laboratory at Sheep Breeding Farm Panthal.	33.18	600	66360/-	12 Months	A & B Class	4403-Sheep Husbandry

Position of AAA:- **Accorded.**  
Position of T.S :- **Accorded**  
Position of funds :- **Available**

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	07-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07-12-2023 to 21-12-2023, 1700 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	07-12-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	21-12-2023 up to 1700 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22-12-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra, as mentioned in the bid documents.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Katra.
- The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- 4335-59  
Dated:- 06-12-2023

DIP/J-12288/23  
SD/  
(Er. Shakti Kumar Raina)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Katra



## EDITORIAL

REDRESS  
ISSUES

**A**mong all the problems of our country, the problem of population growth is paramount. Our country suffering from this problem is struggling with all kinds of problems. The population of our country is increasing at such a fast pace. No other country has that much. At present the population of our country is about 120 crores and on the basis of the data received so far, we can only say that in the year 2030, the population of our country will be much more than the population of China, the world's most populous nation.

Thus, the question can be easily raised that if the situation of India, a country with such a huge population, cannot become more problematic then what can it do?

The problem of unemployment in our country is a very painful and distressing problem. Diagnosing this has emerged as a challenge for us. There are many types of unemployment in our country. In which mainly uneducated, semi-educated and educated unemployment is predominant. Our present government has failed to solve the problem of unemployment, because our education system has not yet become employment oriented.

The second thing is that we have not succeeded in curbing the exponentially increasing population. In this way unemployment is increasing day by day.

Problem of inflation and corruption - Due to unlimited unemployment and increasing population in our country, inflation and corruption are getting a lot of boost. The problem of inflation and corruption is increasing at double the speed due to bribery, recommendations, use of unfair means, selfishness etc.

There are a lot of rural problems in our country. Under the rural problems, the problem of illiteracy, superstition, stereotyping, dowry, sati etc., problem of widow etc. are serious, which is breaking the back of our nation. The government has completely failed to solve these problems.

Corruption is the biggest social problem of our country, which is increasing day by day instead of reducing or diminishing. Black money, black market, inflation, inflation etc. everything grows from the roots of corruption. If a concerted effort is not made to stop this corruption in the near future, then it will definitely not take long for our remaining happiness to be swallowed by social values.

## Basic services a citizen's 'right' or 'gift' from govt?

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

**S**hould access to basic amenities be framed as the "rights" of citizens or as part of the largesse from a benevolent leader? Do terms matter if people benefit? Or does being a beneficiary inherently imply a relational weakness to the benefactor? What distinguishes a citizen from a beneficiary?

The questions are not new. Nor is the debate around the "citizen versus labharthi" template.

It just got a new lease of life, and goes to the heart of the Narendra Modi government's welfare agenda, widely seen as a key factor behind the BJP's electoral success and its recent thumping victories in the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

The term "labharthi" (beneficiary) is now part of the country's political vocabulary and a talking point of the ruling BJP. In February this year, the BJP's Mahila Morcha launched its "One Crore Selfies" campaign to draw attention to how the Narendra Modi government's various welfare schemes have helped "women beneficiaries". It was labelled the "biggest beneficiary outreach programme ever".

Many public policy experts like Yamini Aiyar, president and chief executive of the Centre for Policy Research, and Himanshu, an associate professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, have written extensively about India's emerging welfare state and the "citizen versus labharthi" template.

A December 2020 commentary piece by Abhishek Anand, Vikas Dimble and Arvind Subramanian had noted that: "The New Welfarism of the Narendra Modi government represents a very distinctive approach to redistribution and inclusion. It does not prioritise the supply of public goods such as

basic health and primary education as governments have done around the world historically..." Instead, "it has entailed the subsidised public provision of essential goods and services, normally provided by the private sector, such as bank accounts, cooking gas, toilets, electricity, housing, and more recently water and plain cash."

Millions of women now have bank accounts, access to electricity and cooking gas. Toilets have been built across the country, and the Union Cabinet recently approved extension of the free foodgrains scheme -- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) -- for the next five years.

It is also no secret that Brand Modi is the most important element of the BJP's politics and electoral strategy, and that, in part, this branding pivots around the portrayal of the Prime Minister as the provider of the slew of welfare benefits. This will definitely remain central to the BJP's strategy till the general election in 2024. Along with Hindutva.

The Modi government's welfare agenda has provided many tangible essentials to millions of poor Indians. Questions, however, are being raised about what it means for citizens to see these tangible essentials as goodies from an individual leader, and not necessarily as part of a legal framework, in the long term. Interestingly, the Opposition parties too have tried to follow the template of the citizen as "labharthi" (group of beneficiaries).

India has a history of handouts. It also has a history of mass movements, judicial activism which gave citizens legal cover and the power to demand accountability. Remember that the current free foodgrain scheme stems from a legal framework and is a part of an entitlement under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013.

Suhas Palshikar, an eminent aca-

demic and social and political scientist, sees this trend as part of the attempt by Narendra Modi and the BJP to shape a paternalistic model of governance and welfare, which is distinct from rights or demand. In that context, tangible essentials become a "gift or prasad", as Palshikar puts it. That idea, he argues, fits into the Hindutva narrative that allows a top-down style of exercising power.

We all like gifts and typically accept them with gratitude, but we are not entitled to gifts. In contrast, if we frame healthcare, nutrition, electricity, financial inclusion, sanitation etc as basic rights, we would be entitled to ask questions.

Clearly, the paternalistic governance model works politically in large chunks of the country when combined with other factors. In Madhya Pradesh, where the BJP won decisively, one key factor is said to have been Shivraj Singh Chouhan's "Ladli Behna Yojana". Unmarried women above 21 years of age are described in relational terms, as "ladli behna" (beloved sister) and get monetary assistance. It worked.

But the fact remains that in spite of all the high-decibel rhetoric about daughters and sisters in recent years, very few Indian women have sources of income of their own. The Periodic Labour Force Survey Report 2022-23 released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation in October shows the Female Labour Force Participation Rate in the country has improved but it is still only 37 per cent.

"After falling or being stagnant since 2004, female employment rates have risen since 2019 due to a distress-led increase in self-employment. Before Covid-19, 50 per cent of women were self-employed. After Covid this rose to 60 per cent. As a result, earnings from

self-employment declined in real terms over this period. Even two years after the 2020 lockdown, self-employment earnings were only 85 per cent of what they were in the April-June 2019 quarter," says a report "State of Working 2023" by Azim Premji University.

As we inch closer to 2024 and a general election, we must ask ourselves if the focus on the political success of welfare programmes -- new and repackaged ones -- is not muting necessary conversations on other key issues, like jobs, education, etc. Why do we need so many welfare schemes if economic growth is trickling down to those at the bottom? We talk about schools built, rise in enrolment but why not on learning outcomes critical to boosting a country's foundational strength? We talk about the huge number of schools in the country, but a school building is not necessarily a marker of significant progress in education just as mass construction of toilets does not automatically guarantee a high score in sanitation. On the ground, India has a shortage of more than one million teachers. Add to this the stark reality of inequitable distribution of available teachers and high school dropout rates at the secondary level.

Today, anyone raising such issues risks being accused of spreading "negativity".

As a country with a median age of 28, and that aspires to be a developed nation, we cannot dodge questions pivoting around the disappointing educational transformation, inadequate job creation, and lack of gender parity. The official buzz around success stories must be supplemented by serious discussions about gaps that remain.

Talking about essential duties of the State and citizens' rights is not spreading negativity. It is providing a reality check.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence

By: Vijay GarG

**A**rtificial Intelligence is the ability of a computer program to learn and think. Everything can be considered Artificial intelligence if it involves a program doing something that we would normally think would rely on the intelligence of a human.

The advantages of Artificial intelligence applications are enormous and can revolutionize any professional sector.

1) Reduction in Human Error: The phrase "human error" was born because humans make mistakes from time to time. Computers, however, do not make these mistakes if they are programmed properly. With Artificial intelligence, the decisions are taken from the previously gathered information applying a certain set of algorithms. So errors are reduced and the chance of reaching accuracy with a greater degree of precision is a possibility.

Example: In Weather Forecasting using AI they have reduced the majority of human error.

2) Takes risks instead of Humans: This is one of the biggest advantages of Artificial intelligence. We can overcome many risky limitations of humans by developing an AI Robot which in turn can do the risky things for us. Let it be going to mars, defuse a bomb, explore the deepest parts of oceans, mining for coal and oil, it can be used effectively in any kind of natural or man-made disasters.

Example: Have you heard about the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in Ukraine? At that time there were no AI-powered robots that can help us to minimize the effect of radiation by controlling the fire in early stages, as any human went close to the core was dead in a matter of minutes. They eventually poured sand and boron from helicopters from a mere distance.

AI Robots can be used in such situations where intervention can be hazardous.

3) Available 24x7:

An Average human will work for 4-6 hours a day excluding the breaks. Humans are built in such a way to get some time out for refreshing themselves and get ready for a new day of work and they even have weekly offed to stay intact with their work-life and personal life. But using AI we can make machines work 24x7 without any breaks and they don't even get bored, unlike humans.

Example: Educational Institutes and Helpline centers are getting many queries and issues which can be handled effectively using AI.

4) Helping in Repetitive Jobs:

In our day-to-day work, we will be performing many repetitive works like sending a thanking mail, verifying certain documents for errors and many more things. Using artificial intelligence we can productively automate these mundane tasks and can even remove "boring" tasks for humans and free them up to be increasingly creative.

Example: In banks, we often see many verifications of documents to get a loan which is a repetitive task for the owner of the bank. Using AI Cognitive Automation the owner can speed up the process of verifying the documents by which both the customers and the owner will be benefited.

5) Digital Assistance:

Some of the highly advanced organizations use digital assistants to interact with users which saves the need for human resources. The digital assistants also used in many websites to provide things that users want. We can chat with them about what we are looking for. Some chatbots are designed in such a way that it's become hard to determine that we're chatting with a chatbot or a human being.

Example: We all know that organizations have a customer support team that needs to clarify the doubts and queries of the customers. Using AI the organizations can set up a Voice bot or Chatbot which can help customers with all their queries. We can see many organizations already started using them on their websites and mobile applications.

6) Faster Decisions:

Using AI alongside other technologies we can make machines take decisions faster than a human and carry out actions quicker. While taking a decision human will analyze many factors both emotionally and practically but AI-powered machine works on what it is programmed and delivers the results in a faster way.

Example: We all have played Chess games in Windows. It is nearly impossible to beat CPU in the hard mode because of the AI behind that game. It will take the best possible step in a very short time according to the algorithms used behind it.

7) Daily Applications:

Daily applications such as Apple's Siri, Window's Cortana, Google's OK Google are frequently used in our daily routine whether it is for searching a location, taking a selfie, making a phone call, replying to a mail and many more.

Example: Around 20 years ago, when we are planning to go somewhere we used to ask a person who already went there for the directions. But now all we have to do is say "OK Google where is Visakhapatnam". It will show you Visakhapatnam's location on google map and the best path between you and Visakhapatnam.

8) New Inventions:

AI is powering many inventions in almost every domain which will help humans solve the majority of complex problems.

Example: Recently doctors can predict breast cancer in the woman at earlier stages using advanced AI-based technologies.

As every bright side has a darker version in it. Artificial Intelligence also has some disadvantages. Let's see some of them

1) High Costs of Creation:

As AI is updating every day the hardware and software need to get updated with time to meet the latest requirements. Machines need repairing and maintenance which need plenty of costs. It's creation requires huge costs as they are very complex machines.

2) Making Humans Lazy:

AI is making humans lazy with its applications automating the majority of the work. Humans tend to get addicted to these inventions which can cause a problem to future generations.

3) Unemployment:

As AI is replacing the majority of the repetitive tasks and other works with robots, human interference is becoming less which will cause a major problem in the employment standards. Every organization is looking to replace the minimum qualified individuals with AI robots which can do similar work with more efficiency.

4) No Emotions:

There is no doubt that machines are much better when it comes to working efficiently but they cannot replace the human connection that makes the team. Machines cannot develop a bond with humans which is an essential attribute when comes to Team Management.

5) Lacking Out of Box Thinking:

Machines can perform only those tasks which they are designed or programmed to do, anything out of that they tend to crash or give irrelevant outputs which could be a major back-drop.

SUMMARY:

These are some advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence. Every new invention or breakthrough will have both, but we as humans need to take care of that and use the positive sides of the invention to create a better world. Artificial intelligence has massive potential advantages. The key for humans will ensure the "rise of the robots" doesn't get out of hand. Some people also say that Artificial intelligence can destroy human civilization if it goes into the wrong hands. But still, none of the AI applications made at that scale that can destroy or enslave humanity.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout  
Punjab)



## 2024 could see Earth temporarily breach global warming threshold

The average global temperature for 2024 is forecast to be between 1.34C and 1.58C above the average for the pre-industrial period of 1850-1900.

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): The Met Office, Britain's national weather service, has issued a stark warning that the global average temperature could temporarily surpass the critical 1.5-degree Celsius mark as early as next year.

This forecast, as reported by Reuters, comes at a crucial time when world leaders are engaged at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, where the urgency to address climate change is a central topic of discussion.

According to the Met Office, the current year is on track to become the warmest ever recorded, and projections indicate that 2024 may set even higher temperature records.

The anticipated range for the average global temperature is between 1.34C and 1.58C above the pre-industrial levels



of the late 19th century. This potential spike in temperature is attributed to the ongoing trend of global warming, which has seen an increase of 0.2C per decade, coupled with the impact of a significant El Nino event. Nick Dunstone, who spearheaded the forecasting efforts at the Met Office, emphasised that while a single year's rise above 1.5C does not

signify a long-term average warming threshold breach, it nonetheless underscores the need for decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"For the first time, we are forecasting a reasonable chance of a year temporarily exceeding the 1.5C mark," Dunstone stated, adding that such an occurrence would not

constitute a violation of the Paris Agreement's objectives.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) corroborated these concerns last month, estimating this year's warming to be around 1.4C above pre-industrial figures. The WMO also highlighted the extreme weather events and unprecedented ice loss experi-

enced recently as precursors to the impacts of a sustained breach of the 1.5C limit.

A collective of scientists from esteemed institutions like NASA and Columbia University have warned that the planet might cross the 1.5C threshold within this decade.

Furthermore, various emissions models from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predict that without substantial mitigation efforts, the world is likely to exceed the 1.5C mark during the 2030s.

As the global community faces the reality of these predictions, the COP28 summit presents a critical opportunity for nations to commit to more aggressive measures to combat climate change and prevent the long-term consequences of surpassing the 1.5C threshold.

## Earth's atmosphere had never been what it is today in 14 million years



NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): A new study published in the journal Science has revealed that Earth's current carbon dioxide levels have not been seen for 14 million years, indicating the unprecedented nature of today's climate situation.

The comprehensive analysis, which spans 66 million years of Earth's history, offers a sobering view of the planet's climatic future if human-driven carbon emissions continue unabated.

The research, led by Baerbel Hoenisch of the Columbia Climate School's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, utilised biological and geochemical data to reconstruct past CO2 concentrations with remarkable accuracy.

The findings indicate that the last time atmospheric carbon dioxide reached 420 parts per million (ppm) was during a period when Greenland was devoid of ice and early human ancestors were emerging from forested habitats into

grasslands.

This new estimate significantly pushes back the timeline previously suggested by earlier studies, which had placed similar CO2 levels between 3 and 5 million years ago.

The rapid increase in greenhouse gases since the late 1700s—from approximately 280 ppm to current levels—represents a staggering 50 percent rise, contributing to a global temperature increase of 1.2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times.

Hoenisch emphasises the gravity of this shift, noting that our species, Homo sapiens, evolved just 3 million years ago and that our civilization is adapted to current sea levels and climate zones. The implications of continued CO2 emissions are profound: projections suggest that by 2100, atmospheric CO2 could reach between 600 and 800 ppm, a scenario reminiscent of the Eocene epoch, when Antarctica was ice-free and giant insects thrived on Earth.

The study is the culmination of seven years of collaborative effort among 80 researchers from 16 countries. Instead of gathering new data, the team meticulously reviewed, re-assessed, and validated existing studies using updated scientific methods.

They then integrated the most reliable data into a revised timeline, now considered the scientific consensus on historic CO2 levels.

## COP28 leader urges to raise the bar to fight climate change, maintain momentum

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): As the COP28 climate summit in Dubai approaches its critical final days, President Sultan Al Jaber has urged nations to capitalise on the "historic" progress made during the first week.

The establishment of a "loss and damage" fund, designed to support countries ravaged by climate disasters, marked a significant breakthrough, with pledges already mobilising \$83 billion towards climate finance.

Jaber's call for continued momentum comes as the summit takes a brief pause before resuming on Friday, with the ambitious goal of concluding by December 12—a punctuality not seen in UN climate talks since COP9 in Milan two decades ago.

The upcoming sessions will delve into the intricate details of the global stocktake, a comprehensive assessment of climate action progress and the necessary steps forward to adhere to the Paris Agreement and maintain the crucial 1.5 degrees Celsius target.

However, contentious issues loom over the negotiations. Saudi Arabia has been noted for its resistance to phasing down fossil fuels, prompting calls for high-level discussions to address the impasse.

The European Union, Chile, and other nations are advocating for a definitive commitment to phase out fossil fuel use,

while some oil-dependent economies seek alternative language that could allow for continued reliance on carbon capture and removal technologies.

The debate over the precise wording—whether to "phase down" or "phase out" fossil fuels—continues to be a sticking point, with AOSIS proposing language that aligns with the best available science and the Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile, the United States and China have sidestepped this terminology, focusing instead on tripling renewable energy deployment to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources.

Amid these discussions, the disaster fund has seen over \$726 million in contributions since its adoption on November 30. Yet, the challenge of climate finance remains, with current pledges falling short of the vast sums required for developing countries to adapt to a changing climate and transition to clean energy.

As ministers grapple with the balance of financial responsibilities between wealthy and poorer nations, the need for increased climate finance becomes ever more pressing.

With the clock ticking towards the scheduled close of COP28, the international community watches intently, hoping for resolutions that will pave the way for a sustainable and equitable future.

## COP28: CDRI to launch index to measure infrastructure vulnerability to disasters

NEW DELHI, Dec 9

(Agencies): The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is set to launch the Global Infrastructure Resilience Index (GIRI) at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28). The index is aimed at bolstering global infrastructure against the threats of climate change and natural disasters.

Established by India, the agency is working to understand the vulnerabilities to the critical infrastructure across the world from natural disasters.

GIRI stands as the first publicly available, fully probabilistic risk model designed to estimate risks across major infrastructure sectors, including power and energy, transport, telecommunications, water and wastewater, ports and airports, oil and gas, health, and education.

It assesses the potential impact of major



geological and climate-related hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods, cyclonic winds, storm surges, and hydrological droughts.

This groundbreaking tool will enable monitoring changes in vulnerability and capacities over time and can be broken down into risk indicators and individual capability indicators. Among its key outputs are loss function metrics like the Probable Maxi-

mum Loss (PML) curve and the Average Annual Loss (AAL).

GIRI incorporates three main components for disaster risk assessment: hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, with climate change serving as a modifier due to its influence on some hazards. These components are integrated using a catastrophic risk assessment (CAT) approach to produce financial risk metrics such as AAL, Loss Exceedance Curve

(LEC), and PML for all countries and territories globally.

The culmination of this data results in a comprehensive global resilience index.

Post-launch, an interactive online data platform will be available, providing access to the GIRI's outputs.

This platform includes a Map Viewer feature that allows users to observe various hazard layers across different periods and climate sce-

narios.

The introduction of GIRI is poised to empower governments by providing a clear understanding of the contingent liabilities they face due to infrastructure vulnerabilities.

This knowledge is crucial for developing national strategies and plans aimed at reducing risk and enhancing resilience.

Furthermore, the financial risk metrics generated by GIRI will facilitate the estimation of the benefits and co-benefits of resilient infrastructure.

This will significantly contribute to the integration of resilience in public investment planning and evaluation, the design of public and private infrastructure projects, the formulation of resilience-based design standards, and the calibration of insurance and other risk financing instruments.

## India's biggest energy project will be visible from space

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): In an ambitious stride towards sustainable energy, India is constructing what is set to be the world's largest renewable energy project in the Rann of Kutch, a vast salt desert that borders Pakistan.

This colossal undertaking will further India's plans to shift to renewable energy sources, and could be visible from space.

The project, sprawling over 726 square kilometers – an area comparable to the size of Singapore – is expected to generate a staggering 30 gigawatts (GW) of power. This output is enough to light up over 20 million homes, marking a significant leap in meeting the country's burgeoning energy demands while adhering to environmentally friendly practices.

Located just 150 kilometers away from the site, in Mundra, is



another groundbreaking initiative. Here, India is developing one of the world's most extensive and integrated renewable energy manufacturing ecosystems, focusing on both solar and wind energy components. This facility underscores India's dedication to creating a self-reliant energy infrastructure and its active role in the International Solar Alliance.

The Khavda renewable energy park,

named after the nearest village to the project site, is an example of India's journey towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat, or a self-sufficient India. The Indian government has estimated the cost of this mammoth project at least \$2.26 billion, reflecting the scale and significance of the investment in the nation's future.

This green energy park is not just about generating electricity; it represents a pivotal

moment in the global shift towards renewable sources.

It aligns with the discussions and goals set forth at the ongoing COP28 climate summit, where shifting to renewable energy remains a key issue.

Upon completion, the Khavda project will stand as the world's largest green energy park, as India combats climate change and lead by example in the international community.

## Mysterious mineral produced in ocean could keep Earth cool, even induce ice age

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): Geologists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have identified a clay mineral known as smectite that possesses the remarkable ability to capture and store carbon for millions of years, potentially playing a significant role in cooling our planet.

Found within the intricate layers of the seafloor, smectite's accordion-like structure is adept at trapping organic carbon, a process that has been occurring since the dawn of plate tectonics.

As oceanic crust collides with continental plates, rocks are pushed to the surface and weathered into various minerals, including smectite.

This mineral then descends back to the ocean bed, ensnaring remnants of deceased organisms within its microscopic folds, thereby preventing the carbon from re-entering the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

The implications of this natural phenomenon are monumental. MIT researchers, led by graduate student Joshua Murray and geology professor Oliver Jagoutz, have traced the production of smectite back through several major tectonic

events over the past 500 million years. Their findings suggest that each time these clays were formed in sufficient quantities, they could have contributed to the cooling of the Earth, even inducing ice ages.

Published in the prestigious journal Nature Geoscience, their research is the first to establish a direct link between plate tectonics and the onset of ice ages through the creation of carbon-sequestering smectite.

The study builds upon previous work by the same team, which proposed that tropical tectonic events exposed certain ocean rocks, leading to the formation of climate-influencing minerals.

To confirm their hypothesis, the team delved into geological records, examining the weathering patterns of magmatic minerals and the types of clays they produce. They incorporated these findings into simulations of the Earth's carbon cycle to determine the impact of each mineral. Smectite stood out not only as a product of tropical tectonics but also as an incredibly efficient captor of organic carbon.

Although direct measurement of ancient smectite is challenging due

to geological changes over time, the presence of elements like nickel and chromium—associated with smectite-producing rocks—in sedimentary deposits provided the necessary "fingerprints" to support the team's theory.

The cumulative effect of smectite on carbon preservation, while seemingly minuscule at less than one-tenth of a percent, is substantial over geological timescales. The researchers estimate that this small percentage was enough to trigger the planet's four major ice ages.

This discovery not only enhances our understanding of Earth's climatic history but also opens up possibilities for future climate change mitigation strategies. For instance, smectite could be used to stabilize carbon-rich permafrost regions threatened by global warming.

As the world grapples with the escalating climate crisis, the MIT team's work shows the importance of considering all aspects of the global carbon cycle. It also highlights the potential of harnessing natural processes to address human-induced climate challenges.



## Isha Talwar, who is essaying the role of a musician from Punjab in web series Chamak, loves the vibe of City Beautiful

Different actors, different methods! Madhuri Yadav of Mirzapur and Bijli of Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo, talented actress Isha Talwar decided to spend some time in Punjab, before she stepped into the character of budding singer Jasmin Sandhu aka Jazz for musical thriller Chamak.

Getting familiar with the milieu helped her play the character of a true-blooded Punjabi musician, whose passion for singing and playing the dhol knows no bounds. Interestingly, she's been friends with the director, Rohit Jugraj, and was helping him cast when he offered her the role.

"I know Rohit for long and really enjoyed the camaraderie as well as the light banter on the sets," she says. Becoming part of a project that touches a sensitive topic didn't put Isha into any dilemma. "As artistes one becomes part of the stories, many of which stem from real life. For me, Chamak is a fictional show. And though it explores things that crisscross paths with real life, in the hands of Rohit,



it has all been dealt very sensitively."

Artistic freedom Isha is happy that in playing Jazz, she is essaying a character closer to her in age, and not a bahu or a bhabhi. Also, it is somewhat similar to how she is in real life. Having a friend on the director's seat meant a different dynamics on the sets. "The amount of artistic freedom I got on the set was immense and helped me a lot. It really made

Chamak a very special project."

For this Mumbai girl, interestingly, it was Malayalam cinema that opened the doors to films. "Who knew that the cameraperson for the commercial that I was doing was looking for a lead heroine," she laughs. That became her first film — Thatathin Marayathu, a Malayalam romantic comedy, written and directed by Vineeth Sreenivasan, and starring Nivin Pauly. Since then Isha has been part

of many regional and Hindi films — Tubelight, Kaalakaandi, Article 15 and Sharmaji Namkeen, to name a few.

Web zone

The OTT world got her more visibility, as she became part of projects like Mirzapur and Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo.

"While I enjoy web series and the variety it has brought both for the audience and artistes, I love doing films. I wish to do more of them," she avers.

In fact, soon to be seen in season three of Mirzapur, and also Indian Police Force, she will also be a part of Punjabi film Shahkot, opposite Guru Randhawa. The shoot schedules for Shahkot and Chamak made her spend time in Chandigarh, which she absolutely adored. "I absolutely love Chandigarh. I enjoyed my early morning walks at Sukhna Lake, had a chance to see the royal Bengal tiger and white tiger at the Chhatbir Zoo, and spent almost all my free time at a chaat shop in Sector 34, gorging to my heart's content."

## 'Bigg Boss' fame Sumbul Touqeer 'eats good food and sleeps well on day off'



Actress Sumbul Touqeer Khan shared her routine on her day off, saying she eats good food, sleeps well, and her family means the world to her.

Sumbul, who is currently seen as the lead

in the show 'Kavya', is overwhelmed with the response the show is getting.

She talks about her next project in this video.

Her on-screen character Kavya, who is an IAS

officer, is falling in love with Miskhat Verma's character Adiraj Pradhan.

On being asked what she does when she gets off, she said: "I eat good food and sleep well. Good sleep is very important for an actor. I love my work, I love my home, I am a happy person, and I take life as it comes."

She went on to say that her family means the world to her. "I agree with the saying that life is all about loving your family and living in the present."

Further about her character, Sumbul said: "On-screen Kavya's graph is growing and there is ample scope for good performance."

The show revolves around the journey of Kavya -- an IAS Officer -- whose purpose is to serve the nation and do right by the common man.

The show airs on Sony.

## Masked burglars steal gun from Keanu Reeves Hollywood Hills home

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves, who is known for the 'John Wick' franchise, recently fell victim to burglary as masked burglars broke into his Hollywood Hills home.

They fled with a firearm, reports New York Post.

The Los Angeles Police Department first responded to an anonymous call about a possible trespasser at the 'Matrix' star's property around 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, but found no one there, law enforcement sources told TMZ.

Officers headed back around five hours later when an alarm started blaring at 1:00 a.m. Thursday, the outlet said.

As per New York Post, that time, police spotted multiple men in ski masks on security cameras smashing a window and entering the star's



home, estimated to be worth around \$7 million. Police said the suspects took one firearm from the home before fleeing, the report said.

Reeves was not at the home at the time, the sources said.

Detectives are looking at videos from

around the home and from neighbours' security cameras. They are specifically looking into the possibility that the first call made Wednesday night was made by someone scoping out the house.

This is not the first time Reeves' home has been

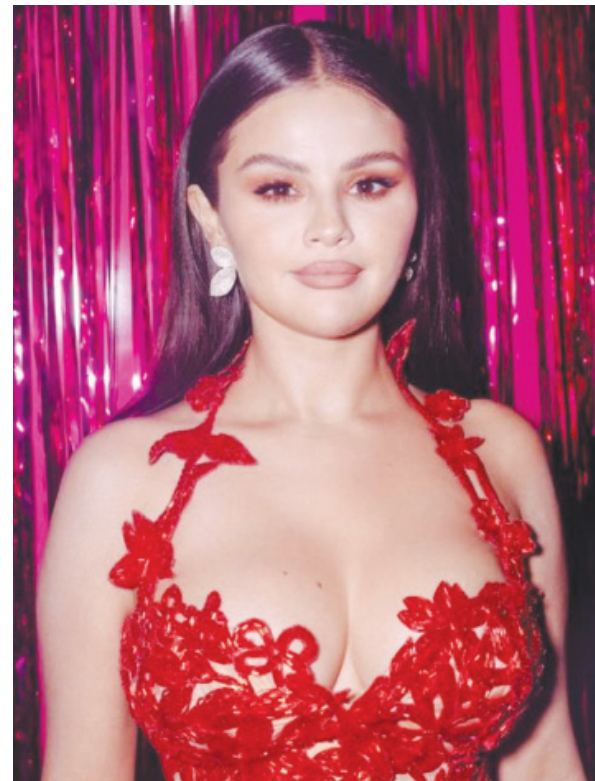
broken into — in 2014, he faced two back-to-back intruders.

Reeves then woke up and talked to the unidentified woman, who allegedly said she was there to meet him, and called 911. Just one day later, another woman allegedly walked into his home through an unlocked door while he was not home.

She allegedly got naked, jumped in his shower and skinny-dipped in his pool, before the cleaning crew called police, according to TMZ.

Both women were taken into custody and were given psychological evaluations. Earlier this year, Reeves and his partner, Alexandra Grant, were also granted a temporary restraining order against a man who claims he is related to the actor.

## Selena Gomez confirms romance with Benny Blanco



Singer-actress Selena Gomez has confirmed her romance with music producer Benny Blanco, and defended their love before the haters on social media.

Instagram account PopFactions posted a picture headlining, 'Selena Gomez seemingly confirms that she is in a relationship', in which she commented

'facts'. The post came after the account posted a picture saying, "Selena Gomez Is Rumoured To Be Dating Producer Benny Blanco." The singer and actress liked both posts.

Benny has worked with artistes like Halsey and Khalid, and was featured on Selena's ex-boyfriend's Justin Bieber song, Lonely.

Because Benny has worked with Selena on her song I Can't Get Enough in 2019, some fans thought the news was a 'marketing plan'.

A comment under the post said: "I hope this is marketing for a new album." Another fan wrote: "Her taste in men is so..." She later posted an Instagram Story of her cuddling up with a man, showing no face, just his zebra shirt, beard and diamond bracelet. The artiste defended her man in the comments'

section of post about him when a fan said he was 'unhandsome'.

Selena wrote: "I feel bad for you." PopFaction posted photos of other comments where she defended Benny, writing: "He has treated me better than any human being on this planet." In another comment, she shared: "He's still better than anyone I've ever been with. Facts."

Selena hinted at having a crush on someone when filming her Selena + Chefs holiday special. Selena dated Justin for eight years in an on-and-off relationship before finally parting ways in 2018. Justin worked with Benny in 2021 and they have performed together on stage. Benny also produced Justin's hit song, Love Yourself, from his 2015 album, Purpose. After Selena, Justin married supermodel Hailey Baldwin.

## Vicky Kaushal gives details of how he proposed to Katrina Kaif

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif tied the knot on December 9, 2021

Actor Vicky Kaushal is celebrating the success of his film, 'Sam Bahadur.' He recently appeared on 'Koffee with Karan 8' with Kiara Advani. The actor opened up about his personal life, discussing his "not so well planned" proposal to Katrina Kaif.

He shared, "It was very last minute. I had been warned by everybody that if you don't propose, it's something you'll have to be prepared for the rest of your life that you got to hear about it. I did that one day before the wedding." "We planned a special dinner. It was a beautiful setup and everything. There was dinner just before any of the friends or families could come. It was just us, so, yeah, it happened there," added Vicky.

Vicky and Katrina tied the knot on December 9, 2021, at Six Senses Fort Barwara, Rajasthan.

Recently, Katrina Kaif

heaped praise on her husband Vicky Kaushal for his performance in the biopic drama film 'Sam Bahadur'.

Taking to Instagram, Katrina shared a poster of the film which she captioned, "SAM BAHADUR - @meghnaguzar such a poetic beautiful classic film, was transported to another era... you can see your passion to telling his story and attention to detail in every shot." "And SAM!!!!..... GRACE, HEROISM, GRIT. What a performance, flawless, I'm just astounded, you are too inspiring, true to your craft in the most brilliant integral way, was so proud to watch you shine your way across the screen. I've seen you this last year pour yourself into this film and transform into sam. A performance to be remembered @vickykaushal09," she added.

'Sam Bahadur' is based on the life of India's first Field Mar-



shal Sam Manekshaw. His career in the army spanned over four decades and five wars. He was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal and he led the victory in the 1971

Indo-Pak war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.

The film was released in theatres on December 1.

'Koffee With Karan' season 8 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.

## 'Fighter' teaser assures another Bollywood blockbuster; Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone starrer promises adrenaline rush

The teaser of Bollywood stars Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone's upcoming film 'Fighter' has been unveiled and it promises a solid aerial action film with thrilling dogfights, manoeuvres and low-altitude flying of fighter aircrafts.

Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone's sizzling chemistry will also be visible in the movie.

The teaser begins with Hrithik's character of Shamsheer Pathania as his silhouette is seen walking on the runway.

The engines are charged and the propellers are boosted as the fighter aircrafts take off in a thrilling display of skill and manoeuvrability as the viewers are introduced to the characters of Hrithik, Deepika and Anil Kapoor.

The teaser delivers a stupendous visual experience, immersing



viewers into the world of 'Fighter'. It captivates and promises a portrayal of high-octane action, offering an adrenaline rush and igniting anticipation for the cinematic marvel to come.

The film has been helmed by superstar director Siddharth Anand, who is known for 'Bang Bang!', 'War' and 'Pathaan'.

Talking about the film, Siddharth, director, and producer of the film, shared: "Fighter' has been a labour of love

and dedication.

The teaser launch is an exciting prelude to the spectacle we aim to bring to the screen. It's just a fraction of the drama and intensity that the movie encapsulates."

He further mentioned: "This glimpse hints at the meticulous craft, from the exhilarating aerial sequences to the powerful performances by our talented cast. We're thrilled to unveil this glimpse and set the stage for the thrilling

spectacle that awaits audiences on 25 January, 2024."

Presented by Viacom18 Studios in association with Marflix Pictures, 'Fighter' assures an immersive narrative that seamlessly intertwines adrenaline pumping action and fervent patriotism.

This film is a celebration of the valour and courage epitomised by the Indian Air Force. The film will debut in theatres on January 25, 2024.



## India's GDP growth is reflection of transformative reforms of last 10 years: Modi

Was addressing the 'Infinity Forum 2.0' conference at the GIFT City here via video link

GANDHINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India's GDP growth of 7.7 per cent in the first six months of the current fiscal year is a reflection of the country's strengthening economy and the transformative reforms carried out in the last 10 years.

Addressing the 'Infinity Forum 2.0' conference at the GIFT City here via video link, Modi said his government wants to turn the Gujarat International Finance Tec



(GIFT) City into a global nerve centre of the new age global financial and technology services.

"In the first six months of this financial year, India has achieved a

GDP growth of 7.7 per cent... Today, the entire world has pinned its hopes on India, and this did not happen just on its own. This is a reflection of India's strengthening

economy and also the transformative reforms carried out in the last 10 years," Modi said in his inaugural address.

India is one of the fastest growing fintech mar-

kets in the world today and the GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) is emerging as its centre, the PM said.

He urged experts to share their ideas on developing a market mechanism for green credits.

On the occasion, PM Modi congratulated the people of Gujarat over inclusion of the state's traditional Garba dance in the UNESCO's 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.

## PM Modi greets Sonia Gandhi on her birthday



NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on her 77th birthday. "Best wishes to Smt.

Sonia Gandhi Ji on her birthday. May she be blessed with a long and healthy life," he said on X.

Sonia Gandhi, the longest serving Congress president, has taken a

back seat from active politics in the last few years for health reasons, with her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra playing a key role in the party.

## NIA raids 44 locations in Karnataka, Maharashtra in ISIS terror conspiracy case

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out raids at 44 locations in Karnataka and Maharashtra in an ISIS terror conspiracy case.

Of the 44 locations being raided by the NIA since morning, the agency sleuths searched one place in Karnataka, two in Pune, 31 in Thane Rural, nine in Thane city and one in Bhayander, sources said.

The anti-terror agency sleuths raided these locations in close coordination with the police forces of Maharashtra and Karnataka, they said.

The case pertains to



a criminal conspiracy hatched by accused persons and their associates, who had pledged to the violent extremist ideology of proscribed terrorist organisations, including Al-Qaeda and ISIS and had formed a

terrorist gang.

The terrorist organisations had recruited like-minded youth into their fold besides conducting religious classes to wage violent jihad to establish Islamic rule in India.

## Newly-elected MLAs take oath as maiden session of Telangana Assembly begins

HYDERABAD, Dec 9 (Agencies): The first session of the Third Telangana Assembly began here on Saturday and the oath taking process of the newly-elected MLAs is underway.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was the first to take oath, followed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi presided over the proceedings as the pro-tem Speaker.

Before the commencement of the session, Owaisi was administered the oath by Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan as the pro-tem Speaker at Raj Bhavan. Meanwhile, the BJP decided to boycott the oath taking event, alleging violation of Assembly rules in the appointment of Owaisi as pro-tem Speaker.

Owaisi was appointed as pro-tem Speaker though there were other senior members in the House, state BJP President G



Kishan Reddy alleged.

"There is a tradition of a senior person being appointed as the pro-tem Speaker in the Assembly. The BJP opposes the appointment of Owaisi as pro-tem Speaker as per an understanding (of Congress) with AIMIM," Reddy said.

Observing that Congress has only a wafer-thin majority in the Assembly, he claimed that the government is faced with a situation of collapsing even for

a small pretext. In view of this, the AIMIM member is made the pro-tem Speaker as per a plan, he alleged.

"Because of the violation of the legislative assembly's rules, we are opposing the appointment of the AIMIM person as the pro-tem Speaker. Therefore, our members are boycotting from taking oath with him in the chair," he said.

The Congress has begun its appeasement politics and vio-

lation of the traditions of legislative assembly just three days after assuming power, Reddy alleged.

He pointed out that the BJP has already claimed that there is a tacit understanding between Congress and AIMIM.

During the recent election campaign, it was alleged (by Congress) that the BJP and AIMIM were one. Now, Telangana people should know on what criteria Owaisi has been made as pro-tem Speaker in violation of rules, Reddy said.

The true colours of Congress have come out again, he added.

The BJP would like the election of Speaker to be held after the appointment of a senior member as pro-tem Speaker. The party would take up the issue with the Governor, he said.

The BJP MLAs would take oath after the regular Speaker assumes office, Reddy said.

## Married girls entitled to govt jobs on compassionate grounds: Calcutta High Court

KOLKATA, Dec 9 (Agencies): The Calcutta High Court has ruled that even married women, being a member of their paternal families, are entitled to get a state government job on compassionate grounds.

Although a division bench of Justices Debansu Basak and Shabbir Rashidi delivered the order on Friday, the copy of the order was available only on Saturday morning.

The bench passed the order in a case on a job application made by Rekha Pal, for compensatory job against land

owned by her father for a government project, which was rejected by the West Bengal government since she was married at the time of application.

The land was procured for Bakreswar Thermal Power Station, a project of West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited, in Birbhum district.

In 2012, the state government issued a notification announcing jobs to one member of each family whose land was acquired.

Accordingly Rekha Pal applied for the job. However, the state gov-



ernment rejected the application on grounds that she was married at the time of application.

She then approached an erstwhile single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court against the rejection of applica-

tion and argued that since after her father's demise she had taken the full responsibility of her widowed mother, she should be given the job.

The single-judge bench agreed to her

argument and in 2014 directed the state government to grant her the job.

However, the state government immediately challenged that order at the division bench of the Calcutta High Court.

Finally on Friday, the division bench, too, upheld the order of the single-judge bench.

In his argument, Pal's counsel argued that if a widow or divorced woman is entitled to be considered as a member of her paternal family, why should the same not be applicable for a married woman.

## 2 members of Lawrence Bishnoi gang nabbed in Delhi's Vasant Kunj



NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): The Delhi Police's Special Cell has apprehended two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi criminal gang following a brief exchange of fire in the Vasant Kunj area here, police said on Saturday.

One of them is a juvenile. They -- Anish (23) and a 15-year-old -- were apprehended from near Pocket 9 of

Vasant Kunj on Friday night, they said. Police had information that the duo had been tasked to "fire" outside a prominent hotel in south Delhi, police said, adding that the motive seemed to be extortion.

They had received instructions from Amit, lodged at a jail in Punjab, on the directions of gangster Anmol Bishnoi, they said.

Anmol Bishnoi is a cousin of Lawrence Bishnoi and it is suspected that he is hiding in Canada. Lawrence Bishnoi is lodged in Gujarat's Sabarmati jail.

Five rounds were fired by the accused and in retaliation, two rounds by police in self-defence. No one was injured, police said.

Police have seized two pistols and four live cartridges, and one motorcycle.

Anish is named in six cases of armed robbery, the Arms Act and assault and the juvenile in an armed robbery case in Haryana's Rohtak district.

## Worker dies after falling from building terrace during water tank cleaning work

THANE, Dec 9 (Agencies): A 28-year-old labourer died after he fell down from the terrace of a three-storey building in Khandeshwar area near Panvel in Maharashtra's Raigad district during the water tank cleaning work, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place around 11.45 am on Friday, following which the police registered a case against the contractor for not providing necessary safety equipment to the deceased, an official of Khandeshwar police station said.

The victim, Maruti Joma Gute, was clean-

ing the water tanks of the building when he accidentally fell down from the terrace and died on the spot.

Based on a complaint lodged by his wife, a case was filed against contractor Nagesh Gupta.

The contractor allegedly did not provide safety equipment to the worker, which led to his death, the complaint said.

Gupta was booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 304(a) (causing death of any person by doing rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide) and others.

## Ashok Gehlot Slams BJP Over Delay In Announcing Chief Ministers

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): Ahead of the crucial meeting to evaluate the party's performance in the recent Rajasthan assembly polls, Congress leader and Rajasthan caretaker Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday criticized the BJP's delay in announcing Chief Minister faces for three Hindi heartland states -- Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, saying that "there is no discipline in this party."

"There is no discipline in this party. If we had done the same, I don't know what allegations they would have levelled against us and misled people. They polarized the polls... We will cooperate with the new government," he said while speaking to agency.

Mr Gehlot, who is in Delhi to take part in a meeting to review the party's performance in recently held assembly polls in Rajasthan, also commented on the delay in announcing the Rajasthan BJP Chief Minister face, saying, "If Congress had not selected a CM for this long, then they (BJP) would have shouted a lot."

"In the Gogamedi case, I had to sign a document stating 'no objection' to an NIA probe. This should have been done by the new Chief Minister. For seven days now, they (BJP) have not been able to select a Chief Minister; I want them to take a decision quickly," he said while speaking to reporters.

Gehlot further accused the BJP of winning the



assembly election in the state by raising religious issues and polarizing people.

"They polarized the polls; they brought issues like triple talaq, the abrogation of Article 370, the Kanhaiya Lal murder, and propagated lies that Muslims were given 50 lakhs and Hindus only 5 lakhs. They won the election by spreading lies," said Gehlot.

However, he added that they would cooperate with the new government.

Meanwhile, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and party MP Rahul Gandhi have arrived at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in Delhi for the key meeting to assess the party's performance in the recent Rajasthan assembly polls.

Rajasthan Congress leader Govind Singh Dotasra has also arrived in Delhi to take part in the meeting. He expressed the party's focus on analyzing shortcomings and making corrections for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "We will deliberate on the reasons behind why we could return to power in the state. We will analyze our shortcomings and make corrections for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Congress brass on Friday held separate meetings to review the party's losses in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and sought a detailed report from state unit chiefs on its dismal performance in the recent round of assembly elections,

party leaders said.

The meeting was convened by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge at the AICC headquarters in Delhi, where former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other senior leaders were also present.

The election results in four states, especially the losses in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, came as a huge blow to the Congress's hopes for 2024, as it is now out of power across a vast swathe of the Hindi heartland. In Rajasthan, the vote count painted a starkly different picture to what some of the pollsters had predicted, with the BJP poised to form the government, winning 115 seats, and the Congress trailing at 69 seats.



## 6 Killed In Israeli Strikes On Gaza After US Vetoes UN Bid For Ceasefire

**Hamas and the Palestinian Authority swiftly condemned the US veto as the Hamas-run health ministry put the latest death toll in Gaza at 17,487 people, mostly women and children.**

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, Dec 9 (Agencies): Israel pressed its offensive against Hamas militants in Gaza on Saturday after the United States blocked an extraordinary UN bid to call for a ceasefire in the two-month war.

Hamas and the Palestinian Authority swiftly condemned the US veto as the Hamas-run health ministry put the latest death count in Gaza at 17,487 people, mostly women and children.

An Israeli strike on the southern city of Khan Yunis killed six people, while five others died in a separate attack in Rafah, the ministry said Saturday.

Israel has vowed to eradicate Hamas over its unprecedented attack on October 7 when militants broke through Gaza's militarised border to kill around 1,200 people and seize hostages, 138 of whom remain captive, according to Israeli figures.

Vast areas of Gaza have been reduced to rubble and the UN says about 80 per cent of the population has been displaced, with dire shortages of food, fuel, water and medicine reported.

"It's so cold, and the tent is so small. All I have are the clothes I wear, I still don't know what the next step will be," said Mahmud Abu Rayan, displaced from Beit Lahia in the north.

A UN Security Council resolution that would have called for an immediate ceasefire was vetoed by the United States on Friday.

US envoy Robert Wood said the resolution was "divorced from



reality" and "would have not moved the needle forward on the ground". Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said the ceasefire "would prevent the collapse of the Hamas terrorist organization, which is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, and would enable it to continue ruling the Gaza Strip".

Hamas slammed on Saturday the US rejection of the ceasefire bid as "a direct participation of the occupation in killing our people and committing more massacres and ethnic cleansing".

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said it was "a disgrace and another blank cheque given to the occupying state to massacre, destroy and displace".

The veto was swiftly condemned by humanitarian groups, with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) saying the Security Council was "complicit in the ongoing slaughter".

Israel's military said Friday it had struck 450 targets in Gaza over 24 hours, showing footage of strikes from naval vessels in the Mediterranean.

The Hamas health

ministry reported 40 dead near Gaza City in the north, and dozens more in Jabalia and the main southern city of Khan Yunis.

"Spiralling nightmare" Following two months of conflict and bombardment, UN chief Antonio Guterres said Friday "the people of Gaza are looking into the abyss". "People are desperate, fearful and angry," he said.

"All this takes place amid a spiralling humanitarian nightmare." Many of the 1.9 million Gazans who have been displaced by the war have headed south, turning Rafah near the Egyptian border into a vast camp.

With the death count of medical workers in the conflict mounting, more than a dozen World Health Organization member states submitted a draft resolution on Friday that urged Israel to respect its obligations under international law to protect humanitarians in Gaza.

They called for Israel to "respect and protect" medical and humanitarian workers exclusively involved in carrying out medical duties, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities.

Only 14 of the 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip were functioning in any capacity, according to United Nations' humanitarian agency OCHA.

With the civilian toll mounting, US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters Friday that Washington believes Israel needs to do more to protect civilians in the conflict.

"We certainly all recognize more can be done to... reduce civilian casualties. And we're going to keep working with our Israeli counterparts to that end," he said.

The death count also rose in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces shot dead six Palestinians on Friday, the territory's health ministry said.

Israel said Friday it has lost 91 soldiers in Gaza. It said two others were wounded in a failed bid to rescue hostages overnight, and that "numerous terrorists" were killed in the operation.

Hamas claimed a hostage was killed in the operation, and released a video purporting to show the body, which could not be independently verified.

Hamas rocket parts,

launchers and other weapons as well as a one-kilometre tunnel were found at Al-Azhar University in Gaza City, the army said, as it warned residents to move west.

- US embassy attack - An attack on the US embassy in Iraq on Friday deepened fears of wider regional conflict.

Salvoes of rockets were launched against the mission in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, adding to dozens of recent rocket and drone strikes by pro-Iran groups against American or coalition forces in Iraq and Syria.

Separately, three Hezbollah fighters and a Syrian were killed on Friday in an Israeli drone strike on their car in the south of Syria, a war monitor said.

"A Syrian and three Lebanese Hezbollah fighters from the surveillance and missile-launching unit were killed in the Israeli drone strike on their rented car" in Madinat al-Baath town in the province of Quneitra, close to the Israel-annexed Golan Heights, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights head Rami Abdel Rahman told agency.

The previous day the Observatory, which has a network of sources in Syria, reported that Israel hit sites close to Damascus with eight missiles, as well as a "regime military post in the province of Quneitra", without causing any casualties.

The strikes were a response to the bombardment of the Golan Heights, the monitor said.

## India, Nations With High Per Capita Emissions Can't Be Clubbed: Senior EU Official

DUBAI, Dec 9 (Agencies): Clubbing India with emitters like China and the US is completely unacceptable as its per capita emissions are "very low", a senior official of the European Parliament said today.

Talking to news agency at the UN climate talks here, Peter Liese, a German politician and a member of the European Parliament, emphasised: "Indian people should be able to own a car when people in Germany own two cars." There have been concerted attempts to club India with major emitters like the US at climate negotiations despite its low per capita emissions.

"It is very important to acknowledge for everybody that per capita emissions of the UAE, China and the US... they are very different from India."

"Many people in Europe put China and India in the same basket and sometimes even with the Gulf states which is completely unacceptable. India has very low per capita emissions compared to these countries," he said.

India's per capita carbon dioxide emissions rose by around five per cent last year to reach 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide but these were still less than half of the global average, according to a report released by a global team of scientists earlier this week.

The scientists said the United States topped the per capita emissions chart with every individual in the country emitting 14.9 tonnes of CO2, followed by Russia (11.4), Japan (8.5), China (8), and the European Union



(6.2). The global average stood at 4.7 tonnes.

On the controversial Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, a border tax the EU plans to impose on energy-intensive goods from developing countries like India, Liese said

meeting the bloc's climate promises is "just not possible" without it. The EU has pledged to cut emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030, compared with the 1990 levels. "Despite low per capita emissions, India's cement, iron and steel are as carbon-intensive as produced elsewhere in the world. So we need to find a good balance here," he said.

The European Union's plan to impose a carbon tax on goods imported from developing countries like India and China has sparked a debate at the international climate conference in Dubai, with poorer countries firmly arguing that this tax will harm livelihoods and economic growth.

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) aims to set a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of energy-intensive products like iron, steel, cement, fertilizers and aluminium in non-EU countries.

This serves two purposes: creating a level playing field for domestically manufactured green goods and reducing emissions from imports which account

for around 20 percent of the bloc's total emissions. The carbon tax will come into effect from January 1, 2026. During the trial period, which started on October 1, 2023, companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products, have to share emissions data with the EU.

The EU enforces tough rules on carbon emissions. Its 'Emissions Trading System' caps emissions from industries and lets them buy 'allowances' if they exceed their limits. But the bloc fears this strictness might push some businesses to move to countries with relaxed rules. This is called carbon leakage.

A recent study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2021) shows that through CBAM, a USD 44 per tonne carbon tax would cut leakage by more than half, from 13.3 per cent to 5.2 per cent.

According to a study conducted by the New Delhi-based public policy think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), Indian exporters of steel and aluminium could lose up to USD 2 billion due to border taxation in European countries, bearing in mind that India was the eighth-largest exporter of iron and steel to the EU in 2019.

Some believe that while carbon taxes may prompt producers to reduce emissions, they divert the focus of resource-deficient countries from adapting to climate impacts to cutting emissions.

## 5 wanted terrorists killed in restive northwest Pakistan



PESHAWAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): At least five wanted terrorists were killed in a clash with security forces during an operation in the restive northwest Pakistan, the Pakistan Army said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Friday in the volatile Tank district bordering South Waziristan where the forces launched the operation on the reported presence of terrorists in the area.

In the lethal exchange of fire, five militants were killed, the Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the Army, said.

The forces seized huge quantities of arms and ammunition from the possession of the slain terrorists.

The terrorists killed were wanted by the forces for their attacks on the forces, target kill-

ings, and money extortion.

Clearance operations are still under way in the area due to the possible presence of more terrorists, it said.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces after the banned militant Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year.

According to data from the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, the country experienced a 34 per cent increase in anti-state violence last month. It showed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the most affected province, documenting 51 attacks, causing 54 fatalities and 81 injuries.

## US, South Korea, Japan urges global push to curb North Korea's nuke program

SEOUL, Dec 9 (Agencies): The national security advisers of the United States, South Korea and Japan called on Saturday for a stronger international push to suppress North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles and its military cooperation with other countries amid concerns about its alleged arms transfers to Russia.

The meeting in Seoul came as tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest in years, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accelerating the expansion of his nuclear and missile program and flaunting an escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons.

The United States and its Asian allies have responded by increasing the visibility of their trilateral security cooperation in the region and strengthening their combined military exercises, which Kim condemns as invasion rehearsals.

In a joint news conference after the meeting, Cho said the three security advisers reaffirmed North Korea's obligations under multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for its denuclearization and bans any weapons trade



with other countries.

"We agreed to strengthen a coordination among the three countries to secure the international community's strict implementation" of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, Cho said.

Cho said the three also highly praised South Korea, the U.S., Japan and Australia announcing their own sanctions on North Korea over its spy satellite launch last month. North Korea argues it the right to launch spy satellites to monitor U.S. and South Korean military activities and enhance the threat of its nuclear-capable missiles.

Washington, Seoul and Tokyo have also expressed concerns about a potential arms alignment between North Korea and Russia. They worry Kim is providing badly needed munitions to help Russian President Vladi-

mir Putin wage war in Ukraine in exchange for Russian technology assistance to upgrade his nuclear-armed military.

Following the meeting, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Washington is working with Seoul and Tokyo to strengthen defense cooperation. He said they also seek to improve response to North Korean missile testing and space launch activities, including a real-time information sharing arrangement on North Korean missile launches that the countries plan to start in December.

Sullivan said the countries will also respond to North Korean cybercrimes, cryptocurrency money laundering and other efforts to bypass U.S.-led international sanctions aimed at choking off funds going to its nuclear weapons and missile program.

"When it comes to the DPRK, we are keeping our eye on the ball, because it continues to represent a threat to international peace and security and regional peace and security," Sullivan said, using the initials of North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Sullivan held separate bilateral talks Friday with South Korea's national security office director, Cho Tae-yong, and Japan's national security secretary general, Takeo Akiba.

Sullivan also met with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol.

At a dinner reception for Sullivan and Akiba on Friday, Yoon said it is critical the three countries continue to build on his August summit with U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at Camp David, where they vowed to deepen security and economic cooperation.

South Korea's presidential office said Sullivan expressed support for the South's recent decision to partially suspend a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement on reducing border tensions, which had established border buffers and no-fly zones, to

strengthen front-line surveillance of the North.

At their one-on-one meeting Friday, Cho and Akiba discussed building broader "international solidarity" in dealing with North Korea's nuclear and missile program. They said it poses a threat "not only to the Korean Peninsula, but also to the regional and international community as a whole," Seoul said.

The U.S., South Korean and Japanese national security advisers last held a trilateral meeting in June in Tokyo.

The discussions between the national security advisers in Seoul came after the U.S., South Korean and Japanese nuclear envoys met in Tokyo for separate talks on North Korea.

South Korean intelli-

gence officials have said the Russians likely provided technology support for North Korea's successful satellite launch in November, which followed two failed launches.

North Korea has said its spy satellite transmitted imagery with space views of key sites in the U.S. and South Korea, including the White House and the Pentagon. But it hasn't released any of those satellite photos. Many outside experts question whether the North's satellite is sophisticated enough to send militarily useful high-resolution imagery.

Kim has vowed to launch more satellites, saying his military needs to acquire space-based reconnaissance capabilities.

South Korean intelligence and military officials have said North Korea may have shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia beginning in August, weeks before Kim traveled to Russia's Far East for a rare summit with Putin that sparked international concerns about a potential arms deal. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have denied U.S. and South Korean claims about the alleged arms transfers.



## 554th Birth anniversary celebration of Shri Guru Nanak Dev organized by SMVDU and NH

Top News Report

KAKRYAL, Dec 9: The 554th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated by Sikh Sangat of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and Narayana Hospital, Kakryal. The event started with Akhand Paath in SMVDU campus residence of Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs, SMVDU where in students, faculty and staff with their family are enlightened with Gurubani for three days. On 3rd day, Sangat of Narayan Hospital, Nursing college and SMVDU are mesmerized by Kirtan and Gurbani Vichar by prominent Kirtan Jatha from Jammu and Udhampur.



Guru Ka Langer served amidst recitation of Shabads.

Everyone paid obeisance to the Guru Granth Sahib and got the blessings of Guru

Sahib. The contribution of Hond and IK-Bani digital media channels in making whole function available to devotees across the world is highly appreci-

ated. The Sikh Sangat whole heartedly honoured Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Gopal Sharma, CEO, Narayana Hospital, Ajay

Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, SMVDU, Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer, SMVDU and M M Mathavan, Facility Director, NH in the function.

The teaching from the Life of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the basic tenets of Sikhism namely Naam Japna, Kirat Karana and Vand Chakna were reiterated in the event. Joint efforts of Sikh Sangat of SMVDU and NH especially Jaswinder Singh, Dr. Rajpal Singh from NH and Opinder Singh Sidhu, and students of SMVDU are highly appreciated in spreading communal harmony and brotherhood among devotees thronged the celebration.

## Ajeet Bhagat welcomes Atal Dulloo appointment as Chief Secretary

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 9: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference senior leader Ajeet Bhagat has welcomed the appointment of local officer Atul Dulloo as the Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and said that he will fulfill the expectations of the local people.

Bhagat said that people hope that with Atal Dulloo becoming the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, he will understand the basic problems of the people and fulfill their hopes and aspirations

to solve them. Bhagat also said that like the new DGP, he too would organize a Janata Durbar to listen to the people's problems and resolve them.

The senior National Conference leader said that the appointment of local officer Atul Dulloo as Chief Secretary has not only raised the hopes of the common people of the state but also given a new hope to the Kashmiri homeless community that their problems will be resolved.

Now it will be resolved and concrete policy will be developed to solve them.

Ajeet Bhagat said that being a local, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo understands the ground reality very well and can solve the basic problems of the people very well.

He said that in view of this, the expectations of his appointment have increased to a great extent among the common people.

The senior leader of the National Conference also said that he hoped to keep his doors fully open to the common people who would go a long way in bridging the gap between the common people and the administration.

## GHSS Bhalra organises International Anti Corruption Day

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Dec 9: Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bhadarwah organised "International Anti Corruption Day" at here on Saturday.

On the occasion, through paintings, NCC Cadets and other students of the institution shared their ideas about the importance of the corruption free India. It further stated that the main aim of the event was also to highlight the immediate need to aware general masses about this malaise which has inflicted



morally bad impact on the society.

During the program NCC Cadets, students and staff members took pledge about the eradication of Corruption. The programme was

organised and guided by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul (Associate NCC Officer) under the supervision of Pradeep Singh Billawria Principal of the Institution. soul in heaven.

## Transporters in District Doda challenge recent orders

Speed Limits, CCTV Cameras, and Vehicle Inspections Spark Controversy

Top News Report

DODA, Dec 9: In an emergency meeting convened today at Doda, the All Transport Association District Doda expressed concerns over what they perceive as increasing regulatory burdens imposed by the district administration.

Chief among the issues discussed was a recent directive stipulating a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h for all vehicles on the road.

Transporters argued that the specified speed

limits contradicted contractual agreements with vehicle manufacturers, which typically set speeds higher than the mandated limit. The association asserted that adherence to the new speed restrictions would be impractical and called for a reevaluation of the imposed limits. Participants emphasized that the district administration should prioritize addressing road conditions rather than restricting vehicle speeds.

Another contentious issue raised during the meeting was the order

to install CCTV cameras in vehicles, The Chenab Times reported earlier. The All Transport Association District Doda contended that this directive lacked a legal basis in the Motor Vehicles Department Act (MVD-Act). Questions were posed regarding the control and monitoring of these cameras, highlighting the absence of a designated control room.

Furthermore, transporters expressed dissatisfaction with the administration's alleged targeting of previously approved vehicles,

citing instances of undue harassment in the form of identifying defects in vehicles that had previously received clearance. The association called for a reconsideration of these orders before the next meeting.

As a sign of protest, the All Transport Association District Doda declared that vehicles across the district would not operate on roads starting from Monday. This decision was formalized in a resolution where all transport associations within the district affixed their

respective signatures. The resolution has been submitted to the district administration for their consideration.

The All Transport Association District Doda asserted their right to peaceful protest and appealed to the administration to address their grievances.

The resolution outlined the concerns raised during the meeting and urged a collaborative and constructive dialogue between the transporters and the district administration to find equitable solutions.

## National Loktantrik Party lays out vision for J&K's prosperity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Dr. Suhail Choudhary, National President (Executive) of National Loktantrik Party addressed press conference at Jammu laying out multi-pronged pro people vision of the party. He made it clear if National Loktantrik Party would be voted in power then we can facilitate all-round progress and prosperity of the J&K UT.

"Education is the corner stone of civilization and we would ensure fruits of education reach nook and corner of the Jammu and Kashmir as only through power of education youth can progress ahead. The children of poor would be provided free education so that they don't remain aloof from illuminating lamp of education," he



said in a press conference, here on Saturday.

He added that free medical treatment would be ensured all across the health spectrum of Jammu and Kashmir for entire common masses.

The Employment avenues would be created, since unemployment is a crushing problem for youth

of Jammu and Kashmir, he said adding that turmoil of three decades, post abrogation scenario, Pandemic Corona virus have been irritants for job creation, he added. National Loktantrik Party would leave no stone unturned to ensure all round jobs especially for educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir, said Dr. Suhail,

## Shiv Sena accuses Center of marginalizing Hindus, Sikhs in J&K, submits memorandum to MHA

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has accused the Modi government at the Center of marginalizing Hindus and Sikhs in Jammu and indifference towards the demands of rehabilitation of Kashmiri Hindus and PoJK displaced persons.

In a press conference held at the party state office in Jammu, State President Manish Sahni said that the ten year tenure of the BJP government at the Center is about to complete.

A long time has passed for the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir. But Minority Commission has not been formed in Jammu and Kashmir.



The population of Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir is 28% and Sikhs are only 2%, these figures have remained the same for the last 50 years.

Despite being a Union Territory, minority Hindus and Sikhs are not being given their rights.

The safe return of Kashmiri Hindus, who have been living a displaced life for the last 35 years, has not been pos-

sible and the demands of the PoJK displaced people (whose population is around 15 lakh and 99.99 percent of which are Hindus and Sikhs) are also being continuously ignored which proves that the Hindus and Sikhs are marginalization in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni urged the Modi government at the Center to set up a Minority Commission in Jammu and Kash-

mir with immediate effect, provide status and benefits of facilities to all minorities including Hindus and Sikhs, Safe return of Kashmiri Hindus to the valley and PoJK displaced people should be de-frozen 10 seats out of 24 seats in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly in their favour.

Sahni said that a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been submitted during the meeting with the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo during his yesterday meeting regarding the above demands.

On this occasion Rakesh Gupta, G1 Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, Raj Singh were also present.

## Jatin Vashisht bereaved

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Ravinder Sharma former MLC & Vice President JKPC. In a condolence message Sharma conveyed heartfelt

expressed grief over the untimely demise of Vijay Kumar Sharma father of Jatin Vashisht-Member JKPC. In a condolence message Sharma conveyed heartfelt

condolences to Jatin Vashisht and other members and expressed sympathies with bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul in heaven.

## FROM PAGE 1

### LG Sinha urges people to generously contribute to Armed Forces Flag Day fund

Ashwani Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Janak Singh, Vinod Badkulia and Rajinder Kumar were present.

### JK High Court imposes Rs 2 Lakh penalty on Health Director over 2003 Decree

petitions to restore the writ petition and condone the delay in its restoration, all of which were dismissed by various courts. In 2018, the respondents approached the Executing Court, asserting they had already complied with the 2003 decree.

Despite the Executing Court instructing one of the judgment debtors to appear on May 30, 2018, to show cause, the directive went unheeded. Instead of compliance, the petitioners opted to file the present petition, alleging that the Executing Court's order was legally flawed.

Justice Sreedharan, in his order, underscored the petitioners' history of neglect and delay. Despite ample opportunities to present their case, the petitioner Department chose further delay by filing the current petition, pending for five years.

The court emphasised that the department had sufficient chances to explain its compliance with the decree before the executing court but opted for frivolous litigation. Recognising the blatant disregard for court orders and system manipulation, the court imposed a Rs. 2,00,000/- fine on the petitioners, payable to the decree-holder within 30 days. Additionally, the court granted the Union Territory the liberty to recover costs from the Director of Health

Services, Kashmir. Upon dismissing the plea, the matter was listed on March 11, 2024 to secure compliance.

### 372 gentlemen cadets pass out of IMA

Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Uttar Pradesh had the highest representation in the course with 68 gentlemen cadets followed by Uttarakhand (42), Rajasthan (34), Maharashtra (28), Bihar (27), Haryana (22), Punjab (20), Himachal Pradesh (14), Jammu-Kashmir (10), Kerala (9), West Bengal (9), Madhya Pradesh (7), Jharkhand (5), Odisha (5), Andhra Pradesh (4), Tamil Nadu (4), Delhi (2), Gujarat (2), Chandigarh (2), Arunachal Pradesh (1), Assam (1), Manipur (1), Meghalaya (1) and Telangana (1).

### JKSSB announces

### vacancies in Social Welfare Department

government service/contractual employees is 40 years.

The application fee is Rs 500 for candidates belonging to OM, RBA, ALC/IB, OSC, PSP, ESM and Rs 400 for candidates belonging to EWS, SC, ST, and PwD. The date, exam centre and syllabus of the exam will be notified separately. The exam will consist of objective type questions in the English language only. There will also be negative marking against wrong answers.

For more details, visit here [https://jkssb.nic.in/Pdf/Adv\\_Notice\\_02\\_of\\_2023\\_08122023.pdf](https://jkssb.nic.in/Pdf/Adv_Notice_02_of_2023_08122023.pdf)

### New Rehari Welfare Society to hold meeting on Dec 10

The executive members who were present in the meeting included Surinder Singh, Anil Malhotra, Vikram Samyal, Rajiv Mahajan, Gourab Kapahi, Surinder Gupta, Sandeep Sharma, Raju Mehta, Yogesh Pandoh (Manttu), Manik Gupta, Lalit Kumar, Vicky, Yashpal Gupta and Mohinder Singh.

### Zojila accident: Injured Kerala tourist succumbs; toll six

accident on December 05, succumbed at SKIMS Soura.

Five persons including four tourists from Kerala and a local driver died in the tragic road accident near Zojila Pass on December 05, when a vehicle on way from Sonamarg to Kargil rolled down into a deep gorge near Zojila.

Two other tourists were injured and were discharged from the hospital a few days ago.



## Crucial for govt to identify real beneficiaries of interest subvention scheme: GTRI

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): The government must identify real beneficiaries of the interest subvention scheme provided to various export sectors, think tank GTRI said on Saturday.

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved an additional allocation of Rs 2,500 crore for the continuation of interest equalisation or subsidy scheme on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit up to June 30 next year.

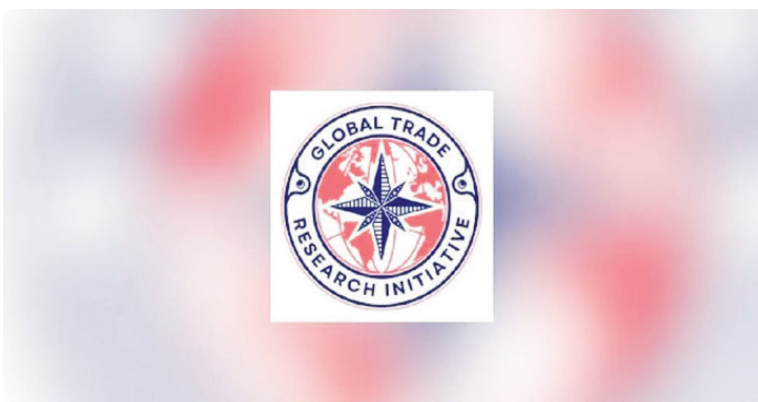
Launched on April 1, 2015, the scheme was initially valid for five years up to March 31, 2020.

It has been continued thereafter, with a one-year extension during COVID, and further extensions and fund allocations.

"No detailed study of the scheme has been done yet. The government needs to identify the actual beneficiaries. Considering the low spending, it is possible that a few large entities, rather than MSMEs, are reaping the most benefits," the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

It is also necessary to find out which product groups receive the most credit and the effectiveness of banks in assisting small firms through this scheme should be examined, it added.

"A thorough study might provide insights on whether to exclude certain items, like low-volume, high-value goods, such



as diamonds and gold jewellery, which are susceptible to misuse. Only a detailed study can reveal the full truth," GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

The scheme costs about Rs 3,000 crore on average.

Over 50,000 MSMEs are exporting various products from India, plus over a lakh of other exporters for products covered under the scheme.

It said that despite the high value of these exports, the scheme's low expenditure suggests it is underused.

Given that Indian MSMEs struggle with credit access and this scheme eases the burden, the government might think about making it permanent, similar to the drawback scheme, the think-tank suggested.

"Alternatively, extending it for another five years could be considered. Annual extensions lead to uncertainty, making it hard for exporters to include this in their

cost calculations," Srivastava said.

The pre and post-shipment rupee export credit, known as packing credit, assists exporters in covering production and packing costs, with credit accessible upon presenting a confirmed export order.

The credit rate is usually the bank's rate plus 2-3 per cent, averaging about 8 per cent.

"The scheme offers additional discounts - 3 per cent for MSME exporters on all products and 2 per cent for select products for all exporters. Thus, with this scheme, MSMEs can access credit at 5 per cent and others at 6 per cent," Srivastava said.

He added that these rates are comparable with prevailing global interest rates like 5.5 per cent in the US, 3.5 per cent in China, and 5.3 per cent in the UK.

"Thus the scheme lowers the cost of capital for Indian export-

ers, benefiting MSMEs in particular," he said, adding that "however, despite its potential, there is a lack of comprehensive analysis on its utilisation and impact, especially concerning its actual beneficiaries and effectiveness in reaching the intended MSME sector".

Manufacturer and merchant exporters shipping specified 410 products will get a 2 per cent subsidy and all the MSME exporters will get 3 per cent.

These sectors include handicrafts, leather, certain fabrics, carpets and readymade garments.

The benefit to individual exporters has been capped at Rs 10 crore per annum per IEC (Import Export Code).

So far this fiscal till November 30, the government has disbursed Rs 2,641.28 crore against the allocated budget of Rs 2,932 under the scheme. Rs 3,118 crore was disbursed in 2022-23 and Rs 3,488 crore in 2021-22.

Cumulatively, exports during the April-October period this fiscal contracted by 7 per cent to USD 244.89 billion, while imports fell 8.95 per cent to USD 391.96 billion.

The trade deficit during the seven months was USD 147.07 billion against USD 167.14 billion in the corresponding period last year.

## Mutual fund SIP inflows touch new high of Rs 17,000 crore in November



NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): Systematic investment plans (SIPs) contributions in the Indian mutual fund industry touched a new high of Rs 17,073.30 crore in November 2023, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

In October, SIP contribution was recorded at Rs 16,928 crore. The total number of SIP accounts also reached to an all-time high of 7.44 crore last month compared to 7.30 crore accounts in October 2023. The SIP assets under management (AUM) grew to 9.31 lakh crore for November as against 8.59 lakh crore in October. The total AUM for the mutual fund

industry also advanced to Rs 49.04 lakh crore.

"The AUM has been increasing steadily, reflecting the growing trust and confidence of investors... We believe this trend will continue through December as well and the numbers will continue to remain positive," said NS Venkatesh, CEO of AMFI. He added, "We reiterate that investors should stay focused on goal-based investing through SIPs."

G. Pradeepkumar, CEO, Union Asset Management Company, said the SIP flows continue to be good and could act as a powerful counterforce against any serious FPI outflows. Pradeepkumar, however, added that given

the rich valuations in mid and small cap stocks, they are advising investors to take a staggered approach to investments.

Net inflow to equity mutual funds took a sharp dip month-on-month and fell from 19,957 crore in October to Rs 15,536 crore in November, showed the AMFI data. Small-cap and mid-cap mutual fund schemes remained the most popular avenues as they received net inflows of Rs 3,699 crore and Rs 2,666 crore, respectively.

"Both the mid-cap and the small-cap indexes have seen a sharp rally over the last six months and one year. Consequently, investors have also flocked to this category with ever increasing flows," said Melvyn Santarita, Analyst at Morningstar Investment Research. Santarita added that these categories are inherently volatile with sharp draw-down risks, and therefore investors should have a long-term time horizon while investing in these categories.

## 'Change in loans rule showing result'

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Agencies): Banking sector regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said recent changes in the rules for unsecured loans have started showing results in terms of improved underwriting and internal risk practices. The RBI, though, made it clear that the move was not aimed at denying liquidity or loans to the needy. The issue of unsecured loans and recent regulatory changes hogged the limelight at the post-monitory policy press briefing of RBI.

Responding to media queries on the need for the move and its impact, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that these are precautionary measures which the regulator has taken, and its efforts have always been to act proactively before the bubble bursts.

"As part of our super-

vision, and close monitoring of banks and financial institutions, our endeavour is to always remain up to date. We have deepened our supervisory methods. Our endeavour is also to try to use the smell test. So, whenever we smell any stress building at any level - system level or individual entity level - we deal with it in an appropriate way," said the governor.

The RBI in November increased the risk weight of unsecured personal loans from 100% to 125% for banks and NBFCs. For credit card loans, the risk weight has been increased from 125% to 150% in case of banks and from 100% to 125% for NBFCs.

The move has led to NBFCs and Fintech firms cutting their exposure on unsecured small ticket loans.

On whether the regulatory changes have

started showing results, deputy governor Swaminathan Janakiraman, said that it is too early to pass a verdict on what sort of effect these measures are having. "But our initial interactions with the industry alludes that internal risk practices are getting better, underwriting is getting better, and any business models that are likely to throw up enhanced risk are curtailed," said the deputy governor.

As per him, efforts were made over the past 3-4 months by sensitising the players to put adequate internal measures to ensure that the risk build-up is avoided, but since the market was not responding to the warnings it was necessary to take certain measures.

The deputy governor said that they want the regulated entities to conduct their businesses in a way that avoidable risk build-ups are mitigated.

## Five nations show interest in expanding trade ties with Punjab

AMRITSAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): Five countries have shown interest in expanding their business and investing capital in Punjab. Some countries are considering the border state as better option for them in the field of the IT. Some are showing interest in the field of producing cooking oil.

Fiji's High Commissioner Nilesh Roneel Kumar, Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador Ackap Askar Beshimov, Bangladesh's High Commissioner Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman, Uzbekistan's Trade Economic Counsellor Khurshidbek Samiev and Indonesia's Trade Attache Bona Kusuma visited the 17th PITEX being organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. DPS Kharbanda, CEO, Invest Punjab, held a meeting with them.

During the round table conference at PITEX VIP lounge, Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador Ackap Askar Beshimov said at least 100 new industries were being set up in India by his country. Many of these industries would come up in Punjab. He said business matters would be taken forward in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fishing and



mines. Fiji's High Commissioner Nilesh Roneel Kumar said the effect of better relations between India and his country could now be seen in Punjab also. He showed interest in doing business with Punjab in the fields of production and tourism.

Uzbekistan's Trade Economic Counsellor Khurshidbek Samiev held talks with representatives of the Punjab Government regarding the future of natural gas and minerals industries.

Indonesia's Trade Attache Bona Kusuma said in his country, companies of crude palm oil, electrical equipment and rubber products considered India as their biggest market. Due to high

consumption of crude palm oil in Punjab, he gathered information about various formalities of the state government regarding setting up industry in this field.

DPS Kharbanda, CEO, Invest Punjab, said, "Many districts in Punjab produce mustard. Ludhiana has the highest number of mustard oil producing companies."

He said, "Industries can be established to promote the exchange of mustard oil and crude palm oil. The Indonesian trade representative has sought further correspondence with the Punjab Government in this regard."

Kharbanda said after the formation of the new government

in Punjab, 3,893 investment proposals had been received so far. He said these proposals offered an investment of Rs 59,318 crore which could generate 3.5 lakh jobs.

He said electricity tariff subsidy worth Rs 2,910 crore was disbursed among beneficiaries during the current financial year. Apart from this, incentive amount of Rs 100 crore was distributed among 132 units. A budget of Rs 3,258 crore had been arranged for providing subsidy for the year 2023-24, he added.

On the occasion, Naveen Seth, Deputy General Secretary, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "The chamber has made an effort to bring the Punjab Government and foreign representatives on one platform so that industrial capital investment can be increased in the border state."

RS Sachdeva, Chairman, PHDCCI, Punjab Chapter, said, "Through this round table conference, many countries are expected to invest in Punjab. Correspondence would be maintained with these countries by the state government."

## Covid virus can persist in lungs for up to 2 years: Study

LONDON, Dec 9 (Agencies): SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, can last in the lungs of certain individuals for up to 18 months after infection, finds a study.

The study, published in the journal Nature Immunology, showed that Covid virus' persistence appears to be linked to a failure of innate immunity (the first line of defence against pathogens).

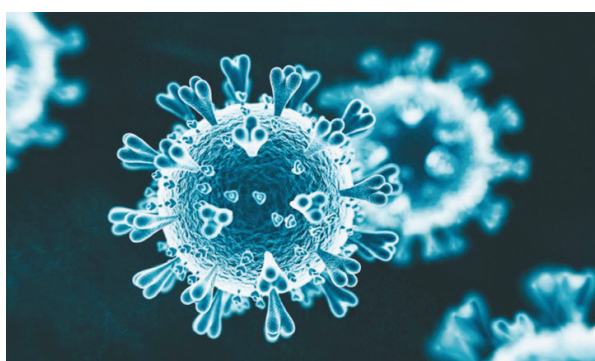
One to two weeks after contracting Covid, the SARS-CoV-2 virus generally becomes undetectable in the upper respiratory tract.

But, some viruses persist in the body in a discreet and undetectable manner after causing an infection. They remain in what are known as 'viral reservoirs', even though it remains undetectable

in the upper respiratory tract or blood.

This is the case for HIV, which remains latent in certain immune cells and can reactivate at any time. It could also be the case for the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes Covid-19, said the team from the Institut Pasteur, who first hypothesised the theory in 2021, and now confirmed it in a preclinical model of a non-human primate.

"We observed that inflammation persisted for long periods in primates that had been infected by SARS-CoV-2. We therefore suspected that it could be due to the presence of the virus in the body," explains Michaela Muller-Trutwin, Head of the Institut Pasteur's HIV, Inflammation and Persistence Unit.



To study the persistence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the scientists analysed biological samples from animal models that had been infected by the virus.

They found that the amount of persistent virus in the lungs was lower for the Omicron strain than for the original SARS-CoV-2 strain.

"We were really surprised to find viruses in certain immune cells -- alveolar macrophages -- after such a long period and when

regular PCR tests were negative," said Nicolas Huot, researcher in the Institut Pasteur's HIV, Inflammation and Persistence Unit.

"What's more, we cultured these viruses and were able to observe, using the tools we developed to study HIV, that they were still capable of replicating."

To understand the role of innate immunity in controlling these viral reservoirs, the scientists then turned their attention to NK (natural killer)

cells.

"The cellular response of innate immunity, which is the body's first line of defence, has been little studied in SARS-CoV-2 infections until now," said Muller-Trutwin.

"Yet it has long been known that NK cells play an important role in controlling viral infections."

The study shows that in some animals, macrophages infected with SARS-CoV-2 become resistant to destruction by NK cells. While in others, NK cells are able to adapt to infection (known as adaptive NK cells) and destroy resistant cells, in this case macrophages.

Innate immunity therefore appears to play a role in the control of persistent SARS-CoV-2 viruses, the team said

## From 1,596 to 412, dengue cases in Chandigarh lowest in 3 years



CHANDIGARH, Dec 9 (Agencies): After grappling with dengue outbreak in recent years, the UT has finally witnessed a decline in the number of cases. The city reported 412 dengue cases this year as compared to 910 and 1,596 in 2022 and 2021, respectively. This marks the lowest number in three years.

Dr Suman Singh, Director, Health Services, attributed the decline to a proactive five-month effort of the department. The health authorities identified potential breeding grounds for dengue

larvae, implemented extensive checks and took stringent measures against residents and institutions failing to keep surroundings clean.

"After five months of dedicated effort and community engagement, we have seen a significant decline in dengue cases. Identifying breeding sources, issuing challans and raising awareness through door-to-door drives remained our key strategies," he said.

Challans have been issued to city residents and public and private institutions for neg-

ligence, as dengue larvae were detected in unexpected places like refrigerator trays, pots and tyres. The months of January to July consistently report low dengue cases each year, while the numbers surge from August to December.

The monsoon season exacerbates the instances due to an abundance of vector breeding sites. Environmental factors such as rainfall, humidity and temperature play a crucial role in dengue transmission.

Reflecting on the worst dengue outbreak in four years in 2021, when 1,596 cases were reported, the city faced challenges as hospitals grappled with a shortage of beds. Emergency wards in all three government hospitals were overwhelmed with fever patients, necessitating medical intervention.



## WPL Auction Season 2: Gripping Bidding Day Awaits As 165 Players Go Under The Hammer

**This time an additional purse of Rs 1.5 crore will be made available to all the five teams besides the balance they are all left with from the last auction as well as after the recent player releases.**

MUMBAI, Dec 9 (Agencies): The auction for the Women's Premier League season 2 has arrived as the five teams look to fill gaps in their teams by bagging the services of their desired players with the rival teams looking to derail the plans of other teams. The WPL auction will take place on Saturday in Mumbai and the representatives of the five teams - Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and UP Warriorz will look to bolster their teams.

This time an additional purse of Rs 1.5 crore will be made available to all the five teams besides the balance they are all left with from the last auction as well as after the recent player releases. Thirty slots, including nine overseas, will be filled at the auction.

Teams released their retention lists and overall 60 players were retained. Out of these 60 players, 21 were overseas stars. 29 players were released from their squads.

In the inaugural season of WPL, each team was given Rs 12 crore to build their squads. Only two teams, the champions Mumbai Indians and UP Warriorz were able to make full use of this money.

This time, Giants, who attained a bottom-place finish in the inaugural season, have the highest purse of Rs 5.95 crore, as they had released half their squad. They have ten slots, including three overseas to be filled. Warriorz, who finished mid-table and qualified for playoffs, have Rs 4 crore as their purse, which they can use to fill up five slots, including an



overseas player.

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), a star-studded unit consisting of Smriti Mandhana, Sophie Devine, and Ellyse Perry, which failed to make an impact last year, has Rs 3.35 crore in their purse to fill up seven slots, including three overseas players. Delhi, the runners-up, have a purse of Rs 2.25 crore to fill three slots, including one overseas.

Mumbai has the smallest purse left, with Rs 2.1 crore. They have five slots to fill, including one overseas, according to a release.

The inaugural WPL held earlier this year was a huge success as many top cricketers from across the world participated in the 22-match affair, played at three venues in Mumbai. There has been no communication from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about dates for the next season and whether it will be played in a home-away format or not.

During last year's auction, there were seven players who

attracted bids as high as Rs 2 crore and three crossed the three-crore mark, namely Smriti Mandhana (Rs 3.4 crore for RCB), Ashleigh Gardner (Rs 3.2 crore for Gujarat Giants) and Nat Sciver-Brunt (Rs 3.2 crore for MI).

This time the players who are going to catch eyes in the auction will be India's stalwart batter Smriti Mandhana, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, rising batter Jemimah Rodrigues, England's Issy Wong and Australia's star Alyssa Healy.

Gujarat Giants squad (slots to fill 10): Ashleigh Gardner\*, Beth Mooney\*, Dayalan Hemalatha, Harleen Deol, Laura Wolvaardt\*, Shabnam Shakil, Sneha Rana, Tanuja Kanwar.

Released: Annabel Sutherland\*, Ashwani Kumari, Georgia Wareham\*, Hurley Gala, Kim Garth\*, Mansi Joshi, Monica Patel, Parunika Sisodia, Sabbineni Meghana, Sophia Dunkley\*, Sushma Verma.

RCB's list of retained players (slots to fill 7): Asha Shobana, Disha Kasat, Indrani Roy,

Kanika Ahuja, Renuka Singh, Richa Ghosh, Shreyanka Patil, Smriti Mandhana, Ellyse Perry (overseas), Heather Knight (overseas), Sophie Devine (overseas).

Players released by RCB: Komal Zanzad, Poonam Khemnar, Preeti Bose, Sahana Pawar, Dane van Niekerk (overseas), Erin Burns (overseas), Megan Schutt (overseas).

Mumbai Indians squad (slots to fill 5): Amanjot Kaur, Amelia Kerr, Chloe Tryon, Harmanpreet Kaur, Hayley Matthews, Humaira Kazi, Issy Wong, Jintimani Kalita, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Pooja Vastrakar, Priyanka Bala, Saika Ishaque, Yastika Bhatia.

Released: Dhara Gujjar, Heather Graham, Neelam Bisht, Sonam Yadav.

Delhi Capitals retained players (slots to fill 3): Alice Capsey\*, Arundhati Reddy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Jess Jonassen\*, Laura Harris\*, Marizanne Kapp\*, Meg Lanning\*, Minnu Mani, Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Shafali Verma, Shikha Pandey, Sneha Deepthi, Taniyaa Bhatia and Titas Sadhu.

Released players: Aparna Mondal, Jasia Akhter and Tara Norris.

UP Warriorz players retained (slots to fill 5): Alyssa Healy (Overseas), Deepti Sharma, Tahliia McGrath (Overseas), Shweta Sehrawat, Grace Harris (Overseas), Kiran Navgire, Sophie Ecclestone (Overseas), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Laxmi Yadav, Anjali Sarvani, Parshavi Chopra, S Yashashri and Lauren Bell (Overseas).

Released Players: Devika Vaidya, Shabnim Ismail\*, Shivali Shinde, Simran Shaikh.

## Lionel Messi Has Brought 'Transformational Year' For MLS Says Don Garber

LONDON, Dec 9 (Agencies): Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber says his league has enjoyed a "transformational year" crediting the arrival of Lionel Messi and the broadcast deal with Apple TV for unprecedented interest. But while he said North America would become the "epicenter" of the game with the World Cup, Copa America and FIFA Club World Cup all coming to the region, Garber acknowledged squeezing in all the club and country competitions was a headache. In his annual "state of the league" address ahead of Saturday's MLS Cup final between Columbus Crew and Los Angeles FC, Garber said MLS was trending upwards in all key areas.

"Lionel Messi had many options for the next chapter of his iconic soccer career. The magnitude of his decision to join MLS cannot be over-stated," Garber said.

"A World Cup champion, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner is playing in our league. We're not just part of the global conversation of sports but one of the biggest stories in the world, certainly one of the biggest stories this summer," added Garber.

Messi's arrival early in a new 10-year global streaming deal with Apple TV meant "more fans watch MLS games here and around the world than ever before" said Garber, without revealing overall audience figures from Apple.

MLS has also seen rising numbers of fans in stadiums across the country with the derby between Los Angeles FC and Los Angeles Galaxy attracting a league record 82,110 to the Rose Bowl on July 4.

Smashing Success

Garber said there had been a record of "nearly 12 million fans" at MLS games throughout the year and also hailed the new Leagues Cup, held jointly with clubs from Mexico's Liga MX, as a "smashing success".

The tournament in the middle of the MLS regular season was won by Messi and Inter Miami and the World Cup-style format won over my skeptics.

"It was a success on every measure and as with so many things this year

went on to exceed so many of our expectations. It is only the beginning. This is a tournament which will continue to grow in scale, in scope and reach in the years ahead," he said.

But the addition of Leagues Cup games comes into a calendar that will be squeezed by the major tournaments coming to the USA in the coming years.

Next year will see the USA host the Copa America before the new, expanded 32-team, FIFA Club World Cup is held in the country a year ahead of the World Cup itself, co-hosted with Canada and Mexico.

"For the next few years, North America will be the epicenter for the beautiful game," he said.

But with the Leagues Cup, CONCACAF Champions Cup, the US Open Cup as well as the regular season and the playoffs, fitting all the games in while protecting players from burn-out remains a challenge.

Garber said MLS would not stop play during Copa America saying they could not afford to halt their season but would have to be "creative" with their schedule.

MLS usually plays through the regional CONCACAF Gold Cup but Garber said there was no question of the league continuing during the World Cup.

"Clearly the World Cup in 2026 is a different animal, I can't imagine we are going to be playing games during that, but the economic impact of that is significant," he said.

Garber said the big picture may require some changes to how the MLS season is organised and hinted that "Apertura and Clausura" system, used in some South and Central American countries along with Mexico, where the season is split into two separate halves, could be one option.

Garber also said MLS was talking to US Soccer about how to improve the knockout US Open Cup.

"That process is ongoing and there might be changes to our participation sometime in the future, there is nothing we can announce right now," he said.

## India tour of South Africa: Jasprit Bumrah back with searing yorkers in training ahead of Test series

CAPE TOWN, Dec 9 (Agencies): India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is back in training after a short break, post World Cup 2023 Final. Bumrah, one of the best bowlers in the tournament, did not play in the T20I series against Australia. Bumrah was also rested from the white-ball series against South Africa, and will be back in the fray in the 2-match Test series.

The star India pacer made a searing comeback in the white-ball format after his back surgery. Bumrah did well on his return in the Ireland T20I series as captain and then bowled some sensational spells in the World Cup 2023.



In fact, in the final of the tournament against Australia, Bumrah displayed breathtaking skill and was unlucky to not get the wicket of Travis Head - the eventual player of the match in the summit clash.

South Africa series will be Bumrah's first assignment in red-ball cricket since July, 2022, where he played against England. In that Test match,

Bumrah had captained in the absence of Rohit Sharma, but he was not able to guide the team to victory against Ben Stokes' England.

Bumrah posted a video of him training on Instagram, where he can be seen bowling with the red ball. The pacer can be seen bowling in full tilt ahead of the 2-match series against South Africa.

India will be hopeful for a good show against the Proteas as the country remains to be their last frontier in the red-ball format.

India have never won a Test series in South Africa, and in their previous tour, they were beaten 2-1 in an ill-tempered series.

India's Test Squad for South Africa

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

## SA vs IND: Rinku Singh reveals his first experience of training under Rahul Dravid ahead of T20I series

CAPE TOWN, Dec 9 (Agencies): India will begin their tour of South Africa with the 1st T20I match on 10 December 2023, Sunday. All eyes will be on Rinku Singh, if selected in the playing XI, after his sensational outing against Australia in the 5-match T20I series.

Rinku will be playing for the first time under the guidance of head coach Rahul Dravid, who has extended the contract with the Indian team. Speaking via a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Rinku revealed the details about his first training session under Dravid and said that the coach backed him to



stick to his methods.

"The weather is beautiful here. We went for a walk after coming here and then I went into the nets. This was the first time that I trained under Rahul Dravid and it was a great feeling. He told me to stick to what I was doing and trust my process. Dravid sir told me that it was tough to play at No. 5, but told me to have faith in my abili-

ties," Rinku Singh said in a BCCI video.

Asked about the conditions in South Africa, Rinku said that they were drastically different, but he knew how to play in pacy and bouncy wickets.

"It is quite bouncy here in South Africa. You don't get this much bounce in India, it is quite quick as well. I would look to use the pace," Rinku said

about the conditions in South Africa.

The always-smiling batter has gelled well with the team. Stating that a team should always stay together, Rinku said that he generally hangs out with the young kids in the Indian side.

"I have played for Uttar Pradesh since 2013, always at No. 5. It is tough to bat there but I keep motivating myself. Me, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Jitesh Sharma, and Kuldeep Yadav hang out together. It is important to stay together," Rinku concluded the video.

India will play 3 T20I, 3 ODIs, and 2 Test matches in South Africa.

## Pacer Lungi Ngidi ruled out of India-South Africa T20I series



DURBAN, Dec 9 (Agencies): South Africa seamer Lungi Ngidi will play no part in a three-match home T20 International series against India that starts on Sunday and is in a race to be fit for the opening Test of the tour that begins on Decem-

ber 26.

Ngidi, 27, has a left lateral ankle sprain and will be replaced in the T20 squad by Beuran Hendricks, who made the last of his 19 appearances in the T20 format for South Africa against Ireland in July 2021.

The 33-year-old Hen-

dricks will vie for the specialist seamer role in the side with the less experienced Ottniel Baartman, Nandre Burger, Gerald Coetzee and Lizaad Williams. South Africa have rested premier fast bowler Kagiso Rabada for the series.

India's tour will start with three T20 matches in Durban, Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) and Johannesburg. They will then switch format for three ODIs between December 17 and 21, played in the latter two venues and Paarl.

The first Test will start on December 26 in Pretoria, with the second on January 3 at Newlands in Cape Town.

## 2nd T20I: India vs England: No margin for error

**India look to turn game around and get series-levelling victory**

MUMBAI, Dec 9 (Agencies): With the series on the line, India will look for an improved show, especially in the bowling and fielding departments, when they take on a rampaging England in the second women's T20I here today.

England extended their dominant run against India with a comprehensive 38-run win which gave them a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. It was England's 21st victory in 28 T20Is against India and eighth in 10 matches in the country.

India failed to read the conditions adequately and also made glaring errors in the first game which turned out to be a one-sided affair.

On a flat pitch not offering much to the bowlers especially in the first innings, India used four different spinners — including rookie Kanika Ahuja — and England took them apart, scor-



ing 121 runs from a collective 12 overs for three wickets.

India handed debuts to two left-arm spinners Shreyanka Patil (2/44) and Saika Ishaque (1/38) but both were wayward and expensive in their respective four-over spells. Senior spinner Deepti Sharma (0/28) was not even trusted with completing her quota of overs.

Indian spinners bowled short

as well as full tosses at times for England batters to dominate, whereas their fielders did not support them enough. Both Danni Wyatt and Nat Sciver-Brunt were given lifelines which proved to be costly for the home team.

The only bright spot in India's bowling was seamer Renuka Singh, who had left England reeling at 2/2 in the opening

over of the match.

But India not only allowed England to stage a comeback, the hosts, coming off a two-month break, also could not force their way back into the game at any stage.

While India's tweekers cut a sorry figure, England's spin pair of Sophie Ecclestone (3/15) and Sarah Glenn (1/25) exposed India's batters with probing lines and lengths that just did not allow them to free their arms.

India's batters could not make a dent chasing 198 even though opening batter Shafali Verma scored a quality half-century (52) and Harmanpreet Kaur (26) was looking promising with the bat.

Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues failed to make a mark on a perfect batting track and the team will expect more from the two seasoned campaigners.



## Ashok Koul addresses gathering in Kishtwar under Booth Jan Samvad Maha Abhiyaan

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 9: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by its General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul held a public meeting at Panchayat Bhutna Churyana in Kuntwara Mandal of district Kishtwar.

District President Chuni Lal Shan, District Prabhari Gajay Singh Rana, State Secretary Tariq Hussain Keen and other senior party leaders, accompanied Ashok Koul.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering in connection with the 'Booth Jan Samvad Maha Abhiyaan', said that the party activists



are attending these programmes at the booth levels across the UT. The main speakers in these programmes are highlighted the pro-development, pro-poor

works of Narendra Modi led government at the centre. They are sharing the authentic information related to the mega projects of development in various sectors and

also numerous welfare schemes which have been launched for the socio-economic empowerment of the poor and marginalized several. This government has

initiated several initiatives for the benefits of women, farmers, youth, the border people, refugees etc, and which has brought changes in their lives in the UT.

Ashok Koul said that during the last about 10 years, the Narendra Modi government has flooded J&K with many mega and prestigious projects of development which has also given a boost to the local economy and generated employment opportunities. He asked the party activists to remain in regular touch with the people in their areas and keep them educating about the good works of the Modi government.

## ICT Based Training Programme on "Materials Characterization Techniques" concludes at SMVDU



### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 9: School of Physics, SMVDU in collaboration with NITTR Chandigarh, conducted an ICT based one week training programme on "Materials Characterization Techniques", from 4-8th December 2023.

The training programme comprised of faculty members, technical staff and Ph. D. Research scholars as participants from SMVDU.

The main aim of this training programme was to impart basic and practical knowledge of the advanced tools used for material character-

ization in research organizations and academic institutes.

The training programme had been organized by NITTR Chandigarh and hosted by SMVDU remote centre for its fraternity which includes a number of experimental techniques which were carried out by experts in the field of synthesizing and characterizing materials from NITTR, Chandigarh and other premier institutes from Northern India.

The participants were posed to various quizzes, assignments and discussions during session breaks. The main

coordinators of the training programme were Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Professor and Dr. Ashok Kumar, Assoc.

Prof from NITTR Chandigarh and Dr. Pankaj Biswas and Dr. Kamni Pathania were the local coordinators from School of Physics, SMVDU, who extended their gratitude towards Prof. Pragati Kumar, vice-chancellor for his valuable support in organizing the training programme at SMVDU remote centre and Dr. S.K. Wanchoo, Head, SoP and Dean FoS, SMVDU for facilitating the STTP organizing process.

## Forces were diverted to save minority Hindus, Sikhs in POJK: Ravinder

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: Former MLC, JKPC vice-president Ravinder Sharma has said that forces were diverted towards Rajouri-Poonch to save the minority Hindus and Sikhs, who were being massacred in 1947-48, by the Pak invaders, in the absence of any security.

Endorsing the statement of Former Chief Minister & veteran NC leader Dr Farooq Abdullah that forces were diverted towards Rajouri-Poonch by the then government to safeguard the area, Mr. Sharma added that an open massacre was going on in Mirpur & Poonch districts by the invaders to clear that areas of minority Hindu-Sikh population, in which thousands of people were slaughtered.

Ravinder Sharma said that thousands of families wiped out while his own entire family was wiped out in Plandri, Poonch(POJK) except grandfather while his father survived because he was in British-India army fighting for the nation at Burma while another uncle martyred in Rajouri sector in

Indian army and was awarded vir chakra posthumously that time. Narrating the pain & situation that time, he said his grandmother along with entire women folk of the village burnt themselves alive, after locking inside, in our ancestral house in order to escape the atrocities of Pak invaders.

It is easy to play politics but difficult to bear the pain after recalling the incidents and situation that time & the treatment meted out to our ancestors and people there.

There was revolt in the left out scarce forces of maharaja in Rajouri, Poonch, who had joined invaders and raiders in causing the killings, loot and devastations in the area. Although few local Muslims came to the rescue of the Hindus and Sikhs and gave them shelters and hidings in their own houses for few months, as narrated by our ancestors.

He appealed to the political parties not to play politics over the issue hiding real facts or without getting complete knowledge of the circumstances and don't rub salts on our bleeding wounds, which can't heal for years to come.

## Free Multispecialty health check-up camp organized for media fraternity



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: SIBA Events Management & Innovations Cooperative Limited and Press Club Jammu jointly organized Silverlines Fortofino Ek Pahel free Multispecialty health checkup camp for media fraternity and their families in association with Dinesh (Press Club Jammu), (Amandeep Group of Hospitals), Dr Burhan Nazir Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr Digvijay Casualty Medical Officer, Pawan Khajuria, Regional Business Head Vivek Salgotra, Regional Manager & Team, Dr. Aggarwal Eye Hospital (Dr Uzma Choudary, Rakesh PR Team, Ashish, Satvir,

Jugal), Path Square Lab (Vijay Kumar Bhatia MD & CEO Umang Bhatia, Associate Director Sharda Suri Marketing Parun Sharma Marketing Arzoo FOE), Shanku Cancer Hospital (Medical Officer- Dr Tuba Malik, Staff Nurse - Aditi, Marketing Head - Sumeet Sodhi).

All the treatment of Cancer i.e all types of Cancer Surgeries, Chemotherapy, Radiation Therapy is available at free of cost Under Aayushman Card at Shanku Hospital, Sehora Dental College(Dr Esha Bali (HOD), Dr Kamaljeet Singh, Dr Gurdeep Singh and interns of IDS), JK Medicity (Dr Harmeet Singh M.D, Dr. Sohail Goni, Dr

Davinder Singh Rana, Dr Som Abrol, Dr Sunil, Dr Rizwan, Dr Randeep Nair, Dr Harsheen Bali Daleep Singh Ayushman, Raman Choudary.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar inaugurated the camp along with IG Traffic Shridhar Patil. They appreciated the camp and noble motive behind it.

Health camp starts at around 11am and closed around 2 pm, more than one hundred fifty media persons got benefitted from this camp where free medicines also distributed eyedrops. SIBA Team honored all the dignitaries who were present at the camp and appreciated the event and noble purpose behind it.

SIBA team Sidharth Verma co-founder, Baljeet Singh co-founder and team, Ramneek Kour, Meenakshi Verma, Gaurav Basin, Eshan, Adv. Sumit Verma, Jasmeet Kour, Amarjeet Singh, Vishwas and Sumit, Akash Singh along with Press Club members and staff managed the event.

## Organ donation awareness programme organised in GMC Udhampur

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 9: Jammu And Kashmir State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) organized an Awareness Programme for organ donation for faculty, students and paramedical staff of GMC Udhampur in association with the Department of General Surgery.

Principal GMC Udhampur, Prof Dr Mrityunjay presided over the event and welcomed the SOTTO team and special guests, Col R Venkat Narayanan, Reconstructive Surgeon and Col Priya Taank, Eye Transplant Surgeon, Command Hospi-

tal (NC) Udhampur.

Head, Department of Surgery Prof Dr Neeraj Koul was the Chief Organiser of the event.

Head of Urology GMC Jammu cum Nodal Officer SOTTO J&K, Dr Elias Sharma delivered a lecture on Human Organ Donation and Transplantation explaining the dire need for Cadaveric Donation in India so that organs are available to save many lives and he clarified various myths associated with this.

Joint Director, SOTTO J&K, Dr Sanjeev Puri gave a brief presentation about the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) under Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare. He also encouraged the audience to participate in Organ Donation Pledge Drive under Ayushman Bhav.

Irfan Ahmed, Transplant Coordinator, SOTTO explained the sequence of events occurring in a cadaveric organ donation.

The event was anchored by Assistant Prof Community Medicine, GMC Udhampur, Dr Sujata Gupta.

A painting competition was also organised for Nursing students on the theme of organ donation. Winners were Sahaj Kour & Kritya (First), Divanshu (2nd) and Akansha (3rd).

## KDPW of DPAP demands elected assembly seat reservation in J&K for Kashmiri Hindus

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: In a joint statement issued by KDPW of DPAP, Sanjay Dhar President, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, Rajkumar Ticku General Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President and other leaders welcomed for giving first time heed by the Parliament regarding reservation of two Assembly Seats in J&K for Kashmiri Hindus but have expressed their dismay for reservation of these two seats on selected nomination basis who remain only yes men of the Ruling Party, as has been exercised by the previously nominated MLCs of this Community in the present ruling party, who have nothing got executed for the Kashmiri Hindu Displaced Commu-

nity betterment except using our Community sufferings on platforms of Politics and society, with promises of hollow assurances.

These leaders have categorically demanded that at least two constituencies would have been reserved where from elected representatives could be put in Assembly and the selected Assembly Members are not at all acceptable to our displaced people.

The Leaders have demanded that these reserved seats may be declared as elected instead of selected basis by making an amendment to the bill besides giving rights of election for these reserved seats to the Kashmiri Displaced Hindus living in exile as well as by the Hindus living still in Kashmir including PM Package employees living in various Transit Camps of Valley, so that

these elected Assembly Members can independently fight for mitigation of the Sufferings which has not been voiced in the Assembly of J&K since last thirty three years.

These Leaders have appealed for treating the said procedure for Two Seats Legislative Council as well as in the Parliament as the Kashmiri Hindu Community comes purely under minority category of Kashmir Valley.

The Leaders have appealed the Govt. of India to declare Kashmiri Hindu under Minority Status as this Community has let to float in the air being in minority.

The Leaders hope that Kashmiri Hindu of Kashmir whether in exile or in valley may get justice and can get rid of the disparity inflicted since last seventy years being true patriots of Indian Nation.

## Govt needs an excuse to put us under house arrest, claims Omar

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 9 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah Saturday expressed apprehension that mainstream politicians in Kashmir may be put under house arrest ahead of the Supreme Court's verdict on Article 370 petitions, claiming the government needs just an "excuse" for it.

He said he can only hope and pray the decision is in favour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"They need an excuse to put us under house arrest and they have an excuse. As we are unaware of what the decision would be, so are they. If they know, then there should be an

investigation," Abdullah told reporters in Kulgam district when asked about his views ahead of Monday's verdict. "Who will say with authority what is to happen? I do not have any such machinery or way by which I can come to know today what those five honourable judges have in their hearts, or what they have written in the judgement.

"I can only hope and pray that the decision is in our favour, but, I cannot neither claim that success will be ours, nor, anyone else can. We are waiting for the judgement, let it come, we will talk then," he said. To a question about what the NC's future course of action, the former chief minister said he does not react to ifs and buts.

"Let the decision come, we are not running away from here. We will react then," he added. Responding to another question about the expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra, Abdullah said it was very unfortunate. "After her expulsion, when Moitra spoke to media, Farooq (Abdullah) was present. Our full support and sympathy is with her.

We regret that she was not allowed to speak in the Parliament to clear her stand. This proves that might is right," he said. Omar said the BJP should remember that they will not be in power forever.

"Unfortunately, the tactics they are using today could probably be used against them in future," he said.

## Martyrdom of Dy Commandant BSF Shaheed Shamsheer Singh observed

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 9: 22nd Martyr's Day of Dy. Commandant BSF Shaheed Shamsheer Singh was observed at Shaheed Shamsheer Singh Dy. Comdt. GHSS Jourian.

Suraj Singh Bhatta Vice Chairman DDC was the Chief Guest. Smt. Krishna Devi, wife of Shaheed Shamsheer Singh and Romesh Singh Slathia Principal GHSS Jourian welcomed the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, S.S Bhatta applauded the valour and courage of Shaheed Shamsheer Singh and added that Shaheed Shamsheer Singh had left this world 22 years ago but his love for nation and the spirit to sacrifice life to

safeguard the countrymen shall always be remembered.

Suraj Singh Rathore Joint Secretary JKBOSE appreciated the efforts of Govt. of JKUT to rename GHSS Jourian as Shaheed Shamsheer Singh Dy. Comdt. GHSS Jourian. Subash Chander Sharma PO MC Jourian, Satish Kumar Shastri Commanding Officer 46 Bn BSF Akhnoor also attended the function. The Guard of Honour was given to the Martyr by Assistant Commandant 46 Bn BSF.

Heartfelt Pushpanjali was offered by PRI members, a large number of locals, officers and officials of different departments, teachers and students.