

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Mumbai-based singer Khushi Sadry on a melodious note



NATIONAL | 7

Sedition case against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut for article against PM Modi

INTERNATIONAL | 8

China's Xi Jinping visits Vietnam after Biden, seeks 'shared future' with Hanoi

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BRIEFLY

J&K Govt orders minor reshuffle in administration

JAMMU, Dec 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday ordered transfers and postings in the administration.

According to an order by the GAD in this regard, Nitish Rajora, IAS (AGMUT:2021), awaiting orders of adjustment, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jammu (North), vice Mr. Nagesh Singh, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. Mr. Nitish, IAS, shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Jammu (North-II), in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Rakesh Kumar, IAS (AGMUT:2021), awaiting orders of adjustment, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Hiranagar. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Hiranagar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Manisha Koul, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Hiranagar, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, R.S. Pura, relieving Ms. Anju Anand, JKAS, Assistant Settlement Officer, Jammu of the additional charge of the post.

Two 'Suspected Individuals' arrested in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): The Army on Tuesday said two "suspected individuals" were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district and a pistol was recovered from their possession.

"Based on intelligence inputs, a Joint Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established on Monday, #IndianArmy & @JmuKmrPolice at Zabilpura, Bijbehara, Anantnag, two suspected individuals have been apprehended with recovery of 01xPistol & war-like stores," the Army's Chinara Corps said in a post on X.

Over 2900 Kanals of Land Belonging to KP's Retrieved in JK: Centre

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): The government on Tuesday in the Lok Sabha said that over 2900 Kanals of land belonging to Kashmiri Pandits have been retrieved

Turn to page 9

Bills to extend Women's reservation bill to J&K, Puducherry introduced in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Two bills to extend the provisions of the women's reservation law to the Union Territories of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha.

"Consequent to the enactment of the Constitution (One Hundred



and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, similar provisions for providing reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are also required to be

made by Parliament by amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019," Home Minister Amit Shah said in the statement of object and reasons.

The provisions for pro-

viding reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry are also required to be made by Parliament by amending the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, he said.

The two bills seek to enable greater representation and participation of women as public representatives in law-making processes in the legislative assemblies of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

Officially known as the Constitution (106th

Turn to page 9

History of J&K 'heroes' like Sherwani, Gen Zorawar to be part of school curriculum: LG Sinha

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that school curriculum in Jammu and Kashmir will include life journeys of local heroes while state owned Jammu University will set up a chair in memory of General Zorawar Singh.

Speaking after unveiling the bust of General Zorawar Singh outside General Zorawar Singh Auditorium in Jammu University, Sinha, said that the government has decided to set up a



chair in memory of General Zorawar Singh in Jammu University.

The LG said this will inspire students & researchers to build a strong, prosperous J&K which was dreamt of by

General Zorawar Singh. The ceremony was organized by General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust, to commemorate the

Turn to page 9

Will Be "Off-Grid" for few weeks: Omar after back-to-back legal setbacks

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said he will go "off-grid" for few weeks following two "deeply disappointing" days but promised to return early next year to face challenges, including two elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a long post on X, the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir apparently referred to the Supreme Court upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the Delhi High Court refusing to grant him divorce from his estranged wife Payal Abdullah.

"Who was it who said it's not how hard you can



hit, it's how hard you can get hit & still keep moving forward? The last two days have been deeply disappointing both personally & professionally but I refuse to give up & slink away. It's that time of the year when I take some time to be with those I care about, to refresh, recharge & come back stronger. I'm going off-grid for a few weeks," Abdullah said in

the post. He said he will come back early next year "fighting fit" and ready to face the challenges of 2024.

"Will come back early in the new year fighting fit & ready to face the challenges that 2024 will throw at me, including at least two elections in J&K. The fights & struggles will continue," he added.

Abdullah had on Monday said he is disappointed but not disheartened by the Supreme Court verdict upholding the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Western Disturbance to cause snowfall over higher reaches of Kashmir on Dec 16: MeT

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): A feeble Western Disturbance (WD) is likely to hit on December 16 and can cause a brief spell of snowfall at isolated higher reaches of the Kashmir valley, officials said on Tuesday.

The meteorological office said there was a slight improvement in minimum temperature due to an approaching feeble Western Disturbance that may trigger a brief spell of very light snowfall at isolated extreme higher reaches of north & north eastern parts of Kashmir division during the night of December 16.

The dry weather with severe cold conditions is very likely to continue over most places in Jammu and Kashmir till December 21, the MeT office said, adding that "shallow to moderate fog is also likely to continue at many places in the Kashmir division."

After experiencing the season's coldest night at -4.8°C on Monday, Srinagar recorded a low of -1.5°C on Tuesday, which was 0.5°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

The maximum temperature recorded at Srinagar was 0.4°C above the normal of 10.6°C recorded on the previous day.

Pahalgam had a low of -1.5°C against the -4.7°C recorded the previous night. It was 2.3°C above normal for the south Kashmir tourist hot spot.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway recorded

Turn to page 9

'Nehru not responsible for bringing Article 370 in J&K,' Says NC leader Farooq Abdullah

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru was not responsible for Article 370, as he expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court's order upholding its abrogation.

Abdullah's response came after Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament blamed Nehru for the Kashmir problem, pointing to the "mistakes" of ordering an "untimely" ceasefire and taking the issue to the United Nations.

Abdullah told reporters, "I don't know why they have venom against Nehru. Nehru is not responsible. When Article (370) came, Sardar Patel was there."

"Nehru was in America when the Cabinet meeting happened. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was also present when the decision was made,"



said Abdullah, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state.

In a significant victory for the Modi government, the Supreme Court on Monday unanimously upheld the 2019 revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir even as it ordered assembly elections there by September-end and restoration of statehood "at the earliest".

Settling the decades-long debate over the contentious issue of Article 370 after a marathon 16-day hearing, the five-judge bench delivered

three concurring judgments upholding abrogation of Article 370 that provided a unique status to Jammu and Kashmir when it acceded to the Union of India in 1947.

"The matter was in their hands from the beginning. Let's see what happens in the future," Abdullah said, reacting to the verdict.

Asked if the abrogation had ushered development in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "Go there and see for yourself".

"We want elections to be held. We were hoping that if the Supreme Court will remove (Article) 370, they will also ask for elections to be held immediately. They gave time till September, what is the point? On statehood they said they'll talk about it later. Where is justice?," he added.

Asked about India's claim on

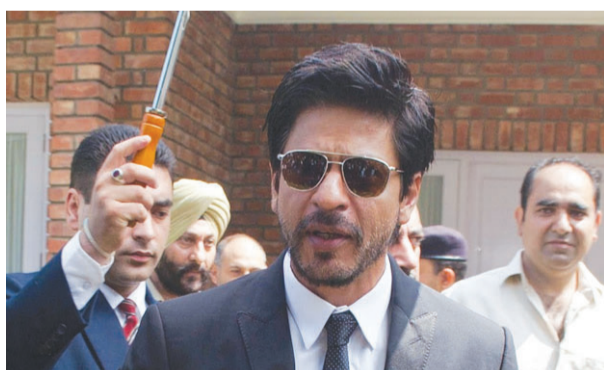
Turn to page 9

Shah Rukh Khan visits Vaishno Devi Shrine ahead of 'Dunki' release

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): Superstar Shah Rukh Khan visited the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine here on Tuesday, days ahead of the release of his film "Dunki".

Almost incognito in a black hoodie, the 58-year-old actor was spotted walking in the Mata Vaishno Devi - Katra Bhawan.

Shah Rukh was accompanied by his



manager Pooja Dadlani and his security detail. This is his third visit to

the temple in a year. The actor visited the shrine in

Turn to page 9

Admin to issue notices for property source verification of NDPS convicts in Jammu

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): In what is seen as a decisive move to combat drug trafficking in Jammu, the administration here is set to issue notices for verifying the sources of properties of those convicted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, officials said.

These directives were issued to Sub-Division-

al Magistrates (SDMs) by District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya during a district-level committee meeting under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD). SDMs should issue notices for ascertaining the sources of properties of convicts under NDPS, Vaishya said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar and Additional Deputy

Commissioner (LO) Anshu Jamwal, SDMs and other officers concerned were present in the meeting.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, the DM urged the SDMs to invoke the NDPS Act to combat the menace. The district magistrate discussed strategic measures to deter individuals involved in drug

Turn to page 9

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EDITORIAL

IMPROVE
ECONOMY

In India, we are getting a lot of support from the government in all areas like industrial sector, agricultural work and along with it, expansion of public service sector etc. In all these works, very important contribution is being made by the government for the economic development of the people. At present India's economy is growing at a very fast pace.

Today our India is facing many challenges for the economy like other developing countries.

The industrial sector comes to the forefront to improve our economy. Ever since the Industrial Revolution took place in India, many industries have also got a boost in our country. Looking at the pace at which the industrial sector has been growing in the recent past, it seems that industries have developed on a large scale in our country.

Iron and steel industry, chemical industry, sugar industry, cement industry, shipbuilding industry, all these industries have made a huge contribution in the improvement of the economy. Through all these industries, people have got employment opportunities and have got freedom from unemployment.

Apart from this, many small scale industries are also being run in our country. Some of the major ones include textile industry, plastic manufacturing industry, jute and paper industry, fertilizer manufacturing industry, toy making industry, promoting all these small scale industries is helping in improving the economy of India.

The economic system of our country is most dependent on agricultural activities because even today half of India's population is engaged in agricultural work. The Government of India has also paid special attention to poultry farming, animal husbandry and fish farming by modernizing new methods of agricultural policies.

Some new laws and rules have been made for all these agricultural works, through which farmers get a lot of help.

For the problems of the farmers, the government has also issued some helpline numbers to solve the problems related to agriculture by the farmers who are very expert in agriculture. The government keeps the policies made by it before the farmers by running new programs from time to time so that the farmers can easily solve their problems.

Apart from this, the government is also promoting domestic cottage industries and handicrafts industries. Poor and lower class people are getting employment through all these industries. From time to time, the government takes some important steps to improve the economy of India and for the benefit of the public.

The speed with which small scale industries and big industries have been promoted in India. That has been a very commendable step. Our government has now understood that the economy of our country cannot be improved through agricultural work. After India's independence, many industries have been promoted here.

Today, there are such industries in our country in which along with raw materials, the work of manufacturing new goods is also done. Our economic growth has also improved a lot through industries like pharmaceutical industry, chemical, textile, automobile, timber, jute, paper making etc.

Has South Asia hobbled itself? Can we turn into Korea, Taiwan?

By: Aakar Patel

Last week, I wrote about South Asia remaining poor compared to many nations in Asia, which have done something different from us. The task is to figure out what we are doing wrong or differently and what is undeniably different about us and them. It cannot only be, as is argued, that it is the form of economic system that is to blame.

We have tried managing the economy through central planning (India in 1950s and 1960s), through "licence raj" (India till the 1980s), through "liberalisation" (Pakistan from the 1960s and India from 1991). We have returned to the same things we were doing before (import substitution in India in the 1970s and today). We had some success and created sectors where we are leaders (India for a quarter century or so in information technology-enabled services and Bangladesh today in garments).

turn into Korea, Taiwan?

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We have tried managing the economy through central planning (India in 1950s and 1960s), through "licence raj" (India till the 1980s), through "liberalisation" (Pakistan from the 1960s and India from 1991). We have returned to the same things we were doing before (import substitution in India in the 1970s and today). We had some

success and created sectors where we are leaders (India for a quarter century or so in information technology-enabled services and Bangladesh today in garments).

It cannot be that we do not have, or have not tried to have, hard power. We have developed nuclear weapons and we have spent large sums on our militaries. Pakistan sends 17 per cent of all government spending to the Army, India and Bangladesh send nine per cent. We have tried to be strong — the misguided word used here is "muscular", and run large parts of the subcontinent with the military (Kashmir and the Northeast in India, Balochistan in Pakistan).

We have tried to remain defiant. We have joined Western alliances (Pakistan in 1960s), we have remained non-aligned (India in 1950s) and we have tried a patchwork of things in between.

But the end result is the numbers we looked at in the previous column. The world's GDP per capita per year is an average of \$12,262. China is slightly ahead of the world average, and Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are one-fifth. We were five times less than the global average in 1960 too, when the global figure was at \$459 and India at \$82. Note that this is per person income and of the world's 7.7 billion people, South Asia contributes a full 23 per cent. Meaning we are a drag on the world's economy and productivity and have been for 60 years, at more or less the same rate.

There must be something we are missing. What is it? The World Bank says that intra-regional trade between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan accounts for five per cent of our total trade, compared to

Southeast Asia, where the number is five times higher. Trade annually here is \$23 billion though it should really be over \$100 billion. Why? The problem is purely man-made.

The World Bank says "border challenges mean it is about 20 per cent cheaper for a company in India to trade with Brazil instead of a neighbouring South Asian country", and that the main problem is "a broad trust deficit throughout the region".

It adds that South Asia is "one of the least integrated regions in the world in terms of trade and people-to-people contact. Putting aside traditional concerns and taking joint action can develop cross-border solutions to shared issues, strengthen regional institutions, improve infrastructure and connectivity, and advance trade policy".

Why should it take outsiders to tell us what is obvious?

Unfortunately, it does. The World Bank adds that regional cooperation has the potential to produce significant gains across all countries of South Asia because the gap in trade is \$44 billion annually. We have the space to reduce the 50 per cent higher cost for container shipments in South Asia compared to developed nations. But it can happen only if we are less hostile and more open to each other than we are and have been.

This is the one thing we have not tried. We have not opened ourselves to each other and returned to the sort of geography and economy that we had before 1947. Indeed, we have not devolved internally power from the Union to the states and further along either.

In his book *The 10 Rules of Suc-*

cessful Nations, Ruchir Sharma writes that "among the largest emerging nations, trade amounts to 60 per cent of GDP on average, and countries well above that average tend to be major export manufacturers, led by the Czech Republic (142), Vietnam (210), Malaysia (131), and Thailand (117)".

He adds something that won't surprise us: "South Asia remains fenced off. Isolation, lawlessness, and the lingering bitterness produced by regional wars have made it difficult for India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to open borders, and so far, no leader has stepped forward to ease hostilities."

India's trade to GDP has in fact fallen from 58 per cent of GDP in 2014 to 44 per cent today, with Pakistan at 30 per cent and Bangladesh at 28 per cent.

Is it possible that we can open ourselves to each other? If so, in what realistic way, given all the difficulties and ingrained historical resistance? And if achieved, what are the effects this can have on our societies? I do not know if by doing this we can repeat what Taiwan, Japan and South Korea did, but I do know that it removes the one restraint that we have deliberately put on ourselves and can eliminate ourselves. The fact that it is not even discussed widely today in the region, despite all three states being democracies, tells us something about how blind we have become to our condition. And how satisfied and unambitious our political parties are with the way things continue to remain in South Asia as we enter the second quarter of the 21st century. Let us make an attempt, however modest, to change that.

ALL ABOUT KP VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Daleep Pandita

In addition to the Government of the day, it is fact that different nongovernmental voluntary organisations play vital role in building the welfare of our society by addressing the needs of the deserving needy.

One such Jammu based non funded voluntary organisation popularly known as KP Volunteers is a dedicated group of like-minded dare devils which are relentlessly focusing on their free service to the cause of humanity. Founded by Vikram Koul and supported by Roshan Pandita, this four year old group of more than 300 volunteers spread all across the globe came in to existence during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Internationally acclaimed, its core team act instantly through digitally connected social platform after receiving a distress call for socio medical service from the needy.

The unique difference in the working of KP Volunteers is that it functions without asking for any direct financial support for its activities. Being a non



funded self help organisation, basically it co ordnates the electronic transfer of money donated by the donor directly to the vendor only, who supplies the already identified required material to the needy beneficiary without any exchange of direct money in between, thereby not only bringing the transparency in its functioning by avoiding misuse of funds and also encourages financial digitalization programme of the Government.

Strongly committed to delivery of relentless service to the humanity, these easily accessible KP Volunteers proceed after verification of facts and assessment of type along with

quantum of requirement of the needy, be it in terms of financial help to the needy poor, educational support to the deserving children, medical attention to ailing patients, blood requirement to the critical emergencies, food relief to the unaffordable downtrodden or even rehabilitation in deserving cases. Its core group as a team work under its president, Vikram Koul instantly swung in to action by identifying the beneficiary and conveying its factual position to its supporters for voluntary addressing their requirements. Irrespective of geographic locations, caste, creed, age or financial status, KP Volunteers function without such barriers giving priority to the

cause of helping service to the humanity only, due to which it has earned its credibility among the society in such a short span of time.

KP Volunteers initially displayed their exemplary contribution during the difficult times of COVID - 19 pandemic, in which it not only arranged free medical consultations and distributed medicines but by virtue of their overseas influence managed the import of advanced medical equipments for their patients. KP Volunteers not only helped in performing last rites of COVID - 19 deaths at the risk of their lives but also shared the mental trauma of affected families during the entire period of this pandemic distress.

Finally it is our recognition to the contribution towards socio economic medical upliftment of the society that makes KP Volunteers to work with more enthusiasm for the cause of humanity which needs to be encouraged.

(Author is a senior columnist and also a member of KP Volunteers)

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Urban reaches Batote

Top News Report

BATOTE, Dec 12: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) Urban, a nationwide campaign to spread awareness about the various developmental Schemes and initiatives of the Government of India, reached Batote of district Ramban on Tuesday.

Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Batote, & Tehsildar Batote, Vijay Kumar Sharma along with BDC Chairman, Batote, Rajeshwar Bhagat, Member DDC Batote, and Jagvir Dass, welcomed the Yatra Van in Batote. A grand rally of locals, officers and officials from various departments, & students was also organised that passed through the main Bazar and culminated at Dak



Bunglow, Batote.

Executive Officer, MC Batote while addressing the gathering highlighted the achievements and benefits of the various flagship schemes of the Government of India towards the ultimate goal of Viksit Bharat.

On the opening day of the Yatra in the district a large number people joined the Yatra which focused on attaining saturation of government's flagship schemes.

The focus of the Yatra was also to reach out to people, create awareness and provide 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 healthcare, clean drinking water, etc.

As part of the Yatra, various government departments set up

stalls at each location to provide citizens on the spot services like free health check-ups, facility, distributions of Plant Saplings by the forest department, Agricultural & Horticulture related Scheme awareness and loans under PM SVANidhi yojana. Scores of people benefitted from these camps during the period. During the programmes participants took the Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledge to make

India a developed and self-reliant nation by the year 2047.

Videos of beneficiaries of various departmental schemes under Meri Kahani Meri Zubani were also played and cultural programmes organised along with online Quiz.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15, 2023 from Jharkhand. The yatra will cover over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and over 3,600 urban local bodies by January 25, 2024, touching every district of the country.

Among others, Khurshheed Yousuf, District Nodal Officer I&B, along with officers from various departments attended the day-long event.

NSS SMVDU volunteers participate in National Adventure Camp at Manali



Top News Report

KATRA Dec 12: NSS SMVDU, Katra volunteers participated in a 10-day National Adventure camp at Manali. The camp was organized by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), Manali, and funded by the Regional Directorate, NSS New Delhi.

A total of 67 participants, including 04 from SMVDU, embarked on a challenging 95km trek, reaching an altitude of 10,100 feet.

The camp focused on enhancing mountaineering skills, covering aspects like mountain manners, hazard management, and engaging in activities such as rock climbing, rappelling, and river crossing. Beyond physical chal-

lenges, the camp aimed to develop social awareness and leadership skills.

The success of the event was credited to ABVIMAS' expertise and the volunteers' enthusiasm, showcasing teamwork and camaraderie.

The NSS volunteers who participated in the camp were Abhishek Sharma, Dhiraaj, Sumegha, and Shreya Gupta. NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep congratulated the volunteers for completing the National camp.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and congratulated them for bringing laurels to the University.

JKBS members congrats ASI Rakesh Lakhotra on winning gold & silver medals

Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members at a meeting held here on Tuesday, strongly hailed winning of a gold medal in 800 mtrs & silver medals in 100 mtrs and javelin throw in 50+ age category by Assistant Sub Inspector Rakesh Lakhotra (of Village Chohala), in J&K UT Master Open Athletics Championship held recently in MA Stadium.

JKBS' Chairman Dilay Ram Kaith, Deputy Chairman Havildar Des Raj Kaith, President Rachhpal Kaith, General Secretary R.L.Kaith, Members Hans Raj Loria, Sub Inspector (Retd) Darshan Kumar Bassa, Master Naresh Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith and many others congratulated him and wished him all the best for future endeavours.



GDC Kathua felicitates NSS volunteer Vishal Gupta

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 12: Principal GDC, Kathua Prof Seema Mir on Tuesday felicitated NSS Volunteer Vishal Gupta who participated in National Integration Camp 2023 at Kalyani University at Nadia in West Bengal.

In an effort to spread the message of Unity in Diversity among the youth of the country, The NSS Regional Directorate of West Bengal took the mega initiative of hosting the National Integration Camp 2023.

The camp is being organized by NSS Regional Directorate West Bengal under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India in collaboration with NSS Regional Directorate New Delhi.

The volunteers from different States and Union Territories namely Asom, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh,



Jharkhand, Jammu Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Kerala and West Bengal participated in the camp.

A team of eight volunteers from J&K Union territory participated in the camp and One volunteer was from GDC, Kathua who participated in the camp.

During this camp, volunteers also had got a chance to visited historical places in West Bengal like Dakshineswari Temple and Belur Math the headquarter of Ramakrishan Math and Rama Krishan Mission which was founded by Swami Vivekanand Ji, the youth Icon of India.

The participating volunteer today met with Principal GDC,

Kathua and shared his experience.

Vishal stood first and third place in Rangoli and Debate competitions respectively in the National Integration Camp.

Principal Prof. Seema Mir congratulated him for being a part of this National Integration Camp and bring laurels for the college and state.

She also appreciated the efforts of NSS program officers Prof Manmohan Singh and Prof. Neha Bandral for preparing volunteers for selection in these camps.

Senior most faculty members Prof Pawan Kumar, HOD Geography, Dr Kehar Singh, Dr Shivani Sharma, Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Pinki and Dr Jobinder Singh Soodan, Director Physical and Sports education also congratulated volunteer and NSS Program officers for this achievement.

Intra-College Group Discussion Competition organises at GDC Marheen

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 12: Intra-college Group Discussion Competition was organized on Tuesday by NSS unit of Government Degree College Marheen on the theme of Futuristic Prospective of Indian Youth under the banner of Viksit-Bharat @2047.

Event was organized under the supervision of NSS Program Officer Prof. Arun Dev Singh. Two groups of NSS vol-



unteers participated and expressed their views, ideas, thoughts, plans, priorities of youths to bring India into the top countries of the world by 2047 and emphasized

that today's India's GDP is at 5th number in the world and planning to be at top before 2047.

Dr Anupam Gupta, principal of the college focused upon while

addressing the students that Indian Government has mission to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth of India and motivated the students to

come up with new ideas, thoughts and planning so that our country shall also be again become a Golden Sparrow in the world.

She urged the students to build up confidence and enthuse to make India progressive and prosperous.

The faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Munisha, Dr. Shallu, Dr. Barneet, Dr Rajni, Prof Preeti and Dr Reemi and others.

J&K National Conference will continue its fight for restoration of Article 370: Ajeet Bhagat

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 12: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference senior leader Ajeet Bhagat has welcomed the Supreme Court's directive to the Election Commission to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before September 30, 2024.

He also appreciated the directions of the

Supreme Court to the Center regarding the restoration of the state.

Ajeet Bhagat highlighted the growing hardships faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the absence of a democratically elected government.

Bhagat said that lack of public representation has resulted in increased public suffering and lack of accountability.

Ajeet Bhagat asked the central government to follow the directions of the Supreme Court and expedite the assembly elections on the scheduled date of September 2024.

This timely move paved the way for the democratically elected government to address the concerns of the people and reduce their burden.

GDC Kishtwar hosts Group Discussion on "Viksit Bharat@2047"

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 12: Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar hosted a thought-provoking group discussion on the theme "Viksit Bharat" to foster dialogue and exchange of ideas among students.

The program was organised under the Patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Joyti Parihar and Con-venership of Prof. Prithvi Raj.

The event aimed to

bring together students from various disciplines to discuss and analyze the development trajectory of India.

"Viksit Bharat" encapsulates the vision for a developed and progressive India, encompassing economic growth, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

The event commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Prithvi Raj.

Participants got



engaged in focused group discussions, exploring various aspects of "Viksit

Bharat" such as economic policies, social reforms, and technological advances.

A session for interactive questions and answers was provided to attendees with the

opportunity to seek clarification and deepen their understanding of the topics discussed.

The event concluded with a closing ceremony, acknowledging the active participation of students and summarizing key insights from the discussions by Prof. Esar Ul Ayub and Prof. Asma Javid.

The program was attended by Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Prof. Jaideep Kumar and Prof. Vikram Singh.

JKBS members remember Lt Colonel Manohar Lal Kaith



Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 12: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha paid tributes to Lt Colonel Manohar Lal Kaith in a brief function held at Chohala on Tuesday.

While speaking on the occasion, the Sabha's General Secretary R.L.Kaith said, Lt Colonel Manohar Lal Kaith after retiring from the Indian Army, contributed tirelessly in all aspects of voluntary service whether it was practical assistance to others or Biradari activities or raising funds for charity. He had a soft heart. He did not raise his voice ever and treated everyone with kindness. Infact, he was a unique personality who served as a good citizen. His personality made us admire and respect him the most. He acted like a friend and as a parent whenever he needed to.

Prominent among those who paid tributes to Colonel were Sabha's Chairman Dilay Ram Kaith, Deputy Chairman Havildar Des Raj Kaith, President Rachhpal Kaith, Members: Sub Inspector (Retd) Darshan Kumar Bassa, Hans Raj Loria, Master Naresh Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith and Deepak Jyoti.

Govt Model HSS Chatroo conducts research project

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 12: Govt Model HSS Chatroo conducted a research project on the "Comparative Study of Usage of Ancient and Modern Domestic Household Appliances" for class 12th Sociology Under the mentorship of

Lecturer Irfan Ahmad, students applied various research methods such as interviews, questionnaires, sampling, and schedule methods to collect field data in DAMBER area of sub-division Chatroo.

The project aimed to provide students with first-hand knowledge of

research work, offering valuable experience for their future studies.

It is pertinent to mention here education research is a driving force for progress and improvement, influencing teaching methods, policy decisions, and overall educational quality.



Google 2023 top search in India: Shah Rukh Khan's 'Jawan' most searched film, Kiara Advani, Elvish Yadav most searched people

Google has released a list of most trending personalities searched globally in 2023.

Actress Kiara Advani has topped the most trending personality in India. Satish Kaushik and Matthew Perry deaths left people brokenhearted and they were in the top trending searches in India. Actor-director Satish Kaushik died of heart attack in March, while Friends' star Perry died at 54, he was found in hot tub at LA home.

Shah Rukh Khan's film, *Jawan*, claimed the top spot as the most searched film in India, while Shahid Kapoor and Vijay Sethupathi's web show, *Farzi*, bagged the title of the



most searched show. Reality show star and YouTuber Elvish Yadav also made it to the list and became the fifth

most searched personality in India.

Jawan emerged as the top trending local film search and ranked

#3 globally. *Gadar 2* secured the second spot, Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* claimed the third spot in

India. *Pathaan* following closely at the fifth position.

The Kerala Story (6th spot), Rajinikanth's *Jailer* (7th spot), Vijay's Leo (8th spot), Salman Khan's *Tiger 3* (9th spot), and Vijay's another film *Varisu* (10th spot). Arijit Singh's soulful melody *Kesariya* earned the #2 spot on the global list of most searched songs.

Globally, NFL player Damar Hamlin topping the list, followed by actor Jeremy Renner, was in news after being involved in weather-related accident while plowing snow. Andrew Tate was the third most searched person, while Kylian Mbape was the fourth.

End note: Sana Raees Khan evicted from the Bigg Boss house



Sana Raees Khan's journey on Colors' famous show *Bigg Boss* was a rollercoaster ride,

but it has now come to an end with her eviction. Sana shared, "This journey has been nothing

short of extraordinary. It was a whirlwind of ups and downs that kept me on my toes. Amid all the chaos and clashes, Mannara Chopra stood by me as a true friend, and I'm grateful for that. There were many challenges along the way, especially the heated arguments I had with Sunny Arya, Arun Srikanth, Vicky Jain and Anurag Dobhal. I take pride in sticking to my principles throughout this adventure. Colors and *Bigg Boss* offered the most incredible platform for me to be unapologetically myself, and I can't thank them enough. I'm thankful for each and every moment of this experience."

Mumbai-based singer Khushi Sadry on a melodious note

Mumbai-based singer Khushi Sadry, who has been singing since the age of five, is coming up with a single titled *Tight Hug Sohneya*. It is a superb Punjabi song with a beautiful music video, which shows a long-distance relationship, as the girl lives in America and her beloved in India.

Khushi has performed in over 900 live shows across the world. Apart from being a singer, she is also a fashion model who has also worked in many short films, including *Showreel* and *Miss You*. She has also worked in the Hollywood movie *Dream of Consciousness*.

Khushi has performed for the IIFA Awards and Radio Mirchi Awards as well. She even did opening performances for Salman Khan's *Da-Bang World Tour* in cities like London, Atlanta and Delhi.

Tight Hug Sohneya is being released by Sky Digital India, a premium Punjabi music label, on their *Mad4Music* YouTube channel.



Tiger Shroff needs a good director and release, says father Jackie Shroff

Veteran Bollywood star Jackie Shroff says he has advised actor son Tiger Shroff to "take it easy" as film business is unpredictable.

Tiger emerged as an action hero following the box office success of films such as 'Heropanti', and 'Baaghi'. But his last few films such as 'Munna Michael', 'Heropanti 2', 'Ganapath' underperformed at the box office.

Jackie Shroff said hits and flops are part of the movie industry and he has faith in his son's capabilities.

"I think he (Tiger) needs a good technician and a good release. That's it. The boy has everything, he is an action star. At his age, he is the biggest. I say, 'Take it easy, some films will work, some won't work, again some will work. This is life'.

"I've done 250 films and not all of them have worked. So, it's all right. It (film) totally depends on the whole team, it (filmmaking) is a team work," the 66-year-old actor, known for movies



such as 'Karma', 'Ram Lakhan', 'Parinda', told agency in an interview.

The actor, who currently stars in the movie 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', said one has to be appreciative of all that they have accomplished, a formula that he lives by in his life.

"Everybody will not get everything in life,

it is impossible. So, one has to understand that health, family and friends are important. We should have gratitude for whatever we have. I was happy selling peanuts, then sticking posters on the walls, working in a travel agency, modelling and acting in films, and now I'm happy planting

plants."

Jackie Shroff said he never viewed any work as small. He started with odd jobs before making his acting debut in the 1982 Dev Anand film 'Swami Dada', in which he played a small role. It was 'Hero', directed by Subhash Ghai, which catapulted him to stardom.

"Whatever work I've got, I've always done that. Like, I remember selling peanuts first, then I got the job of sticking movie posters on the walls, I worked at a garment shop, then joined a travel agency. Then someone asked me, 'If I would do modelling?' I did it, then it was like, 'Will you do a movie? I did it.

"So, I kept myself open to doing all kinds of things. I was always sincere and disciplined, whatever work I was given, I did it honestly. I just kept moving and never stressed about anything."

'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', also starring Neena Gupta in the lead, is a poignant tale of urban

loneliness. It released on December 8 on Prime Video.

The film is written and directed by Vijay Maurya, best known for penning dialogues for 'Gully Boy', and 'Darlings' among others. The film is based on universal themes of second chances in love and life, forgiveness, and redemption.

Jackie said he resonates with the idea of 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' in life.

"People often don't take me seriously, some people laugh at the things that I do, some think I'm funny, and some are like, 'he says anything'. But there are people who are like, 'One should live life this way'. I don't know any other way but that you just have to be happy, spread happiness, and lead a life that is beautiful. Mast mein raho, there will be tension in life," he added.

'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' is produced by Payal Arora and Maurya under their banner *Made in Maurya*.

Top honour: Kabir Bedi feted with Italy's highest civilian award



Veteran actor Kabir Bedi was awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), the highest Italian civilian award. After the event in Mumbai, there was a special live musical performance by Niccolò Fabi, which set off the celebrations perfectly. "This is a very emotional award for me," Kabir said.

"Being presented the Order of Merit, Italy's

highest honour, is the fulfillment of my life's work in Italy. It's even higher than Cavaliere (Knight), which they made me 12 years ago. It gives me great joy to see Prime Minister Meloni and Prime Minister Narendra Modi complimenting each other on the internet with #Melodi. Now it's time for the great film industries of Italy and India to produce world-class films together," he

added.

Kabir gave a heart-warming speech and thanked Italy and the Italian people for their enduring love over the years. He thanked his wife, children, and grandchildren for their presence and the joy they bring into his life. This honour, he said, was "a goose-bumps moment" for him.

He recalled that his journey of being Sandokan began one hundred meters from where they were standing, at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai. That's where he met the director and producer of the *Sandokan* series for the very first time. "Life has come full circle," Kabir said. Alessandro De Masi, the Consul General of Italy, read the words of the President Mattarella of Italy in his speech, "Kabir Bedi is tied to Italy over the last 30 years by an extraordinary human and artistic partnership."

The scroll of honour was signed by President Mattarella and countersigned by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Ivanka Das recently faced an unfortunate accident on the sets



Chaand Jagne Laga actress Ivanka Das recently faced an unfortunate accident on the sets, as a hot cup of tea spilled on her lap. However, a quick response by the production team ensured Ivanka's well-being.

During a break in shooting, Ivanka Das requested a cup of tea to unwind, but the hot cup of tea accidentally fell on her lap. It caused burn rashes, leaving Ivanka in pain. Adding to the difficulty, a power outage occurred at the same time, making the situation more challenging.

Despite the unexpected circumstances, the production team took prompt action. They immediately called for a doctor to assess Ivanka's injuries and provide the necessary medical attention. The set came to a standstill to prioritise the actress's well-being, and the shoot was put on hold until she felt better.

Actress Pranitaa Pandit shares her take on the violence shown in the film ANIMAL

"In today's world, not everyone possesses the ability to purely appreciate a film's creativity without misinterpreting its content," says Pranitaa Pandit, an actress and influencer, on the ongoing debate surrounding Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film *Animal* and the surge in violence-laden sequences across movies and OTT platforms.

While *Animal* garners success at the box-office, it also sparks discussions regarding its intense violence. Pranitaa shares, "Personally, I'm drawn to suspense thrillers, but excessive violence doesn't align with my viewing preferences. Nevertheless, there's a substantial audience, especially among teenagers and certain adults, who find excitement in such content."

She adds, "However, I question whether such content truly resonates with the masses. While some viewers relish it,



others remain neutral or critical. Diversity in cinematic genres is essential, catering to individual tastes. Good cinema, in my opinion, either reflects relatable aspects or offers aspirational narratives with positive messages."

Regarding OTT plat-

forms, she expresses, "OTT offers a wide array of choices, allowing viewers to select content suiting their preferences. However, excessive violence in mainstream cinema remains a concern for me, not aligning with my appreciation for such content."

'Who needs 'Money Heist' fiction when Congress is there': PM Modi's sharp attack on Opposition

PM has made anti-corruption a major poll plank for 2024 Lok Sabha elections

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Prime minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched his sharpest attack in recent times on the Congress saying there was no need of fiction "Money Heist" with Congress' real-time corruption continuing.

"In India, who needs 'Money Heist' fiction, when you have the Congress Party, whose heists are legendary for 70 years and counting!" PM posted on X quoting a video which the BJP earlier circulated on the social media platform showing wads of cash being recovered from the premises being linked



to three term Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dheeraj Sahu.

The video captioned "Congress presents Money Heist" shows Sahu in the company of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and also spoofs Rahul Gandhi who is shown sleeping on a bed of cash.

The Prime Minister has made anti-corruption a major poll plank for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

'Money Heist' is a riveting Spanish heist crime drama television series created by Álex Pina.

Mamata Banerjee to meet PM Modi on Dec 20 over release of financial dues



KOLKATA, Dec 12 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to meet

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on December 20 to seek release of financial dues to the state, a top

official said on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has agreed to Banerjee's request for an appointment with Modi, he said.

"The meeting will take place around 11 am on December 20," the official told agency.

Banerjee had earlier this week claimed that the Centre owed Rs 1.15 lakh-crore to West Bengal on various accounts, including 100 days of work under MGNREGA.

Sedition case against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut for article against PM Modi

YAVATMAL, Dec 12 (Agencies): The Yavatmal police have registered an FIR against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on charge of sedition and other offences for writing an alleged objectionable article against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the party mouthpiece 'Saamana', a senior official said on Tuesday.

The case is based on a complaint filed by BJP's Yavatmal district coordinator Nitin Bhutada against Rajya Sabha member Raut, who is the executive editor of Saamana, the official said.

In the complaint, Bhutada claimed Raut wrote an objectionable



article against PM Modi on December 10.

The case was registered on Monday at Umarkhed police station here against Raut under IPC Sections 124 (A) (sedition), 153 (A) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion,

race, place of birth, residence, language, etc) and 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes), the official said.

"We have registered the case as per the complaint and will conduct a probe into it," he said.

Karni Sena chief's killing: Woman linked to murder arrested from Jaipur, shooters from Chandigarh

JAIPUR, Dec 12 (Agencies): A woman allegedly associated with a criminal network was arrested on Monday in connection with the murder of Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, police said today.

The three men, including two shooters, arrested for their alleged involvement in the case were produced before a local court and remanded to police custody for seven days by the magistrate.

Police apprehended the shooters -- Nitin Fauji and Rohit Rathore -- along with their accomplice Udhm Singh from sector 22 in Chandigarh on Saturday night.

Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph said Pooja Saini and her husband Mahendra Meghwal provided weapons to Fauji who stayed in the couple's rented flat in the Jagatpura area of Jaipur for nearly a week before carrying out the killing on December 5.



Meghwal alias Sameer is a history-sheeter of Kota and is absconding, police said.

Additional Commissioner of Police Kailash Chandra Bishnoi said Fauji came to Jaipur in a taxi on November 28 and met Meghwal who took him to the flat in Jagatpura.

It was through Meghwal that Fauji remained in touch with gangster Rohit Godara, police

said.

Godara, linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, had claimed responsibility for Gogamedi's killing in a Facebook post, saying the Karni Sena chief was backing his enemies.

According to police, Meghwal had procured more than half a dozen pistols and cartridges in large quantities. Fauji took two pistols and as many magazines for him and one pistol and two magazines for Rathore, they said.

Pooja also prepared food for Fauji, they said.

On the morning of December 5, Meghwal dropped Fauji on Ajmer Road where Rathore was waiting for him. The armed duo was then taken to the residence of Gogamedi, the chief of the Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena, in Jaipur's Shyam Nagar area in a vehicle.

They secured access to Gogamedi's house through Naveen Shekhawat who was acquainted

with the Karni Sena chief. After talking to him for a few minutes, the shooters opened fire at Gogamedi in his living room, leaving him dead. They also killed Shekhawat before fleeing from the spot.

Bishnoi said a photo of an AK-47 rifle was also recovered from Meghwal's flat.

"Substantial evidence has been recovered from the flat which indicates that a network of Lawrence Bishnoi gang was operating from there. During the investigation, it came to light that the couple had provided weapons for the crime executed by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang in Jaipur," he said.

In a joint operation conducted by the Rajasthan Police and the Delhi Police, Fauji, Rathore and Singh were nabbed from outside a Chandigarh hotel and brought to Jaipur amid tight security.

Fauji, hailing from Haryana's Mahendragarh, is a lance naik in the Army.

'Is this Modi's guarantee for MP': Congress slams BJP for picking Mohan Yadav as CM

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday attacked the BJP for picking Mohan Yadav as the next chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, alleging that there are many serious allegations against him including "large-scale manipulation" in the Ujjain masterplan.

Springing a surprise, the BJP on Monday picked Yadav, a leader of Other Backward Classes (OBC) and a three-time MLA, as the next chief minister of

Madhya Pradesh. In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Eight days after the election results, BJP elected the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, a person against whom there are many serious allegations including of large-scale manipulation in the Ujjain masterplan." "Out of the 872 acres of land reserved for Simhashta, his land was carved out by changing the land use," the Congress leader alleged. Many of Yadav's



videos are also viral on social media in which he is seen abusing, threatening and making objectionable statements, Ramesh alleged. Is this 'Modi's guar-

antee' for Madhya Pradesh, he asked. Yadav, who was not seen as among contenders for the CM post, is considered to be close to the Rashtriya Sway-

amsevak Sangh (RSS) and is a three-time MLA and a prominent leader of OBCs, who account for more than 48 per cent of the state's population.

He was first elected as an MLA in 2013 from Ujjain South and retained the assembly seat in 2018 and again in 2023.

The BJP legislator was serving as the higher education minister in the outgoing CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's cabinet.

6-year-old attacked by monkeys, falls to death in UP's Sambhal



SAMBHAL (UTTAR PRADESH), Dec 12 (Agencies): A six-year-old girl died after she fell off the second floor on being chased by a troop of monkeys.

The incident was reported from Sirsi town in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district. The girl was sitting with her grandfather when the monkeys attacked her.

She was rushed to hospital with multiple injuries where doctors declared her brought dead.

One of her family members said, "Kirti used to study in class 2. She was chatting with her grandfather Chandra Pal on the house terrace while others were working downstairs.

All of a sudden, we heard her screaming for help. Before we could climb upstairs, we heard aloud thud and found her in a pool of blood."

Cyber thugs dupe 62-year-old man by faking his relative's kidnapping

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): A 62-year-old man was allegedly duped of Rs 50,000 by a group of cyber criminals who tricked him by telling him that one of his relatives has been kidnapped and will be harmed if he does not pay the money, police said on Tuesday.

"We had received a complaint on October 24 from Lakshmi Chand Chawla, a resident of Yamuna Vihar of north-east Delhi. He told the police that he received a call on his WhatsApp. The accused put him under the fear that his cousin's son, a 25-year-old man, was kidnapped and would be harmed if the money is not paid to them," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (northeast) Joy Tirkey.

Police further said that during the call the voice



of a man crying was heard by the complainant in the background.

Police said the accused gave him a different number on which he was asked to pay.

The victim in his complaint told the police that he got scared and transferred an amount of Rs 50,000, said the DCP.

Police said that later he realised about the cheating when he spoke with his cousin and found that his son was safely at home. "We have registered an FIR into the matter and started further investigation into the matter," said the DCP.

Sushant Singh's ex-manager Disha Salian death case: State orders SIT probe

MUMBAI, Dec 12 (Agencies): The state government on Tuesday ordered an SIT (Special Investigation Team) probe into the death of Disha Salian, the manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

In December, last year, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed the Assembly that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would be formed to probe the Salian's death.

In October, this year, BJP leader Nitesh Rane targeted Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray in connection with the Disha Salian case, demanding that his father and senior Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray address the matter.

"Today Uddhav Thackeray will be addressing workers at Shivaji Park, Sanjay Raut says it is the day to speak the truth. So will Uddhav



Thackeray in today's address speak the truth about his son Aaditya Thackeray's involvement in the Disha Salian

murder case? Weren't drugs used in the party held before the death of Disha Salian?" Nitesh Rane said earlier.

Salian died allegedly after falling off a high-rise building in the Malad area of Mumbai on June 8, 2020, a week before Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging from the ceiling of his residence.

Mumbai police had registered an accidental death case in the matter.

Woman's eyes removed during autopsy in UP, family accuses doctors of organ trafficking

BUDAUN, Dec 12 (Agencies): The family members of a woman whose body was found hanging have accused doctors and staff members of a government hospital in this Uttar Pradesh district of removing her eyes during post-mortem, officials said on Tuesday.

Taking note of the allegations, the district magistrate has ordered a probe and asked for the post-mortem to be conducted again.

Puja (20) was allegedly killed for dowry and her body was found hanging on Sunday in the Rasula village of the district's Mujaria area.

The body was sent for post-mortem on Monday. When the body was handed over to the family members, the

eyes were removed. The family members alleged that the eyes were removed during the post-mortem.

They also approached District Magistrate Manoj Kumar and demanded strict action against the doctor and the staff members, alleging that they were involved in organ trafficking.

"The victim's family members met me and gave a complaint for taking action. A probe has been ordered and the post-mortem will be done again. Strict action will be taken if anyone is found guilty," Kumar said.

Chief Medical Officer Pradeep Varshney said the district magistrate ordered the second post-mortem to be videographed and a report to be submitted to him.

4-year-old Kerala boy strangled by mentally unsound relative



PALAKKAD, Dec 12 (Agencies): A four-year-old boy met a tragic end after he was strangled to death allegedly by a paternal relative in this district, police said on Tuesday.

The gruesome murder was allegedly committed by the victim's aunt who was reportedly mentally unsound.

The 29-year-old woman is currently hospitalized with injuries, suspected to have been inflicted by herself after the crime, they said.

Ritwik, a kindergarten student, was found unconscious at his home in Kozhijambam

here late on Monday night and was declared brought dead at the hospital by doctors.

The incident occurred when his parents were away as the deceased child's grandmother was admitted to hospital due to some health issues.

"Besides the victim, the accused's own child was also at the house at that time. When the parents came back, the boy was found lying unconscious," a police officer told agency.

Though he was rushed to a nearby hospital, his life couldn't be saved.

The woman is said to be suffering from some mental issues and it should be verified.

The woman's statement would be recorded soon and further details could be divulged only after that, he added.

She was the wife of the victim's uncle.

Israel Bombs Gaza After Claiming Hamas Is On "Verge Of Dissolution"

Fierce fighting raged on Tuesday, with Hamas saying clashes had taken place in central Gaza and witnesses reporting deadly Israeli strikes in the south of the territory.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, Dec 12 (Agencies): Israel pressed on with its bombing of Gaza on Tuesday after saying its campaign to destroy Hamas has left the Palestinian militant group on the "verge of dissolution".

Humanitarian leaders fear the besieged territory will soon be overwhelmed by disease and starvation, and are piling diplomatic pressure on Israel to boost efforts to protect civilians.

Fierce fighting raged on Tuesday, with Hamas saying clashes had taken place in central Gaza and witnesses reporting deadly Israeli strikes in the south of the territory.

Strikes on Monday targeted Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis, now the epicentre of the fighting, as well as Rafah, a city on the border with Egypt where tens of thousands of people are seeking shelter.

"Hamas is on the verge of dissolution -- the IDF is taking over its last strongholds," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said late Monday.

The war began with Hamas's October 7 attacks that killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli figures, and saw around 240 hostages taken back to Gaza.

Israel has responded with a military offensive that has reduced much of Gaza to rubble and killed at least 18,200 people, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Israel's army chief Herzi Halevi visited the centre of Khan Yunis on Monday, where he said his forces were "securing our accomplishments in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, the entrance in the southern part of the Strip, and also deep down into the ground".



The UN estimates 1.9 million of the territory's 2.4 million people have been displaced by the war, half of them children.

Fighting and heavy bombardment in the south, where Israel had previously urged civilians to seek safety, have left people with few places to go.

Umm Mohammed al-Jabri lost seven children in an air strike on Rafah after fleeing there from Gaza City further north.

"I have four children left," said Jabri, 56. "Last night they bombed the house we were in and destroyed it. They said Rafah would be a safe place. There is no safe place."

- Basic supplies run out -
Civilians in Gaza are facing a catastrophic situation, the EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell said Monday, comparing the territory's destruction to that of Germany during World War II.

Health services have been devastated, with only 14 of Gaza's 36 hospitals functioning at any capacity, according to UN humanitarian agency OCHA.

In central Gaza, Al-Aqsa hospital was inundated with victims Monday, including dozens of screaming children, after Israeli strikes on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp.

As basic supplies run out and sanitary conditions deteriorate, women and girls in Rafah said

they had been forced to use scraps of cloth for menstrual periods.

"I cut up my kid's clothes or any piece of cloth I find," said 25-year-old Hala Ataya.

In Gaza City's Al-Rimal neighbourhood, thousands of Palestinians set up camp at a UN agency headquarters after nearby homes and shops were destroyed by Israeli strikes.

An agency correspondent said both the Islamic and adjacent Al-Azhar universities had been reduced to rubble, as had the police station.

"There is no water. There is no electricity, no bread, no milk for the children, and no diapers," said Rami al-Dahduh, 23, a tailor.

International aid organisations have struggled to get supplies to desperate Gazans under Israeli bombardment, with only the Rafah crossing in Egypt open.

Facing growing pressure to do more for civilians, Israel announced Monday it would be screening aid to Gaza at two additional checkpoints, which would allow more assistance to enter the ravaged territory.

No new direct crossings will be opened, Israel said, but the Nitzana and Kerem Shalom crossings will be used to carry out checks before sending the trucks through Rafah.

- UN vote -

The UN General Assembly is due to vote Tuesday on a non-binding resolution demanding "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza -- a call that the Security Council has so far failed to make.

The United States, one of only five permanent members of the Security Council, used its veto on Friday to halt a draft text calling for a ceasefire.

In a bid to build pressure, Arab countries called for the new special session of the General Assembly following a visit to the Rafah border by more than a dozen Security Council ambassadors.

The draft text, seen by agency, largely reproduces the resolution blocked in the Council on Friday by the United States.

Fears of a wider conflict continue to grow, with Iran-backed groups targeting US and allied forces in Iraq and Syria, and daily exchanges of fire along Israel's border with Lebanon.

A drone and rockets targeted two military bases in Iraq and Syria on Monday housing forces of the international coalition against the Islamic State group, a US military official said.

Israeli bombardment killed an official in south Lebanon, the National News Agency said, amid near-daily cross-border exchanges between Israel and Hezbollah.

Israel has observed "heightened aggression and increased attacks by Iranian-backed Hezbollah", war cabinet member Benny Gantz said Monday, vowing "to remove such threat from the civilian population of northern Israel".

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Lebanon, a general strike in solidarity with Gaza saw shops, schools and government offices closed on Monday.

23 Killed In Suicide Bombing Attack At Pakistan Army Base: Report

PESHAWAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): At least 23 people were killed in a suicide bombing at a Pakistan army base on Tuesday, an official said, in an attack claimed by militants affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban.

The early-morning attack targeted a base in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the Afghan border, according to a local official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Many of them were killed while they were sleeping and in civilian clothes so we are still determining if they are all military personnel," the official added.

An additional 27 people were wounded when the explosive-laden suicide vehicle detonated at a school building which had been commandeered as a makeshift military base, he said.

Three rooms had col-

lapsed and efforts were underway to pull bodies from the ruins, with fears the toll could rise further still, he added.

Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan -- a new group affiliated with the Pakistan Taliban -- said the assault began around 2:30 am (2130 GMT) with a "martyrdom attack" by one fighter before others stormed the compound.

Pakistan's army has not yet commented on the incident.

Pakistan has witnessed a dramatic spike in militant attacks, mainly in its border regions with Afghanistan, since the Taliban returned to power there in 2021.

Analysts say Islamist fighters have been emboldened by the neighbouring insurgency's success following the withdrawal of US forces in 2021.

The first half of 2023 saw a nearly 80 per cent spike in attacks

compared to last year, according to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies.

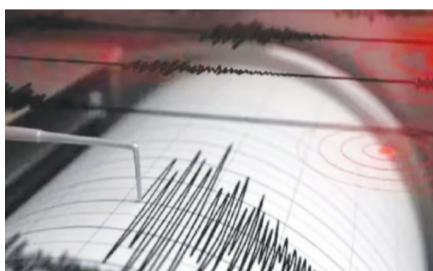
Islamabad alleges that hostile groups operate from "sanctuaries" across the border, a charge the Taliban government routinely denies.

The biggest threat to Pakistan is its domestic chapter of the Taliban known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which shares lineage and ideology with Kabul's rulers.

In January, the TTP was linked to a mosque bombing which killed more than 80 police officers inside a headquarters in the northwestern city of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Islamabad said four troops were killed in September during a cross-border raid by "hundreds" of TTP fighters in Chitral, an area popular with domestic tourists.

Earthquake of magnitude 5.2 jolts Afghanistan



KABUL, Dec 12 (Agencies): An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale hit Afghanistan on Tuesday morning, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said in a post on microblogging site X (formerly Twitter).

According to the NCS, the 5.2 magnitude earthquake that occurred on Tuesday morning originated 120 km below the surface and at latitude 36.33 and longitude 70.70.

So far, no casualty or loss of property has been reported.

In October, a powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake followed by strong aftershocks killed dozens of people in western Afghanistan, the country's national disaster authority said.

Around 2,000 people died in one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

China's Xi Jinping visits Vietnam after Biden, seeks 'shared future' with Hanoi

HANOI, Dec 12 (Agencies): China's President Xi Jinping starts a two-day visit to Vietnam on Tuesday to build a "community with shared future", three months after U.S.

President Joe Biden travelled to Hanoi as the major powers vie for influence in the Southeast Asian nation.

The trip, Xi's first in six years, has been months in planning and was even briefly considered to take place days before Biden's visit, according to officials.

It aims to boost relations between the two Communist-ruled countries which have very close economic ties but are at odds over boundaries in the South China Sea and have a millennia-long history of frequent conflict.

The visit has been delayed also because of prolonged discussions over how to phrase the countries' enhanced bilateral relations, which Beijing wants to be framed as "shared destiny," a reference that Hanoi has resisted but is expected to have eventually accepted, according to officials and diplomats.

In an opinion article published on the newspaper of the Vietnamese Communist party ahead of his visit, Xi said a "community with a shared future" between the two countries would carry strategic significance.

Beyond the symbolism of elevating ties to a notch that Beijing may see as being above the



U.S.-Vietnam relationship, the upgraded status comes with the signature of "dozens of cooperation documents," according to China's ambassador to Vietnam Xiong Bo, as reported by Vietnamese state newspaper Tuoi Tre before the visit.

Among the expected deals are Chinese investments to upgrade rail links between the two neighbours, which would include grants, although the volume of aid is not clear and neither is the amount and terms of possible loans.

countries have expressed interest in boosting transport connections. Vietnam is willing to export more to China, especially farm products, and Beijing wants to integrate northern Vietnam further into its southern supply chain networks.

Many Chinese companies have moved part of their operations to Vietnam at a faster pace this year than before the pandemic to be closer to Western clients in Vietnam, lower risks from U.S.-China trade tensions and reduce exposure to China's weakened economy. Strengthened rail con-

nections would facilitate import of components from China for assembling in Vietnam, effectively expanding China's new silk road, which Beijing calls the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Xi said in his op-ed said that work should accelerate on infrastructure-building cooperation.

China has also pushed to include Vietnam in its Digital Silk Road, which may entail investments for new undersea optical fibre cables, the 5G network and other telecoms infrastructure.

The only project so far that has received BRI loans in Vietnam is the Hanoi metro, although Vietnam prefers not to openly label it as a BRI project, in a sign of how sensitive it is to show too close ties with Beijing.

Easier trade and stronger cooperation in several sectors including renewable energy, rare earths and tourism are also among the possible agreements.

Xi said the two countries should broaden cooperation in connectivity, reform of state owned enterprises, green energy and critical minerals.

EU gives Mahsa Amini rights prize as Iran blocks family attendance

STRASBOURG, Dec 12 (Agencies): EU lawmakers on Tuesday present a top rights prize to Mahsa Amini, whose death in Iranian custody sparked mass protests, but her family won't attend after being blocked by Tehran.

The award -- also for the broader "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement -- is the latest international recognition for the women challenging Iran's religious government after jailed activist Narges Mohammadi was given the Nobel Peace Prize.

Amini's mother, father and brother will miss the ceremony at the European Parliament in the French city of Strasbourg as Iran's authorities confiscated their passports and barred them from flying to collect the EU's Sakharov Prize.

Iranian Kurd Amini died on September



16, 2022 at the age of 22 while being held by Iran's religious police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Her death triggered major protests in Iran and a global movement known as "Woman, Life, Freedom", calling for the end of the Muslim cleric-led government in Tehran and its imposition of headscarves on women.

Iranian security forces have cracked down on the protests domestically, killing hundreds, and

have executed dozens for allegedly participating in what officials have called "riots".

The refusal by Iran's government to let Amini's family attend has caused outrage among EU lawmakers, who said Tehran is seeking to stifle her supporters.

"This restriction is aimed at silencing Jina Mahsa Amini's family, preventing them from speaking out about the Islamic Republic's outrageous repression of women's rights, human rights and fundamental

freedoms in Iran," 116 MEPs wrote in a letter.

"We cannot tolerate this, the truth must not be silenced and the face of this incredible liberation movement should be shown to Europe and the world."

Amini's family will instead be represented by their Iranian lawyer Saleh Nikbakht at the ceremony.

Nikbakht said at a meeting with lawmakers on Monday that Amini's family had informed the authorities they were planning to travel but were stopped at the last moment.

Two prominent activists living in exile outside Iran -- Afsoon Najafi and Meresede Shahinkar -- will also pick up the award in the name of the broader movement.

Najafi's sister died during the anti-government protests that swept Iran in the wake of Amini's death. Shahinkar

was shot in the eye by security forces.

"I will never stay silent and I will carry on the path I've chosen to be a voice of my people in any way possible," Shahinkar told lawmakers.

"I'm going to show that my people do not want the Islamic Republic regime."

Nobel peace prize winner Mohammad -- who has been detained since 2021 in Tehran's Evin prison -- was also unable to pick up the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on Sunday.

Mohammadi was one of the women spearheading the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising.

Mohammadi's twin children Ali and Kiana instead received the award on her behalf, and read out a speech that was smuggled out of jail denouncing the "tyrannical and anti-women religious" government.

Yemen's Houthis claim attack on Norwegian commercial tanker

DUBAI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Tuesday they carried out a military operation against the Norwegian commercial tanker STRINDA in its latest operation to protest against Israel's bombardment of Gaza.

The group targeted the tanker with a rocket after the crew refused to respond to all warnings, Houthi military spokes-

person Yehia Sareea said in a televised statement.

He vowed that the Houthis would continue blocking ships heading to Israeli ports until Israel allows the entry of food and medical aid into the Gaza Strip - more than 1,000 miles from the Houthi seat of power in Sanaa.

The attack on the tanker STRINDA took place about 60 nauti-

cal miles (111km) north of the Bab al-Mandab Strait connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden at about 2100 GMT, a U.S. official told agency. A second US official said the STRINDA was able to move under its own power in the hours after the attack.

"There were no US ships in the vicinity at the time of the attack, but the (US Navy

destroyer) USS MASON responded to the M/T STRINDA's mayday call and is currently rendering assistance," the US military's Central Command, which oversees American forces in the Middle East, said in a statement posted on social media platform X.

The attack caused a fire and damage but no casualties, the US military said in a statement. The Houthi spokes-

man said that the group had managed to obstruct the passage of several ships in recent days, acting in support of the Palestinians.

The Houthis have waded into the Israel-Hamas conflict - which has spread around the Middle East since Oct. 7 - attacking vessels in vital shipping lanes and firing drones and missiles at Israel itself.

75th Raising Day of 'White Knight Corps Signal Regiment' celebrated at Nagrota

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Celebrating its 75th Raising Day, 'White Knight Corps Signal Regiment' orchestrated a monumental marathon at Nagrota Military Station, bringing officers, soldiers, and families together in a spirited display of unity. The event, featuring three categories - 21 km, 14 km, and an inclusive 7 km stretch for ladies and children, emphasized inclusivity and family-friendly camaraderie. Enthusiastic participants, adorned in unit colours, gathered at the starting line, ready to tackle the challenging routes. The 21 km and 14 km categories tested



soldiers and families, showcasing their commitment to physical fitness and discipline. A highlight was the 7 km segment, where women and children added a distinctive touch, reinforcing values of unity and diversity within the Indian Army. As runners crossed the finish line, the top

10 performers from each category were honoured, recognizing exceptional dedication. The awards ceremony, a source of pride for participants and onlookers, underscored the marathon's significance in commemorating the 75th Raising Day of the 'White Knight Corps Signal Regiment'. The

event not only promoted physical fitness but also fostered a sense of community and shared accomplishment among Indian Army. 75th Raising Day Marathon stands as a testament to the organization's commitment to holistic well-being and the enduring spirit of its members. In tandem with the mar-

athon, a Blood Donation Camp, showcasing commitment to service that goes beyond borders. Indian Army led by example, inspiring unity and purpose among participants and underlining the armed forces' spirit of selfless service. The occasion not only marked a historic milestone but also showcased the regiment's unwavering commitment to community well-being. The Blood Donation Camp became a melting pot of altruism, embodying the ethos of the Indian Army, extending their celebration beyond borders and demonstrating that service to the nation reaches the very essence of life itself.

Indian Navy Band concert at INS Shivaji Lonavla

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: INS Shivaji presented a mesmerizing Indian Navy Band Concert in the heart of Lonavla town. The event as part of Navy Week 2023 activities ignited the spirits of youth and children fostering aspirations rewarding career in the Indian Navy. The concert was graced by esteemed audience comprising enthusiastic students and faculty members of various schools, officials of Lonavla Municipal Council (LMC) and local populace. The event commenced



with rousing renditions of patriotic melodies, engaging repertoire of Bollywood compositions that captivated one and all. The performance crescendoed with the resonating echoes of the Naval Anthem, 'Hum Taiyaar Hain,' coupled with the resounding call of the drums, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts

of the audience. The band concert concluded with the felicitation of the Naval musicians by the Chief Officer of LMC. The Indian Navy band Concert stands as an exemplary illustration of the Navy's dedication towards nurturing talent and fostering a shared sense of pride and patriotism.

Shiv Sena pays tribute to General Zorawar Singh on his martyrdom day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit paid tribute to Dogra Military Commander Zorawar Singh on the martyrdom day at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium campus of Jammu by University. Shiv Sena leaders led by president J&K, Manish Sahni present in a program organized by General Zorawar Singh Trust in the General Zorawar auditorium premises at Jammu University. Where Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha was present as the chief guest, inaugurated the statue of General Zorawar Singh and offered flower



tribute along with prayers. While paying his heartfelt tribute to General Zorawar Singh, Sahni said that General Zorawar Singh, one of the world's greatest military commanders, made the country and the Dogras proud with his unmatched bravery and military strategy. He is a source of inspiration for the coming generations. He said that he was such a brave warrior that even his enemies used to call him the King of Lions. On this occasion dignitaries of Jammu including the sixth generation of General Zorawar Singh and Trust Trustees Riya and Diksha Kularia, Trust Chairman Davindra Singh were also present.

X-Country flying to Indian Naval Academy



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: In commemoration of 75 years of its glorious inception, the National Defence Academy is undertaking a series of events, symbolizing its role in shaping the future leaders of the Indian Armed Forces. As part of the theme "Forging Joint Military Leadership", NDA has conducted an aerial expedition which involves

undertaking of X-Country flying on Super Dimona aircrafts by cadets and officers of the academy to the three pre commissioning training academies out of which the IMA and AFA leg have already been undertaken successfully. On 6 Dec 2023, two Super Dimona aircrafts, integral to the training of future Indian Air Force pilots at NDA, with cadets on board embarked on a cross-country flying expedition

to the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala. Over the course of three days, the expedition covered a total distance of 2000 kilometers, passing through key locations such as Kolhapur, Goa, Mangalore, and Kannur and culminated at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. The initiative not only celebrates NDA's rich history of forging military leaders for 75 years, but also emphasizes the significance of joint man ship in shaping the future of the Indian Armed Forces. The National Defence Academy remains committed to its mission of training and nurturing the leaders who will continue to serve the nation with honor and distinction.

ABVP Jammu University celebrates SC's verdict on Article 370



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu University unit joined in celebration as the Supreme Court of India upholds the Union's abrogation of Article 370, thereby removing the "special status" granted to Jammu and Kashmir. The apex court's decision resonates with the understanding that Article 370 was a temporary provision intended to facilitate the complete integration of Jammu and Kash-

mir into the Indian Union. The ABVP Jammu University appreciates the Supreme Court's thorough reasoning behind the verdict, emphasizing the imperative of J&K's integration with the rest of India. The decision aligns with the historical context and the vision of a unified nation. Expressing their elation, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Jammu University, welcomes the Supreme Court's decision as a landmark moment in the nation's history. Sunil Singh Roudhan

(President of JU ABVP Unit) said, "The Verdict granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court confirmed the welfare of stakeholders, integration, prosperity, decentralisation of power. Some people want to grasp the power now become powerless and the ABVP believes that this verdict will contribute to fostering national unity and inclusivity. Manisha Rajput (Secretary of JU ABVP Unit) said, "ABVP always stand for Ek Pradhan, Ek Vidhan aur Ek Nishan".

Ganesh demands uprooting drug trade and terror networks in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Shiv Sena Hindustan Youth Wing Activists led by its President Ganesh Choudhary today held strong protest against Pakistan for sponsoring terrorists and drugs through drones to disturb peace in J&K, trouble in the region. The activists torched effigy of Pakistan and raised slogans against Pakistan for spoiling our younger generation and exploiting youth. Speaking on the occasion, Ganesh urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deal with the source of terrorism across the border sternly. From the sky, drones from Pakistan that drop drugs across the border,

works also run parallel — and often intersect, he said. Ganesh said profits obtained through the narcotics trade are sent back to Pakistan and then channeled to finance terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. We are faced with a new challenge where the drugs and weapons are smuggled from Pakistan together. While the weapons are delivered to the terrorists, the major part of the drug proceeds is returned to handlers across the border and the rest shared by the peddlers. Prominent among those present on the occasion include State Chairman Shashi Pal Singh Salathia, Jammu District President Rai Kumar Gupta, Samba

District President Nek Ram, Badi Brahmana Block President Sanjeev Kumar, Bishnah Block Vice President Sankar Singh, Arnia Block Vice President Bharat Bhushan, Bishnah Chairman Vikas Kumar, Bishnah Block Vice President Pritam Singh, Batra Chak President Mohan Lal, Parmandal Morh President Pawan Kumar, Karan Singh, Bhushan Kumar, Kamal Kumar, Punjab Singh, Jhankar Singh, Mohd Ashraf, Girish Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Madhu Bala, Sunita Devi, Sonia Choudhary, Reena Devi, Veena Devi, Sheela Devi, Pinky Devi, Sunita Devi, Santosh Devi and Suman Devi.

NOTICE

I Amit Thoalia, S/o Ramesh Chander R/o H. No 87, Mast Garh, Circular Road, Ward No 3, Jammu has obtained a housing loan from Punjab National Bank Jain Bazaar for dismantling of the old structure and construction of double storey house for Rs. 84,30,000 (Eighty-four lakhs thirty thousand only). I have mortgaged H. No 87, Mast Garh, Circular Road, Ward No 3, Jammu in favour of Punjab National Bank, Jain Bazaar for securing the mentioned housing loan. If any person has objection they can contact the Branch Head, Jain Bazaar.

FROM PAGE 1

Bills to extend Women's reservation bill to J&K, Puducherry introduced in Lok Sabha

Amendment) Act, the women's reservation law seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. During a special session of Parliament in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandana Adhinyam". The Constitution amendment bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity. The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise — redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies — will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women. The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

History of J&K 'heroes' like Sherwani, Gen Zorawar to be part of school curriculum: LG Sinha

'martyrdom' day of General Zorawar

Singh. Lt Governor threw light on the life and military campaigns of General Zorawar Singh. "He is the embodiment of India's strength and self-confidence. His valour, discipline, and devotion towards duty is a testimony that for the brave, nothing is impossible and infinite possibilities open up for the warrior," said the LG. He added that General Zorawar Singh is an icon for generations because his name evokes a strong feeling of love, reverence and sacrifice for the motherland. He said that it should be people's collective endeavour to fully recognise his contribution and significance in India's history. "The historians, writers should pay attention to the historic accomplishment of true national hero, General Zorawar Singh and new generation must be reminded of his military campaigns in Ladakh, Baltistan, Tibet and immense contribution to the expansion of the Dogra Empire under Maharaja Gulab Singh ji," he added. Earlier, another event organized by ex-servicemen league at Gen Zorwar Chowk, the LG said history of great personalities like General Zorawar Singh, Brigadier Rajinder Singh and Maqbool Sherwani will be taught in schools. He said their life, courage, conquest is a lesson about patriotism, discipline, self-confidence & will inspire students to achieve the goal of making India a Developed Nation.

Western Disturbance to cause snowfall over

higher reaches of Kashmir on Dec 16: MeT

a low of 2.6°C against the -3.4°C recorded the previous night, while Kokernag had a low of 2.3°C against the 2.4°C recorded a day ago. The minimum temperature at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg was improved by a notch and recorded at -3.5°C against the -3.6°C recorded a day ago. It was 0.7°C above normal for the famous ski resort of North Kashmir. The mercury at Kupwara was recorded at -2.4°C, against the -4.0°C recorded the previous night. It was 0.7°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district, the MeT office said.

'Nehru not responsible for bringing Article 370 in J&K,' Says NC leader Farooq Abdullah

Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir, he said, "This decision has to be taken by the government. We have never stopped anyone... We are nothing..."

Shah Rukh Khan visits Vaishno Devi Shrine ahead of 'Dunki' release

August and December 2022, before the release of his films "Jawan" and "Pathaan",

respectively. The Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu's Reasi district is a religious pilgrimage atop the Trikuta hills that attracts lakhs of devotees from across the world every year. "Dunki" marks Shah Rukh's third and last release of 2023 following back-to-back action blockbusters in "Pathaan" and "Jawan". Directed by Rajkumar Hirani, the film is reportedly a comedy drama based on an illegal immigration technique named, 'donkey flight'. It is set to be released in theatres on December 21.

Admin to issue notices for property source verification of NDPS convicts in Jammu

trafficking and stressed the importance of identifying drug hotspots within the district. The SDMs were tasked with conducting thorough assessments to pinpoint areas with concentrated drug-related activities. Vaishya also highlighted the need for a proactive stance and urged the SDMs to conduct regular meetings within their jurisdictions. "A consistent vigil is crucial in our battle against narcotics. Regular meetings will ensure a sustained and coordinated effort," he said and underscored the commitment to a comprehensive approach in the fight against drug-related crimes.

Over 2900 Kanals of Land Belonging to KP's

Retrieved in JK: Centre

from encroachment in Jammu and Kashmir. In a written reply, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, said that the government has taken several measures to rehabilitate Kashmiri Migrants back into the Valley. He said that as per the data provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 46,631 Kashmiri Migrant families comprising 1,57,967 individuals are registered with the Relief Organization (Migrant), J&K who had to migrate from the valley due to security reasons. "In addition, there are several Kashmiri Migrant families who have migrated to other parts of country. 5,675 Kashmiri Migrants have been provided government employment. In order to provide accommodation to the Kashmiri Migrants who are provided government employment in the Kashmir valley, 6000 transit accommodation units are constructed, out of which 880 flats have been completed," he said. He said that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched an online portal in August, 2021 wherein Kashmiri Migrants can lodge online grievances with regards to encroachment, change of title, Mutation and distress sale and till date, 2924 Kanals and 19.55 Marlas land has been retrieved. He also said that so far, 160856 domicile certificates, 2035 Resident of Backward Area (RBA) certificates, 902 EWS certificates and 31672 migrant certificates have been issued.

Markets continue to rally; Nifty hits fresh record high in early trade

Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance among major gainers

MUMBAI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices maintained their winning run in early trade on Tuesday, with the benchmark Nifty hitting its fresh all-time high level, amid an optimistic trend in global markets, continuous foreign fund inflows and favourable macroeconomic data.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 96.15 points to 70,024.68 in early trade. The Nifty went up by 34.40 points to hit a record level of 21,031.50.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro and Maruti were among the laggards.

The BSE benchmark surged past the 70,000-level for the



first time on Monday, reaching its record intra-day peak of 70,057.83. It ended at 69,928.53, registering a gain of 102.93 points or 0.15 per cent.

The Nifty gained 27.70 points or 0.13 per cent to settle just below the 21,000 level at 20,997.10, its all-time closing high.

"The fundamental factor supporting the rally which has taken the market to record highs is the series of positive news: Q3 GDP growth rate of 7.6%, CPI inflation falling to 4.87%, manufacturing PMI rising to 56, Brent crude declining to \$76 and FPIs turning buyers aided by correction in the US 10-year bond yield

to 4.23%," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

These positive economic news is being strengthened by expectations of political stability after the 2024 general elections, he added.

"Markets will be keenly watching the inflation print from the US tonight and the Fed's message on Wednesday," Vijayakumar said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the positive territory.

The US markets ended with gains on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.32 per cent to USD 76.27 a barrel on Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,261.13 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Job market sees major jump in women participation



BENGALURU, Dec 12 (Agencies): The participation of women in the job market has been increasing as jobs and professional networking platform Apna said of 56 million job applications that it facilitated this year across blue, grey and white-collar sectors for 2.1 lakh SMBs and 400 enterprises, 33% were sent by women.

In the report, Apna said in 2023, it also saw 25% growth in median salary of female users, surpassing the 17%

increase observed among male users. Though there is still a long way to go when it comes to women labour force participation, Periodic Labour Force Survey Report 2022-23 released in October shows that the female labour force participation rate in India increased to 37%. It was 32.8% in 2022 and 32.5% in 2021.

"We see increasing participation of women across workforce, driven by changing

socio-economic conditions in economy and the premium value organisations have been putting on diversity," said Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR Services.

This increasing participation is seen across the industry sectors, and a major progress has been made by companies in sectors of IT, financial services, professional services, supply chain and logistics. "Over the next 10 years, we will see a larger participation of women in senior to top levels of management. The disparity of wages across the gender types has started to disappear except the job roles that involve manual work in the sectors of manufacturing and construction.

Q4 start-up funding at 7-year low

BENGALURU, Dec 12 (Agencies): The funding winter in the Indian start-up ecosystem continues as the last quarter of this year (till December 8) is the lowest-funded quarter since Q3 2016, as start-ups could raise only \$957 million. In Q3, 2023, start-ups managed to raise a total funding of \$1.5 billion. Data from Tracxn's India Tech 2023 report reveals that not just the fourth quarter, but throughout 2023, the start-up ecosystem witnessed funding slowdown as the year became the lowest-funded year in the last five years with just \$7 billion received so far. In 2022, India Tech received a total funding of \$25 billion.

While the challenging macro environment and increasing interest rates played a major role in less funding, late-stage start-ups were the worst hit as they continue to struggle to raise funds. Late-stage funding dropped by over 73% to \$4.2 billion this year from \$15.6 billion in 2022. Even early-stage funding dropped by 70% to \$2.2 billion compared to \$7.3 billion last year.



In the fintech sector, PhonePe is the top funded company as it received funding of \$750 million in four Series D rounds. With a total of \$1.9 billion in funding, the retail sector also witnessed a 67% drop in funding compared to the last year. Interestingly, environment tech and spacetech sectors are gaining prominence as they have been receiving good investor attention in 2023. The spacetech sector received a funding of \$122 million in 2023 till date, a 6% increase from \$115 million received in 2022.

Incred and Zepto are the only two companies that entered the unicorn club in 2023 compared to 23 in 2022. Neha Singh, Co-Founder, Tracxn said, "While

the funding slowdown in 2023 presents challenges for the Indian tech start-up ecosystem, we remain optimistic about the future. Our focus remains on innovation and creating value, and we are confident the industry will rebound and flourish." Experts said apart from spacetech, GenAI (Generative Artificial Intelligence) is one area where venture capitalists are coming forward to invest.

Start-ups see funding slowdown this year at \$7 billion

Tracxn India Tech 2023 report reveals not only Q4, throughout 2023, the start-up ecosystem saw funding slowdown, with the lowest funding in the last five years. Just \$7 billion received so far this year

Hindalco to establish Rs 800 crore-battery foil manufacturing facility in Odisha

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Hindalco Industries, a metal company, is set to establish a Rs. 800 crore battery foil manufacturing facility in Odisha. The facility, scheduled to be commissioned by July 2025, will have the capacity to produce 25,000 tonnes of high-quality aluminum foil.

The company, in a press note, said that this move is part of the company's ambitious plan to meet the rising demand for fine-quality aluminum foil used in rechargeable batteries.

"We are seeing a fast traction in battery materials demand, driven by an impressive outlook for the Electric Vehicle and Grid

Storage sectors. Raw material localization is critical in such strategic sectors."

Hindalco is thus making various investments in battery materials and technologies towards building Atmanirbhar Bharat. Investment in this new battery foil mill is another such step in this direction," said Satish Pai, Managing Director, Hindalco Industries.

The factory will be located alongside a 25 MW solar power plant and can access additional solar energy from a 400 KV National Grid connection. Scheduled for commissioning in July 2025, the unit will supplement Hindalco's existing facility

at Mouda in Maharashtra.

Hindalco said that the demand for battery-grade aluminum foil in India is expected to grow manifold to 40,000 tonnes by 2030, primarily driven by mushrooming growth in gigafactories for advanced cell manufacturing.

Hindalco has already achieved the technology breakthrough of manufacturing fine-quality battery foils at its Mouda unit in Maharashtra. The Mouda unit is currently in the process of qualifying with Lithium-ion cell manufacturers in India, Europe, and the United States. The company said that the new unit in

Odisha will further augment its capability to supply material to Gigafactories across the world.

"This project will provide a stellar thrust to the government's green initiative to reduce carbon emissions and build sustainable growth. Additionally, the company is working closely with original equipment manufacturers (OEM) to co-develop and make critical components like battery enclosures, motor housings, busbars, structural and safety components, and lightweight load bodies, many of which are being designed and developed for the first time in India," said the company.

Dixon to make Lenovo laptops in India under PLI scheme

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Padget Electronics, a wholly-owned subsidiary of contract manufacturer company Dixon Technologies, will manufacture laptops and notebooks of Lenovo in the country. The company, in an exchange filing, said it will manufacture the products of Chinese tech-giant under Production Linked Incentive 2.0 Scheme.

"Dixon's wholly owned subsidiary- Padget Electronics Private Lim-

ited has been awarded manufacturing contract by Lenovo to carry out manufacturing of IT Hardware products i.e. laptops and notebooks under Production Linked Incentive 2.0 Scheme, subject to signing of definitive agreement in due course," said the company in an exchange filing.

Dixon produces consumer durables, lighting and mobile phones, among other things, for companies like Samsung, Phillips, Xiaomi

and Godrej. It is among the first companies that received the incentive for electronic manufacturing. The company recently unveiled a new unit in Noida to produce smartphones from Xiaomi. Lenovo is the second Chinese company that gave a contract to Dixon to manufacture its products. According to IDC quarterly data, Lenovo, with 16.2% market share, grabs second spot in India's PC market in the second

quarter of this year. "Lenovo will bring in the global know-how and processes to manufacture IT hardware products. We are delighted and encouraged by the trust Lenovo has reposed on Dixon for the association and believe that this association will leverage our excellence, superior execution track record and it represents a major milestone in Indian Government's "Make in India" initiative," said Atul B.

Lall, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Dixon Technologies (India).

The government launched the PLI 2.0 scheme in June 2023 to boost domestic production and incentivise manufacturers to scale up their capabilities. The scheme received an overwhelming response, with 44 companies, including HP, Dell, Lenovo, Thompson, Acer, and Asus applied for it.

Novel AI model accurately predicts cancer outcomes from tissue samples

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Researchers have developed an artificial intelligence model that accurately predicts outcomes for cancer patients from tissue samples, marking a significant advancement in using AI for likely course of the disease and personalised treatment strategies.

The innovative approach, described in the journal Nature Communications, analyses the spatial arrangement of cells in tissue samples.

Cell spatial organisation is like a complex jigsaw puzzle where each cell serves as a unique piece, fitting together meticulously to form a cohesive tissue or organ structure, the researchers said.

"The study showcases the remarkable ability of AI to grasp these intricate spatial relationships among cells within tissues, extracting subtle information previously beyond human compre-

hension while predicting patient outcomes," said study leader Guanghua Xiao, a professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in the US.

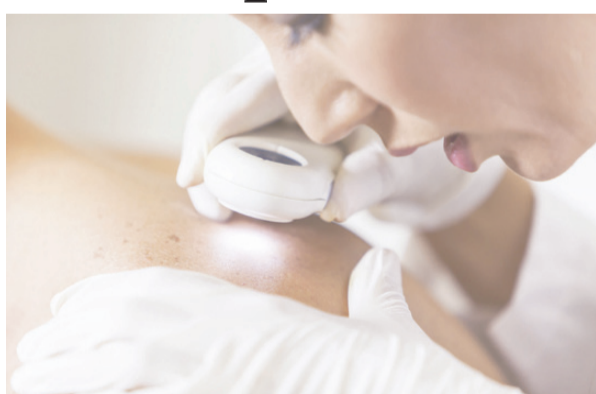
Tissue samples are routinely collected from patients and placed on slides for interpretation by pathologists, who analyse them to make diagnoses.

However, this process is time-consuming, and interpretations can vary among pathologists, the researchers said.

In addition, the human brain can miss subtle features present in pathology images that might provide important clues to a patient's condition, they said.

Various AI models built in the past several years can perform some aspects of a pathologist's job, for example, identifying cell types or using cell proximity as a proxy for interactions between cells.

However, these models don't success-



fully recapitulate more complex aspects of how pathologists interpret tissue images, such as discerning patterns in cell spatial organisation and excluding extraneous "noise" in images that can muddle interpretations.

The new AI model, named Ceograph, mimics how pathologists read tissue slides, starting with detecting cells in images and their positions.

From there, it identifies cell types as well as their morphology and spatial distribution, creating a map in which the arrangement, distri-

bution, and interactions of cells can be analysed.

The researchers successfully applied this tool to three clinical scenarios using pathology slides.

In one, they used Ceograph to distinguish between two subtypes of lung cancer, adenocarcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma.

In another, they predicted the likelihood of potentially malignant oral disorders—precancerous lesions of the mouth—progressing to cancer.

In the third, the team identified which lung cancer patients were

most likely to respond to a class of medications called epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitors.

In each scenario, the Ceograph model significantly outperformed traditional methods in predicting patient outcomes.

Importantly, the cell spatial organisation features identified by Ceograph are interpretable and lead to biological insights into how individual cell-cell spatial interaction change could produce diverse functional consequences, Xiao said.

These findings highlight a growing role for AI in medical care, he added, offering a way to improve the efficiency and accuracy of pathology analyses.

"This method has the potential to streamline targeted preventive measures for high-risk populations and optimise treatment selection for individual patients," Xiao added.

Indian researchers reveal key to enhancing immunity against cancer

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have made a groundbreaking discovery that could significantly improve the effectiveness of cancer immunotherapy, a treatment that harnesses the body's immune system to combat cancer cells.

The study, recently published in Frontiers in Immunology, delves into the intricate role of Interferon-gamma (IFN- γ), a cytokine critical for immune response, and its interaction with various cancer cells.

Cancer immunotherapy has been a beacon of hope for patients, offering a more targeted approach than traditional treatments like chemotherapy or radiation, which often harm healthy cells. However, the cost and varying efficiency of these therapies have posed challenges.

The IISc team's research aimed to address these issues by investigating how different cancer cells respond to IFN- γ activation.

Avik Chattopadhyay, a PhD student at IISc's Department of Biochemistry and the first author of the study, explains, "IFN- γ is secreted by T cells or natural killer cells and can trigger apoptosis in tumor cells. But if there's a deficiency in IFN- γ or its signaling pathway, the cancer cells may not respond effectively to immunotherapy."

Apoptosis, often referred to as programmed cell death, is a highly regulated and controlled process that occurs

in multicellular organisms.

The researchers observed that upon treating cancer cells with IFN- γ , the cell growth medium turned yellow, indicating an acidic environment due to the release of lactic acid. This observation led them to explore the metabolic processes behind this phenomenon.

They discovered that liver and kidney cancer cell lines ramped up their production of nitric oxide (NO) and lactic acid when activated by IFN- γ , resulting in toxic reactive oxygen species (ROS) that can lead to cell death.

Conversely, colon and skin cancer cell lines did not exhibit the same response, suggesting a potential resistance to immunotherapy.

To tackle this, the team experimented with various methods to induce lactic acid and NO production in these stubborn cells. Remarkably, the addition of potassium lactate proved to be a game-changer, significantly reducing the growth of even the non-responsive cancer cells.

This finding was unexpected, as lactic acid is typically considered a metabolic waste product. "The study is really a proof-of-concept at this point," says Professor Dipankar Nandi, the corresponding author. He emphasises the need for further research in animal models to determine whether targeting metabolic pathways can enhance the anti-tumor effects of IFN- γ during immunotherapy, particularly for cancers that are difficult to treat.

Clock ticking: With only 5 games left ahead of T20 World Cup, auditioning youngsters running out of time

QNEBERHA, Dec 12 (Agencies): After a washout in the series-opener robbed the auditioning Indian youngsters of valuable game time, the think tank will be hoping for clear weather in the second T20 against South Africa here today.

Even the toss could not be held in Durban on Sunday and there is a rain forecast even for the second game of the three-match series. Now only five games are left in the build-up to the T20 World Cup in June and the management has a very small window to try out players.

In the current scenario, form in the IPL will carry a lot of weight for selection in the Indian team bound for the USA and Caribbean.

The selectors announced a 17-man squad for the series and it is highly unlikely that all of them would get an opportunity in the remaining two games.

Shubman Gill, who was not part of the T20 series against Australia held right after the World Cup, Suryakumar Yadav and Rinku Singh seem to be



the only certainties in the batting order for the ICC event six months later.

Both Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rituraj Gaikwad have got runs under their belt but if Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma make themselves available for the World Cup, the two fringe players would need a sensational effort in the IPL to make the cut.

The only other series India play before the World Cup is against Afghanistan at home

next month. The selectors will be forced to consider only IPL performance for World Cup selection, raising questions over the scheduling of India's T20 commitments before the World Cup.

Like Rinku, Jitesh Sharma is also being seen as the finisher for India in the shortest format. After showing promise against Australia, Jitesh will be hoping for game time against the Proteas.

The extra bounce on the South African pitches will pose a stiff test for the young batting line-up.

In the bowling department, multiple spots are up for grabs with only Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah, who is not playing this series, straightforward selections for the World Cup.

Deepak Chahar, who was picked for his comeback series, remains in India due to a personal emergency.

Both Kuldeep Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi, who impressed in the T20s against the Aussies, would like to carry their good form into the series. Ravindra Jadeja, who went on a break after the World Cup, has also linked up with the squad.

Like India, South Africa too have only five games left to identify their core for the World Cup. The pace duo of Marco Jansen and Gerald Coetzee were only picked for the first two games. Now with the series-opener washed out, they will only get a single outing before shifting focus to red ball cricket.

IPL 2024: Rishabh Pant set to lead Delhi Capitals in upcoming season, says report



NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is all set to return to action and will be leading the Delhi Capitals side in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, says a report.

The Delhi Capitals management officials have stated that Pant, currently undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru,

is expected to regain fitness by the end of February.

His active participation in IPL games will be contingent upon the clearance from the NCA managers.

"If he is not keeping, he will definitely be on the field and will lead the side," a franchise official stated as quoted by Cricbuzz.

According to team

officials, Pant would concentrate on batting and fielding and will only take on wicket-keeping responsibilities if authorised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

This refutes earlier reports that the franchise might just use the 26-year-old as an Impact Player.

Earlier, Pant's return was confirmed by former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who is DC's team director. "He's (Pant) good now. He will play in the IPL next season."

The Delhi Capitals, who placed ninth in the IPL points table in IPL 2023, faced the brunt of Pant's absence.

To turn around their fortunes in the upcoming season, the Capitals are now depending on their inspirational leader.

Junior World Cup: India face Dutch test in quarters

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Agencies): Two-time champions India will need to raise their game by a few notches while curbing complacency during their quarterfinal encounter against a formidable Netherlands in the men's Junior World Cup hockey tournament here today. India won the tournament in 2001 in Hobart and in Lucknow in 2016. They were runners-up in 1997 in Milton Keynes.

The Indians started the tournament on a bright note, beating South Korea 4-1 and then suffered a 1-4 defeat at the hands of Spain before getting their act together to thrash Canada 10-1 in their final pool match.

India sealed their quarterfinal place as the second-placed team from Pool C with two wins out of three games behind Spain, who had an all-win record. Netherlands, on the other hand, finished atop Pool D with two wins and a draw. Having started off on a positive note, the Indians were taken to the cleaners by Spain, who relied on crisp, short passes to create spaces in the Indian

defence.

So, the Indian team will have to be on its toes against Netherlands, who are capable of breaching any defence with their structured hockey. The Indians will also have to do away with their habit of conceding unnecessary penalty corners when put under pressure.

A big win against Canada should act as a confidence booster for India going into tomorrow's match, a fact which skipper Uttam Singh agreed. "We have played some good hockey in this World Cup. Coming off a big 10-1 win certainly boosts our confidence going into the knockout stages. We'll look to put our best foot forward and play to the best of our ability like we always do," he said.

India coach CR Kumar said his players are ready to tackle whatever comes in their way. "The players are in a good space and are ready to take on whatever is thrown at them. We'll continue to take this tournament one match at a time. Yes, the quarterfinal is a big match but it's nothing the boys aren't prepared for," he said.

Bajrang, Sakshi meet Thakur, want Singh loyalists out of WFI election

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Olympics medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik met Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to seek assurances that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's loyalists do not contest in the Wrestling Federation of India election.

Sakshi, Bajrang and Vinesh Phogat had led the protests against Singh in the sexual harassment allegations that also saw these wrestlers and their supporters getting detained by the Delhi Police on May 28 for trying to storm the new Parliament that was being inaugurated that day.

The wrestlers then met Home Minister Amit Shah, where they were told to trust the police investigation as the FIR was lodged. A few days later they called off the protest and pledged that their fight against Singh will continue in the courts.



Meanwhile, with returning officer Justice (retd) MM Kumar calling for the election on December 21 and the possibility of all of Singh loyalists returning to key posts in the WFI, Sakshi and Bajrang met Thakur to seek clarifications.

Both Bajrang and Sakshi, who spoke to the media, said they had fulfilled the Government's request and called off the protest and it was time that their

demands were met.

"I am sure whatever assurances that the government made us will be fulfilled. Whatever they had requested us to do, we did and now we are expecting the same," Bajrang said.

Sakshi was more forthcoming. "We met him (Thakur) as the dates of the elections for the WFI have been announced. We stopped our protest after listening to the Government but now it

is the time for them to fulfil their promise that no one related to Brij Bhushan Singh is part of the federation.

Anurag Thakur said that the Government will keep its promises and we hope the same," Sakshi said.

When asked whether the protests will resume after the election as there is a big chance that Sanjay Singh, who is the outgoing WFI chief's loyalist, will win, Bajrang said they will decide on a later date.

"We will decide (whether to resume the protest) later but having said that we are very hopeful that the government will come true to its word," he said.

The WFI election was to take place in August but was put on hold by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. However, the election was announced after the Supreme Court set aside the stay order on November 28.

Iga Swiatek is the first woman since Serena Williams to win WTA Player of the Year twice in a row

ST. PETERSBURG (US), Dec 12 (Agencies): Iga Swiatek's second consecutive season-ending No. 1 ranking helped her collect a second consecutive WTA Player of the Year award, making her the first woman since Serena Williams to claim that honor twice in a row.

Williams, who retired last year, was the WTA Player of the Year every season from 2012-15, the final four of the seven total times the American claimed that

award.

Swiatek went 68-11 in 2023 with a tour-leading six titles, including at the French Open in June. That was Swiatek's third championship at Roland Garros and fourth overall at a Grand Slam tournament.

In other WTA awards announced Monday, Zheng Qinwen of China was the Most Improved Player of the Year, Mirra Andreeva of Russia was the Newcomer of the Year, Elina Svitolina of Ukraine was chosen for the Comeback of the



Year and Tomasz Wiktorowski — who works with Swiatek — was the Coach of the Year.

Storm Hunter of Australia and Elise Mertens of Belgium earned Doubles Team of the Year, Ons Jabeur of Tunisia was the recipient of both the Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award and the Peachy Kellmeyer Player Service Award, and Jessica Pegula of the US was given the Jerry Diamond ACES Award for her off-court promotional and charitable activities.

Google Reveals "Most Searched Cricketer, Athlete" In Its 25-Year History

Virat Kohli was named the 'most searched cricketer' by Google in its 25-year-long history.



NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): In the cricketing universe, the name Virat Kohli needs no introduction. As the search engine giant 'Google' released the list of most searched topics in its entire 25-year-long history, the name Kohli popped at the top when it came to cricketers. Since Google started to exist, some of the finest cricketers have been featured in the sporting universe. The list includes players like Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, etc. But, it was Kohli who emerged as the 'most searched cricketer' in Google's history.

When it came to the

most searched athlete on the list, however, Kohli wasn't the man at the top. It was Real Madrid and Manchester United legend Cristiano Ronaldo, who continues going strong even at the age of 38 at Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr.

Ronaldo also went on to defeat some of the biggest players in the game, especially his arch-rival Lionel Messi. The two have arguably been the finest players in the game in their generation, dominating the sport for about 15 years.

What's interesting, however, is that even Kohli is a bigger fan of Ronaldo than he is of Messi. In multiple inter-

views, the Indian cricket star had revealed how much he admires the Portuguese footballer.

"No trophy or any title can take anything away from what you've done in this sport and for sports fans around the world," Kohli wrote on Instagram.

"No trophy or any title can take anything away from what you've done in this sport and for sports fans around the world," Kohli had once written for Ronaldo on Instagram after the latter's team was eliminated from FIFA World Cup 2022.

"No title can explain the impact you've had on people and what I and so many around the world feel when we watch you play. That's a gift from god. A real blessing to a man who plays his heart out every single time and is the epitome of hard work and dedication and a true inspiration for any sportsperson.

"You are for me the greatest of all time," the post further read.

When it comes to the "most searched sport", football finished at the top.

Chris Woakes responds after being overlooked for Test series against India: It's a fair decision

LONDON, Dec 12 (Agencies): England all-rounder Chris Woakes has responded after being overlooked for their upcoming Test series against India, calling his omission a fair decision. England is set to play a five-match Test series against India, starting January 25.

Speaking to Sky Sports, Woakes said his record in the subcontinent may be the reason for him not being picked for their tour to India, calling it a fair decision. Woakes has scored 249 runs in 16 matches while picking 21 wickets across all formats in



India. "It's mixed emotions. You're always desperate to be in it, but at the same time, at my age, with my away record - particularly in the subcontinent - I feel like it's

a fair decision. We had conversations about where my best cricket is likely to be played moving forward and, naturally in Test cricket, it looks likely to be at home," said Woakes.

England will play five Test matches, scheduled in Hyderabad, Vizag, Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamsala. After the retirement of Moeen Ali, England have called up two uncapped spinners in 20-year-old Shoaib Bashir, a tall off-spinner, and 24-year-old Tom Hartley, a left-arm spinner.

He went on to say that he feels ease with the decision of not being picked for the Test series, adding that the communication was good with the management.

"It doesn't mean to say that when there's not subcontinent tours

that I won't be available, hopefully they'll still potentially pick me in those. But I feel at ease with the decision, if that makes sense. The communication was good, I know where I stand so it's fine by me," Woakes added.

England squad for tour of India

Ben Stokes, James Anderson, Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson*, Jonny Bairstow, Shoaib Bashir*, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes (wk), Tom Hartley*, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Mark Wood. (* indicates uncapped players).

Ruling culture "Sab Ka Malik Ek": AAP



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: The Jammu AAP in a meeting held here, while discussing delayed selection of Chief Ministers in the recent elections held in MP, Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh, in a press release issued here said that ignoring credentials of existing Chief Minister in MP or that be in other two states, the picking of lesser known figure Mohan Yadav can safely be surmised as "Modi Hai-To Mumkin Hai" or it has become a culture in ruling dispensation widely accepted as "Sab Ka Malik Ek" because none has

spine to speak truth for fear of getting side lined, isolated or eclipsed in the Party or before the masses as it happened with Kalyan Singh in UP.

Ousting of a 4 times CM & winning record 163 seats in MP & installing unknown figure Mohan Yadav, clearly make rounds among the masses that it is not the mandate earned by Shiv Raj Chauhan but it is vividly a manipulated one otherwise it could have been disgraced to the voters, this was stated by Sr. AAP leaders in a meeting held here under the chairmanship of S. Deep Singh, Founder & National Council Member which

was prominently attended by enthusiasts & workers namely Ram Singh Chauhan, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Amit Langer, Agya Kour, Rajesh Pangotra, Talvinder Singh, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Sushma Malotra, Neha, Parmveer Singh, Adv. Dalvinder Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Zahid Bhatti, Er. Prithpal Singh, Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Matto, Davinder Singh Bhau, Barkeet Hussain from Poonch, Karanjeet Atri, Asif Gill, Omprakash Sharma from Akhnora, S.Amrik Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Parshotam Gupta & others.

The meeting stressed for working earnestly in view of

latest directions of Apex Court to conduct Assembly elections & restore the state status in J&K before September 30, 2024 and resolved to work jointly, put in the efforts to awaken the masses about the hatred & divisive policies of ruling dispensation irrespective of caste, creed & colour, without falling in their trap of hollow nationalism, development and false slogan of "Beti Padhao- Beti Bachao", "Back to village" & so many other deceptive slogans.

The AAP leaders re-iterated that BJP wins because opposition fails to high lights their false & baseless propoganda in all walks of life.

The AAP leaders apprehended that in Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje Scandia may face utter disgrace like Shiv Raj Chauhan in MP because in BJP the dictum "Sab Ka Malik Ek" prevails and nobody has spine to raise finger, they asserted.

The meeting at the end exhorted upon the rank & file to grid up their loins to expose the false promises of ruling dispensation in befooiling the masses for their electoral gains.

Three-day Orzu Sports and Cultural Fest begins



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Orzu Sports and Cultural Fest is hosting three-day sports event at Jagti Cricket Ground Lane 12 from December 12 to 14, 2023 in which many teams from different parts of Jammu are participating to exhibit hidden talent.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, Former Dy. Chief Minister J&K and senior BJP leader was the Chief Guest, who inaugurated the Fest.

Prominent socio-political leaders M.K. Yogi, Vinod Pandita, Piyush Mattoo member Kashmiri US Overseas Association, and Vishal Jotshi graced the event as Guests of Honor.

The coordinator of the event, Subash Zutshi said that this three-

day sports tournament began today at Jagti which was inaugurated by Dr. Nirmal Singh.

Dr. Nirmal Singh complimented the organizers of the tournament especially Orzu Sports and Cultural Fest for hosting such tournaments and sports meet for the youngsters and allowing them to display their hidden talent as well availing them an opportunity to keep them physical and mentally fit.

He further said that organizing such sports tournaments can also avail our youngsters an opportunity to participate at UT and National levels based on their performance.

He added that youth who is the back bone of the society must remain

far away from the drug abuse menace that is spoiling our society in a bad way.

Vinod Pandita congratulated the organizers especially Subash Zutshi for organizing such a sports meet.

M.K. Yogi appealed to Orzu Sports Cultural Fest to organize such tournaments in other migrant camps like Muthi, Purkhop, and non camps too to avail an opportunity for our youngsters who are interested in such games to discharge their assigned role in nation-building ventures.

Yogi also lauded the role of this organization that has been organizing such events for more than sixteen years and wished them all success in future ventures.

5 Medicities, 7 colleges approved in JK: Minister

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: The Minister of State for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, while replying to a question by MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, stated that approval has been accorded by UT of J&K for the establishment of five (05) Medicities at Jammu (02), Pulwama,(02) and Srinagar (01) while seven medical colleges at Doda, Kathua, Rajouri, Anantnag, Baramulla, Handwara and Udhampur in UT of J&K have been made approved in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister of State for H&FW Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY), establishment of two All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), one at Vijaypur in Jammu and another at Awantipora in Kashmir have been approved for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (UT of J&K). 92% of civil construction work of AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu has been completed. Faculty/non-faculty posts have been sanctioned for AIIMS, Vijaypur,

Jammu, out of which 549 have been filled up. 01 MRI machine has been delivered at AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu.

Forty four per cent of civil construction work of AIIMS Awantipora, Kashmir has been completed. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals', setting up of 07 new medical colleges at Doda, Kathua, Rajouri, Anantnag, Baramulla, Handwara and Udhampur in UT of J&K have been approved till date on cost sharing in the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and State and all of these are functional, he said.

The Minister further said that as per the scheme guidelines, planning, execution and commissioning of the projects and operation and recruitment of staff for the approved Government Medical Colleges is the responsibility of UT of J&K.

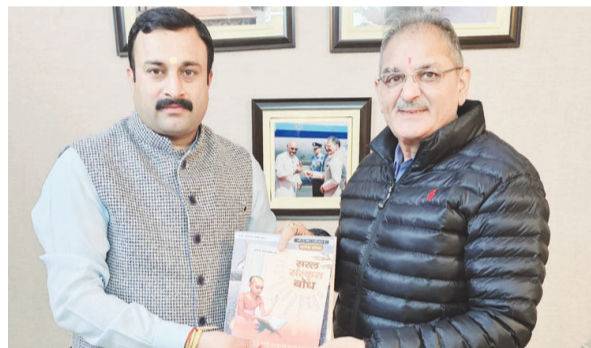
Under National Programme for Prevention and Management of Trauma and Burns Injuries, establishment of Trauma care facilities has been approved for four (04) hospitals including

MMAM District Hospital, Anantnag; Trauma Hospital, Ramban, Doda; Government District Hospital, Udhampur and District Hospital, Kupwara.

As informed by the UT of J&K, approval has been accorded by UT of J&K for the establishment of five (05) Medicities at Jammu (02), Pulwama,(02) and Srinagar (01).

MP Gulam Ali Khatana has asked for the current status of the newly established AIIMS and Government medical colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K); the availability of trained staff to operate medical equipment in these AIIMS/GMCs; the number of MRI and CT Scan machines available in AIIMS/GMCs in J&K; the number of referral cases from District Hospitals and new GMCs to AIIMS/GMCH Jammu/Srinagar; the number of trauma centers between Batote and Doda in Jammu and Kashmir; the current staff position in J&K AIIMS/GMCs, whether there are any ongoing plans to address potential staff shortages in these medical institutions; and the status of Medi-cities in Jammu and Kashmir?

Mahant Rohit meets Kavinder Gupta, discusses ethical practices



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, Raipur Banatalab met former Deputy CM, Kavinder Gupta in Jammu.

During the meeting, Mahant Rohit Shastri presented the "Sara! Sanskrit Bodh" book and appealed to initiate the study and teaching of Sanskrit language from Class I in J&K schools across Jammu

and Kashmir.

He emphasized the commitment of his trust to the preservation and enhancement of Sanskrit, a language deeply rooted in ancient Indian knowledge and literary tradition.

It is noteworthy that special efforts are being made by Trust under the leadership of Mahant Rohit Shastri, to start the study and teaching of Sanskrit language from the class I in schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

IIT Jammu conducts Plantation Drive



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: In a dedicated stride towards fostering environmental sustainability and community involvement, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu has successfully orchestrated a Plantation Drive within its campus premises.

This eco-conscious endeavor unfolded along the north spur of the campus, offering a breathtaking panorama overlooking the neighboring IIM Jammu campus and the majestic Trikuta Parvat, the sacred abode of Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi.

The verdant expanse was graced with the introduction of approximately 90 saplings of the silver oak variety.

The primary objective of this thoughtfully executed Plantation Drive was to augment the green canopy enveloping the IIT Jammu campus, thereby making a substantial contribution to the overall environmental well-being. The concerted efforts of the institute's staff, characterized by their active and enthusiastic participation, have undeniably propelled this initiative into a resounding success.

JU Research Scholar wins Young Sedimentologist Award

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Shifali Chib, a Research Scholar working under the supervision of Dr. Yudhbir Singh in the Department of Geology, University of Jammu, has been awarded the IAS Young Sedimentologist Award (YSA) for the year 2023.

The YSA is awarded to an outstanding young researcher for best paper presentation among the selected research papers.

The research papers submitted by young researchers are evaluated by an expert com-



mittee and selected papers are considered for the award after presentation and defence by the selected young researchers.

The award was presented during an international conference and 39th Convention of

the Indian Association of Sedimentologists recently held at Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu.

Prof S. K. Pandita has also won this award in 1995 when he was a research scholar in the Geology Department.

SMVDU hosts educational visit of Govt. Sr. Sec. School Sanasar

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 12: SMVDU Katra hosted a visit for the female students from Govt. Higher Sec. School, Sanasar under an outreach activity program.

The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions under the PM Shri Scheme.

NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit.

NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, PRO Joginder Sharma, and workshop Supdt Er Deepak Byotra welcomed the school officials and students and gave a brief introduction to the visitors about the University.

Students were motivated to join higher educational institutes after completing their class 12th.



During the event, the school team visited the central workshop, and academic area including labs, auditorium, etc.

The students were also briefed about the admission process for various courses and informed about various facilities and achievements of the University by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Dean of International & Alumni Affairs.

School students also showcased their talent through cultural performances. More than 100 girl students along with their teachers and prin-

cipal participated in the visit.

Registrar, Ajay Kumar Sharma also briefed students about the opportunities and emphasized the need for more such collaborative events.

Finance Officer, Neeraj Gupta was also present during the event. The Principal of the School, Rajesh Sharma thanked University authorities for hosting the visit. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers in organizing the visit.

Moot Court Mock Drill held at PTTI Vijaypur



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 12: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Tuesday organized a Moot Court Mock Drill proceedings under UAPA cases to aware cops how to appear and depose their statements before the Courts as prosecution witnesses.

The proceedings were held at Moot Court PTTI Vijaypur under the supervision of Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, DIG SIU Jammu Zone.

On this occasion, mock drill of a UAPA case of District Poonch was conducted in which Police witnesses of the case appeared before the Moot Court and cross examined by designated defense counsel.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG SIU Jammu Zone emphasized upon CIOs/Investigating officers of the case to properly brief and guide the prosecution witnesses how to appear and depose of their witness in the Court.

He expressed hope that such moot court trials would surely help Police personnel to understand

court proceedings better and would also benefit CIOs/Investigating officers to refine their capabilities to fix investigation lacunas.

Earlier, Shiv Kumar, Principal PTTI Vijaypur welcomed DIG SIU Jammu Zone and other Investigating Officers of various districts.

Zia-Ul-Haq (DySP Outdoor), Kuldeep Raj (DySP Indoor/Tech), Akshay Khajuria, DySP, CIOs of different districts namely Tilak Raj Bhardwaj, Sunil Singh Jastrotia, Sahil Mahajan, Aijaz Choudhary and other officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur were also present on the occasion.

Senior Prosecuting Officers Asif Iqbal and Munish Kumar conducted the court proceedings and also briefed the Investigating Officers how to improve investigation in UAPA cases and record Statement in the court during trial of cases.