

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Israel Mistakenly Kills 3 Hostages, Netanyahu Calls It "Unbearable Tragedy"



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BRIEFLY

Kashmiri fraudster having links with Anti-National elements arrested by Odisha STF

BHUBANESWAR, Dec 16 (Agencies): A team of the Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch with the help of Dharmasala Police have arrested a Kashmiri fraudster having links with some suspicious anti-National elements from Jajpur.

A team of STF with the help of local police officials and in presence of witnesses on Saturday conducted a raid at Neulpur under Dharmshala, Police station of Jajpur district and arrested one Sayed Ishaan Bukhari @ Ishaan Bukhari @ Dr Ishaan Bukhari, (37).

Sayed Ishaan Bukhari, son of Sayed SaifeUddin Bukhari from Kupwara in Jammu & Kashmir is at present residing at Neulapur under Dharmshala Police station of Jajpur district.

He was arrested for impersonation, cheating, forgery and links with anti national elements under sections 419/420/465/467/468/471/120(B) IPC r/w. Sec. 66 C/66 D of IT Act, 2000.

During the raid, many incriminating materials including more than 100 documents were seized. The accused was found to be impersonating as a Neuro Specialist Doctor, an Army Doctor, an officer in the Prime Minister's office, a close associate of some high ranking NIA officials, STF said.

Numerous forged documents like medical degree certificate issued by Cornell University of USA, Canadian Health Services Institute, Christian Medical college Vellore were seized from his possession.

Some blank signed documents, affidavits, Bonds, several Identity cards, ATM cards, blank Cheques, Aadhar cards, visiting cards were also seized from his possession.

It was found that the accused has married at least 6-7 girls from various parts of India including Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. He was also active on various websites, Apps

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Maternity leave doesn't lead to service break, rules J&K High Court

SRINAGAR, Dec 16 (Agencies): In a significant ruling, the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has maintained an approved leave of any nature – maternity or otherwise – shouldn't be considered as a service break and that the employee should be considered as being in active service.

The court clarified that the act of taking leave, irrespective of its kind, does not constitute a break in service nor does it lead to a reduction in the overall length of service rendered by the employee by the duration of the leave taken.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar made these observations



in the case of six female banking associates who were denied consideration for promotion to the Assistant Manager Cadre because the J&K Bank had deducted their maternity leave period from their total service, reported Live Law.

The petitioners, who

had been working as Banking Associates in the J&K Bank for last seven years had availed maternity leave during their probation period, however the bank had excluded this leave period from their total service, making the petitioners ineligible for promotion under the

"Seniority-cum-Selectivity Channel", which requires seven years of regular service.

Jahangir Iqbal Ganaie while contesting the Bank's decision argued that maternity leave is a sanctioned leave and cannot be construed as a break in service. Excluding maternity leave from service computation discriminates against women employees based on sex, violating Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution, he contended.

He further argued with vehemence that even the J&K Bank Officers Service Manual, 2000 does not provide for such a break in service nor can it be said that

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MHA directs all IPS Officers to submit their immovable property return-2023 by January 31 Next Year



NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed all the Indian Police Service (IPS) officers across the country to submit their Immovable Property Return 2023 by January 31 next year.

The Ministry conveyed the direction in a written

note circulated at the beginning of this week to the Chief Secretaries and the Director General of Police (DGP) of all state governments and Union Territories (UTs), stating, "The Immovable Property Return for the year 2023 is required to be filed online latest by January 31, 2024

at <https://ips.gov.in> or <https://sparrow-ips.eoffice.gov.in> by using existing nic-e-Mail ID and password."

The note with the header "Online filing of Immovable Property Return (IPR)-2023 by IPS officers" was issued on December 11 with a reminder that in terms of Rule 16 (2) of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, every member of the service shall submit his or her Immovable Property Return (IPR) in the prescribed form by January 31 every year in respect of the previous year ending December 31."

In this connection, the

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Intelligence suggests 250 militants present at launchpads across Border, J&K security on alert: BSF

SRINAGAR, Dec 16 (Agencies): About 250 to 300 militants are present at launchpads across the border "waiting to infiltrate" Jammu and Kashmir, a top BSF officer said on Saturday.

The officer, however, added that security forces were alert and would foil any cross-border infiltration attempts.

"There are intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants are waiting at launchpads, but we and the Army have dominated all the vulnerable patches and are alert," Inspector General, BSF, Ashok Yadav told reporters in Pulwama district of south Kashmir.

He said the brave jawans of the BSF and Army were alert in the

border areas and would foil any infiltration attempts.

"We are confident of foiling any infiltration bid," Yadav added.

He said the connect between the security forces and the people of Kashmir has increased over the last few years. "If people cooperate with us, we can take developmental activities forward in a better way," he said.

Cold wave continues to sweep Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Dec 16 (Agencies): Mercury plummeted further in south Kashmir but recorded a rise in central and north of Valley with Srinagar recording a low minus 1.3°C on Saturday.

A meteorological department official said today's minimum temperature in Srinagar was below normal by 0.3°C. Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 3.8°C against minus 2.8°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 2.7°C

below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the official said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 5.1°C against minus 5.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 3.6°C against minus 1.9°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal by 0.7°C for the place, the official said.

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Administration orders transfer of JKAS officers

SRINAGAR, Dec 16 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday ordered the transfer and posting of two Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) officers.

As per an order, Fayaz Ahmed Lone, Director General, Audit and Inspections, JK, holding additional charge of Director General, Codes, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Codes, Finance Department, J&K.

It further said that Mohammad Sultan Malik, Director Finance, Power Development Department, upon his promotion to the super time scale of the Jammu and Kashmir Accounts (Gazetted) Service, has been transferred and posted as Director

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Parliament security breach: Mastermind Lalit Jha destroyed 5 mobile phones before his arrest, say Delhi police

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Delhi police sources have revealed that mastermind Lalit Jha in the Parliament security breach case destroyed five mobile phones before coming to Delhi and was misleading the investigating team.

According to the Delhi police, Jha destroyed not four but five mobile phones after fleeing to



Rajasthan's Kuchaman. Investigation has revealed that Lalit first

destroyed the phones of the four accused and before coming to Delhi he destroyed his own phone too.

According to Delhi Police sources, Lalit is continuously misleading the investigation team.

The investigation team has written a letter to the cellular company seeking information about Lalit and the remaining four accused.

Whatever Lalit and the other accused are telling the police, the Special Cell team is going on the ground to verify it, Delhi police sources said.

According to sources, most of the statements which the accused have given are proving to be just mere words to mislead the police.

Lalit, the fifth accused and mastermind in the

Turn to page 9

Udhampur farmers yield over 3,000 quintals of Mushrooms, Earn Rs 6 Cr in revenue

JAMMU, Dec 16 (Agencies): In a significant accomplishment, the farmers of Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir cultivated over 3,000 quintals of mushrooms, resulting in a revenue of at least Rs 6 crore.

The Chief Agriculture Officer of Udhampur, Sanjay Anand, said in the current year, the UT has added 500 new growers who planted about 1 lakh bags of mushrooms.

"In the current year, we have planted about 1 lakh bags of mush-



rooms. We have also added about 500 new growers to our network. Over 1 lakh bags of mushrooms have been

cultivated in the district of Udhampur, yielding over 3,000 quintals of mushrooms. This has resulted in a revenue of

at least Rs 6 crore for the farmers of Udhampur," Anand said.

The chief agriculture officer said mushroom cultivation is a good source of income for women and the elderly in Udhampur, adding that with proper training and guidance, anyone can succeed in this occupation.

"Mushroom farming has set new benchmarks in the Udhampur district. Mushroom cultivation is a good source of income for women and the

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9419143503

OBITUARY

With profound grief we inform that our beloved, **Makhan Lal Kaul** of Shankerpora (proprietor of Makhan Silk Fabrics) departed for the heavenly abode on Saturday, 9-12-2023.



Makhan Lal Kaul

A cherished soul, touched the lives of many with kindness and warmth.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Srinagar on Sunday, 17-12-2023.
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Raj Dulari Kaul (Wife)
Rajinder (Son) and Ritu (Daughter-in-law)
Anil (Son) and Bubbi (Daughter-in-law)
Meenu (Daughter) and Pawan (Son-in-law)
Renu (Daughter) and Sunil (Son-in-law)
Kauls, Rainas, Guptas, Khans
M: 9971425444, 7006949373

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajinder Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Shri Angrez Singh Jamwal R/o 119/2 Shiv Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

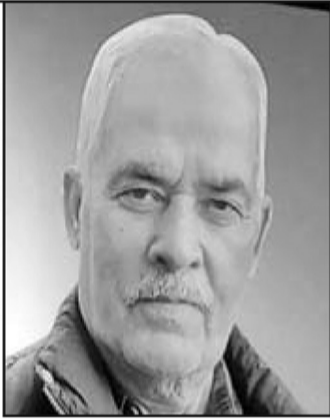


SH. RAJINDER SINGH JAMWAL

TENTH DAY will be performed on 15th of December 2023 (Friday) at our residence at 11:00 AM
KRIYA will be performed on 18th of December 2023 (Monday) at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Kiran Jamwal- Wife
Risha Jamwal- Daughter
Akhiil Jamwal- Son
Brother/Bhabhi
Ravinder Singh Jamwal & Neelam Jamwal
Sister's
Lalita Devi
Sunita Devi
Kanta Devi
Contact No: 9469552266, 9419188899, 9419694197

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Deep Raina** S/o Lt. Sh. Madhov Lal Raina originally from Karan Nagar (Sgr.) presently residing at F-14 Buta Nagar Migrant Quarters Paloura Jammu on 12-12-2023 at New Delhi.



Sh. Deep Raina

10TH DAY will be performed at Chota Haridwar (Murad Nagar) on 21-12-2023.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Mohini Raina- Mother
Smt. Veena Raina- Wife
Ankita & Ajay Raina- Daughter-in-Law & Son
Diksha & Anshul Raina- Daughter & Son-in-Law
Nisha & Vijay Kumar Raina- Bhabhi & Brother
Saroj Raina- Bhabhi
Sarla & Moti Lal Dhar- Sister & Brother-in-Law
Reeta & Chuni Lal Koul- Sister & Brother-in-Law
Mob.: 8800091264, 9582226156

SHADMOS & MASVAR

Six months have passed, since you left us for eternal journey, but your memories are still fresh, and we feel your presence everywhere. Always shower your blessings on us. We pray to almighty for eternal peace to your noble soul.
Shadmos & Masvar will be performed on 17th & 18th December 2023 at our residence in Ghaziabad.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Mrs Champa [wife], Kanta ji & Pran Nath [Bhabhi & Brother], Shyama ji Dhar [Sister], Bimla ji & Bhushan Lal [Bhabhi & Brother], Reena & Sanjay Pandita [Daughter & Son-in-Law], Sunaina & Ankit [Daughter & Son-in-Law], Shalini & Sudhir [Daughter-in-Law & Son]. **Samast Parivaar:** 9818611686, 9910532261, 9958664373, 6006609484, 9871755139.



Sh. A.K Zutshi [Kher] [Dady Ji]

10TH DAY/KRIYA

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt grief that we announce the unfortunate passing of our beloved **Sh. Bansilal Thusoo**, son of the Late Sh. Shyam Lal Thusoo. Originally hailing from Gotango, Kupwara, Kashmir, and presently residing at F-419, Phase 2, New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana, he left us on the 11th of December 2023.



Bansilal Thusoo 1946-2023

The **10th-Day Kriya**, a solemn occasion to honor his memory, is scheduled to take place on the 20th of December 2023 at 9:00 am. The ceremony will be held at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, located in New Palam Vihar, T-block, Sector 109, Gurgaon-122017. Your presence and support during this difficult time would be deeply appreciated.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Shmt. Ashaji Thusoo (Wife)
Mr. Rajender Thusoo & Mrs. Manisha Thusoo +91 9999796871
Mr. Rakesh Thusoo & Mrs. Seema Thusoo +91 9868532919
Sh. Gawsh Lal Thusoo & Shmt. Krishni Thusoo +91 9871681331
Sh. Avatar Krishan Thusoo & Shmt. Cecelia Thusoo +91 9818569966
The Entire Thusoo Family
The Koul and Pandita Family

10th Day/Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Om Parkash Gupta** S/o Lt. Sh. Bhagat Ram R/o W. No. 1 Ramnagar who left for heavenly abode on 07-12-2023.



Sh. Om Parkash Gupta

10th Day will be performed on 16-12-2023 (Saturday) at Brahman Sabha Ramnagar at 11:30am.
Kriya will be performed on 19-12-2023 (Tuesday) at our residence.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Prabha Kumari (Wife)
Brothers and Bhabies
Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta & Lt. Smt. Rani Devi
Sh. Shiv Lal Gupta & Smt. Kamla Devi
Lt. Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta & Smt. Reva Rani
Sh. Ramesh Gupta & Smt. Geeta Devi
Sister and Brother-in-law
Smt. Makhna Devi W/O Lt. Sh. Prem Nath
Sons and Daughter-in-law
Sh. Rakesh Kr. Gupta & Smt. Savita Devi
Sh. Rajesh Kr. Gupta & Smt. Kheema Gupta
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Bandana Gupta & Sh. Amit Gupta
Grand Children
Suван, Kritika, Kaashvi, Vandit, Saanvi, Garvik
Mob No: 7889681297, 9419335796

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

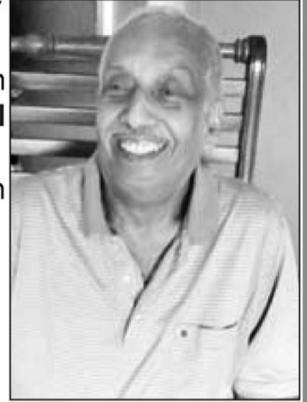
With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn Tej Kour** W/o Late S. Hakem Singh (Batote Wale) who left for heavenly abode on 09/12/2023.
Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib Ji shall take place on 16/12/2023 at 9:30 am at our residence Sector-D Extn Sainik Colony Jammu Near Foji Carwash Sainik Colony Jammu.
Kirtan & Antim Ardas shall take place on 18/12/2023 (Monday) from 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sainik Colony Jammu.
Followed by Guru ka Langer
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Charanjeet Singh & Ranjeet Kour
Harjeet Singh & Manjeet Kour
Gurmeet Singh (Ex Academic Officer DIET Banihal) & Parminder Kour (Govt Teacher)
Manjeet Singh & Manmeet Kour
Daughters & Sons-in-Law
Inderjeet Kour & Late Jagjit Singh
Paramjeet Kour & Sachdev Singh
Ravinder Kour & Gurdeep Singh
Ph. No. 9419166052



Sdn Tej Kour

5TH DAY/ ASSEMBLY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our father **Sh. Bansi Lal Budki** (SBI) R/o 3/3 Roop Nagar, Jammu.
5th Day / Assembly will be performed on 17-12-2023 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat at 8:30 AM.



SH. BANSI LAL BUDKI (SBI)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Wife - Smt. Rani Budki
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr. Ajay Budki & Sukriti
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Mrs. Neena & Mritunjay Kachru
Mrs. Nisha & Siddharth Dhar
Ph. no.: 8451055687, 9212640181

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Mohinder Kumar Sharma** S/o Late Shri Amir Chand (Galak wale) R/o House 79, Lane A-4, Upper Shiv Nagar Jammu.
10TH DAY will be performed on 17th of December, 2023 (Sunday) at our residence from 11 am to 12 noon.
KRIYA will be performed on 18th of December 2023 (Monday) at our residence.
Rasam Pagri will be performed on 22nd of December 2023 (Friday) at 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Ved Kumari (Wife)
Smt. Neelam Bali (Daughter)
Rama & Manik Khajuria (Daughter & Son in Law)
Sons & Daughters in Laws
Vijay Goswami & Pooja Sharma
Ajay Goswami & Suketa Sharma
Grand Children
Ayushi, Aditya, Labhansh, Manvik, Ridhaan and Bhavika.
Mobile No. 9906123045, 8082094646.



Shri Mohinder Kumar Sharma

HOMAGE/10TH DAY

With profound sorrow, it is informed that **Professor Autar Krishen Ogra (Baiji)** a spiritual soul left his mortal frame on December 9, 2023. After the Mahasamadhi of His Holiness Shri 108 Swami Ramanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, Baiji assumed the role of a spiritual guide for the devotees.
Baiji embodied diverse qualities - a family person, physicist, social worker, scholar, spiritual guide, and mentor. Participating in Hawans and Anushthans led by him was a cherished dream for many. He guided individuals on the spiritual path and provided sound counsel on familial matters. Baiji was a source of great spiritual strength and inspiration for us. We have lost a paternal figure full of affection and love in his passing.
In prayers for Baiji's Parmgati.
10th Day Kriya will be performed at 9 am on December 17, 2023 at Narayan Ghat, Subhash Bridge, Ahmedabad.
Disciples and devotees of
H. H. 108 Ramanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj.



Professor Autar Krishen Ogra (Baiji)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Arjan Nath Pandita** S/o Late Shri Mukand Ram Pandita of Ponzwa Verinagh at present H.No.247-A Lane No.10 Kabir Colony Poonch House Talab Tillo, Jammu left for his heavenly abode on 10-12-2023 at 7.10 AM.



Shri Arjan Nath Pandita

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 19 Dec. 2023.
Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Office.
Time: 11.00 am.
Grief Stricken
Smt Champa Jee & Sh Tej Krishan Pandita
Smt Pushpa Pandita & Sh Raj Nath Pandita
Smt Dulari Pandita & Sh Prideman Krishan Pandita
Smt Nancy Pandita & Sh M.K Pandita
Smt. Bita Pandita & Sh Roshan Lal Pandita
Sh O N Koul
Samast Parivar of Pandita, Kauls, Rainas & Bhats
9971895045, 9622063256, 9911284499, 6005619872, 6005290274

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF LATE **SMT KRISHNA DEVI** W/O LATE SHRI ISHER DASS GUPTA R/O H.NO 33 LOWER LAXMI NAGAR SARWAL NEAR NEEL KANTH MANDIR SARWAL JAMMU WHO EXPIRED ON 8TH OF DECEMBER 2023
TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 17/12/ 2023 (SUNDAY) TIMING 11:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON AT RAVI DASS MANDIR CANAL ROAD JAMMU.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAWS
SMT.SANTOSH DEVI W/O SH.SUBASH GUPTA
SMT.MOHNI GUPTA W/O SH.OMKAR NATH GUPTA
DAUGHTERS & SONS IN LAWS
SMT.KAMLESH KUMARI W/O LATE SH.DARSHAN LAL
SMT.RAJ RANI W/O SH. KUNDAN LAL GUPTA
SMT.SHAKTI GUPTA W/O SH.SUNIL GUPTA
CONTACT NO
9419103527
9419204149



LATE SMT KRISHNA DEVI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT KHEMA SHORI SHARMA** W/O LATE SH JAGAN NATH ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF HANDWARA KASHMIR A/P H.NO 57-A SMALL PLOTS GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU ON 08-12-2023.



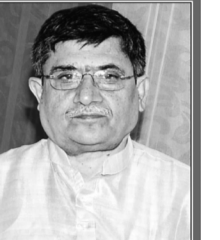
SMT KHEMA SHORI SHARMA
W/o Late Shri Jagan Nath Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY, 17TH DEC, 2023. AT MUTHI GHAT AT 10 A.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
SH. AMAR NATH GURTU (BROTHER IN LAW)
DAUGHTER'S AND SON IN LAW
SMT NIRMALA AND SURENDER RAINA
SMT SUSHEELA SHARMA W/O LT KISHAN JI SHARMA
SMT. SUMITA AND SURINDER ZADOO
SMT SUNITA RAINA W/O LT M.K. RAINA
SMT SARLA AND SANJAY SABNI
SMT BASANTI RAINA W/O LT. AJAY RAINA
Mob.: 9469010101, 9419185566, 8810238806, 6005930655, 7889603525

OBITUARY

(from in-laws side)

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Jija Ji Prof. Autar Krishen Ogra** on Saturday, 9th December 2023 at Ahmedabad. He was a multifaceted personality from being a reputed educationist to an acknowledged expert of Sanatani traditions and above all a perfect spiritualist. His guidance and support will be missed by us all.



Prof. Autar Krishen Ogra

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday, 17th December 2023 at Narayan Ghat, Subhash Bridge, Ahmedabad at 9 A.M.
IN GRIEF:
Mr. V. K. Bhat & Mrs. Bita Bhat (9419124180)
Mr. Sunil Bhat & Mrs. Sunita Bhat (9723000969)

10 DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Prof. Autar Krishen Ogra** S/o Late Dr. Jia Lal Ogra left for his heavenly abode on 9th Dec 2023 at his residence in Ahmedabad (103 Serendeeep Mansions, Nr. Ratna Lake, Ghuma, Ahmedabad - 57, Gujarat).



Prof. Autar Krishen Ogra

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 17th Dec 2023, 9 AM at Narayan Ghat, Subhash Bridge, Ahmedabad.
IN REVERENCE AND REMEMBRANCE
Neelma Ogra - Wife - (9824017292)
R.K. Ogra - Brother (9816092737)
Vivek Ogra - Son (9824022997)
Aurobindo Ogra (S/o Late Dr. G.L.Ogra)
Narendra Ogra (S/o Late Sh. M.K. Ogra)
Samasth Ogra Parivar
Bhat's, Dhar's, Ticku's, Raina's, Bedi's, Trisal's, Wanchoo's and Kachru Parivars.

10TH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. CHAGAR SINGH CHIB** S/O LT. SH. DEV SINGH CHIB R/O LOWER ROOP NAGAR MUTHI NEAR KHOSLA CLINIC WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 08-12-2023.



Sh. Chagar Singh Chib

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 17-12-2023 (SUNDAY) AT LOWER ROOP NAGAR MUTHI NEAR KHOSLA CLINIC AT 12.30 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
BROTHERS
LT TANATAR SINGH, SWARN SINGH, MASTAN SINGH, AJIT SINGH
SON & DAUGHTER
CHANDARPAL SINGH, KULVEER SINGH, ARTI DEVI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhagat (Retd Principal)
S/o Late Smt. Lajo Devi & Late Sh. Duni Chand.
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and unfortunate demise of **Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhagat** (Retd Principal) R/o H.No. 340 Lane No. 8 Rajpura Mangotrian Jammu.
KRIYA will be performed at SMRITI Bhawan Gurha Morh Bakshi Nagar on 17-12-2023 (Sunday).
Satsang at 12:00 Noon onwards
Bhog at 1:00 PM onwards.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Ravindera Rai - Wife
Sister-in-law & Brother
Smt. Puja & Sh. Kishor Kumare
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Shalinder & Sh. Hans Raj
Smt. Rita & Sh. Dayanand
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Bhagmal
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Anushi Bhagat & Sh. Ashwani Kumar
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Maneesha & Sh Anurag



Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhagat (Retd Principal)

Daughters: Shruti, Neha
Aryan, Ayush- Nephews
Grand Children:
Tanush, Parisha, Aditi

MEMORIAL SERVICE (10TH DAY)

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt grief that we announce the unfortunate passing of our beloved **Sh. Raj Kumar** S/o Lt. Sh. Gopal Masih and Lt. Smt. Nazran R/o Langth (Supwal) District Samba. He left us on 8th December, 2023.
The Memorial service meeting, a solemn occasion to honour his memory, is scheduled to take place on 18th December, 2023 at 11 AM. The Ceremony will be held at Luvjot Resort, Near Petrol Pump Langth (Supwal). Your presence and support during the difficult time would be deeply appreciated.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Vijay Gill - Brother - 7006630341
Akash Raj - Son - 9419133000
Entire Gill Family



SH. RAJ KUMAR (RAJU) 1972-2023

TENTH DAY

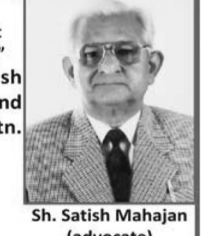
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT. NIRMAL JAMWAL** W/O SH. ROshan SINGH MANHAS. R/O H.NO. 61 OPP BSF HQRS PATTAL PALOURA JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 8TH DEC 2023 .
10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT THEIR RESIDENCE PATTAL BOHRI ON 17TH DEC2023 (SUNDAY) AT 11:00 A.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN
MANHAS & JAMWAL FAMILY
MOB NO. 7980869417
MOB NO. 9596673347



Smt. Nirmal Jamwal

CHOUBARS

"Days will pass and turns into years.....but we will always remember you with silent tears"
Choubars of our beloved **Sh. Satish Mahajan** (advocate) S/O Late Lala Lal Chand Mahajan will be performed at 19 A Extn. Newplots, Sarwal Sector, Jammu on 17-12-23 (Sunday) at 12:00 noon.
Deeply missed by
Smt Subash Mahajan (Wife)
Sanju, Monika and Yuvin Mahajan
and Samast Mahajan Parivaar



Sh. Satish Mahajan (advocate)

DISCLAIMER

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JU's Utsaah organises 2-day Wildlife, Astro Photography Workshop under Viksit Bharat@2047



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Continuing with its commitment to provide a learning platform to students and enthusiasts, Jammu University's cultural group-Utsaah Saturday organized a two days wildlife and Astro Photography workshop in collaboration with Canon India under ambitious Viksit Bharat@2047.

Chairperson of the Utsaah-Prof Satnam Kour was the chief guest on the occasion, whereas Prof Parmil Kumar, Coordinator of Nature and Wildlife Club coordinated the entire event.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Satnam Kour lauded efforts of the coordinators for organizing such events that are enhancing capabilities of the learners.

"This workshop has brought together photography enthusiasts, students and nature lovers," she said and added that this collaborative initiative with Canon India aims to blend the technical expertise of professionals with the enthusiasm and curiosity of the participants. She stated that such events-wildlife photography promises a unique opportunity for attendants to enhance their skills while capturing breathtaking beauty of the local wildlife.

"This is a multidimensional workshop, which provides unique learning opportunities to photography enthusiasts, nature lovers and students of journalism and mass communication in different ways," Prof Satnam Kour said and added that participants will be benefited from hands-on guidance provided by professional experts from canon India.

Giving details about the event, Prof Parmil Kumar said that through this workshop the participants will gain insights into the nuances of Wildlife and AstroPhotography.

"We are elated to collaborate with Canon India to bring this exciting wildlife and Astro Photography workshop to the University of Jammu," he said, adding "Utsaah has always been committed to develop creativity and provide unique experience for participants."

He shared that on the first day of the workshop, participants shall be provided basic information about the wildlife and astro

photography by the professional experts from Canon India, whereas on day two the participants will visit Gharana Wetland to capture birds in action under the guidance of professionals.

Talking on the theme "Wildlife, Environment and India @2047", environment conservator and Director NDF, Dr Pankaj Chandan said that every photo has a story.

"Photography teaches you patience, especially wildlife photography, where you have to wait for hours to get your subject captured," he said and added that he had been following this passion for the last many decades and had spent several thousand hours waiting to click Black Necked Crane.

He said to make India a Viksit, it is imperative for every Indian to work dedicatedly and contribute their bit for making this great nation Viksit.

Others present on the occasion included Brigadier RS Jamwal, Colonel Romesh Saithia, Arvind Kotwal, Dr Garima Gupta, Head Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr Pritam Singh, Coordinator Photography Club, Dr Rakesh Sharma, Coordinator Paining Club, Dr Chinmayee, Coordinator Science Club, Dr Neeraj Sharma from Bhaderwah campus of University of Jammu and students from different departments of the University.

Jain Sabha J&K to organize seminar tomorrow



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Jain Sabha J&K along with its youth organizations Jain Yuvak Sangh & Jain Taruni Mandal is organizing a seminar on Sunday 17th Dec on the topic "POJK an integral part of Bharat & Know the Traitors" in which nationalist thinker & speaker Pushpendra Kulshreshtha will be

the Chief Guest and Speaker.

Important national issues affecting our youth's future will be raised and young generation will be motivated to always keep the interest of the nation above all other interests.

S S Jain Sabha's Vice President Rajeev Jain, Secretary Lucky Jain, President Jeev Daya,

Sandeep Rompi, V.P. Yuvak Sangh Neerav Jain were present.

General Secretary Sandeep Jain (Sunny) addressed the media and appealed to the youth of Jammu to attend the seminar on Sunday 17th Dec at 3.00 PM at Namah, Jain Sathanak, Gen. Zoravar Singh Chowk, opp. Bahu Plaza, Jammu.

Centre Govt failed to fulfill promises done by them to J&K people: DPAP



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Former Corporator of Jammu Municipal Corporation & District President Jammu Urban DPAP Gourav Chopra along with the former Corporator Amit Gupta held a press conference at Bakshi Nagar Jammu and raised the serious issues.

Gourav Chopra said,

"When article 370 was abrogated, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has promised the people of J&K that 73rd & 74th amendment will be enforced and elections of corporation and urban local bodies will be held in time but it's very unfortunate that nothing as such happened."

Chopra added, "LG govt is looting the people of J&K by impos-

ing unnecessary taxes on the people of J&K. If this will not stop then they along with the chamber of commerce, shopkeeper association presidents and bar association will protest and will do Gherao of Jammu Municipal Corporation."

He also requested the Union Govt to hold the elections as soon as possible so that people of J&K will have elected representatives through which their works will be done."

Others who were present are Ashwani Handa (spokesperson DPAP), Brinder Partap Singh (Working President Youth DPAP), Anil Nargorta (General Secretary DPAP), Jashpal Singh Sonu, Ashwani Gupta and many more.

J&K Congress passes resolutions demanding Statehood, Assembly election

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday passed two resolutions at its executive committee meeting demanding the restoration of statehood for the Union Territory and the assembly election.

JKPCC also demanded an immediate filling of all vacant posts in all government and semi-government institutions in a fast-track mode and called for the constitution of a "high-level independent commission" for the investigation of recruitment scams.

The resolutions were passed under the command of AICC In-charge, J-K Affairs, Rajni Patil. "Today we held the meeting of the political affairs committee in which we passed two resolutions - one political and another socio-economic. We are hold-



ing the meeting to debate the issues. We are discussing the J-K situation and hearing workers' viewpoint on it," Patil told reporters here.

She said the party will accordingly formulate the policy according to them.

"They (Supreme Court) have kept the deadline of September 24... We want restoration of statehood. We want guarantees for jobs. We want an early assembly election

so that we have a council of ministers and MLAs here," she said.

An assembly election has not been held in the region for more than five years.

The Congress unit said the deferring also of urban local body and panchayat elections has left no trace of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party has already raised the issue with

the government seeking elections to these bodies under the State Election Commission in accordance with amendments 73rd and 74th, with due reservation to OBCs like SCs, STs and women.

The party also demanded the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in J&K since the delimitation has taken place in the Union Territory.

"We are in favour of 33

per cent reservation for women. It was our commitment," Patil said.

The party in one of the resolutions demanded the restoration of the old system of recruiting youths to the army with special focus on those from the border areas, including the LOC.

The Congress in these resolutions criticised the "authoritarian approach" of the current administration towards its employees and demanded a resolution of their long pending issues.

The Congress demands an immediate revision of the package and enhancement of the relief component of Kashmiri migrants, Patil said.

The party also demanded that in order to give relief to the common man the scale of free ration should be doubled and the old scale of subsidised sugar to each family be restored.

CUTICON JK 2023 inaugurates, setting stage for revolutionary dermatological advancements

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: The grand inauguration of CUTICON JK 2023, the 4th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) Jammu & Kashmir Branch, took place at The Grand Dreams Resort, Near Heritage School, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

This year's conference unfolds under the theme "Evolution of Dermatology - Fundamental to Innovation," promising groundbreaking insights into the world of dermatology.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the esteemed presence of prominent dermatologists from all corners of the country. Distinguished figures including Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Zavar, President IADVL; Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Honorary Secretary IADVL; Dr. Manjunath Shenoy, President Elect IADVL; Dr. Bhumes Kumar Katakam, General Secretary Elect; Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Immediate Past President; Dr. P Narasimha Rao, President Leprosy; Dr. Kaushal Verma, HoD AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. DM Thappa from JIPMER; and Dr. Denesh Patel from New Zea-



land graced the event with their extensive expertise. Renowned dermatologists from Jammu and Kashmir, including Dr. Jitendra Arora, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Dr. Vipin Gupta, Dr. HS Soodan, Dr. Devraj Dogra, HoD GMC Jammu, and Dr. Imran Majid, along with Prof. (Dr) Seema Qayoom, were prominently present.

The conference, organized by IADVL JK Branch and led by Dr. Cheena Langer, Organising Chairperson, and Dr. Arti Sakral, Organising Secretary, is a two-day immersive experience. It serves as a unique platform for budding dermatologists not only

from Jammu and Kashmir but also from neighbouring states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana to meet and learn from renowned dermatologists across the country.

The conference kicked off with morning sessions where young dermatologists presented their scientific research, offering a glimpse into the innovative research landscape. Throughout the day, various scientific sessions were conducted by expert dermatologists, discussing diverse skin diseases, their symptoms, signs, treatment guidelines, and emerging treatment plans.

In a heartfelt moment, Prof. (Dr.) Jitendra Arora, who retired as Professor and Head from GMC Jammu, was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the chief guest of the conference, Dr. Vijay Zavar, President IADVL. Dr. Jitendra Arora's untiring efforts and significant contributions to the field of dermatology, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, were celebrated.

The inaugural function concluded with a cultural event in the night, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. Attendees were treated to a mesmerizing display of local traditions, adding a touch of local flavor to the conference.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMNAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 12 of 2023-24 Dated 14.12.2023

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AT MS BHARI ZONE KULWANTA DISTRICT UDHAMPUR PAB 2019-20	5.32	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	90 Days	"C/D"	Under SAMAGRA
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS TOILET AT HIGH SECONDARY SCHOOL KEYA ZONE KULWANTA DISTRICT UDHAMPUR UNDER PAB 2022-23	2.37	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	60 Days	"D"	Under SAMAGRA

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

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-12-2023 to 20-12-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	15-12-2023 from 0900 Hrs
4	Bid Submission End Date	20-12-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-12-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Ramnagar.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

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

No:- **EE/R&B/RN/1447-52**
Dated:- **14.12.2023**

DIP/J-12654/23
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Ramnagar

EDITORIAL

VIJAY
DIWAS

Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 16 December in India. The war between India and Pakistan began on December 3, 1971, which lasted for 13 days and ended officially on December 16. After this war the Pakistani army surrendered to the Indian armed forces. Pakistan Army Chief General A.A. Khan Niazi surrendered with 93,000 soldiers to the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh. This success of the Indian Army is celebrated every year as Vijay Diwas.

Every year 16 December is celebrated as Vijay Diwas or Victory Day. On this day, tribute is paid to those soldiers of the nation. Who sacrificed their lives for their country in this war. Another fact is that Bangladesh was born on this day. Therefore, Bangladesh celebrates its Independence Day every year on 16 December. Tributes are paid to the martyrs on Vijay Diwas across the country.

Before 1971, Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan, known as 'East Pakistan'. Reports claimed that the people of 'East Pakistan' were beaten, exploited, raped by women and brutally murdered by the Pakistani army.

India opposed the oppression of people in 'East Pakistan' by the Pakistani Army and supported the people of East Pakistan. At that time there was huge discontent in 'East Pakistan' against Pakistan military officer General Ayub Khan.

On December 3, Pakistan attacked 11 Indian airfields and in response to which India attacked the eastern and western areas of Pakistan. After this, the Indian Government ordered the Indian Army to wage war against Pakistan to save the people of 'East Pakistan'. Field Marshal Manekshaw was leading this war from India's side.

More than 1400 Indian soldiers were martyred in this war with Pakistan. Indian soldiers fought this war with complete bravery and did not allow Pakistani soldiers to make even a single move. Pakistan suffered huge losses in this war. After which this war ended in just 13 days. After this, on 16 December 1971, Pakistan Army Chief General A.A. Khan Niazi surrendered to India with about 93,000 soldiers.

For this reason, every year 16th December is celebrated as Victory Day and every year the Prime Minister of India as well as the entire country pays tribute to those brave soldiers of India. Who sacrificed their lives for the country in this war.

Both the superpowers America and the Soviet Union were indirectly involved in this war. Seeing all this, on December 14, the Indian Army attacked the house of Pakistan Governor in Dhaka. At that time all the big officials of Pakistan had gathered for a meeting. Pakistan was shaken by this attack and General Niazi sent a cease-fire proposal. As a result, the surrender process began at approximately 2:30 pm on December 16, 1971, and at that time approximately 93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered.

Thus, on December 16, 1971, Bangladesh was born as a new nation and East Pakistan became independent from Pakistan. This war is considered a historical war for India. That is why December 16 is celebrated as 'Victory Day' across the country to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan. It is said that around 3,900 Indian soldiers were martyred and around 9,851 were injured in the 1971 war.

Word of Year: Where there is no fizz, there's no 'Rizz' ...

By: Shobhaa De

This is the season for lists. I love it! All lists are, by definition, highly subjective and arbitrary, which makes it more fun for those who have nothing better to do (me!) than to go tch tch over the "absurd" choices and offer instant alternatives... all in a vain effort to establish personal superiority of taste. Rubbish! We are all pathetic suckers for those year-enders which feature random people who we may or may not have heard of, but then get highly curious about. For now, I'm stuck on the word "Rizz", short for charisma, charm or seduction. And as slang goes, it has a certain catchiness and oomph, an immediate resonance, which automatically means "rizz" is here to stay. Rizz gained prominence when actor Tom Holland used it during an interview in June. He was asked about his "rizz", to which he replied: "I have no rizz whatsoever, I have limited rizz." Since "Rizz" has been declared the word of the year by the Oxford Dictionary, with more than 32,000 votes and a team of language experts endorsing it, I am making my own Rizz-wala list -- who has it, who doesn't. Feel free to make your own Rizz list... too much maza.

In politics, the first and last vote goes to Narendra Modi. Come on. Even Ranveer Singh pales in the rizz department when compared to our Prime Minister. Namo is still rizzing away after the BJP's recent hat-trick (winning the state elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh). The stage is set for the national elections of

2024. The "Rizz" factor is firmly in place. Rahul Gandhi, bechara, lost whatever little fizz was left in his original "rizz" during the same period. The rest of the Team INDIA doesn't really count. Who knows anything about the non-rizzy minor players, and who cares? The lady who once had rizz-plus, Mamata Banerjee, needs to up her game, if she wants to remain relevant.

Meanwhile, Mahua Moitra, the original Rizz-wali, is not in a happy place at all, even after getting reunited with King Henry. Think of her sorry haalat -- her handsome Rottweiler is better looking and has far more rizz than her ex-es. The lady with the maximum rizz at the moment is the beauteous Diya Kumari, the recently chosen deputy chief minister of Rajasthan. There can be no more rizz than royalty, beauty and power coming together in one package -- Diya is a one-woman rizz manufacturing factory of her own.

Coming to showbiz, every single Bollywood star is convinced he or she leads in the rizz stakes. At the moment, only one animal is living the rizz life, with box-office figures that are mind-numbing. Ranbir Kapoor has smoothly displaced Ranveer Singh and all the Khans with the spectacular success of his blockbuster film titled Animal. Never mind the movie's malignant anti-women message, but for now, Ranbir and his missus, Alia Bhatt, are the Rizz Couple of the Year, with a combined net worth of Rs 885 crores. This includes properties, jewellery, cars and other investments. Rizz, talent and money go together, as you must have guessed. Ranveer Singh and his biwi Deepika

Padukone don't lack for rizz. Both have topped the most stylish power couple lists for 2023. But the surprise entrant in this category is Ibrahim Khan, the son of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh.

Considering the young man has still to make his film debut, his unmistakable rizz is working big time in creating a huge buzz of anticipation. Well... the same buzz did not work for the newcomers in a dud called The Archies, which was nothing short of shocking, given the hype around Netflix's biggest commercial disaster in India. The explanation is simple: No rizz! Do movie buffs really want to see these kids back on the screen anytime soon? No chance! They'd rather see them back in film school, learning a few basics about acting before signing their next movie.

My personal Rizz vote goes to the immensely talented Vicky Kaushal, who was clearly born with dollops of oozing rizz. Watch him as Sam Bahadur, and linger on the last freeze shot... Uffff. Such a visceral performance by Vicky, who effectively captured the original rizz of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, down to the naughty twinkle in the old boy's hypnotic eyes.

Virat Kohli wins hands down as the sportsman with the maximum rizz power. Unfortunately, India lost the World Cup, which took away a great deal of Rohit Sharma's original rizz, but spared Virat Kohli, who managed to come out on top by winning the Player of the Tournament of the ODI World Cup 2023 with an outstanding knock of 765 runs in 11 innings. Even without his latest laurel, VK really does

not have any competition in the rizz department. His is the only name that jumps out when one thinks of Rizz-y cricketers. But 24-year-old Shubham Gill is showing enormous potential as the next Virat -- good looking, successful, competent. Plus, he is single! More rizz!!!

In the international arena, TIME magazine has named Taylor Swift as the Person of the Year. If you, like me, are wondering why Taylor jumped over all the other nominees... well, ask a few loyal Swifties. Yes, the singer with the signature red lips and sparkly clothes has a cult following of youngsters across the world, who band together under the "Swiftie" banner. The 34-year-old American singer and songwriter has rewritten the rules of the music industry, while building a personal business empire of an estimated \$1.1 billion -- becoming the first billionaire with music as the main source of income. She is also the highest grossing female touring act, a philanthropist and an advocate for artists' rights and women's empowerment. I was sufficiently blown away by Taylor's awe-inspiring story to go watch The Eras Tour with Ahilya Devi, my 11-year-old granddaughter in a cinema hall filled with screaming Swifties who knew every line of her hit songs and sang lustily through the 2.4-hour movie. I saw Taylor's rizz. I felt her rizz. And it must have impressed me enough to theme our family X'mas party around the pop icon. Last I checked, Ahilya Devi was rehearsing "Is it over now...?" and trying on her sparkly outfit for her performance at our home. That's major rizz at work!!

Vocational exposure is Solution of employability

By: Vijay GarG

(Skills, a growth mindset, cultural intelligence, and digital literacy to create innovators)

Industry stakeholders must bring cognitive skills, a growth mindset, cultural intelligence, and digital literacy to create innovators and entrepreneurs in the country

India's GDP growth has brought optimism against the backdrop of an unbalanced world economy. In this scenario, the focus is once again on skilling initiatives. Skill India Mission and the skill development of the new generation are crucial for building 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the need for every youth to be empowered with skills starting from school time, to become important stakeholders in a development revolution.

Today, education is not limited to what is taught in schools, colleges, and universities. The scope of learning has widened due to the evolving market and digital advancements. Acquiring market-driven skills will provide great placement opportunities to the youth and strengthen the foundation of 'Viksit Bharat'.

India has a demographic advantage that needs to be harnessed by building the capacity and infrastructure for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling both existing and new entrants to the workforce. The goal was to increase the proportion of formally skilled workforce from the current 5.4% to at least 15% by 2022-2023. However, the India Skills Report 2022 by Wheelbox shows that the overall youth employability in

India is only 48.7%. While several government-led skilling initiatives are covering some ground, they are not enough to meet the targeted supply of 109 million workers.

According to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data, 86% of those aged between 15 and 59 years have not received any vocational training, while the remaining 14% received training through diverse formal and informal channels. The conversion of this pool into human capital requires a dedicated focus on skilling and education. There is ample evidence to prove that upskilling the youth could lead to increased incomes, higher profitability, and greater productivity in the economy.

The NEP has set a clear goal to increase the gross enrolment ratio in higher education, including vocational education, to 50% by 2035. We are determined to achieve this goal by adding 3.5 crore new seats to higher education institutions (HEIs) focusing on a flexible curriculum with creative combinations of subjects, integrating vocational education with mainstream education, and allowing multiple entries and exits with appropriate certification. We will establish Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) at par with IITs and IIMs to provide the best possible education to our students.

We are committed to providing vocational exposure to at least 50% of learners through school and higher education by 2050. We firmly believe that every child should learn at least one vocation and be exposed to several more. With over 15 lakh schools teaching 25.38 crore students, India has one of the largest education networks in the world, and we are determined to make it

even better.

However, we acknowledge that achieving this ambitious goal requires sustained, concerted efforts, willpower, and steadfastness in implementing critical reforms. We need to invest in setting up skill centres in every high school across the country and recruit vocational teachers. Adding technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions to our schools is also essential. We are confident that, as India aspires to be the world's third-largest economy by 2030, investing in our education system is not a big task. We will do what it takes to make India a world leader in skill.

It is vital to impart skill training to our young children so that they can develop an interest in entrepreneurship. This will expose them to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, the Internet of Things (IoT), Real Time Analytics, and so on. Automation and data exchange are at the core of the fourth Industrial Revolution - Industry 4.0, and therefore, we need to train our young brains accordingly. While a few of them may join the government and services sector, most of them will find their way into the manufacturing and service sector, which is filled with opportunities in our country.

Although some skilling schemes have been restructured, the problem has not been fully addressed. For instance, when the government introduced the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana (GKRY) in 2020 to address skilling and unemployment issues caused by reverse migration, it did not work out as expected. Many reports suggest that GKRY's market demand-driven skilling initiatives were not successful and did

not reach the intended beneficiaries. This indicates a systemic problem that affects the talent ecosystem in India. Therefore, instead of merely making youths 'Labharathi' (Beneficiary), we should equip them with the necessary skills to make them Workman)

The informal sector employs around 93 per cent of India's working population, which puts them at a high risk of exclusion. To mitigate this risk, marginalized groups need to be engaged through both online and offline channels. Common Service Centers (CSCs) can help with last-mile reach, while user-friendly and vernacular interfaces can benefit job and skill seekers across different segments. The Talent NODE is not a silver bullet, but with an innovative and inclusive approach, it can help between 50-80 million people find better job opportunities that match their skills and aspirations. An interconnected ecosystem can create a million different opportunities, enabling India's youth to become job-ready and contribute significantly to the country's development.

It is crucial for industry stakeholders, including the government, private, and public sectors, to bring cognitive . This will help the youth to be job-ready and contribute significantly to India's development as a developed nation.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)*

GDC Darhal organizes seminar on life and contribution of Sardar Patel



Top News Report

DARHAL, Dec 16: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Darhal organized a seminar on life and the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as part of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan @2047 here on Saturday while joining the nation to pay tribute to Iron man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 73rd death Anniversary. The NSS Unit of GDC Darhal organized a seminar under the patronage of Principal of college, Prof Mussarraf H. Shah. On this occasion Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Associate Professor & Head Department of English was the resource Person. Dr.

Wani, in his comprehensive talk briefed the audience about Life and work of Sardar Patel.

He highlighted the contribution of Sardar Patel in uniting India by his un-paralleled vision, and tireless efforts as a true leader of freedom struggle.

He stressed upon the crucial role of every citizen of country in unitedly defeating the nefarious designs of enemies of country besides motivating students and faculty to make substantial contribution to take India to new heights on all fronts.

Prof. M. H. Shah appreciated the NSS Unit for arising awareness among youth and students about such a

great leader through this seminar.

Dr. Ghulam Abas, Associate Professor & Head Department of Persian and Dr. Ahsan Ul-Rehman, Assistant Professor and Head Department of Arabic spoke on the occasion.

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. Dr. Mukhtar Hussain from Department of Sociology presented the formal vote of thanks. Prominent among others were Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Fayaz Ahmad bhat, Samana Qusar and Gh.Nabi Dar.

Residents demand construction of Bridge over Nallah Kheder



Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 16: Residents of several villages of Devser constituency of South Kashmir's kulgam district on Saturday alleged that they are facing immense hardships due to non availability of a bridge over the Nallah Kheder between Churat Chaki-Muswani to Khoshpora.

The residents of these villages told Voice of

india correspondent Ghulam Nabi khanday, that due to non availability of bridge over the nallah forces them to travel on other roads which is time consuming.

They said that the school going children and other people of the area are suffering huge inconvenience due to non availability of the bridge, they alleged that they have informed the district administration several times regarding the problems they are facing but no steps have been taken yet by the authorities to construct the bridge over the Nallah Kheder.

The villagers have demanded the special intervention of Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter.

Seminar on Internet Privacy issue on Mobile/Computer System held at Govt Women Polytechnic



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: An Interactive seminar on the topic "Internet Privacy issue on Mobile/Computer System and remedies thereof" was held today in the conference hall of Govt. Polytechnic for women, Jammu.

Er. Neeraj Dubey, Associated Professor, GCET, Jammu, a renowned Cyber Warrior of the UT of J&K was the resource person on the occasion.

During his interactive talk, he deliberated on safe use of the Internet, Cyber Hygiene, Security issues and remedies with the help of interactive videos and practical demonstrations, which were highly appreciated by the attendees.

Er. Naresh Gupta,

HOD, E&C, while welcoming the resource person, thanked him for sparing his services to deliver today's seminar, which is highly relevant particularly to the girl students who needs to be aware about the misuse of Internet tools such as AI etc. and take remedial measures.

The program was Coordinated and Compered by Er. Deepika Sharma, Lecturer, Computer Engineering Department of this Institution.

The Students along with the faculty of E&C and Computer Engineering Department attended the seminar and were thankful to Er. Suket Gupta, Principal, Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu for arranging this activity.

JKBS team interacts with Batwal community members at Garhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha today visited Village Garhi and interacted with eminent Batwal community members and noted their suggestions.

ZE0 retired Pritam Chand Motan said that community safety requires a team effort. The truth is, crime can make its way into any community no matter how "safe" it is. The good news is, there are preventable measures you can take to protect your home and family.

JKBS team comprised Messrs Dilay Ram Kaith, Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Duni Singh Motan and Numberdar Sat Pal Lakhotra.

KCCI participated in 14th Edition Home Decor-Gift-Houseware- India at India Expo Mart



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 16: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) participated in the 14th Edition of Home Decor-Gift-Houseware-India (HGH) held from December 13 to 16, 2023 at India Expo Mart (IEM) Greater Noida. Ten members of

KCCI participated in the Fair that lays high emphasis of providing-Market- Driven, Well-Researched Trend Information to its exhibitors and visitors.

The HGH was visited by visitors, retailers and trade buyers and product sourcing and buying agents.

The President KCCI

Javed Ahmad Tenga, Senior Vice President Ashiq Hussain Shargloo, Treasurer Zubair Mahajan and other KCCI members attended the inaugural ceremony of the fair.

The participants received encouraging response and booked many orders for gift and home furnishing items.

GDC RS Pura takes Viksit Bharat Sankalp Pledge



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11th December, 2023 underlined need to channelise the energy of the students and youth of every institution towards achieving common goal of Developed India.

He has suggested running a special campaign in every college and university of the country to connect more and more youth with this campaign.

In this sequence, Dept. of Dogri, NSS, NCC, RRC and IIC of Government Degree College R S Pura initiated a comprehensive programme dedicated to Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, witnessing active participation of the staff

and students of the college.

They took a solemn pledge of Viksit Bharat. The ceremony symbolized a unified commitment to actively contribute to the nation's progress and development.

The occasion brought together both teaching and non-teaching staff in a unified effort towards the shared cause of national development. Expressing pride in the college's commitment, Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the college stated, "Our collective pledge reflects the dedication of GDC R S Pura to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development. As educators, we understand the role we play in shaping the future."

"Similarly, today every person, every institution, every organization has to move forward with the pledge that whatever I do should be for a developed India. The aim of your goals, your deliverance should be only one - developed India, Dr. Rajni added.

While speaking on the occasion event coordinator Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (H.O.D. Dogri) emphasized, "This event signifies our commitment to a future where India stands as a developed and empowered nation. Every staff member, teaching or non-teaching, is an integral part of this vision."

The programme was attended by all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college.

NSS unit at GDCW Kathua launches Signature Campaign for Viksit Bharat@2047

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 16: The NSS unit of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua launched a signature campaign on the college campus in support of Viksit Bharat@2047. This initiative aims to promote and contribute to the vision of a developed India by the year 2047.

Principal Dr. Savi Behl expressed her enthusiasm for the campaign, highlighting its importance in fostering a sense of responsibility and active citizenship among the college community.

She said our students



are the torchbearers of progress, and initiatives like Viksit Bharat@2047 empower them to actively engage in shaping the future of our nation.

NSS Programme Officer Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma emphasized the role of NSS in instilling values of social service and community development. The signature

campaign serves as a symbolic gesture of solidarity towards a progressive and inclusive India.

The signature campaign will run till December 25, providing an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to pledge their commitment to the vision of a developed and thriving Bharat by 2047.

Technical visit for students of the Medical Lab Technology & Computer Engineering Deptt organized at SMVDNH



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Government Polytechnic for Women, Jammu, organized a one-day technical visit for 3rd-semester students of the Medical Lab Technology & Computer Engineering Department at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Hospital.

The visit proved to be

an eye-opening experience, allowing students to explore the world of healthcare innovation and witness the dedication of medical professionals at work.

Each moment served as a glimpse into the future of healthcare.

A heartfelt thanks to Er Suket Gupta, Principal, Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu, for

arranging this enlightening visit.

Our gratitude also extends to the Narayana Hospital team for their warm welcome and insightful presentations. A special appreciation goes to Dr. Bina Jad, Head of the Department, and her staff for imparting their knowledge and enthusiasm, which we will carry back to our academic journey, making a positive impact in the world of health and wellness.

A thanks to Antara Pandit, Neha Gujral, Sunidhi, Poona, and Dr. Sachin Verma, Physiotherapist, for their cooperation and for explaining the topics in a well-managed manner.

JU's DSW in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organizes Short Play Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: The Department of Students Welfare in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organized a short play competition through its Red Ribbon Club for awareness about HIV and AIDS at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The purpose of the competition was to create awareness about this issue as there is an urgent need to improve and increase Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV/AIDS through various activities especially amongst young people.

Participants presented thought provoking performances on the topics, 'Routes of HIV transmission', 'Myths & Misconceptions related to HIV', 'Promotion of

Helpline 1097', 'Information on Stigma & Discrimination/HIV Act'.

Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Prakash Antahal complemented Dr. Samir Mattoo, Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society for the successful completion of this impactful idea to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS amongst the youth. The effectiveness of the same can be apparently seen through the zealous participation of around 200 students from different Colleges/Campuses and Teaching Departments of University of Jammu.

In her address, Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, apprised the participants about the importance of this event which aims at spreading knowledge about



prevention of AIDS, she advised them to be equipped with the relevant information and also to act like torchbearers to spread it further

for the benefit of humanity.

The first position along with a cash prize of Rs. 15,000 was clinched by the team of PG Integrated students,

the second position and cash prize of Rs. 10,000 was secured by the team of GCW, Parade. The team of DD&OE secured third posi-

tion and cash prize of Rs. 5,000.

The Certificates of Merit were awarded to the teams of Stephens Nursing College, UIET Kathua and Dogra College of Education. Janak Khajuria, Suresh Sharma and Neeraj Kant were the adjudicators of the event.

The winners were felicitated in presence of Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector Kathua Campus, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Prof. Monika Chadha, Rishesh Khajuria, Assistant Director(IEC) JKACS, and Dr. Hema Gandotra, Coordinator Red Ribbon Club, University of Jammu.

The events of DSW are conceived, planned and organized by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare),

Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Garima Gupta (Assistant Dean, SW), Dr. Shalu Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Proctors), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor) and Ifra Kak (Cultural Officer) and members of Campus Cultural Committee.

The hall management was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur, Balwant Slathia, RP Singh, Arif Paul, Sachin Sharma and Cultural Representatives Kanya Sharma, Suriya Banoo, Bipasha Raina, Rishika Sharma, Angraaz Singh, Rajdeep Singh and Sunny Singh.

When dreams take flight: Actor Paresh Pahuja, who was part of the film Kadak Singh, believes OTT has made the industry more professional

Actor-musician Paresh Pahuja's latest film Kadak Singh is currently streaming on Zee5. But before making it to the digital platform, along with the team of Kadak Singh, he made an appearance at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa, for the film's screening.

He shares how life came a full circle for him. "It was a surreal experience when I first visited IFFI a decade ago. I was a mass media student with a volunteer ID around my neck. It felt great to see myself on the other side of the crowd at IFFI. And I hope with my story and work I would be able to influence many such aspiring actors, just the way I got inspired and motivated a decade ago. I had told myself I would be on that stage one day like other actors and it was somehow manifested in a big way when I shared the stage with respected actors like Pankaj Tripathi," he beams.

Great bonding
The film is directed by Anirudha Roy Chowdhury and stars Pankaj Tripathi, Parvathy



Thiruvothu, Jaya Ahsan, Sanjana Sanghi, and Pahuja. Ask the actor his most cherished memories from the sets and he remembers the 'not so kadak' avatar of fellow actor Pankaj Tripathi, a chef whose home-cooked momos were some-

thing to die for. Pahuja recalls, "I think the cast and crew of Kadak Singh bonded over food the most. The only challenging task on the sets was to stay away from food. It was one of those sets where after finishing breakfast, you would be talking

about lunch and during lunch discussing the menu for dinner! While I pitched by ordering food, Sanjana Sanghi also used to bring home-cooked meals for everybody on the sets as well."

Preparing well

As OTT has changed the ball game altogether and all actors must show up for workshops, Pahuja is happy about this change. He feels the industry has become more professional. In fact, he never leaves an opportunity to attend any workshop. He explains, "It's true that while you gain a lot from different workshops, sometimes it might leave you confused as two different people could say different things. But the key is to go with an open mind. It's all about unlearning and learning and, sometimes, you also have to stick to your guns."

For 2024, Pahuja has plans to focus on music and also learn martial arts. The Lakadbagha actor will also be seen in the film Lord Curzon Ki Haveli and Operation Valentine soon.

'Friends' actor Matthew Perry died from effects of drug ketamine



Matthew Perry died from the acute effects of the anaesthetic ketamine, according to the results of an autopsy on the 54-year-old 'Friends' actor released on Friday.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner said in the autopsy report that Perry also drowned in "the heated end of his pool," but that it was a secondary factor in his October 28 death, deemed an accident.

The report says coronary artery disease and buprenorphine, which is used

to treat opioid use disorder, also contributed.

Perry was declared dead after being found unresponsive at his home in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. Investigators performed the autopsy the following day.

The actor had taken drugs in the past but had been "reportedly clean for 19 months", according to the report. The coroner said he was reported to have been having ketamine infusion therapy to deal with depression and anxiety, and his last treatment was two weeks before his death.

Perry had played pickleball earlier in the day, the report says, and his assistant, who lives with him, found him face down in the pool after returning from errands.

The assistant told investigators Perry had not been sick, had not made any health complaints, and had not shown evidence of recent alcohol or drug use.

Perry was open about discussing his struggles with addiction dating back to his time on 'Friends' in the 1990s.

"I loved everything about the show but I was struggling with my addictions which only added to my sense of shame," he wrote in his 2022 memoir. "I had a secret and no one could know."

First step: Charu Asopa on her OTT debut with Johri

After winning the hearts of audiences in the television industry with a career spanning over a decade, Charu Asopa made her OTT debut with the recently launched series on MX Player and Atrangi TV, titled Johri.

About the series, Charu said, "When I read the script for the first time, I knew that this was it. This show was a come-back for me, and I wanted to play a different role that I hadn't essayed in the past. I have always done TV and portrayed similar kinds of roles. So, I found Tani's character interesting and apt for my OTT debut."

Johri traces the journey of a common man who transforms into a diamond mogul under the guidance of his uncle. The drama becomes more gripping when the narrative delves into the world of bank scams and fraud, portraying the rise and fall of a businessman. The series starts with Niraj's humble beginnings and evolves into a stylish thriller that encapsulates the essence of the



90s. Nishant Malkani steps into the role of Niraj.

Watch Johri on MX Player and Atrangi TV, with five new episodes dropping every Friday.

Shruti Haasan expresses anger, fury in first-look from Adivi Sesh-starrer action drama

On Saturday, actor Adivi Sesh unveiled the first look of his co-star Shruti Haasan from their upcoming action drama.

In the poster, Shruti captivates the audience with a striking portrayal, focusing on her eyes that vividly express anger and fury, cutting through the frame with intense emotion.

Sharing the poster, Adivi took to Instagram and wrote, "Look at the FURY in her eyes! Title reveal and First Look on December 18th!! [?] #SeshEXShruti. Super proud and absolutely pumped to be working with @shrutishaasan. Beautiful heart. Beautiful soul. Looking forward to some magic and chaotic chemistry between us."

The grand project, which will be shot in Hindi and Telugu, is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda, presented by Annapurna



Studios and directed by Sha-neel Deo. The film's title will be revealed on December 18.

The film will mark Adivi Sesh's second straight Hindi film outing after his 2022 acclaimed blockbuster biopic 'Major', which

featured him as Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan.

Meanwhile, Adivi has also started shooting for 'G2', the sequel to his hit Telugu film 'Goodachari'.

On Monday, Adivi Sesh took

to Instagram and shared a picture of the film's clapboard which he captioned, "It Begins. MASSIVE. This is how we do it. #G2." Banita Sandhu is also a part of 'G2'. G2 will pick up the story where Goodachari left off - with Gopi aka Agent 116 facing off against the enemy in snowy terrain.

The spy thriller's first look saw Adivi Sesh in an action-packed avatar and was received well by fans. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Abhishek Agarwal, the film features Sriraman Pakala as the music composer and Kodati Pavan Kalyan as the editor.

Sobhita Dhulipala, Jagapathi Babu, Prakash Raj, Irfan Ahmed Syed, Vennela Kishore, and Supriya Yarlagadda played pivotal roles in the first part.

Diljit Dosanjh surfaces on UK's 2023 South Asian celebrity list with Shah Rukh Khan on top, Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra on second and third spots

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, referred to as the King Khan of the Indian film industry, has topped a UK list of the 'Top 50 Asian Celebrities in the World'.

The 58-year-old actor, who had double box-office success this year with action thrillers 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan', is currently preparing for the Christmas release of comedy drama 'Dunki'. Khan beat off tough competition to make it to the annual list published by UK weekly Eastern Eye.

"By the time 2023 ends, King Khan will become the first leading man from the modern era to have three huge Bollywood blockbuster hits in a calendar year," said Eastern Eye entertainment editor Asjad Nazir, who compiled the list previewed in London on Wednesday.

"By drawing big audiences back into cinema halls with global juggernauts, the actor gave a movie industry in decline a much-needed boost and had a transformative effect. The history making superstar eclipsed everyone else with his brilliance and reminded global audiences what escapism Bollywood cinema is capable of," he said.

The Top 50 list celebrating South Asian



stars who shone the brightest in 2023 is based on their impactful work, breaking boundaries and being generally inspiring over the course of the year. It is compiled as a result of public inputs, with readers and social media users nominating their favourites.

Popular actor Alia Bhatt came in second for her impact in Bollywood and Hollywood and also for being a strong role model for working mothers.

Third-placed Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the most famous Indian on the planet, has been recognised for her ground-breaking work on the international stage, including with big-budget series 'Citadel', Hollywood film 'Love Again',

humanitarian work and lighting up the red carpet globally.

Fourth-placed Diljit Dosanjh confirmed his place as the biggest Punjabi star, with stunning work as an actor and singer, which included cinema, major crossover international music collaborations and a path-breaking performance at the prestigious Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California.

Fifth-placed Charli XCX from the UK was the biggest singing star internationally of a South Asian heritage and accomplished a lot this year, from super single releases to blockbuster live performances globally.

She is followed by Ranbir Kapoor (sixth)

for delivering the year's most impactful movie performance with blockbuster hit 'Animal'.

Singer Shreya Ghoshal comes in at number seven with another award-winning year, which included magnificent songs in multiple languages, global arena shows and her turn as a judge on the popular singing reality series 'Indian Idol' (season 14). Eighth-placed Vijay is the biggest South Indian cinema star of 2023 with two hits ('Leo' and 'Varisu') and for being an inspiration to countless fans with his humility.

The highest placed Pakistani on the list is actor Wahaj Ali (ninth), who delivered strong performances all year round, including in the record-breaking serial

'Tere Bin'. Canadian actor Iman Vellani is at number 10 for headlining Hollywood blockbuster 'The Marvels' with a path-breaking role.

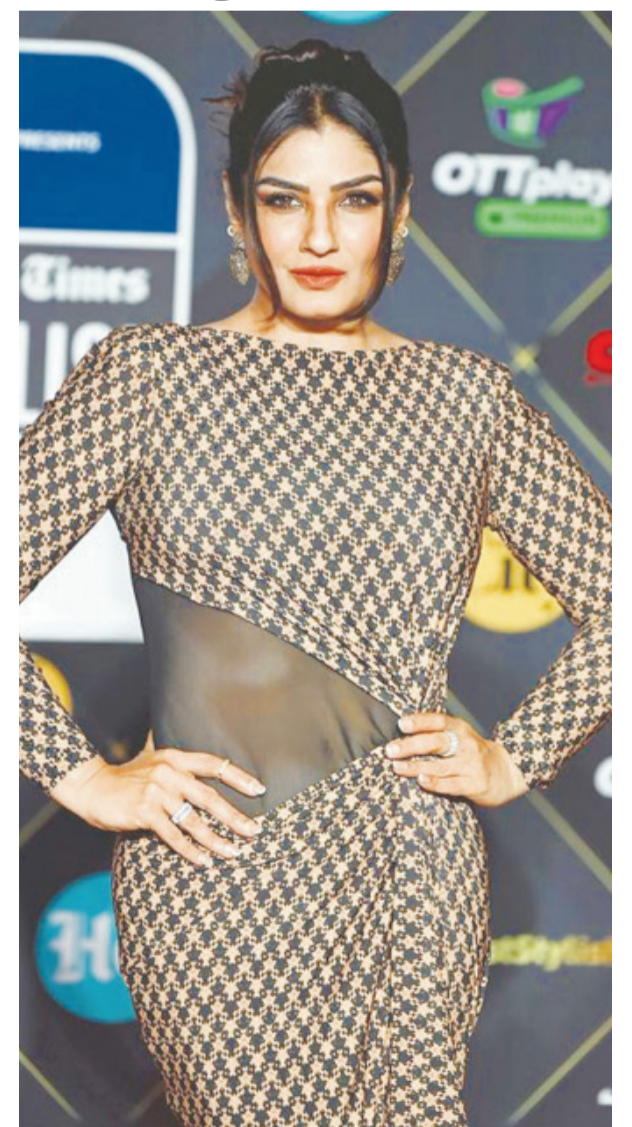
The oldest star in the list is 81-year-old Amitabh Bachchan (35th) and the youngest is 20-year-old television star Sumbul Touqeer (44th), who said: "Being included in the annual list with so many distinguished international names feels great."

"I am also proud to be the youngest in this list again and hope to inspire others starting out on their journey that anything is possible. I am grateful to be able to do what I love and so thankful for all the support."

Glitz and glamour: Disney+ Hotstar announces Raveena Tandon-led series Karmma Calling

Disney+ Hotstar on Friday unveiled its new series titled Karmma Calling, starring actor Raveena Tandon in the lead role. The series, which will debut on the streamer's platform on January 26, 2024, is based on the popular American series Revenge, which aired from 2011-2015 and was produced by ABC Signature, a part of Disney Television Studios. It is adapted and directed by Ruchi Narain of Guilty fame. Set in the world of glitz and glamour, filled with deceit and betrayal, Karmma Calling will feature Tandon as Indrani Kothari, the reigning queen of the Alibaug society. Tandon, who made her series debut with Aranyak in 2021, said she has not played a character like Indrani Kothari in a long time.

"Karmma Calling is definitely more than what meets the eye and explores different facets of the world of the rich. Collaborating with Disney+ Hotstar was a great experience and playing Indrani helped me explore more for myself as an actor. It is a never-seen-before and never-done-before role, and I am looking



forward to audience reactions," the 51-year-old actress said. Narain said Karmma Calling is set against the backdrop of the ultra-rich and

affluent Kothari family and all that conspires around them in their world. Karmma Calling has been produced by R.A.T Films.

President pays homage to armed forces personnel for 'unparalleled courage' during 1971 Pakistan war

Vijay Diwas is observed annually to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu, on Saturday led the nation in paying tributes to the brave fallen heroes on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, which commemorates India's historic victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

Through a post on X, the President said the nation remembers with gratitude the selfless sacrifice and unparalleled courage of the Armed Forces personnel which ensured India's victory.

"The nation remembers with gratitude the selfless sacrifice made by our armed forces during the 1971 war. On Vijay Diwas, I pay homage to the bravehearts who displayed unparalleled courage and achieved historic victory," the post on X said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi



also paid heartfelt tributes to the brave soldiers, remembering their sacrifices and unwavering spirit. It will forever be etched in the people's hearts and nation's history, he said.

The PM also posted on X

saying "Today, on Vijay Diwas, we pay heartfelt tributes to all the brave heroes who dutifully served India in 1971, ensuring a decisive victory. Their valour and dedication remain a source of immense pride for the nation.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recalled the indomitable courage and valour of the Armed Forces personnel, stating that "We are proud of our Armed Forces who have fearlessly protected our country in every circumstance".

The Defence Minister also laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial in New Delhi to mark the day.

The Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal AP Singh also paid homage.

PM Modi holds talks with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik



NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held talks with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik with a focus on expanding bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including trade and investment.

The Sultan of Oman arrived in Delhi on a state visit on Friday, in his first trip to India as the top leader of the Gulf nation.

"Giving a boost to India-Oman Partnership! PM @narendramodi warmly received His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman at Hyderabad House, setting the stage for bilateral discussions," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a post on X ahead of the talks.

"Agenda includes taking stock of bilateral

ties and charting pathways for the future collaboration between the two countries," he said.

In the morning, Sultan bin Tarik was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the fore-court of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"This first state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to India marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between India and the Sultanate of Oman," the Ministry of External Affairs said earlier this week while announcing the trip.

India and the Sultanate of Oman are strategic partners and the bilateral trade and investment relationship between the two nations has been on an upswing in the last few years.

Unemployment, rising prices behind Parliament security breach, says Rahul Gandhi

THANE, Dec 16 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attributed rising prices and unemployment behind the December 13 Parliament security breach.

Speaking to reporters after a poll preparedness meeting with leaders of the Congress' Gujarat unit in New Delhi, Gandhi said the security breach happened in Parliament but youngsters are not getting jobs due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies.

"There has been a security breach in Parliament. But why did it happen?" he asked.

"The biggest issue in the country is that of unemployment, which is boiling all over the country. The country's youth are not getting employment due to the policies of Modi ji," he said.

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

"The breach has happened (in Parliament) but the reason behind it is unemployment and price rise," Gandhi also said.

Two men -- Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D -- had jumped into the Lok Sabha's chamber.

Around the same time, two others -- Amol Shinde and Neelam Devi -- released coloured smoke from

canisters while shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside the Parliament premises.

Lalit Jha, the fifth accused, allegedly circulated videos of the protest outside the complex on social media.

All five have been arrested.

The opposition has been seeking answers from the government on the security breach and have demanded a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue in Parliament.

They have also been disrupting proceedings in both Houses to press for the demand.

Girlfriend narrates chilling details of murder attempt by bureaucrat's son in Maharashtra, says 'he invited her to hotel at 3 am and...'

In a social media post, Priya Umendra Singh alleges 'my boyfriend rammed his car over me and left me dying in pain on the street'

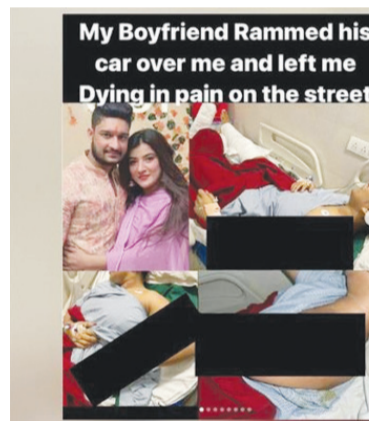
THANE, Dec 16 (Agencies): In a chilling incident, Ashwajit Gaikwad, the son of a top Maharashtra bureaucrat, allegedly mowed down his girlfriend with his SUV in Thane recently, seriously injuring her.

The victim, Priya Umendra Singh, 26, a professional beautician, has narrated her shocking ordeal of the murderous attempt on her life in a social media post.

"Need justice...Culprit Ashwajit Anilkumar Gaikwad, son of Anilkumar Gaikwad, Joint Managing Director of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation," said Singh on her post.

She also named Ashwajit's friends, Romil Patil, Prasad Patil and Sagar Shelke, all Thane residents, in her post, plus her boyfriend's driver-cum-bodyguard, Shiva.

Singh has tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister Smriti Irani and Shiv Sena-UBT's Aditya Thackeray, in her post with an emotional header: "My boyfriend rammed his car



over me and left me dying in pain on the street."

Despite several attempts by IANS, Anilkumar Gaikwad -- who was recently elevated as the MSRDC Vice-Chairman and Managing Director -- was not available for comment on the serious allegations against his 34-year-old son, or the incident that happened in the CM's home district.

The alleged incident occurred on Ovala Road in the Ghodbunder area of the district, and Singh has suffered grievous injuries in the stomach, back and arms; her right leg is broken



and in a cast.

Singh also detailed how she was allegedly abused by Ashwajit and his friends, how he invited her to the Courtyard Hotel around 3 am on December 11. There, a bitter fight ensued, when Ashwajit allegedly assaulted her, and then his friends Romil, Prasad and Shelke also joined in the attack.

As the situation appeared to worsen, she went to take her bag and mobile from the SUV but the youths allegedly attempted to cause her grave harm by first bulldozing the SUV into her back near a divider, then

returned and drove it over her right leg, before speeding away in the darkness.

Surprisingly, Shiva, the SUV driver, turned out to be a good Samaritan, he left them and rushed to help the bleeding and crying Singh, and also informed her family about the assault. Later, they alerted the Thane police.

The prime accused Ashwajit and his friends allegedly warned the woman against involving the police and even boasted that they would use the political clout of the Gaikwad family.

Meanwhile, based on the complaint by Singh -- who is in the ICU of Titan Medcity Hospital -- the Kasarvadavali police have lodged a complaint against Ashwajit, Shelke, and the Patil duo (said to be linked to a retired police official), but no arrests have been made so far, even as the victim's post went viral on social media.

Given the sensitive nature of the case, top Thane police officials remained incommunicado despite attempts to get their version.

Tribal singer beaten to death for molesting specially abled girl in Ranchi

RANCHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): A 35-year-old tribal singer was beaten to death for allegedly molesting a specially-abled girl in Jharkhand's Ranchi district, a police officer said on Saturday.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the case, the officer said.

The incident happened at Tatkundo village, some 30 km from the capital city Ranchi on Thursday evening, Mandar sub-

divisional police officer (SDPO) Ankita Roy told agency.

The victim was identified as David Minz, the SDPO said.

Local villagers said Minz used to sing in the Nagpuri language and his several Nagpuri songs were hit on social media platforms.

Mandar police station in-charge Vinay Kumar Yadav told PTI that Minz was beaten to death with sticks on Thursday



evening for allegedly molesting a specially-abled girl in the village. Minz was brought to Mandar

referral hospital. After primary treatment, he was referred to Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) in Ranchi where he died during treatment, he said.

"Three persons of a family, all relatives of the girl, were involved in the crime and were arrested on complaints of the victim's wife. The three accused were sent to jail on Friday," Yadav said.

6 people returning from wedding die as car collides with truck in Maharashtra's Nagpur

NAGPUR, Dec 16 (Agencies): Six people died and one was seriously injured as a car collided with a truck on the outskirts of Nagpur city in Maharashtra in the wee hours of Saturday, police said.

The accident took place near Sonkhamb village on Katol-

Kalmeshwar Road between 12.15 am and 2 am, a senior police official said.

"Seven people were travelling in the car after attending a wedding ceremony when their vehicle collided head-on with the truck carrying soyabean," he said.

"Two persons died

on the spot, while two others died in hospital. Three others were brought to Nagpur for treatment, and two of them passed away there, while one person is in a critical condition," the official said.

The driver of the truck had been arrested, he added.

11 years after Nirbhaya rape, DCW chief Maliwal says nothing has changed, crimes against women in Delhi have only gone up

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Nothing has changed in the past decade and crimes against women in Delhi have only gone up, DCW chief Swati Maliwal said on Saturday on the 11th anniversary of the Nirbhaya incident -- a brutal gang-rape and assault case that stirred an outpouring of anger and grief, followed by the passage of several new sexual assault laws in the country.

A 23-year-old physiotherapy intern, who came to be known as 'Nirbhaya (the fearless one)', was raped and

assaulted by six men in a bus in south Delhi on December 16, 2012, before being thrown out of the moving vehicle. She died from her injuries on December 29 in Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital, where she was flown by air-ambulance.

"A tragic incident happened with Nirbhaya in 2012 when she was gang-raped. That girl died in agony," Maliwal told agency.

"At the time of the incident, people came out onto the streets to seek change. But despite years after that tragedy,

we stand at the same place. Crimes against women are increasing day by day. Nothing will change until the criminals are scared that the system would not spare them for such crimes," she added.

The Delhi Commission for Women chairperson called for certainty and swiftness in punishments and said governments should take such sensitive cases "seriously".

"We need certainty and swiftness in punishments and such matters need to be taken seriously by governments.



Police strength and (the number of) fast-track courts should be increased. We need a system where justice is assured swiftly and systematically," Maliwal

said. "Every December 16, politicians talk big about bringing change but (those are) all in vain," she claimed.

Of the six men accused

in the case, Ram Singh allegedly died by suicide in jail, days after the trial began. A juvenile accused was released in 2015 after spending three years in a correctional home.

The other four -- Mukesh Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31) -- were convicted. They were hanged in Tihar Jail on March 20, 2020.

"After the Nirbhaya incident, a stringent law was introduced that made some difference.

If a policeman doesn't accept a rape victim's complaint, an FIR can be lodged against him too. Through the Delhi Commission for Women, we always ensure that cases of crimes against women are registered," Maliwal said.

Asked about a recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report that said crimes against women had shot up in Delhi, Maliwal said there is no fear of punishment in those who commit such atrocities.

Delhi recorded the highest number of

crimes against women among the 19 metropolitan cities in India in 2022, according to the latest NCRB report.

"I think police strength should be increased and they must be held accountable for their negligence. Are there enough CCTV cameras in police stations? What action is taken against the cops for their negligence?" Maliwal asked.

She also suggested that schools should add to their curricula topics that teach boys to make women feel safer and respect them.

Israeli strike on school kills Al Jazeera cameraman in Gaza, wounds reporter

Cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa and correspondent Wael Dahdouh had gone to the school in the southern city of Khan Younis after it was hit by a strike earlier in the day

CAIRO, Dec 16 (Agencies): An Israeli strike killed a Palestinian cameraman for the TV network Al Jazeera and wounded its chief Gaza correspondent as they reported at a school in the south of the besieged territory, the network said.

Cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa and correspondent Wael Dahdouh had gone to the school in the southern city of Khan Younis after it was hit by a strike earlier in the day. While they were there, an Israeli drone hit the school with a second strike, the network said.

Dahdouh was heavily wounded in his arm and shoulder, while Abu Daqqa fell bleeding to the ground. Speaking from a hospital bed, Dahdouh told Al Jazeera he was able to flee, bleeding, from the school and found several ambulance workers.

He asked them to look for Abu Daqqa, but they said it was too risky and promised another ambulance would come for him, Dahdouh said.

"He was screaming, he was calling for help," said Dahdouh, his right arm heavily bandaged.



Later that evening, Al Jazeera reported that an ambulance tried to reach the school to evacuate Abu Daqqa, but it had to turn back because roads were blocked by the rubble of destroyed houses.

Abu Daqqa continued to bleed for several more hours, until a civil defense crew found him dead on Friday evening, the network said in a statement.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Abu Daqqa is the 64th journalist to be killed since the con-

flict erupted between Hamas and Israel on October 7. That number has 57 Palestinians, four Israelis and three Lebanese journalists.

The 45-year-old Abu Daqqa, a Khan Younis native, joined Al Jazeera in June 2004, working as both a cameraman and an editor. He leaves behind three sons and a daughter.

The Israeli army did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment about Abu Daqqa's death.

Qatari-owned Al Jazeera

said in a statement that it holds Israel "accountable for systematically targeting and killing Al Jazeera journalists and their families".

In late October, Dahdouh's wife, son, daughter and grandchild were killed in a strike on the home where they were sheltering in central Gaza. The network at the time accused Israel of intentionally targeting his family.

Earlier this month, a strike killed the father, mother and 20 other family members of another Al Jazeera correspondent, Momen Al Sharafi.

Dahdouh is well-known as the face of Palestinians during many wars. He is revered in his native Gaza for telling stories of suffering and hardship to the outside world.

Israel's air and ground assault over the past 10 weeks has killed more than 18,700 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza. The war broke out following Hamas's brutal attack on southern Israel. That assault killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and resulted in some 240 being taken hostage.

Israel Mistakenly Kills 3 Hostages, Netanyahu Calls It "Unbearable Tragedy"



JERUSALEM, Dec 16 (Agencies): Three Israeli hostages were killed in firing by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), said the military on Saturday. The IDF said it assumed the hostages were "a threat" and fired at them during combat in Gaza's Shejaiya district.

The three were among the people taken as hostages by Hamas terrorists during its surprise attack on Israel on October 7. Two of them have been identified as Yota Haim and Samer Talalka, while the IDF said the family of the third deceased requested that his name not be broadcast.

Hamas terrorists had taken around 240 people as hostages on October 7 and released more than 100 women, children and foreigners during a week-long truce in November. In exchange, 240 women and children imprisoned by Israel were released.

Speaking on the incident, the military

said, "The IDF emphasizes that this is an active combat zone in which ongoing fighting over the last few days has occurred. Immediate lessons from the event have been learned, which have been passed on to all IDF troops in the field. The IDF expresses deep remorse over the tragic incident and sends the families its heartfelt condolences. Our national mission is to locate the missing and return all the hostages home."

The Israeli army's chief spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said it was not clear if the hostages had escaped their captors or been abandoned, according to a report by the news agency.

Recently, Israeli troops have been engaged in fierce battles against Hamas terrorists in Shejaiya.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the killing of the three hostages an "unbearable tragedy" and said, "Together with the entire people of Israel, I bow my head in deep sorrow and mourn the fall of three of our dear sons who were kidnapped."

He added that his heart goes out to the families grieving the loss of the three hostages. The Israeli PM also praised the soldiers in the military who are involved in the "sacred mission of returning the abducted even at the cost of their lives".

"Even on this difficult evening, we will bind up our wounds, learn the lessons and continue with a supreme effort to return all our abductees home safely," said Netanyahu.

California men charged with running drugs to Australia, New Zealand disguised as car parts, noodles

LOS ANGELES, Dec 16 (Agencies): Four California men have been charged with running a drug ring that sent hundreds of pounds of cocaine and methamphetamine to Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea disguised as shipments of everything from car parts to instant noodles, federal prosecutors announced.

Hoang Xuan Le, 42, of Tustin and Tri Cao Buinguyen, 38, of Garden Grove were arrested and pleaded not guilty, according to the US attorney's office.

Trung Buinguyen, 40, of Lakewood and Narongsak Champy, 28, of Long Beach are fugitives, prosecutors said.

All are charged with conspiracy to export and distribute controlled substances while Le and Tri Buinguyen also are charged with distributing methamphetamine.

They could face up to life in prison if convicted. Prosecutors contend that from at least 2017 to last year, the men shipped drugs overseas by air, sea and the US Mail. The drugs were hidden in



"commercial products such as instant noodle packets, car parts, emergency kits, and subwoofers," said a statement from the US attorney's office.

In 2018, for example, the ring shipped 113 kilograms (249 pounds) of methamphetamine and 100 kilograms (more than 220 pounds) of cocaine disguised as garlic seasoning, prosecutors said.

Investigators eventually seized 755 kilograms (1,664 pounds) of methamphetamine and more than 100 kilograms (more than 220 pounds) of cocaine valued at more than \$65 million, the US attorney's office statement said.

Ukraine forces shoot down 30 Russian drones over Kyiv, other cities in one day

KYIV, Dec 16 (Agencies): Ukraine's air defence and mobile groups of drone hunters shot down 30 out of 31 Russian drones over 11 regions across the country on Saturday, the air force said.

A series of explosions resounded throughout the Ukrainian capital Kyiv as air defence units engaged Russian drones, Reuters witnesses said.

"This is the sixth air attack on Kyiv since the start of the month," said Serhiy Popko, head of the city's military administration.

"Tonight, after three days of ballistic threats, the enemy again launched Shaheds on the capital. The drones attacked in groups, in waves, and from different directions," Popko said.

There were no casualties and no major damage reported in



Kyiv, Popko said.

The Ukrainian air force said the Russian military launched Iranian-made Shahed drones from three different directions in Russia targeting 11 different regions in the centre, north and south of the country.

The air force said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app that fighter jets,

anti-aircraft missile units and mobile fire groups of drone hunters repelled the Russian drone attack.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said anti-aircraft units went into action as groups of the Russian drones flew across the outskirts of the city and targeted areas near the city centre.

Anti-aircraft activity was heavy,

Klitschko said, in the Darnytskyi district on the east bank of the Dnipro and explosions also struck historic Podil on the opposite bank.

The Reuters witnesses reported loud blasts just after midnight. A new series of explosions over the next 45 minutes also hit areas near Kyiv's central districts.

Overnight air alerts in many Ukraine regions lasted for about five hours.

Russian drone attacks on Ukrainian cities and regions have become increasingly frequent. Ukrainian officials have said Russia is targeting the nation's power and energy infrastructure during and ahead of the critical cold months of winter.

Moscow has denied targeting Ukraine's civilian infrastructure.

US homelessness up 12% to highest reported level as rents soar and coronavirus pandemic aid lapses

About 653,000 people were homeless, the most since the country began using the yearly point-in-time survey in 2007.

WASHINGTON, Dec 16 (Agencies): The United States experienced a dramatic 12% increase in homelessness to its highest reported level as soaring rents and a decline in coronavirus pandemic assistance combined to put housing out of reach for more Americans, federal officials said.

About 653,000 people were homeless, the most since the country began using the yearly point-in-time survey in 2007. The total in the January count represents an increase of about 70,650 from a year earlier.

The latest estimate indicates that people becoming homeless for the first time were behind much of the increase.

A rise in family homelessness ended a downward trend that began in 2012.

"For those on the frontlines of this crisis, it's not surprising," said Ann Oliva, chief executive officer at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, an advocacy

group.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge said the data underscored an "urgent need" to support proven solutions that help people quickly exit homelessness and that prevent homelessness in the first place.

Going back to the first 2007 survey, the U.S. then made steady progress for about a decade in reducing the homeless population as the government focused particularly on increasing investments to get veterans into housing. The number of homeless people dropped from about 637,000 in 2010 to about 554,000 in 2017.

The numbers ticked up to about 580,000 in the 2020 count and held relatively steady over the next two years as Congress responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with emergency rental assistance, stimulus payments, aid to states and local governments and a temporary eviction moratorium.

Jeff Olivet, execu-

tive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, a federal agency, said the extra assistance "held off the rise in homelessness that we are now seeing." He said numerous factors are behind the problem.

"The most significant causes are the shortage of affordable homes and the high cost of housing that have left many Americans living paycheck to paycheck and one crisis away from homelessness," Olivet said.

Within the overall rise, homelessness among individuals rose by nearly 11%, among veterans by 7.4% and among families with children by 15.5%.

People who identify as Black make up about 13% of the U.S. population but comprised 37% of all people experiencing homelessness. People who identify as Hispanic or Latino make up about 19% of the population but comprised about 33% of those experiencing homelessness. Also,



more than a quarter of the adults experiencing homelessness were over age 54.

HUD said that rental housing conditions were "extraordinarily challenging" in 2022, with rents increasing at more than twice the rate of recent years. It noted that trend has subsided since the January count. Such relief could show benefits when volunteers and housing officials around the country begin the next homeless count in just a few weeks.

Officials also noted that President Joe Biden's budget for this fiscal year has recommended guaranteed vouchers

for low-income veterans and youths aging out of foster care, among other investments designed to reduce homelessness.

More than half the people experiencing homelessness in the country were in four states: California, New York, Florida and Washington. While about 28% of the nation's homeless are estimated to be in California, its increase was only about half the national rate. New York's homelessness went up more than three times the national rate, according to HUD's report.

New Hampshire, New Mexico and Colorado along with New York saw the largest per-

centage increases in homelessness. In all, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased in 41 states and the District of Columbia, and decreased in just nine states.

Dave Giffen, executive director of The Coalition for the Homeless in New York City, said the cost of rental housing soared after the pandemic.

"So when we saw the pandemic-era protections go away, we did start to see homelessness starting to increase again. We saw more people being evicted, housing instability," Giffen said. "But then all of that got kind of masked by the sudden, very rapid influx of new asylum seekers, and that is a crisis for which the city and state were more unprepared to deal with."

Starting in the summer of 2022, New York City's homeless shelter system has been overwhelmed by waves of international migrants who are being bused into the city from southern U.S.

border states. More than 150,000 migrants have been in the city's shelters for some period of time.

Mayor Eric Adams has pleaded with the federal government for aid to help defray the cost of housing migrants, which he says will run into the billions of dollars over the next few years. He has chastised the governor of Texas, for arranging to bus migrants out of that state to New York. Adams, a Democrat, has also asked for legal and bureaucratic changes that would allow migrants to get work permits more easily.

HUD did not get data that enabled it to separate out the specific impact of migrants and asylum seekers on homelessness, but some communities indicated it did affect their increase. The Biden administration has provided more than \$1 billion in grant funding to cities and states to fund critical needs for migrants. It's also identifying potential federal land and buildings that

can be made available for shelter and other services for migrants, said a senior HUD official not authorized to publicly discuss the report.

HUD also sought to highlight improvements and noted that some communities bucked the national trend. Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the surrounding region, for example, saw a 49% drop from the 2022 count to this year's. Chattanooga increased efforts to more rapidly connect people to permanent housing and boosted efforts to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Other communities highlighted for a drop were Dallas, which experienced a 3.8% decrease, and Newark and Essex County, New Jersey, which saw a 16.7% drop. Houston has closed numerous homeless encampments across the city and saw a 17% reduction in unsheltered homelessness. San Jose, California, and Tucson, Arizona, were also cited for improvements.

Cambridge International School celebrates 3rd Annual Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Cambridge International School, Jammu celebrated its 3rd Annual Day with great pomp and show at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC was the Chief Guest to the occasion, Kishori Lal Sharma, Director, Estates Civil Secretariat, Jammu, Sandeep Seiontra, Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Jammu were the Guests of Honour, Dr. Gulshan Kumar, District Mineral Officer, Jammu, Dr. Palvi Sharma, Assistant Director Social Welfare Department, Jammu, Prince Verma (MD), JK

Update, Jammu and Vinod Kumar (Director), JK 24x7 News, Jammu were the Special Guests for the function along with other dignitaries.

The theme of the event was a splendid amalgamation of 'Mythology, Valor and Fantasy'.

The function began with a lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries including the Chief Guest, the Guests of Honour and the school management.

Managing Director, Renu Bangroo welcomed the chief guest, guests of honor, special guests and all those gracing the occasion.

The school choir from the junior and senior wing fascinated the audience with their scintillating orchestra



performance, marking the beginning of performances.

This was followed by a skilled performance by yogi's and yoginis of our school aiming to encourage physical and mental wellness.

The annual school report was presented by Pooja Chib, Principal CIS, Jammu highlighting the academic and

co scholastic achievements of the school.

A mythological dance performance was showcased on Shri Rama Ashtakam - a beautiful creation of Vyasa Muni based on the 8 verses of Lord Ram exemplifying the heights of perfection a human being can achieve.

The tiny tots of the school presented a

theatrical dance performance on The 'Cinderella Story' and 'Enchanted Pages' depicting various fictional characters enthralling the distinguished audience.

A Special dance by the little Girls titled 'Aashiyaa' along with their fathers depicting the Father-Daughter bonding touched everyone to the core and broke

all barriers of emotions.

The most riveting performance which drew unceasing applause was the main performance of the event- Chhatrapati Shivaji - "A legacy of valor and vision" an astounding visual treat enthralled every spectator.

From mesmerizing dance to soul stirring musical renditions, the

stage came alive with the vibrancy of these performances.

It's impressive that the entire show, including costume design, makeup, artwork, and sequencing, was meticulously crafted under the direction of Theatre Director Pratiush Toor and Jeet Somani.

The choreography by Mohit Singh and Sachin from the Pratiush Toor Theatre Academy in Delhi adds a professional touch to the production.

The evening also pioneered the distribution of Annual Prizes and Awards in School. The academic toppers for the session 2022-23 were felicitated.

The Chief Guest applauded the entire

CIS team for organizing such a scintillating event and appreciated the efforts of the school in providing quality education and moulding the personality of the kids at this young age.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Rajni Malhotra, Vice Principal, CIS Jammu acknowledging the efforts of the performers as well as the team behind the curtains for their immense efforts in making this occasion a grand success.

The function culminated with the school song followed by the National Anthem.

It was definitely an evening of honors and expressions which is sure to leave its imprints in the sands of time.

Dimple opposes orders to impose property, commercial taxes from January 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, alleged the J&K Govt and the JMC has ordered to impose commercial tax from first January 2024 in Jammu city.

Dimple opposed the order to impose property and commercial taxes from first January



2024 in Jammu. He appealed LG to withdraw this imposition of the JMC taxes and let this issue be decided by the elected state J&K Govt.

Dimple said the Jammu traders are already suffering due to stoppage of the Drabar move and appealed to all the traders, people, not to deposit traders & property tax, to the J&K Govt JMC. Dimple threatens to call Jammu band against imposition of traders & property tax and if the municipal corporation does not withdraw this order.

'Vijay Diwas' 2023: Wreath laying ceremony held at Balidan Stambh in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: To commemorate Vijay Diwas 2023, Tiger Division of Indian Army organised a solemn wreath laying ceremony at Balidan Stambh War Memorial, Jammu.

On December 16, 1971, Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the Chief martial law administrator of East Pakistan and the Commander of Pakistan Army located in the then East Pakistan, signed the instrument of surrender.

Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, General Officer Commanding Tiger Division laid wreath at 'Eternal Flame' of the Balidan Stambh war memorial to pay rich tributes to the fallen heroes who made



supreme sacrifice for the nation. Balidan Stambh (Tower of Sacrifice) was built in year 2009 to commemorate the sacrifice of war heroes who gave their life while serving the motherland on soils of Jammu and Kashmir in various Battles and counter insurgency operations since Independence.

Legal luminary Ram Saroop Gupta remembered

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) remembered and paid homage to son of the soil Ram Swaroop Gupta, a legal luminary who resonates as a symbol of unwavering justice and indomitable integrity.

The tributes were also paid to his sons Late Jagmohan Gupta Former District and Session Judge and Late Prem Prakash Gupta Executive Engineer.

The function was presided over by U.K Jalali Senior Advocate and former Advocate General of Jammu and Kashmir whereas Kavinder Gupta former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir was Chief Guest on the occasion. Nidhi Dogra Sharma Patron Dogra Samaj Trust Mumbai was Special Invitee.

Ajay Gupta former Member Electricity Commission was Guest Of Honour, whereas former District and Session Judge Harbans Lal was Special Invitee.



Renu Mahajan daughter of Ram Saroop Gupta and former Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS and Prof. Anupama Sharma Patron NDS also shared the dias.

Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS conducted the programme.

Divya Gupta, granddaughter of late Ram Saroop Gupta read a detailed paper on life and works of his grandfather.

Divya apprised that he was born in 1915 at now POJK and traversed a long journey from Lahore to the esteemed corridors of J&K High Court which has echoed

through annals of time.

Started his career as Pleader in 1937 and attained career of jurisprudence excellence. Appointed Munsiff and posted in Samba during 1947 who then also remained Vigilance Commissioner, Registrar General of J & K High Court for six years setting aside societal pressures he always set Landmark Legal Precedent.

Capt Lalit Sharma Convener NDS and former APCCF in his opening address said that we need to remember and highlight great personalities of Duggar to apprise our new generation about their outstanding contributions like Late Ram

Saroop Gupta who is known for his Landmark Judgements, Outstanding Administrative, acumen, Commitment to the social welfare and unblemished integrity.

Kavinder Gupta said that we need to catalogue and compile life and works of the outstanding personalities of Duggar as icons for the new generation.

U.K Jalali shared his experiences based on his association with the legal luminary.

He hailed the role and contributions of this progressive family.

Nidhi Dogra Sharma while paying tributes to Late Ram Swaroop Gupta said the contributions of such personalities have since laid pow-

erful foundation for the progress of our society.

Dinesh Singh Chauhan described him simple, god fearing and down to earth personality who was committed to his profession. Former District and Session Judge Harbans Lal said that the Young Law practitioners are lucky that they have iconic personalities like him before them to follow the footsteps and remain on right bearing.

He recalled and shared the remembrance based on his personal association with him.

Ajay Singh his son-in-law applauded his role in helping the displaced persons of partition of 1947. Renu Mahajan his daughter described him a strict disciplinarian, committed father who looked after his family well and was a motivational figure for the family and relatives she observed.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Advocate Arjun Dev Mohan General Secretary Youth Wing NDS.

FROM PAGE 1

Maternity leave doesn't lead to service break, rules J&K High Court

a person on leave duly sanctioned by the competent authority, shall be deemed out of service.

Advocate Adil Asmi who defended the J&K Bank stated that the Policy for Promotion requires seven years of "actual regular service" in the Banking Associate Cadre and Maternity leave, even though sanctioned, does not constitute active service.

Justice Kumar who dismantled the Bank's stance emphasized that any employee, including those in the J&K Bank, availing leave duly sanctioned by the competent authority, is always deemed to be in service. This principle, he declared, applies equally to maternity leave, which cannot be used to penalize or disadvantage women employees.

Dealing with the argument of the respondent Bank that while reckoning seven years of service, the Bank is entitled in law to deduct the period of maternity leave, if any, availed by a Banking Associate during probation Justice Kumar recorded, "I am not impressed with the argument raised on behalf of the respondent Bank...A person on leave duly sanctioned by the competent authority shall be deemed to be in actual regular service of the Bank. Residency i.e. actual length of regular service does not mean the only such service during which an employee is on active duty.

The bench added, "If this argument of the learned counsel for the Bank is accepted, it would mean that the period of leave of whatever kind availed by an employee after the period of probation, shall also be deductible while reckoning seven years of service".

In a scathing critique of the Bank's reasoning, Justice Kumar declared the exclusion of maternity leave from service computation as "arbitrary, discriminatory,

and violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

"That apart, the Policy for Promotion of Workmen approved by the Board of Directors on 13th July 2022, also does not lay down any such condition. It is thus wrong to contend that the respondent Bank is entitled in law to deduct the period of leave availed by a Banking Associate during his/her probation", the bench maintained.

In light of these observations, J&K Bank was directed to recognize the period of maternity leave taken by the petitioners during their probation as actual regular service in the Banking Associates Service (BAS) cadre.

Further declaring the petitioners eligible to partake in the promotion process for JMGS Scale-I Officers Cadre under the Seniority cum Selectivity Channel the court directed the respondent Bank to duly consider and accord the petitioners their rightful promotion.

MHA directs all IPS Officers to submit their immovable property return-2023 by January 31 Next Year

note mentioned a 'User Manual' to facilitate filling up the online Immovable Property Return (IPR), which is available at the welcome page of SPARROW (Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window).

"The Immovable Property Return for the year 2023 online, after filing, is required to be authenticated by using the Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) already issued under SPARROW," said the note.

"Immovable Property Returns filed in any other form shall not be accepted," the note emphasised.

It is clarified that filing of Immovable Property Return under Rule 16 of the All

India Services (Conduct) Rule, 1968, by all IPS officers is mandatory, reads the note, adding, "In case the officer fails to submit the IPR (online) within the stipulated time limit, his/her vigilance clearance will be denied in terms of DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) Office Memorandum No.104/76/2022-AVD.IA dated September 28, 2022."

Furthermore, the MHA note reminded that as per DoPT notification dated December 30, 2021, timely submission of IPR has been made mandatory for appointments at the next level of pay in the pay matrix. "No request for condonation of delay in filing of IPR will be entertained by the Ministry of Home Affairs."

Stating all the pointers, the note further said, "It is requested that these instructions may widely be circulated to all concerned officers for strict compliance."

"In case of any difficulty in accessing IPR module through SPARROW, the grievances may be sent to or ," said the note.

Cold wave continues to sweep Kashmir

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.7°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 2.8°C against minus 3.4°C on the previous night and the temperature was 1.4°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 5.9°C against 7.3°C on previous night, and it was below normal by 3.3°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded minus 1.2°C, Batote 2.5°C and Baderwah 0.2°C, he said.

MeT has predicted mainly dry and cold weather in J&K till December 24.

In the next 24 hours, generally cloudy weather with possibility of brief spell of light snow over extreme higher reaches is a

possibility, he said.

From December 17-24 December, the MeT has predicted "mainly dry weather."

"Overall, dry and cold weather most likely to continue till December 24 over most places of J&K".

Administration orders transfer of JKAS officers

General, Audit & Inspections, J&K. He shall also supervise the resources section of the Finance Department.

Parliament security breach: Mastermind Lalit Jha destroyed 5 mobile phones before his arrest, say Delhi police

case, along with his friend Mahesh, burnt the mobile phones of his associates after fleeing to Rajasthan's Kuchaman, said police sources.

Ahead of the incident, all four accused had handed over their mobile phones to Jha so that crucial investigation details could not get into police hands as they were anticipating their arrest.

In Kuchaman, Jha met his friend Mahesh, who got him a room for the night. Both had met through Facebook, as revealed by Jha during the interrogation.

However, Delhi police are verifying all the claims made by Jha. Jha was also present outside Parliament and captured the video of two of his accomplices with the intent to publicise it.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police informed the Patiala House Court that Jha had said that all accused had met many times and executed the conspiracy.

Delhi Police, while producing Jha before the judge concerned, said Jha had disclosed that the accused wanted to create anarchy so that they could compel the government to meet their demands.

Udhampur farmers yield over 3,000 quintals of Mushrooms, Earn Rs 6 Cr in revenue

elderly. It is also a good way to use the available resources productively. We encourage our youth to come forward and take advantage of government schemes. Mushroom cultivation is a profitable business opportunity," he said.

"With proper training and guidance, anyone can succeed in this field. Mushroom cultivation is a promising new crop for the Udhampur district. With the support of the government and the agriculture department, mushroom cultivation has the potential to become a major source of income for farmers in the district," Anand added.

Som Singh, a mushroom farmer, also expressed his gratitude to the government and the agriculture department for their support in mushroom cultivation.

"I am grateful to the government and the agriculture department for their support. Mushroom cultivation is a good business opportunity for our youth. I encourage them to take this up as a profession," Singh said.

Kashmiri fraudster having links with Anti-National elements arrested by Odisha STF

and was in romantic relationships with many girls impersonating as a doctor with international degrees.

STF during investigation found that Bukhari was in touch with suspicious persons in Kerala and some Pakistani nationals too. The accused is also wanted by Kashmir Police in relation to a case of cheating and forgery and one Non Bailable Warrant is pending against him. Further investigation is on.

How are Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea affecting global trade?

The Red Sea is a busy waterway with ships traversing the Suez Canal to bring goods between Asia and Europe.

LONDON, Dec 16 (Agencies): Yemen's Houthi rebels have escalated attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea during the Israel-Hamas war, raising concerns about the impact on the flow of oil, grain and consumer goods through a major global trade artery.

Israeli-linked vessels have been targeted, but the threat to trade has grown as container ships and oil tankers flagged to countries like Norway and Liberia have been attacked or drawn into fire while traversing the waterway between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. About 10% of the world's trade passes through the Red Sea.

In a sign of widening impact on global trade after a series of attacks or near-misses this week, Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, said Friday that it's told all of its vessels due to pass through a maritime chokepoint in the southern Red Sea to "pause their journey until further notice."

German-based shipper Hapag-Lloyd that was operating a vessel attacked also said it was pausing all its container ship traffic through the Red Sea until Monday. MarineTraffic, a vessel tracking firm, showed plenty of ships still moving through the region.

Here are things to know about the recent attacks and the impact on global shipping:

WHO IS ATTACKING

SHIPS IN THE RED SEA AND WHY?

The Houthis are Iranian-backed rebels who swept down from their northern stronghold in Yemen and seized the capital, Sanaa, in 2014, launching a grinding war against a Saudi-led coalition seeking to restore the government.

The Houthis have sporadically targeted ships in the region, but the attacks have increased since the start of the Israel-Hamas war.

They have used drones and anti-ship missiles to attack vessels and in one case used a helicopter to seize an Israeli-owned ship and its crew.

They have threatened to attack any vessel they believe is either going to or coming from Israel. That's now escalated to apparently any vessel given recent attacks, with the Houthis also hailing vessels by radio to try to convince them to change course closer to the territory they control.

"The numerous attacks originating from Houthi-controlled territories in Yemen threaten international navigation and maritime security, in grave contravention of international law," the European Union foreign policy office said.

WHY IS THE RED SEA IMPORTANT?

The Red Sea has the Suez Canal at its northern end and the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern end leading into the Gulf of



Aden. It's a busy waterway with ships traversing the Suez Canal to bring goods between Asia and Europe.

A huge amount of Europe's energy supplies, like oil and diesel fuel, come through that waterway, said John Stawpert, senior manager of environment and trade for the International Chamber of Shipping, which represents 80% of the world's commercial fleet.

So do food products like palm oil and grain and anything else brought over on container ships, which is most of the world's manufactured products.

HOW ARE HOUSHI ATTACKS AFFECTING TRADE?

Copenhagen-based Maersk said recent attacks on commercial vessels in the southern Red Sea "are alarming and pose a significant threat to the safety and security of seafarers." It noted a missile was fired at

but missed one of its container ships traveling from Oman to Saudi Arabia.

"We have instructed all Maersk vessels in the area bound to pass through the Bab al-Mandab Strait to pause their journey until further notice," the company said in statement Friday, referring to the narrow waterway that separates Yemen from East Africa and leads north to the Red Sea.

The company says it's monitoring the security situation and is working to minimize the effect on customers.

Shipper Hapag-Lloyd, whose vessel was attacked, said it was pausing its ships through the Red Sea until Monday and "will decide for the period thereafter."

Some Israeli-linked vessels have apparently started taking the longer route around Africa and the Cape of Good Hope, said Noam Raydan, senior fellow at the

Washington Institute for Near East Policy. That lengthens the trip from around 19 days to 31 days depending on vessel speed, increasing costs and adding delays, she said.

The global oil market has shrugged off the most recent attacks. Prices have fallen, and the market is more worried about weak demand in major economies.

The single biggest immediate impact of the Houthi escalation has been increased insurance costs.

Recent attacks show the increased threat to vessels in the Red Sea and represent a "significant impediment" to commercial shipping in the region, said Munro Anderson, head of operations for Vessel Protect, which assesses war risks at sea and provides insurance with backing from Lloyd's, whose members make up the world's largest insurance marketplace.

There is "a further degree of instability facing commercial operators within the Red Sea which is likely to continue to see heightened rates across the short to medium term," he said.

Insurance costs have doubled for shippers moving through the Red Sea, which can add hundreds of thousands of dollars to a journey for the most expensive ships, said David Osler, insurance editor for Lloyd's List Intelligence, which provides analysis for the global maritime industry.

For Israeli ship owners, they have gone up even more — by 250% — and some insurers won't cover them at all, he said.

While shippers are applying a so-called war risk charge of \$50 to \$100 per container to customers bringing over everything from grain to oil to things you buy off Amazon, that's a low enough fee that it should not drive up prices for consumers, he said.

Osler expects insurance costs to keep rising but said the situation would have to get a lot worse — such as the loss of several ships — to raise prices considerably and make some ship owners rethink moving through the region.

"At the moment, it's just an inconvenience that the system can handle," he said. "Nobody likes to be paying hundreds of thousands of dollars more, but you can live with it if you have to."

COULD THE HOUSHI

BLOCK THE RED SEA?

Unlikely, experts say. The Houthis have no formal naval warships with which to impose a cordon, relying on harassing fire and only one helicopter-borne assault so far. Meanwhile, U.S., French and other coalition warships patrol the area, keeping the waterway open.

Still, the attacks are making the shipping industry nervous, and "it's not being taken lightly," said Stawpert of the shipping chamber. But "you'll still see there's an awful lot of trade going through the Red Sea because it's such a crucial supply line for Europe and Asia."

He noted that the Houthis' area of influence in the waterway also remains limited.

"I just don't see there being a possibility of the Houthis shutting transport through the Red Sea," he said. It is "simply not how the shipping industry works. It's not how we respond to threats like this. We will do everything we can to mitigate any such threats and keep trade flowing."

That's been on display in other conflicts like the war in Ukraine, with the closure of some parts of the Black Sea, Stawpert said.

He doesn't see a threat to shipping in general or closure of Red Sea routes, but "if that were to arise as a potentiality, I think we would see a much more robust reaction from navies in the area."

Indices log longest winning run in 6 yrs

Victory of BJP in state elections, fall in oil prices, strong GDP numbers, possible Fed rate cuts help market rally

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Backed by the high possibility of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve in the coming months, domestic equity market witnessed another week of stellar gain with the benchmark indices -- BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 -- surging about 2.3% each between Monday and Friday (December 11-15).

This is also the longest weekly winning streak in six years (since January 2018) for the two benchmarks as they registered a gain for the seventh consecutive week. Sensex gained 969.55 points or 1.37% to close at 71,483 on Friday while the NSE Nifty advanced 273.95 points or 1.29% to shut shop at 21,457. Like Thursday, IT stocks were again in major demand on Friday as the Federal Reserve's dovish view on the US economy



indicates healthy business opportunities for domestic IT companies in the world's biggest market.

Ongoing rally picked up a pack after the victory of PM Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh state elections. The market received another booster this week when the US Federal Reserve in its latest policy meeting maintained interest rates within the range of 5.25%-5.50% and signalled a plan to implement three rate cuts in

2024. This led to a sharp rally in equity markets worldwide.

The two developments coupled with favourable factors such as sharp growth in September quarter GDP numbers, robust GST collections, a fall in consumer inflation, a fall in crude oil prices and an easing of bond yields have made India a very attractive market, especially for the foreign institutional investors (FIIs), despite being more expensive than other emerging economies. FIIs net bought '9,329 crore worth of equities on

Thursday, according to provisional NSE data.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the ease in US bond yield and the expectation of multiple rate cuts by the Fed in 2024 further fuelled market optimism. "Investors expressed confidence that clouds over US economic growth would dissipate in H2CY24, anticipating a soft landing facilitated by normalization in monetary policy.

The IT sector rallied 7.6% this week in expectation of a rise in demand from the US, optimism about AI-based opportunities, and hope that the Fed will cut interest rates in 2024," said Nair. Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys logged more than 5% gain on Friday.

Six public issues expected next week amid market rally

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): The Initial public offers (IPOs) are looking to reap the benefits of the domestic equity markets, which are at record high over the past one month. Over half a dozen IPOs are up for listing next week, and going by the subscription numbers, it seems investors are hoping to make hay while the sun shines.

Subscription of two IPOs -- DOMS Industries and India Shelter Finance -- closed on Friday. DOMS Industries IPO was subscribed 93.52 times with retail investors bidding 69.67 times shares on offer. Non-institutional investors bid 66.51 times and qualified institutional buyers subscribed 66.51 times the IPO size.

India Shelter Finance IPO subscribed 36.71 times the shares on offer. Retail investors subscribed 9.95 times,



non-institutional investors subscribed 28.51 times and qualified institutional buyers bid 89.70 times the IPO size.

The IPO of Inox Limited opened on Thursday will close on December 18 (Monday). The IPO has been subscribed 7.14 times so far on the second day of subscription. Retail portion subscribed by 8.17 times, qualified institutional buyers subscribed only 0.40 times and NII subscribed 13.75% over the IPO size.

DOMS Industries and India Shelter Finance are hoping to raise Rs 1,200 crore each, while Inox Limited is likely to raise Rs 1,459 crore

from their forthcoming IPOs. Apart from these, IPOs of Muthoot Microfin, Motisons Jewellers, Suraj Estate, Happy Forgings, RBZ Jewellers, Credo Brands and Azad Engineering are likely to list next week. The cumulative amount that is being targeted to be raised from these IPOs is around Rs 8,000 crore.

The primary market has been a happy hunting ground for investors so far in 2023 with 34 of the 48 public issues ending with more than 10% gain on the listing day. As many as 19 public issues ended the listing day with over 30% gain. The IPO

of Tata Technologies listed with a mind boggling 163% gain over the issue price, IDEA Forge surged 93% and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank ended the listing day with 92% gain.

Government-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited, which had listed with 87.5% gain on the listing day, has returned 238% over its issue price of Rs 32.

19 IPOs end listing day with over 30% gain

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A silent threat to bone health

Out of 6 crore cases of osteoporosis in India, 80 per cent are of women. Elderly and postmenopausal women are more at risk

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): An old man falls in the bathroom and fractures his hip. An 80-plus woman, travelling in a car, has vertebral compression fracture (spinal). These are relatively common in an ageing population. A major reason behind frequent fractures in the elderly is the weakening of bones due to osteoporosis.

What is osteoporosis
In normal bones, solid bony tissue is separated by tiny spaces. In an osteoporotic bone, due to depletion of bony tissue, the spaces are quite wide, leading to weak bones that are prone to fracture even

with minor trauma.

A normal bone keeps on rebuilding the bony tissue continuously. The age of 25-35 years is known as the age of peak bone mass. Women are affected by osteoporosis earlier (usually six years after the onset of menopause) than men due to hormonal changes. While men are affected after the age of 60, sexagenarian women suffer from severe osteoporosis because of its longer duration.

Before the actual onset of established osteoporosis, the bone passes through a transitional stage known as osteopenia.

As life expectancy has

increased in India, the diseases of the elderly, including osteoporosis, have shown an exponential rise. In recent years, osteoporosis has emerged as a major public health problem and fractures in the elderly have risen manifold.

As per WHO estimates, one in three postmenopausal women suffer from osteoporosis. This number is likely to be higher in India due to poor nutritional practices among women. Out of a total of around six crore osteoporotic patients in India, 80 per cent are women. Further, the onset of osteoporosis in India is observed



to occur 10-20 years earlier than in Western countries.

Risk factors

The risk factors include smoking, alcohol consumption, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition,

calcium and vitamin D deficiency, long-term intake of some drugs and certain hormonal diseases.

Osteoporosis is known as a silent killer because it does not have any

symptoms. The disease only comes to light when one suffers an osteoporotic fracture due to some minor injury. The common areas are the spine (vertebral column), the hip region and wrist. Other areas like shoulder, ankle and elbow may also suffer. Even jaw bones are affected and the anchorage of teeth in the jaw bones starts becoming loose. In severe osteoporosis, the teeth start falling.

Prevention and treatment

A lifestyle disease, osteoporosis is largely preventable by having a healthy lifestyle, avoiding alcohol and smoking, along with regular

physical activity (walking/yoga/light weight training), can keep your bones healthy.

In addition, regular exposure to direct sunlight of at least 30 per cent bare skin (not covered with clothes and not through glass) for at least 30 minutes every day helps to keep vitamin D levels normal that are essential to prevent osteoporosis.

Calcium is an important constituent of the bony tissue and a balanced diet containing milk products, green vegetables and protein prevents nutritional osteoporosis. However, rising consumption of junk food, particu-

larly among the young when bone growth is maximum, is creating a severe nutritional imbalance and may lead to even greater number of osteoporosis cases in the future. However, with the increase in surgical expertise and advanced technology, the osteoporotic fractures have become treatable effectively now.

As prevention remains the best medicine, a periodic screening after menopause in women and men after the age of 60 years (at earlier age for high-risk individuals) helps to detect the onset of osteoporosis that is treatable with drugs and healthy lifestyle.

India Thrash England By 347 Runs, Biggest Win In Women's Test History

It was also India's first win over England at home in 15 Tests, having beaten them in away games twice in 2014, giving them a big boost ahead of the one-off Test against Australia starting next week

NAVI MUMBAI, Dec 16 (Agencies): The Indian women's cricket team, led by Harmanpreet Kaur thrashed England in some style in Navi Mumbai on Saturday, setting a world record in the process. Boosted by Deepti Sharma's match haul of nine wickets, India beat England by 347 runs. This is the biggest margin of win (in terms of runs) in the history of women's Tests. The previous best was Sri Lanka's 309-run win over Pakistan in Colombo in 1998. The win was also Indian women's team's first over England at home.

It was also India's first win over England at home in 15 Tests, having beaten them in away games twice in 2014, giving them a big boost ahead of the one-off Test against Australia starting next week.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad takes the final wicket as #TeamIndia beat England by 347 runs in the only Test in Navi Mumbai.

Fantastic all-round performance #INDvENG pic.twitter.com/vNqYw9CrL

— BCCI Women (@BCCIWomen) December 16, 2023

Talking about the match, Deepti Sharma played the enforcer's role to perfection for the



second time in as many days as the dominant India Women scripted a historic 347-run victory over England on the third day of the one-off Test on Saturday. India set in motion the hunt for triumph while declaring their second innings closed at the overnight score of 186 for 6, leaving England to climb a huge mountain of 479 runs in their second innings.

The Indian bowlers led by off-spinner Deepti Sharma (4/32) and pacer Pooja Vastrakar (3/23) then bundled out England for 131 to celebrate a victory which now stands as the biggest in terms of runs in the history of women's Test cricket.

Over the course of the last three days the Indians did not show any rust of not having played Test cricket in two years,

and a first at home after nine years, while being at their ruthless best.

But for all that slew of records, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side should thank Deepti (8-2-32-4) who was in her elements after that sensational 5 for seven in the first innings, as England lacked gumption to fight even on a pitch that appeared to be far more gentle.

India did not have to wait for long for the first breakthrough this morning.

It came in the form of Tammy Beaumont (17) with pacer Renuka Singh moving the ball in from outside the off to knock down her off-stump.

England sunk deeper after suffering twin blows in Vastrakar's first over. Sophie Dunkley (15) played one straight into the hands of substitute

Harleen Deol at gully.

Vastrakar then dealt England a body blow when she cleaned up first-innings star Nat Sciver-Brunt for a first-ball duck, getting the ball to nip back in and passing it through between the bat and the pad.

India also wasted two DRS reviews in haste - one each against Heather Knight and Danni Wyatt - but did not have to work too hard for the third wicket.

An on-song Vastrakar had one nipping away after pitching to find an outside edge off Knight's bat, as Yastika Bhatia did the rest behind the stumps. Knight made a 20-ball 21 with four boundaries.

England's misery continued when Wyatt edged a delivery to the first slip for Deepti's first wicket in the innings after making 12.

Deepti then had Amy Jones (5) pulling one straight to short mid-wicket, and in her seventh over of the innings, the 26-year-old hit the timber twice to dismiss Kate Cross (16) and Lauren Filer (0).

While Deepti narrowly missed taking 10 wickets in the game to become the first Indian Women's player to do so, Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/20) enjoyed some success.

The left-arm spinner had her first success in the form of Sophie Ecclestone (10) when the batter went for a sweep and missed to connect, while Lauren Bell (8) was caught by Jemimah Rodrigues at silly point for the final wicket of the game.

It was a perfect outing for India also given that all their debutants in the game - Shubha Sathesh, Rodrigues and Renuka - tasted success, but there also was a dampener in the form of Shubha missing the action on the second and the third day owing to a fractured finger.

Brief Scores: India: 428 & 186 for 6 declared in 42 overs beat England: 136 & 131 all out in 27.3 overs (Heather Knight 21; Deepti Sharma 4/32, Pooja Vastrakar 3/23) by 347 runs.

Big Blow India - Mohammed Shami Ruled Out Of Test Series vs South Africa



MUMBAI, Dec 16 (Agencies): India's best bowler in the recently-concluded ODI Cricket World Cup 2023, Mohammed Shami, has been ruled out of the two-Test series against South Africa, that starts on December 26. Mohammed Shami, whose participation in the Test series was subject to fitness has not been cleared by the BCCI Medical Team, according to a press release from the Indian cricket governing body. Mohammed Shami was the Cricket World Cup highest wicket-taker with 24 scalps, despite not playing the first four matches.

There were some other major updates regarding the Touring side of India in South Africa. After India drew the T20I series 1-1 against South Africa, the two teams will face each other in an three-ODI contest. The ODI team will be assisted by India A's coaching staff comprising - batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, bowling coach Rajib

Datta and fielding coach Mr Ajay Ratra.

Team India (Senior Men) head coach Rahul Dravid, batting coach M Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey and fielding coach Mr T. Dilip will link up with the Test squad and oversee their preparations for the inter-squad game and the Test series.

After the conclusion of the first ODI in Johannesburg on 17th December, Shreyas Iyer will join the Test squad to prepare for the Test series. He will not be available for the second and third ODI and will take part in the inter-squad game.

Meanwhile, Deepak Chahar has informed the BCCI that he will not be available for the upcoming ODI series due to a family medical emergency. The Men's Selection Committee has named Mr Akash Deep as his replacement.

India's updated ODI squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Tilak Varma, Rajat

Patidar, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (C)(wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Akash Deep

During a recent interaction, Shami revealed his diet that allows him to maintain his fitness and even joked about the stories regarding his love for biryani. Shami said that earlier he did not follow a strict routine but following his injury, he has become more careful and now he has a set diet and workout plan for himself.

"Mine is very different. I take one meal but I prefer non-vegetarian. Because I do not take any supplements or similar things. Biryani ke liye main waise hi badnaam hu (I am anyway infamous because of biryani). I really like biryani because earlier, there was no such rigid routine. I was not aware of all the training regimes and what is good or bad for you. So I used to eat quite a lot of it. However, after injury, I have been following a strict diet. I have made my own routine and understood the fitness levels. Overall, if you compare how it was earlier and how it is now, you will notice a big difference," he told agency.

Hardik Pandya replaces Rohit Sharma as MI captain, franchise loses 400k followers inside 1 hour of announcement

MUMBAI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians lost 400,000 followers on Twitter an hour within an hour of announcing Hardik Pandya as their new captain ahead of the Indian Premier League 2024 season. Pandya was announced as the new captain of the side. The former Gujarat Titans captain would be taking over from legendary Rohit Sharma, who has five IPL titles to his name. Sharma had been at the helm of Mumbai Indians since 2013 and won a record number of titles - 5, which was equaled by Mahendra Singh Dhoni in IPL 2023. Sharma, who has not played T20Is for India since 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final loss against India will not be leading his franchise from IPL 2024. The India captain took a break from cricket after India's heartbreaking loss in the final of World Cup 2023 and is set to return in the 2-match Test series against South Africa, which starts on 26 December.

"It is part of legacy building and staying true to the MI philosophy of being

future-ready. Mumbai Indians have always been blessed with exceptional leadership right from Sachin to Harbhajan and Ricky to Rohit, who while contributing to the immediate success have always had an eye on strengthening the team for the future. It is in keeping with this philosophy that Hardik Pandya will assume captaincy of Mumbai Indians for the IPL 2024 season," Mahela Jayawardene, Global Head of Performance, Mumbai Indians said.

Hardik Pandya, who debuted in the IPL for Mumbai Indians returns to the franchise after 2 years of captaining Gujarat Titans. Pandya led Gujarat Titans to the IPL title in their debut season, where they beat Rajasthan Royals in the final of IPL 2022. Hardik Pandya was named the player of the match in the final, after he picked up 3 wickets and scored 34 runs. Pandya did well with the franchise in 2023 as well, leading them to the final, where they lost to MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in a last-ball thriller.

Mitchell Marsh Declines Test Opening Role For Australia After David Warner's Retirement

SYDNEY, Dec 16 (Agencies): Australian batter Mitchell Marsh said he has no desire to open the innings in Test cricket once David Warner retires after the ongoing series against Pakistan. Marsh, who generally comes up in the order in white ball cricket, asserted that he wanted to continue to bat at No. 6 in the traditional format.

"How do I answer this without making a headline? For me I appreciate there's talk about it (him opening) and eventually we're going to need a new opener with Davey leaving."

"But I've worked really hard to get back in this side and for me to look forward to having a role as an opener just



doesn't make sense to me," Marsh was quoted as saying by 'The Age' newspaper.

"I love being at number six and in my last four Test matches I've really found my way and I guess who I am as a Test cricketer and I'm loving it, so I'm reluctant to change that."

Marsh made a counter-attacking 90 off 107 balls to help Australia reach 487 in their first innings along with Warner's 164.

Marsh said batting at No. 6 allowed him to play the way he wants to -- an aggressive brand of cricket -- rather than playing a typically

patient and long Test cricket innings.

"I think I showed glimpses of the way I played in the last 12 months throughout my career, but probably never really believed in that method."

"I tried to play the long innings and play like Steve Smith and Davey and Uzzy (Usman Khawaja) and all those guys who can bat for six hours," he said.

The 32-year-old also thanked his captain Pat Cummins and head coach Andrew McDonald for allowing him to pursue his natural game.

"But I just wanted to come into this Test team and be really true to myself. I'm thankful to Patty (Cummins) and

Ronnie (McDonald) for helping me get to this point where I've found my method that works," Marsh said.

"I don't necessarily have the technique of Smudger (Smith) and Marnus (Labuschagne) where they can defend and leave for hours and get through those periods." Marsh said he loves to put the pressure back on the opposition with his rollicking batting.

"I can put pressure back onto teams and the beauty of batting at six is if we bat well, you get some tired bowlers to try to counterattack and keep the game moving."

"Hopefully, I can stay nice and consistent," he added.

Amee Kamani: Double achievement on the green baize

CHENNAI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Till 2010, Ameer Kamani was pursuing table tennis and representing her state, Madhya Pradesh, in the national circuit. Unfortunately, the results were not falling her way. She then made a big switch and now Ameer is India's ace cueist with remarkable achievements on green baize.

"I've played table tennis for ten years. When you're stagnant at the national level and not able to graduate to the next level, you realise that you cannot push yourself now in this game. Switching to a new sport from a sport that I had played at the national level was not easy. I strongly believe whatever happens, it happens for good. I

think I'm doing well in snooker and billiards," said Ameer.

She used to spend six to seven hours at the table daily. Incidentally, the 2011 Chennai nationals were her first national-level tournament as a cueist. She competed in junior and senior categories but returned home empty-handed. Twelve years later, she won her second title at the ongoing 90th National Billiards and Snooker Championship in the city when she defeated local favourite Anupama Ramachandran 4-1 in the best-of-seven final of the 15-red women snooker competition on Wednesday. She had beaten her in the 6-red snooker final on Sunday to bag her first title of the



championship.

"The national championship is a very special tournament for cueists. I've worked really hard and that's the reason that I have won today. Nothing to take away from Anupama. But I think the ball run was in my favour today, I controlled the ball well and made a couple of breaks and clearances that helped me win the final," said Ameer, who won the Bangkok World Team Snooker Champi-

onship with Anupama in March.

On the double delight, she said, "A setup of 16 tables is not easy at all because it's not a TT table that you just open. I thank Maneesha Sharma for the tables. I would like to thank Apex sports promotion for the live streaming, because a recorded match is important, as we can watch it whenever we want to." She lauded the efforts of Tamilnadu Billiards and Snooker

Association and the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India for providing good playing conditions.

Thanking her coach, Yasin Merchant, she said, "He has always been there for me, he is a superb coach, and guides me really well. I would like to give him a big credit, and just want his blessing and his guidance to be there with me forever. Lastly, but importantly, I would like to thank my association, which is Madhya Pradesh Billiards and Snooker Association, for always supporting me and motivating me to do well." Ameer's treble dream was shut by Anupama Ramachandran who beat her on Women's Billiards final on Thursday for (3-2).

SA vs IND: Rahul Dravid to skip India's ODI series, head coach to focus on Test matches

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 16 (Agencies): India head coach Rahul Dravid will not be at the helm of the Indian team in their 3-match ODI series vs South Africa. The head coach, who recently agreed to a contract extension with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will oversee the preparations for the 2-match Test series.

The BCCI announced the development on Saturday, 16 December via a press release.

"Team India (Senior Men) Head Coach Mr Rahul Dravid, Batting Coach Mr Vikram Rathour, Bowling Coach Mr Paras Mhambrey and Fielding Coach Mr T. Dilip will link up with the Test squad and oversee their preparations for the inter-squad game and the Test series," the BCCI release signed by Jay Shah said.

In the absence of Rahul Dravid, India will be assisted by India A's Coaching Staff comprising Batting Coach Sitanshu Kotak, Bowling Coach Rajib Datta and Fielding Coach Ajay Ratra.

The team will play three matches

against South Africa in the ODI series. The South African side will be under the leadership of Aiden Markram. The teams will be coming into the series after sharing the spoils (1-1) in the T20I series. The first ODI match will be played in Johannesburg.

The Indian team will now be under the captaincy of KL Rahul, who will captain the ODI side. The India wicket-keeper-batter will be seen in action for the first time since India's defeat in the ODI World Cup Final against Australia. Rahul will not have the services of Deepak Chahar in the 3-match series and will also not have the services of Shreyas Iyer - who will not play the 2nd and 3rd matches to focus on preparations for the Test series.

India's Updated ODI Squad
Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Tilak Varma, Rajat Patidar, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (C)(wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Akash Deep.

CEO Shrine Board reviews Yatra preparedness ahead of New-Year

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 16: To have a comprehensive review of security and operational preparedness of Shrine for hassle-free pilgrimage prior to onset of New Year-2024, Chief Executive Officer, Anshul Garg on Saturday presided over a meeting with security agencies and other stakeholders at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The Chief Executive Officer emphasized that New Year-2024 is approach closer and the Board is anticipating a significant influx of pilgrims from various parts of the country and abroad to holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, besides, at the base camp Katra, thus stressed the need of synergy between all stakeholders.

Laying focus on the smooth regulation of Yatra in line with the directions of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), CEO said that apart from deployment of security



personnel, CCTVs will be acting as watchdogs enroute Bhawan and Katra. Besides, the stakeholders shall ensure that the pilgrims before embarking on the Yatra, wear the valid RFID card at all times as they are linked with various facilities during the yatra and no pilgrim shall be allowed to start the yatra without a valid RFID card. He further enjoined upon representatives of security agencies deployed at all entry points to remain more vigilant so that no pilgrim without frisking and registration enters the track for their pilgrimage.

Chief Executive Officer stressed for action on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage by effective crowd management, augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the area at Parvati Bhawan at Bhawan having facilities like lockers, washrooms and waiting halls, strict regulation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan and all time surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras.

CEO also reviewed various components of the disaster management measures and directed to make regular announcements for the decongestion of the crowd on the track.

A slew of directives were also issued by the Chair to the concerned quarters for movement of vehicles, sanitation and drinking water arrangements and illumination of dark spots at Katra town, besides, physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical examination. He further stressed the security agencies and other stakeholders to verify and conduct census of pony porters to thwart any suspicious element on the track.

In the meeting, Mohd Suleman Choudhary DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range highlighted major challenges for the deployed security forces

in coming days for managing the expected influx of pilgrims on New Year. He briefed that additional forces as per request shall be deployed in and around Katra and on the track enroute Bhawan in coordination with other security agencies to ensure fool-proof security and effective Yatra management.

SSP Reasi and Commandant, CRPF presented a detailed security grid to be put in place and discussed various security measures going to be placed on the onset of New Year enroute to the Holy Shrine, besides deployment of QRTs (quick response teams) and a multi-tier security grid comprising police, CRPF and other paramilitary forces.

9-day Shri Gou Gopal Mahayagya to start at Samadhi Sthal Sohanjana from Dec 18



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: A 9-day Gau Gopal Mahayagya is being organized from December 18 to 26 2023 by the Seva Sansthan of the Samadhi Sthal under the guidance of his great son, revered Shri Gangadhar Ji, at the Samadhi of the very popular great saint and erudite Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji in village Sohanjana.

This Yagya is performed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Brahmalin spiritualist Sri Sri Dwarka Nath Shastri

on 25th December in which hundreds of wise men, sages, saints, mahatmas, scholars, learned persons and lakhs of religious lovers from across the country, especially from Jammu, Punjab and Himachal, people of all sections, castes, creeds, religions etc. of India come and participate.

On one hand, the best combination of Yagya offerings in Vedic mantras and on the other hand, bhajan kirtan and drinking the nectar of Gyan Ganga is seen. There is no dearth of food offerings for the

lakhs of gentlemen who come here, but there are limited arrangements for overnight stay.

On the last day of the Yagya, a wrestling match is also being organized in which famous wrestlers from the country and abroad participating.

Apart from developing devotion, morality and human values and qualities, with the aim of increasing patriotism and devotion to duty in the public, the tricolor national flag is hoisted along with the national anthem and songs of patriots are also sung every day.

KP delegation calls on Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits led by M.K. Yogi on Saturday called on Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner K.K. Sidha in his office Chamber at Jammu to apprise him about the urgent genuine problems of Kashmir Pandits living in exile for last more than thirty years & sought their early amelioration.

KP leaders M.K. Yogi, Vinod Pandita, Ashwani Bhat, Vishal Jotshi said that during their meeting with the Relief Commissioner today, they highlighted and appraised him about the genuine problems being faced by the community on many fronts like increasing unemployment among educated KP migrant

youth, construction of more residential quarters in Jammu for migrants due to increase in population, enhancement of monthly cash assistance, genuine problems of PM packages employees, streamlining of regular supply of electricity in Jagti township forthwith, Macdormization of main road along with lanes of Jagti and other migrant camps, up gradation of Jagti Playground with adequate and required infrastructure for playing all outdoor games, formation of time bound return and rehabilitation policy for migrants in valley, implementation of immovable migrant property Act, 1997 in true letter and Spirit in valley.

M.K. Yogi appealed the officer to take up

the genuine problems discussed in threadbare in the meeting with the Government for early resolution for sake of justice and equity. The officer gave a patient hearing to the problems listed by the leaders in the meeting and assured them that he would take up these genuine issues with the concerned authorities soon for their early resolution.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner also appraised the delegation about the various tangible and useful steps being taken soon for the welfare and betterment of the community by the Government like digitalizing of complete of Relief and Rehabilitation Department which would not only save their time in

getting their problems resolved but also will bring more promptness, transparency in the quick The officer also assured them that some more major steps will be taken shortly for the upliftment and betterment of the community by the Government which were highly appreciated by the leaders present in the meeting.

These leaders also lauded the role of the department especially the officer in Chair for reaching out to the migrants living outside Jammu and Kashmir for last more than three decades for resolving their genuine problems on the spot at their door steps.

Others who accompanied M.K. Yogi were T.K. Koul, Shuban Ji Raina, Rajesh Labroo and Balkrishan Bhat.

NISD Beauty and Designing Institute celebration of Talent Season-9 concluded



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: The season 9 was held at Vedas, The Banquet, at Akhnoor Road, where 275 students participated in Modelling, Make-up, Hair Styling & Dress

Designing.

MD Sanjeev Kumar told the media that more than 85 local girls were also groomed and trained by NISD for ramp walks as models. Punjab Film industry actress, model and singer Sara Guralp was

the Celebrity guest on the occasion.

Guralp appreciated the role of NISD Beauty and Designing Institute where NISD helped the young potential of Jammu Kashmir to get the best opportunity in the Fashion designing industry.

Isha Sharma, Neha Lahotra and Vishal Sawhney were the jury for the Fashion Show.

NISD Beauty and Designing Institute is a Premier professional Make-up & Fashion Designing Academy of J&K where more than 2100 plus students passed out and doing well for their living.

Besides this, 850 plus students start their own business all over India.

NISD MD Sanjeev further said that 98% of them are women's, 70% of them are married women's.

It is pertinent to mention that NISD is the most awarded institute of J&K.

GCET students led 4E Wave Movement gains momentum, hosts series of events during Energy Conservation Week

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Giving impetus to the 4E Wave initiative on Energy Conservation, which garnered national recognition upon its launch on December 7, 2023 in New Delhi by R.K. Singh, Union Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, the Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu, in collaboration with the State Designated Agency (SDA), JKPDD, hosted a series of events on energy conservation during the Energy Conservation Week, observed from 8th to 14th December 2023.

The week-long celebration not only demonstrated the energy conservation practices but also marked the successful start of the 4E

Wave movement on Energy Conservation, which is a National movement initiated by the students of GCET Jammu with the support of SDA and Bureau of Energy efficiency (BEE).

It was informed that, following the launch, the 4E Wave has gained exceptional momentum, with around 2000 citizens registering from 22 states across the nation so far. The registration process continues at a fast pace, indicating widespread interest and participation in this important energy conservation initiative.

Under the guidance of Prof. Sameru Sharma, Principal GCET Jammu, the Energy Conservation Week featured a variety of activities both offline and online, accessible through the dedicated website www.4ewave.com.

Prof. Sharma emphasized the crucial role of individual



participation in energy conservation, highlighting its impact on environmental protection, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and cost savings through judicious electricity usage.

She encouraged everyone to make conscious decisions and actively practice energy conservation in their daily

lives.

The week commenced with a pledge-taking ceremony dedicated to energy conservation, followed by outreach programs in villages and schools where GCET students shared valuable advice on effective energy conservation practices.

Slogan and poster-making

competitions centered on the theme "Energy Conservation" attracted entries from diverse age groups across the country.

The events also included paper presentations on "Emerging Trends in Energy Efficiency - Opportunities and Challenges," reflecting a holistic approach to spread-

ing awareness.

The week concluded with a plantation drive on the campus, recognizing and awarding winners in each competition category for their outstanding contributions.

In the school category, Reyansh Gupta and Aradhya Gupta from Jodhamal Public School, while in the college/university category, Arya Dass from IIT Delhi received awards for slogan writing. For poster making, Hammad Mahmood from Kendriya Vidyalaya Srinagar received accolades in the School Category.

In the college/university category, Sunidhi Sharma from GCET Jammu secured the first prize in the paper presentation.

Prof. Sameru Sharma extended her heartiest congratulations to the winners, commending their remarkable contributions towards

energy conservation.

Prof. Sharma also extended her gratitude to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and SDA, JKPDD for their continued support in organizing various activities under the 4E wave movement.

She also congratulated the committee members including Sanjeev Gupta, Niraj Dubey, Dr. Raman Gupta, Dr. Heera Saini, and the team of students on the occasion for making the week-long celebrations during the energy conservation week a grand success.

The students of GCET, who are the driving force behind 4E wave movement on energy conservation, urged all the citizens of the nation to register on www.4ewave.com to be part of this impactful journey towards Energy Conservation and sustainable future.