TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

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BRIEFLY

Fire damages ITBP barrack in Zewan Headquarters

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out in a barrack of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) headquarters at Zewan on Srinagar outskirts causing huge damage to the property, officials said on Sunday.

Fire and Emergency services said that fire broke out in a Barrack of ITBP measuring 50 x 200, which stored a huge quantity of tents, bullet proof jackets, helmets and other items were severely damaged in a major fire incident.

They said the fire broke out on Saturday evening and the fire tenders were moved from the nearby stations at around 7.19 pm. It took several hours to extinguish the leaping flames before it caused extensive

damage to the barrack. The articles stored in the barrack were being used by the ITBP during the annual Amarnath Yatra period, the Fire and Emergency

In a separate fire incident four cowsheds were damaged in a fire incident at Dara Harwan in the outskirts of Srinagar early this morning also.

Services official said

Mughal road, SSG road closed for vehicular traffic following fresh snowfall

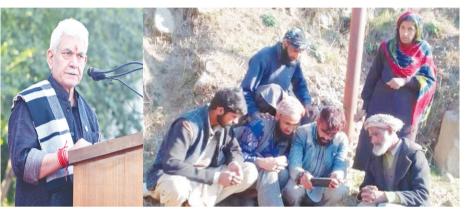
SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): The historic Mughal road and the strategic Srinagar-Sonamarg Gumri (SSG) road were closed for vehicle traffic as a precautionary measure following fresh snowfall, officials

said on Sunday. Mughal road connecting south Kashmir's Shopian district with the twin district of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division were closed for vehicular traffic as a precautionary measure following accumulation of fresh snowfall on the highway, traffic police offi-

cials said. They said the traffic on the strategic Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road connecting Ladakh was also suspended due to

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"Awaam Ki Awaaz" Lt Governor calls for peoples' participation in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to achieve 100% saturation of schemes



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, during this month's Awaam ki Awaaz programme, called upon the PRI members, Youth, Women Self-Help Groups, entrepreneurs,

voluntary organizations and every section of the society for their active participation in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

He said: "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, largestever outreach initiative of the Government of India, will cover every Panchayat and Urban

Banks need to

Local Body of J&K. Peoples' participation is important to achieve 100% saturation of schemes, ensuring that their benefits reach all intended recipients".

"As we stand at the sunset of 2023 and look back at the months that have passed, we see impressive growth, improved quality of life in rural and urban areas, and visible progress all around. I see J&K on the move with confidence towards the goal," the Lt Governor said.

Sharing the inspiring success stories of the citizens, the Lt Governor made a special mention of Sh Munshi Ramji, a senior citizen from Udhampur, who has made an e-cycle using old laptop battery and e-waste.

Munshi Ramji felt motivated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Vocal for Local and Green India Initiative and hopes to sensitize and

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3 'Hybrid' terrorists arrested for attacking policeman in Bemina Srinagar: DGP



SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Three "hybrid" terrorists involved in last week's attack on a policeman in Bemina area of Srinagar city have been arrested, Director General of Police Jammu and Kashmir R R Swain said on Sunday.

Constable Mohammad Hafeez Chak was attacked on December 9 while he was returning

home. The DGP said the conspiracy was hatched by one Pakistan-based terrorist Arjumand alias Hamza Burhan who got in touch with a local mastermind Danish Ahmad Malla to carry out the attack.

"The hybrid terrorists who were involved in the attack have been arrested. This briefing is about the success that the J&K Police has achieved in tracing the killers (attackers) of one of our policemen," Swain told reporters here.

"Constable Mohammad Hafeez Chak fortunately survived the attack. We hope and pray that he will be back hale and hearty. As far as the killers (are concerned), they had done their job. Six bullets were fired, three hit the cop and three did not,"

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Gurez receives another spell of fresh snowfall

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Gurez Valley in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Sunday morning received anoth-

er fresh spell of snowfall. After 6 months, fresh vegetables and essentials dispatched to Gurez Valley

The upper reaches including Bagtore, Churwan areas received fresh snowfall today morning while the plains of Gurez also received light snowfall coupled with rains.

Razdan Pass, which is the gate way to this mountainous valley has also received fresh snowfall late Sunday night.

The 84-km Bandipora-Gurez road was Turn to page 9

sections and empower them: Bhagwat



THANE, Dec 17 (Agencies): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has said it is the responsibility of banks to identify the needs of the weaker sections and empower them.

He was speaking on Saturday at the conclusion of golden jubilee function of the Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank in Kalyan area of Maharashtra's Thane district.

Financial prosperity of the weaker sections is the foundation of banks. the RSS chief said.

Banks should give priority to social development, while maintaining all economic parameters, Bhagwat said.

He said it is the responsibility of banks to "identify needs of the weaker sections" and empower them, he said.

The golden jubilee year of the Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank coincides with an increased responsibility to see how the organisation will run more dynamically in the future, he said.

The golden jubilee celebration of the bank was started last year in the presence of Union minister Nitin Gadkari, he noted.

Arms, ammunition recovered during identify needs of weaker road excavation in Akhnoor

JAMMU, Dec 17 (Agencies): A large number of rusted arms and ammunition were found during the excavation work for road construction in the Kacharaila area of Akhnoor district, a senior official

Police rushed to the spot on Saturday and later, Army personnel called in, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Akhnoor Mohan Sharma said.

In visuals, Army personnel's can be seen disposing of the ammunition, which includes several mortar shells and LMG and SLR rounds.

Apart from that, a substantial cache of warlike stores was discovered on December 15 and 16 in the Thanamadi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.



This was the result of a sustained operation by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Dadruni area near Darhal amidst challenging weather conditions and heavy snow

The recovery, a result of continued efforts fol-

lowing the intense heat on terrorists, includes pistols, magazines loaded with ammunition, hand grenades,

tive materials. This successful operation amidst adverse weather conditions marks a pivotal moment in averting the potential threats posed by anti-

and various administra-

Man arrested for sharing sensitive video, hurting religious sentiments in Rajouri

JAMMU, Dec 17: A man from Kotranka sub division area of J&K's Rajouri district has been booked and put behind bars for hurting religious sentiments of a particular community by sharing a sensitive video on social media platform, Police said.

A Police spokesperson said that accused was identified as Mohammad Yasir son of Mohammad Aslam resident of Samna Mal, Naga Thub, at present Kotranka.

"The accused filmed a video and post it on social media platform hurting religious sentiments of people from a particular community", he said.

Nobody can snatch your language from you: **Mehbooba Mufti to Kashmiris**

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Advocating the use of regional languages in the Kashmir valley, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti appealed to people to speak in their mother tongues in their homes and said that no one can snatch their language unless they forget it themselves.

"Your homes, your water can be snatched away from you, even your land can be taken away, but nobody can take away your language from you unless you forget that yourself," PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti said addressing an event at Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in Jammu on Saturday.

Mufti said that Kashmiris need to speak their languages in their homes. She also said that the Kashmiri language has its own importance and today's generation is not giving proper interest to



their mother tongue and instead is using English while talking with their children.

"We should speak our languages in our homes. We have stopped speaking our languages, be it Kashmiri, Dogri or Gujari. Now, when a child is born, parents use wirds, 'come here', 'go there' (in English)," the PDP chief said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister requested people start speaking in their mother tongue with their children at their homes if they want to save their

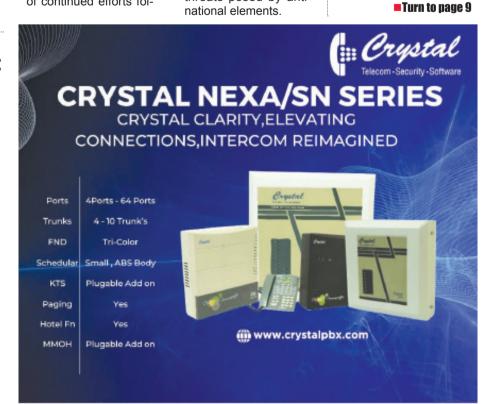
"So I would like to plead with you to talk in your own language, your mother tongue, at home with your kids. If you want to save your language, whether it is Dogri, Gujari, Kashmiri. No one can snatch that away," Mufti said.

Meanwhile, Mufti recalled the contributions of Masud Choudhary, former Vice-Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) and Chairman of Gujjar Desh Charitable Trust, on his first death anniversary.

Recalling his contributions to education and philanthropy, the former Chief Minister said that his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

Widely known as Sir Syed of the

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CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

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.

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 Akhil Jamwal- Son

Brother/Bhabhi Ravinder Singh Jamwal & Neelam Jamwal

Sister's ₋alita Devi Sunita Devi Kanta Devi

SH. RAJINDER SINGH

JAMWAL

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.

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 [Bhabi & Brother], Shyama ji Dhar[Sister], Bimla ji & Bhushan Lal [Bhabi & 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. Deep Raina

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

10TH DAY/KRIYA

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt grief that w announce the unfortunate passing of our beloved Sh. Bansi Lal 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.

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



Bansi Lal Thusoo 1946-2023

Shmt. Ashaji Thusoo (Wife)

Mr. Rajender Thusu & Mrs. Manisha Thusu +91 9999796871 Mr. Rakesh Thusu & Mrs. Seema Thusu +91 9868532919

Sh. Gawsh Lal Thusu & Shmt. Krishni Thusu +91 9871681331 Sh. Avatar Krishan Thusu & Shmt. Cecelia Thusu +91 9818569966

> The Entire Thusu 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.

10th Day will be performed on 16-12-2023 (Saturday) at Brahman Sabha Ramnagar at

Kriva 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

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



SH. ASHOK KUMAR

HANDA

Sh. Om Parkash Gupta

Suvan, Krittika, Kaashvi, Vandit, Saanvi, Garvik Mob No: 7889681297, 9419335796

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Ashok Kumar Handa R/o H.No.150 Anand Nagar, Bohri who left for heavenly abode on 15-12-2023 (Thursday).

FIFTH DAY will be performed at TRIMURTI MANDIR. **JANIPUR** COLONY on 18-12-2023 (MONDAY) Time 11 A.M. TO 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN Sisters-In-Laws & Brothers-In-Laws

Smt. Sudesh Wadhera & Late Sh. Vijay Kumar Wadhera Smt. Rama Wadhera & Late Sh. Surinder Kumar Wadhera

Smt. Nirmal Wadhera & Late Sh. Satish Kumar Wadhera Smt. Kanchan Wadhera & Late Sh. Naresh Kumar Wadhera

Mobile: 9419203999, 9419108369



With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sac demise of our beloved **Sdn Tej Kour** W/o Late S. Hakem Singh **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

Sdn Tej Kour Harjeet Singh & Manjeet Kour Gurmeet Singh (Ex Academic Officer DIET Banihal) & Parminder Kour (Govt Teacher)

Daughters & Sons-in-Law Inderjeet Kour & Late Jagjit Singh Paramjeet Kour & Sachdev Singh Ravinder Kour & Gurdeep Singh Ph. No. 9419166052

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise o 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,

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

TENTH DAY

Our beloved Mother Jiji Smt. Raj Dulari Kaul W/o Krishan Lal Kaul (Allied Motors Lal Chowk Srinagar) presently at 226 Sector-1A, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu attained Sadgati on 11th December 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near office Directorate of School Education on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 10.00 AM.

We request the ladies to Assemble at Smt. Raj Dulari Kaul House No. 226, Sector 1A, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Krishan Lal Kaul

Drs Sunil & Jyoti Dhar Shuban & Leena Kaul Ashok & Dr Bhavna Kaul

Bindu Kaul

Phone No: 9419174268, 9419122288

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 Coloney Poonch House Talab Tillo, Jammu left for his heavenly abode on 10-12-2023 at

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

In-Laws:

Smt Krishna Devi (Mother-in-law)

Sh. Omkar Sharma & Smt Shallu Sharma

Sh. Romesh Chander Sharma & Smt Gita Devi

Sh. Suresh Sharma & Smt Gita Devi

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law:

10TH DAY/KRIYA/ **RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA** With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of

our beloved Sh. Bhuvneshwar Sharma (Kalu) S/o Sh Bishamber Dass Sharma R/o Mandir Wali Gali Raipura Magotra, Jammu, Tuesday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu from 10an

KRIYA will be performed on 20th of December 2023 (Wednesday) at our residence.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be performed on 22nd o

December, 2023 at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony Jammu fron GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt Satya Devi & Sh. Bishamber Dass Sharma (Parents)

Retd. ASP Prisons Smt Sunita Sharma (Wife)

(Tayi ji & Taya Ji) Smt Santosh & Sh. Durga Dass Sharma, Retd. SP JK Police **Bhabhis & Brothers** Smt Archana & Sh. Sudeshwar Sharma Smt Manisha & Sh. Rajeshwar Sharma

Sisters & Brother-in-laws Smt Arti & Sh. Rajesh Baskotra Smt Pooia & Sh. Devinder Sharma Son & Daughter: Ayush & Mahi

Contact Nos: 9797411049, 8494057552, 7780997567, 9541126541, 9419858439, 9622022023

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Ravi Kumar S/o Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Bhat originally resident of Drugmulla Kupwara at present Trilokpur Lane No.1 near Airtel tower, who left us for the heavenly abode on 13-12-2023. May the lord grant peace to his devine soul.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 22-12-2023 (Friday) at 8 a.m. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Sheela Bhat (Mother) Smt. Rajni Bhat (Wife) Rithik & Harshit (Sons) Smt. & Sh. Hari Krishan Smt. & Sh. Ashok Kumar Smt & Sh. Avtar Krishan Bhat Smt & Sh. Tej Krishan Pandita

Smt & Sh. Rakesh Roshan Koul



Shri Arjan Nath Pandita

BHUVNESHWAR SHARMA (KALU) (MANAGER-EDEN GARDEN

SH. RAVI KUMAR

Inderjeet, Ashwani, Varun, Abay Akash, Aman, Tamanna, Disha Contact :-- 7006372667, 9797695115, 9070254782



nate passing of our beloved **Sh. Ra** Kumar S/o Lt. Sh. Gopal Masih and Lt. Smt. Nazran R/o Langth (Supwal December, 2023.

The Memorial service meeting, solemn occasion to honour his memo ry, is scheduled to take place on 18th December, 2023 at 11 AM. The SH. RAJ KUMAR (RAJU) 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:-

/ijay Gill - Brother - 7006630341 Akash Raj **- Son** - 9419133000 Entire Gill Family

SHADMOS/MASWAR

Dear Daddy Six months have passed since you left heavenly abode. Life has not remained the same after you left us. You always saw good in everyone. That's because you had a Heart of Gold. You were strong to the very end. We remember you every day. Physically you are not with us, but we miss you and feel your presence in every moment of our life. We hope you shower your blessings from Heaven on us.

Shadmos/Maswar of our beloved Karamyogi Father Sh Shuban Krishen Pandit S/o Late Sh Shuban Krishen **Pandit** Radha Krishen Pandit Originally R/o Badiyar Bala Srinagar will be performed on 18th & 19th

Dec 2023 at our residence H-101, Sec-B Tirath Nagar, Talab Tilloo, Jammu. DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY : Smt Vijay Pandit- Wife

Preeti Pandit & Ashawni Raina (Daughter & Son-in-law) Rahul Pandit & Ankita Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law) Master Ahaan Pandit (Grand Son) SAMAST PANDITA'S PARIVAR

Ph No. 8588839568, 9419113079, 9796071997

TENTH DAY/KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to

inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Raina of Drabivar, Habba Kadal Srinagar Kashmir, at present TRT Nagrota Block H. Quarter No. 95 Nagrota Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 11-12-2023. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 20-12-2023 (Wednesday) at 9 AM TRT Ghat Near Migra Quarters Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina -Brother Smt. Shashi Raina -Wife Sh. Ritik Raina

Mobile: 9149745317, 9086941089

|BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

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, Exth Sainik Colony, Jammu Near Foji Carwash Sainik Colony, Jammu Kirtan & Antim Ardas shall take place on 18/12/2023 (Monda om 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sai Colony, Jammu.

Followed by Guru ka Langer 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) lanjeet Singh & Manmeet Kour

nderjeet Kour & Late Jagjit Singh aramjeet Kour & Sachdev Singl avinder Kour & Gurdeep Singh

Sdn Tej Kour

Ph. No. 9419166052

SH. MAHARAJ

KRISHAN RAINA

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Ram Rattan Gupta (Udhampur Wale) H/o Smt. Nirmal Gupta (Nikki) on 14-12-2023

FIFTH DAY will be performed at Shri Shiv Temple Sector-3, Trikuta Nagar Jammu on 18-12-2023 (Monday) time 10.30 am t 11.00 am.

Grief Stricken Smt. Sudesh Gupta & Vijay Gupta Smt. Urmil & Romesh Gupta Smt. Anoo & Sanjay Gupta

7/2A Extn. Trikuta Nagar Jammu

Smt. Sweety & Ram Gupta



REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of Mr. Sheikh Sajjad Poonchi, a pillar kindness and community spirit. His warm smile and unwave ing generosity touched us all. Whether leading by example his professional endeavors or offering a helping hand to those n need, Mr. Poonchi's legacy is one of compassion and self lessness. May we remember him for the positive impact he nade and the countless lives he enriched. Rest in peace.

Mrs. Rugia Khan Mr. Akbar Ali Khan Ms. Katfeer Khan Mr. Ahmed Ali Khar Mr. Feroz Ali Khan Mrs. Sabia Rasool



BARKHI

Om Namah Shivay

Who knows where those days have gone wher sed to say that we will keep our eyes on your path*. *No matter where you live, I will never be able to forge

you throughout my life*. **Avinash Chopra** Barkhi of beloved Avinash Chopra will be performed at our residence on Monday 18-12-2023 at 1 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN Anil Kumar Chopra -Husband Anshuman Chopra -Son Ankush Chopra -Son 9419165859, 9419170390, 8492923692

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS

Refe eshw ห้ะ จายให้ แ ਤਾ eaara จักะ นายให้ แ Needless to say, you were the best son, husband, father & brother ever anyone could wish for. You are in our heartbeats even today and forever. With heartfelt despair and agony, we grieve to inform the unfortunate passing of our dearest S. Harpreet Singh (Best Teacher Awardee of JK UT-2022) S/o Late S. Darshan Singh (Retd. Principal) (National Best Teacher Awardee) R/o W. No. 7, Kathua who met his demise on 12-12-2023. emise on 12-12-2023. We loved him a lot, but God loved him more.

Bhog and Antim Ardaas will be performed on 20-12-2023 at 12:30 PM at Singh Sabha

2U-12-2U23 at 12:30 PM at Singh Sabha Gurudwara, Kathua.
GRIEF STRIKEN:
Sin, Gurcharan Kour & S. Rajinder Singh (Mother and Brother)
Sin, Harmik Kour (Wife)
Harsheen, Harseerat, Saanjh (Children)
Sin, Rawinder Kour (Sister)
Sin, Harmeet Kour & S. Amarjeet Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Dr. Probhjot Kour & S. Pritipal Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)

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Raksha Mantri reviews Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy, Dundigal

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Dec 17: To mark the successful culmination of training of 213 Flight Cadets of the flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF), a Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) was held at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal in Telangana on December 17. 2023. The parade was reviewed by Raksha Mantri Shri Rainath Singh, who also conferred the President's Commission on the graduating Flight Cadets. The graduating officers included 25 women who were commissioned in various branches of the IAF. Eight officers from the Indian Navy, nine from the Indian Coast Guard and two from friendly countries were also awarded 'Wings' following the completion of their flying training.

In his address, Shri Rainath Singh congratu-

lated the newly commissioned officers and complimented them for their immaculate turn out, precise drill movements and high standards of parade. He urged them to not, in any circumstance, lose their openness towards new ideas, innovative thinking and idealism.

The Raksha Mantri exhorted the officers to give due importance to tradition in the Armed Forces, terming it as time-tested; but pointed out that if tradition is followed for a long time without thinking, then a state of "inertia or ossification" occurs in the system. He emphasised that to avoid this situation and keep pace with the constantly-evolving times, there is a need to innovate.

called for striking a balance between tradition and innovation, describing it as extremely crucial. "If we follow only tradition, we will be like

Shri Rajnath Singh

a dead lake. We need to be like a flowing river. For that, we will have to bring in innovation along with tradition. Keep flying and touch greater heights, but maintain vour connection with the ground," he said.

Earlier, the Raksha Mantri was received by Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari. He was

presented with a General Salute by the parade followed by an impressive march past. The highlight of the parade was the 'Commissioning Ceremony' in which graduating Flight Cadets were awarded their 'Stripes' by Shri Rajnath Singh. The graduating officers were then administered the 'Oath' by the Commandant of the Academy. The CGP was interspersed by a synchronised fly-past by trainer aircraft that comprised Pilatus PC7 Mk II. Hawk and Kiran, along

with Chetak helicopters. The Raksha Mantri also bestowed various awards on trainees who excelled in various disciplines of training.

Flying Officer Atul Prakash from the flying branch was awarded the President's Plaque and Chief of the Air Staff Sword of Honour for standing first in the overall order of merit in the pilots' course. Flying Officer Amrinder Jeet Singh was awarded the President's Plaque for standing first in the overall order of merit amongst the ground duty branches.

The Parade culminated with the newly commissioned officers marching-out in two columns in slow march to the notes of Rabindranath Tagore's 'Anandaloke'. An enthralling aerobatic show by Su-30MKI, synchronous aerobatics by the helicopter display team 'Sarang', and 'SuryaKiran' Aerobatic Team marked the grand finale of the CGP.

Natrang stages play 'Do Kakakaar'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: Do Kalakaar, a play in Hindi written by Bhagwati Charan Verma and directed by Neeraj Kant was staged here today at Natrang Studio in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. Though coated with a thick layer of comedy, the play had a very relevant message to share with the audience which was revealed very artistically.

In the play, 'Churamani' and 'Martand' are two friends, both are artists (one poet and another painter) they had once aspired to rule the Bollywood with their respective creative strengths. The poet had dreamt of becoming the top Hindi Film lyricist and the painter had set a goal for himself to become the most sought after art director of the tinsel town. But destiny lands them in a situation where both are forced to use their creative energies in creat-



ing situations and cooking stories just to escape the harassment of their landlord who has not been paid the rentals of a dingy room for the last six months. The playwright has beautifully portrayed the tragic fate of the creative people who are expected to create magic and electrifying artistic experience through their unlimited creative energies are shown wasting their creativity just to ensure survival. The play opens at a situation where both the poet and the painter

have locked themselves in a room which is being visited by the landlord to collect the rent from them. The landlord forcefully makes his entry despite all-out unsuccessful efforts to hold him back are made by them. When caught at the corner both take shelter of their creative mind and start cooking highly logical excuses to impress the landlord so he allows them to continue till they are able to realize their unfulfilled dreams.

Both sell him the

dreams to the extent that the room rented out to them will once become a museum which once hosted the great genius of the world of poetry and painting. Finding the distance beyond measurement between their dreams and reality, the landlord refuses to buy their arguments and throws them out of the room to face further rejection and dejection of the society. Both the poet and the painter get this realization at this point of the time that despite having a civilization of thousand years at our back this world is not meant for creative people.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Aadesh Dhar, Abhimanyu Choudhary Sumit Bandaral, Chaitanya Shekhar, Anand Verma and Sonali Sharma. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the sound was rendered by Kushal Bhat.

Sukesh C. Khajuria Calls for Transparency on Anti-National Activities in J&K Over the Past 70 Years

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's affirmation of the central government's decision to revoke Article 370 in J&K, transforming it into a union territory, senior social activist Sukesh C. Khajuria urges the government to publish a comprehensive white paper exposing alleged antinational activities by state politi-

Khajuria asserts that while the BJP government celebrates the Article 370 abrogation, claiming it as a remedy for separatist tendencies, it has yet to identify those involved in anti-national actions. He emphasizes the need for transparency, demanding a detailed



white paper outlining the activities of politicians over the past seventy years, attributing it to the misuse of public funds and the loss of innocent lives.

Stressing that mere rhetoric about nationalism is insufficient, Khajuria insists on a truth and

reconciliation approach, similar to the Supreme Court's suggestion, urging the government to unveil the truth about J&K. He emphasizes the citizens' right to know and calls for a comprehensive expose of anti-national activities and corruption by J&K leaders/ state or non-state actors.

Apart from his involvement in social causes, including advocacy for victims of unchecked spurious cough syrup in J&K and other northern states, Sukesh C. Khajuria is actively pursuing legal action against former J&K Chief Minister and Member of Parliament, LokSabhaDr. Farooq Abdullah for alleged seditious speeches, seeking constitutional accountability.

Fresh spell of snow blankets Kupwara district; snow clearance ops underway

KUPWARA, Dec 17 (Agencies): A fresh spell of snowfall blanketed Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Sunday.

With the tourist season on, snow clearance work launched by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is underway at all passes in the Kupwara district.

Meanwhile, devotees in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir also witnessed snowfall near the Vaishno Devi Bhawan on Sunday. The weather change

has significantly dropped the temperature across the valley. The snowfall season in Kashmir typically begins in December and lasts until February. However, this year

(2023), the upper mountains of Kashmir received the season's first snowfall as early as late Septem-

According to the India Meteorological Department Srinagar, the temperatures recorded on Sunday at 8:30 am were as follows: -5.8 degrees Celsius in Gulmarg, 0.2 degrees Celsius in Pahalgam, 0.6 degrees Celsius in Banihal, and 8.8 degrees Celsius in Jammu.

In Srinagar, the temperature was recorded at 1.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday, a significant rise from the bone-chilling temperature of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius registered on the previous Friday morning.

ट्रैफिक पुलिस (राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग) मुख्यालय रामबन TRAFFIC POLICE NATIONAL HIGHWAY HQRS. RAMBAN E-mail:- ssptfcnhw@jkpolice.gov.in Contact No. 9419993745, 9419164640, 0<u>19</u>98-266<u>68</u>6

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Sr. Superintendent of Police

EDITORIAL

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dulteration can be defined as the intentional addition or subtraction or substances which adversely affect the nature, substance and quality of food products. It can be at the time of harvesting, storage, processing, transportation or distribution.

Adulteration is of two types: intentional and incidental. Sometimes adulteration is caused due to ignorance, negligence or lack of proper facilities.

It is the duty of every citizen to assist in curbing the menace of adulteration. Do not overlook instances of adulteration. Take an active interest in exposing and condemning them.

Be prompt in giving information about specific instances of adulteration. Convey it by post or telephone to the relevant authorities. Give lawful assistance to food inspectors in drawing of samples of adulterated articles. Be ready to act as a witness and to give evidence in court in such cases. Offer full cooperation and help in drives against adulteration of food. Always prefer to buy AG mark or ISI marked and packed products. Avoid buying loose, unpacked food items.

When demand is more than supply, dealers get a chance to indulge in malpractices. These in turn affect the economic situation and the health of the consumer. Dealers may try to cheat the consumer by Adulteration of food, using defective Weights and Measures, providing inadequate Labeling, false advertisements.

The problem of consumers is how, when and what quality of goods is to be bought so as to get the best value for their money. To use his money wisely, a consumer needs to be fully informed about prices which may vary from one market to another. The best course is to take advantage of the large number of co-operative stores in Indian cities. The choice of which store to buy from is also influenced by the type of services it offers to consumers display, courtesy, home delivery and credit facilities.

To check the growing tendency of food adulteration, Government of India had introduced "Prevention of Food Adulteration Act" (PFA) in 1954. This Act is based on international standards, keeping in mind the Indian conditions. This Act came into force on 1 June, 1955. Since then the rules have been amended in 1968, 1973 and 1978-79 to safe-guard the consumer's interests. According to PFA, the foodstuffs should be deemed to be adulterated if it is not of the nature, substance, and quality which it ought to be; if it contains cheaper or inferior ingredients incidentally or intentionally; if it has been prepared by a process which alters the nature, substance, or quality of foodstuff; if any constituent has been abstracted partially or wholly from it like abstraction of cream from milk; if it has been prepared, packed or kept under unsanitary conditions; if it is infected with insects, worms, etc; if it is obtained from sick or diseased animal, e.g., milk and meat of diseased animals; if it contains poisonous ingredients which are injurious to health; if the container renders it poisonous or injurious to health; if it contains unpermitted colours or any excessive amount of permitted ones; if it contains prohibited preservatives or an excessive amount of permitted ones; if it does not satisfy the prescribed standards laid down by the authorities even though they do not have adverse effect on health; and if a food product violates one or more of the above said standards, it will be regarded as an adulterated food and the seller will be punished under the law.

Hallo there! Have you all Condemned Hamas?

By: Ranjona Banerji

rt's been over two months since October 7, 2023, when **▲**Hamas rockets attacked Israel, killing 1400 people. This sent the world into a tizzy and Israel into full revenge mode. The evils of terrorism, the suffering of innocent Israeli civilians enjoying their music festivals and parties and regular lives, the problems of the area, the threat posed by the very existence of Palestinians – these were discussed in the western media. "Have you condemned Hamas" was the refrain which thundered through the halls of the democratic West - in governments, legislatures, TV studios. A story emerged of 40 Israeli babies beheaded by Hamas terrorists. The shock and horror were palpable across the world. The chants of "Have you condemned Hamas" became more strident.

Since then, the number of Israelis killed by Hamas on October 7 has been reduced — by Israeli to 200. The additional 200 were probably killed by the Israeli forces themselves. Shh. Not a word about that. Have you condemned Hamas yet? As for those babies, that ghastly blood-curdling incident, it appears to have vanished into hearsay and he said and she said. How awful if it were true and somehow it has only become a talking point of "Have you condemned Hamas yet" without any need for proof. And the reality of those babies is lost in rhetoric and falsehood. And what has happened since? Thousands of Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli forces. At least 5000 of those are children. Since the refrain "Have you condemned Hamas yet"

has not yet died down, one can only infer that 40 Israeli babies are worth more than 5000 Palestinian babies. I am no good at maths, so you can work out the ratios yourself. The rich and powerful are too busy condemning Hamas.

The new world order, as seen by the world's most powerful democracies — initially the US, the UK, France, Germany, Canada — is that Israel can do whatever it wants to defend itself from the evil Hamas, which must be condemned always. That almost 20000 Palestinians have been killed in just over two months in Gaza alone is the fault of those Palestinians for being of the same nationality as Hamas. It is the fault of other nations of the world who want the atrocities to end. They are also Hamas. It is the fault of the

United Nations and its agencies who have tried to help Palestinians. They are also Hamas. It is the fault of journalists who have tried to cover the plight of Palestinians in Gaza under attack. They are also Hamas. It is the fault of doctors who try to treat the wounded and the sick. They are also Hamas. It is the fault of students at western universities who want the attacks on Palestine to stop. They are also Hamas. It is the fault of Jews who do not believe in Zionism and want the attacks on Palestinians to stop. They are also Hamas.

In fact, the whole world bar Israel and a Big Few are Hamas. That is why Israel is well within its rights to kill everyone it so desires. Antonio Guterres, secretary general of the United Nations, invoked Article 99 to call upon the Security Council

to act on the deepening "catastrophe" in Gaza. The US used its veto power to turn down the plea for a ceasefire on humanitarian grounds. Israel accused Guterres of being Hamas.

Heads of American Ivy League universities have had to resign because they are unable to stop their students from protesting in favour of a ceasefire. Students are all Hamas. This week, 153 members of the United Nations voted for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, Presumably we are all Hamas, except for the 23 who abstained and 10 who voted against. The 10 who want the devastation of Palestine to continue are: Austria, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Liberia, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and of course the United States and Israel.

Earlier outright supporters of Israel's tactics like the UK and Germany chose to abstain this time. France and Canada voted for a ceasefire. India which had abstained in the last vote has now also voted for a ceasefire. Is sanity keeping its head above the water? Do not hold your breath quite yet. From the time that Israel began its killing spree (but have you condemned Hamas), the world has been appalled. But the world is not as powerful as these nations of colonial and imperial riches and predatory policies. The world has not mattered because powerful western democracies said that only Israel was correct morally and geopolitically. Palestine was Hamas. And since it directly countered Israel's right to exist - according to Israel - Palestine was dispensable. As for Palestinians themselves, why didn't they just go somewhere else?

There is a word here which is used worldwide but it can get you into trouble. In your workplace, on social media. The word starts with g and ends with e. It has eight letters. This could be random order or actual order, but the other letters could be e, n, o, c, i and d. This word accurately describes what is being done to Palestinians in Gaza by Israeli forces. But it is a deeply upsetting word for white supremacist democracies which not only coined the word but acted it out to the fullest extent possible in the lands that they conquered.

For the past century, these white supremacist democracies have built themselves a large pedestal which they claimed gave them moral superiority. They sat on top of their own pedestal and proclaimed judgment on the rest of the world

 barbaric, uncivilised, pitiable, unable to appreciate fine contexts and nuances of ethical behaviour.

On October 7, 2023, in the eyes of the world, that pedestal came crumbling down. They don't know it yet. But we see it. We see them. We see them justifying the unconscionable deaths of almost 20,000 Palestinians. We see them paying to kill the Palestinians. We see them supporting the killers. We see them accepting every excuse by the killers. We see the lies of the killers exposed, and we see them covering up the lies. We know that most of those accused by Israel are not Hamas. And we can see who the real terrorists are. Today it's 153 nations plus 23 cowardly abstainers against 10 enablers of genocide.

Hallo there. Can you see us?

Civil Services Examination in the clutches of the market

By: Vijay Garg

Recently a film '12th Fail' came out. This is the story of a lower-middle class youth living in a village in Chambal region becoming an IPS officer, who had failed in 12th due to his inability to copy. It is worth noting that this film is based on his life. Based on this, the filmmaker gets the opportunity to add whatever spice to the film, which will bring tears to the eyes of the audience and force them to applaud. In such a situation, the social concern of any creation Becomes suspicious. For the last few years, the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission i.e. UPSC for the administrative services considered to be the most prestigious in the country has been in the news a lot. The discussion ranges from the successes achieved by youth from underprivileged backgrounds to UPSC making the Civil Services Examination favorable to a particular section of the society. The good thing is that this examination, which was almost unknown to the people till one and a half to two decades ago, has now reached the people of every village. For the first time in the year 1979By breaking the dominance of English, the doors of Civil Services Examination were opened to other Indian languages. Just before this, every year around thirty thousand youth used to apply

for around 600-700 posts. The number of people sitting in these was around 16-17 thousand. Now the maximum number of posts is around one thousand. About 12 lakh youth apply for this, out of which about five and a half lakh appear in the examination. This is a testament to the democratization of civil services examination. It is a principle of economics that as soon as someone sees a possibility some where comes, he starts preparing the market for himself. Since sufficient number of consumers is the primary condition for the existence of the market, one of its functions is to create new consumers for itself. Today platforms like YouTube are also playing a big role in doing this. The civil servant is being presented in such a glamorous manner, which is beyond the truth. For example, showing a circuit house as the residence of a collector. Even some IAS officers go to Bollywood due to the temptation of becoming celebrities. As members, they are presenting their activities on the internet media. With all this, the market has succeeded in sowing the dream of becoming an IAS in the eyes of the youth. Since the coaching model for engineering and medical entrance exams already existed, there was not much need to think of a format for preparing for the IAS exam. Gradually coaching centers started coming up at various places. From the

format of big companies to small tuition type institutes, we found all of them -The efforts made have succeeded in instilling in the minds of the youth that without coaching it is almost impossible for them to overcome the difficulty of this difficult examination. The market weakens the confidence of consumers by telling them in various ways that 'you will not be able to do this'. To prove himself right, he makes even a simple process extremely complicated. Then presents its solution. 7 At present, the form of preparation for Civil Services Examination has been so mechanized that the youth preparing for the examination goes to coaching centers. Due to this lack he is beginning to find himself extremely helpless. This has not only increased the cut-throat competition to be successful among the youth, but such competition has also started taking place among the coaching institutes. The race is on to attract the youth to take admission in our institute, come what may, at any cost. As soon as the results of the examination are declared, the tendency of the successful candidates to take credit for their success by calling them students of their locality has made the advertisement quite ridiculous. As a result, a few days ago the central consumer The Protection Authority imposed financial penalty on some coaching institutes for

making false claims of making

IAS and sent notices to many. Here a simple question arises that when coaching institutes are publishing the names of successful candidates and their big photographs in newspapers and magazines and calling them their students, then why should our youth who have become fresh civil servants object to this? do not do? His silence creates doubt in the mind. As far as I know, 2018 batch topper Kanishk Kataria is the only ace. It was the youth who had directly objected to such advertisements by rejecting them. Such a fascinating illusion of Civil Services Examination has been created in the country, in front of which Vivek has surrendered. The gap between eligibility and qualification has disappeared. Despite trying for years and being far away from success, they are not ready to reconsider their decision in a rational manner. Lines like 'I will not give up on '12th failed' film' keep provoking him, but it lasts only for a short time. Its Despite this, the market is at its full strength. And also the enthusiasm of the youth. Now the wait is for a film which can awaken the conscience of the youth and help them in taking right decisions.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

NHM Union holds meeting; frames Block Bhaderwah body

Top News Report

DODA. Dec 17: Yesterday, a block level meeting of NHM employees took place at Sub District Hospital Bhaderwah, aimed at uniting employees under the National Health Mission on a common platform. The meeting was led by Sr NHM Representative Jammu Division, Dr. Pradeep Rathore, and attended by various dignitaries, including District President NHM Doda Dr. Nasir Masood Indrabi, Dr. Hamid Parray, Arshad Zaffar (BAM), Mohd Akhter (BMEO), and Former District President Doda Faizan A Tramboo. Medical Officers and Paramedical Staff from the block also participated

The meeting focused on reviewing the organization's activities and addressing issues



faced by NHM employees at different levels. Strengthening the organization at the grassroots level was also discussed. The participants pledged to work in unison and support the organization's members at all levels.
During the meeting, employees urged the government to

address pending issues, includ-

policy, implementation of equal work equal pay, timely salary release and enhancement, and a transfer policy. The employees emphasized that they are working with dedication and transparency.

Additionally, a block-level

ing the formulation of a job

Additionally, a block-level body for Block Bhaderwah was formed during the meeting. Dr. Anil Kumar was elected as the President, Dr. Kamaldeep Kotwal as Vice President, and other individuals took on various roles such as Coordinators, General Secretary, Spokespersons, Cashiers, Media Coordinator, and Advisors. The block's executive body was also established, with members taking on roles such as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Member Secretary.

Gram Panchayat Gandli achieves Open Defecation Free status



Top News Report

RS PURA, Dec 17: In a significant milestone for sanitation and hygiene, Gram Panchayat Gandli has officially been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India. This achievement marks a major step forward in improving the health and well-being of the village community.

To commemorate this occasion, a ceremony was held today, where the BDO, RS Pura, presented an appreciation

certificate to the Sarpanch of Gandli, Gurdeep Saini. Prominent members of the village and local officials were also present to celebrate the success.

Sarpanch Saini expressed his immense gratitude to the community and highlighted the crucial role played by the Modi Government in Gandli's ODF journey. He stated, "This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of the Modi Government's Swachh Bharat Mission. Their dedication to sanitation and hygiene provided

Ahsan Pardesi leads empowering Women's

Wing Meet at Barzulla, Lal Chowk

the necessary framework and resources for our village to embark on this transformative journey. We are incredibly grateful for their vision and commitment to improving the lives of rural communities."

Saini further emphasized the positive impact that ODF status will have on the lives of villagers, particularly in terms of improved health, sanitation, and overall quality of life. He highlighted the reduction in disease prevalence, improved hygiene practices, and enhanced dignity for women and girls.

CMO Kathua visits Bani, assures air ambulance, improved healthcare services

Top News Report

BANI, Dec 17: In a significant development for the residents of Bani, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Kathua, Dr. Vijay Raina conducted a one-day extensive tour of the Tehsil Bani.

Notably, this marks Dr. Raina's first visit to Bani since assuming charge as CMO and underscores his commitment to improving healthcare services in the region.

Dr. Raina visited the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Dhagger, where he interacted with both staff and the public. He expressed concern



over the delayed completion of the PHC's construction, which began in 2008 under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NBARD) scheme. He directed the BMO of Bani to prioritize the project's resumption

and assured the public

of its completion soon.

He then inspected the Sub-District Hospital (CHC) in Bani, meeting with staff and emphasizing the importance of proper biomedical waste management, punctuality, and dedication. He

stressed the need for a patient-friendly atmosphere and urged doctors and paramedical staff to provide empathetic care.

Responding to concerns raised by the BMO of Bani, Dr. Raina assured air ambulance service from GMC Kathua/Jammu to CHC Bani during the upcoming snowfall season. This initiative will provide crucial medical support to patients in emergencies. He also assured steps towards obtaining a license for blood transfusion at CHC Bani, enhancing the hospital's capabilities and improving patient care.

Addressing concerns regarding the hospital's solar system and 250KV transformer, Dr. Raina promised to expedite repairs and ensure uninterrupted power supply. Dr. Raina's visit and his proactive approach

terrupted power supply. Dr. Raina's visit and his proactive approach demonstrate a strong commitment to improving healthcare services in Bani. The promised air ambulance service, focus on infrastructure upgrades, and emphasis on patient-centric care are positive steps towards ensuring better health outcomes for residents of this hilly and often snowbound region.

Unprofessional approach of NHAI, Traffic Police turn Jammu-Pathankot Highway vulnerable, says Manjit Singh

Demands widening of narrow road under Railway Bridge near Chichi Mata Temple in Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 17: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today strongly condemned the failure of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Traffic Police for their failure in managing traffic movement on Jammu-Pathankot in District Samba.

Addressing a meeting of Party workers in Samba, the Former Minister expressed his concern over the traffic jam and slow pace of widening work on the highway that passes through Samba and connects rest of Jammu and Kashmir with the country.

"The highway work is in progress at a very slow pace without adopting scientific approach and policy to manage routine traffic on the Jammu-Pathankot has also collapsed badly that has resulted in fatal road accidents leading to the loss of previous lives," he stated.

He was addressing the Party workers. The meeting was organized by SC Wing Provincial President, Jammu, Lovely Mongol.

In his address, Manjit

Singh grieved over the loss of life on the busy highway where both sides of the roads are almost blocked with the standard turned the positive standard to the positive sta

highway where both sides of the roads are almost blocked with the ongoing work, and traffic from two opposite directions ply risking the lives of the commuters and passengers.

"Recently, a groom with his friends got killed in a tragic road mishap. It was the result of negligence and the road accidents on the highway in Kathua and Samba have become a routine. Instead of ensuring the smooth flow of traffic on jam-packed highway; the NHAI and Traffic Police seem to have become mute spectators," he added.

He further stated that the highway stretches near the famous Chichi Mata Temple in Samba and the Railway Bridge passage requires widening work that has not been done.

"The widening work under the Railway Bridge passage is not being done and this situation has compelled hundreds of vehicles including loaded Heavy Motor Vehicles and Light Motor Vehicles to pass through a narrow road from both directions," he pointed out, cautioning the authorities for their

ignorance towards the

He said that the NHAI and Traffic Police have turned blind eye towards the narrow road that can prove fatal.

He demanded that the passage (narrow road) under Railway Bridge should be widened for smooth flow of traffic.

He also threatened that if the infrastructure on Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba as well as in Kathua is not improved and precautionary measures are made, the Party leaders and workers will come on the roads with the local population to protest the non-responsive NHAI and Traffic Police.

He also discussed various other developmental works in the district and expressed his concern over the delay in completing the developmental projects and inability of the authorities in providing basic amenities in the rural areas.

The meeting was attended by the Party's District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, Legal Cell District President, Samba, Sahil Bharti, District President Women Wing Samba, Priyanka, Block President, Darbai Lal, Vice President District Samba, Ram Lal Sharma, and others.

Bhagat demands NIA/CBI inquiry into the selection list of the Fire and Emergency Service

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 17 A senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, is expressing concerns about the lack of justice and rights for the youth and people of Jammu and Kashmir under the present government, particularly since August 5, 2019. Bhagat specifically mentions the denial of justice and rights to the people and the loss of confidence in the government.

The memorandum sent by Ajeet Bhagat to Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo calls for a National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the selection list of the Fire and Emergency Service. Bhagat emphasizes the deteriorating condition of the aspirants for fire and emergency services who are currently on the roads away from their homes.

PWD daily wagers, Rahbare Khel teachers, health workers, medical pharmacists, unemployed educated youth, Home guards, SPOs, VDCs, and BDS surgeons. He alleges that despite assurances and demands made by Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, no action has been taken to address the problems faced by these groups, and they all face an uncertain future.

Ajeet Bhagat urges the Lt. Governor and Chief Secretary to intervene and resolve the issues faced by the aspirants for fire and emergency services. He specifically suggests calling the aspirants for a discussion at Raj Bhavan to find a solution to the problems they are facing.

Overall, it appears that Ajeet Bhagat is advocating for justice, rights, and resolution of issues faced by various groups in Jammu and Kashmir and is seeking the intervention of higher authorities to address these concerns.

Additionally, Bhagat highlights the plight of various groups, including NYC, PHE, PDD, mir and is seeking the intervention of higher authorities to address these concerns.

Tourist found dead

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): An elderly tourist from Madhya Pradesh was discovered dead in a hut in the Kashmir Valley's well-known Gulmarg ski resort in North

in Gulmarg

Kashmir.
The 75-year-old tourist from Madhya Pradesh was found dead inside in a hut and was shifted to the

Primary Health Centre in Gulmarg, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, a police officer told News Agency Kashmir Scroll that an investigation has been initiated into this incident. The official identified the deceased as Tilok Tolani of Madhya Pradesh.



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 17: The meeting chaired by Ahsan Pardesi, the J&K National Conference Provincial Vice President for Kashmir and Incharge of Lal Chowk Constituency, was a significant gathering held at Old Barzulla, Lal Chowk Constituency. The meeting, convened by former councillor and District Vice President Women's Wing Nayeema Sara, saw the presence of Sabia Qadri, the Party's Provincial President

Women's Wing.
During the meeting,
Ahsan Pardesi acknowledged and praised the
crucial role played by
women in shaping societies. He commended
Kashmiri women for consistently demonstrating
intellectual prowess and
political determination

in securing the future generations. Pardesi expressed gratitude for the continuous support received by the party, emphasizing the trust and affection shown towards the ideology of JKNC.

Highlighting the partv's historical role since 1932, Pardesi described JKNC as a unifying force in J&K, transcending religious backgrounds, ethnicities, and gender barriers. He urged the gathering not to lose hope or courage in the face of false narratives against the party's leadership or history. Pardesi attributed the attempts to tarnish the party's reputation to insecurity from certain political parties, stating that the people are well aware, and the ballot will determine the truth.

Sabia Qadri, the Pro-

vincial President of the Women's Wing, emphasized the vital necessity of women's empowerment and their essential contribution to shaping the future. She praised the strength and aspirations consistently embodied by Kashmiri women and stressed the need for genuine commitment to the ideals envisioned by Late Sheikh Mohammad

Abdullah. Nayeema Sara, in her address, thanked the participants and urged them to continue supporting the National Conference in its efforts to navigate Kashmir out of its present political challenges. Youth leader Nisar Ahmad Bhat also participated in the meeting, reflecting a diverse and inclusive representation within the party.

JKBS members remembered Captain Raja Ram Kaith



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha paid tributes to Captain Raja Ram Kaith at his native village Garhi today and said that he was a man of committed love and vision who never had a quest for

fame or money.

Speaking on the occasion, JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith said, the Captain after serving in the military, worked relentlessly with a broad spectrum of individuals- whether it was the elderly, children, drug/alcohol abusers, or people with learning and physical disabilities. He aided and supported

them through difficult times and ensured that these vulnerable people were safeguarded from harm.

Prominent among others who paid tributes to Captain included Sabha's Chairman Dilay Ram Kaith, President Rachhpal Kaith, Duni Singh Motan and Prem Lata.

Sidharth Malhotra-starrer 'Indian Police Force' teaser is 'goosebumps stuff', say fans

Directed by Rohit Shetty and Sushwanth Prakash, the series also stars Shilpa Shetty and Vivek Oberoi

The wait is finally over! The teaser of Sidharth Malhotra's debut web series 'Indian Police Force' has been unveiled.

Directed by Rohit Shetty and Sushwanth Prakash, the sevenepisode action-packed series revolves around Indian cops.

As per a statement, the series is a tribute to the selfless service, unconditional commitment and fierce patriotism of the Indian police officers across the country who put everything on the line in their call of duty to keep us safe.

Shilpa Shetty and Vivek Oberoi are also in the lead roles in 'Indian Police Force'.

Speaking of the teaser, it moves through different parts of the city, with each frame intensifying the suspense of a ticking bomb clock that eventually results in explosive blasts. Against this backdrop of imminent danger, this cop drama unfolds a thrilling chase of Sidharth, Shilpa and Vivek and the masterminds behind the bomb blasts as they march into the chaos to save the city from the threats, embodying fierce



patriotism.

Rohit Shetty, known for using a lot of cars in his films, did not forget to add his signature style to 'Indian Police Force' as well. The teaser shows vehicles that go flying, and get blown up. The intriguing teaser has impressed the audience.

Reacting to it, a social media user wrote, "Wow...goosebumps agaye." "Can't wait to watch it,"

another one commented.

Sharing the teaser on his Instagram account. Sidharth wrote. "Excited to bring to you my first action packed show, #IndianPoliceForce. Back in a new uniform with the cop universe maestro #RohitShetty.'

Excited about the show, Rohit Shetty earlier said, "Indian Police Force is an integral part of my journey as a creator in the cop-verse that I and my team at Rohit Shetty Picturez have built with years of hard work and commitment. I am very proud of my cast and crew who devotedly worked together to present this action series that pays an ode to the valor, sacrifice, and courage of our Indian Police officers. I am delighted to collaborate with Prime Video for my first digital venture that promises to deliver exhilarating entertainment to audiences worldwide.

Shweta Tiwari, Nikitin Dheer, Rituraj Singh, Mukesh Rishi and Lalit Parimoo will also be seen in pivotal roles in 'Indian Police Force', which will be out on Prime Video on January 19.

Alia Bhatt says it's 'laddoo peela' season as she shares pictures from best friend's wedding celebrations



Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, who was recently seen in the streaming film 'Heart of Stone', hopped on to the viral 'laddoo peela' trend as she donned a yellow-

coloured ethnic wear. She wore a stunning vellow-coloured net

saree adorned with intricate embroidery and paired it with a chic sleeveless blouse. Alia's choice of jewellery was nothing short of exquisite, featuring an emerald choker necklace, matching studs and a

ring. The actress gave her fans fun-filled glimpses from the mehendi ceremony of her best friend's wedding celebrations. She shared a series of pictures of herself dressed in a gorgeous yellow saree with bird motifs on the border.

She wrote in the caption, "Yellow there".

The Internet can't stop gushing over her looks. The comments section was flooded with fans and industry friends complimenting her. Alia's mother Soni Razdan commented. "What a beauty". Bhumi Pednekar wrote, "Stunning" with a red heart emoticon. Preity Zinta dropped a handful of red heart emoticons.

The actress also shared the pictures on the Story section of he Instagram and wrote, "Laddoo Peela szn".

Kanye shouts 'Jesus Christ, Hitler, Ye!' during anti-Semitic rant at event

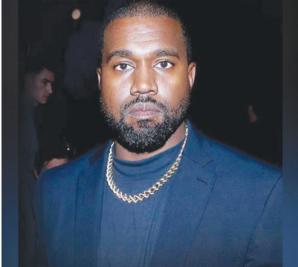
Rapper Kanye West gave an unhinged speech to a crowd of people during an event taking place in Las

The rapper said that "all the rich f**ks" in the room have their kids in "Zionist schools".

He added that his daughter North, whom he shares with ex-wife Kim Kardashian, had destroyed couches in her house so she could join him on tour, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In a video obtained by TMZ, Kanye told them, "It's 60 million of us in America, 60 million Jews in the world. 50 percent of our deaths is abortion, 25 per cent of us go to prison... raise your hand if you ever got an abortion. If we were in a Jewish... every mother would raise their hands."

"Who's going to make



the hospitals, though? He's a Zionist, (Donald Trump). This is what I've been trying to tell you. Jesus Christ, Hitler, Ye. third party, sponsor that! They can't f**king touch me because God cover me," he continued.

Telling the crowd to "shut up", he said, "I dont give a f**k about life or death, I get visitation with my kids," before adding, "F**k Balenciaga.

"North ripped up the motherf**king couches in the house' to be able to travel with her father on his trip," he further added.

He also addressed allegations of his past anti-Semitic behaviour on his song "Vultures".

Kareena Kapoor shares what it was like to shoot sex scene with Saif Ali Khan in 'Kurbaan', 'But we were already...'

Kareena Kapoor opens up about her on-screen chemistry and off-screen love for Saif Ali Khan

Kapoor Kareena Khan, recently took a trip down memory lane during a candid roundtable conversation. The actress shared amusing anecdotes, including her experience of filming intimate scenes with husband Saif Ali Khan for the 2009 hit film, 'Kurbaan'.

According to a report by Hindustan Times, Sidharth Malhotra, who was also a part of the roundtable, playfully broached the topic, asking Kareena about the steamy scenes with Saif. The actress, with a hearty laugh, responded, "But we were already dating. We were auditioning. So that worked out well." Adding to the banter, Kajol chimed in, humorously labeling it a 'private audition' for the



Kareena and Saif's love story unfolded both on and off the screen,

culminating in their marriage in 2012 after

na disclosed that while they were content with their living arrangement, the decision to tie the knot was rooted in their desire to start a family. The couple welcomed their first son, Taimur Ali Khan, in 2016, and their second son, Jeh Ali Khan, in 2021

Kareena often shares pictures with her family on Instagram.

In a candid moment with Dirty Magazine, Kareena elaborated on the decision to marry, stating, "The reason you get married now is that you want to have a child, right? I mean today otherwise you can just live together. [Saif and I] lived together for five years, so when we took the next step, it was because we wanted to have children."

Be it a vacation or a festival, Kareena makes sure to give a glimpse of her special times with family to fans on Instagram.

Opening up about her parenting philosophy, Kareena emphasised respect and individuality, stating, "We treat them as individuals, we respect them, and we just let them be. Kids are quite resilient, you know." She further expressed her commitment to living a fulfilled life in front of her children and prioritising her

mental health. Kareena also admitted that she is attached to her family and close circle of friends. "I'm very attached to my family, my kids, my husband, my five friends. That's it. That's my life."

Triptii Dimri reacts as her Instagram followers grow massively since starring with Ranbir Kapoor in Animal

Triptii Dimri has spoken about the sudden jump in her Instagram follower count and also revealed her family's reaction to it. The actor was last seen in Animal.

Triptii Dimri, who was seen Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal alongside Ranbir Kapoor, has gained millions of followers on Instagram in recent days. Now, in an interview with agency, the actor has talked about the growth in her Instagram follower count post the success of Animal. Triptii revealed that her family and friends send her screenshots of her Instagram follower count. She said she feels 'very lucky', but is 'not seeking stardom'.

'It's a wonderful feeling' As per an earlier Hindustan Times report, her follower count had increased by 320 percent in the last few days; she now has a following of 3.9 million as opposed to six lakh followers some weeks ago. Speaking about it, Triptii said, "My friends and family are keeping a track on my follower

count. They keep sending me screenshots every now and then. In fact, every night, I've been checking messages on Instagram. It's a wonderful feeling. You obviously feel great when people watch something you've done and they like and appreciate your performance in it. I'm in a good space."

Triptii Dimri on fame post Animal

The actor has been grabbing attention for her supporting role in the top-grossing action film Animal. Triptii Dimri, who has worked in Bulbbul (2020) and Qala (2022), also said that she wasn't looking for this kind of attention, when she signed Animal. Triptii, who plays Zoya Riaz in Animal, said, "I just wanted to do Animal because the character was interesting. Achieving this kind of success wasn't a plan. It just happened and I feel very lucky and grateful. I'm not seeking stardom."

Apart from her and Ranbir, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal also features Rashmika Man-



danna. Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor in key roles. Triptii's intimate scene with Ranbir in Animal has been grabbing attention. In a recent interview with India Today, the actor got candid about shooting the much-talked-about sequence.

On shooting intimate scene in Animal

Triptii said, "Luckily, in

my case, I've been dealing with whether I was doing the rape scene in Bulbull (her 2020 Netflix film) or this one, they kept asking me if I am okay. They also ensured that there were no more than five people, including the director, the DOP, and the actors during the scene. Nobody else was allowed on set, all the monitors were shut, and they were like, 'this is the scene we are doing. If at any point you feel you're uncomfortable, let us know. We'll go at your pace... Every five minutes, Ranbir Kapoor was checking up on me and asking, 'Are you okay, are you comfortable?' I think these things really matter. People are sensitive to these things."

Muscle man: Dwayne Johnson cast as MMA fighter Mark Kerr in The Smashing Machine

Hollywood Actor Dwayne Johnson is set to step into the shoes of mixed martial arts fighter Mark Kerr, A24 announced that the actor, 51, will portray the MMA and UFC champion in the upcoming film The Smashing Machine by filmmaker Benny Safdie.

five years of dating. In a

recent interview, Karee-

"Dwayne and Benny are singular talents, and their shared vision for Mark's inspiring story is electrifying. We are deeply honoured to have their trust as collaborators in bringing this incredibly special project to life," A24's Noah Sacco said in a statement.

Safdie, 37, previously worked with his brother Josh Safdie as the co-director of Uncut Gems, which starred Adam Sandler and Good Time starring Robert Pattinson. The Smashing Machine will be Safdie's first solo project as both writer and director. Johnson, Safdie, Dany Garcia, Eli Bush and David Koplan are producing the film.

The movie is set

ing Machine' due to his unbridled fighting style. He won over two dozen MMA titles and



to explore the life of Kerr, at the peak of his career in 2000, while he navigates career victories, love, friendship and addiction. Kerr, 54, earned the nickname 'The Smashwas a two-time UFC Heavyweight Tournament Champion, as well as a World Vale Tudo Championship tournament winner. Dwayne Johnson's other upcoming projects include Red Notice 2, Fast X: Part 2, Jungle Cruise 2, Red One and the live-action remake of Moana.

Parliament security breach serious issue, there should be no squabbling over it: PM Modi

Prime Minister describes the breach as 'painful and a matter of concern'

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the seriousness of the security breach in Parliament cannot be underestimated, and called for no squabbling over the issue amid Opposition's protests over it in Parliament.

In an interview to Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran', Modi said probe agencies are investigating the incident and taking stringent measures, noting that it is equally necessary to go to the root of people behind it and their motives.

The newspaper said he described the breach as "painful and a matter of concern".

"Efforts should also be made to look for a solution with collective spirit. Everyone should avoid squabbling over such an issue," he said.

"The gravity of the incident which happened in Parliament should not be underestimated," the prime minister said, adding that the Speaker has also been taking necessary steps with all seriousness.

Two persons jumped from visitors' gallery into the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13, with Opposition parties, demanding



a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah. Some members have also sought Shah's resignation

The government has insisted that the security in Parliament complex is the responsibility of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and it has been following the Speaker's directives. It has also cited numerous such violations in the past, accusing the opposition of politicising the issue.

To a question about the BJP picking relatively new and little-known leaders as chief ministers in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan,

Modi said the leaders have lots of experience and hard work behind them.

Taking a jibe at those questioning the BJP's choices, he said it has been the country's misfortune that a big section of people who influence the society are bound to a trite and narrow mindset. "This is not confined to only the political field. This nature troubles us in every field. If in any field, some name becomes big with some branding, then others do not get attention irrespective of their talent and hardwork. A similar thing happens in politics," he said.

The media's focus for some decades has unfortunately been the most on a few families and due to this, talent and usefulness of new people are not being discussed, he said.

"That is why you often see some people as new. But the truth is that they are not new. They have done the hard work and have their own experience," he added.

The BJP leadership has picked Vishnu Deo Sai, Mohan Yadav and Bhajan Lal Sharma as chief ministers of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively, looking over the claims of former CMs Raman Singh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vasundhra Raje.

On the Supreme Court verdict on Article 370, Modi said the top court has put its stamp on the abrogation of Article 370, and added that "no power in the universe can bring it back".

Citing the BJP's stupendous show in the recent Assembly polls, he said it has shown that the party is set to score a historic win again in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He said Opposition parties should introspect as to why people do not accept their claims.

PM Modi inaugurates Surat Diamond Bourse, world's largest office complex, in Gujarat



SURAT, Dec 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse, the world's largest and modern centre for international diamond and invellers business.

jewellery business.

The Surat Diamond
Bourse (SDB) building,
the world's largest office
complex with more than
67 lakh square feet of
floor area, is located
at Khajod village near
Surat city.

It will be a global centre for trading of both rough and polished diamonds as well as jewellery, as per an official statement.

It will comprise a state-of-the-art 'Customs Clearance House' for import and export, jewellery mall for retail jewellery business and facility of international banking and safe vaults, it said.

Several diamond traders, including those based in Mumbai earlier,

have already taken possession of their offices, which were allotted by the management after auction, SDB's media convener Dinesh Navadiya said in a statement recently.

The SDB is part of the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) City.

Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel in February 2015 performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the SDB and DREAM City project.

With 67 lakh square feet of floor space, the SDB is now the world's largest office building having nearly 4,500 diamond trading offices, a release said.

The mega structure, built on a plot of 35.54 acres inside the DREAM City, has nine towers of 15 floors with office spaces ranging from 300 sq ft to 1 lakh sq ft.

4 killed, 2 injured as truck crashes into roadside eatery in UP's Etawah

ETAWAH (UP), Dec 17 (Agencies): At least four men were killed and two others sustained injuries after a speeding truck crashed into a roadside eatery on the Etawah-Kanpur National Highway here, police said on Sunday. District Magistrate Avnish Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar and other senior officers visited the spot to oversee relief and rescue operations, they said.

The accident occurred around 10.30 pm on Saturday in Ikdil area of Etawah district, Santosh Kumar said.

The truck was coming from Kanpur and was



being driven at a high speed in the service lane. The driver lost control and crashed into the eatery, police said. Suraj (32) and Talib (30), residents of Ikdil area, Sanjay Kumar (35) of Agra and eatery

owner Kuldeep Kumar

(35) were crushed under the wheels of the truck,

police said.
Saurabh Kumar, a resident of Nagla Khangar in Firozabad and Rahul Kumar of Ikdil, have been admitted to the district hospital for treatment, they said.

Congress to hold CWC meeting on Dec 21 to strategise for 2024 Lok Sabha polls: Sources NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The Con-

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The Congress has called a meeting of its working committee on December 21 to deliberate on the strategy for the 2024 General Election and chalk out a plan for its poll campaign to take on the BJP, sources said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has called the meeting, which will take place at the All India Congress Committee headquarters two days after the INDIA bloc meeting on December 19, to deliberate on the political situation in the country and the way forward, they said

Seat sharing and campaign is likely to be top of the agenda, they



added.

The meeting is also likely to discuss the possibility of a yatra that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi could undertake before the 2024 polls with unemployment and price rise as its main planks, the sources said.

An east-to-west yatra in hybrid mode, including on-foot, is being mulled by the party and a final decision is

expected to be taken soon, they said.

Ahead of the Congress Working Committee meeting, the 4th meeting of the leaders of INDIA parties will be held at 3 pm on December 19 in New Delhi.

Evolving a "core positive agenda", seat sharing and a programme to hold joint rallies are among the main challenges before the oppo-

sition INDIA bloc that will be taken up at its next meeting.

The parties intend to move forward with the unity theme—"Main Nahin, Hum" (We, Not Me) -- as a counter to the prime minister at the meeting, a senior leader of the Congress said.

The CWC meeting will also analyse the recent assembly poll results in which it was defeated in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan while winning and forming the government in Telangana.

The party also lost the polls in Mizoram. The CWC would deliberate on the reasons for the defeat and the way forward for the 2024 polls, they said.

The meeting is being held at a time when the challenge before the Congress is to come out with an alternative positive agenda to counter the BJP in the next general elections.

There is a view in the party that it would need to think out of the box to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2024.

Opposition must realise that BJP fights every election as its last battle: Chidambaram on 2024 polls

KOLKATA, Dec 17 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram has termed the party's debacle in the recently held Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan assembly polls as "unexpected" and "a matter of worry."

In an exclusive interview with agency, Chidambaram on Sunday said the BJP fights every election "as if it is the last battle" and that is what opposition parties "must realise."

"BJP's victory in three states—Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh—is a major boost for the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The defeat of the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan was unexpected. The results are worrying and I believe the party's leadership will address the weaknesses," the former Union finance minister said.

The veteran leader, however, said the party's 40 per cent vote share in the four big states - Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh and Telangana - where assembly elections were held recently "seems to be intact."

"seems to be intact."
Chidambaram said

he is hopeful that the party's vote share might increase up to 45 per cent ahead of the Lok Sabha polls by addressing issues such as lastmile campaign, booth management and bringing the dormant voter to the polling station on election day.

In the recently held

elections, the BJP defeated the Congress in all three states where the two were in a face-to-face fight, wresting control of both Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and retaining power in Madhya Pradesh. The only consolation for Congress was in Telangana where it pushed the BJP to third place.

Expressing concern on BJP's "polarisation, veiled anti-Muslim and anti-Christian propaganda and hypernationalism", the Congress Rajya Sabha MP said the party must find a befitting response to it.

"It is a potent combination. The BJP has given up its tirade against welfare measures (so-called freebies). But I am more concerned about polarisation, concealed anti-Muslim and anti-Christian propaganda, and hyper-nationalism.



Northern and central Indian states seem susceptible to this kind of appeal. The Congress must find an appropriate response," he said.

On caste census being the party's top agenda for 2024 polls, Chidambaram said, "It is an important issue but may not be the determining factor. In my view, unemployment and inflation top the list. In every survey, these are the two issues that concern people the most."

Whether demonetisation, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will affect the BJP vote bank in the upcoming polls, he said, "Demonetisation is an old issue.

Its scars have faded. But we will talk about demonetisation in the context of the hordes of black money seized repeatedly. In the last round of assembly elections, the ECI had seized Rs 1,760 crore of alleged unaccounted money."

"The NRC and CAA will become important issues if the government activates them and tries to implement them," he added.

On surveys predicting BJP win in the 2024 LS polls, Chidambaram said, "The wind is in BJP's sail. But winds can change direction. The BJP never takes an election lightly. It fights as if it is the last battle. The opposition parties

must realise the fighting quality of the saffron party."

On INDIA bloc's preparations for LS polls, Chidambaram said the leaders of the alliance will have to identify candidates who can take on the BJP in at least 400-425 seats.

"I am not privy to the internal discussions that take place when INDIA bloc leaders meet. I am sure they realise that there are only three months before the next elections. The most important task is to identify at least 400-425 seats where the opposition alliance should field one candidate to take on the BJP," he added.

On the INDIA bloc's PM face and its seat-sharing plans, Chidambaram said people's response to the alliance's leaders will help in identifying the PM face, but more than that is the need to win the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"The person to lead the government will be selected after the elections. People's response will be the key to selecting the leader. The immediate task is to win the elections," he added.

CRPF sub-inspector killed, constable injured in encounter with Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Sukma



RAIPUR, Dec 17 (Agencies): A sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was killed and a constable injured in an encounter between security personnel and Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Sunday, police said.

The incident took place in the morning under Jagargunda police station area

when a team of the CRPF's 165th battalion was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a police official said.

The operation was launched at around 7 am from Bedre camp towards Ursangal village, he said.

During the operation, an exchange of fire broke out in which sub-inspector Sudhakar Reddy was killed and constable Ramu sustained bullet injuries, he said.

After the exchange of fire stopped, four suspects were rounded up from the spot, he said, adding a joint team of security personnel was carrying out a search in the area.

The injured constable was being shifted to hospital for treatment, the official said.

Punjab Cops In Encounter Mode: 3 Gangsters Caught, 8th Incident In 11 Days

CHANDIGARH, Dec 17 (Agencies): The crackdown on gangsters in Punjab continued on Sunday with another encounter in Moga district early this morning. Three gangsters of the Lucky Patial gang were arrested after an exchange of fire with the cops, police

Barricades were put by the criminal investigation agency and the gangsters who arrived on a bike were signalled to stop, Harinder Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Moga district said.

"The gangsters turned their bike around when asked to stop and tried to escape, but the cops followed them. Then they abandoned their bike and went inside the farms, and opened fire at the police team," said Mr Singh.

The gangsters surrendered following an exchange of fire, he said, adding that one of them was injured while trying to escape, but not in the firing.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition is said to be recovered from the arrested gangsters, but the details are yet to be known.

This is the eighth encounter reported in the last 11 days in Punjab, notably after an open warning by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann that the police will

retaliate if they come under attack.

Two encounters were reported yesterday from Mohali and Patiala, and two car thieves and a murder accused were arrested. All three sustained injuries in firing in both the incidents, police had

Israel-Qatar meet raises prospects of Gaza hostage talks

Hamas not open to talks on prisoners unless 'aggression' stops

CAIRO/GAZA/JERUSALEM, Dec 17 (Agencies): Israel appeared to confirm that new negotiations were under way to recover hostages held by Hamas, after a source said Israel's intelligence chief met the prime minister of Qatar, a country mediating in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a press conference on Saturday the war in Gaza was existential and must be fought until victory. He said Gaza would be demilitarised and under Israeli security con-

Israel's offensive in Gaza helped clinch a partial hostage-release deal in November, Netanyahu said, vowing to maintain intense military pressure on Hamas. He has vowed to destroy the militant Palestinian group, which runs the densely populated strip.

"The instruction I am giving the negotiating team is predicated on this pressure, without which we have nothing," he said.

Hamas militants killed 1,200 people and captured 240 hostages in a surprise raid into Israel on Oct. 7. Israel's counteroffensive has killed close to 19,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities, and left thousands buried in the

Aid organisations say the destruction of Gaza and the



confirmed he had given instruc-

"We have serious criticisms

of Qatar," he said, alluding to

the gas-rich Gulf state's ties

to Hamas and Israel's arch-

foe Iran. "But right now we are

trying to complete the recovery

Hamas said in a statement it

"affirms its position not to open

any negotiations to exchange

prisoners unless the aggres-

sion against our people stops

once and for all," adding: "The

movement communicated this

position to all mediators." The

accidental killing of three hos-

tages by Israeli forces has put

increased pressure on Netan-

yahu to find a way to secure the

As Netanyahu spoke, sev-

eral hundred people staged a

release of those held.

of our hostages."

tions to the negotiating team.

displacement of most of its 2.3 million people -- many living in tents and makeshift shelters without food or clean water -is a humanitarian crisis.

The head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, David Barnea, met Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani late on Friday, according to a source with knowledge of the matter, as attention turned to a possible Gaza truce and a prisoner and hostage deal.

The meeting in Europe was apparently the first between senior officials from Israel and Qatar, which has been acting as a mediator, since the collapse of a seven-day ceasefire in late November.

'GET THEM OUT OF HELL' Netanyahu sidestepped a question about the meeting but home now!"

At nightfall on Saturday, residents reported intensified fighting in the centre of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, with Israeli planes and tanks bombing and shelling and the sound of rocket grenades, apparently fired by Hamas fighters.

protest in Tel Aviv, with some

holding placards, including one

saying "get them out of hell." A

speaker shouted: "Bring them

"Every day the situation gets worse. Food gets less, water gets worse. Only death, fear and destruction get greater," said Samira, 40, a mother of four, who is displaced in Rafah, near the southern border with Egypt.

In signs of the wider ramifications of the conflict, Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthis said they had attacked the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat with a swarm of drones, one of several drone incidents reported in the region on Saturday.

Two major freight firms said they would avoid the Suez Canal as the Houthis stepped up attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

The US Central Command said the destroyer Carney had shot down 14 Houthi drones in the Red Sea. Britain said one of its warships had shot down a suspected attack drone targeting merchant shipping.

Women, children among 61 migrants drown off Libyan coast



TRIPOLI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has said that 61 migrants have drowned at sea off the coast of the western Libyan city of Zuwara, some 120 km west of the capital Tripoli, while

trying to reach Europe. IOM Libya posted on X late Saturday that 61 migrants, including women and children, drowned following a tragic shipwreck off Libya.

According to the survivors, the boat with around 86 people left the Libyan shores from Zwara.

"The central Mediterranean continues to be one of the world's most dangerous migration routes," IOM noted.

According to IOM, a total of 15,383 illegal migrants were rescued and returned to Libya so far this year.

Israel carries out fresh strikes in Gaza as pressure grows to free more hostages

JERUSALEM, Dec 17 (Agencies): Israel carried out fresh strikes on Gaza Sunday as its leaders came under growing pressure to secure the release of hostages still held in the Hamas-run territory more than two months after the October 7 attacks.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced protests on Saturday by relatives of hostages who called for an urgent deal to secure their freedom after the army admitted mistakenly killing three captives in Gaza.

The trio were among an estimated 250 people taken hostage during Hamas's October 7 raids into Israel, which also killed about 1,140 people, according to the Israeli authorities' latest figures.

According to Hamas, Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed 18,800 people, mostly women and children.

At a protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday, relatives of hostages gathered to plead with the government for a deal. "Take us into consideration and come up with a plan now (for negotiation)," said Noam Perry, daughter of hostage Haim Perry, at the protest.

More than 100 of the Israelis and foreigners seized by Hamas and other militants on October 7 were released in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners during a week-long truce last month, mediated by Qatar. Netanyahu doubled down on his war effort on Saturday, telling reporters of the three hostages' deaths: "It broke my heart. It broke the whole nation's heart."

"With all the deep sorrow, I want to clarify: the military pressure is necessary both for the return of the kidnapped and for achieving victory over our enemies," he added.

On Sunday, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza, at least 12 people were killed in Israeli strikes on the central city of Deir al-Balah. Witnesses also reported Israeli air and artillery strikes on the southern municipality of Bani Suhaila east of Khan Yunis, the Gaza Strip's second city.

On Saturday, Netanyahu appeared to address Qatari efforts towards a new truce. "We have serious criticisms of Qatar, about which I suppose you will hear in due course, but right now we are trying to complete the recovery of our hostages," he said.

In a statement, Qatar reaffirmed on Saturday its "ongoing diplomatic efforts to renew the humanitarian pause." But Hamas said on Telegram it was "against any negotiations for the exchange of prisoners until the aggression against our people ceases completely.'

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said late Saturday he was travelling to Israel, Bahrain and Qatar to highlight Washington's "commitments to strengthening regional security and stability.'

News platform Axios said Israeli spy chief David Barnea met Friday in an unspecified European location with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who helped negotiate the earlier truce.

'Hunger, disease, weak immunity'

Israel's bombardment of Gaza has left much of the territory in ruins, with the UN estimating 1.9 million Gazans have been displaced by the war.

The UN said this week that hunger and desperation were driving people to seize humanitarian aid being delivered to Gaza, warning of a "breakdown of civil order."

International aid organisations have struggled to get supplies to desperate Gazans.

"I would not be surprised if people start dying of hunger, or a combination of hunger, disease, weak immunity," said Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

The agency reported a "prolonged communications blackout" across Gaza that started on Thursday night and has continued over the past 48 hours.

US President Joe Biden, whose administration provides billions of dollars in military aid to Israel, has voiced growing concern over civilian deaths.

UK Foreign Minister David Cameron and his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock wrote in The Sunday Times that the "need is urgent" for a "sustainable ceasefire" in Gaza. In the face of mounting international pressure, Israel announced a "temporary measure" to allow aid deliveries directly to Gaza through

the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

Fierce fighting raged in Gaza on Saturday, with the Israeli army saying it had raided two schools which it said were Hamas hiding places in the northern Gaza City.

The Israeli army said Sunday two more soldiers had been killed in Gaza, bringing the total to 121 since ground operations began in late October.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said a Christian mother and daughter were shot dead by an Israeli soldier on the grounds of the Gaza Strip's only Catholic church.

In the city of Khan Yunis, dozens of journalists took part in a funeral for Al Jazeera cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa, who was killed in an Israeli strike, according to his news organisation.

More than 60 journalists and media staff have died since the war began, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Red Sea disruption

The war continues to be felt across the Middle East and has raised fears of a broader conflict. Israel has exchanged regular fire with militants, mainly the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah, across its northern border with Lebanon.

The Israeli army said on Saturday a soldier was killed and two others wounded in the Margaliot area on the Lebanese boundary. A spokesperson confirmed to AFP the casualties were caused by a "hostile aircraft."

The conflict has also caused major disruption to the key Red Sea shipping lane between Asia and Europe, with two more major firms announcing they were redirecting their vessels following repeated attacks by Yemeni rebels allied with Hamas.

The action by Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) and CMA CGM follows similar moves on Friday by Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd. It comes after Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels launched repeated attacks on passing vessels in recent days.

The rebels also launched a wave of 14 one-way attack drones on Saturday, all of which were "shot down with no damage to ships in the area or reported injuries", the US military's Central Command said.

"They're Poisoning The...": Donald Trump's **Anti-Immigrant Remark Sparks Row**

DURHAM, Dec 17 (Agencies): Donald Trump, the Republican presidential frontrunner, said that undocumented immigrants were "poisoning the blood of our country," repeating language that has previously drawn criticism as xenophobic and echoing of Nazi rhetoric.

Trump made the comments during a campaign event in New Hampshire where he railed against migrant crossings at the US-Mexico border, which hit new highs in September.

Trump has promised to crack down on illegal

immigration and restrict legal immigration if elected to a second four-year term in office.

"They're poisoning the blood of our country," Trump told a rally in the city of Durham, adding that immigrants were coming to the U.S. from Asia and Africa in addition to South America. "All over the world they are pouring into our country."

Trump used the same 'poisoning the blood' language during an interview with The National Pulse, a rightleaning website, that was published in late September.

It prompted a rebuke from the Anti-Defamation League, whose leader, Jonathan Greenblatt, called the language "racist, xeno-

phobic and despicable." Jonathan Stanley, a Yale professor and author of a book on fascism, said Trump's repeated use of that language was dangerous. He said Trump's words echoed the rhetoric of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, who warned against German blood being poisoned by Jews in his political treatise "Mein

Kampf". "He is now employing this vocabulary in repeti-



tion in rallies. Repeating dangerous speech increases its normalization and the practices it recommends," Staley said. "This is very concerning talk for the safety of immigrants in the U.S."

In October Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung had dismissed criticism of the former president's language as "nonsensical," arguing that similar lanquage was prevalent in books, news article and on TV. Cheung did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Trump's remarks.

Kuwait's emir Sheikh Nawaf dies aged 86, crown prince Sheikh Meshal named new leader

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 17 (Agencies): The ruling emir of oilrich Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died on Saturday aged 86, the royal court said, after three years in power marked by repeated political disputes.

"With great sadness and sorrow, we mourn... the death of Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait," said a statement aired on state television. The channel had cut its regular programming and switched to a broadcast of a Koranic recital before the announcement.

Meanwhile, the nation's crown prince and Nawaf's half-brother, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was named the Gulf nation's new emir, state television reported. "Kuwait's cabinet names crown prince, his highness Sheikh Meshal... emir of the state of Kuwait," the broadcaster said.

Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah is 83 years old. Attention is now focused on whether the family will appoint a younger generation ruler as the next crown prince.

In November, Sheikh Nawaf was hospitalised "due to an emergency health problem", according to the official KUNA



details about his illness, but he was later declared to be in stable condition. Given his age, concerns about his health were commonplace during his rule.

Sheikh Nawaf ascended to the role of crown prince in 2006, appointed by his half-brother Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. He assumed the position of emir upon Sheikh Sabah's death in September 2020 at the age of 91.

In 2020, Sheikh Nawaf faced the challenge of navigating the economy through a crisis triggered by a fall in oil prices. Around 14 months after he was appointed emir, Sheikh Nawaf transferred key constitutional duties to Sheikh Mishal.

Sheikh Nawaf's reign, though not the shortest in Kuwait's history, was notable for issuing numerous amnesties, earning him the title "emir of pardons", according to Bader al-Saif, an assistant professor of history at Kuwait University.

Last month, Kuwait's Council of Ministers approved a draft royal decree calling for pardons for political prisoners convicted during the past decade. Similar pardons were also issued in

Sheikh Nawaf would also "be remembered for his unique personal attributes: soft-spoken, devout, modest, low profile," Saif said.

Kuwait, a conservative coun-

try where sovereign powers are concentrated in the hands of the ruling Al Sabah family, is home to the most active and powerful parliament in the Gulf.

But repeated standoffs between elected lawmakers and cabinet ministers installed by the ruling family have hindered development efforts and discouraged investors.

Following a succession of resigning governments and dissolved parliaments, Kuwait's current cabinet is its fifth in a

Sheikh Nawaf's rule also saw the Gulf country hold three parliamentary elections in as many

The political deadlock has delayed necessary reforms and blocked development projects, leaving infrastructure and education in disrepair and much of the population disgruntled.

Born in 1937, Sheikh Nawaf was the fifth son of Kuwait's late ruler from 1921 to 1950 Sheikh Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He started his political career at the age of 25 as governor of Hawalli province, remaining in the position until 1978 when he began a decade-long tenure as interior minister.

Annual sports day held at Lawrance School

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH. Dec 17: Annual sports day was organized at Lawrance Public Senior Secondary School, Mohali today.

Jagjeet Singh, SP Mohali was chief guest during the occasion. The flat race was won by

Akashpreet Singh with Avneer Singh and Guneet Singh getting second and third spots respec-

Hetash won the shuttle race followed by Ranfateh at second spot and Stalinveer at third.

In chatti race, Hargun Kaur got first place and Gurnoor Kaur and Tamanjot Kaur remained at second and third spots respec-

The joker race was won by Fatehbir Singh . Avitaj Singh got second place followed by Agam-



vir Singh at third spot.

Team Lion won Tug war competition. In passing the ball race, Gurshanveer, Gurjot and Birradit team got the first place followed by the team including Bhargav, Vansh and Jasnoor team at second spot.

In the relay race, the team including Avneet, Kriyansh, Rabhnoor got first place.

Aryan won the pyramid race while Manpratap and Ripanjot got second and third spots respectively.

In the ring race, Tanishka got

first spot and Seraat and Gurbani got second and third spots respectively.

Satvik Joshi won the drag ball competition. Biraj Sharma and Pratyush Rana remained at second and third positions.

In the hurdle race, Prabhjas got first spot. Fatesh Singh and Mohnish Verma grabbed second and third spots respectively.

Find the shoe race was won by Ripanjeet with Manraj at second spot and Abhinay at third.

Harminder Singh won musical chairs competitions with Rishit Sharma and Krishana grabbing second and third positions respectively.

Speaking during the occasion, Veena Malhotra, School Principal, highlighted the school's commitment to holistic development through sports and extracurricular activities.

Farmer's amputated hand re-implanted successfully



Top News Report

JAMMU / HOSHIAR-PUR, Dec 17: A farmer's hand was successfully re-implanted by doctors at Ivy Hospital, Hoshiarpur recently.

The patient accidentally amputated his left hand while working on a woodcutting machine. He was rushed to Ivy Hospital on time with a severed hand and reimplantation surgery was performed success-

A team of doctors including Dr. Sumit Toor plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Manpreet Kaur and Dr. Harpreet Singh Atwal both employed advanced microsurgical techniques for hand reimplantation.

Dr. Toor reconnected blood vessels, nerves, tendons, bones and tissues, showcasing the hospital's commitment to pushing the boundaries of medical excellence.

Dr. Toor said, "Patients with traumatic amputations often face significant physical and emotional challenges. The timely re-implantation can bring new hope in traumatic limb loss,"

He further explained that preservation and proper transport of the amputated part are crucial aspects of reimplantation surgery along with the importance of the time.

The badly crushed injuries may not be suitable for re-implantation, but with osteoplastic reconstructive surgery that hand can be saved, he maintained.

Post-surgery patient can now look forward to a significantly improved quality of life, asserted Dr. Toor.

DR.M.L.Dogra honoured "INTERNATIONAL **EXCELLENCE AWARD-2023"**

Top News Report

JAMMU NEW DELHI, Dec Dr.M.L.Dogra, an Indian theatre / multifaceted personality and scholar, of Jammu and Kashmir, UT known for bringing creative Dogri and Hindi theatre Musical plays internationally was honored with "International Excellence award-2023" for his outstanding tremendous contribution in Performing art and Education along with 200 international dignitaries by the Chief GuestsHon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Juseph ,Former Judge Supreme Court of India ,His Excellency Mr. S.K.Krishna-IAS ,Former Union Minister Govt. of India and .Mr. Alem Tsehaye Ambassdor of Eritea Founder Chairman & council Director -GCCR at Hotel Vivantaa, Dwaraka New Delhi India along with Col. Dr.Divakaran Padma Kumar Pilly, PHD Shuriya Chakra, Institute of and Defense ,Delhi ,India, Mrs. Usha Krishan Kumar, President ,all India Nurses welfare .International, Chairperson of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation ,Prof.Subha Raian Senior fellow .The IMAGINDIA, New Delhi, Dr. Senorita Isac ,Trade Commissioner ,Latin Amrican Caribbean ,Trade Council were Guest of Honor. The Programme was started with welcome note by Host. Mr. Tony Thomas and Deepanshi Kapoor feslicitian by team and lighting the Traditional Lamp and welcome speech by His Excellency musical Play and Friday

Mr. Alem Tsehaye(Eastren Ambassdor of India Dean of African Diplomatic corps of India and speech by Prof. Subah Rajan , Dr. Senoria ISSAC ,Col. Dr.Divakarn Padma ,Shuriya Chakra followed by the Dance performances of Nationanl artstes of Sujan Academy .The International Empire award event was organized by Kites kraft Production LLP, Global Chamber of Consumer Rights The Chief Guest Congratulated the Organizers awardees for their services towards this and were also felicitated with Golden Medal . Certificate and trophy. The main objective of the International Excellence Awards 2023 was celebration of excellence platform for and a source of inspiration for those committed to making a difference in their business and education spheres ,reputation,delivering exceptional experiences, this event promised to be an evening

that would be echoed in the memories of those who are ,leaving a lasting impact on the future of culture heritage, education and business also which will recognize the achievements in the Education/ Business/ Healthcare sector opportunity to strive to intensify along with Experts, exceptional Guest Speakers and Award Winners .India's best Moderator and Best Panel speakers given tips in their speech to recognize internationally on various

sectors. Dr. Dogra is a true legendary icon undoubtedly for Performing Art, his exceptional and exemplary work would be a source of inspiration to younger generation. The organization honored him with dignity and wished him a good luck for the future. He has created over three dozen Dance drama spectacles which really represent the ethos, aspirations of the society and started a weekend two shows called Saturday

ister of India, Sh.Narinder Modi Ji. Every year more than 100 students learning free Hindustani Classical music and Computer education.He has also designed and constructed Cultural Tableaux on various government themes for National celebration program

Dr.Dogra was born on 08-08-1948 in small mountain village in Seen Thakran, Udhampur district of the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, to Amar Nath locally known traditional art "Bakh and Geetrru" performer. He was honored PHD. in performing Art and Education, by the Vishvakarma university from the MHRD, Government of India 2021. Dr.Dogra's work has made way for his reorganization from the Media houses and he has been decorated with 29 awards from the Government and other renowned nationally and internationally organizations (Mainly Cultural Bonaza award-1995 by Ministry of Information Broadcasting, Har Mukh Ganga award-2010,Life time Achievement Award-2016, Vijay Mallah Music Award-2016, Foundation, Rashtriya Samaj Seva Ratan-2021, Global Human Rights Foundation Icons of Asia-2022 (Global Empire events) and Influential Indians award-2021, Bharat Bhushan Award -2022, in best man of Excellence creation (Cultural) by The Crazy Tales(NationalPassion

Department of Economics GDC Thathri organised an extension lecture



Top News Report

DODA, Dec 17: The department of English of GDC Thathri in collaboration with the department of Economics organised an extension lecture under the able guidance and patronage of the college Principal Dr Basharat Igbal. The theme of the event was Viksit Bharat @2047 Voice of Youth. The resource person on the occasion was Prof Mohd Saleem, HoD Economics who in his detailed presentation highlighted the missions and visions to be taken by everyone especially the youth in order to become a Viksit (developed) nation. Prof Saleem also highlighted the various initiatives and visionary decisions taken by the government to attain the goal of a Viksit Bharat over the next 25 years. Prof Saleem also explained the various ways for everyone to participate and contribute towards the development from self to society to state. The college Principal Dr Basharat Iqbal while inaugurating the event emphasised the need to make evervone aware and enlighten about the mission of Viksit Bharat @2047 and motivated the students to have

maximum participation in different competitions and events to be organised over one month. The principal also lauded the efforts of the organising committee for such relevant and significant programme and also directed the different committees to keep up the mission of Viksit Bharat@2047 as their primary task. The whole event was managed by Prof Deepak Raj, Department of English who in his formal vote of thanks appreciated and lauded the efforts of everyone associated with the organising of this grand

Lt Governor calls for peoples' participation in Viksit Bharat Sankalp **Yatra to achieve 100%** saturation of schemes

inspire others towards green alternatives. The Lt Governor lauded Srinagar's Sadaf for achieving her goal of being a successful entrepreneur in-spite of her disabilities. Sadaf's life is a story of grit, self-belief, hard work and determination. Her competence, skills and knowledge is a source of inspiration for other citizens, he said.

The Lt Governor directed the District Administrations to felicitate extraordinary and courageous women like Bhaderwah's Meenakshi Devi and extend them necessary support.

Meenakshi Devi, a female e-rickshaw driver, is the epitome of Nari Shakti. Despite immense challenges, she is offering hope to her family and inspiration to others facing adversity, the Lt Governor

Appreciating Ms Pooja of Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, who has established her own homemade chocolate brand called 'Smiley Chocolates', the Lt Governor said the foray of Pooja into entrepreneurship is inspiring other women of the area to choose a courageous path and turn the challenges into opportunities

The Lt Governor also shared the entrepreneurial journey of Javed Ahmed of Tangmarg, a beneficiary of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, who is inspiring the youth to become job creators, not job seekers.

He commended the efforts of Tariq Ahmed Ganie from Kulgam for realising the goal of waste to wealth economic model with a successful waste recycling unit. Tariq is not only generating employment for local youth but also building a cleaner and more sustainable future, he said.

The Lt Governor also mentioned the suggestions received from the citizens. He directed the concerned departments and officials to take appropriate action on the valuable inputs received from Jammu's Poonam Sharma, Abdul Rashid Bhat from Ganderbal. Sanchetna from Jammu. Pulwama's Ehsaan Khaleeq, Anil Thapa of Udhampur, Kathua's Kanwal Singh, Noor Ud Din Khan of Baramulla, Madeena Mir of Srinagar, Saurav Sharma of Kathua and Zakir Hussain from Poonch.

3 'Hybrid' terrorists arrested for attacking policeman in Bemina Srinagar: DGP

he added. Hybrid terrorists are those who carry out attacks and then slip back into their routine lives, police said.

Swain said Malla, who lives in the same locality as the policeman, recruited two hybrid terrorists — Imtiyaz Khanday and Mehnaan Khan.

"They managed (to get) pistols and followed him for several days before carrying out the attack. The pistol used (in the attack) has been recovered at the instance of Khanday who had fired the bullets," he

The DGP said another pistol was recovered from Khan while 57 pistol rounds were recovered from Malla.

Music Concerts and reflect-

ed in the Regional, National

papers, Radio and Doordar-

shan and social media.In

his 50 years contribution

to theatre he has writ-

ten more than 150 lyrical

Plays, many Books, many

Articles for newspapers

on Cultural Heritage of

India and more than 2000

Songs p& recorded in

Dogri and Hindi languages

and videos uploaded on

YouTube, Social media at

present more than 3000

performances in his credit.

He has contributed a lot in

awakening civil society by

organizing Social aware-

ness Campaigns on Govt.

Programmes policies and

given plethora of opportuni-

ties to the young in the field

of art & Culture exclusively

He is also running Music

center of Bhatkhande

Sangit Vidyapith, Lucknow

Gharana and Computer

Institute for various sub-

iects (under National Urban

Rural Computer Mission)

launched by the Prime Min-

Swain said during questioning, the terrorists revealed that they had finalised a list of targets.

"They had a number of other targets.

FROM PAGE 1

While some were finalised, others were in the process of being identified. Most of the targets were policemen but there were some non-policemen also on their radar," he said.

Asked if the arrested men had any hand in the killing of Inspector Masroor Wani, the DGP said the case was being investigated

by the NIA. "That (case) is still under investigation, the NIA has taken over the investigation. I think It would be inappropriate to prema-

turely start connecting," he said. The DGP said Turkish pistol Canik TP9 was used in carrying out the attack.

Canik TP9 is a high-quality pistol and its lightweight makes it very good, he said. It was not the first time that Canik TP9 has been recovered from terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, the police chief said.

"But we are seeing a pattern and a trend... This category of small arms is being brought into Jammu and Kashmir through drones and through a variety of other means, being smuggled into our side from Pakistan," he said.

Gurez receives another spell of fresh snowfall

closed by authorities for all sorts of vehicular movement in view of weather advisory issued by meteorological department.

Man arrested for sharing sensitive video.

hurting religious sentiments in Rajouri

"The sensitive video was having high potential to disturb peaceful atmosphere in the area."

He said that taking a stern note of this unlawful act, police has registered a case in FIR 123/2023 U/Ss 153A, 295A, 505(2) IPC, 67 IT Act in police station Kandi and accused has been arrested and put behind

SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh (IPS) said that maintenance of order and peace in society is prime most priority of police and such acts have no place in society.

He said that time and again, law enforcement agencies have warned people to adhere to rules and refrain from posting any such sensitive content that can disturb peace and order.

SSP Rajouri further said that a zero tolerance policy is there against any such unlawful act and whosoever tries to act unlawful will be dealt with stern action as per law of land.

Nobody can snatch your language from you: Mehbooba Mufti to Kashmiris

Gujjar community for his untiring efforts in areas of social and educational awakening, Chaudhary retired as Additional Director General of Police in 2004.

Soon after that, he was appointed as the founder Vice-Chancellor of the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University in

Rajouri, where he eventually continued his service for two tenures.

"When Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University was established, Mufti Sahab entrusted Masud Chaudhary with the job, knowing he could deliver. He reluctantly pursued the cause of the tribal community and especially focused on their education and empowerment," Mehbooba Mufti said. Earlier on Monday, the PDP suspended all of its political activities for seven days to stand in solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the Supreme Court's verdict on Article 370.

A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court on Monday unanimously upheld the validity of the Union government's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution, which conferred the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, while pointing out that Article 370 is a "temporary provision."

Mughal road, SSG road closed for vehicular traffic following fresh snowfall

accumulation of snow on the highway. The snow clearance operation is going on at both roads to make them traffic worthy, they said. However, traffic on Srinagar-Jammu national highway was plying normal from the both sides. Snow clearance operation was also taken up by the men of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at Sadhna pass, Tangdhar, Keran and Machil in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Upper reaches of Kashmir valley experienced a fresh snowfall on Saturday evening closing several roads.

Merchandise trade deficit falls to \$20.6 billion

The commerce secretary, Sunil Barthwal, said the global context, including conflicts and unchanged interest rates in major economies have further aggravated trade.

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The country's goods exports in November 2023 contracted by 2.84% yearon-year to \$33.9 billion, impacted by global economic and political turmoil.

However, imports saw a sharper decline of 4.33% to \$54.48 billion, narrowing the merchandise trade deficit to \$20.58 billion from the previous month's record high of \$31.46 billion, Commerce Department's data revealed.

The commerce secretary, Sunil Barthwal, said the global context, including conflicts and unchanged interest rates in major



economies have further aggravated trade. While UNCTAD projected a 7.5% fall in global trade in goods for 2023, during January-November 2023, India's goods exports fell by 5.2%, as per Barthwal. Despite

challenging global trade scenario, exports outperformed global trends in 2023 by significant margin, he said.

Notably, engineering goods, petroleum products, ready-made garments, chemicals,

leather, and marine products drove the decline in exports, while a decrease in petroleum, coal, chemicals, fertilizers, and vegetable oil contributed to the decline in imports.

From April to Novem-

ber 2023, exports were 6.51% lower at \$278.80 billion compared to the same period in 2022, while imports decreased by 8.67% to \$445.15 billion. The trade deficit for April-November 2023 was estimated at \$166.35 billion, down from \$189.21 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Despite the overall decline in exports, 15 out of 30 key sectors, including gems and jewelry, electronic goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn and made-ups, carpet, iron ore, fruits and vegetables, and meat and dairy products, experienced growth.

NCLAT refuses to stay merger of Zee-Sony



Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) refused plea from Axis Finance and IDBI Bank for a stay on merger between Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) and Culver Max Entertainment (earstwhile Sony Pictures Networks India).

The appellate tribunal has asked to list both

petitions on January 8 for hearing, directing ZEEL to file a reply. A two-member bench comprising Chairman Justice Ashok Bhushan and Member Arun Baroka declined to grant stay over the merger process during the pendency of the hearing.

The private lender and the non-banking financial company

have challenged the August 10 order of the Mumbai-bench of the NCLT, which approved the ZEEL-Culver Max Entertainment merger, paving way for the creation of the country's largest media entity.

The NCLT, in its order, dismissed some applications moved by financial institutions opposing the move, including IDBI Trusteeship, IDBI Bank, Axis Finance, JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction, and Imax Corp. This was challenged by IDBI and Axis Finance before the appellate tribunal NCLAT. The matter was last listed on December 6 for hearing. However, it was adjourned due to paucity of time.

Ban flavoured vapes, WHO says, urging tobacco-style controls

LONDON, Dec 17 (Agencies): The World Health Organization (WHO) urged governments to treat e-cigarettes similarly to tobacco and ban all flavours, threatening cigarette companies' bets on smoking alternatives.

Some researchers, campaigners and governments see e-cigarettes, or vapes, as a key tool in reducing the death and disease caused by smoking. But the U.N. agency said "urgent measures" were needed to control them.

Citing studies, it said there was insufficient evidence that vapes helped smokers quit, that they were harmful to health and that they could drive nicotine addiction among nonsmokers, especially chil-

dren and young people. More 13-15 year olds are using vapes than adults in all WHO regions helped by aggressive marketing, it

continued. "Kids are being recruited and trapped at an early age to use e-cigarettes and may get hooked to nicotine," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, urging countries to implement



strict measures.

The WHO called for changes, including bans on all flavouring agents like menthol, and the application of tobacco control measures to vapes. Those include high taxes and bans on use in public places.

The WHO has no authority over national regulations, and only provides guidance. But its recommendations are often adopted voluntarily.

The WHO and some other anti-tobacco organisations are pushing for stricter regulations on newer nicotine products, taking aim at the alternatives on which some cigarette giants like Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco are basing their future strat-

of the factors behind

Major tobacco companies are hoping to build new revenue streams from cigarette alternatives as ever-stricter rules and falling smoking rates squeeze their traditional businesses in some markets.

> The industry says vapes pose significantly lower health risks than tobacco and can help reduce its harms, with some flavours and lower prices important to encouraging smokers to switch - a position shared by some tobacco control advocates.

The WHO said vapes generate substances, some of which are known to cause cancer, and pose risks to heart and lung health.

They can also harm brain development in young people, it said, citing studies.

Breast cancer survivors may not need so many mammograms after surgery, UK study suggests

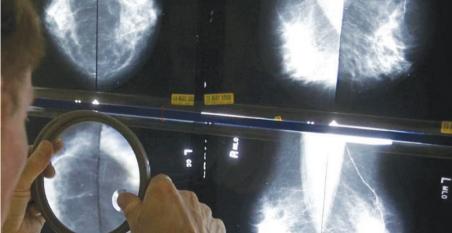
LONDON, Dec 17 (Agencies): Annual mammograms are recommended indefinitely for breast cancer survivors in many countries, including the U.S., but a large British study finds that less frequent screening is just as good.

Yearly screening is meant to monitor whether cancer has come back. All that testing causes anxiety for patients and costs money.

Until now, there wasn't solid evidence for when women could ease back on yearly mammograms, said Janet Dunn of the University of Warwick, who led the study funded by the research arm of the U.K.'s National Health Service.

The study showed less frequent mammograms are just as good as a yearly schedule for breast cancer survivors 50 and older.

"It's really all about giving the ladies the allclear a bit earlier if you can," Dunn said. The findings were being discussed Friday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. The unpub-



cancer specialist Dr.

University of California,

research on a personal-

ized approach to screen-

ing. "I think people will

The new study is

"very strong," but more

research will be needed

to change U.S. guide-

lines, said Corinne

Leach of Moffitt Cancer

Center in Tampa, Flor-

ida. She led the devel-

opment of a 2015 U.S.

guideline that calls for

indefinite annual screen-

be very surprised."

lished study has not yet gone through a full peer review.

Researchers followed more than 5,200 women. The participants were 50 and older, and had undergone successful breast cancer surgery, mostly lumpectomies. After three years of annual screening, half were randomly assigned to get mammograms every year and the other half to get less frequent

Both groups did well, with remarkably similar results. Six years later, 95% of both groups were still cancer free. Breast cancer survival was 98% in both groups. "This is an eye-open-

ing for these kinds of patients. "One study alone typi-

ing study," said breast cally does not move the needle on guidelines," Laura Esserman of the Leach said. "This study inspires other research-San Francisco who was ers to do more work in not involved in the new this area. And that is study but is leading what could lead to a change.'

In the new study, most women in both groups followed their assigned screening schedule. Some in the annual group missed screenings and some in the less frequent group were screened ahead of schedule. When the researchers analyzed the findings based on what the women actually did, the conclusions remained the same.

Survivors "can breathe easily" three years after surgery as they resume a less frequent mammogram schedule, Dunn said. The findings are likely to change practice in the U.K. and "will be influential globally," she said.

How often is less frequent? In the study, it depended on the type of surgery.

In the less-frequent screening group, women who'd had mastectomies had a mammogram once every three years. Those who'd had lumpectomies, also called breast conservation surgery, had mammograms every two vears.

The findings do not apply to younger breast cancer survivors, who were excluded from the study and tend to have more aggressive cancers. And women who have both breasts removed don't need mammograms.

"It's high time that we have a more personalized approach to screening, not just for women who've never had breast cancer, but for those who've had breast cancer," Esserman said.

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: Asymptomatic & Under-Diagnosed

Over 30 per cent Indians are affected by NAFLD, a lifestyle disease. The cases are expected to increase manifold as obesity and diabetes numbers rise

NEW DELHI. Dec 17 (Agencies): Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is a condition in which excess fat accumulates in the liver of people who drink little or no alcohol. NAFLD leads to inflammation (NASH) and scarring (fibrosis) in the liver, which can progress to cirrhosis and endstage liver disease if left untreated. It is one of the most common causes of chronic liver disease globally and in India. NAFLD is also associated with an increased risk of heart attack, stroke and cancers, particularly liver. More than one-third of adults and children in India have NAFLD. It is particularly common in the North. A study in PGIMER, Chandigarh, found NAFLD in 50 per cent of otherwise healthy adult blood donors. The cases are expected to increase exponentially as obesity and diabetes numbers

Although genetics and gut microbiota are some

NAFLD, it is primarily a lifestyle disease driven by insulin resistance and metabolic dysfunction. The main risk factors are a sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy dietary habits, with an increased intake of calorie-rich foods. NAFLD is closely linked with other metabolic lifestyle diseases like obesity, diabetes mellitus, hypertension and dyslipidemia (lipid imbalance). People who are obese or diabetics are at more risk of NAFLD and vice versa, these metabolic co-morbidities are more common in NAFLD patients. Also, patients with these metabolic co-morbidities are at a higher risk of having severe forms of NAFLD, including NASH, fibrosis, cirrhosis and even liver cancer.

The barriers against this burgeoning public health problem are many, including low awareness. NAFLD is largely asymptomatic in the early stages and is usually detected only on

patients become symptomatic with complications of cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease. The Indian National Association for Study of the Liver has recommended that those who are obese or diabetic should be screened for NAFLD using abdominal ultrasonography. Even the number of

investigations or when

NAFLD specialists (hepatologists or gastroenterologists) is also quite less, given the humungous burden of NAFLD. Many NAFLD patients at low risk of developing significant liver disease can be managed at the primary care level. This risk stratification to identify low or high-risk patients can be accomplished through blood investigation parameters and elastography. The recent incorporation of NAFLD in the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) will also help in increasing awareness about



the disease, promoting a healthy lifestyle and streamlining its overall management.

As NAFLD is primarily a lifestyle disease, prevention and treatment demand lifestyle changes. These include diet modification and increased physical activity and need to be sustained over a long term as NAFLD is a chronic disease. A weight loss of 7 to 10 per cent of the total body weight in overweight/obese individuals and 3 to 5 percent in patients with normal weight is beneficial. However, this weight loss should be gradual over a period of three to six months. as a rapid weight loss can be detrimental.

one-third or 500-1000 kcal/day is more important than any specific diet. Though some studies have found the Mediterranean diet to be beneficial, a healthy diet sourced from local foods that is sustainable is equally beneficial. A healthy diet will protect not only against NAFLD but also diabetes, hypertension, obesity, cardiovascular disease and stroke. Junk and fried foods rich in trans fats, free sugars and sugary beverages, cold drinks, etc, should be avoided. Alcohol should also be completely avoided. Coffee may be beneficial but only black and unsweetened. Intermittent fasting may also

be promising. A recent study conducted at PGIMER, Chandigarh, found that intermittent fasting was better than standard calorie restriction in improving the metabolic profile, hepatic inflammation and fibrosis though both were found to be equally effective in weight reduction and improving hepatic steatosis in NAFLD. The exercise regi-

men should consist of moderate intensity aerobic exercises like brisk walking, jogging, running, swimming, cycling, etc, for at least 30 to 45 minutes per day, at least 5 days a week (150-200 minutes per week). Even without weight loss, exercise has added benefits on insulin resistance and the overall metabolic milieu. Resistance exercises and yoga can supplement aerobic exercises. Yoga has also been shown to have several health benefits, including prevention and control of obesity and diabetes, decrease

in waist circumference, reduction of blood pressure, improvement in lipid profile and insulin resistance. Yoga may also enhance the psychological well-being of NAFLD patients, who often suffer from depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and poor quality of life.

BMI by following a diet low in saturated fats, sugar and refined foods, and high in fibre, fruits, vegetables and lean protein. Daily calorie intake should be restricted by 30 per cent/500-1000 kcal by cutting down on carbohydrates and fats . Total fat shouldn't exceed 30 per cent of total calories, saturated fat should be < 10 per cent and trans fats < 1 per cent of total intake, with a shift to unsaturated fats

Intake of three or more cups of unsweetened, black coffee may help in reducing liver fat and

scarring. Physical activity of at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes of vigorous

exercise per week, or a mix of both can improve insulin sensitivity, lower blood pressure and reduce inflammation.

Avoid alcohol as it damages liver, increases fat accumulation in the liver, and worsens liver function synergistically with NAFLD.

Managing other diseases linked to NAFLD, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, can prevent or reduce liver damage and complications. Avoid self-prescribed

medications, including complementary and alternative medicines and supplements that can potentially harm the liver. Consult with your doctor before taking any medication or supple-

Regular screening for liver functioning and NAFLD, particularly if you are diabetic, overweight/obese. Early detection and treatment can check progression to serious stages and reduce risk of liver failure and cancer.

SA vs IND, 1st ODI: KL Rahul returns as India aim to start fresh after World Cup Final loss

SA vs IND: After a draw in the T20I series, the focus shifts to the final leg of the white-ball tour - the ODI series. KL Rahul returns to international cricket after the World Cup Final loss and will be leading India in Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 17 (Agencies): India will be back in the 50-over format for the first time since their loss in the World Cup 2023 final. Wickekeeper-batter KL Rahul will take up the captaincy in the absence of Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya in the 3-match series against South Africa.

While many are questioning the placement of the series right after the world tournament, there could be a lot to look forward to from an India point of view. India have called up several young stars in the tour. It is possible that they get called up in the first XI, in case India wins the first match.

Squad News The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced a day ahead of the first ODI that Deepak Chahar has been forced to withdraw from the series due to a personal emergency. Aakash Deep has been added in the mix but is unlikely to play due to the presence of Mukesh Kumar, Prasidh Krishna



and Arshdeep Singh. India head coach Rahul Dravid will not be a part of this series and India will be under the guidance of the A team coaching

Samson Returns

Sanju Samson will get another opportunity to prove his worth for India. While he did well against West Indies in the ODI format earlier this year, playing the role of an aggressor brilliantly, this could be the time that he

becomes a little more selfish, maybe in terms of milestones at least.

The batter will be expected to play in the middle order and will hope to grab the attention of the selectors going closer to the T20 World Cup.

Bowlers in Focus

The Indian playing XI is going to have young and budding stars of Indian cricket. The first ODI will be key for India to see how the unit fares against a near

full-strength South African batting line-up. In South Africa's last home series against Australia, the teams played out some high-scoring matches, and this could turn out to be along similar

These matches could help Indian bowlers get used to pressure situations.

Match Details SA vs IND: First ODI

Venue: New Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg

Date: 17 December, Sunday Predicted Playing XIs

India: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (c & wk), Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

South Africa: Reeza Hendricks, Tony de Zorzi, Rassie van der Dussen, Aiden Markram (c), Heinrich Klaasen (wk), David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Keshav Maharaj, Tabraiz Shamsi, Nandre Burger, Lizaad

"Rohit Sharma Today Is Where MS Dhoni Stands...": **Suniel Shetty's Brave** Analysis of India's 'Hitman'



MUMBAI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The image of Rohit Sharma's teary-eyed expression after India's ODI Cricket World Cup 2023 final is etched in public memory. Despite a solid show till the semi-final phase of the Cricket World Up at home, the Indian cricket team fell in the final hurdle against the Pat Cummins-led Australia. While there were many star performers for India at the Cricket World Cup like Virat Kohli (765 runs in 11 innings) and Mohammed Shami (24 wickets in 7 matches), Rohit Sharma's aggressive approach stood out. He scored 597 runs in 11 innings at a strike-rate of 125.94 - the highest

Thanks to the aggressive display by Rohit Sharma at the start of the innings, other Indian

a well-contested final

to lift the Vijay Hazare

Trophy. Having scored

287 for 8 in 50 overs,

Haryana were given a

tough fight by Rajast-

han, who were cruising

at 201 for 4 with opener

Abhijeet Tomar (106 off

129 balls) along with

Kunal Singh Rathore

(79 off 65 balls) slowly

taking the team towards

the target. However,

Harshal (3/47 in 9 overs)

showed his wares by

varying the pace of his

deliveries in a game

changing second five-

given to Haryana skip-

per Ashok Menaria, who

had a good game with

among all Indian bat-

cricket team batters could take their time to settle in. In the final against Australia, Rohit Sharma scored 47 off 31 balls off Glenn Maxwell, with Travis Head taking a superb catch. Some former player suggested that Rohit Sharma could have played with greater cau-

tion. "That's the beauty of this team, country above everything else. That's why the respect...Rohit Sharma today is probably where MS Dhoni stands because everything Rohit did was selfless. It 's very east to say that moment...that moment you have lakh and half people cheering, and wanting you to go. He could have stuck on and score the hundreds. But he said, 'Let me give that team a 80-90 start and they takeoff", Suniel Shetty

told agency.

Harshal Patel Bowls Haryana

To Vijay Hazare Trophy Title

"Whether it was Rohit or Shami or Bumrah or Kuldeep, you can't ask for a better team."

Rohit Sharma was removed as the captain of Mumbai Indians, with Hardik Pandya being named his replacement. Rohit Sharma had been captaining the franchise since 2013 when they lifted first of their five IPL trophies.

The other titles under Rohit's captaincy came in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. Mumbai Indians had made it to the playoffs in IPL 2023.

Meanwhile, Hardik has big shoes to fill as the new skipper of MI, as Rohit has led the franchise to five IPL title wins.

In 31 matches for GT from 2022-23, Pandya scored 833 runs at an average of 37.86 and a strike rate of over 133. He also had 11 wickets for the team, with the

best figures of 3/17. Hardik also played 92 matches for MI from 2015-2021, scoring 1,476 runs at an average of 27.33 at a strike rate of over 153, with four half-centuries and best score of 91. He also took 42 wickets for the team, with the best bowling figures of 3/20.

Hardik has won five IPL trophies, four with MI (2015, 2017, 2019, 2020) and GT (2022).

ISL 2023-24: We are getting better with every game, asserts Chennaiyin FC head coach Coyle

CHENNAI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Riding high on the wave of a convincing 2-0 victory against Bengaluru FC, Chennaiyin FC is set to face off against Punjab FC in a highly anticipated Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 encounter at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Monday.

The Marina Machans, currently positioned sixth on the league table with 12 points, exude confidence after head coach Owen Coyle emphasized the team's continuous improvement throughout the tournament.

"After the initial games, I consistently emphasized the inevitability of things falling into place. I acknowledged our repetitive commitment to the idea that the longer we work together, the better we would become," commented Coyle ahead of the clash. The coach acknowledged the challenges faced by the team, including key players missing games and injuries, but credited the group's perseverance. Covle noted, "While we're still far from reaching my desired standards, we are improving

every game." Reflecting on the season so far, Coyle emphasized that the true judgment would be made over 22 games in the ISL. "There's going

and getting better with

to be peaks and lows for everybody. It's never over 10 games for us, and we'll be judged over 22 matches, so that's our body of work, given that we have a completely different model from anybody else."

Chennaiyin FC had a resounding 5-1 victory in their previous encounter against Punjab FC, but Coyle remains cautious. "Even in the recent match against Kerala, they demonstrated their potential as formidable adversaries. However, they are aware that we are currently in a strong position, having proven our quality in previous encounters," stated the coach.

While acknowledging



Punjab FC's coach's terrific job and their ongoing growth, Coyle recognized the challenges posed by their returning players. "Without a doubt, they remain a significant threat, and we approach the upcoming match with the utmost respect."

As fans eagerly await the clash, all eyes will be on the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium as Chennaiyin FC aims to continue their upward trajectory in the ISL, while Punjab FC seeks redemption and aims to upset the established order. The stage is set for a thrilling encounter that promises excitement, skill, and determination on both sides of the pitch.

Cheating allegations will never go away: FIDE deputy-president Viswanathan Anand

In a freewheeling chat with the media on the sidelines of the Chennai Grand Masters event, the 54-year-old spoke about his work at FIDE, why cheating allegations will never go away and more.

CHENNAI, Dec 17 (Agencies): It's been years since Viswanathan Anand last played a competitive match in Chennai. You wouldn't know that from the people who had formed an orderly queue to get his autograph on the second day of the Chennai Grand Masters.

He still remains as popular as ever even though he has openly embraced the next part of his life (mentor to a clutch of Indian youngsters and an administrator at FIDE — the International Chess Federa-

In a freewheeling chat with the media on the sidelines of the event, the 54-year-old spoke about his work at FIDE (he's the deputy president of the world governing body for the board game), why cheating allegations will never go away and the countrv's precocious teenagers who have taken the world by storm.

Excerpts: On his role as deputy

president at FIDE You get a different per-



in tournaments all your life but you never see the other side, the people who make it happen. The arbiters... just how the machinery works. I am happy at how I have been able to be part of many projects, notably the Global Chess League, the Olympiad in Mahabalipuram, the Worlds in Kazakhstan... a lot of big events. I think we have done a very good job. Some very positive things... I can't say there's been anything unpleasant.

On cheating allegations that have rocked

the world of chess Cheating allegations have been around for a while. But now, everything goes public very

Last year, the (Magnus) Carlsen-Hang (Niemann) thing lit a fire under this topic. Now, it's in the air. We continue to work. It's a technological thing so it means it will never not be solved ever. It will be an arms race which will just keep escalating. But we keep enhancing our steps, and measures to fight it. On whether people who cheat will find new

ways to beat the system That's what I meant when I said it would be an arms race. There will be no final measure. You know how technology shrinks.

Once you feel that you have screened for all these things, imagine in a couple of years people will think 'Well, you haven't screened for this' because everything has shrunk (in terms of size). It's a problem we will continue to deal with. I don't think it will completely go away.

Is it fair to have a tournament like this to help certain GMs meet targets in order to qualify for the Candidates?

Yes, absolutely. If people find out that they need to finish fifth in a tournament to qualify and they focus on finishing fifth rather than winning... is that a violation? I mean, you are supposed to play for first place. If a player is content with fifth, he's content with fifth. It's the same thing. Within the rules if you organise a tournament... I don't see a problem with this at all. On India's golden generation and the next few

It's clear that all of

them are comfortable

when they play against

them have started to

break through. So it has

happened much faster.

the world's top five or over spell in which he top 10. There's nothgave away only 16 runs ing to suggest they are but picked both set batters to snuff out any out of place. They are chance that Rajasthan a stable golden genhad. They were all-out eration (in that aspect). for 257 in 48 overs. In two-three years, we No praise is enough could have 2-3 of them for all-rounder Sumit in the top 20 consistent-Kumar (3/34 in 6 overs), ly and we wouldn't bat who ran through Rajan eyelid. I don't know asthan top-order after (what has led to the rise scoring a quickfire of so many very talent-28 not out off 16 balls ed teens in a very short and also took a blinder time). When I started inside the circle to win the 'Player of Match' the Westbridge-Anand as well as 'Player of Academy, I thought it Series'. would be great to get He scored 183 runs in there in four to five lower-order at over 100 years. But, boom, we strike-rate and took 18 have got there in twowickets in 10 games. three years as many of Credit must also be

RAJKOT, Dec 17 the bat and then mar-(Agencies): Harshal shalled his resources well, including bringing Patel bowled a gamechanging spell with the in Harshal, which turned old ball as Haryana beat out to be master-stroke. Rajasthan by 30 runs in

Menaria, who had once been a Rajasthan skipper, didn't indulge in any overt celebrations, after leading his adopted state to first senior national trophy in 32 years (after Ranji Trophy 1991).

At the start of the innings, all-rounder Sumit Kumar, who opens the bowling, was lethal in his first spell as Raiasthan were quickly reduced to 12 for 3, which included wickets of two IPL regulars in Mahipal Lomror (2) and skipper Deepak Hooda

However, opener Tomar did found an ally in Karan Lamba (20) as they added 68 runs for the fourth wicket but Haryana still had the upper-hand when the

latter was dismissed. But it was left-hander Kunal Singh Rathore, who smashed 79 off 65 balls, with some mighty heaves on the on-side to keep them in the hunt. He added 121 with Tomar and dominated the stand with five maximums.

But once he started developing cramps and when Harshal came back for his second spell, things changed. Tomar failed to clear Sumit while trying to loft the seamer over midoff, while Rathore was holed out in the deep at

long-off. Earlier, after opting to bat, it was in-form Ankit Kumar (88 off 91 balls) and his veteran skipper Ashok Menaria (70 off 96 balls), who put up 124 for the third wicket to lay the foundation for a competitive score.

Ankit, who had hit a century in the quarterfinal against Bengal, was once again in his element, hitting 12 crisp boundaries and a six off Ajay Singh Kukna.

Menaria, on the other hand, was patient as he hit eight fours, which also included some drives through on-side.

It was all-rounders Nishant Sindhu (29 off 22 balls), Rahul Tewatia (24 off 18 balls) and Sumit Kumar (28 off 16 balls), all of whom used long handle to good effect to take Haryana pass the 285-run mark.

Save veteran left-arm seamer Aniket Chaudhary (4/49 in 10 overs), the only other bowler, who impressed was out of favour leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (1/39 in 9 overs).

Brief Scores: Haryana 287/8 (Ankit Kumar 88, Ashok Menaria 70, Aniket Chaudhary 4/49) beat Rajasthan 257 in 48 overs (Abhijit Tomar 106, Kunal Singh Rathore 79, Harshal Patel 3/49, Sumit Kumar 3/34).

CASH committee GDC Udhampur organises a lecture on prevention of sexual harassment at work place

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR. Dec 17: In a bid to provide a safe and secure environment at work place as well as a stress free academic institute, as a part of Mission for Women empowerment during the AzaadikaAmritKaal, in the year of G20 presidency of India, the Internal Complaint Committee against Sexual harassment of GDC Udhampur with the Patronage of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta organised an awareness lecture on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment at workplace"today in the College premises. The main aim of the event was to aware the female students about the harassment and the procedure for safety and security. The resource person on the occasion was Prof.Anoksha Sharma HOD Sociology.

The Principal and the Patron Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, in his message appreciated and applauded the efforts of the CASH committee for organising such type of activities as it will help the students and faculty to know about their rights



and study as well as work stress free. He however very confidently communicated that GDC Udhampur has remained a place where not a single case of harassment has been reported till date, and asserted that it shows the professionalism and utmost integrity displayed by the staff and students. "I hope this college will always remain an example for all other institutes, where none feels neglected or harassed at any point of time" He said. This was very well endorsed and acknowledged by the CASH Committee.

Prior to this the programme started with the formal welcome address presented by

Dr.Anita Sharma Convener, CA She briefed all about the working of the CASH Committee as well as the need for organising such kinds of programs in the college. She apprised all about the series programs that CASH shall be organising in the days to come also

The resource person Prof.Anoksha Sharma highlighted the various types of Sexual Harassments and their post effects as also what are the remedial provided under law.She talked in detail about the changing dynamics of the society, gender binaries, bullying as also focused the verbal, visual and physical harassments at workplace. Further,

also debunked the myth that it can only be one gender that is harasser and the harassed, she admitted that in majority it may be males but the victim could also be a male in some cases. Hence the CASH shall have all the aspects in mind, so that no harassment goes un-noticed.

After the lecture, there was an open house discussion too, which was very positively asked and responded by the audience and the resource person.

The programme ended with the formal vote of thanks presented by Prof. ShiviMehra, member CA The proceedings of the event were conducted by Prof. TaniaAkhter, Member CA

The event was graced by Prof BL Thakur HOD Education, Prof.Rajni Kumari HOD Economics, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra HOD Physics, Dr.Sunil Kr.Bhat HOD Chemistry, Prof.ShobhnaSambyal HOD Zoology, Dr.GurpreetKour PO NSS,Dr.JasmeetKour, othermembers of CASH and a number of

other staff as well as the

students.

VKMI aims to inspire youth to become socially responsible citizens: Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) under the leadership of Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain and the support of individuals like Chaitanya Randhawa. The focus on inculcating social, moral, ethical, and spiritual values in the youth for the betterment of lifestyle and community welfare is commendable.

VKMI is a Socio-Spiritual Non-Governmental Organization working to promote social, moral, ethical, and spiritual values for the improvement of lifestyle and the well-being of individuals.

Yoga Sessions and Periodical Camps: Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, as the President of VKMI and State

Yoga Commissioner, is actively organizing yoga sessions and periodical camps at different segments of society to promote a healthy and disease-free lifestyle. Chaitanya Randhawa, the grandson of Ch Piara Singh (Ex MLA) and son of Vikram Randhawa (Ex MLC), has been approached and informed about VKMI's work. He has been felicitated on his 27th birth-

life member of VKMI.

VKMI aims to inspire youth to become socially responsible citizens, encouraging them to be active contributors to the betterment of society, especially within their own communities.

day and enrolled as a

VKMI is working towards creating a culture of positive thinking

and strengthening social bonds. This positive attitude is seen as a way to achieve the vision of making India a global leader, as envisioned by Prime Minister Modi.

by Prime Minister Modi. Vikram Randhawa, Ex MLC, is highlighted as a well-wisher and regular donor to VKMI. His continuous support and generosity have been acknowledged by VKMI.

VKMI Vice President, Ashok Gupta, emphasizes the role of youth in changing the future. He mentions that young people can inspire society in various ways, and their passion, talent, and grit are crucial factors in achieving greatness.

VKMI expressed gratitude to Vikram Randhawa for his continuous support and highlighted his role as a well-wisher and regular donor.

Overall, VKMI's efforts, along with the support of individuals like Chaitanya Randhawa and Vikram Randhawa, reflect a commitment to positive social change and youth empowerment. It's heartening to see the emphasis on values, positivity, and community welfare in their endeavors.

On the birthday of Atal ji, Salut Tiranga organization will honors great personalities of the great country: Rajesh Jha



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: An event organized by the Salut Tiranga organization to honor great personalities on the occasion of the 99th birthday of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Here's a summary of the key points:

key points:
The event is sched-

uled to take place on December 26th, which marks the 99th birthday of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpay-

The event is organized by the Salut Tiranga organization, and the National President, Rajesh Jha, addressed the journalists to provide details

The chief guest for the program will be Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla.

Other dignitaries expected to attend include General BK Singh, Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister Tirath Singh Rawat, Former Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, and Former

Chief Minister Shahid.
The event aims to honor great personalities of the country. Specific individuals are not listed in the provided information.
The Samdata Sam-

She talked and narrated

some of the exemplary

cases of the harass-

ment and also the relief

provided afterwards.

She talked in length

about Bhanwali Devi

Case of Rajasthan.She

also spoke on Vishakha

guidelines Vs Rajast-

han Case in 1997. She

was of the view that in

most of the cases, the

victim does not report

because of lack of confi-

dence and also because

of no knowledge of the

mechanism. She further

elaborated on the issue

of victimisation and

forced involvements, but

also warned all present

that it shall not be the

other way round also to

make false complaints

because of any person-

al issue or reason. She

melan will include the participation of various individuals, including Sachchidanand Pokhriyal (former Minister of Uttarakhand and National General Secretary of Tricolor Salute), Shri Kumar, General Secretary Girish Pathak, Vice President, former MLA Surendra Commando, National Spokesperson Guruji Raju Chandel, Monica Singh, Chitra Dalal. Sadhna Singh, Kumar Saurav, and Shahid Garmani.

It's a significant occasion that brings together notable personalities to celebrate the birthday of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and honor other distinguished individuals.

Celebrity Cricket League organized in association with Aryans



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: Governor Haryana, Bandaru Dattatraya today graced the tricity cup in Chandigarh as Chief Guest. 'Punjab De Sher' team representing the Punjabi film industry in the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) season 10 faced The Educators during an exhibition match played at the Cricket Stadium, Sector 16 on Saturday.

The Educators led by Dr. Anshu Kataria included representatives from various colleges and universities from Chandigarh and Punjab region. The team Punjab De Sher was comprising of well-known Punjabi film stars Binu Dhillon, Jassi Gill, Babbal Rai,

Gavie Chahal, Dev Kharod, Ninja, Rahul Jaittly, Suyyash Rai, Anuj Khurana, Dakssh Ajit Singh, Mayur Mehta, Vikramjit Singh.

Played at flood lights, the match was inaugurated by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya by tossing the coin which witnessed a lot of enthusiasm among the local spectators. The cup was organized in association with Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group was specialy present.

cialy present.

The team owner of Punjab De Sher, Puneet Singh said that his team is playing Celebrity Cricket League since 2016. The objective of organizing this exhibition match

is to create excitement among the local people and our stakeholders about CCL and Punjab De Sher. More such exhibition matches will be organized in Chandigarh and Punjab in the coming days.

On this occasion, Chief Guest Governor Bandaru Dattatreya praised the efforts of the organizers and said that such events awaken the youth towards sports and generate energy in them so that they stay away from evils like drugs. He also emphasized that all the educational institutions engaged in spreading education have highlighted the importance of sports by holding the bat today. The Governor expressed best wishes to the Punjab De Sher team for the upcoming matches of CCL.

The league matches of CCL will start from February 23 wherein around 200 artistes from eight regional film industries will participate. The final match will be played on March 17. In this series, Punjab De Sher will face Bengal Tigers and Mumbai Heroes in their two league matches at Sector 16 Cricket Stadium. All matches of the league will be telecast on India's top sports and entertainment channels including regional channels.

Kashmiri displaced people wing of DPAP holds meeting at Gangyal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 17: A meeting held by the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (KDPW) of DPAP (Democratic Party of Azad Pradesh) in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was led by Sanjay Dhar, President, Piaray Lal Pandita, Chairman, Raj Kumar Ticku, General Secretary, Roop Krishen Koul, Vice President, Gowhar Rasid Wani, Spokesperson, Rahul Raina, Youth Vice President, and Renu Razdan, Mahila Wing Secretary. During the meeting,

various non-camp displaced individuals joined the KDPW, including



Vinod Koul, Sanjay Khar, T.K. Pandita, Avinash Bhan, and others. The leaders shared the party's manifesto focusing on development and good governance when in power. The attendees listened to the symbolic ideology of the party under the leadership

of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. The new members expressed their full support, and the leaders assured them that the party would address the problems faced by noncamp inmates.

camp inmates.

The leaders pledged to present the issues and demands of the

displaced people to the concerned authorities for priority consideration. The gathering appreciated the KDPW leaders for listening to their problems on the spot and vowed to strengthen the party's influence. The new members were encouraged to recruit more individuals to join KDPW, with the aim of securing a better future and alleviating the sufferings faced by the community over the past 33 years.

It appears that the KDPW is actively engaging with the displaced community, addressing their concerns, and working towards a brighter future for its members.

SMVDU Scholar receives Best Paper Award

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 17: Advitya Indu Mahajan, Research Scholar, School of Business, SMVDU, has presented a paper at the Global Conference on "Emerging Technologies leading towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Economics, Tourism, Healthcare, Media, Education supporting Green Environmental Practices and Business Growth". The conference was scheduled for 8th and 9th December 2023. Advitya received the best paper award in the Technology & Marketing track with the theme "Digital Marketing for Sustainable Business Growth". The research scholar and his Ph.D. supervisor, Dr. Rashi Taggar, authored a paper titled "Augmented Reality Adoption: Investigating Perceived Risk



through UTAUT-Based Predictive Modeling". In the paper, they discussed the inclusion of Artificial Intelligence advancements and augmented reality in various e-commerce platforms. Furthermore, they tried to determine the

factors influencing Indian consumers' use of augmented reality features during online shopping. Researchers from India and other countries also presented their research work through online and offline modes. The conference was organized by Confab 360 Degree in collaboration with Guru Nanak Institute of Management, Delhi; NSHM Knowledge Campus, Durgapur, West Bengal; Indira Institute of Management, Pune; AAFT University of Media and Arts, Raipur, India, along with foreign partners European Global Varsity, Europe; London Churchill College, United Kingdom; PT.LEO Jejaring Ilmu, Indonesia; European School of Data Science and Technology, Switzerland; Rushford Business School, Switzerland.

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