

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-342 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

IPS Raghav S posted as Addl. SP Budgam

JAMMU, Dec 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday posted Raghav S. as Additional Superintendent of Police of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The posting has been affected against an available vacancy in the district.

"In the interest of administration, Shri Raghav S. IPS (AGMUT:2018) awaiting orders of posting, is posted as Addl. Superintendent of Police, Budgam, against an available vacancy", reads the order.

Kashmir shivers at minus 5.8°C, water supply pipes jammed as cold wave grips

SRINAGAR, Dec 14 (Agencies): Kashmir is freezing under intense cold wave with Srinagar city recording the coldest night of this season even as the minimum settled several degrees below freezing point across the valley, officials said on Thursday.

Srinagar city — the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir — recorded a low of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night which was slightly lower than previous night's minus 5.3 degrees Celsius.

It was the lowest minimum temperature recorded this winter in the city, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, while the famous resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 1.6 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4.2 degrees Celsius.

The intense cold wave conditions in the valley has resulted in freezing of several water bodies while water supply pipes in many areas have been

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Amit Shah to move Govt of UTs (Amendment) Bill, 2023, J&K reorganization (Second Amendment) bill in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): As the Parliament is set to convene for Day 11 of the ongoing Winter Session on Thursday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will move the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Rajya Sabha for its consideration and passage.

The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to reserve 33 per cent of seats in the Puducherry Assembly for women. The legislation has already been passed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.



According to the agenda released, the Home Minister will also move the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023 which seeks to reserve 33 per cent

of seats in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly for women. The legislation has already been passed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will

move two appropriation bills, The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2023 and The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2023. Both bills have been passed in the Lok Sabha earlier.

BJP MP Rajendra Gehlot and Narayana Koragappa will table the report of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes on Measures undertaken to secure the representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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J&K Admin's directive to Officers: Send monthly reports on public issues, solutions to CS Office

JAMMU, Dec 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered officers including deputy commissioners to reach out to people at grassroots level, conduct public hearings, and send monthly reports to the Chief Secretary.

The order was aimed at resolving public issues and was issued following the taking over this month of senior IAS officer Atal Dulloo as the new chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir. According to the order issued by Com-



missioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Sanjeev Verma, secretaries should conduct a tour every fortnight and conduct public hearing three days a week between 3 pm and 4 pm, except Wednesday.

Similarly, the heads of departments, including the deputy commissioners, have been ordered to conduct a tour every week and hold public hearing three days a week, except Wednesday. "It shall be ensured that the above schedule is followed in letter and spirit as far as possible and no official meetings and engagements shall be scheduled on the tour days and public hearing hours," Verma said in the order. Verma demanded the monthly reports by administrative secretaries, highlighting

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JKSTIC allocates Rs Two Crore for SKUAST research advancements, aimed to support 72 projects

SRINAGAR, Dec 14 (Agencies): In a significant move to boost research and innovation, the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC) announced a substantial grant of Rs 2 crores to the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Shalimar, here on Wednesday.

The funding aims to support some 72 research projects, addressing diverse areas of local importance. Additionally, seed money has been allocated to 17 innovators to develop prototypes for their innovative ideas, laying the groundwork for patents and start-ups.

The announcement was made during a func-

tion held at SKUAST, where the grant was officially handed over. The university has consistently held the top position in the region for innovations, patents, and start-ups, making it a pivotal institution in the field.

The event was attended by Saurabh Baghat (IAS), Commissioner Secretary of the Science Technology Department, along with Prof Nazir Ganie, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST, Dr Nasir Shah, Additional Director JKSTIC, Bilal Ahmad, Joint Director JKSTIC and various other departmental heads.

Other notable participants included the Director of Extension, Director of Research, Deans from various departments of SKUAST, faculty members, students,

and officers from the Science and Technology Department, highlighting the collaborative spirit among diverse stakeholders.

"Investing in research projects and supporting innovators is not just a financial commitment but a strategic imperative," Baghat while describing these endeavours as the lifeblood of progress, said. "By funding research and nurturing innovators, we lay the foundation for a brighter, more technologically advanced tomorrow, ensuring that our region remains at the forefront of scientific discovery and innovation."

JKSTIC, formerly known as J&K Council for Science & Technology, was established in 1989 under the Department of Science &

Technology, J&K government. The primary objective of the council is to promote and disseminate science, technology, and innovation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additionally, the council serves as a nodal department for organizing and promoting S&T activities across the region.

"Here, universities, research and development institutions, IITs, NITs, SKUAST, and other entities have contributed their innovations, research findings, patents, and start-up initiatives," Dr Shah said. He informed that JKSTIC is establishing a centre of excellence, namely the Sub-Regional Science Centre, in collaboration with NCSM, Ministry of Culture,

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Eight security personnel suspended for Parliament security breach: Sources

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: Eight security personnel have been suspended for the security breach in Parliament, sources said on Thursday.

Those suspended belong to various security agencies who were on deputation for Parliament security.

Sources identified them as Rampal, Arvind, Vir Das, Ganesh, Anil, Pradeep, Vimit and Narendra.

"Though they are on deputation for Parlia-

ment security, their cadre controlling authority is the organisation they represent and not the Lok Sabha Secretariat," a functionary said.

Personnel from the Delhi Police and CRPF are deployed to frisk those entering the complex as well as the building.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on Wednesday, two

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14 Opposition MPs suspended from Lok Sabha for disrupting proceedings

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): Fourteen opposition MPs from different parties were suspended from the Lok Sabha for the remaining period of Winter Session on Thursday for disrupting House proceedings.

Amid demands from the opposition for a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra

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Inter-State illegal weapon smuggling racket unearthed: Punjab Police

CHANDIGARH, Dec 14 (Agencies): An inter-state illegal arms smuggling racket has been unearthed with the arrest of 10 people, including a Madhya Pradesh-based weapon manufacturer, a top police officer said on

Thursday.

A total of 22 weapons have been recovered, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

"CIA Team @Khananapoli has busted an interstate illegal weapon

smuggling racket operating from #MadhyaPradesh 2 weapon supply gangs unearthed, arrest of 10 members along with weapon manufacturer from MP, Recovery of 22

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Cases involving JKLF Chief Yasin Malik: 3 witnesses fail to appear before TADA court in Jammu

JAMMU, Dec 14 (Agencies): Three witnesses, including former Kashmir Bar Association president Mian Abdul Qayoom, failed to appear in a special court here on Thursday in connection with the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, while separatist leader Yasin Malik and his associate Rafiq Pahloo appeared before it via video-conferencing.

Pahloo was given a final opportunity by the special TADA court to file objections to an application for the cancellation of his bail in a 1990 case in which four Indian Air Force (IAF) officers were killed case and the abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

"Four eyewitnesses were summoned to appear before the special court. Among them, Mian Qayoom did not appear and submitted a medical certificate that he



is admitted in a hospital. It was said that another eyewitness (number 23) is dead. Both were witnesses in the Rubaiya Sayeed abduction case," Senior Public Prosecutor S K Bhat said.

In the case of the killing of the IAF personnel in a terror attack in Srinagar in 1990, the court had summoned two witnesses for identification, but they could not appear

citing medical reasons, Bhat said, adding that both of them had to come from outside.

Bhat said Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Malik and Pahloo appeared before the court via video-conferencing.

The court would again hear the case of the killing of the IAF personnel on January 18 and the Rubaiya Sayeed case the next day.

Bhat said Pahloo was given a last opportunity by the court for filing objections to an application for the cancellation of his bail. The court has agreed to summon eyewitnesses.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) moved an application in August for the cancellation of Pahloo's bail in the two cases, informing the court that he had violated the bail conditions by allegedly indulging in separatist activities.

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EDITORIAL

SAVE TREES

Trees are also called green gold because it is a very valuable asset. Trees are the main source of oxygen and water that provide life on earth. No one else can do the work of providing oxygen and imagining water without trees is not only difficult but impossible.

Trees help us in reducing air pollution and keep the environment pure. Not only air pollution, they also clean water by filtering out harmful chemicals. Tree products play a major role in every industry. Trees have great importance among the items used in our daily life.

The more trees there are, the purer the environment will be. Nowadays people are suffering from many types of respiratory and other diseases due to air pollution.

If there are trees, they will absorb the harmful gases in the air and provide us with clean air and also get rid of diseases. If we increase the number of trees, they will naturally clean the air and provide us many other benefits. By increasing them, we avoid the use of air conditioner and also get rid of the harmful gases emitted by it. It is because of trees that we get abundant rainfall.

The roots of trees bind the soil, which prevents soil erosion and the soil absorbs water well. This water, by becoming underground water, saves us humans from water scarcity. Trees also protect the earth from the effects of heat by providing us shade.

Due to the lack of this invaluable wealth, problems like global warming, drought, land erosion are becoming increasingly serious on the earth. If we want to avoid these natural disasters, we will have to take steps towards conservation of trees.

If we work in this direction today, only then future generations will be inspired to work in this direction. On happy occasions, we spend money and have parties, but instead of all this, if we plant saplings and conserve trees, it will be a sign of happiness not only for our acquaintances but also for humans.

In Indian culture anyway, there is talk of worshipping trees. By becoming a responsible citizen, we should ensure that if trees are being cut in the name of development, then where are trees being planted to compensate for them?

God has given the quality of intelligence/prudence to man only. If we continue to use this intelligence to harm nature in the name of development, it will be a stain on man's conscience. Therefore, let us all take a pledge together that we will work on preserving trees not only for ourselves but for the entire nature and make this earth green.

Fight the freeze! How to protect your lips in winter



By: Shahnaz Husain

With the cold winter weather gripping much of the country, many people are experiencing dry, cracked and painful lips. The cold air, the chilling wind and the centrally heated air inside strips the moisture away from your lips leaving them chapped, flaky, slit, sore, and painful, a condition known as common cheilitis. The harsh winter winds have a significant effect on our body particularly on our lips leaving them dry, chapped, flaky, cracked, and even painful.

Exposure to sun, wind, and cold, dry air can further contribute to chapped lips because the skin on the lips is thinner and more delicate than the skin on the face and the rest of the body.

Furthermore, dry lips can be due to other factors like lifestyle disorders, a spike in blood sugar, and blood pressure, an allergic reaction to your toothpaste, lipstick or beauty products and pollution in the environment.

The skin on our lips is very thin, sensitive and lacks sweat glands, so they're almost always exposed to the elements. The skin on our lips has just three to five cellular layers, compared to typical facial skin, which has up to 16 layers.

The skin on lips dries out 10 times faster than the rest of the skin on our face.

The harsh winter winds may be the reason your lips feel super tight and dry but that doesn't mean you have to wait till spring to wear your favourite lipstick or get a picture-perfect pout for a selfie.

Nutritional deficiencies can also lead to dry, chapped lips. Sometimes, even cracks may develop. Vitamins A, C and B2 are important for the lips. So, foods like citrus fruits, ripe papaya, tomatoes, carrots, green leafy vegetables, nuts, whole-grains, oats, and milk products may be included in the diet. Of course, it's best to take your doctor's advice before making changes in your diet, especially if you have any medical condition.

Use glossy lipsticks and lip balm. Avoid soap and powder on the lips. Remove lipstick with a cleansing cream or gel. Apply almond oil or cream at night and leave on.

After washing the face, the lips may be rubbed gently with a soft towel to remove dead skin. Apply cream of milk (malai) daily and leave on for an hour. If the lips become dark, add a few drops of lemon juice to the cream of milk. At night, apply pure almond oil daily on the

lips and leave on overnight.

Honey can be mixed with sesame seeds or walnut powder and used as a scrub for the lips. A little almond oil may also be added.

Oils like Argan and Coconut oil also help to nourish the skin on the lips. Argon oil is actually native to Morocco, where it has been traditionally used for food purposes, as well as to treat skin and scalp problems. Today, it is being increasingly used for cosmetic purposes to make cosmetics like moisturisers, creams, lotions, face packs, hair oils, hair conditioners, etc.

Argan oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acids and Vitamin E. Since it contains Vitamin E and antioxidants, it helps to delay the visible ageing sign and even rejuvenate the skin. It protects the youthful properties of the skin, like elasticity and resilience. As it is easily absorbed by the skin, it can be ideal for the care of the lips. The fatty acids also nourish and soften the skin. The oil was used for medicinal purposes to cure skin problems and also heal and soothe burns. It nourishes the skin and improves skin texture. Argan oil can be used directly on the skin. Use only a few drops directly on the lips.

Coconut oil has also been valued for its nourishing and moisturizing ability. It has a great skin-softening ability and helps to make the skin soft and smooth. It may be applied on the lips and is also said to protect the skin from the damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet rays of the

sun. It is said to protect the skin better than cream. It also helps to heal cracks on the lips. In fact, it can be used to remove makeup from the face, including the lips. Coconut oil may be applied on the lips and left on overnight. Or, it can be left on for 15 minutes and wiped off with moist cotton wool. The advantage is that unlike other preparations that may contain synthetic ingredients, coconut oil can be safely applied on the lips and even ingested. Another advantage is that unlike other oils, coconut oil does not become rancid.

Coconut oil and Argan oil-based lip balms and lip creams can also be used for the care of the lips.

Licking your lips seems to be the best idea to make them moist. Licking will make your lips drier and the constant biting can cause bleeding. Once you put saliva on your lips, the air causes the saliva to evaporate pretty quickly, making your lips dry and can leave the delicate skin feeling irritated as well. Digestive enzymes and bacteria in saliva can make them dry out faster, making your lips even drier overall.

Also, don't touch your lips unnecessarily as the bacteria and germs from your hands can transfer to your lips and can lead to infection.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

How To Prepare for CBSE/ICSE/STATE Pre-Boards 2023-24



By: Vijay GarG

Pre-Board 2023-24 Preparation Tips: As CBSE/ICSE /STATE BOARD students gear up for their board exams, pre-boards serve as a crucial stage to assess their preparedness and identify strengths and weaknesses. Pre-board exams before the final board exams offer a valuable opportunity to familiarize yourself with the exam pattern, gain confidence, and fine-tune your preparations.

What are Pre-Board Exams?

Pre-board exams are conducted by schools to prepare students for the final board exam by creating mock exam scenarios. They provide students with a realistic experience of the actual board exam by exposing them to the latest exam pattern, duration, and marking scheme. The results of pre-boards help students assess their understanding

of the concepts and identify areas for improvement

Are Pre-Board Marks Important?

Though the marks obtained in the CBSE pre-board exams do not directly impact your final board exam results they definitely play a significant role in assessing your academic progress and boosting your confidence level. Your performance in the pre-boards works as a wake-up call, prompting you to focus on specific areas and improve your preparations for the year-end exam.

Are Pre-Board Exams Harder than Board Exams?

The difficulty level of pre-board exams often varies from school to school. However, schools generally set pre-boards to be challenging to prepare students for the actual exams. This is also essential to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses, thereby allowing them to focus their preparation efforts more effectively. Hence, pre-boards are intended to offer a learning experience rather than testing a student's ability to handle extreme difficulty.

Effective Preparation Tips for Pre-Board Exams

1. Understand the Syllabus and Exam Pattern: Thoroughly review the latest CBSE/ICSE /STATE BOARD syllabus for each subject to clearly

know the topics and marking scheme. Familiarize yourself with the exam pattern, including the number and type of questions, marks distribution, and duration.

2. Create a Study Plan: Develop a structured study plan that allows you to dedicate sufficient time to each subject. Prioritize topics based on your strengths and weaknesses while ensuring the coverage of the entire syllabus within the available timeframe.

3. Focus on NCERT Textbooks: NCERT textbooks are considered essential for board exam preparations. So, read the textbooks for all subjects thoroughly to understand the concepts and practise all the solved and unsolved questions for a better understanding of the basics of Maths.

4. Solve Previous Year Papers: Solving previous year question papers will help you get familiar with the exam pattern, question types, and difficulty level. Moreover, it would also help to get an idea of the important topics which have been asked frequently in past years.

5. Clear Doubts and Seek Help: If you want to ace the board exams, consider your pre-board as big as the final exams. Do not leave any loopholes in your preparations, ask your teachers or classmates to clear doubts if any.

This should be taken into regular practice to prevent your doubts from accumulating and help you be clear with all the concepts and fundamentals.

6. Practise Writing Skills: Regularly practise writing descriptive answers to expected questions. This will not only improve your time management skills but help in avoiding mistakes that arise from lack of practice and organization. Practise writing answers in exam format to refine your answer writing skills.

7. Manage a Stress-free, Healthy Routine: Taking care of your physical and mental well-being during the preparation phase is essential for achieving exceptional results in examinations. Eat healthy, get adequate sleep, and take regular breaks to maintain focus and energy levels. Approach the pre-boards with a positive mindset, viewing them as opportunities to gauge your progress.

Remember, pre-board exams are designed to help you become exam-ready, increasing your chances of success in your annual board exams.

(VIJAY GARG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab)

Dharmendra remembers Raj Kapoor on his 99th birth anniversary

Veteran star Dharmendra took a stroll down memory lane on Thursday as he shared a priceless throwback picture with yesterday's star Raj Kapoor on his birth anniversary.

Taking to Instagram, Dharmendra dropped the picture, which he captioned, "Happy Birthday Raj Sahab We miss you ! You will always be remembered with great love and respect."

In the monochrome picture, Dharmendra and Raj Kapoor could be seen in a conversation while shaking hands.



Born in Peshawar to father-actor Prithviraj Kapoor and Ramsarni Mehra, Raj Kapoor had a remarkable career. He won many accolades including three National Film Awards and 11 Filmfare Awards. He is known as the 'Showman of Indian cinema'.

He appeared in films like 'Shree 420', 'Aag', 'Chori Chori', 'Anari', 'Sangam' and 'Mera Naam Joker'.

Meanwhile, talking about Dharmendra, the veteran star recently celebrated his 88th birthday.

Ananya Pandey is latest hot favourite after 'The Archies'; rumoured boyfriend Aditya Roy Kapur on dating says 'ask me no secrets...'

Actors Aditya Roy Kapur and Arjun Kapoor graced the famous 'Koffee' couch in the recent episode of the popular talk show 'Koffee with Karan Season 8'.

During a conversation with the 'Aashiqui 2' actor, KJo addressed the rumours of him dating actor Ananya Pandey to which he wittily replied, "You see Karan you said on your show 'Ask me no secrets and I'll tell you no lies.'" Karan also told

Aditya that in the earlier episode of 'KWK 8', Ananya said she was feeling "very Ananya Coy Kapur," to which the 'Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani' actor said, "And I am Aditya Joy Kapur as of now."

"You mean you're joyously in a situationship?" Karan asked Aditya to which he replied, "I'm quite joyous." Karan also asked him the first word that comes to his mind when he says Ananya is "joy?". To which, Aditya responded, "Joy, pure

joy and bliss."

Ananya and Aditya have been rumoured to be dating for some time. It all began when the two made a joint appearance at Kriti Sanon's Diwali party last year. However, neither has confirmed the reports.

The two also reportedly visited Maldives recently to celebrate Ananya's 25th birthday.

In an unexpected turn of events, netizens have found themselves re-evaluating their opinion on Ananya Pandey, the



daughter of Chunky Pandey and Bhavana Pandey. Ananya had previously been a target of online trolling for her acting skills. However, with the underwhelm-

ing performances of Suhana Khan and Khushi Kapoor in 'The Archies,' social media is witnessing a shift in sentiment and she is now a new "hot favourite".

'Never smoked a cigarette in my life': Actress Kate Micucci diagnosed with lung cancer



Actress Kate Micucci has been diagnosed with lung cancer despite having "never smoked a cigarette in my life".

The 43-year-old US actress and comedian shared a video of herself on TikTok lying in a hospital bed, joking that she was posting a "SickTok".

The Big Bang Theory actress has had a surgery after being diagnosed with the cancer.

In her video, she revealed she underwent surgery for lung cancer on Friday. "Hey everybody, this is not a TikTok, it's a 'Sick Tok.' I'm in the hospital but it's because I had lung cancer surgery yesterday," adding, "They caught it really early. It's pretty weird because I've never smoked a cigarette in my life. So, you know, it was a surprise, but also, I guess it hap-

pens."

As per a study by Cancer organisation, about 80 per cent of lung cancer deaths are thought to result from smoking, and this number is probably even higher for SCLC. It's very rare for someone who has never smoked to have SCLC.

The risk of lung cancer for people who smoke is many times higher than for people who don't smoke.

The longer you smoke and the more packs a day you smoke, the greater your risk.

The American comedian and musician's some of the roles include Stephanie Gooch in Scrubs, Ally in 'Til Death, Shelley in Raising Hope, Lucy in The Big Bang Theory, Sadie Miller in Steven Universe, Sara Murphy in Milo Murphy's Law, Kelly in Hamster and Gretel.

James Cameron confirms Kate Winslet will be back as Ronal in 'Avatar 3'

Filmmaker James Cameron confirmed that along with actress Kate Winslet he was working on Avatar 3. James said the project's post-production schedule was 'hectic', but the film was due for release on Christmas 2025.

James said in an interview that Kate would once again play Ronal. While Kate's involvement in Avatar: The Way of Water was relatively minimal, it sounded like she would have more to do in the third film.

The director said Kate was in touch with a real-life shaman to learn more about her role. "When you see her doing that purification ritual to try to revive Kitty in the film and some of the stuff that she's going to do in the third movie is based on actual practice," he said.



Nobody can force filmmaker to make movies of particular genre: Manoj Bajpayee

Popular actor Manoj Bajpayee said nobody can force a filmmaker to make movies of a particular genre.

Interacting with reporters during the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival here recently, the 54-year old actor said it is up to people to choose the kind of films they want to see.

"It is up to the audience to choose what films they want to see. There has to be space for everyone and every genre. Please don't ask a filmmaker to make a movie of your choice. A director is free to make a film of his choice," the 'Satya' actor said.

Manoj said most Indian movies promote good family values and glorify women.

"I am thankful to directors for giving me choices. I have to make the most of it before I leave (the stage). I expect a lot from myself. I choose my roles carefully," the 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actor added.

Manoj said he doesn't see "negative and positive roles" as there are lots of possibilities and a wide variety of scripts nowadays.

On the growing popularity of the OTT platform, Manoj, whose 'The Family Man' on the web was a runaway



hit, said, "OTT has certainly democratised the system and helped the entire (film) industry."

"The OTT platform has helped many actors. So many stars came up

only when it is required. I think people are intelligent and sensible."

Paying tributes to Satyajit Ray, he said, "I am curious to know the experiences of actors who worked with Ray. When I worked with Sharmilaji (Sharmila Tagore) in a film, I used to often ask her to share her experience about working with Ray."

Expressing reservations on calling the Hindi film industry as Bollywood, he said, "It is a bad copy of Hollywood," adding that the working styles and values between Hollywood and our film industry don't match.

On OTT content regulation, he opined, "Censorship in digital media should be introduced

Elnaaz Norouzi set to dazzle the music scene with her second single, Woah

Actress Elnaaz Norouzi, known for her versatility, is set to dazzle the music scene once again with her second single, Woah, slated for release on December 9. Following the success of her debut single La La Love, which captivated audiences worldwide, Norouzi's second musical venture promises to be equally enthralling.

Speaking about the same, Elnaaz says, "For my second song, the inspiration came from the desire to incorporate elements of Indian and Middle-Eastern sounds, reflecting my identity. Despite singing primarily in English, I aimed to infuse cultural influences.

The goal was to create a vibrant club track that resonates with my love for dancing, showcasing it as one of my strengths. Collaborating with producers in LA and Germany, we worked collectively to craft the beats."



Smriti Irani gets a diet chart from Jackie Shroff

Former actress Smriti Irani, who is currently the Union Minister, has revealed about some diet suggestions that actor Jackie Shroff has shared with the 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' star.

Taking to social media, Smriti shared some candid pics with Jackie, wherein both can be seen engrossed in a conversation.

Smriti is wearing a black and golden printed saree, while Jackie is wearing an all-black outfit.

She has also shared a picture with producer JD Majethia. In the caption, the Smriti wrote



in a quirky manner: "DIET ki salah ke do prakaar - mehnat bahut but no chamatkar 1) Bidu

wazan kam kar.. fit reh fat mat ho re anda kha baingan kha bread mat kha re.. 2) Ben wazan

kam kar ... diet kar kissi ko pata nahi chalega."

Fans wrote: "you have a whacky sense of humour Looking great Smriti mam", "how bright and beautiful lady you're".

For the unversed, Jackie has an organic farm, where he grows organic plants, trees and herbs. He is also viral on the social media for his healthy viral food recipes such as 'Baingan Bharta', 'eggs with curry leaves', 'kanda bhindi', and more.

The actor is often seen in public gatherings and events holding a small plant, spreading the positive message of tree plantation.

Ali Fazal joins the Hindi voice cast for Solo Leveling

Crunchyroll is excited to announce the association of renowned actor and producer Ali Fazal as part of the Hindi voice cast in the highly anticipated anime adaptation of Solo Leveling.

Ali is set to lend his voice to the character called Song Chiyul, a Korean C-Rank hunter. Song Chiyul is an older gentleman who has taken the weak protagonist, Sung Jinwoo, under his wing. With a Hollywood debut in



Furious 7 and a leading role opposite Dame Judi Dench in Victoria and Abdul, Ali Fazal's international acclaim makes him a significant addition to the Solo Leveling cast.

Ali said, "Joining the cast of Solo Leveling and lending my voice to one of its gritty characters is a unique and exciting opportunity. I always strive to do something new with each of my projects, and this opportunity is defi-

nately among them. The character of Song Chiyul is truly remarkable, and I am honored to be a part of this amazing and exciting project. Working with Crunchyroll and being a part of the anime world is a fresh and thrilling experience for me. I had a great time being the voice behind this character."

Solo Leveling will make its global debut on Crunchyroll's streaming platform on January 6.

Mastermind behind Parliament security breach still on the run; Delhi Police conduct raids to nab him

A resident of Kolkata, Lalit Jha, is a teacher by profession and was the main conspirator of the security breach

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): The Delhi Police are conducting raids to nab the sixth man suspected to be a key part of the group that breached Parliament, an officer said on Thursday.

A resident of Kolkata, Lalit Jha, is a teacher by profession and was the main conspirator of the security breach, police said.

Influenced by revolutionary Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Lalit and others were highly motivated to commit an act which could draw the country's attention to them, they said.

The security agencies so far have not found their connection with any terror group, the officer said.

All six joined a Bhagat Singh fan page on Facebook after coming in touch with each other



on social media.

Lalit, Sagar Sharma and Maoranjan D had about a year ago met in Mysore where they made a plan to barge into Parliament. They later added Neelam and Amol in the plan.

Being a teacher, Lalit took the lead and instructed Manoranjan to do a recce of all entry points of the Parliament during the Monsoon Session.

"In July, Manoranjan came to Delhi and went inside Parliament on a visitor pass issued in the name of an MP. There, he got to know that the frisking of shoes does not happen," the officer privy to the investigation said.

On Wednesday, Lalit came with the four others to Parliament.

When they got passes for only two of them - Lalit decided to take

the mobile phones of all four - Sagar, Manoranjan, Neelam and Amol - with him.

The colour canisters, which were sprayed inside and outside the Parliament complex, had been brought by Amol from Kalyan, Maharashtra.

Sagar and Manoranjan went inside, while Neelam and Amol stayed outside at the gate where they, too,

opened the canisters, which emitted yellow and red smoke, the officer said.

Lalit later posted the video of the incident on his Instagram account and also shared it with Vishal Sharma alias Vicky - also part of the group - soon after Neelam and Amol were detained from outside Parliament, the officer added.

Lalit's last location was traced to Neemrana on the Rajasthan-Haryana Border.

Police had earlier said that all five had gathered on December 10 and stayed at Vishal Sharma's house in Gurugram.

Neelam, Manoranjan, Amol and Vishal are in custody and have been questioned by the Delhi Police Special cell and other security agencies.

Delhi LG, CM flag off 500 electric buses



KOLKATA, Dec 14 (Agencies): Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off 500 electric buses here on Thursday, taking the number of such buses in the national capital to 1,300.

The Delhi government said the capital has the highest number of electric buses plying on its roads in the country.

"We have rolled out 500 (electric) buses today. These are zero emission buses. We will continue to do such things to make Delhi better," Saxena told reporters.

Kejriwal in his turn thanked Saxena and promised to keep improving the city transport.

"I want to congratulate the people of Delhi on this occasion. I also want to thank the LG for taking out time from his busy schedule to grace this occasion. We now have 1300 electric

buses in Delhi. We will continue to strengthen Delhi's transport system," he told reporters.

In a post on X, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "Congrats Delhi!!! We're celebrating another huge milestone today! Flagged off 500 new E-buses along with Hon'ble CM @ArvindKejriwal and Hon'ble @LtGovDelhi. Success is never overnight, it is a guaranteed result of Consistency! We are yet again leading the way with a record 1300 e-buses."

Later, addressing a press conference, the minister said the addition of the buses is a strong step in the fight against pollution.

"In winters, pollution levels go up. One CNG bus emits 800 gram of carbon dioxide per kilometre. One electric bus saves that much amount of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere," he said.

Before the Thursday addition, 800 electric buses had been plying on Delhi roads since January 2022.

These buses have covered a distance of more than 42 million kilometres and cut more than 34,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide so far, the minister said.

By 2025, Delhi will have a total of 10,480 buses with electric ones making up 80 per cent of the fleet. This will help cut 4.67 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, according to the minister.

The new buses are air-conditioned, comfortable, and equipped with CCTV cameras and panic buttons.

"If you do not feel comfortable while travelling, you can press the panic button and immediately the live feed to the command and control centre will start. The feed will also be accessible to Delhi Police that will be able to step in," he said.

I am responsible for MPs' security, govt does not interfere in this, says Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): A day after the security breach in Parliament, Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said the responsibility of security of Parliament is with the Parliament Secretariat.

"The government does not interfere in this and we will not even allow the government to interfere," Birla said responding to demands by the opposition that Union Home Minister Amit Shah make a state-



ment on the matter.

On Thursday morning when the Lok Sabha proceedings resumed,

the opposition stormed the Well of the House demanding Shah to make a statement.

The Speaker said the authority and responsibility of security is with Parliament Secretariat and specifically with Lok Sabha secretariat. "As Speaker I am responsible for the security of members," Birla said in an attempt to pacify the protests.

Birla said he would hold another round of discussion with all parties on the matter.

As the protests did not die down, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

spoke saying all should condemn the incident. The Speaker had already taken action and issued directions, Rajnath said, adding that the need at the moment is to ensure that such incidents do not happen in future. "We all have to be careful in signing forms to allow visitors," the Minister said, reminding that in the past there had been incidents in Parliament.

With the protests continuing, the Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm.

Derek O'Brien suspended from Rajya Sabha for remainder of Winter Session for unruly behaviour



NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien was on Thursday suspended from Rajya Sabha for the remainder of the Session for "unruly behav-

our".

As soon as the Rajya Sabha resumed its sitting at noon on Thursday, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar noted that O'Brien was sitting in the House despite his

naming him in the morning.

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal then moved a motion under Rule 256 proposing O'Brien's suspension from the House for unruly behaviour and gesticulating aggressively at the Chair from the well of the House.

The motion was passed by the House by voice vote. As the Opposition protested against the Chairman's ruling, the House was suspended by him till 2 pm.

FIR registered as private video of Mumbai YouTuber goes viral on social media

The video was leaked by someone who illegally accessed the footage of the CCTV camera installed in the victim's home

MUMBAI, Dec 14 (Agencies): The Mumbai police have registered a case after a YouTuber alleged that someone illegally accessed the footage of a CCTV camera installed in his home and shared his private video on social media platforms, an official said on Thursday.

The 21-year-old YouTuber, who lives in Bandra, told the

police that his friends alerted him on December 9 about a video on platforms like YouTube, Instagram and Telegram showing him without clothes, the official said.

According to the first information report registered by the Bandra police last week, the video shows the YouTuber coming out of his bathroom naked.



The complainant told the police that the visual is of November 17 and it was captured by a CCTV camera

installed in his home.

Someone illegally accessed the footage and shared it on the internet, he told the police.

A case has been registered against unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code sections, including 500 (defamation), and the Information Technology Act, the official said, adding that investigations are underway.

4 killed as brick kiln chimney collapses on workers in West Bengal

3 others injured; cause of chimney collapse yet to be ascertained

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): At least four workers were killed and three injured after the chimney of a brick kiln collapsed on them in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, police said today.

The incident happened at Dhaltitah village in Basirhat on Wednesday evening while attempting to restart the brick kiln which was closed for a year, they said.

"Four people are confirmed dead and three have been admitted to hospital," a Barishat police officer said on Thursday. "Two persons died while undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital, while two bodies were found



from under the debris. All of them were workers of the brick kiln," a police officer said.

"Two are under treatment at Basirhat Hospital, while the third individual, who is in critical condition, has been transferred to RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata," the officer added. Among those killed,

two were from Faizabad in UP -- Jethuram and Rakesh Kumar. Another deceased was identified as Hafizul Mondal, a local. The fourth person was yet to be identified, he said.

The cause of the chimney collapse is yet to be ascertained, he said, adding that it will be investigated.

BJP IT cell trying to divert attention from Parliament security breach: Congress

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said this after Malviya shared pictures in which a woman arrested in connection with Wednesday's incident is seen purportedly campaigning for the Congress.

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday accused the BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya of seeking to divert attention from the Parliament security breach, and said the intruders were given access to the House by a BJP MP.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said this after Malviya shared pictures in which a woman arrested in connection with Wednesday's incident is seen purportedly campaigning for the Congress.

In a post on 'X', Ramesh said, "BJP IT Cell desperately wants to divert attention from 2 facts: 1. There was a very serious breach in the security of Par-



liament. 2. The intruders who breached Lok Sabha security in a shocking manner had been given access to the Parliament by Pratap Simha, BJP MP from Mysuru."

Sharing the pictures on 'X', Malviya earlier said, "Regime change is a phrase Congress leaders often use. Meet Neelam Azad, the lady who breached

defiling the Parliament, highest institution of our democracy," the BJP leader added.

In a separate post tagging a video of the father of Manoranjan, another accused in the Parliament security breach incident, Malviya said, "Was Manoranjan active with Congress and/or SFI-sponsored movements? Did he attend Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra?" "The last word on this is not out yet! But one thing is clear: the Opposition defiled Parliament on 13th Dec with a purpose," he said.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, two persons -- Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D -- jumped into the

Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by the MPs.

Around the same time, two other accused -- Amol Shinde and Neelam Devi -- also sprayed coloured gas from canisters while shouting 'tanashahi nahi chalegi' outside Parliament premises.

Sagar, Manoranjan, Amol and Neelam are now in police custody.

Their accomplice Vishal, in whose house the accused stayed before reaching Parliament, has been detained from Gurugram while a hunt is on for their other accomplice Lalit.

Clean Indus-Green Indus initiative undertaken

Top News Report

LEH, Dec 14: A 'Clean Indus, Green Indus' initiative was undertaken under the aegis of HQ Leh Sub Area, co-opting local communities, school children and NCC cadets. A team of 250 soldiers and 100 community members carried out the cleaning of the Indus River bank over a stretch of three kilometres, extending up to 50 meters from the bank.

Discarded plastic, polythene bags and bottles were removed,



resulting in the collection of three truckloads of garbage.

The campaign was aimed to raise awareness among the com-

munity, tourists and school children about the importance of keeping our water bodies clean, as they are our lifeline.

Deputy General Officer Commanding, Leh Sub Area flagged off the cleaning teams after an inaugural speech. He emphasised the

importance of maintaining clean environment and water bodies, discouraging the habit of littering. He stated that cleanliness is the foundation of a cultured society and that we must instil this habit in ourselves and educate others too.

The Indian Army's initiative was well received and appreciated by all present, with the slogan 'Jawan Aur Awam Hasil Hai Muqam' (Soldier and citizen, together we achieve success) resonating throughout the event.

Three-day Pro Kabaddi League 2023 begins at Bhadarwah



Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Dec 14: "Pro Kabaddi League 2023" a tribute to the martyred soldiers of Indian Army and J&K Police who laid their lives for the nation was paid today at New Bus Stand here on Thursday.

In a press statement, the programme

was organised by Youth Action Committee (YAC) an NGO in collaboration with local administration, Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Chairman District Development Council Doda Dhanantar Singh Kotwal was the Chief Guest on the occasion who inaugurated the programme.

He was accompanied by CO 4RR Indian army based at Bhadarwah, ADC Bhadarwah, DFO Bhadarwah, ASP Bhadarwah, Tehsildar Bhadarwah, BMO Bhadarwah, BDC Thakur Yudhvir Singh, YAC Chairman, DSP Bhadarwah, President Sanathan Dharam Sabha Bhadarwah and others.

In this league, 22 teams from panchayats(Rural) and Municipality Wards(Urban) are participating in it.

Pertinently, the teams who are participating in this league have not been charged any entry ticket fee.

GDC Darhal, Agriculture Department organize Orientation Programme

Top News Report

DARHAL, Dec 14: The NSS unit of Govt. Degree College Darhal in collaboration with Agriculture Production & Welfare Department organized a One Day Orientation Programme – YUVA VANI to acquaint the students about the huge potential of agri- entrepreneurship and the opportunities being provided by the government through flagship Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The program was conducted under the patronage of Prof. Musaraf. H. Shah, Principal of Govt. Degree College Darhal.

At the beginning of the program, Rohit Gandhotra, Nodal officer Yuna Vani explained in detail schemes of the Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir which has started two-month-long orientation programme in all the villages and Panchayats under the banner of YUVA VANI for the youth.

During his address he elaborated as to how the said programme

is committed to reach every corner of J&K, starting at the block level.

Unemployed youth from 18-35 years are being informed about the different schemes of agriculture like KCC, Soil Health Card, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the schemes that are included in the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). Both Raj (Visiting Officer), Assistant Director Fisheries department was present on the event.

He also spoke on the occasion and encouraged the audience to avail the benefits of these schemes and become entrepreneurs.

He acquainted them with the fact that these schemes would be able to not only create jobs for themselves but also for others which would help to push the economy and it would provide a platform for others.

Sukhdev Raj and Jatinder Singh (JAEO) from Department of Agriculture Darhal delivered the brief lecture on different Central Spon-

sored Scheme and ask to youth to adopt scientific Agriculture Technology.

Resource Persons in the event were Shamim Ahmed and Sukhjinder Singh from Dept. of Agriculture, AEA.

During the program, various videos and PPTs were played to make the audience aware of the success stories of these schemes and about the procedure of availing their benefits.

Pamphlets were distributed among the students and staff and Students were shared the QR Code to register with HADP and give their feedback about these schemes.

The program was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Mohd Akhlaq Malik NSS Program officer.

A large number of students and staff members participated in the program.

Prominent among others were Dr. Ghulam Abas, Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Ahsan Ul-Rehman Rizvi, Dr. Mohd Riaz and Dr. Mehwish Bukhari.

Prof. Shohab awards certificates to students excelled in portraits exhibitions of Lata

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal, Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Jammu marked a significant milestone in recognizing academic brilliance as it awarded certificates and gifts to deserving students who excelled in the portraits exhibitions of Lata ji-the nightingale of Bharat.

The ceremony, held in the front of Principal office of IMFA, was attended by faculty members, HoD Fine Arts and the accomplished students themselves.



The atmosphere buzzed with excitement and sense of accomplishment as names were called by Vaneeka Gupta

and students walked across the stage to receive their certificates.

HoD Fine Arts, IMFA University of Jammu expressed his enthusiasm for the students achievements saying "Today is a celebration of dedication, hard work and pursuit of excellence these students have not only demonstrated exceptional academic prowess but have also shown a commitment to the values of IMFA which is nurturing by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu."

Shamsher, Chander Mohan, Bali condemn misleading statement by Estate Department, seek apology

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including former Member of Parliament Shamsher Singh Manhas, former Mayor of Jammu Chandra Mohan Gupta, and former Minister Bali Bhagat, have strongly criticized a misleading statement issued by a senior official of the Estate Department.

The statement in question erroneously

used the term 'Eviction' instead of 'Voluntary Vacated' in local newspapers of Jammu.

In a joint statement released today, these senior BJP leaders expressed their deep disappointment with the Estate Department for tarnishing their reputation in the public domain by disseminating false information.

They are demanding an immediate apology from the Estate Department for this unwarranted act.

According to the statement, Bali Bhagat voluntarily vacated the estate bungalow and handed over the keys to the Estate Department on 31st March 2023.

Shamsher Singh Manhas vacated the estate property on 30th September 2023, and former Mayor Chandra Mohan Gupta has left the estate quarter on 12th November 2023.

The senior BJP leaders clarified, "We all voluntarily vacated the government accommo-

dated, and there was no pressure exerted upon us by the Estate Department.

We diligently paid monthly rent, adhering to all relevant rules and regulations.

We were not unauthorized occupants, and our tenure in government accommodation significantly contributed to the government exchequer."

The leaders further questioned the validity of the term "eviction" and pointed out that if eviction were indeed

warranted, why were only four leaders targeted while others were not? This proves that the Estate Department has filed a false report.

They called upon the Estate Department to acknowledge the voluntary nature of their departure and express gratitude for their compliance with regulations. They strongly asked the Estate Department to issue a public apology for the misleading statement made in the media.

FROM PAGE 1

Amit Shah to move Govt of UTs (Amendment) Bill, 2023, J&K reorganization (Second Amendment) bill in Rajya Sabha

"Also, measures undertaken to secure the representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) pertaining to the Ministry of Steel," the agenda read.

Meanwhile, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has moved the adjournment motion in Lok Sabha to discuss Wednesday's security breach in Parliament.

Gogoi said that the unprecedented incident raises serious concerns about the safety measures in place for the new Parliament building.

"Such a lapse of security is unacceptable for a key institution of Indian Democracy. I demand that the Union Home Minister addresses the issue promptly, and the house takes a comprehensive overview of the situation for the national interest," adjournment notice submitted in Lok Sabha read.

On the 22nd anniversary of the Parliament terror attack, a major security breach occurred when two intruders entered the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitor gallery during Zero Hour. In a security breach in Lok Sabha, two men jumped into the House from the visitors' gallery, holding canisters in their hands. They released yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by MPs.

Congress MP Manish Tewari gave an Adjournment Motion notice in Lok Sabha to discuss the situation of Navy personnel in Qatar and the steps taken to bring them back to India.

Eight Indian nationals have been imprisoned in Qatar since October 2022 and were accused of allegedly spying on a submarine programme. The retired naval personnel were sentenced to death by a Qatar court on charges that have not yet been made public officially.

The Winter session began on December 4 and will culminate on December 22.

J&K Admin's directive to Officers: Send monthly reports on public issues, solutions to CS Office

issues flagged during these tours and public hearings with their possible solutions, be submitted directly to the Chief Secretary and those by the heads of departments to their respective departments.

JKSTIC allocates Rs Two Crore for SKUAST research advancements, aimed to support 72 projects

Government of India, at Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

Two Industrial Biotechnology Parks, Dr Shah said, are being set up, one in Ghatti Kauthwa, Jammu, and the other in Handwara, Kashmir. These parks are scheduled to commence operations in July 2024, with respective project costs of 20 crores and 85 crores.

Eight security personnel suspended for Parliament security breach:

Sources

persons — Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D — jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by the MPs.

14 Opposition MPs suspended from Lok Sabha for disrupting proceedings

Modi over the security breach in Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved two resolutions on separate occasions for the suspension of the MPs.

Before their suspension, the MPs moved into the Well of the House raising slogans with demand of a statement from the government on the Wednesday security breach.

The House witnessed the first adjournment during the question hour when it was adjourned till 2 pm amid opposition's uproar.

At 2 pm, Joshi read a statement on behalf of the government and said the internal security in Parliament comes under the purview of the Speaker.

He then moved a resolution amid the din to suspend five MPs.

"I move the following that this House having taken misconduct of T N Prathapan, Hibi Eden, Jothimani, Ramya Haridas and Dean Kuriakose in utter disregard to the House and the authority of this Chair and having been named by the chair ... to be suspended from the service of the House for reminder session," the resolution read.

The House was then adjourned till 3 pm.

As soon as the House met at 3 pm, Joshi moved a second resolution to suspend VK Sreekandan (Cong), Benny Behanan (Cong), Mohammad Jawed (Cong), PR Natarajan (CPI-M), Kanimozhi (DMK), K Subbarayan (CPI), SR Parthiban (DMK), S Venkatesan (CPI-M), and Manickam Tagore (Cong).

An MP claimed later that Prathiban was named among the suspended MPs even as he is not present in Delhi and is in Chennai.

The House was adjourned to meet again on Friday. Some of the suspended members continued to protest in the House even after the adjournment. A few of them came out after some time.

Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Thursday held vociferous protests demanding a statement from the government on the Parliament security breach even as Speaker Om Birla asserted that security of the Parliament complex is the responsibility of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Winter Session of Parliament, which started on December 4, will conclude on December 22.

Inter-State illegal weapon smuggling racket unearthed: Punjab Police

weapons," Yadav posted on X. An FIR has been registered and further investigation was underway.

Cases involving JKLF Chief Yasin Malik: 3 witnesses fail to appear before TADA court in

Jammu

Two witnesses — numbers 24 and 25 — were examined in November. They supported the prosecution's case and identified accused Ali Mohammad Mir, Bhat said.

Mir, who is the prime accused in the abduction case after Malik, had taken Rubaiya Sayeed in his vehicle to Sopore from Srinagar and kept her in a guesthouse.

Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail where he is serving a term in connection with a terror-financing case, was not produced in the court physically due to an order issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs restricting his movement.

Pahloo is lodged in the Central Jail in Srinagar following his arrest for reviving the terrorist apparatus in the Kashmir valley, Bhat said.

Pahloo alias "Nanaji" was among the 10 terrorists arrested in July from a hotel in a case related to a conspiracy to revive the banned JKLF and separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference in the valley.

The special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act court has already framed charges separately against Malik and several others in both cases.

The charges against Malik, Pahloo and eight others in the 1989 abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed were framed by the court on January 11, 2021.

Kashmir shivers at minus 5.8°C, water supply pipes jammed as cold wave grips

jammed. The meteorological office said the weather would remain mainly dry till December 15 but predicted mild precipitation over the weekend.

The bull on the run—Sensex, Nifty hit record highs

Apart from US Fed Reserve outcome, there seem to be some India-centric reasons as well

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): Sensex jumped 796.64 points to hit an all-time high of 70,381.24 and Nifty 222.1 points to arrive at its record peak of 21,148.45 on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged and signalled the possibility of three rate cuts in 2024, according to agency reports.

US Fed effect
Well, not just the Indian benchmark equity indices, markets across the world rallied as the Fed indicated that the tightening of US monetary policy was coming to an end and there could also be a possibility of "lower borrowing costs in 2024".

No change in the key interest rate for the third straight time indicated that the US Fed Reserve was "likely done raising rates after having imposed the fastest string of increases in four decades to fight painfully high inflation," as per agency reports.

The Federal Reserve System is the central bank of the United States.

It performs five general functions to promote the effective operation of the US economy and, more generally, the public interest. According to its website, its role includes conduct-



ing the nation's monetary policy to promote maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates in the economy and promoting the stability of the financial system.

Basically the bottom line is that any change in interest rates by the Fed impacts global markets, including in India.

Buoyancy in Indian markets
A sharp rise in November retail inflation may have acted as a dampener on some days but the Indian benchmark indices hit multiple highs this December, jumping over many milestones ahead of the US Fed meeting.

Experts say "better-than-expected" job data in the US helped ease pressure on the Fed trying to keep inflation

under control.

India-centric reasons

While the Fed buzz was said to be one of the main reasons for the bull run, experts also sense some specific India-centric reasons for the general buoyancy in the stock markets and one of them may be the indication of "continued political stability" after the big BJP victory in three key states—Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Another reason could be the current state of the Indian rupee.

According to reports, the rupee today rebounded by 13 paise to 83.27 against the US dollar in early trade after the greenback weakened in the overseas markets following the Fed outcome.

Notably, the rupee had closed

at its all-time low level of 83.40 on Wednesday after retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 5.55% in November, as per reports.

In other words, the rupee reached a new low against the dollar as stock markets hit new all-time highs. Experts say as the rupee went weak, FIIs pumped money in Indian markets. Basically the weakness in rupee allowed them to buy more shares in dollars.

Another reason is also said to be the increased attempts by India to use rupee in global trade—a mark of its geo-political heft.

Earlier this August, India made its first crude oil payment in rupees.

India and the United Arab Emirates started settling bilateral trade in local currencies with Indian Oil Corp making payment to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, according to a statement issued by the Indian embassy in the UAE. The transaction followed one involving the sale of 25kg gold from a UAE gold exporter to a buyer in India at about Rs 128.4 million. According to reports, India is trying to crack similar deals with other countries.

People's car Maruti 800 was launched this day 40 years ago



NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday recalled the launch of "people's car" Maruti 800 40 years ago, and said Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi played a quiet but hugely effective role in the background.

Former environment minister Ramesh said that while celebrating Maruti-Suzuki and its multiple impacts, let us also pause and worry a bit from the inequality and climate change point of view that more

than 50 per cent of car sales are now of SUVs.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "Today 40 years ago, the consumer revolution overtook India and its engineering industry got transformed. The Maruti 800, the people's car was launched and the nation recalls Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, who played a quiet but hugely effective role in the background."

It is also important to recall O Suzuki and V Krishnamurthy who made the landmark Suzuki-Maruti joint ven-

ture possible, he noted. Krishnamurthy had earlier built BHEL and was to later turn around SAIL, Ramesh pointed out.

"One of the greatest public sector managers India has produced. He (Krishnamurthy) offered me a job on three different occasions but my sights, rightly or wrongly, were elsewhere. He was a most compelling personality," Ramesh said.

"Forty years later, while we celebrate Maruti-Suzuki (that is now only Suzuki) and its multiple impacts, let us also pause and worry a bit from the inequality and climate change point of view that more than 50 per cent of car sales are now of SUVs," he said.

December 14, 1983 marked the birth of the iconic Maruti 800 that has remained one of the most successful cars India has ever seen.

Adani Group to invest Rs. 8,700 crore in Bihar, to create 10K jobs in state

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): Adani Group on Thursday announced to invest Rs. 8,700 crore in Bihar across various sectors, including logistics and agro-industry. Pranav Adani, the Director of Adani Enterprises, while speaking at Bihar Global Investors' Summit said that the investment intended to invest in three additional sectors, creating direct or indirect employment for approximately ten thousand people.

The Gautam Adani-led Adani Group is already present in Bihar, and it has invested Rs. 850 crore in the state.

"I am very happy to share that Adani Group is with the Bihar development vision of the chief minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar. We are currently present in logistics, gas distribution, and agro-logistics, with an investment of Rs. 850 crore, gener-

ating direct or indirect employment for three thousand individuals. Now, we aim to increase our investment tenfold," said Pranav Adani.

In the warehouse or godown sector, the company plans to invest Rs. 1200 crore, generating employment for 2000 people. Additionally, in six locations—Purnia, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Kishanganj, and Araria—the silo storage capacity will increase from 1.5 lakh metric tonnes to 2.75 lakh metric tonnes. Adani Agro Private Limited has already commenced work on this project with an investment of Rs. 900 crore.

The company will allocate Rs. 200 crore to enhance its city gas distribution network in Gaya and Nalanda. Pranav Adani stated, "We are also planning to start producing compressed biogas and EV

chargers. This initiative will create jobs for almost 1500 people in the state."

Adani Group is also contemplating bringing Adani Wilmar to Bihar. In another venture, the company plans to enter the cement manufacturing sector, establishing manufacturing units in Warsaliganj and Mahawal with a cost of Rs. 2500 crore. The goal is to produce ten million metric tonnes annually from these plants, employing around 3000 people directly or indirectly.

The company is also eyeing the smart meter manufacturing sector, intending to invest Rs. 3100 crore in cities like Shivan, Saran, Gopalganj, and Vaishali to install smart meters. Adani Group announced plans to install 28,000 smart meters, creating 2000 job opportunities in the state.

Bad news for Tesla as India says 'no proposal' to cut EV import tax

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): The government has said there are no intentions to offer subsidies for the import of electric vehicles into the country. This development appears to be a major setback for the US electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing giant Tesla's ambitions to enter the India market.

In a written reply to a question raised in Parliament, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash clarified that there is no proposal to either provide an exemption from local value addition cost or to provide a subsidy on the import duty on electric vehicles.

"Presently, there is no proposal either to provide an exemption from local value addition cost or to provide a subsidy on the import duty on electric vehicles in India," Parkash's written reply stated.



In his reply, Parkash highlighted some of the existing policy initiatives and measures to create a strong ecosystem to promote industrialisation and domestic value addition, and make India globally competitive.

"Government has also taken various steps to boost domestic and foreign investments in India to enhance local value addition under the Make in India initiative. These include the introduction of Goods and Services Tax, reduction in corporate tax, improving ease of doing business, FDI policy reforms, measures for

reduction in compliance burden, measures to boost domestic manufacturing through public procurement orders, Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) and QCOs (Quality Control Orders), to name a few," he said.

Apart from the above, Parkash said the government had also launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the automobile and auto component industry with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,938 crore to provide financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of advance

automotive technologies (AAT) products (including electric vehicles and their components).

However, he made it clear that there is currently no proposal to provide a subsidy on EV import duties, a long-standing demand from Tesla, which has been longing to enter the Indian market for years.

The minister's response comes as a big blow to Tesla's aspirations to sell its EVs in India, potentially leading to an impasse. It's worth noting that Tesla representatives have engaged in discussions with government officials over the past few months, it seems no mutually agreeable terms have been reached so far.

While the government has been pushing for Tesla to manufacture cars locally, the automaker is insisting on lower import taxes ini-

tially to make its globally produced vehicles competitive in the Indian market.

Even during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit in June, Tesla CEO Elon Musk had expressed the company's willingness to make a "significant investment" in India. In return, Tesla has been negotiating for reduced import taxes at the outset.

However, the government's stance on import duties could result in further delays for Tesla's entry into the Indian market.

This development comes shortly after the government and Tesla were on the verge of reaching an agreement that would enable the US automaker to commence car sales in India from next year and establish a factory within two years.

Meftal: Alert does not compromise the safety, says Blue Cross Laboratories

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agencies): Blue Cross Laboratories, the pharmaceutical company behind the Meftal and Meftal Spas brands, has issued a clarification regarding the recent safety alert by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) concerning mefenamic acid, a key component in both medications.

According to the company, Meftal and Meftal-Spas are trusted brands recommended by doctors in India for addressing pain, fever and spasms. Both products contain mefenamic acid as an active ingredient.

In response to the IPC alert, Blue Cross Laboratories emphasised that the commission's advisory aimed to encourage doctors and patients to monitor the potential occurrence of an adverse drug reaction (ADR) related to mefenamic acid.

However, the company stressed that this alert does not compromise the safety, effectiveness, or high quality of

the established brands, which are backed by clinical studies and real-world evidence.

"We wish to issue a clarification regarding the recent media coverage of the alert issued by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) on mefenamic acid. The alert issued by IPC was to advise Doctors and patients to monitor the possibility of an adverse drug reaction (ADR) of mefenamic acid, which does not in any way impact the safety, efficacy and high quality of the brands that are established and supported by clinical studies and real-world evidence," reads the company's statement.

The company pointed out that mefenamic acid, under the names Meftal and Meftal-Spas, has been prescribed in countries such as the USA, UK, Japan, and others for over four decades. With billions of doses administered, the medication has benefited millions of patients worldwide.



Regarding the specific adverse effect mentioned by the IPC - DRESS syndrome - the company highlighted that this is an extremely rare disease. Blue Cross Laboratories noted that DRESS syndrome, also known as ADR, is associated with various drugs, including

widely used ones like paracetamol and ibuprofen.

"The ADR i.e. DRESS syndrome, mentioned in the IPC alert, is a very rare event that is previously documented in the medical literature, both in India and globally. It is a known ADR of many drugs and published

reports are available for paracetamol and ibuprofen. When prescribing any medicine, doctors take patient history and other individual factors into account to reduce the risk of any ADR," the statement reads.

Blue Cross Laboratories also highlighted its strong internal pharmacovigilance system and expressed support for the efforts of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PVPI), operating under the IPC and the Health Ministry.

"The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PVPI) operates under the purview of IPC and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to collect data on adverse events of all drugs. It works in the interest of patients to ensure the safety and efficacy of all drugs for all disease conditions. Blue Cross Laboratories as a responsible company has a strong pharmacovigilance system internally and supports the efforts of PVPI," reads the statement.

Gaming addiction causes behavioural changes: Experts

LUCKNOW, Dec 14 (Agencies): Gaming addiction is leading to behavioural changes in children and also adults, according to experts.

If your child is getting angry over petty issues, losing interest in daily activities or eating and sleeping too less, it is time to consult a medical expert.

At a special session organised by Lucknow University's social work department in association with Head Digital Works (HDW), experts threw light on responsible online gaming and tips for de-addiction from online gaming.

Clinical psychologist Dr P.K. Khatri said: "If anyone around you shows such symptoms then do not hesitate to get help from a counselor."

He said that the biggest issue is that people do not accept that they have developed a gaming addiction. And, even if they do, they do not look for its cure.

"Also, people are unaware about the difference between a psy-

chologist and a psychiatrist. If one is addicted to gaming, then the person should first consult a psychologist. A few counselling sessions by a psychologist may help handle the issue, if not, then approach a psychiatrist," he added.

Students -- if they are fond of gaming -- should do it responsibly.

"Responsible gaming ensures playing online games that have a Random Number Generator (RNG) certificate. Those who have these certificates ensure that outcomes of such games are truly random and not biased towards any particular player or group of players," said head HDW Rohit Chauhan.

He said that this means that every player has an equal chance of winning or losing, and the outcome of each game is not predetermined or influenced by any external factors.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, West, Lucknow and Cyber expert Chiran-

jevi Nath Sinha said: "All presenters should cover cameras of their mobile or laptop while playing games online since everything is being recorded today and we could be a victim of online fraud or scams."

He also talked about the deep fake technology majorly used in pornography and breaching a person's right to privacy.

Senior vice president of HDW, Siddharth Sharma, said: "Online gaming is like sweets that taste great but having it every day will make you unhealthy. Online gaming should not change your way of life, it is only a part of life."

State Education Minister Sandeep Singh said: "Youth should channelise their energy towards the betterment of the country rather than wasting time on online games. Game addiction has made our youth physically inactive, socially absent and poor at communication skills."

SA vs IND, 3rd T20I: India look to bounce back in Johannesburg as 8-year streak on the line

With the aim to maintain their unbeaten run against South Africa in T20Is, India will enter the Wanderers stadium looking to level the series and snap their losing streak in the rainbow nation.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 14 (Agencies): The Indian team will be aiming to avoid a rare T20I series defeat to South Africa when they take on the Proteas when both teams square off in the iconic Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg on December 14.

India were handed a five-wicket loss by South Africa in the rain-affected match on December 12 in Gqeberha, despite a fantastic batting performance captain Suryakumar Yadav and Rinku Singh, who scored 68 off just 39 balls and remained unbeaten on the day.

The conditions did have a major role in the loss as the Indian bowlers found it hard to grip the ball in Gqeberha as Reeza Hendricks made the most of the opportunity during the powerplay overs and put the Indian bowlers to the sword.

With rain expected to stay away in Johannesburg, India will look to ensure they don't suffer a series defeat to the Proteas for the first time since 2015. India's last series loss to South Africa in the shortest format of the game came in 2015 at home as they lost 2-0 with the final match of the series being abandoned.

Since then, India has won



two out of the four T20I series played between both sides with the other two being drawn ones. The defeat in Gqeberha was also India's sixth straight loss in all formats of the game in South Africa and it will be one streak they would be keen to end.

With the stakes raised, Suryakumar and his team will be hoping for a better performance on the day in Johannesburg, a ground where India has won three out of their five T20I matches so far. This also includes India's famous 2007 T20 World Cup final win over Pakistan.

Bowling will be one of the areas where India will look for instant improvement, with the likes of Arshdeep Singh and

Mohammed Siraj leaking runs in the second game.

SA vs IND, 3rd T20I Predicted XI

This brings us to the lineups for the third match between both sides and the main focus will be on the Indian team. The openers, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, achieved an unwanted record as they were both dismissed for ducks. However, with Ruturaj Gaikwad's recovery from illness still a doubt we could see both men continue at the top.

Tilak Varma impressed with his cameo on the day and can be expected to retain his place. The next three in the lineup is expected to remain the same with Suryakumar at four, fol-

lowed by Rinku and Jitesh Sharma.

With no other pacers to call upon, with Deepak Chahar still away due to a family emergency, India will be banking on Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Arshdeep to step up with a better performance on Thursday. Ravi Bishnoi could be forced to warm the bench once again as India could persist with Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja for this one.

For South Africa, they are forced into a few changes with Gerald Coetzee and Marco Jansen unavailable for the match. This could provide them a chance to bring Keshav Maharaj into the side and provide a chance for Nandre Burger or Ottiel Baartman.

India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav (c), Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Mohammed Siraj.

South Africa: Matthew Breetzke, Reeza Hendricks, Aiden Markram (c), Heinrich Klaassen (wk), David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Keshav Maharaj, Andile Phehlukwayo, Nandre Burger/Ottiel Baartman, Lizaad Williams, Tabraiz Shamsi.

ICC tells Aussie cricketer Usman Khawaja not to wear shoes with Israel war message during Pakistan Test; then he does something else



PERTH, Dec 14 (Agency): Australia batter Usman Khawaja wasn't allowed to wear shoes branded with a "all lives are equal" humanitarian message, so he wore a black armband instead on Thursday on day 1 of the series-opening cricket Test against Pakistan.

The International Cricket Council intervened on Wednesday after Khawaja indicated he planned to wear shoes during the match that featured messages to highlight the loss of innocent lives in the Israel-Hamas war.

The ICC's policies for international cricket prohibit displays of political or religious statements on team uniforms or equipment.

Khawaja said he'd abide by the ruling to avoid individual or team sanctions, but would challenge the ICC's stance.

"Freedom is a human right, and all rights are equal," Khawaja said in a social media post. "I will never stop believing that."

Australia batted first in the five-day game, and Khawaja and fellow Australian opener David Warner strode to the pitch along with the Pakistan fielders.

Khawaja, who was born in Pakistan and is the first Muslim to play Test cricket for Australia, wore the black armband to show solidarity with people suffering in Gaza.

In pre-game TV interviews, he said there'd been precedents where other cricketers had been allowed to show support for other causes.

"I find it a little bit disappointing they came down hard on me and they don't always come down hard on everyone," he said.

The 36-year-old Khawaja had some high-level support, including from Australian captain Pat Cummins and even up to the nation's federal treasurer, Jim Chalmers.

"What was on the shoes — all lives are equal — I support that," Cummins said. "That's not very divisive. I don't think anyone can really have too many complaints about that."

Chalmers told the Australian Broadcasting Corp radio that the ICC should allow Khawaja to wear the shoes.

"I don't think it's an especially controversial statement and I find it unusual frankly that people want to dispute that," he said.

"The lives on one side of a conflict are not worth anymore or any less than the lives on the other side of a conflict."

Australia vs Pakistan, 1st Test: David Warner silences critics with hundred in farewell series opener in Perth

PERTH, Dec 14 (Agency): Star opener David Warner shut out the noise and let his bat do the talking as he began his farewell Test series with a hundred on Day 1 of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan in Perth on Thursday, December 14. Warner brought up his first Test century of the calendar year and his 26th overall as he went level with legendary Sir Gary Sobers on the all-time list of Test centuries.

David Warner was under considerable pressure amid his dipping Test form. The superstar opener was backed by the team management and the selection committee, led by George Bailey, to be in the XI for the first Test of their home summer.

However, Warner came out all guns blazing and looked like a man, who was determined to prove his naysayers wrong. After Pat Cummins won the toss and opted to bat on a good Perth pitch, Warner was free-flowing and aggressive. His fired-up body language was evident from the way he kept calling while running between the wickets with his opening partner Usman Khawaja.

Warner punished anything loose and there were plenty of them from the inexperienced Pakistan pace bowling attack in the first session. Shaheen Shah Afridi leaked 12 runs in the first over of the match, helping Australia set the pace early. Khuram Shahzad was impressive on his debut and young Aamer Jamal tried too many things in his first spell in Test cricket. Pakistan lacked

pace as their fourth seamer and part-timer Faheem Ashraf conceded aplenty.

David Warner and Usman Khawaja took the Australian total past 100 in the first session, with the former doing the bulk of the work. The two openers added 126 runs for the first wicket before Shaheen forced an outside edge off Khawaja.

Warner was more vigilant in the second session, but he cashed in on the ordinary bowling on Thursday morning. Warner also hit Shaheen Afridi for a six by going low and scooping one over the fine-leg fielder in a T20 cricket-like shot, leaving the crowd and commentators in awe.

Warner hit 14 boundaries and a six as he got to his first Test hundred in over a year. Warner has been facing the flak for his dipping numbers in Test cricket. In the last four years, Warner has scored only three Test hundreds, including the one in the ongoing Perth Test.

Ahead of the Test series, former pacer Mitchell Johnson launched an explosive attack on Warner, questioning why the veteran opener was getting a farewell Test series despite his poor numbers in the recent past. Johnson also brought up the ball-tampering saga, questioning whether Warner deserved to pick his exit date.

Warner is all set to retire from Test cricket at the end of the series at his home ground, Sydney, and it seems the man with the never-say-die attitude is keen on going out on a high.

Didn't know how to come back after loss but now motivated for ultimate prize: Rohit

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agency): Rohit Sharma had no clue if he would ever get over the disappointment of the World Cup final defeat but the love and understanding of fans has now "motivated" him to make an earnest shot at another ultimate glory.

While Rohit didn't mention which ultimate glory he is talking about but it is fairly believable now that he is looking at leading India in next year's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and USA.

Rohit, who had a dream World Cup as a skipper and batter till the final, was virtually in tears as he left the ground and had gone to England for a break to just relieve himself from the pain.

"I had no idea how to come back from this for the first few days. It was my family, friends that kept me going. They kept things light. It wasn't easy to digest but life moves on and it wasn't easy to move on," said Rohit, on his Instagram fan page, airing his sentiments for the first time since November 19, when the team lost to Australia.

However, what Rohit loved was the appreciation and understanding of the fans of the team's brilliant show. Their kind



words were part of his healing process.

"For me to see, people coming up to me, telling me that they were proud of the team, made me feel good. Along with them, I was healing as well. I felt, okay these are the kind of things you want to hear," Rohit said.

While he must have felt for some time that there is nothing more left to achieve, the 36-year-old Indian skipper dropped enough hints that he is now ready for one final date with history.

"People, when they understand what the player must be going through and when they know these kind of things and not to bring out that frustration, that anger, it means a lot for us,

for me definitely it meant a lot because there was no anger, it was just pure love from people that I met and it was wonderful to see that," Rohit said.

"So it gives you motivation to get back and start working again and look for another ultimate prize," he hinted at the T20 World Cup.

Rohit had left for UK for two weeks right after the tournament.

"After the final, it was very hard to get back and start moving on, which is why I decided that I need to get my mind out of this. But then, wherever I was, I realised that people were coming up to me and they were appreciating everyone's effort, how well we played. I feel for

all of them. They all, along with us, were dreaming of lifting that World Cup, along with us," Rohit said.

The support that the team received during the campaign was incredible.

"Everywhere we went during this entire campaign, there was so much support from everyone who came to the stadium firstly and people who were watching it from home as well.

"I want to appreciate what the people have done for us, in that one and half month period. But again, if I think more and more about that I feel quite disappointed that we were not able to go all the way." The 50-over World Cup is the ultimate prize and it does get frustrating when one thinks about it.

"I have always grown up watching the 50-over World Cup. To me that was the ultimate prize, the 50-over World Cup. We've worked all these years, for that World Cup. And it is disappointing, right? If you don't get through it, don't get what you want, what you have been looking for all this while, what you were dreaming of. You get disappointed. You get frustrated as well at times," Rohit said.

Okuhara narrates ordeal, BAI regrets unfortunate incident

The Badminton Association of India had expressed regret and said they would ensure no such incident takes place in the future.

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (Agency): Japanese shuttler Nozomi Okuhara's recent travel experience in India turned out to be a nightmare. The former World No 1 feared for her safety as she was duped by a taxi driver in New Delhi, before she was forced to anxiously wait for her stay in Odisha, her main destination, where she is currently part of a BWF Super 100 event. She spoke of her harrowing experience after landing in New Delhi and later on her arrival in Odisha. The latter was sorted after the organisers were contacted.

The Badminton Association of India had expressed regret and said they would ensure no such incident takes place in the future. Organising secretary Nileen Kumar, who is also an executive committee member of BAI, explained the reason

for miscommunication. He, of course, said that such thing should not have happened and felt for the harrowing time she had to go through.

However, he said that she had to fill up a form if she needed accommodation or conveyance some 30 days ago. "This is for everyone Indian or players from abroad," he said. She apparently would have missed filling up the form. "It was unfortunate what she had to go through. On her arrival on December 10 when she was not being able to get a room of her liking I asked her if she needed help but she said she was making her arrangement," he said. "I told her that we will assist her in any form she wanted. We assisted her to get a hotel. We do not want such incidents to happen here. We take care of such arrangements." In



fact, he is the one who met Okuhara in the lobby and extended help. "We know she is a former World No 1 and we would not do such things intentionally," he said. "We take care of our guests. I told the hotel staff to take care of her while she waiting for a room."

The New Delhi chapter was something Okuhara will

never forget. "I was prepared for it (journey), but due to a series of problems, it was a physically and mentally demanding journey," she wrote. After arriving from Hong Kong in New Delhi, she had plans to stay in the city for a night and head to Odisha the next morning. However, trouble began as soon as she landed in the

capital. "The hotel near the airport was not directly connected to the airport, but it was a 10-minute drive from the airport, so I was instructed to take a taxi." Mindful of potential harassment from drivers that is common at airports, she had booked an uber ride for a 10-minute journey to her hotel.

However, after being unable

to locate her ride, she walked outside, where she was approached by several drivers. That's when an opportunist driver approached her and promised to take her to the hotel. Though hesitant, she felt compelled to trust the guy. It was also getting late. A journey that was supposed to be 400 yen (Rs 230 approx), she eventually ended up paying Rs 1,900. Though feeling cheated, she was just relieved to reach her destination. "When I later converted it (Indian currency) into Japanese yen, it was just under 4,000 yen, which was 10 times the cost of Uber. I thought I had been fooled completely, but I was able to arrive safely at the hotel with my luggage, so I was glad."

She could barely sleep that night as there was some uncertainty regarding her stay in Odisha. Moreover,

she was unable to get in touch with the Indian officials, which meant her stay at the official hotel was not confirmed. She was also unable to get help from officials from Japan. After reaching the official hotel, she was told that there was no reservation for the Japanese team and she was forced to wait as the hotel tried to get in touch with her travel agency, who made the bookings. She also wrote that she met the organisers in the lobby and sought help.

That's when her agency contacted her and asked her to opt for a new place close to the venue. However, she found the new options to be questionable and was reluctant to move. She also contacted PV Sindhu, hoping to get some assistance. In the end, she found a place where the Indonesian team was staying.

'Yuvtarang-2023' gets underway at CLUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: On the third day of ongoing 'Yuvtarang-2023' organized by the Department of Students Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu under the patronage of Prof Bechan Lal, the Vice Chancellor, the Kalanjali events comprising of 'One Act Play', 'Mimicry', 'Western Vocal Solo', 'Western Vocal Group' and 'Western Instrumental Solo' witnessed enthusiastic participation of the students.

Dr Jatinder Khajuria, Registrar, Prof. Ranvijay Singh, Dean Students Welfare, Dr. Kuldeep Raina, Cultural Coordinator, Prof



Ashu Manhas, Associate Dean, Prof Mohd Ashraf, Assistant Dean, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Assistant Dean, Prof Sunita, Assistant Dean, members of Campus Cultural Committee, faculty members and students were present during the events. Dr Zuber Kalis, Dean,

Education was the Observer.

In 'One Act Play', MAM College bagged First, GCW, Gandhi Nagar stood second and School of Teacher Education secured Third positions respectively. Akash and Shazia from MAM College were declared as The Best

Actor Male and Female respectively in One Act play.

In Mimicry, Savi from GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Surya Bhaskar Sharma from GGM Science College and Akash Katoch from MAM College bagged first, second and third positions respectively. Dr.

Abhishek Bharti, Theatre Director, Ifra Kak (cultural officer, Jammu University) and Kamal Razdan were the adjudicators for One Act Play and Mimicry.

Dr. Muktesh Sharma, GCW Parade, Narinder Wazir, Musician and Amarjeet Singh, Door-darshan were the adjudicators for Kalanjali events of Western Vocal Solo', 'Western Vocal Group', and 'Western Instrumental Solo'. Dr Babita Jamwal was the event Incharge.

These events are planned, organised and supervised by Dr Ranvijay Singh, Dean and his team of Department of Students Welfare, CLUJ.

JKBS hails 33 pc reservation to women in J&K Assembly



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members at a meeting held here today hailed passage of bill granting 33 percent reservation to women in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative

Assembly, by the Lok Sabha.

If the same is also passed by the Rajya Sabha, there would be at least 29 to 30 women in the House of 90 besides five nominated MLAs, that means greater representation and participation of

women as public representatives in law-making processes in the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

And it would also fulfill the dream of Baba Saheb Dr B.R.Ambedkar who believed in the strength of women and their role in the process of social reform.

Baba Saheb had said, "I measure the progress of community by the degree of progress which women had achieved", said the JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith.

33 pc reservation in Assembly a big step towards empowerment of J&K women: Purnima

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir and former Dy Mayor Jammu, while welcoming the passage of the Bill providing for 33 per cent reservation to women in the Legislative Assembly of J&K, termed it as a big step towards women's empowerment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir in general and women folk in particular have overwhelmingly welcomed this development that is going to have a far reaching impact upon the status and living standard of women of



this Union territory. She said that this shows the strong commitment of the central government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards empowerment of women in this Union Territory. She said that once this law comes into force would further help in dealing with the issues and concerns of womenfolk in a better way.

Purnima Sharma, while castigating the successive governments run by the Congress for never giving adequate opportunities to women and instead doing injustice to them

by depriving them of even their genuine rights, said that the women of J&K will now get greater representation and participation as public representatives in law-making process in the legislative assembly. She asserted that it has been during the twin tenure of PM Modi led Govt at the Centre that women have been accorded due respect and the multiple opportunities.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Second Amendment) Bill seeks to provide reservation for women in the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that came into force following the enactment of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023.

Stree Shakti Founder applauds 33% reservation for women in politics

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: As India commemorates the 30th anniversary of the landmark Reservation Bill for women, Rekha Mody, founder of Stree Shakti - The Parallel Force and editor of Quest for Roots, expressed jubilation at the government's swift response to the demands of countless women who have tirelessly fought for their rightful representation in the political arena.

"This is a historic moment, a testament to the unwavering spirit and relentless struggle of women across India," declared Rekha Mody, whose organization, Stree Shakti, has been at the forefront of this movement for over two decades. "The government's commitment to introducing legislation for 33% reservation



in the assemblies of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry signifies a new era of political inclusion and marks a crucial step towards achieving gender parity in our democracy."

Mody's dedication to empowering women transcends advocacy. Through SHE Leads, a Stree Shakti - The Parallel Force initiative, she has actively trained women for political leadership, recognizing the critical interplay between reservation and training in equip-

ping women to effectively navigate the political landscape.

"The recent appointments of Dr. Drakhshan Andrabi and Madam Safina Baig in Jammu and Kashmir demonstrate the immense potential of women leaders," Mody affirmed. "Their achievements serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring women leaders across the nation."

The government's action aligns seamlessly with the theme, "30 Years of Reservation:

Promise Delivered?", championed by Mody and her organization. This theme resonated deeply with the public, fostering awareness and encouraging greater participation in the political process.

Furthermore, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, passed in September, promises reservation for women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies after the 2029 delimitation exercise, solidifying the government's commitment to gender equality in political representation.

This is a victory for all women who have raised their voices and fought for their rightful place in shaping the future of our nation. Mody declared. "The onus now lies with political parties to embrace this historic opportunity and field capable women candidates, ensuring their rightful representation in the halls of power. This is the key to unlocking the true potential of our nation and building a stronger, more equitable India for all."

With the government's decisive action and the unwavering spirit of women like Rekha Mody, India stands poised to finally deliver on the promise of 33% reservation for women in politics, ushering in a new era of inclusive and representative governance.

Jan Kalyan Sangathan holds meeting with Director School Education Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: The President of Jammu and Kashmir Jan Kalyan Sangathan, Swaran Lal, and Chairperson Vinod Sharma, joined by Sarpanch Badyal Brahmana, RS Pura Binny Sharma, held a crucial meeting with Director of School Education Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma, on Thursday.

The focus of the discussion was on pressing issues affecting students and schools in RS Pura.

The delegation raised

concerns about certain lecturers in the area with an extended tenure of over 7 years, lacking sanctioned posts for their subjects and yet not being transferred from RS Pura. They emphasized the urgency for the immediate transfer of such lecturers, highlighting their non-engagement with even a single student during this period.

Additionally, the delegation shed light on the intense rivalry between two Principals at Government Boys Higher Secondary School RS Pura. This rivalry has



reportedly resulted in harassment and humiliation of both staff and students, adversely impacting the overall school environment. The delegation urged

for prompt intervention to address the deplorable conditions arising from this situation.

Furthermore, the leaders advocated for infrastructural upliftment

of schools in RS Pura to enhance the overall learning environment. They sought Director Sharma's commitment to addressing these issues promptly.

In response, Director Ashok Kumar Sharma assured the delegation a patient hearing and pledged to take positive steps to address the raised concerns within a week's time. The delegation expressed gratitude to Director School education Jammu for his time and thorough consideration of their demands.

Sham Gupta welcomes SC verdict on Article 370, calls it a Symbolic triumph for National Unity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: Breaking new ground, the Supreme Court has delivered a historic verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370, a move hailed by Sham Lal Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anticriime Bureau (ACB) NGO, as a momentous triumph for national unity and integration. Gupta, in a statement issued today, articulated the far-reaching implications of the judgment, asserting that it lays to rest decades of political and legal uncertainty in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This landmark judgment is a decisive step towards a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, putting an end to political and legal ambiguities. The abrogation was deemed necessary to ensure the full and equal participation of J&K in India's vibrant democracy, and the Supreme Court has unequivocally affirmed its constitutionality," Gupta emphasized.

Enumerating the positive aftermath of the abrogation, Gupta highlighted increased



investment, economic growth, enhanced security measures, improved governance, and the empowerment of J&K residents. These developments, he argued, collectively contribute to the overall progress and well-being of the region. "The Supreme Court's verdict serves as a resounding endorsement of the BJP's unwavering commitment to national unity and equal rights for all Indian citizens. We are optimistic that this decision will herald a new era of peace, prosperity, and development for Jammu and Kashmir," he added, underscoring the political party's dedication to the nation's unity.

In a call for unity, Gupta urged all political parties to respect the Supreme Court's verdict and collaborate for the betterment of J&K

and its people. "This is a time for unity, not division. Let us put aside our differences and come together to build a brighter future for all," he stressed.

The Supreme Court's decision on Article 370 has sparked extensive discussions and debates, with proponents viewing it as a pivotal step towards integration and detractors expressing concerns about potential consequences. With the court providing legal clarity, attention now shifts to the implementation of the decision and the collaborative efforts required to ensure the well-being and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

As the news resonates throughout the nation, the spotlight is on the practical implications and the path forward for the region. The judgment, in affirming constitutional validity, sets the stage for a new chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, one that stakeholders hope will be characterized by sustained peace, inclusive development, and prosperity for all.

JKNC Legal Cell denounces major security breach in Parliament, demands accountability

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 14: Spokespersons and Provincial Legal Cell of J&K National Conference on Thursday expressed deep concern and sought immediate action following a major security breach within the Indian Parliament.

This unprecedented incident, after a gap of 22 years, has called into question the efficacy of national security measures and shaken the very foundation of Indian democracy.

In a joint statement issued here today, Adv. D.S Chauhan, Provincial President Legal Cell JKNC, Adv. Muzzafer Khan and Adv. Zeeshan Rana Spokespersons, Adv. Mehrukh Goni, Vice President Legal Cell Jammu Province, Adv. Meharban Singh, Secretary Legal Cell, Adv. Azhar Usman Khan, Joint Secretary Pir Panjal Zone and Adv. Himani Jamwal, Joint Secretary Legal Cell JKNC said "It is utterly unacceptable that the sanctity of Parliament, the highest symbol of our democracy,

could be so brazenly violated. This incident raises serious questions about who is responsible for such a major breach and whether any Member of Parliament facilitated this act by providing unauthorized access."

The NC leaders further emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, "If Parliament itself is not safe, then what hope is there for the safety and security of the citizens of our country?" In light of this alarming incident, the J&K National Conference demands swift and

transparent investigation, comprehensive review of security protocols and implementation of stringent security measures.

They also sought suspension of implicated Member of Parliament who facilitated this breach by providing access to the protesters and he should be suspended from his position until the investigation is complete.

The senior NC leaders believed that the sanctity and security of Parliament are paramount and will not tolerate any attempts to undermine them.