

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

India reports 166 new Covid cases, mostly from Kerala

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): India on Sunday recorded 166 fresh COVID-19 cases while the number of total active cases stood at 895, according to data put out by the Union Health Ministry.

The majority of fresh cases were reported in Kerala.

The recent daily average cases is about 100. The latest cases could be linked to winter season when influenza-like illnesses tend to rise.

The lowest number of single-day fresh cases since Covid onset was 24 in July this year.

Overall, India's Covid-19 tally stands at 4.44 crore and the death toll at 5,33,306, the ministry's data showed.

The case fatality rate in India stands at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 220.67 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the country so far.

Three men drown in river in Reasi

JAMMU, Dec 10 (Agencies): Three men on board an earth mover drowned in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said on Sunday.

The heavy vehicle belonging to a stone crusher was crossing a river near Sungri village of Chassana when it got submerged around 9 pm on Saturday, Station House Officer of local police station Inspector Suman Singh said.

He said the bodies of Nitish Kumar (22), Hoshiyar Singh (25) and Rajinder Kumar (27) were recovered by the rescuers and handed over to their families after completion of legal formalities for last rites.

Kashmir shivers, Konibal coldest at minus 6.0 degree Celsius

SRINAGAR, Dec 10 (Agencies): The minimum temperature continued to settle below freezing point in Kashmir while Konibal was coldest at minus 6.0 degree Celsius.

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Public welfare pursued by PM Modi influenced by Mahatma's ideals: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the influence of Mahatma Gandhi is writ large on all the work that has been done by the BJP-led Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the 'Dalit Samman Samaroh' in the national capital on Sunday, the Defence Minister said, "Gandhiji is in the hearts and minds of all countrymen. Everyone in the country and the world is familiar with Bapu's ideas, principles and his lifelong quest for the truth. He



came into this world 154 years ago, on October 2. To me, October 2 marks not just the birth of an individual but a chapter in our history. It marks an epoch."

"The work that we have undertaken under the leadership of Prime

Minister Modi is influenced by the thoughts and ideas espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. Though our banks were nationalised much before we came to power, it wasn't until Modi-ji became prime minister that a member

of every household, across all sections of society, could open bank accounts of their own. (Jan Dhan) Accounts of worth in excess of Rs 50 crore have been opened to date," Singh said.

Also unveiled a statue of the Mahatma at his memorial, Rajghat, on Sunday, the Raksha Mantri said the first initiative that PM Modi after assuming the reins of the country was the 'Swachhta Abhiyaan' (cleanliness campaign). "As is widely known, Gandhi-ji was a stickler for cleanliness in his lifetime. I believe that the

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Hope SC delivers verdict in favour of people of J&K: Ghulam Nabi Azad on Article 370 Petitions

SRINAGAR, Dec 10 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed hope on Sunday that the Supreme Court will deliver a verdict in favour of the people here on a bunch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019.

"I have said it earlier ... there are only two (institutions) that can return articles 370 and 35A to the people of Jammu and Kashmir — Parliament and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court bench is non-partisan and we hope that it will give a decision in favour of the people of



Jammu and Kashmir," Azad told reporters here. Azad, who floated the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) after parting ways with the Congress, said he cannot foresee Parliam-

ent reversing the decisions taken on August 5, 2019 as it would require a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha.

"To return Article 370 and Article 35A would require 350 seats (in the

Lok Sabha). Any regional party in Jammu and Kashmir can get three, four or a maximum of five seats. That would not be enough. I do not see the

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Peaceful struggle for restoration of rights of J&K people will continue: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Dec 10 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah said on Sunday that his party will not disturb the peace in Jammu and Kashmir even in case of an adverse Supreme Court verdict on petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said his party will continue with its fight



for the restoration of the rights of the people of the region through peaceful means as laid

down in the Constitution. "The Supreme Court has to give its verdict, let it. If we had to disturb the

situation, we would have done it after 2019. However, we said it then and we reiterate it now that our fight will be peaceful and in accordance with the Constitution, taking help of the law for protecting our rights and preserving our identity. "What is wrong in it? Don't we have a right to say this in a democracy? Can't we raise objections in a democracy? If others can talk, why

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CB Files Charge Sheet Against Director Of Gujarat-Based Company For Fraud In Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch has filed a charge sheet against the director of Gujarat-based Armada Bazar Private Limited for allegedly cheating two investors of Rs 3 crore, the agency said on Sunday.

The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch (Jammu) filed the charge sheet in court against Parshuram Rajnetbhai Pal — a



resident of Ahmedabad in Gujarat — for hatching a criminal conspiracy and cheating two locals after luring them to invest Rs 3 crore in the company, it said in a statement.

The case stems from a written complaint lodged by two locals — Sanna Gandogra and Sanjay Kumar Gupta — claiming that they were approached by Armada Bazar Private Limited to make a refundable investment in the company, the

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Adequate arrangements made to ensure peace in Kashmir: IGP V K Birdi

SRINAGAR, Dec 10 (Agencies): Adequate security arrangements have been made to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir as the Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict on Monday on a bunch of petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution by the Centre in August 2019, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

"We are duty-bound to ensure that peace prevails in the valley under all circumstances," Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone V K Birdi said.

The Supreme Court has listed for pronouncement of judgment the petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

A five-judge bench of the apex court reserved



its verdict on the petitions on September 5 after conducting daily hearings in the matter from August 2.

While the IGP refused to divulge specifics of the security set-up for Monday, he said "adequate arrangements" have been put in place.

"We are taking all precautions and will ensure that peace is not disturbed in Kashmir," Birdi, who held security review meetings in most of the 10 valley districts over the last two weeks, said.

Asked if orders invoking section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) on the misuse of social

media were related to the Supreme Court's expected judgment, he said there have been several incidents of some elements trying to provoke people.

"There have been several posts recently, in which there were attempts to provoke people. Action has been taken against such elements in the past and action will be taken in the future as well," he added.

The authorities here have issued guidelines for social media users under CrPC section 144 to curb the spread of contents that are communally sensitive or promote terrorism and secessionism.

"The guidelines aim to provide clarity on actions citizens should take when encountering content related to terrorism, secessionism, threats, intimidation or communally-sensitive material on social media platforms," the circular,

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Rajput Leader's Murder | Two shooters among three held in Chandigarh

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): In a joint operation with the Rajasthan Police, the Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested three men, including two shooters, from Chandigarh for their alleged involvement in the killing of Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, officials said Sunday.

Gogamedi was gunned down in the living room of his house in Jaipur on December 5. A CCTV footage had surfaced

purportedly showing the assailants opening fire at Gogamedi.

Police had identified the two alleged killers as Rohit Rathore from Jaipur and Nitin Fauji from Haryana's Mahendragarh, and announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh for information leading to their arrest.

Delhi Police sources on Sunday said a team of the Crime Branch in a joint operation with the Rajasthan Police nabbed the duo from Chandigarh's Sector 22.

They were accompanied by one more associate, Udham Singh, who was also caught.

According to a police officer, the accused will be handed over to the Jaipur police for further interrogation.

An 11-member SIT was formed by the Rajasthan Police to nab the accused.

On Saturday, another man was arrested in Jaipur for allegedly contracting the shooters to kill Gogamedi.

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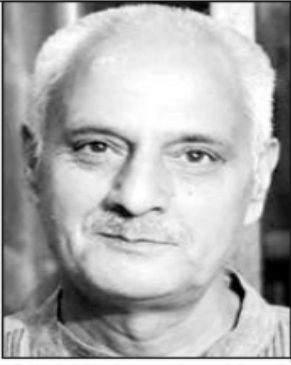
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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

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 RAMEELA 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. PL. 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, 706331320



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, Parsvath 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 & Ruppicy (Son & Daughter-in-law) [9891221696 / 7982540533]
Sunita & Ashvani Kalpshu (Daughter & Son-in-law) [9910604755/ 9650126238]
Aseem Hustoo & Sneha (Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-law)
Amit Hustoo & Diksha (Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-law)
Shivam Kalpshu, Sakshym Hustoo, Ayush Kalpshu (Grandsons)
Aarna Hustoo (Great Grand-Daughter)
Hustoo's, Pandita's, Mattoo's, Kaul's, Motta's, Bhat's



Smt. Usha Hustoo (Bengashi/Rani)

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

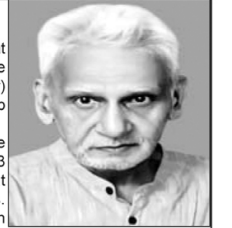
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar (Retd SSP JKP)** S/o Late Sh. Raghu Nath Nazar on 5/12/23 (Tuesday) originally resident of Sallar, Anantnag Kashmir presently residing at H.No 71, Sector-2, Sharika Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 13/12/23 (Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near (Directorate of School Education) At 9:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Vijay Nazar D/o Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Raina (Batagund Krindi Gham, Bijnbehara) - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sunny Nazar & Priyanka Nazar
Rohit Nazar & Rohi Nazar
Dr Sanju Nazar
Brother & Sister-in-Law : SH. Bushan Lal Nazar & Smt Krishna Nazar
Smt Kishni Bhat W/o Late J L Bhat - Sister and Brother-in-law
Smt Ratni Bhat W/o Sh. C L Bhat - Sister and Brother-in-law
Smt Phoola Pandita W/o Late A N Pandita - Sister and Brother-in-law
Grand Children : Saanvi, Saphal, Bhavik
Mob No.: 7889477519, 7006942522



Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar (Retd SSP JKP)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta** (S/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal Gupta & Smt. Soma Devi of Akhnor) presently residing at 27 E-Ext, Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo passed away on 30/11/2023.
TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence (27 E-Ext, Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo) on 9/12/2023 from 11 am to 1 pm. **KRIYA** will be performed at our residence on 12/12/2023 from 11 am onwards. **UTHALA** will be performed at our residence on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 12 noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Raj Karmi (Wife)
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Sonika Mahajan & Manohar Gupta
Monika & Brij Mohan Suri
Dr. Sonalika & Dr. Gaurav Sharma
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Dr. Arun Jandial & Prem Gupta
Sanjay Gupta & Richa Gupta
Nephews & Nieces
Pranav Jandial, Ritwik Gupta,
Pragya Mahajan, Falguni Gupta
Grandchildren:
Anurudh, Anurag, Ankit, Aiyaan, Atharva
Mob.No: 941910495, 941921816



Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta (1946-2023)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

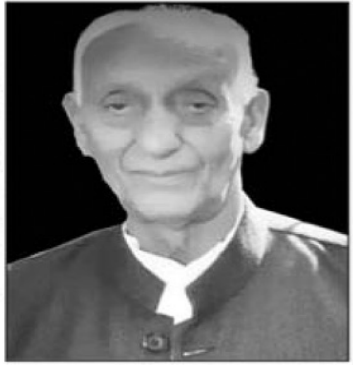
With profound grief and sorrow we inform sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shyama Kaul** W/o Shri Girdhari Lal Kaul (Karwani), originally from Zaindar Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir; R/o House No. 30, Sector 2, Campost Colony, Jampur, Jammu. Currently at 7B, Golden Crest, CHS Plot No 12 Sector 52, Gurgaon.
The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 14-December-2023 at 8.30 am at Gauri Shankar Temple, T-Block, Phase - 1, Sector - 109, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram - 122017.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Girdhari Lal Kaul - Husband
Kishni Trisal - Sister in law
Sons & Daughters in Law
Ravi & Kalpana Kaul
Kamlesh & Sunita Kaul
Vijay Kaul & Shweta Kaul
Grand Sons & Daughter in law
Rohit & Garima Kaul
Satyam Kaul
Ayushman Kaul
Krish Kaul
Grand Daughters & Son in law
Shivangi & Akshay Mugloo
Isha Kaul
In Grief
Karwani's, Kaloos, Trisals
Phone No. 8800459977, 9953629366



Smt. Shyama Kaul

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of **SH. SHIV JI PANDITA** S/o Lt. Gopal Pandita originally resident of Arigam (Budgam) presently at H.No. 353, Sector 3, Gangyal Garden Jammu on 4th December 2023 (Monday). **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 13.12.2023.
Grief Stricken:
Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Chuni & Sh. Brij Nath Pandita
Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt Asha & Sh. P. L. Pandita
Smt. Geeta & Sh. Ramesh Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Sarla & Sh. Ram Ji Koul
Smt. Guddi & Sh. Avtar Krishan Pandita
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Ramesh Pandita
Mob.No. 9149482517, 7006499497, 6005428465



KARAMYOGI SH. SHIV JI PANDITA

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sheela Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mast Ram Magotra R/o 9/59, Arya Samaj Gali, Udhampur on 3/12/2023.
Tenth Day will be performed at Arya Samaj School, Udhampur on 12/12/2023 (Tuesday) from 11.30 am onwards.
Kriya will be performed at Devika Ghat Udhampur on 13/12/2023 from 10.00 am onwards.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Kiran Magotra & Sh. Pawan Magotra (Mango) - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Sheetal Magotra & Sh. Neeraj Magotra - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Prem Lata & Sh. Madan Gopal - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Darshana & Sh. Virender - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Neelam & Sh. Ashok Kumar - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children : Abhishek, Madhusudan, Vasu
M/s D M Traders (Neeluwala), Arya Samaj Gali Udhampur
M/s Annapurna Bhandar
M/s Annapurna Enterprises (Old Industrial Estate, Udhampur)
Mob.: 9419896657, 9797401614, 7780817000



Smt. Sheela Devi

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 GHAT (NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION).
WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU. YOU WILL STAY IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.
MISSIED 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 SUHAAN, 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 Saproo
Smt. Ronica Raina & Sh. Binny Dass
Smt. Reticca Raina & Sh. Ranjan Dubey
Miss Tanishqa (Great Grand Daughter)
Contact no: 7006836499, 9906603710, 9149806648



Smt. Uma Shorie Raina

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sdn. Davinder Kour** W/o Late S. Gurcharan Singh R/o Azad Nagar, Karanbagh.
Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 10-12-23 at our residence at 9 am.
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 12-12-23 at our residence
Kirtan and Antim Ardass from 10:30 to 12:00 Noon at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son and Daughter in law
Sdn. Gurjot Kour and S. Ranjeet Singh Bedi (Career Edge Institute)
S. Ranvijay Singh Bedi- **Grandson** **Mob.: 94191-90735, 94693-71435**



Sdn. Davinder Kour

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 Bhusan
Smt. Reva & Sh. Rajinder Kumar
Grand Children: Aanya, Aayaan, Armaan, Amay



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

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) 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
Rohani, Medhasvi, Praniti, Yuvraj, and Swaraj - Grand Children
Mob.: 9419132655, 9419166343



Smt. Kanta Devi

UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **MR VARUN GUPTA** S/O LT SMT KIRAN GUPTA & LT SH GURU SAROOP GUPTA R/O H NO 88/A, SHASTRI NAGAR, JAMMU.
UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 11TH DEC, 2023 (MONDAY) AT RAM MANDIR (OPP NIRANKARI BHAWAN) SHASTRI NAGAR JAMMU AT 4-5 P.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN
BHABHI & BROTHER
SMT SHRUTI & SH TARUN GUPTA
SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW
SMT NIDHI ABROL & SH HEMANT ABROL (TAYI & TAYA JI)
SMT RANI & SH RAM SAROOP GUPTA
CHACHU & CHACHU
LT SMT ARTI GUPTA & SH RAJINDER GUPTA
SMT NEELAM & AR ASHOK K MAHAJAN
SMT SUNITA & LT SH VIPAN GUPTA
SMT JYOTI & SH DEEPAK GUPTA
BJA & FUFAD
SMT SUSHILA & DR RAJ KUMAR GUPTA
SMT SANDHYA & SH RAMAN MAHAJAN
M/S DAYAL TOUR & TRAVELS
MOB-9906076892, 9797345983



Mr Varun Gupta

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Arun Kumar Bakshi** R/o H.No. 131 Sec-13 Nanak Nagar Jammu on 1st Dec 2023.
UTHALA will be held on Monday 11th Dec. 2023 from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Shiv Mandir Sector-3 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Priya Bakshi- Wife
All Bakshi and Sassan Family
9622317085, 9086723812



Sh. Arun Kumar Bakshi

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.
Aarambh 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 Ardass 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)

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PM Modi introduced schemes for women empowerment: MP Khatana

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Dec 10: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today flagged off Modi an awareness rally on Women empowerment organized by J&K Peace Foundation and Govt Degree College for Women, Anantnag here.

Fayaz Ahmed Bhat, president Peace Foundation, Prof. Dilruba Rasool Hamdani and prominent persons were present on the occasion. Later a plantation drive and a seminar was also held on the college campus.

Addressing the seminar, MP Gulam Ali Khatana highlighted the remarkable socio-economic transformation that has taken place in the conditions of women under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that Govt is very particular that benefit of every scheme reaches to the last man



and ensures follow up on every scheme.

MP Khatana said that two-three families looted whole of Jammu and Kashmir and flourished while common many is still struggling for the common needs. He said that since abrogation of Article 370, a complete transformation has been seen in the law and order situation in UT, education sector is back on rails, and hartal calendars are no where to be seen. He urged

young generation to excel in their respective fields and go for start ups and own business ventures.

MP Khatana commended Peace Foundation for their outstanding work in the realm of women empowerment.

Earlier, the Seminar commenced with the recital of the National Anthem followed by a lamp lighting ceremony by Chief Guest Engineer Ghulam Ali Khatana, Chairman Dr Fayaz

Ahmad Bhat, Madam Principal and other dignitaries. Chairman Peace Foundation Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, presented the Welcome Address.

Principal Prof. Dilruba Rasool Hamdani sensitized the audience about the issues confronted by women folk and laid stress upon the need for promoting gender equality for a sustainable future. She also complimented chairperson Peace Foundation for the laudable initiatives taken by the Foundation for reducing gender gap and boosting women empowerment.

The proceedings were conducted by Prof. Arif Husain Wani, Convener College Debates & Seminar Committee. Mohd. Ramzan Mir, Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag presented the vote of thanks. The event concluded with the presentation of awards to different contributors.

Mohtra presents books on Praja Parishad movement to LG



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Incharge of Nanaji Deshmukh Library of Jammu and Kashmir BJP, presented books on Praja Parishad and other movements to the J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, when the later visited different stalls after inaugurating the Mahotsav 2023 at Gulshan Ground, Jammu.

The 2-day Mahotsav 2023 event has been organised to showcase the rich culture, art, crafts and developing Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Nanaji Deshmukh Library had placed a large number of books on historic movements and developments in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir depicting pre 1947 and post 1947 history, in a stall in gulshan ground, Jammu.

These books titled 'Saga of Sacrifices-Praja Parishad Movement', '100 Documents- Reference Book on Jammu and Kashmir', in both English and Hindi languages were placed in the stall for sale. In addition to it, free of cost pamphlets containing important and inspiring speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and achievements of Modi government were also placed in the stall.

People in large numbers visiting this stall, displayed deep interest in the books in particular.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, assisted by e-library Incharge Pallavi Gupta, also replied to the queries of a number of people and explained them in details many historic incidents of Praja Parishad Movement and the supreme sacrifices of great Indian patriots, who devoted their lives for the cause of the nation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Purnima demands Jharkhand CM's resignation, says tirade against corruption must be intensified in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir and former Dy Mayor Jammu, while making a scathing attack on the opposition parties' conglomerate for being an unprecedented model of corruption, has demanded immediate resignation of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren as multiple scams have taken place during his governance. She also demanded that the tirade against corruption must be intensified in Jammu and Kashmir too where some disgruntled political leaders have amassed huge wealth through corruption for about seven decades after independence.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader while commenting on the recovery of a huge sum of cash by central probe agencies during raids at locations related to a business group linked to Congress MP from Jharkhand Dhiraj Prasad Sahu asserted that the incumbent Chief Minister owns the

responsibility of multiple scams during his tenure and has lost the right to continue in the office any more. She said that the recent incidents have made it crystal clear that opposition party leaders including the Congress leaders are working 24X7 on a single point agenda of filling their pockets with money made through corrupt means thus committing a great fraud on the nation and its people.

Purnima Sharma said that the people today are fully aware about the disservice to the nation by the opposition alliance and have already displayed their strong intent and will to wipe out corruption through BJP governance. She said that this is evident from the recent assembly poll results. People have endorsed Prime Minister Modi's fight against corruption with the arrest of several leaders of the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and the Trinamool Congress on corruption charges and that is why they have decided to ensure BJP governance across the nation led by PM Modi Govt at the Centre.

The senior BJP leader reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government at the Centre stands fully committed to eradication of corruption besides nailing the culprits involved in this dirty game.

LG-led Admin failed to fulfill promises made to border dwellers: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

RAMGARH (Samba), Dec 10: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) in Jammu, has accused the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha-led Union Territory Administration and the Central Government of failing miserably to fulfill the promises made to border dwellers. As a result, he claimed, they are living in utter misery. He emphasized that the government has betrayed the youth by not raising the Police Battalions as promised and failing to address their unemployment issues. The senior National Conference leader expressed these concerns while addressing a one-day conference held at Ramgarh in the Samba district today. The meeting was presided over by Saudagar Gupta, District President.

Rattan Lal Gupta criticized the incumbent UT Government for being a proxy of the BJP Government at the centre, continuing to emulate the 'Jumlia' Government. He pointed out the unfulfilled promise of providing 5 Marla plots to border dwellers, which seems to have vanished into oblivion. He asserted that border dwellers, who constitute a significant line of defense in border areas next to the Border Security Force, deserve top-most priority for basic facilities and welfare. However, he lamented that the bunkers constructed for their use during border shelling



are sub-standard and almost defunct, leading to frustration among the border dwellers.

Highlighting further failures of the LG Administration, Gupta noted that health centers in these areas are running without doctors and that ambulances are unavailable for critical patients during emergencies.

Gupta also castigated the Government for creating a false development narrative while ignoring the genuine issues of the people, evident from the deplorable condition of the border areas and the neglect of their inhabitants.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary of JKNC, in his address, encouraged the people of the Ramgarh area to support Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for the overall development of the area.

Ashok Attri, Vice President of the Central Zone JKNC, who organized the meeting, detailed the hardships faced by border dwellers, including a lack of basic amenities such as doctors in health centers, closed primary schools, non-

availability of pensions for senior citizens and widows, and dilapidated infrastructure.

Bimla Luthra, a senior NC leader, addressed the specific miseries faced by women, especially those living in border areas.

Vijay Lochan, Chairman of the SC Cell JKNC, slammed the Administration for depriving border dwellers despite them constituting a significant section of the Union Territory.

Rakesh Singh Raka, Zonal Vice President of JKNC, raised concerns over the government's neglect in addressing the problems faced by the farming community. He criticized the BJP Government for not fulfilling promises like doubling farmers' income and providing minimum selling prices for crops.

The meeting was also attended by District Vice President Mittar Pal Singh, Block President Sat Pal, Joginder Kumar, Swarn Singh, youth leader Rahul Attri, Yash Pal, District President of OBC, Pinky Khalsa, Joginder Kour, and other functionaries of District and Block levels.

VBSY held in Herman block of Shopian

SHOPIAN, Dec 10: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, today was held at Panchayat Halgas Chakoora, Chaki Sidiq Khan, Check Chullan, Reshipora, Chotigam and Herman of Hermain block, amid a warm welcome by the locals and PRI Members.

During the programme, the officers of the line departments underscored the importance of bringing Government schemes closer to communities, igniting a spirit of development.

The van displayed a video message of the PM, urging the people to take a pledge to work for the progress and prosperity of the country. The people present at the event took the Sankalp pledge and expressed their commitment for the cause.

During the day several sports events and cultural programmes were presented by the students in these Panchayats who participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm through songs, dances and skits thereby fostering a sense of unity and celebration.

The people of these Panchayats were made aware of the Government and centrally sponsored schemes in these Panchayats which include, PM Awas Yojna, PM Kisan, KCC, Ujjwala, Umeed, PM Garib Kalyan, etc. meant for the overall benefit of the downtrodden and poor.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR
e-mail : xenpwddivgandhinagar@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/40 of 2023-24 Dated 06-12-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of document (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Parking Shed at DEERS Complex, Gladni, Narwal, Jammu (Under Major Head 5425 Capex 2023-24)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	13.00	600	26000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 15-12-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
2	Up-gradation / renovation of Office Complex Narwal, Jammu (Under Major Head 4405 Fisheries)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	2.95	600	5900 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 15-12-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- S.No. 1 accorded by Director Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing J&K vide No. 124 DEERS of 2023 dated 30-10-2023 and S.No. 2 accorded by Director Fisheries J&K Jammu vide No. 497 of 2023 dated 08-11-2023

Position of TS :- S.No. 1 sanctioned by this office vide order No. 48/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2023-24 dated 30-11-2023 and S.No. 2 sanctioned by this office vide order No. 45/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2023-24 dated 21-11-2023

Project Authority :- S.No. 1 Director Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing J&K and S.No. 2 Director Fisheries J&K

Major Head of Account :- S.No. 1 5425-Capex 2023-24 and S.No. 2 4405-Fisheries

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 Issue of Tender Notice	06-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-12-2023 to 14-12-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	09-12-2023 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
4	Bid submission Start Date	06-12-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	14-12-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15-12-2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. 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 Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar at the time of allotment.

2. 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 to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

.. Sd..
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-12331/23

DC, SSP Bandipora hold interaction with Civil Society, Traders, Transporters

Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Dec 10: The District Administration of Bandipora Sunday organized a consultative interaction, bringing together members of the civil society, traders, and transport associations to foster open dialogue and collaboration for the betterment of the community.

The interaction was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad. SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, ADDC Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi besides others were also present on the occasion.

The interaction aimed to create a platform for constructive discussions, allowing stakeholders to voice their concerns, share



insights, and contribute to the decision-making process.

Key representatives from various segments of society actively participated in the session, engaging in fruitful discussions on issues ranging from

local development initiatives to concerns related to trade and transportation.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora said that the diverse range of perspectives brought forth during the interaction will play a pivotal role in shaping future

policies and initiatives for the benefit of the entire district.

He expressed gratitude for the active participation and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing community challenges.

Dr Owais said the District Administration acknowledges the vital role played by civil society, traders, and transporters in the socio-economic fabric of Bandipora. Through such dialogues, the administration seeks to strengthen its ties with these crucial stakeholders, ensuring that their voices are not only heard but also incorporated into the decision-making process.

Participants on the occasion thanked district administration for providing them with a platform to apprise them about their issues and demands.

EDITORIAL

INHUMANITY
IN THIS ERA

The main difference between animals and social animals is that social animals have a humanity kind of trait by which they get recognized as 'humans'.

Humans are the only lone skilled and solely a self-effacing living thing on the earth. Perhaps they do comprise data about right and wrong that's why grown-ups usually make fuss about escorting a life of discipline. They educate their younger ones to be a human since infants seize ingress to the eventful planet.

Humanity is a boon which is highly required in today's era. Seniors know very well about the word humanity and even tutors about it to others but they do not pursue themselves with this kind of trait and eventually get into the rows very soon in fact at every moment. This behavior of elders leaves a solemn repercussion on kids and consequently they also acclimatize with this kind of deeds which pilots to offensive wars.

Subsequently, this creates a picture of hula-baloo among the people of today. And this is what absolutely occurring. The same has installed in primitive in fact aggravated than the current one. The 2 happened world wars was nothing but the consequences of inhumanity. People's doldrums are so engrossing that they lean on taking revenge from others who have done awful to them. It's for a dime a dozen that humans never forget their bad hair moments and usually have a chip on their shoulder for perennial.

The ardent of taking revenge kills off the humanity even from the pristine ones. Visually the love, heed, care etc...have lost from the heart of humans. Spontaneously, there is an elevation in myriad crimes, a feeling of pompous intermediate of humans etc. people have become so pitiless that they don't presume about other poor fellows before wildering off foodstuffs which is pretty much prominent. And bit by bit they are trying to cut off all the links with poor as well. The life is day by day getting harder and complicated for everyone but humanity hasn't shown any gesture yet.

Humanity is like a dry pale yellow leaf which always stays at the end stage. That is to say, humanity crushes off in one when others do het up talks about the particular person just like the dry yellow leaves get broken down whilst stepping at them, on the other hand humanity rises when one praises us just like the leaves fly up when one passes through without stepping them. We usually behave with strangers in a way that they never get hurt by us until they don't hurt us. But this is not humanity because it is a character which humans ought to have for perennial in order to live peacefully in the world and to care for the poor ones and of course to remain human.

We have been entitled as humans just to have a humanity to maintain difference intermediate animals and humans but in this epoch there is a lack of it. Even though others hurt us but we shouldn't give negative response to them but instead show them the right path and genially manipulate them so that they would also get their humanity back. This is the best way to end crimes in the world.

Inhumanity is clearly highlighted by the current happening affairs like a South African who had won miss gay pageant was murdered recently; there is still a feeling of superior and inferior between blacks and whites. The black and white female athletes are also not considered equal in spite of being evenly talented. Discrimination on the basis of caste and creeds are also in play.

Disparities amid girls and boys are also seen in some parts of the world by not enrolling girls in better schools, colleges like those of boys. And the most aggravated one is the spread of baby boxes in Europe mainly for baby girls. There are many more affairs which gives us devastating sensations.

No 'son-rise' in MP, Chhattisgarh, Raj; knives are out for Kamal Nath

By: Anita Katyal

As the Bharatiya Janata Party top brass mulled the choice of chief ministers for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the main claimants for this coveted post were forced to rein themselves in. Though former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje did meet a group of newly-elected legislators loyal to her, she was constrained from challenging the party leadership because she has to consider her son Dushyant Singh's political career. Similarly, former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh has to necessarily lie low because of his son Abhishek, who won a Lok Sabha seat in 2014 but was denied a ticket in the 2019 general election after the BJP wipe-out in the 2018 state election. Then there is Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan who is grooming his two sons — Kartikeya and Kunal — in politics. Apparently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were not pleased with Chouhan's efforts to promote his sons by taking them with him to public functions. At one point, Chouhan's wife Sadhna was always in the news and was privately referred to as his fund manager. She has not been seen or heard in public for the past several years. The political future of the four sons

appears uncertain.

Knives are out for veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath ever since the party suffered a shock defeat in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls. As president of the party's state unit, Kamal Nath, who led the election campaign, had convinced the Congress leadership that they were on their way to wresting the state from the Bharatiya Janata Party. No sooner were the results declared that conspiracy theories started doing the rounds. The chatter in the party is that there was internal sabotage and that Kamal Nath gave up the fight weeks before polling day. It is being whispered that the former chief minister was under pressure to forgo the election as his businessman nephew Ratul Puri is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation for several fraud cases. He was taken into custody and is currently out on bail. Others in the party maintain it was Mr Nath's over-confidence which did the Congress in. Mr Nath and his coterie members, they charged, were so sure of forming the next government that they started acting as if they were already in power.

And in Rajasthan, former president of the Congress state unit Sachin Pilot is enjoying the plight of his bete noire, outgoing chief minister Ashok Gehlot who has come under sharp attack from his

officer on special duty Lokesh Sharma. Not only does Mr Gehlot suffer the ignominy of a defeat but he has now to contend with Mr Sharma's public barbs. Denied a ticket in the recent election, Mr Sharma launched an all-out offensive against his former boss, saying that Mr Gehlot was solely responsible for the party's marginalisation and that Mr Gehlot did not provide the right feedback to the Congress leadership and did not allow an alternative leader to emerge in the state. This last bit is obviously music to Mr Pilot's ears given his long standing battle with Mr Gehlot for greater political space. Mr Pilot has not made any public statement but he is not averse to drawing the media's attention to Mr Sharma's outburst against Mr Gehlot.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav was quick to lash out at the Congress after its poor performance in the three Hindi heartland states. But reports from Lucknow suggest that Akhilesh's party is in no better position in Uttar Pradesh. It is expected that as the biggest Opposition party in the electorally important state, the Samajwadi Party would line up a series of political activities to energise its own cadre and highlight people's grievances. But Akhilesh Yadav and the other Opposition parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress, seem to have given

up the fight. BSP chief Mayawati surfaces occasionally to issue a statement while the Congress UP-in charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is busy campaigning in other states. In contrast, the BJP has been preparing for the polls for the past several months. Its state unit and local leaders are constantly organising some programme or the other, be it a voter awareness campaign, helping people with scrutiny of electoral rolls or taking out yatras in their respective constituencies. They are visible and vocal but the same can't be said about the other Opposition parties.

After the Congress losses in the three Assembly elections, there is a buzz in the party about the need for a generational shift and replacing the old guard with younger leaders. Sceptics maintain this may prove difficult as the Congress has so far failed to groom a second line of leaders, pointing out that it could not even find chief ministers from its own ranks. Two of its three chief ministers — Siddaramaiah and A. Revanth Reddy — are lateral entrants to the party. The Karnataka chief minister is from the Janata Dal family while the new Telangana chief minister began with the ABVP and was with the Telugu Desam Party before joining the Congress. In fact, this is a sore point with Congress old timers who feel "outsiders" are being rewarded while loyalists have been ignored.

Technical skills will increase opportunities for B Pharma



By: Vijay Garg

These days, work in research and innovation in the field of pharmaceuticals has increased. But the situation of lack of skills is also visible here. According to a report of the year 2022, there is a shortage of 80 percent skills in the field of pharmaceutical manufacturing. According to a study by the Indian Pharmacists Association, the demand for clinical pharmacists is expected to increase by 15 percent in the next five years. Why do B Pharm? 1. Pharmacy world's second largest Is the profession with the largest scope. 2. Opportunities open up in many sectors related to the field of healthcare. 3. In view of the aging population of the world and the increasing fear of epidemics, the need for these professionals has increased. 4. It is a global profession. With appropriate education and courses,

opportunities can also be found abroad. 5. There are posts for youth with this degree in various government departments also. Like Army, Government Medical College, Railways, Health Ministry etc. 6. Better sellers in entry level jobs compared to other fields It can start from twenty five thousand rupees per month. These skills are also needed B Pharm graduates can further expand their opportunities by pursuing certified programs in Quality Assurance, Pharmacovigilance, Regulatory Affairs, etc. There is a demand for skills in production, research and development in this sector. Learning some technical skills will increase your grip on opportunities. There are some such technical skills. AI and Machine Learning: In the growing trend of smart medicine, artificial intelligence and machine learning are being used in drug trials. And a lot of work is going on in the process of construction etc. Big Data and Analytics: In this sector, the use of Big Data analytics and virtual and augmented reality skills has increased in clinical research. Most of the companies are taking the help of telemedicine, electronic health records, cloud computing etc. Coursera; futurelearn; Udacity; edX; www.igmpi.ac.in are some platforms for upskilling. their demand is This expertise will prepare

the Clinical Research Associate for global opportunities. As a Clinical Research Associate You will get opportunities in pharmaceutical companies or units related to medical tests. Regulatory Affairs Specialist Regulatory affairs specialists typically work for government agencies or pharmaceutical companies. Pharmacovigilance specialist A pharmacovigilance specialist collects and analyzes data on the use of medicines and medical devices and works to prevent related risks. They work for government agencies or companies. Pharmacists Pharmacists are professionals in the healthcare sector who Which provide guidance on the distribution of medicines and the use of medicines that can be used without medical advice. What will be the roadmap? 1.B. For Pharma, choose Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Maths in 12th. 2. Give national level entrance examination for B Pharma course. 3. After graduation, you will get job opportunities in pharmaceutical companies in positions like Research Associate, Medical Writer, Drug Safety Associate, MR in sales department, Chemist, Drug Coordinator, Pharmacist, etc. 4. Diploma for Higher Education. You can do courses like PG Diploma in Clinical Research, Diploma in Drugstore Management, Post Graduate Diploma in Pharma-

cy Practice, and PG Diploma in Clinical Trial Management. 5. After Masters, PhD, MBA, opportunities will open in the field of Pharmaceutical Management, Clinical Reserve Management. These are the entrance exams 1. Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test The most important of the many entrance exams for B Pharma is the Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test (GPAT) conducted by the National Testing Agency. This is a national It is a level exam. 2. Entrance examinations of various states: Various states also conduct entrance examinations. Like Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (MH CET), West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination (WBJEE) and Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) etc. Many private institutes also conduct entrance exams for BPharma course. Major Institute 1. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad 2. Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi University, Punjab University Institute or Ph. Chemical Technology, BITS Pilani, Manipal Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences Institute of JSS College of Pharmacy

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout)

Rajiv Jasrotia participates in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Ward 12

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 10: Former Minister today Rajiv Jasrotia today participated Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Ward 12 as a part of national outreach programme to inform people of Govt's welfare schemes. Addressing an impressive gathering, Jasrotia said while doling out schemes is one part of initiative, the other is to make sure that the schemes reach the needy particularly direct benefit transfer to address loopholes and prevent leakages since 2019.

He said that a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year, distributed in three equal installments every four months, is transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers' families nationwide through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. To date, these benefits total more than Rs 2.61 lakh crores, benefiting over 11 crore farmers across the nation.

He said Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has also launched a PM-KISAN AI Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra), offering farmers a one-stop solution for addressing grievances related to the PM-KISAN scheme. The aim is mammoth - to cover over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and over 3,600 urban local bodies by January 25, 2024, touching every district of the country.



He said the focus of yatra is to reach out to people and creating awareness about the benefits of welfare schemes like sanitation facilities, essential financial services, electricity connections, access to LPG cylinders, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutrition, reliable health-care, clean drinking water, etc. In this regard specially designed IEC (Information, Education and Communication) Vans have been put to action marking the launch of the massive outreach programme of the government. The central idea is to publicise schemes, to get data of those who have benefitted from these

schemes and to mark those who are eligible but haven't got the schemes yet, added Jasrotia. Jasrotia on the occasion publicized - Ayushman Bharat, PMJAY, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission, PM Awas Yojana (Rural), PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Vishwakarma, PM Kisan Saman, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PM Poshan Abhiyan, Har Ghar Jal - Jal Jeevan Mission, Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas (SVAMITVA), Jan Dhan Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, PM PRANAM, Nano Fertiliser. He also highlighted specific concerns of tribal areas such as Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, Enrolment in Eklayva Model Residential Schools, Scholarship Schemes, Forest Right Titles, Individual and Community Land, Van Dhan Vikas Kendra, Organising Self Help Groups.

Restore human rights of migrant Kashmiri Pandits: KPC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) on World Human Rights Day today on December 10, 2023, which is being observed throughout world, reminded whole world and international bodies as well as government about victim Kashmiri Pandit community, which was driven out of their homes nearly three decades ago by foreign terrorists, separatists and dreaded Muslim fundamentalists of Kashmir valley.

Kundan Kashmiri, President Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) appealed to national and international bodies as well as Govt of India not to shut their eyes towards ethnic cleansing and persecution of Kashmiri Pandit community and get their human rights restored at the earliest.

In a press statement issued here, KPC President Kundan Kashmiri said that human rights are certain inherent rights which are avail-

able to all humans irrespective of caste, color, creed, religion, simply because they are born as human beings. These rights are necessary for peaceful existence of humanity and are the right to liberty, equality and dignity of an individual which are ensured by the constitution, but despite fact there is a large scale of violations of these rights in particular to our victim KP community.

He said that it is an appropriate time to pay heed towards the persecuted KP community. Central Govt and UT administration should identify, acknowledge and provide much needed succor to KPs besides clamping down heavily on such elements, that were responsible for their plight.

Other KPC leaders like Tej Pandita, Dr.HL Saraf, Susheel Ji Bhat, M .K.Raina, SL Zuthsi, Rajender Dhar, Suraj Wali, R.L Raina and others also expressed their same views and demands.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Expands Reach to 11 More Panchayats in Udhampur District



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 10: The 15th day of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra witnessed significant strides, expanding its footprints to encompass 11 additional Panchayats in the Chenani, Kulwanta, Panchari, Tikri, Sewna, and Majalta Blocks of Udhampur District.

This commendable progress, achieved through the active involvement of diverse stakeholders, exemplifies the campaign's unwavering commitment to the widespread dissemination of crucial information regarding government schemes. The initiative aims to cultivate effective

awareness among the public, fostering a sense of empowerment and active citizen participation.

Noteworthy events of the day included enlightening lectures on various government welfare schemes, free medical camps, and sports activities. This comprehensive approach underscores the campaign's dedication to shaping a positive and impactful trajectory for community development.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra remains steadfast in its mission to empower citizens, encouraging them to play an active role in contributing to the socio-economic fabric of the nation.

OMR-based Panchayat Secretary examination conducted successfully in Ganderbal



Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Dec 10: The Service Selection Board Examination (SSB) for recruitment of Panchayat Secretary concluded smoothly across the district today here.

The Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir and Additional District Development

Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani visited the examination centres set up in the district to take stock of facilities and arrangements put in place for smooth and transparent conduct of written examinations.

The written examination for Panchayat Secretary concluded smoothly at all 15 designated centers across

the district.

The DC on the occasion enquired about the facilities made available for the students like seating, cleanliness, drinking water, lighting and heating in examination halls.

The DC hailed the efforts of Nodal officer and all concerned in ensuring successful conduct of examination across the district.

Meanwhile, Magistrates and videographers were deployed at all the examination centers besides district police had also put in place all necessary security arrangements for smooth conduct of examination.

Agriculture Department Organises Interactive Prog with farmers in Bijbehara

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 10: Agriculture Department Kashmir today organised an interactive programme at Subhan Pora Bijbehara Anantnag.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag Ajaz Ahmad Dar, Senior district Officers and a long no. of farmers.

Speaking on the occasion D.C Anantnag highlighted the importance of holding such interactive program with the farmers. He appreciated the role of the Agriculture



Sector in overall development of the district.

While addressing the farmers, Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal underscored the initiatives by the departments of Agriculture for the welfare and well being of the farming Community of the region.

He said the farmers feedback with respect to the ongoing implement-

tation of different programmes and schemes plays an important role in efficiency achieving the set targets under these programmes.

Earlier the farmers brought their views, ideas and feedback to the notice of visiting dignitaries patient having to their issues. They also ensured the farmers that their ideas and suggestions would definitely be taken care-off.

BJP working on the core principle of 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vishwas': Kavinder



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, has asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Govt at the Centre has worked relentlessly for the welfare of all sections of the society irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion or region consideration. Highlighting that BJP is working on the core principle of 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vishwas', he said that this principle is undoubtedly the hallmark of the incumbent Govt which no other Govt possessed for about seven decades post independence.

He expressed this in his address after initiating several programmes under the ongoing Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan at several Wards No. 47, 50, 44, 47 and 21 in Chatta area of Jammu

city.

It is pertinent to mention here that 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan' is a mass contact programme by the party calling to the people to re-elect the Narendra Modi government at the Centre in 2024, highlighting that this would further accelerate the pace of development not only in J&K Union territory but across the entire nation.

The senior BJP leader vociferously asserted that the incumbent BJP rule under PM Modi has proved that this Govt has unlike Congress party worked for the benefit of all communities including the Muslims of this nation in true letter and spirit. In this regard he said that Modi's vision quiet rightly emphasizes

"Development is only possible when Muslim youth hold Quran in one hand and computer/Laptop in the other," he

said, adding that opposition in order to hide their misdeeds and failures to address the genuine concerns of all communities are creating a false narrative against BJP accusing it of religious divide and hatred.

He said that the leaders of Congress, PDP and National Conference are issuing false statements in this regard in their constituencies only due to their chances of returning to power getting frustrated with each passing day.

Kavinder said that the fact remains that people of all communities including the Muslims today realize that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fight against terrorism and radicalization is not against any religion, but against a mindset that misguides the youth. He said that PM's vision stresses upon the strength of plural heritage and diversity of Indian society against extremism.

Kavinder urged the youth to associate themselves with the humanitarian aspects of Islam while using and benefitting from modern technology. He asked them to identify those spreading hate in the name of religion and outrightly reject such elements.

Modi govt has given "Suvidha, Suraksha, Samman" to women: Rekha Mahajan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Jan Seva is the essence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and it has been in service of the people since its inception. This was stated by BJP District President, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan, while addressing the general public of Jammu South to mark the BJP party's ongoing "Booth Jan Samvad" abhiyan public outreach program in Nanak Nagar area of Gandhi Nagar Mandal drops under District Jammu South.

District Vice President and Prabhari Gandhi Nagar Mandal Narinder Gupta Kokki, Mandal President Bharat Bhushan, Indu Puri, Speaker Divya Jain, Arvind, Vinay, Minority Morcha Mandal President Daljit Singh Gagandeep Singh, Surjit, Aman, Chanti Singh were prominent people present in the program.

While addressing the public, Rekha Mahajan emphasized, that when we look at the nine successful years tenure of the Modi government, i.e., from 2014 to 2023, we can affirmatively say that the Modi government has indeed succeeded in creating a system that made daily life of the common man easier.

Rekha Mahajan said in an endeavor to connect with its citizens, the Modi-led government started its journey towards a developed nation through "Viksit Bharat Sankalp



has provided "Suvidha, Suraksha, Samman" to women. Thoughtfully planned schemes like Ujjwala for Gas connections, Swachhta for female toilets, and Jal Jeevan for tap water in households not only provided Ease of Living to women but also gave them a sense of self-confidence with self-esteem. She counted that these multiple magical schemes transformed the lives of all segments of society. Rekha spotlighted that with the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, crores of women are now able to access toilets in their homes without any fear of safety or violation of dignity. She said walking long distances to fetch water for daily consumption is becoming a thing of the past as households across the country are getting tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Rekha Mahajan said in an endeavor to connect with its citizens, the Modi-led government started its journey towards a developed nation through "Viksit Bharat Sankalp

Yatra" a transformative journey that exemplifies the Government's commitment to the well-being of its citizens, covering all to the remotest corners in urban and rural areas of the Jammu South. She added the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is not just a program, it's a collective effort that brings together various government departments. This initiative is across the J&K as well in all states, leaving an indelible mark in all the corners of the country.

Rekha Mahajan highlights that the Modi government has brought justice to all the sections in Jammu & Kashmir, which were denied even the basic fundamental rights. He said that the Modi-led government has worked for the welfare of every person from every region and every religion. With strong faith in the policies of the BJP and Modi government, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir have made up their minds to vote for BJP in the upcoming Assembly election here, she said.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra covers 80 Panchayats in Samba District

Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 10: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a grassroots initiative to spread the message of development and progress, has completed its visit to 80 panchayats in Samba district. The Viksit Bharat Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van, has been traveling across the district delivering the Prime Minister's vision and inspiring the local communities.

On December 10, 2023, the yatra covered five more panchayats: Sarain and Papar avtara in Nud block, Patyari Katlan in Ghagwal block, and Bagla Jakh and Salmeri



in Vijaypur block. The yatra received a warm welcome from the residents and the

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), who expressed their support and enthusiasm for

the initiative. On the arrival of Vans various cultural events were organised, featuring performances by school children on the theme of "Dharti Kahe Pukaar Ke," and testimonies by beneficiaries of various government schemes under the banner of "Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani."

The yatra also facilitated the delivery of government services to the people by setting up departmental stalls at each panchayat. The stalls provided information and assistance on various schemes of health, agriculture, social welfare, and rural development.

One of the highlights of the day was a special event at Bagla Jakh panchayat in Vijaypur block, where Ex minister Chander Prakash Ganga, DDC Vijaypur Shilpa Dubey, Sarpanch Ramesh Kumar Sharma, and other PRI members graced the occasion and addressed the gathering. They praised the yatra for its positive impact and urged the people to participate in the Viksit Bharat mission.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra will continue its journey in the remaining panchayats of Samba district, aiming to reach out to every citizen and create a wave of development and progress in the region.

'Stranger Things' final season to start filming in January

Filming was postponed for over seven months due to the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes

Makers of the horror drama show 'Stranger Things' are all set to begin production of the final season of the show.

As per Variety, a US-based media outlet, production on the fifth and final season of the juggernaut Netflix series is currently set to begin in early January, according to multiple sources, though the start date is still subject to change. Filming was postponed for over seven months due to the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes.

The entire cast of the series will be returning for the final season, including Noah Schnapp, Winona Ryder, David Harbour, Millie Bobby Brown, Finn Wolfhard, Gates Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Sadie Sink, Natalia Dyer, Charlie Heaton, Joe Keery, Maya Hawke and Priah Ferguson.



Apart from them, 'Terminator' star Linda Hamilton is joining the cast for Season 5, and 'Prey' and '10 Cloverfield Lane' director Dan Trachtenberg will

be helming at least one episode, alongside regular directors the Duffers and Shawn Levy, who is also executive producing, as per Variety.

In September, Levy said that Season 5 of 'Stranger Things' will be "major, major cinematic storytelling" and "as big as any of the biggest movies that we see."

There is virtually no chance that Season 5 of the show will debut earlier than 2025, but 'Stranger Things: The First Shadow' -- a stage play set in Hawkins, Indiana in 1959 that tracks the origins of several major characters from the show -- debuts in the Phoenix Theater in London's West End on December 14.

The script is written by 'Stranger Things' writer and co-executive producer Kate Trefry, based on an original story by the Duffers, Jack Thorne and Trefry, reported Variety.

Rashmika Mandanna to start shooting for 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' with Allu Arjun on December 13



Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who has been getting a lot of positive response to her work in the recently released Ranbir Kapoor-starrer film 'Animal', will start shooting for the second part of her franchise film, 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' with Telugu superstar Allu Arjun on December 13. As per an industry source, the actress will shoot for the sequel in Hyderabad.

In the first part of the film, the actress essayed the role of Srivali and instantly became a national crush, Allu Arjun's stellar dancing made the song a huge hit.

Talking about the actress's shooting schedule, the source said: "Rashmika Mandanna is extremely happy with the love and praise she is receiving for the film 'Animal'. Immediately after the massive success of 'Animal', Rashmika will begin the shoot for the highly ambitious and blockbuster franchise 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' on December 13 in Hyderabad. The actress will be reprising her iconic role of Srivali in the film starring Allu Arjun."

Meanwhile, 'Animal' which has set the box-office on fire, has been criticised by certain section of the audience for the treatment of its female character. Rashmika recently penned a long note for her character of Gitanjali in the film and expressed her love for the same, calling her the power centre of the family.

The actress will also be seen in the female-oriented film 'The Girlfriend'.

Charlie Sheen returns with gambling dramedy Bookie

Actor Charlie Sheen, who was famously sacked from his hit sitcom Two and a Half Men for erratic behaviour, has shared that he's now sober, happy, and ready to work again. Sheen has been out of the spotlight for the past six years, focusing on his recovery, parenting his 14-year-old twins, Max and Bob, and settling into what he calls a 'predictable routine'.

And now, Sheen, 58, is re-entering the acting industry, beginning with an appearance as himself in two episodes of Chuck Lorre's new Max sports gambling dramedy Bookie, starring Sebastian Maniscalco. 'Bookie' allows Sheen



to reteam with the same show creator who fired him from Two and a Half Men in 2011.

Sandeep Vanga Reddy is 'ecstatically high' reading Allu Arjun's comments on 'Animal'

After Allu Arjun saying that latest release 'Animal' has joined the 'classics of Indian cinema', filmmaker Sandeep Vanga Reddy said he is experiencing "ecstatically high feeling" reading his comments.

In a lengthy post on X, Arjun congratulated the cast and crew of 'Animal', describing the movie as one to have joined "the classics of Indian Cinema List" and that he is "blown away by the cinematic brilliance."

To which, Sandeep Vanga Reddy replied: "Allu Arjun garu... Felt so full reading every line. I'm experiencing ecstatically high feeling.



Thank you so much." Arjun replied saying: "Sandeep Garu.. It's you who left us with that feel-

ing. Honestly, I am still in that hangover." Allu in the lengthy post had even congratulated

the cast and crew of 'Animal'.

He had written: "Congratulations! Ranbir Kapoor ji just took Indian cinema performances to a whole new level. Very inspiring. I am truly in loss of words to explain the magic you've created. My deep respects to the highest level."

For his Pushpa co-star Rashmika Mandanna, he said: "Brilliant and magnetic! Dear this is your best performance by far and much more to unfold."

He called Bobby Deol's performance as impactful, and added: "Your terrific presence commands respect."

He added: "Anil Kapoor Ji's was effortless and

intense. Your experience speaks volumes sir. This young lady Triptii Dimri is breaking hearts. May you break more! All the other artists and technicians showcased their finest best. Congratulations."

Allu Arjun concluded the post: "And the director, the man Sandeep Reddy Vanga garu. Just mind blowing. You have exceeded all cinematic limitations, the intensity is unmatched. You made us all proud once again. I can clearly see how your films are going to change the face of Indian cinema now and in the future! Animal has joined the classics of Indian cinema list."

Julia Roberts expresses her wish to do 'My Best Friend's Wedding' sequel

Actor Julia Roberts has been part of several popular rom-coms and when asked if she would love to do a sequel of any of them, she simply chooses 'My Best Friend's Wedding', reported People.

During an appearance on 'Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen', the Oscar-winning actress was asked by a viewer to choose a film of hers that she'd want to see a sequel to. Her response was prompt.

"That's a really good question and I've never been asked it," said Roberts, 56, before choosing 'My Best Friend's Wedding'.

When it debuted in June 1997, the comedy was a worldwide box office success. It follows Roberts as Jules, a food journalist who realises she's in love with her longtime best friend, Michael (Dermot Mulroney), when he discloses he's engaged to new love,

Kimmy (Cameron Diaz), in the film directed by P.J. Hogan.

Desperate to capture his heart, Jules spends the next four days attempting to disrupt his wedding, even pretending to be engaged to her gay best friend, George (Rupert Everett).

It doesn't end well for Jules, with Michael ultimately selecting Kimmy. But, as Roberts told Andy Cohen, 55, the richness of the characters and the dynamics between them means there's plenty of material to explore for a sequel.

"There's so many people in it," she said, noting she'd want "to see what they're doing and how Kimmy and Michael's marriage is going..." Asked by another WWHL viewer who she thought Michael should have chosen, Roberts stuck with her character. "Well, I mean, of course, Jules. But he married



Kimmy!" 'What Happens Live with Andy Cohen' airs on Bravo Sunday-Thursdays evenings, reported People.

Elvish Yadav says 'aisi ladki life mein mil jaaye' as he reviews Nikita's relationship with Jad on 'Temptation Island India'

The 'Big Boss OTT 2' winner Elvish Yadav takes on the role of a reviewer for the show 'Temptation Island India', and is left impressed by Nikita's bold and open-minded approach to life and the show.

From intense drama to heart-wrenching emotions, the contestants of the show have witnessed a rollercoaster of journey.

As the show enters its finale week, and with just a week remaining before discovering which couples will pass this ultimate 'Pyaar Ki Pariksha', Elvish takes us through this journey of self discovery.

In a special segment, he gets into his element and takes on the role of a reviewer this time, in his witty style and unique sense of humour, offering candid opinions on the episodes and providing insights into



how the contestants have navigated their journey, forming genuine bonds all along the way.

While watching the clips, Elvish complimented Nikita, saying, "Nikki jaisi bandi perfect hai, bas aisi ladki life mein mil jaaye."

He is genuinely fascinated by the strong bond formed between Jad and Nikita. As the clips continue, it is revealed that Nikita has a fight with Chetna over Jad, and she gets possessive over him.

Elvish relates to Nikita's decision to join 'Temptation Island'.

"Nikki ki baaton se saaf pata chal raha hai ke woh Jad ke liye kitni possessive hai. She has forgotten her partner from the other villa. If she were this possessive over Tayne, maybe she would not have come here to navigate her relationship," he added.

'Temptation Island India' airs on JioCinema.

Beyonce expresses gratitude to her fans after success of her concert film 'Renaissance'

Beyonce is on cloud nine after the success of her concert film 'Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce' and she expressed her gratitude to her fans for showering love on her recent project, reported People.

The pop superstar took to her Instagram handle to convey her thanks to her fans and wrote about the success of the film.

'Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce' is presently No. 1 at the box office. She thanked her legion of followers known as the BeyHive and everyone associated with the film that chronicles her renowned Renaissance World Tour in the description of a Reel featuring videos from the Los Angeles and London premieres, as well as supporters at the cinema.

The Grammy winner started her message by thanking AMC Theatres, the movie's distributor, for assisting her in avoiding a more conventional studio release. "I am so deeply thankful to AMC and every team member who worked so hard on this film. I just can't thank all of you enough for your support," the hit-maker wrote.

After sharing how challenging the project was, due to "the short [turn-around] time," the "Cuff It" singer shared that "it was so worth all the grind."

"I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from my Hive," she



wrote. "And WOW! I am so touched and encouraged by the incredible reviews!!!"

The "Alien Superstar" performer acknowledged that her followers' efforts to dress up and see the movie in theatres as if it were a live performance had not gone unnoticed. "I love seeing everyone all dressed up in their most opulent lewks in the theaters. The mute challenges still happen-

ing, even in the theater!! Y'all are cracking me up. Please keep that energy going. I can't wait to see what else y'all do :)"

The music queen continued by saying that she is just as appreciative of people learning more about her life narrative, which is openly included in the performance film. "I also love seeing the positive take aways from people who were not my fans or didn't yet know my story," the singer-

songwriter added.

"The people who had no interest in seeing my shows who have now gained a deeper understanding and respect for all it takes to be a RENAISSANCE woman."

Before concluding her statement, she paid tribute to her late uncle Johnny, who died of AIDS complications when she was 17 and to whom she dedicated Renaissance.

"I'm very proud that we launched the film on World AIDS Day in memory of my Uncle Johnny," she added. "I pray I continue to make something that lifts all of y'all up the way you continue to lift me up."

"While I'm often critical and feel my art is never finished, the pendulum swings. I feel gratitude."

"We did it! We have the #1 movie in the country! And a 100 on Rotten Tomatoes. And it's because of you and your support! I humbly thank you," she concluded.

The acclaimed, theatrical version of Beyonce's Renaissance World Tour officially arrived in theatres worldwide on December 1. The film features footage from the record-shattering tour, as well as intimate moments backstage, including shots of the superstar with her three children Blue Ivy, 11, and twins Sir and Rumi, 6 -- whom she shares with husband JAY-Z, reported People.

“Politics Of Freebies Distort Expenditure Priorities”: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was the chief guest at the event hosted by the National Human Rights Commission at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): Politics of so-called freebies for which society sees “mad race”, distort expenditure priorities, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday and asserted that the need was to “empower not pockets but human minds”.

In his address at a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) event here marking the Human Rights Day, he also said that no part of the globe is so “blossoming, prospering with human rights as our country is doing”.

The occasion also marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

UN Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp also was present at the event.

Sharp, in his address, also read out the message of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the audience.

Vice President Dhankhar was the chief guest at the event hosted by the NHRC at Bharat Mandapam.

“A coincidence, this (75th anniversary of UDHR) just follows our ‘Amrit Kaal’, and our ‘Amrit Kaal’ has become our ‘Gaurav Kaal’ primarily due to the blossoming of human rights and values,” he said.



“We had an occasion to get a message from the (UN) Secretary-General. It would have been appropriate and worthwhile to take note of the massive, revolutionary affirmative changes that are taking place in Bharat, home to one-sixth of humanity, on the promotion of human rights,” Mr Dhankhar said.

No part of the globe is so blossoming, and prospering with human rights as India is doing, he added.

“And, why not, our civilisational ethos, Constitutional framework, reflect our deep commitment to respecting, safeguarding and nurturing human rights. It is in

our DNA,” the vice-president said.

In his address, he also emphasised that human rights are spiritually strengthened when there is “human empowerment in sharp contradiction to fiscal patronage”.

“Empowerment of pockets by fiscal grant only increases dependence.

The politics of so-called freebies for which we see a mad race distort expenditure priorities. Freebies, as per economic giants, undercut the basic framework of macroeconomic stability,” he said.

There needs to be a “healthy national debate” on how expensive this fiscal patronage is for

the economy, life quality and social cohesion in the long run, Mr Dhankhar added.

“I would greatly appreciate it if the National Human Rights Commission... catalysing a debate, coming out with a paper that can be extremely informative, motivational and inspirational for people at large, and those who are in seats of governance can be enlightened that we need to empower not pockets but human minds, human resource,” he said.

In his address, Mr Dhankhar also said that “no one is above the law, be you ever so high, the law is always above you, is the new norm in the country. A peak paradigm shift”.

“There was a time when some thought they were above the law, there was a time when some thought they were beyond the reach of the law. Now, all high and mighty, you may be just anybody, you are accountable to the law,” he said.

This is happening. It is an “inalienable facet of promoting human rights,” Mr Dhankhar added.

Transparency and accountable governance, a new norm, is a game changer for promoting human rights, he said.

8 charred to death as SUV catches fire after collision with truck near UP’s Bareilly



BAREILLY (UP), Dec 10 (Agencies): Eight people, including a child, were charred to death in their SUV after it was hit by an oncoming truck and caught fire in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Sunday.

The driver of the SUV lost control of the vehicle after it suffered a tyre puncture. It jumped the barrier onto other side of the road and was hit by the truck coming from the opposite direction, they said.

The accident occurred

late on Saturday near Dubhaura village on the Bareilly-Nainital Road, they added.

By the time the police reached the spot, the SUV was engulfed in the flames, the police said.

Superintendent of Police Sushil Chandrabhan confirmed the deaths of the eight people, including the child.

The victims are yet to be identified.

The SUV belonged to Sumit Gupta, who had given it to one Furkhan, the police said and added a detailed probe is under way.

Newly married couple among 5 killed in car-truck collision in Chhattisgarh

JANJGIR, Dec 10 (Agencies): A newly married couple and three other persons were killed after a car they were travelling in collided with a truck in Chhattisgarh’s Janjgir-Champa district on Sunday, police said.

The accident took place in the wee hours near Pakariya Jhulan village under Mulmula police station area when the victims were returning after the couple’s wedding in Shivrinarayan town, a police official said.

As per preliminary information, Shubham Soni, a resident of Baloda village in the district, got married to a woman from Shivrinarayan on Saturday night.

They also shot dead their accomplice Naveen Shekawat, through whom they had secured access to Gogamedi’s residence.

Gangster Rohit Godara, linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, had claimed responsibility for the murder, saying Gogamedi was backing his enemies.



When the bride, groom and three other family members were returning to Baloda in the car, it collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction, the official said.

Four occupants of the car, including the bride, died on the spot. The groom, who was seriously hurt, succumbed to his injuries in a hospital, he said.

The groom’s father, Omprakash Soni, who was driving the car, was among the deceased, he said.

After being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot and the bodies were sent for postmortem.

Efforts were on to trace the truck driver who fled from the spot leaving behind his vehicle, the police said.

Karni Sena chief’s murder: Two shooters among three nabbed in Chandigarh’s Sector 22

NEW DELHI/JAIPUR, Dec 10 (Agencies): In a joint operation with the Rajasthan Police, the Delhi Police’s Crime Branch nabbed three men, including two shooters, from Chandigarh for their alleged involvement in the killing of Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, officials said on Sunday.

Gogamedi was gunned down in the living room of his house in Rajasthan’s Jaipur on December 5. CCTV camera footage purportedly of the assailants opening fire at Gogamedi had surfaced recently.

The police had identified the two alleged killers as Rohit

Rathore from Jaipur and Nitin Fauji from Haryana’s Mahendragarh, and announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh for information leading to their arrests.

Delhi Police sources on Sunday said a team of the Crime Branch, in a joint operation with the Rajasthan Police, nabbed the duo from Chandigarh’s Sector 22. They were accompanied by an associate, Udhm Singh, who was also caught.

According to a Delhi Police officer, the accused will be handed over to the Jaipur Police for further interrogation.

Additional Director-General of Rajasthan Police (Crime)

Dinesh MN said Fauji and Rathore were in hiding in Chandigarh.

“The SIT formed by the Rajasthan Director-General of Police and the Delhi Police caught the accused late on Saturday,” Dinesh, who is supervising the 11-member SIT, told agency.

Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph said the accused will be formally placed under arrest in the murder case after they are brought to Jaipur.

On Saturday, a man was arrested in Jaipur for allegedly contracting the shooters to kill Gogamedi.

According to the police, Ramveer Jat, one of the conspira-

tors in the murder, had prepared the groundwork for Fauji—his friend—in Jaipur ahead of the killing.

The accused had entered the Gogamedi’s home on the pretext of meeting him and, after talking for a few minutes, opened fire at Gogamedi.

They also shot dead their accomplice Naveen Shekawat, through whom they had secured access to Gogamedi’s residence.

Gangster Rohit Godara, linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, had claimed responsibility for the murder, saying Gogamedi was backing his enemies.

Case against US national for sexual harassment of Navi Mumbai hotel staffer

THANE, Dec 10 (Agencies): Police have registered a case against a 26-year-old US national for alleged sexual harassment of a woman house-keeping staffer at a hotel in Navi Mumbai, an official said on Sunday.

The incident took place around 11.30 am on Saturday at the hotel located in Turbhe

area, he said.

When the 23-year-old woman entered an apartment in the hotel, the accused allegedly took off his bath robe and sought sexual favour from her, the official from Turbhe police station said quoting the victim’s complaint.

The victim later approached



the police with a complaint following which an FIR was registered on Saturday night against the man, resident of Pennsylvania in the US, under Indian Penal Code section 354A (sexual harassment), he said.

No arrest has been made so far and a probe is on into the case, the police added.

4 college students die after speeding car falls into ditch in Karnataka



CHIKKABALLAPURA (KTK), Dec 10 (Agencies): Four college students died after the car they were travelling in allegedly toppled and fell into a ditch near the highway underpass on

the outskirts of Chikkaballapur, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday night when the students were heading from Bengaluru to Chikkaballapur to

drop two of them.

According to the police, one of the students was driving the car.

The accident took place when the driver lost control of the over-speeding vehicle, which overturned and plunged into the ditch.

Three of them died on the spot. One person was grievously injured and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries during the course of treatment.

A case was registered and investigation is underway, they said.

BSP chief Mayawati names nephew Akash Anand as her political successor



NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Sunday named nephew Akash Anand as her political successor.

Mayawati made the announcement at a party meet in Lucknow.

Akash Anand is national coordinator of the BSP and his father Anand Kumar, the brother of Mayawati, is party’s national vice-president.

Akash Anand had participated actively in the BSP’s Lok Sabha campaign ahead of 2019 General Election. He was also seen by Mayawati’s side during the 2017 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

In 2019, BSP contested the Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the SP.

The BSP won ten seats and SP 5, while the BJP and allies won 64 of 80 seats in the state.

The rise of another dynast is likely to give the dominant BJP more fodder to attack the Opposition in the run-up to 18th General Election in 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already made anti-corruption, anti-appeasement and anti-dynasty a major election campaign against the Opposition.

Muslim woman in MP allegedly beaten up for voting in BJP’s favour; CM Shivraj Chouhan meets her

Police arrest the accused, the younger brother of complainant’s husband

SEHORE/BHOPAL, Dec 10 (Agencies): A 30-year-old Muslim woman has claimed that she was beaten up by her brother-in-law for voting in favour of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls and celebrating the party victory, an incident prompting Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to reach out to the victim.

Chouhan on Saturday invited the woman to his residence in Bhopal and comforted her.

Earlier in the day, police arrested the accused Javeed, the younger brother of complainant Samina Bi’s husband, a day after she and her father visited the office of the Sehore collector



seeking stern action.

Notably, Sehore is the home district of Chouhan.

According to police, Javeed allegedly thrashed Samina on Monday when she was celebrating the victory of the BJP in the recently-held Assembly elections, counting for which was

done on December 3.

A case was registered under relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Javeed on a complaint lodged by the woman, police said.

The woman had told reporters that she had voted for the BJP as she is a beneficiary of all the schemes of the govern-

ment, including the Ladli Behna Yojana.

As per the government, 1.31 crore women in the state are getting financial help of Rs 1,250 per month under this scheme.

“With ‘mamaji’ Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Sehore BJP MLA Sudesh Rai on my mind,

I voted for the BJP,” Samina had said.

On Saturday, Samina visited Chouhan with her children in Bhopal after he invited her, as per the Chief Minister’s Office.

“By casting your vote, you have exercised your right. Everyone has the right to vote as per the Constitution. People vote for those who do well for them. That is not at all wrong. Thus, I wanted to meet you. Do not worry. We will take care of you and take care of your worries,” Chouhan told the woman.

that ensuring the safety of people is the guarantee of PM Modi.

“I was reading in a newspaper this morning about a Muslim sister voting for our party and her relative troubling her. I want to tell her that she shouldn’t worry. Ensuring the safety of the people in the country is Modiji’s guarantee,” he added.

Sharma said due to Modiji’s “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas” mantra, the minority community blessed the BJP in the November 17 elections by voting for the party.

“This shows the vote bank of Congress is drifting,” he added.

Israeli Forces Push Into Southern Gaza Where Thousands Have Taken Shelter

Hamas, which runs Gaza, said Israel had launched a series of "very violent raids" targeting the southern city of Khan Yunis.

GAZA CITY, Dec 10 (Agencies): Israeli forces pushed Sunday into southern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled in search of shelter from bombardments and intense fighting with Hamas operatives.

Aid groups have sounded the alarm on the "apocalyptic" humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territory, warning it is on the brink of being overwhelmed by disease and starvation.

Hamas, which runs Gaza, said Sunday that Israel had launched a series of "very violent raids" targeting the southern city of Khan Yunis and the road from there to Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

An agency journalist reported strikes in southern Gaza early Sunday.

At least 17,700 people, mostly women and children, have died in two months of fighting in the narrow strip of territory, according to the latest figures from Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry.

Israel has vowed to eradicate Hamas after its unprecedented attacks on October 7, when fighters broke through Gaza's militarised border, killed about 1,200 people and seized hostages, according to Israeli officials.

Israel on Saturday said 137 captives remain in the Palestinian territory.

With few options for safety, people across the Gaza Strip sought refuge in hospitals on Saturday.

In the northern Gaza City, an agency journalist said thousands were sheltering in the Al-Shifa hospital, which is no longer functioning and partly destroyed following an Israeli raid last month.

Hundreds of makeshift tents fashioned from scraps of fabric and plastic filled the hospital's courtyards and garden amid col-



lapsed walls.

Suheil Abu Dalfa, 56, from the city's Shejaiya district, said he had fled heavy bombardment by Israeli planes and tanks.

"It was madness. A shell hit the house and wounded my 20-year-old son," he told AFP.

"We fled to the Old City, everything was just strikes and destruction... we didn't know where to go," he said.

"We don't know if they will storm the hospital again."

In central Gaza, Hamas health authorities said Saturday that 71 dead bodies had arrived at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah over 24 hours.

And in the south of the territory, 62 dead bodies had arrived at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, the health authorities said.

An agency correspondent in Nasser hospital saw a child on a makeshift stretcher and others waiting for care on the floor, while firefighters outside tried to douse a burning building hit by an Israeli strike.

The situation "is not just a catastrophe, it's apocalyptic," said Bushra Khalidi of Oxfam.

'Death Sentence For Children' An estimated 1.9 million of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been displaced.

Blocked from leaving the narrow territory, they have turned Rafah, near the crossing with Egypt, into a vast camp.

The United Nations children's agency said Saturday that

nearly one million children had been forcibly displaced by the conflict.

With fighting intensifying in southern Gaza, where Israel previously urged civilians to seek shelter, children are running out of safe places to go.

"They are now being pushed further and further south into tiny, overcrowded areas without water, food, or protection, putting them at increased risk of respiratory infections and waterborne disease," said Adele Khodr of UNICEF.

"The restrictions and challenges being placed on the delivery of lifesaving aid going into and across the Gaza Strip are another death sentence for children." As alarm grew over Gaza's worsening humanitarian situation, Israeli army chief Herzl Halevi urged his forces to "press harder" in their campaign.

"We're seeing more and more terrorists killed, more and more terrorists wounded, and in recent days we're seeing terrorists surrendering - this is a sign their network's falling apart," he said at a ceremony in Jerusalem.

National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi told Israeli TV that 7,000 "terrorists" had been killed, without elaborating on the source of the figure.

In Tel Aviv, some Israelis held a pro-peace demonstration. Hundreds of others gathered in what has come to be known

as Hostages Square, calling for action to save the captives held by Hamas with signs bearing messages such as "They trust us to get them out of hell".

The Israeli army says it has lost 93 soldiers in the campaign, with two others injured in a failed bid to rescue hostages on Thursday night.

Hamas said a hostage, 25-year-old Sahar Baruch, was killed in the operation, later confirmed by his kibbutz community in Beeri, one of the worst hit on October 7.

UN force hit

A rare UN Security Council vote on a ceasefire in the conflict was vetoed on Friday by the United States, whose envoy Robert Wood said the proposal was "divorced from reality" and would leave Hamas in power in Gaza.

Iran, which backs Hamas, warned of an "uncontrollable explosion in the situation of the region" following the veto.

Regular exchanges between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement have added to fears of a wider regional conflict.

Israel's army said it retaliated on Saturday after unspecified "launches" from Lebanon, including with fighter jets.

A United Nations peacekeeping position in southern Lebanon was hit on Saturday without causing casualties, the UN force said, adding it was seeking to verify the source of the fire.

Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels threatened on Saturday to attack any vessels heading to Israeli ports unless food and medicine were allowed into Gaza. Violence has also surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where the health ministry said three people were killed on Saturday.

The military earlier said it has arrested 2,200 people in the West Bank, 1,800 of them Hamas members, since the Israel-Hamas war began.

6 dead, nearly 2 dozen injured after severe storms tear through central Tennessee in US



NASHVILLE (US), Dec 10 (Agencies): Severe storms that tore through central Tennessee killed six people on Saturday and sent about two dozen to the hospital as homes and businesses were damaged in multiple cities.

Three people, including a child, were killed after an apparent tornado struck Montgomery County north of Nashville near the Kentucky state line, county officials said in a news release. And the Nashville Emergency Operation Centre said in a post on a social media account that three people were killed by severe storms there.

Montgomery County officials said another 23 there were treated for injuries at hospitals. Photos posted by the Clarksville fire department on social media showed damaged houses with debris strewn in the lawns, a tractor trailer flipped on its side on a highway and insulation ripped out of building walls.

"This is devastating news and our hearts are

broken for the families of those who lost loved ones," said Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts in a statement. "The city stands ready to help them in their time of grief."

No other information about the victims was immediately available on Saturday.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that a tornado touched down around 2 pm. A shelter was set up at a local high school.

Residents were asked to stay at home while first responders evaluated the situation. In a briefing shared on social media, Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts said there was extensive damage.

"So please, if you need help, call 911 and help will be on the way immediately. But if you can, please stay home. Do not get out on the roads. Our first responders need time and space," he said.

Allie Phillips, who lives in Clarksville, said she was grabbing lunch when she began receiving notifications

of the tornado that was quickly approaching her neighbourhood.

"It was excruciating watching the live stream and not knowing if my house was still there," she said. "When we finally decided to leave, the road to my home was shut down because so many power lines were on the road and we had to take a detour."

Phillips said her home survived with minimal damage - noting that her daughter's toys were banged up and that a neighbour's dog kennel hit the back of her home - but she was saddened to see that her neighbour's house was missing a roof and a home up the block had all but completely disappeared.

"This doesn't happen enough that you're ever prepared for it," she said.

The National Weather Service issued multiple tornado warnings in Tennessee, and said it planned to survey an area where an apparent tornado hit in Kentucky.

About 85,000 electricity customers were without power in Tennessee on Saturday night, according to PowerOutage.us.

The storm came nearly two years to the day after the National Weather Service recorded 41 tornadoes through a handful of states, including 16 in Tennessee and eight in Kentucky. A total of 81 people died in Kentucky alone.

Workshop collapses in southern China, killing 6 and injuring 3

BEIJING, Dec 10 (Agencies): A workshop built from steel sheets collapsed in southern China, killing six people and injuring three others, authorities said.

An investigation is under way into the cause of Saturday's accident in Guizhou province. The three injured people remained hospitalized as of late Saturday and there were no updates on their condition Sunday.

Building collapses are not

uncommon in China, where structures are sometimes thrown up without lawfully obtaining proper permits and safety standards are often ignored.

The illegal addition of extra floors and failure to use reinforcement is often blamed for such disasters. An increase in the number of collapses of self-built buildings in recent years has prompted calls from Chinese leader Xi Jinping for additional checks to uncover

weaknesses.

In the worst such incident in recent years, a building collapse in central China in April 2022 killed 53 people. Additional floors had been added without permission or the use of proper construction methods.

Industrial safety in general remains a major problem, worsened by decaying infrastructure, poor safety training and a desire to cut corners to save on costs.

China, Philippines Trade Blame After Boat-Ship Collision In Disputed Waters

Longstanding tensions between China and Philippines over the South China Sea have flared in recent months.



MANILA, Dec 10 (Agencies): A Philippine boat and a Chinese Coast Guard ship collided near a hotly contested reef on Sunday, with both countries trading blame for the latest such confrontation in the disputed South China Sea.

The incident happened during a Philippine resupply mission to a tiny garrison on Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, which is a flashpoint for Manila and Beijing.

It comes a day after the Philippines accused the Chinese coast guard of using water cannons to "obstruct" three government boats delivering provisions to Filipino fishermen near Scarborough Shoal, off the main island of Luzon.

Longstanding tensions between Manila and Beijing over the sea have flared in recent months following multiple incidents involving Philippine and Chinese vessels, including two previous collisions.

China claims almost

the entire South China Sea, including waters and islands near the shores of its neighbours, and has ignored an international tribunal ruling that its assertions have no legal basis. It deploys boats to patrol the busy waterway and has built artificial islands that it has militarised to reinforce its claims.

The Philippines said Sunday that "China Coast Guard and Chinese Maritime Militia vessels harassed, blocked, and executed dangerous maneuvers on Philippine civilian supply vessels".

One of two boats carrying provisions was "rammed" by a Chinese coast guard ship, the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement.

A Chinese ship also used water cannon against the two supply boats and a Philippine Coast Guard vessel escorting the mission, the multi-agency task force said.

That caused "severe

damage" to the engine of one of the supply boats and damaged the mast of the coast guard vessel, it said.

The China Coast Guard, however, accused the Philippine boat of "deliberately colliding" with the Chinese vessel after "disregarding our multiple stern warnings".

The Philippine boat "changed direction suddenly in an unprofessional, dangerous manner, deliberately colliding with our Coast Guard Vessel 21556, which was on a normal law enforcement route, and caused a scrape", the China Coast Guard said in a statement.

"The responsibility lies entirely with the Philippine side," it said.

Deteriorating Relations Hours before the latest incident, a civilian convoy involving 100 Filipino fishermen embarked on a trip that would pass Second Thomas Shoal as part of a mission to deliver Christmas cheer and provisions to remote outposts.

The organisers said they were "still proceeding with the agreed upon route" despite Sunday's confrontation.

Second Thomas Shoal is about 200 km (124 miles) from the western Philippine island of Palawan, and more than 1,000 km from China's

nearest major landmass, Hainan Island.

A handful of Filipino troops are stationed on the crumbling BRP Sierra Madre, which the Philippine Navy grounded on the reef in 1999 to check China's advance in the waters.

The troops depend on the resupply missions for their survival.

One of the supply boats was able to deliver its cargo on Sunday, while the one involved in the collision was being towed by a Philippine Coast Guard vessel to Palawan, the task force said.

The Philippines and China have a long history of maritime incidents in the contested South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars of trade pass annually. Relations between Manila and Beijing have deteriorated under President Ferdinand Marcos, who has sought to improve ties with traditional ally Washington and push back against Chinese actions in the South China Sea.

Marcos warned last month that the situation in the waters had become "more dire".

Last Sunday, the Philippines reported more than 135 Chinese vessels "swarming" a reef off its coast, describing the boats' growing presence as "alarming".

Huge Fee Hike For Foreign Owners Of 'Ghost' Homes In Australia

MELBOURNE / SYDNEY, Dec 10 (Agencies): Australia will impose a dramatic rise in fees on foreign buyers of existing homes who leave them empty, the government said Sunday as it tries to ease a rental crisis.

The centre-left Labor government said it would introduce new legislation next year to help alleviate tight supply that has left many renters struggling to find somewhere to live.

As supply dwindled, rental prices surged 7.6 percent nationally in the year to September 30, the sharpest increase in 14 years, official statistics show.

"There are too many properties empty around Australia," Treasurer Jim Chalmers said.

"There are not enough homes available to Australians who desperately need them," he added in an interview with Sky



News Australia.

The measures aim to push foreigners to invest in new housing developments instead of buying existing stock, the government said in a statement.

Foreigners are already barred from purchasing established homes in Australia unless they live in the country for work or study, and they are usually required to sell the homes when they leave.

To buy an existing home, foreigners currently pay a foreign investment fee that

varies depending on the home price - for example, Aus\$28,200 (US\$18,500) for a median-priced Sydney home of a little over Aus\$1 million. Under the new scheme, the fee will be tripled for foreign owners of 'ghost' homes.

In addition, foreign owners of established homes that are vacant for more than six months will face a higher annual vacancy fee.

That fee - now the same level as the foreign investment fee - will be doubled under the new plan.

The overall effect of the double-blow would be a six-fold increase in annual fees for foreigners who leave existing homes vacant.

It is unclear, however, if foreign ownership of existing homes in Australia is a big problem for the rental market.

Australia's treasurer said vacancy fees imposed on foreign owners of established homes raised only about Aus\$5 million a year.

One report indicated there were just 23 such "breaches" in the past year, Chalmers said, though he believed the numbers "are likely to be underdone".

The government said it would also lower the fees for foreign investors in build-to-rent projects.

Last month, the government established an Aus\$10 billion investment vehicle to help increase the supply of social and affordable housing.

Lt Governor attends closing ceremony of State level Yuva Utsav: India@2047

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the closing ceremony of State level Yuva Utsav: India@2047, at Government MAM College, today.

The two-day event was organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the winners under various categories including Painting, Poetry, Declamation, Photography and Culture.

He commended the endeavour to integrate five youth-centric programmes for this year's Yuva Utsav inspired by Panch Pran of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

"Youth power is the greatest asset of our country. They have courage to stand alone against all odds and challenges without any fear and always ready to



provide new ideas and new initiatives for the betterment of the society," the Lt Governor said.

He said the creativity, charisma and hard work of youth is the formidable force that is setting new agenda of development. The new ideas and conviction is stimulating various sectors and contributing to new discoveries and innovation, he added.

The Lt Governor emphasized the need to harness the vibrant

energy of youth to achieve the constructive goals.

"Youth is the most powerful tool to shape the better future and usher in socio-economic revolution," the Lt Governor said.

Initiative, leadership, self-confidence, persistence, imagination and courage to learn from failure are rare qualities of youth, which influences the society and opens the door of new

possibilities in developmental journey, he said.

At Yuva Utsav, the Lt Governor motivated the youth to re-educate themselves towards realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Future belongs to India and our youth. I am confident that the youth will lead the world to build a prosperous society, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the winners and jury members of the Yuva Utsav.

Sh Nisar Ahmed, Director Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh presented a detailed report on the competitions held in connection with Yuva Utsav across the UT.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Sh Anand Jain, IGP Jammu; Sh Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; senior officials, prominent personalities, youth and people in large number were present.

CS takes onspot appraisal of works on NH-44

Also visits significant project sites in twin distts of Udhampur & Ramban



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR / RAMBAN, Dec 10:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today took on spot assessment of the road condition of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway besides visiting some prestigious project sites in twin districts of Udhampur and Ramban.

At Ramban, the Chief Secretary took stock of pace and progress on National Highway-44 and other critical infrastructure under implementation in the District.

Dulloo held an important meeting at Chandkote, where senior officers including the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, DIG, DKR Range, Dr. Sunil Gupta, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma, SSP Traffic, Rohit Baskotra other

sectoral officers besides key project directors attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the Chief Secretary physically inspected challenging spots on the National Highway, such as Dalwas and other spots in Ramban area.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mr. Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary provided detailed insights into the status of the National Highway, focusing on the 66 km stretch between Nashri-Navyug tunnel. The Chief Secretary was apprised of completion dates for various tunnels

and received updates on the cooperation extended by the district administration to NHAI.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban also highlighted the imminent completion of the Railway line in the district and briefed the Chief Secretary about the Sawalakote Hydroelectric project, a monumental initiative currently undergoing environmental impact assessment.

Shifting the focus to social indicators, the Chief Secretary was briefed on efforts to enhance girl child education in the Ramban district. The ongoing Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, with substantial participation from youth and women. He was assured that the team of District Administration Ramban aims to saturate all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the district by December 2025.

On addressing the road safety concerns, the Chief Secretary directed the SSP Traffic, Ramban to intensify the surveillance and laid stress on displaying zero-tolerance towards repeated traffic violators. Additionally, he urged the National Highway Project Director to focus on critical spots causing traffic bottlenecks during peak season.

Emphasizing the need for addressing drug addiction the Chief Secretary directed the SSP Ramban to maintain a close vigil on such illicit trade for its effective

control. Earlier on the day the Chief Secretary conducted a comprehensive tour of District Udhampur, focusing on the works going on holy Devika River and construction of Government Medical College (GMC) here.

The Chief Secretary inspected Devika Ghat, inspected the prestigious Devika project in toto and conducted a site visit of the operational Sewage Treatment Plant-II and beautification of Devika Ghat.

The Chief Secretary also conducted inspection of various sections of the Government Medical College and Associated Hospital. He assessed the recent specialised surgeries performed in the institution along with the position of the existing staff strength in the hospital.

Accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sh. Ramesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ms. Saloni Rai, the Chief Secretary visited the construction sites of the 200-bedded teaching district hospital, the makeshift building of GMC Udhampur.

During his visit Dulloo directed the Principal GMC Udhampur to ensure quality service, minimize referral cases, and to create a conducive environment for the students undergoing training here.

The Chief Secretary also inquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostics, and facilities at the Associated Hospital of the medical college. He inspected various sections, including classrooms and labs to take assessment of facilities provided there. Interacting with the staff, he received briefings on lab tests, procedures, equipment availability of CT scan, and surgical procedures done in the hospital.

VBSY: IEC Van Traverses across Panchayats of Budhal, Budhal New Blocks in Rajouri District

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Dec 10: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra IEC Van today traversed across Panchayats across Budhal Block and block Budhal New in Rajouri District.

The Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van traveled through the Panchayats of Sokar, Panihad, Kewal Tarran, and Phalni Panchayats in the Budhal Block and Budhal New areas of Rajouri District.

The primary objective of the yatra was to disseminate vital information and create awareness about different government schemes, ensuring that every deserving individual or community is informed and included.

A key aspect of the yatra is to facilitate direct interaction between the government and the beneficiaries. By sharing personal stories and experiences, this program provides a platform for individuals to voice their

needs, concerns, and aspirations. This two-way communication not only helps the government gain a better understanding of the ground realities but also enables the identification and enrollment of potential beneficiaries based on the information gathered during the yatra.

The Viksit Bharat Yatra focuses on a range of schemes targeted at both urban and rural areas. In urban areas, the yatra highlights schemes such as PM Svanidhi, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Start-up India/Stand-up India, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), SBM (Urban), PM eBus Sewa, AMRUT, PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadi Pariyojana, Ujjala Yojana, Subhagya Yojana, Digital Payment Infrastructure, Khelo India, RCS:UDAN, Vande Bharat Trains, and Amrit Bharat Station scheme.

In rural areas, the focus is on schemes such as Ayushman Bharat

PMJAY, PMGKAY, DAY-NRLM, PM Awas Yojana Rural, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Samman, PM Vishwakarma, KCC, PM Poshan Abhiyan, JJM, and SVAMITVA.

The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' stands as a firm commitment by the government to build a prosperous and equitable India. By promoting government schemes, creating awareness, and directly engaging with beneficiaries, the yatra aims to bring about positive change at the grassroots level, paving the way for an inclusive and developed nation.

As this yatra continues its journey across the country, it is expected to impact the lives of millions, ensuring their access to essential services, financial assistance, healthcare, housing, and more. The enthusiastic participation of the public demonstrates their collective commitment to building a brighter and more prosperous future, in line with the government's vision.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra spreads message of development at Sarain Panchayat in Samba District



Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 10: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, an impactful initiative aimed at promoting saturation of flagship schemes at the grassroots level, had a highly successful visit to Sarain Panchayat, Block Nud in Samba district today.

The Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van, effectively delivered the Prime Minister's vision, inspiring and motivating the local communities.

The event was graced by the presence of DC Samba Abhishek Sharma,

SSP Samba Benam Tosh, BDO Nud Mukesh Sharma, Sarpanch Surinder Kumar Sharma, other PRI members, and officials.

Deputy Commissioner Samba felicitated the sports and women achievers of the Panchayats and interacted with the beneficiaries of the Ladli Beti scheme. Property cards were also distributed to deserving recipients.

During the visit, DC Sharma took the initiative to inform the locals about the significant benefits of the Daksh Kisan portal for farmers. His inspection of various departmental stalls added to the overall success of the event.

FROM PAGE 1

Public welfare pursued by PM Modi influenced by Mahatma's ideals: Rajnath Singh

governments that came after him forgot the ideals that he held dear. But the government under Modi-ji deserves praise for carrying forward Babu's thoughts and beliefs through its public welfare initiatives. The first campaign that Modi-ji launched after taking over as PM was the Swachhta Abhiyaan," Singh added.

The senior BJP leader sat on the floor along with others at the event and had lunch with them.

Invoking the Mahatma's idea of non-violence and how he won over many hearts by choosing the path to peace, Singh said, "The ideas he propounded in the last century are relevant even to this day. Gandhi-ji neither provoked any war nor had ambitions of annexing any country or territory. He won many hearts around the world by simply treading the path of non-violence. Even people, who never met him, were influenced by his thoughts and principles."

"I am reminded of Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela today. They never met Gandhi-ji in his lifetime but held his principles dear and followed the path of non-violence as shown by him. Following Babu's teachings, they served humanity and inspired people. Babu had not only dreamt of an India free from the shackles of oppression but also an India after freedom," he added.

On the Champaran Movement of 1917, Singh said the Mahatma's objective behind the Satyagrah was to draw the attention of the British government to the worsening state of India's farmers under their rule.

Adequate arrangements made to ensure peace in Kashmir: IGP V K Birdi

issued by police in several districts, read. According to the guidelines, the citizens have been asked to contribute to maintaining a safe online environment and promptly report any suspicious activity.

"If you receive a message containing objectionable content, then report it immediately to the nearest police station or police post with a screenshot and detailed information," the guidelines read.

The users have been advised to "recall messages promptly" in case they accidentally share inappropriate content.

Political parties in Kashmir are cautious in voicing their expectations from the Supreme Court.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said he can only hope and pray that the decision will be in favour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"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 judgment.

"I can only hope and pray that the decision is in our favour, but neither me nor anyone else can claim that success will be ours. We are waiting for the judgment. Let it come, we will talk about it then," he said.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said it is the apex court's responsibility to ensure that it does not push the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) agenda, but keeps the integrity of the country and its Constitution intact.

Mufti said the court's decision should be clear that the decision taken by the BJP-led Centre on August 5, 2019 to abrogate the provisions of Article 370 was "illegal, unconstitutional", against Jammu and Kashmir and the promises made to the people here.

"I think the decision should be simple that whatever was done on August 5, 2019 was illegal, unconstitutional, against Jammu and Kashmir and the promises made to the people here," she said.

Hope SC delivers verdict

in favour of people of J&K: Ghulam Nabi Azad on Article 370 Petitions

opposition mustering such numbers. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi-ji had the majority, but he did not do it. So it is only the Supreme Court that can do it," he said.

Azad said the people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their religion or ethnicity, have an emotional attachment with the special provisions of the Constitution that were repealed four years ago.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are attached to Article 370 and Article 35A, not politically but emotionally. It is important that these (provisions) are restored for securing our present and future," he said.

The former Union minister pointed out that the special provisions were enacted by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1925 to protect the land and jobs for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"These provisions found a place in the Constitution of the country after independence in the form of Article 35A. So many governments came and went over the last 100 years and no one felt the need to change it," he added.

Rajput Leader's Murder | Two shooters among three held in Chandigarh

According to the police, Ramveer Jat, one of the conspirators in the Gogamedi murder case, had prepared the groundwork for Fauji, his friend, in Jaipur ahead of the killing.

Peaceful Struggle For Restoration Of Rights Of J&K People Will Continue: Omar Abdullah

not us?" Abdullah asked at a party con-

vention at Rafiabab in Baramulla district.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict on Monday on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370.

The Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370, which bestowed a special status on Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories.

Abdullah said NC leaders are being summoned to police stations since Saturday night and intimidated.

"The Supreme Court has not passed a verdict yet. How do you know what is the verdict? May be it is in our favour. Then what is the need to call my party colleagues to police stations? They are being called to police stations since Saturday night and threatened. They are being told that they should not write this or that on social media. Are these threats only for the NC? Tell me whether you have called a BJP leader (to a police station). Allah willing, if the verdict goes against them (Bharatiya Janata Party), what will you do if they start writing against it on Facebook?" Abdullah asked.

He said there is no justification for putting curbs on NC leaders as they have always been votaries for peace.

"We never asked youngsters to hurl stones.... In fact, (NC president) Farooq Abdullah told people that he was willing to step down as the chief minister if they did not like him but not to bring guns here," the former Union minister said.

He also said police should trust the people of the region as no one wants to disturb the peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, talking to reporters, Abdullah said the NC had approached the apex court against the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 with the hope of getting justice.

"We had knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court with the hope of getting justice and that sentiment persists even today," he said.

CB Files Charge Sheet

Against Director Of Gujarat-Based Company For Fraud In Jammu

Crime Branch said. The company claimed to be in the business of authorised products and services having grocery and daily utility items.

An agreement was signed between the parties under which the accused would pay Rs 12 lakh per month for 36 months to the complainants and 4 per cent of the net monthly billing of the "mart".

In their complaint, the victims alleged that the accused paid Rs 12 lakh for two months and stopped paying the remainder. The accused later openly refused to return the victims' money and threatened to eliminate them and their family members if they filed a case, the statement said.

The preliminary Crime Branch verification after a complaint was received found the allegations to be prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case.

The investigators gathered all material evidence, recorded the statements of the complainants and witnesses and established the offences under sections 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code against Pal, it said.

The Crime Branch said further investigation is underway to identify the other accused.

Kashmir shivers, Konibal coldest at minus 6.0 degree Celsius

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.4 degree Celsius.

Qazigund in South Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius.

After a sparkling 2023, hotels sector hopeful of continued momentum in 2024

The Indian hospitality and tourism sector is expected to see accelerated hiring going forward after witnessing a robust growth this year with domestic travels leading the way

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): The Indian hospitality and tourism sector is expected to see accelerated hiring going forward after witnessing a robust growth this year with domestic travels leading the way, according to industry players.

With a report by the Hotel Association of India (HAI) projecting the hotel industry's direct contribution to India's GDP to reach USD 1 trillion by 2047, experts believe there will be a minimum of 25 per cent rise in the need for workforce, with the adjacent industries like travel, aviation, ticket booking, travel guides, and consultants to be increasingly in demand.

"The hotel industry's direct contribution to India's GDP reaching USD 1 trillion by 2047 is a significant milestone. This substantial growth will undoubtedly bolster job creation within the sector, providing



employment to millions of individuals across diverse skill sets," HAI Vice President K B Kachru told agency.

Kachru, who is also Chairman Emeritus & Principal Advisor, South Asia Radisson Hotel Group, further said following the pandemic, the hospitality sector has undergone a huge transformation, entirely reshaping the employment landscape.

"We have witnessed a paradigm shift in how we operate, with more emphasis being put on

adaptability, digital innovation, and a heightened focus on guest safety and well-being," he added.

Expressing similar views, Chalet Hotels Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) Urvi Aradhya said, "Post-pandemic employment landscape in the hospitality sector reflects a blend of technological integration, an increased emphasis on health and safety, a focus on local tourism, and a shift towards more flexible work arrangements.

"In terms of the expected hiring trend, recruiting agency Gi Group Vice President Sudeep Sen said, "With the world of work specific to the hospitality industry, along with allied ones, looking extremely bright, we are going to witness a minimum influx of 25 per cent increase in the need of workforce.

"He further said adjacent industries like travel, aviation, ticket booking, travel guides/consultants will be increasingly in demand and it is estimated that

the increase will also be in the range of 15-18 per cent, depending on the seasonality of the travel destinations.

"There will be increasing demand for digital content creators, social media managers, sustainability consultants for hotels and resorts, vegan — food & beverage specialists, spa & healthcare specialists," Sen added.

Royal Orchid Hotels Chairman and Managing Director Chander K Baljee said there is a significant surge in domestic travel across India, leading to an increase in the availability of accommodations across various categories, including 3-, 4-, and 5-star establishments.

"With this expansion, there is also a corresponding addition to the workforce...we have proactively undertaken recruitment of fresh staff," he said.

Startup hBits offers Rs 28 cr-commercial property in Mumbai to HNIs for fractional ownership



NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): hBits, which facilitates fractional real estate ownership, has identified a Rs 28 crore commercial property in Mumbai and is approaching high-net-worth individuals for investments. Investors can typically get a part of the ownership of such properties for as little Rs 25 lakh.

The company has identified 13,500 square feet of commercial real estate in Goregaon, Mumbai.

Through this asset, it aims to create an investment opportunity worth Rs 27.31 crore for retail investors.

The commercial asset

will be leased to an Indian-origin tech multinational firm, which will renew the agreement for the fourth term, hBits said in a statement.

The lease duration will be five years, with a tenant lock-in period of three years.

"Further, the purchase price of the asset translates to a gross entry yield of 9 per cent with an expected internal rate of return of 15.49 per cent," the company said.

With the launch of this new property, the total assets under management (AUM) of hBits has reached about Rs 260 crore.

By March 2024, the

platform aims to achieve an AUM of Rs 500 crore.

hBits founder and CEO Shiv Parekh said, "The launch of our latest asset comes at a strategic time when Mumbai is solidifying its spot as the commerce capital of the country.

Several global businesses are setting up offices in the city, which is driving a rapid surge in the demand and popularity of commercial real estate."

With Sebi giving its nod to create a regulatory framework for the facilitation of small and medium real estate investment trusts (SM REITs), he said the fractional ownership of real estate is now expected to witness increased participation from retail investors.

Founded in 2019 by Shiv Parekh, headquartered in Mumbai, hBits group has an AUM of Rs 260 crore from their 9 existing properties.

China deflation accelerated in November: Official data

BEIJING, Dec 10 (Agencies): Deflation in China accelerated in November, official data showed, underlining the difficulties the world's second-largest economy faces in reviving slowing demand.

The figures came after President Xi Jinping said Friday that the Asian giant's post-pandemic recovery was "still at a critical stage" and warned of "increasing adverse factors in the international political and economic environment".

The consumer price index, the main gauge of inflation, fell 0.5 percent year-on-year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

NBS official Dong Lijuan said in a statement that the decline was linked to "downward fluctuations in the prices of energy and food".

The corresponding figure for October was a decline of 0.2 percent.

While deflation suggests goods were cheaper, it poses a

threat to the broader economy as consumers tend to postpone purchases in the hopes of further reductions.

A lack of demand can then force companies to cut production, freeze hiring or lay off workers, while potentially also having to discount existing stocks -- dampening profitability even as costs remain the same.

The NBS also said producer prices sank for the 14th consecutive month, sliding three percent year-on-year compared to 2.6 percent the previous month.

Dong attributed the decline to "a rebound in international oil prices which weakened demand for some industrial goods".

China's economy grew a modest 4.9 percent in the third quarter, slightly below Beijing's annual target of around five percent, which is one of its lowest in years.

Xi urged measures to boost the economy at a meeting of the ruling

Communist Party's Politburo, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

"It is necessary to focus on accelerating the construction of a modern industrial system, expand domestic demand, (and) prevent and defuse risks," he said.

Xi also emphasised the need to shore up "self-reliance" in key science and technology sectors, and to "accelerate the construction of a new development layout".

Officials have struggled to sustain a recovery from the impact of the pandemic, even after removing strict and at times draconian containment measures at the end of 2022.

Exports rose in November for the first time in seven months, officials announced Thursday, although the reading compares with a low base from last year when the impact of Covid policies was being felt the most.

Sebi mulling framework for issuance of subordinate units by REITs, InvITs to sponsors

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): Capital markets regulator Sebi is looking to come out with a framework for the issuance of subordinate units by REITs and InvITs to sponsors and their associates.

Additionally, the regulator has proposed a framework for unit-based employee benefits (UBEB) in the context of REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure investment trusts).

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till Dec 29 on the proposals.

Under the proposed framework, subordinate units can be issued only to the sponsor, its associates and sponsor group. Such units should carry only inferior voting as compared to ordinary units and the units can be issued to the eligible entities in the initial offer or in any offering subsequent to the initial offer,



Sebi said in its consultation paper.

It further suggested that subordinate units can only be transferred inter-se amongst the sponsor entities.

"Any issuance of subordinate units post initial offer shall require prior approval from 75 per cent of the unitholders by value.

Sponsor(s), sponsor group, associates of sponsor(s) and any other parties related to the transaction shall not vote on such matters," Sebi suggested.

The regulator suggested that subordinate units and ordinary units

must be issued under separate ISINs and such units should not be considered for the purpose of mandatory minimum unitholding requirements applicable to sponsors.

It further recommended that the entitlement date including performance benchmark for conversion of subordinate units to ordinary units should be clearly defined and specified in the offer document.

Further, a one-time extension in the entitlement date should be permitted for a maximum period of one year subject to certain condi-

tions. "The minimum time gap between issuance of subordinate units and entitlement date / event for conversion of subordinate units to ordinary units shall be one year," Sebi suggested.

The current rules permit REITs and InvITs to issue subordinate units only to the sponsors and associates.

However, there is no framework detailing the mechanism for issuance of subordinate units.

On unit-based employee benefits, Sebi has proposed that the manager of REIT or the investment manager of InvIT can offer UBEB schemes for their employees based on the units of REIT or InvIT.

The implementation of the scheme should be done through a separate Employee Benefit Trust (EB Trust) which can be created by the manager of a REIT or investment manager of InvIT.

The units held by EB

Trust should be used only for the limited purpose of providing unit-based employee benefits.

The EB trust should not undertake any transfer or sale of units of REIT/InvIT held by it except for providing unit-based benefits to the employees of the manager or investment manager.

The trustee of the EB Trust should not be eligible to vote on account of the units of the REIT/InvIT held by it.

For the purpose of disclosure to the recognized stock exchange, the unitholding of the EB Trust should be shown as "non-sponsor and non-public" unitholding.

The provisions of Sebi's insider trading PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules should apply to the manager / investment manager, its directors, its key managerial personnel, recipients of UBEB and EB Trust.

Severe Covid-19 is a thrombotic disease: Study

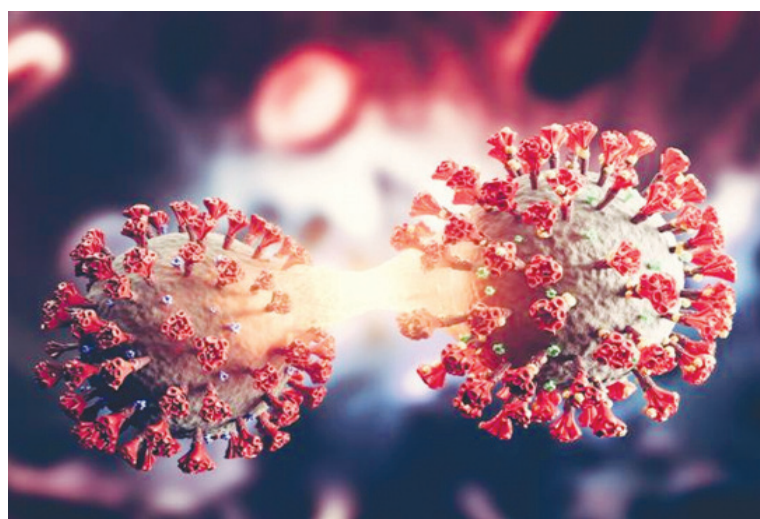
SAO PAULO, Dec 10 (Agencies): Blood clotting (thrombosis) in the capillary vessels of the lungs is one of the first consequences of severe Covid-19, even preceding the respiratory distress caused by diffuse alveolar damage, according to a study.

The study, published in the Journal of Applied Physiology, described autopsies of nine patients who died after developing the severe form of the disease showed a clearly typified condition involving alterations to lung vascularisation and thrombosis.

For the first time, the study describes sub-cellular aspects of the endothelial damage and associated thrombotic phenomena caused by the infection.

It notes the impact of acute inflammation on lung microvascular circulation as the key factor in severe Covid-19, contributing to a deeper understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease and the development of novel therapeutic strategies.

"This study furnished the final proof of what we'd been pointing out since the very start of the pandemic that severe Covid-19



is a thrombotic disease.

The virus SARS-CoV-2 has tropism for (is attracted to) the endothelium, the layer of cells that lines blood vessels. When it invades endothelial cells, it first affects microvascular circulation," said pulmonologist Elnara Negri, Professor at the University of Sao Paulo's Medical School (FM-USP).

"The problem starts in the capillaries of the lungs (the tiny blood vessels that surround the alveoli), followed by clotting in the larger vessels that can reach any other organ," Negri added.

In the study, the researchers used transmission and scanning electron microscopy to observe the effects of the virus on lung endothelial cells from severe Covid patients who died.

All nine samples obtained by minimally invasive autopsies displayed a high prevalence of thrombotic microangiopathy microscopic blood clots in small arteries and capillaries that can lead to organ damage and ischemic tissue injury. The samples came from patients who were hospitalised between March and May 2020, required intubation

and intensive care, and died owing to refractory hypoxemia and acute respiratory failure.

The researchers found that endothelial injury tended to precede two common processes in cases of respiratory distress: significant alveolar capillary membrane leakage and intra-alveolar accumulation of fibrin (associated with blood clotting and wound healing).

"In Covid-19, the clotting is due to endothelial injury and exacerbated by NETosis (an immune mechanism involving programmed cell death via formation of neutrophil extracellular traps or NETs), dysmorphic red blood cells and platelet activation, all of which makes the blood thicker and causes many complications," Negri said.

When the blood is thick and highly thrombotic, she added, the patient must be kept hydrated, whereas diffuse alveolar damage in acute respiratory distress syndromes due to other causes requires reduced hydration.

"Also, the timing and rigorous control of anticoagulation are fundamental," she stressed.

Maternal inflammation in pregnancy may cause anxiety & depression in kids



NEW YORK, Dec 10 (Agencies): Maternal inflammation during pregnancy may be associated with anxiety and depression, and aggression in children, according to a study.

While inflammation is a normal bodily response to injury or infection, the team wanted to learn whether factors linked to inflammation during pregnancy might be associated with dysregulation in children.

"Dysregulation" in this context refers to children's attention, anxiety and depression, and aggression being measurably different from what is typically expected at their age.

More youth with dysregulation (35 per cent) were born to mothers with prena-

tal infections compared with 28 per cent of youth without dysregulation.

Other maternal factors studied, including being overweight before pregnancy, attaining less education, and smoking during pregnancy, were associated with higher likelihoods of childhood dysregulation.

Children and adolescents who had a parent or sibling with a mental health disorder were also more likely to experience dysregulation.

"Addressing factors and treating conditions associated with behaviour challenges may help improve outcomes for these children," said Jean Frazier, of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

The study also found that boys were more often affected than girls.

Researchers used the Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) to measure aggressive behaviour, anxiety/depression, and attention problems in children. Approximately 13.4 per cent of children and adolescents in the study met the criteria for the CBCL Dysregulation Profile.

This study included 4,595 participants (ages 6-18 years) across the US.

Young India aim for right answers in first T20I against South Africa

The South Africa series is the last big international T20 series that India play followed by one against Afghanistan in mid-January

DURBAN, Dec 10 (Agencies): A young Indian outfit will be asked tough questions, answers to which might not be readily available, when it faces a sturdy South African side in a three-match T20 International starting here on today.

With injured skipper Hardik Pandya out till the start of IPL, lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah taking a break and not much clarity over Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's T20 future ahead of the World Cup in June, one wouldn't be able to read much into either success or failure of the team in South Africa.

A clearer picture about India's core for the T20 showpiece would only emerge after a month of IPL, with form and fitness at that point being the criteria for selection.

If Rohit and Virat are picked in the playing XI, the core will suddenly become very different from the team that is now touring 'Rainbow Nation'.

Suryakumar Yadav-led side beat Australia 4-1 on fabulous batting tracks at home but even the most partisan Indian fan would agree that there was so much less at stake in a series that was held within 72 hours of the World Cup.

Australia's core bowling attack was rested and some of the seniors were so tired that they left for home after the third game, having spent almost nine weeks in India.

The South Africa series in that context is the last big international T20 series that India play followed by one against Afghanistan in mid-January.

Even with their pace bowl-



ing mainstays, Kagiso Rabada (rested) and Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi injured, the Proteas at home will be more than a handful.

Batting combination conundrum

India are carrying 17 players for the T20 series and only three of them -- Shreyas Iyer, Mukesh Kumar and Ishan Kishan -- are also part of the 50-over format.

There will be multiple bones of contention, the openers and No. 3, who will have to shed their archaic safety-first approach that had been India's bane in previous T20 World Cups.

Yashasvi Jaiswal has already shown that he belongs to this level and Shubman Gill is now one of the first picks across formats while Rituraj Gaikwad after his 52-ball-100 will be that much difficult to ignore.

And herein lies the problem as Ishan Kishan isn't a great option beyond No. 4 if the trio of Jaiswal, Gill and Gaikwad bat.

And at No. 4 is the world's No. 1 T20 batter and skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who is the only automatic choice as far as T20 World Cup is concerned.

Then there is the wicketkeeper's slot where Kishan, who will have stiff fight from Jitesh Sharma, who is evolving nicely as a finisher at No. 6.

There is a No. 5 slot where Shreyas, who is not exactly a slam-bang from word "go" but an IPL skipper, is expected to be challenged with short-pitched stuff by the likes of Marco Jansen, Gerald Coetzee and Andile Phehlukwayo.

But if one plays Iyer, then there would be no place for Rinku Singh, another designated finisher, who himself said on BCCI TV, that he will be batting at No. 5.

In case Kishan doesn't find a place in top four, then Jitesh is the option at No. 6.

For the likes of Rituraj, Jaiswal, Rinku and Jitesh, the extra bounce on offer at Kingsmead will pose a different sort of challenge as those with superior back-foot play will be paramount.

Bowling picks are easier

The Indian bowling attack was put to sword by Australia in most games but in South Africa, the length would be doubly impor-

tant as the younger crop might find it enticing to dig it in due to the extra bounce.

While there won't be Quinton de Kock in the mix anymore, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, skipper Aiden Markram, hard-hitting Tristan Stubbs and new batting sensation Matthew Breetzke could make life difficult for Indian bowlers.

While Ravindra Jadeja is the vice-captain in this series and is expected to bat at No. 7, Axar Patel, who hasn't been picked for the series, will certainly be around when the squad for the marquee event is selected.

The second spinner will certainly be googly specialist Ravi Bishnoi, who is now world's No. 1 ranked T20 spinner.

Deepak Chahar, Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar are expected to be the three straight-forward pace bowling choices.

Teams

India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rituraj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (vc), Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Deepak Chahar.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottniel Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Gerald Coetzee (1st and 2nd T20Is), Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen (1st and 2nd T20Is), Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs and Lizaad Williams.

BCCI will finalise tenure of head coach Rahul Dravid and his support staff after South Africa tour: Jay Shah



NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah said that the board will sit and talk with Rahul Dravid about the duration of his tenure as the head coach of the Indian team once he returns from the tour of South Africa. The time between the World Cup and the South Africa trip was so short that, despite offering Rahul Dravid and his team an extension, the tenure could not be confirmed, which will happen after they return from the Rainbow Nation, according to Jay Shah.

"We have given the extension but we are yet to finalise the contract. We did not get time at all, they finished (with the World Cup). I had

a meeting with them (Dravid & Co.) and we agreed mutually that they would continue. We will sit down and decide once they return from South Africa," the BCCI secretary said.

Dravid is set to begin his second stint with Team India during the South Africa tour commencing on December 10, featuring three ODIs and T20Is each along with two Tests, with the red-ball segment kicking off on December 26.

After this, the team will play in a home series against England, consisting of five Test matches, leading up to the ICC T20 World Cup in June, to be held in the West Indies/USA. Additionally, a T20I series against Afghanistan is scheduled for January. Before the South

Africa Tour, Dravid was quizzed about his contract length. He replied: "It's announced officially, I haven't signed anything yet (on contract duration), let the papers come officially from the BCCI."

Dravid replaced Ravi Shastri after a disappointing ICC T20 World Cup campaign in 2021, where India crashed out in the Super 12 stage. Dravid was appointed for a two-year term, which ended with India's runners-up finish in the ICC ODI World Cup at home. Head coach Rahul Dravid, batting coach Vikram Rathour, fielding coach T Dilip and bowling coach Paras Mhambrey will continue their stint with Team India as BCCI extended their contracts.

It's encouraging when you do well out of your comfort zone: Suryakumar Yadav on South Africa series

DURBAN, Dec 10 (Agencies): South Africa will pose a steep challenge to the young Indian side in the T20I series, but captain Suryakumar Yadav said that the thought of producing a stellar effort out of their "comfort zone" should work as a motivation for the players.

India will face the Proteas in the first T20I of the three-match series here on today.

"When you go outside India, you're always out of your comfort zone and when you do really well out of your comfort zone, it makes a lot of noise and that really encourages the boys. So, really looking forward to the series," said Suryakumar during his pre-match press conference.

Suryakumar backed his fledgling squad to show character in the face of a daunting opposition.

"The guys whom I am watching right now in the T20s are very expressive, very fearless. I have that attitude. They aren't afraid of failure. Whatever happens if they do good or if they don't get runs on that given day, their attitude remains the same.

"I think that balance is really important and I have just told them just enjoy this format, just be yourself," said Suryakumar.

He gave the examples of Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma, who played a pivotal role in the home series win against Australia, to underscore his point about the young cricketers.

"Rinku and Jitesh so far have the opportunity to bat in the same slot (for India) as their state or IPL teams. I have told them to do what they have been doing for those teams. They did exactly that (against Australia), showing some character in some tough situations," he noted.

The bounce and pace on South African pitches will certainly test this group of young cricketers, and the captain said his wards are well-equipped to ace that scrutiny.

"I think the key to success to playing on such wickets will be to be yourself. We've played on all fast tracks in India and everyone is really equipped for it.

"And regarding the strokes for the batsmen, they've already battered on these kinds of wickets and I'm sure they will enjoy playing in South Africa," he



said.

India will have a mere six more T20Is ahead of the T20 World Cup 2024, but Suryakumar downplayed the minimal number factor.

"There are only limited T20s before the T20 WC. But then we play 14 league games in the IPL and players have already played a lot of games and they have a lot of experience under their belt.

"So, I don't think there'll be an issue when selecting the squad (for WC) because everyone knows their role really well," he explained.

Suryakumar has been elevated as India T20I captain after Hardik Pandya's injury, and the Mumbai cricketer said he has been enjoying the experience.

"From personal point of view, it (captaincy) is a big responsibility. I really enjoyed it in the last series (against Australia). I would love to do the same (winning) in the coming series in South Africa.

"From the larger perspective, I feel we'll see what comes ahead but for now let's focus on the series."

The 33-year-old admitted that the one-day World Cup final defeat against Australia was a heartbreaking one but the series win against the same opposition, albeit, in a different format, was a morale booster for them.

"It was a little bit of disappointment (WC final defeat), which will be difficult to move on from. But as I always say the show must go on. But after that there was a nice T20 series against Australia. We really enjoyed it.

"It was a different format. It (the series win) was a big boost for the boys," he signed off.

IND vs ENG 2nd T20I: England women seal series with thrilling win in low-scoring affair

MUMBAI, Dec 10 (Agencies): The England women sealed the T20I series with a four-wicket win against India in a low-scoring thrilling affair in Mumbai.

Charlotte Dean was the star of the show for England as India were rocked early by the English bowler who rocked India early on to ensure they were just restricted for 80 runs in the first innings.

After winning the toss, England put India into bat and had instant success.

Shafali Verma, who scored a valiant fifty in the first match, was dismissed for a duck in the second ball of the match by Dean as she trapped her in front of the stumps.

Smriti Mandhana looked to get going with a couple of boundaries, before she was also dis-



missed by Dean.

India were in deep trouble soon after as captain Harmanpreet Kaur was trapped in front of the stumps by Nat Sciver-Brunt.

Jemimah Rodrigues played a sturdy innings of 30 from 33 balls but she didn't get much

support from the other end as the likes of Sophie Eccelstone and Lauren Bell chipped in with a couple of wickets to ensure that the Indian innings ended with just two double-digit scores in the end.

What seemed to be an easy task for England turned out to

be mighty difficult in the end as Renuka Singh produced a bit of magic in the third over as Sophia Dunkley and Danni Wyatt were dismissed. Alice Capsey and Sciver-Brunt would steady the ship with a 42-run partnership.

Pooja Vastrakar would then clean up Sciver-Brunt in front of the stumps, which would then start a frenetic period for the visitors. Alice Capsey would be dismissed shortly after and then Deepti Sharma would make things interesting.

The Indian spinner picked up two wickets in two balls as Amy Jones and Freya Kemp both returned to the pavilion quickly.

In the end, Heather Knight and Sophie Eccelstone would see the team home to ensure the series was sealed and the match was won by four wickets.

Wrestling Federation elections to be held on December 21, results on same day



NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (Agencies): The much-delayed Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections will be held on December 21 and the results will be announced the same day, said returning officer for the polls.

A statement issued by the office of the returning officer, Justice (ret) MM Kumar said polling, counting of votes and declaration of results will be done on the same

day and the result of the elections shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition pending before the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The elections, to be held during the special general body meeting, will be staged as per the electoral list made on August 7, quelling apprehensions that the entire process might start all over again.

"All steps up to the stage of preparation and

display of the final list of contesting candidates were completed (on Aug 7) and various activities like polling, counting of votes and declaration of result alone were left," said a statement issued by the returning officer for the polls.

"The elections of the WFI were stayed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 11.08.2023 just a day before the poll and therefore, polling could not be held on 12.08.2023... the Supreme Court has vacated the stay orders and therefore the remaining steps like polling etc. will now recommence on 21.12.2023 as per the following revised schedule," said the statement.

"Result of the above elections shall, however, be subject to the outcome of the Writ Petition pending before the

Punjab and Haryana High Court," added the statement.

After several postponements, the WFI elections have been made possible after the Supreme Court recently set aside the stay imposed by the Punjab and Haryana HC.

An IOA-constituted ad-hoc panel, led by Wushu Association of India chief Bhupender Singh Bajwa, is currently managing the day-to-day activities of the WFI after the sports ministry suspended the federation headed by Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment levelled against him by top Indian grapplers.

Several wrestlers, including Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, sat in protest at the Jantar Mantar here for more

than two months to protest against the alleged sexual harassment of female grapplers by Brij Bhushan.

The election process, which was set in motion in July, has been delayed because of court cases.

This has further led to the suspension of the WFI by the international federation, United World Wrestling, for failing to conduct fresh polls in the time stipulated by them.

Indian wrestlers continue to participate in international competitions under the UWW flag because of the suspension of the national body.

The ad-hoc panel head Bajwa said the polling will be held at the Olympic Bhawan here and the "agenda/items will be the same as per notice issued earlier on 21st July 2023."

J&K witnessed real dev under PM Modi: Ashok Koul

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Jammu and Kashmir BJP general secretary (org) Ashok Koul, along with State Vice President Shakti Parihar, District President Vijay Mohan, former MLA Bhaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar, Secretary (org) Vipin Sharma and other senior party leaders, addressed a large public gathering under "Booth Jan Samvad Maha Abhiyaan" at panchayat Paryot A and B, in Khellani mandal of district Doda.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, said that like other parts of the country, Jammu and Kashmir, too has been benefited by the development projects and the welfare schemes of BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For the first time in the history of J&K, the people here have witnessed the real development in various fields. Widening of existing roads, expressways, construction of flyovers, extending rail connectivity, upgradation and



modernization of railway stations and airports, mega power projects, prestigious educational institutions like IIT, IIM, establishing premier healthcare infrastructure, medical colleges at district levels, are among large list of what this UT has got from Modi government in less than ten years.

Ashok Koul said that almost every citizen of J&K has been covered under welfare schemes of the Union Government. The poor, women, farmers, youth, refugees, displaced persons,

all have got share in centrally sponsored schemes. Today, there has been a change in the socio-economic status of many sections, he said.

Ashok Koul said that large number of people attending the "Booth Jan Samvad Maha Abhiyaan" programmes and rallies are from among the beneficiaries of welfare schemes. They come to these programmes to express gratitude to the PM for coming forward as messiah and make their lives dignified.

Shakti Parihar, said that the

people of hilly and far-flung areas were the worst sufferers for decades together when there were Congress, NC and PDP in power. It is only BJP government under PM Narendra Modi, which treated all regions, faiths equal in its programmes and policies. Modi government bridged the gap between rural and urban, plain and hilly areas and presented true model of concern for one and all.

Dalip Singh Parihar, spoke on various projects of road connectivity in hilly areas and said that an era of development has begun and better means of communication will go a long way in promoting local business and create employment opportunities.

Later, the party leaders took out a Vijay rally in the town to celebrate the party's recent splendid victory in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh assemblies. They also distributed sweets and termed the landslide victory as the endorsement of the good governance of PM Narendra Modi.

Inderjeet Kesar's Dogri novel 'NAMIT' releases by Dogri Sanstha Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: 'NAMIT' a dogri novel written by Inderjeet Kesar was released by Dogri Sanstha Jammu in a simple but an impressive function organized at Kunwar Vijoyi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar Jammu. Sunil Sethi, senior advocate was the chief guest on the occasion, Om Goswami, an eminent litterateur was Special Guest whereas the book release function was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu.

It is pertinent to add here that Inderjeet Kesar is an eminent name in dogri literature having carved a niche for him with colossal contributions as a novelist, essayist and poet. He has been awarded with prestigious Sahitya Academy Award for his

novel 'BHAGIRATH' in 2018. He has more than 22 books to his credit. On the occasion, he also shared his long journey as a writer, about the process involved in writing NAMIT and his growing inclination towards writing novels.

Sunil Sethi in his address as the chief guest recalled the contributions made by Inderjeet Kesar for dogri literature. He said that regular writing is not so easy but Inderjeet Kesar's regular contributions as an established writer is an inspiration for others. Om Goswami, the special guest while welcoming new novel said that writing a novel demands something extra from novelist that has been ably proved by Inderjeet Kesar, who has the credit of having maximum novels to his credit in dogri language. Prof. Lalit Magotra while

giving complements to the novelist on the new novel said in his presidential address that other writers should seek an inspiration from Inderjeet Kesar, who is so devoted and dedicated for writing with a mission of enriching dogri literature with a book every year and this mission has been going on for many years now. He hoped that he will continue with his mission for literature in future also.

Dr. Chanchal Bhasin presented a detailed paper on the novel. The function was conducted by eminent theatre activist and dogri poet Pawan Verma and Dr. Chanchal Bhasin presented vote of thanks. The function was attended in good number by dogri litterateurs, literature lovers and family members of Inderjeet Kesar.

No accountability of officials without an elected Govt: Manjit Singh

Demands holding of Assembly Elections in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today demanded accountability of the Govt officials who fail to perform and complete the developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Former Minister was addressing a meeting at village Pakhdi in Vijaypur Block, Samba District. The participants highlighted their concern about the slow pace of development and ignorance of their village regarding basic amenities.

In his address, Manjit Singh said the develop-

mental issues have multiplied because of the ignorant attitude of the authorities towards the concerns of the people.

He said that the developmental activities have declined, and the pending developmental projects have not been completed.

"The officials are not held accountable because there is no accountability in absence of an elected Govt. The situation has emerged because the authorities are working without consulting the public representation," he said.

He said that the Election Commission of India must hold Assembly Elections in Jammu

and Kashmir to address the growing concerns of the people.

"The elected Govt is always answerable to the masses whereas the babus hardly care about the concerns of the people regarding development, employment, and basic amenities etc.," he added.

As a result, he said that "There is anger among the people of both the regions because they feel dejected by the authorities. Therefore, it becomes important to hold elections and restore statehood that has been snatched and J&K was downgraded into a Union Territory from a historic State."

Unscheduled power cuts derail normal life in Jammu: Pavneet Kour

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Apni Party Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour has raised concern over the unscheduled electricity cuts in Jammu during the winter season that has put normal life out of gear.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized by District President Women Wing Jammu Urban, Ritu Pandita at ward number 55 in Jammu.

In this meeting, the issues of the above said wards were discussed threadbare by the participants who expressed their faith in the Apni Party's equitable developmental agenda.

In this meeting, Pavneet Kour also expressed concern over the unscheduled power cuts that have affected normal life especially during the winter season and the people are getting huge electricity bills.

She demanded that the electricity consumers should be provided 24/7 electricity and

waive off the electricity charges to the poor families.

She said that the Apni Party believes that the people should not be overburdened with the electricity charges and relief should be provided to them by the Govt.

She however highlighted that the Apni Party has committed to provide 500 units of free electricity in Jammu during summers and 300 units during winter season.

She also informed them that the Party aims to enhance up to 1 lakhs rupees and provide marriage assistance within shortest time to the women belonging to financially poor families.

"The Apni Party has also committed in its agenda to provide the free cooking gas cylinders to each poor family per year under Ujjawala Scheme," she added while elaborating about the developmental and welfare schemes of the Apni Party that would be launched if forms next Govt in J&K.

Natrang stages play 'Ajgar Raaj'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Natrang presented a new Hindi play 'Ajgar Raaj' written by Chiranjeev and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre series.

The play 'Ajgar Raaj' attacks imperialist, expansionist and opportunistic policies of our neighboring country by highlighting its efforts to push mankind across the world towards destructive weapons, bloody wars and the propagation of destruction.

The play begins at the court of Ajgar Raaj, where he is celebrating his 74th birthday with his commander, tells him that his master Shaitaan had given him a boon that if he completes 73 years of his life, he will never die, becoming immortal. Along with this, he also declares his Commander

as his crown prince in the absence of his Prime Minister.

On the occasion of his 74th birthday, 'Ajgar Raaj' announces that today he has become immortal, hence he should be considered as God and celebrating a huge celebration all over the world, his "Lal Kitab" should be considered as the divine book of God. After this, a commentary on the "Lal Kitab" is broadcast on the Radio, after which Ajgar Raaj orders the commander to broadcast it 101 times and to wipe out all religions and sects. Then a voice echoes in which the dragon king is warned that he is the enemy of humanity and world peace and all the dictators who declared themselves God have been killed, so he too will die soon. Ignoring this warning, he cites the teachings of his "Lal Kitab" and says that the whole world is afraid of

his destructive weapons.

At the same time, the Prime Minister of Ajgar Raaj who has returned from visiting many countries, tells that no one is afraid of him anymore, a civil war has broken out in his own country and people have blackened his pictures. Many countries have expelled their citizens from their countries. Angered by this, the dragon king says that Shahe Jhutistan should now be asked to attack India. On this the Prime Minister says that Shahe Jhutistan wants us to attack them first.

The dragon king directs the commander to order the army to attack. Just then sounds of laughter start coming from all sides and the Prime Minister says that because of his words the whole world along with India is laughing at us and with this everyone starts laughing and the play ends.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Abhimanyu Choudhary, Harshul Kaul, Kushal Bhat and Chaitanya Shekhar. The lights of the play were executed by Sanket Bhagat who also rendered the music of the play. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Palshin Dutta.

Prof Yash of JU delivers a talk on International Mountain Day 2023 hosted by the IUCN CEM South Asia

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: IUCN Commission on Ecological Management (CEM) South Asia today organized a talk by Prof Yash Pal Sharma, Department of Botany, University of Jammu (J&K), India on the topic "In Service of Humans and Vegetation: Wild Mushrooms of North West Himalaya of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh" to observe the International Mountain Day 2023 falling on December 11, 2023.

Speaking to a global assembly of panelists and attendees online, Prof. Sharma emphasised the importance of mountain ecosystems, explaining that the "Water Towers" supply 60-80% of the freshwater resources on Earth and that at least half of humanity depends on the services provided by mountain ecosystems to survive on clean energy, food, and water. The knowledgeable speaker stated that up to six crop species with mountain origins—maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, tomatoes, and apples—provide 80% of the world's food. This region is home to abundant biodiversity. But he cautioned that there is pressure on mountains and mountain communities worldwide for both natural and



man-made reasons, which is why the United Nations has designated this year's International Mountain Day with the theme "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems."

Speaking of the several new species of mushrooms that his research team has found in the Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh Himalayas, Prof. Yash said that the dynamic mountain environments are home to an amazing diversity of mushrooms that are essential to the health of

the soil, the cycling of nutrients, and the general well-being of the flora and fauna in the mountains. More significantly, a range of palatable mushrooms such as morels, Geopora, chanterelles, Rhizopogon, Ramaria, Sparassis, etc., flourishing in these environments are exceedingly nourishing, offering proteins, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants to benefit the mountain communities and contribute substantially for food security.

While concluding his address, Prof Sharma urged that in view of some recent reports on the rapid rate of plant and fungal species decline worldwide, policymakers and conservation organizations should include fungi in their goals for global biodiversity conservation and to designate the upcoming decade as the decade of fungal diversity, just as they have done for plants and animals.

Dr. Deepu Sivadas, Regional Chair for South Asia, IUCN Commission on Ecological Management, led the session's proceedings, which were planned by Dr. Shalini Dhyani, Principal Scientist, NEERI, Nagpur and Vice Chair for Asia and SC member, IUCN CEM.

Shiv Sena in favour of safeguard along with "One Nation One Constitution"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 10: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit on expressed concern over the upcoming decision of Hon'ble High Court on Article 370 with "One Nation, One constitution, symbol", protection of cultural identity, employment to local people, education, land etc. has expressed hope of restoration of statehood with the privileges and return of Leh-

Ladakh to Jammu and Kashmir.

In a press conference held at the party's central office in Jammu today, state chief Manish Sahni said that party founder venerable Bala Saheb Thackeray dream was "One Nation One constitution" in the country.

There was a separate constitution and symbol under Article 370 in J&K. Shiv Sena has always been protested about

this. Along with this, the daughters of Jammu and Kashmir were being deprived of their rights after marriage with outsider under 370, 35A, the Balmiki community, who have been living in Jammu and Kashmir for decades and have been providing their services, and the West Pak migrants was deprived of his democratic rights to vote. Sahni said that Shiv Sena has always raised its voice on the

rights of the local people and the protection of its cultural identity, our needle is not stuck only on Article 370.

Sahni said that the wait for the decision of the Honorable High Court is almost over and we hope that with "One Country One Constitution" the local people of Jammu and Kashmir will get protection of their cultural identity and access to jobs, educational institutions. The privilege of reservation will be restored. By restoring our statehood, the separated Leh-Ladakh will be made a part of Jammu and Kashmir and the democratic process will soon be restored. On this occasion vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamgar Sena Raj Singh, Rahul were present.