# TOP NEWS OF J&K

**JAMMU, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023** 

Daily Evening Newspaper

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

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Tanuja, Kajol's mother, hospitalised in Mumbai, under observation in ICU



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**INDIA** alliance will drive PM Modi out of power: **Lalu Prasad** 

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Giorgia Meloni savs 'no place for Islam in Europe, will not allow **Sharia law in Italy'** 



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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#### **Earthquake** of magnitude 5.5 in Ladakh's Kargil, tremors felt in North India, **Pakistan**

NEW DELHI. Dec 18 (Agencies): Tremors were felt in North India and parts of Pakistan after an earthquake of magnitude 5.5 struck Ladakh's Kargil on Monday.

The tremor measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale took place at 3:48 pm, National Center for Seismology said.

The earthquake struck at a depth of 10 km beneath the earth surface, according to National Center for Seismology.

The tremors were felt in Pakistan's Islamabad and several other adjacent areas.

Earlier today, an earthquake of magnitude 4.0 had struck Pakistan.

#### Gulmarg coldest place in Kashmir at minimum temperature of Minus 8 Deg C

SRINAGAR, Dec 18 (Agencies): Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded the coldest night of the season at minus eight degrees Celsius while Srinagar city experienced a warmer night due to overcast conditions, officials said on Monday.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, a drop of more than

four notches, they said. The minimum temperature in Srinagar city was 0.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday night.

Qazigund recorded a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 1.1 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara minus 2.2 degrees Celsius. The weatherman has forecast generally dry weather over the next few days in the valley.

#### Youth missing since Nov 24 found dead in Pulwama

SRINAGAR, Dec 18 (Agencies): A youth who was missing since November 24 from his home, has been found dead on Monday in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

The youth identified as Sahil Ahmad Malik son of

Bashir Ahmad Malik of

■Turn to page 9

# **Article 370 is history: PM Modi**

#### 'No power on earth can restore it now'

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): PM Narendra Modi, making a strong defence of the nullification of Article 370 and citing the Supreme Court's endorsement of his government's move, said no power in the universe could restore the revoked provisions of the Constitution and said the legislation had heralded a new era of progress in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions, which were once known for terrorism and were

now hubs of tourism. "Post-370, J&K and Ladakh are transformed



ists instead of terrorists. Movies are being shot and screened, while stone-pelting has ceased. Kashmiri families have welcomed the

are spreading confusion because of their political motives, I want to make it clear: no power in this universe can bring back Article 370," the PM said

in an interview with Hindi daily Dainik Jagran.

Recalling the recent SC verdict, the PM said the apex court had made it clear that there could not be two constitutions in the country.

"Abrogation of Article 370 was more important for the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh than any political agenda. A few familydominated parties were controlling the region for a long time but people there want to join the mainstream of growth and ensure a safe future for their children," he

## RS passes bills to extend women's reservation to J&K, Puducherry Amid Din, adjourned till 4 PM

by the Upper House

amid continuous slo-

ganeering by opposition

parties, who have been

demanding that Union

Home Minister Amit

Shah make a statement

on the December 13

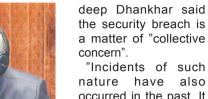
security breach in the

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): The Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 4 pm on Monday after two Bills to introduce reservation for women in legislative assemblies of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir were passed by voice vote in the House amid an uproar by the opposition over the Parliament security breach.

The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill were passed by the Lok Sabha last week. The Bills were passed

After the passage of the Bills, Chairman Jag-

House.



nature have also occurred in the past. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that this august institution works in the safest and most conducive atmosphere. "A high-level enquiry

committee for an indepth investigation of the incident and formulating a concrete action plan to ensure that such incidents do not occur has already been constituted by Speaker Lok Sabha. Its findings

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# JKPSC headless; recruitments NIA raids 19 places in South India against a stalled, exams postponed

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has been rendered headless for a month since the departure of former Chairman Satish Chandra on November 19, 2023.

The absence of a chairman has thrown the commission into disarray, stalling ongoing recruitment processes, postponing exams repeatedly, and leaving the candidates high and

The J&K government appointed Satish Chandra as Chairman of JKPSC in June 2022 and ordered that he should hold the position of the Chairman, JKPSC, till he attains the age of 62 years.

"He retired on November 19 this year and since then the official work has been hit. The commission cannot go ahead with the recruitment process of the examination without the chairman," an official

The JKPSC has postponed all its exams which were slated post-November 20. Recently, a fresh notification was issued by the JKPSC for the postponement of the

"In continuation to this office notices dated November 9, 2023, and November 24, 2023, this is for the information of all the concerned candidates that the examinations and departmental examinations which Turn to page 9

# 'Highly Radicalised Jihadi Terror Group'

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out searches at 19 locations in South India by busting a "highly radicalised jihadi terror group," sources said.

The raids have been underway since this morning. The anti-terror agency is conducting these raids in close coordination with the state police forces.

The sources, privy to the development, aid not share the inputs about



the exact location and about the jihadi group due to some operational reasons.

group. As per inputs, the terror

group is engaged in anti-India activities and has learned to plan attacks, recruiting youths, said the sources.

affiliated with the jihadi

The move comes days after the NIA raided multiple locations across Bengaluru, Karnataka, in a case relating to the radicalization of prisoners by a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist.

A total of six locations, including the nouses of

Turn to page 9

# Mehar Tunnel excavation along Jammu-Srinagar highway suspended after bulges appear on sidewalls

RAMBAN/JAMMU, Dec 18: The excavation work for the Mehar tunnel along the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway has been suspended due to the development of "pressure and bulges" on its sidewalls, officials said on Monday.

The construction of the 780-metre C-type tunnel started over oneand-a-half years ago to

SRINAGAR, Dec 18

(Agencies): Almost 1.7

million bulbs will be put

on display at Asia's larg-

est Tulip Garden in next

Tulip show which will be

held between March and April 2024, officials said.

Talking to Greater

Kashmir, Floriculture

Officer and In-Charge

Tulip Garden Javed

Masood said that sowing

of Tulip bulbs in the

garden will be finished

in a couple of days. He

said the preparations for

making garden complete

in all respects for local,

national and internation-

at Tulip Garden in 2024

bypass the slide-prone Mehar-Cafeteria stretch in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district.

The excavation work on the Cafeteria Morh side of the tunnel was suspended in June this year after its mouth was damaged by a massive landslide. Nearly 400 metres of excavation work has been completed so far.

An official of DMR

Nearly 1.7 million Tulips to be displayed

al visitors are underway

and work is going on at

He said that this year

more varieties of bulbs

have been added to

showcase the beauty

of Asia's largest Tulip

full pace.

Construction, which is carrying out the construction work, said for the safety of the workers, the excavation work was suspended after "pressure and bulges" were noticed on the side

"All machinery and manpower were withdrawn from the tunnel project on December 12. The company has

Garden to the visitors.

He hoped that this year

the influx of visitors to

the garden will surpass

records of the previous

years. "In 2023, almost

■Turn to page 9

3.75 visitors including

Turn to page 9

#### **Govt** announces Winter **Vacation for** Jammu **Division**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: According to a order issued here today by the School Education Department, all the government and private recognized schools up to Higher Secondary level falling in the summer zone of Jammu division shall observe winter vacation with effect from 26-12-2023 to 04-01-2024.

#### 4 get life term for killing girl, eating her liver in Kanpur

KANPUR, Dec 18 (Agencies): Four persons, including a couple, have been sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a seven-year-old girl and eating her liver and other vital organs on November 14, 2020, at the behest of an occultist in Kanpur's Ghatampur. After the trial that

■Turn to page 9

#### J&K Govt orders minor reshuffle in Administration JAMMU, Dec 18 (Agen-Deputy Commissioner,

Of the 19 places being

searched by the NIA,

the majority of them

are linked to suspects

cies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday ordered transfers and postings in the administration.

According to an order by the GAD in this regard, Peunika Marwaha, Jr. Scale JKAS, STO in the office of

State Taxes Enforcement (North) Udhampur is transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Rubia Afroz Ingalabi, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer, Handwara, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Nasir Ahmed, Jr. Scale JKAS, Functional Manager, DIC, Udhampur, is transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Information Department, for further

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

### **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

Sh. Deep Raina 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

**10TH DAY/KRIYA** It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt grief that we 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 Gaur Shankar Mandir, located in New Palam Vihar, T-block, Sector 109, Gurgaon-122017. Your presence and support during this difficult time would be deeply appreciated.



**GRIEF STRICKEN** Shmt. Ashaji Thusoo (Wife)

Mr. Rajender 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 11:30am.

Kriya will be performed on 19-12-2023 (Tuesday) at our residence. **Grief Stricken** 

Smt. Prabha Kumari (Wife) **Brothers and Bhabies** 

Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta & Lt. Smt. Rani Devi Sh. Shiv Lal Gupta & Smt. Kamla Devi Lt. Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta & Smt.Reva Rani

Sh. Ramesh Gupta & Smt. Geeta Devi Sister and Brother-in-law Smt. Makhna Devi W/O Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Sons and Daughter-in -law

Sh. Rakesh Kr. Gupta & Smt. Savita Devi

Sh. Rajesh Kr. Gupta & Smt. Kheema Gupta



Sh. Om Parkash Gupta

Sh Neelam Kumar

Baru

Daughter and Son-in -law Smt. Bandana Gupta & Sh.Amit Gupta

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

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Neelam Kumar Baru S/o Lt Sh. Om Parkash Baru R/o Jhajjarkotli who left us for the heavenly abode on 10-12-2023. May the lord grant peace to his devine soul. **10th day** will be performed at our residence on 19

12-2023 (Tuesday) at 11:00 am GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Tripta Baru- Wife

Ankush Baru & Shallu- **Son & Daughter-in-law** Nitish Baru & Sapna- Son & Daughter-in-law Smt Neha & Sh Ajay Khajuria- Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt.& Sh Sham Baru- Chacha ji

Smt.& Sh Raj Baru- Chacha ji

Smt. & Sh Satish Baru- Brother Smt.& Sh Ashok Baru- Brother

Smt.& Sh Rajesh Baru- Brother

Smt.& Sh Manik Baru- Brother

Smt. Rajni Sharma- Sister

Mobile: 9419133355, 9419124555, 9419165585, 9419200329

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we painfully inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Mohan Lal Koul of Cheyan Devsar who left for heavenly abode.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 20.12.2023 (Wed.) at 10.30 am at Jawala Bhagwati Mandir, Cheyan, Devsar. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

Smt. Mohan Rani Koul - Wife

Sons and Daughter-in-laws Shri Makhan Lal Koul & Smt. Kiran Je Koul Shri Jawahar Lal Koul & Smt. Joti Koul

Shri Raveji Koul & Smt. Rainu Koul Mobile Nos: 9622615865/ 6005041708/ 9682111237

Daughter & Son-in-Law:

Smt. Dulari & Shri Manohar Pandita R/o Durga Nag, Sonawar, Srinagar. MOBILE NOS. 9419423144/7006379090.

demise of our beloved Sh. Satish Kumar Bhat S/o Lt. Sh Prem Nath Bhat R/o Hawal Pulwama Kashmir presently a N-Block 243-FF Gurgaon Haryana, who expired on 14-12

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 23rd December 2023 (Saturday) at 9 AM at Chotha Haridwar Upper Ganga Canal Road, Murad Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Gouri Shree - Mother Smt. Bimla Bhat - Wife **Brother & Sister-in-law** Sh. Jai Krishan & Smt. Sweety Bhat

Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh. Ajay Bhat & Smt. Arushi Sh. Ashish Bhat & Smt. Vidhi Rohan Bhat S/o Jai Krishan - Son

Sister & Brother-in-law Smt. Veeno Dulloo & Sh. Kuldeep Dulloo Smt. Daizy Koul & Ravinder Koul

Smt. Anita Bhat & Sh. Bushan Lal Bhat Samast Parivar of Bhat, Razdan, Dulloo & Koul Contact No: 8492945915, 8899714855, 8149442083



**SHRI MOHAN LAL KOUL** 

SH. SATISH KUMAR **BHAT** 

#### 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

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

our beloved Sh. Bhuvneshwar Sharma (Kalu) S/o Sh Bishamber Dass Sharma R/o Mandir Wali Gali Rajpura Magotra, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 19th of December, 2023

(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 of December, 2023 at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony Jammu from 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 Pooja & Sh. Devinder Sharma Son & Daughter: Ayush & Mahi

Nephew: Piyush

Remity Members

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

In-Laws: Smt Krishna Devi (Mother-in-law) Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law: Sh. Omkar Sharma & Smt Shallu Sharma Sh. Suresh Sharma & Smt Gita Devi Sh. Romesh Chander Sharma & Smt Gita Devi Lt. Dillay Ram Sharma & Smt Anita Devi

BHUVNESHWAR SHARMA (KALU)

(MANAGER-EDEN GARDEN

# **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



**SH. RAVI KUMAR** 

Smt. Janak Rani

Wangnoo

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

#### TENTH DAY

Smt & Sh. Rakesh Roshan Koul

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you the passing of our beloved mother Smt. Janak Rani **Wangnoo**, W/o Late Shri. Janki Nath Wangnoo R/o 2102 ATS Village Sector 93 A, Noida.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday, 20th December 2023, 9 AM. at Chota

Haridwar, Muradnagar, Delhi-Meerut Road.

Assembly point will be at our home at ATS village, Noida, 12 Noon **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

All family members

Contact number: 9818479032, 9810277900

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sat Pal Pandoh S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Mani Pandoh (Reasi Wale) R/o 93/1 Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Tuesday, 19-12-2023 at 12 Noon at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on Friday, 22-12-2023 at 12.00 noon at our residence.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be performed on Friday, 22-12-2023 from 4 pm to 5 pm at Shiv Mandir Sector-3 Trikuta Nagar. Sh. Sat Pal Pandoh

> Smt. Vijay Laxmi Pandoh- Wife Son & Daughter-In-Law CA Vikas Pandoh & CA Satika Gupta Daughters & Sons-In-Law Smt. Amita & Er. Sanjeev Rohmetra Smt. Pratibha & Sh. Ashutosh Malhotra

**GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

Sister & Brother-in-Law Smt. Sarvdarshan & Sh. Vijay Suri Brothers-In-Law & Sisters-in-Law Sh. Subash & Smt. Gitika Gandotra Sh. Rakesh & Smt. Monica Gandotra Lt. Sh. Rajesh & Smt. Radhika Gandotra Sisters-In-Law & Brothers-in-Law Smt. Santosh & Sh. N.K Sawhney Lt. Smt. Rama & Sh. Kishore Talwar Grandchildren:

Honnesh, Dhananjay, Anish, Archit, Chaitanya, Aahan M/S VIKAS SATIKA & ASSOCIATES MOBILE NO.: 9419197689, 9419201931



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 in need, Mr. Poonchi's legacy is one of compassion and selflessness. May we remember him for the positive impact h made and the countless lives he enriched. Rest in peace Mrs. Rugia Khan Mr. Akbar Ali Khan

Ms. Katfeer Khan

Mr. Ahmed Ali Khai

Mr. Feroz Ali Khan

Mrs. Sabia Rasool



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 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 Drabiyar, 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 Migrar Quarters Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN

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

KRISHAN RAINA

SH. MAHARAJ

## Mobile: 9149745317, 9086941089

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS** ਫਿਰ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਸੇਵ ਜਮਾਈਐਂ ॥ ਤਾਂ ਦਰਗਰ ਬੇਸਟ ਪਾਈਐਂ ॥ 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. "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 Gurudwara, Kathua.

20-12-2023 at 12:30 PM at Singh Sabha Gurudwara, Kathua.
GRIEF STRIKEN:
Sch. Gurcharen Kour & S. Rejinder Singh (Mother and Brother)
Sch. Harmik Kour (Wife)
Harnhen, Harseerat, Saanjh (Children)
Sch. Ravinder Kour (Sister)
Sch. Ravinder Kour (Sister)
Sch. Harmeet Kour & S. Annarjeet Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Probhiph Cour & S. Phipal Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)
fixes you give and it is a ven if years were.

### **BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Kaushalya Devi W/o Late Sh Sardari Lal left us for her heavenly abode o 11th December 2023.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib 9.00 AM, 18th December 2023 at our residence DPS Road, oshiari Rajbagh (Ujh). Bhog & Antim Ardaas on Wednesday, 20th December 2023.

Kirtan & Ardaas: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Followed by Guru Ka Langar at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Rajbagh (Ujh) GRIEF STRICKEN

S. Dilvinder Singh -Son (J&K Bank) & Sdn. Satbir Kour -Daughter-in-law (Lecturer)

Smt Jasbir Kour (Daughter) & Sh Kamal Dev (Son-in-law) (USA)

Smt Nirmal (Daughter) & Sh Jagdish (Son-in-law)

Mr Sachin Jarral, Mr Anmol Singh Chouhan (General Manager Heal All Pharmaceuticals), Mr Anoop Singh Chouhan, Mr Aman Choudhary, S. Gunveer Singh (J.E) & Er. Manikveer Singh (Grand Sons Contact Nos: 9622109140, 9729508670

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

Nith profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform th ad demise of Smt Shrishta Sharma W/o SI Goverdhan Sharma R/o House No. 210, Sec-1, Lane No. 10, Shivaji Chowk Nanak Nagar Jammu in a tragic oad accident at Bari Brahmana on 9-12-2023. 10th Day will be performed at (Gorkha Mandir Sec Nanak Nagar on Monday 18-12-2023 at 11 AM. 11th Day/Kriya will be performed at our residence uesday 19-12-2023 at 11 am. Uthala will be performed at (Gorkha Mandir Sec 4 Nanak Nagar on Friday 22-12-2023 between 4.00 t 5.00 PM.



GRIEF STRICKEN SNIEF 3 NOVERN Son & Daughter-in-law Rahul Dubey & Dr. Rama Prabhakar Grand Children: Nikunj, Aarya & Manas M. No. 9858199230, 9858252000

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD & SUDDEN DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. RATTAN LAL**

SAHIB S/O LT. DAMODHAR SAHIB ON 14-12-2023, R/O H.NO. 506 SEC - 2 EXTENSION DURGA NAGAR JAMMU.
TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT ON
23-12-2023 (SATURDAY) AT 09:30 AM.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY SMT. ASHA JI SAHIB- BHABHI
SMT. CHOTI SAHIB- BHABHI
SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SH. BHARAT BHUSHAN SAHIB & SMT. BHARTI SAHIB
SH. DAYA KRISHAN SAHIB (BROTHER)
SH. KULDEEP SAHIB & SMT RAJNI SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
SH. SANIAY SAHIB & SMT. SYETLANA SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
SH. SUSHIL SAHIB & SMT. SYETLANA SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
SH. SUSHIL SAHIB & SMT. SYETLANA SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW) SEC - 2 EXTENSION DURGA NAGAR JAMMU



SAMIL SAMIL & SAMIL SAMIL (SUN & DAUGHI EMIN-LAW)
SAMAST PARTIVAAR
(SAHIB'S , RAINA'S , PANDITA'S , BHAT'S & MUNSHI'S )
CONTACT NUMBER - 6005966525 , 6006922661 , 9419359054

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved

Sh. Jawahar Lal Raina S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Raina of Drabiyar, Habba Kadal Srinaga Kashmir, at present TRT Nagrota Block H. Quarter No. 05 Nagrota Jammu who left for nis heavenly abode on 11-12-2023. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 20-12-2023 (Wednesday) at 9 AM TRT Ghat Near Migran

Quarters Nagrota GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina **-Brother** Smt. Shashi Raina **-Wife** 

Sh. Ritik Raina Mobile: 9149745317, 9086941089



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# Jammu issues echo with full statehood, special status under 371

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shin Sena (UBT) and Sainik Samaj Party on Monday organized an all-party meeting in Jammu and also took out a symbolic protest march on the set demands.

Representatives of 20 parties including political, social and intellectuals participated in this meeting and raised their voice in support of the demands.

The issues discussed during the meeting included full statehood status under Article 371, protection of Dogra culture and heritage, 24x7 HD telecast of Jammu DD, freedom from all toll plazas, official status to Punjabi language, Ghar Vapsi of Kashmiri



Pandits, supported the demands of POJK to regularize temporary/ ad-hoc employees, daily wage earners, deport Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, to which all the leaders present agreed and resolved to raise their voice in solidarity and move forward.

Present on this occasion were Rajiv Mahajan President Shri Ram Sena, Dogra Sadar Sabha President Gulchan Singh Charak, Panthers Party Chair-

man Harsh Dev Singh, Dogra Swabhiman Sabha's Vajant Pathania, and HR Sharma, ID Khajura from IDP, Professor Hari Om, Pritam Singh from Aam Aadmi Party, social activist Anna

Durnai. Many leaders

including Riya Kaluria, Sukhdev Singh, Sahid Salim, Tajinder Singh, Sunny Kant, Joginder Singh and expressed their views.

Along with this, leaders and representatives of all parties also carried out a symbolic peaceful demonstration and march carrying placards related to the above demands in their

Manish Sawhney and SS Pathania expressed their gratitude and heartfelt thanks and assured of their commitment towards the upliftment. development and welfare of the people of Jammu. Along with this, it was said that more such meetings would be organized in future with a well-thought-out roadmap.

## Congress living in a fool's paradise, issuing misleading statements: Kavinder

Congress "wiped out" from political landscape of North India



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister, has accused the Congress Party of being delusional and attempting to fabricate a misleading narrative about its performance in the recent Assembly polls across the country. "The Congress Party is

living in a fool's paradise and is desperately trying to create a false narrative about its achievements," Kavinder said while talking to reporters after starting the development works at Ward No 6, Cantonment area at Lower Belicharana, Jammu today. His comments come as a direct response to Congress leader Rajni Patil's claim that Congress secured 4.91 crore votes against the 4.81 crore by the BJP in the recent assembly elections.

The senior BJP leader firmly declared that the Congress has been effectively "wiped out" from the political landscape of North India, citing the party's substantial defeats in the key states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. He emphasized that the people of North Indian has categorically rejected the Congress's outdated ideology and its politics of dynasty. "Their reign of corruption and incompetence is over," he added.

Highlighting the achievements under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Kavinder credited the BJP's recent successes to Modi ji's guidance. "India has achieved new heights at the international level, and the country is growing stronger every day under Modi ji's leadership," he added.

With a confident towards outlook the impending Lok

Sabha polls, Kavinder expressed his belief that the BJP, buoyed by nationalist supporters, is set to secure a decisive victory. He said under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji BJP is excelling day by day and public is vesting interest in BJP, result of that BJP is going to form next government at the Centre.

Later, Kavinder Gupta interacted with people and listened to their problems being faced by them. With a solemn determination, he assured them that he would raise their issues with the authorities sitting at the helm of affairs.

Among those who were present include Vinay Gupta Senior Leader BJP, Narinder Koki, Bharat Bhushan Vice Chairman Cantonment, Amrik Singh. Suraj Rana, Sushila Sharma, Amrika Devi and Rishu Kumar.

# DPS Jammu bags top positions in **VVM State Level Exam**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu participated in prestigious Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2023 -24 State Level Exam (VVM) organized by Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on December 17, 2023 held at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

Out of total 119 students who appeared from various schools across J&K for this prestigious exam, 45 students were from DPS Jammu who bagged top seven positions out of total 18 selections in State Level Exam i.e 40% of total selections were from DPS Jammu.

It is noteworthy that VVM Exam is a national level digital based Science Talent Search Examination meant for educating and popularizing Science among school students.

The winners-Paras Gupta (VI-B)-1st position, Mohd Umair Malik (III-F)-3rd position, Chirag Luthra (VII-D)-2nd position, Syed Hafsa (VII-C)-

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU. Dec 1: Mission

Shakti District Hub for Empow-

erment of women Jammu, in

association with Amandeep

Hospital, Pathankot organ-

ised free health check-up

camp in village Sohanjana,



3rd position, Tarini Gupta (IX-J)-2nd position, Umaiza Khan (IX-F)-3rd position and Jagrit Rajpal (X-F)-3rd position.

Further, Paras Gupta, Chirag Luthra and Tarini Gupta will now represent J&K at a National level exam to be held in May-2024.

All the winners were given cash prizes, Certificates of Merit and Mementoes whereas all the participants were given Certificates of participa-

DHEW Jammu organizes free health checkup camp

Block Mandal Phallain . The

free health checkup was done

by Dr Digvijay, Medical Officer,

Around 200 people were

examined during the and

provided free medicines free

health tests i,e Blood pressure

Staff Members

tion and Mementos.

The Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC-Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated the winners, participants and their parents.

They also applauded their teachers in-charge, Navneet Kaur and Dheeraj Dewan Thakur, VVM Coordinators.

Sarpanch, Balbir Singh

extended gratitude to District

Mission Coordinator Mission

Shakti, District Hub Jammu

Shagun Manchanda and team

of doctors for conducting the

health camp at their doorstep.

, Blood sugar.

#### **BMS** demands reconstitution of Labour **Welfare Boards**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: A deputation of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) Jammu Kashmir led by Harbans Coudhary Working President BMS, Ashok Choudhary and Sachin Bali met with the Commissioner Secretary Labour and Employment Jammu Kashmir Rehana Batul, at his office chamber and apprised her about the labour issues pertaining to private sector.

It was also brought in to the notice of commissioner Secretary that there is huge violation of contract labour system in Jammu Kashmir as 12 hour mandatory duties are being taken in the factories but no over time under law is given neither wage slip or identity card are given by the so called labour contractors and same is the position of un organised sector workers as board was constituted in 2016 but as on date no any statuary meeting was called nor any welfare measure has been extended to these workers.

Whereas there are Labour Welfare Boards under Contract Labour Act and Unorganised Sector Workers Welfare Board but these boards are laying defunts from the years together, they said.

The Commissioner Secretary listened to the issues seriously and assured that she will revive these boards very soon and take all other steps for the welfare of poor workers.

### Former Dy Mayor starts drinking water project worth Rs 58 lakh in Gangyal



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria on Monday started the work of laying drinking water pipe in Ward 56 Gangyal.

About Rs 58 lakh will be spent on this work and this work will be done in a phased

manner in Gangyal. On this occasion, Billawaria said that in order to supply better water to the people of Gangyal, the water supply of each area is being separated so that water is supplied to the people in adequate quantity and with full pressure.

He said that the old water pipes in the area had become quite deteriorated, while the tar on the roads was also falling off due to the problem of leakage from these pipes, due to which, to end this problem, we have undertaken construction work at a cost of Rs 58 lakh.

This project has been made and is being implemented on the ground. He said that we are making every effort to provide better facilities to the people at their doorstep, while the BJP central government and the LG administration in the UT are also focusing fully on the implementation of the schemes so that the benefits of the schemes reach every person

Ranjit Singh, Rajinder Singh, Jyoti Prakash, Rakesh Sangraal, Jugal Kishore, Pritam Sharma, Dr. Govind, Suresh Mishra, Dr. Kuldeep Gupta, Satish Mehra and Kasturi Lal were present on this occasion.

# Journalism students voice their views on Viksit Bharat @2047 at JU

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: In a stimulating session at the Department of Journalism & Media Studies, University of Jammu, a discussion was organised to deliberate on ideas for the Vision Viksit Bharat @ 2047 initiative.

The event featured Anmol Nath Bali, Correspondent, from the National Bureau of Aaj Tak and India Today group and Neeraj from Aaj Tak Jammu.

Anmol, a seasoned journalist currently working with the India Today group, initiated the discussion by shedding light on the Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative, a Government of India endeavour, aimed at transforming the nation into a developed powerhouse by 2047.

He engaged the media students in a thoughtprovoking dialogue, encouraging them to



share their visions and ideas for contributing to India's development.

Head of the Department Dr. Garima Gupta welcomed the guests and said that industry personnel can foster the budding journalists with their expertise and this academia and industry collaboration can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the media industry as well as positioning the country strongly across

the globe. Key themes explored

during the discussion included women empowerment, rich culture and traditions of Jammu and Kashmir, the pivotal role of transportation, gender equality, and challenges related to unemployment. Students and faculty members actively participated, offering diverse perspectives on each topic.

Addressing women

empowerment @ Viksit Bharat 2047, students emphasized the need to challenge stereotypes portraying women as weak and powerless. They advocated for creating safe working environments, especially during night shifts, and ensuring easily accessible transportation to empower women for handling their daily lives

The discussion also delved into the need of

preserving culture and heritage of India @ 2047. Preservation of J&K's unique cultures and traditions, often overshadowed by historical events was discussed by the students. Students expressed concerns about the lack of governmental initiatives to safeguard the local identities citing the example of Punjab's successful efforts in preserving their traditions for future generations.

Economic growth emerged as a focal point of the discussion, with students looking forward to startups and initiatives to foster youth entrepreneurship as crucial contributions for Viksit Bharat.

The discussion concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ravia Gupta who said that the event provided a platform for insightful discussions and forwardthinking ideas towards India's developmental

### GDC RS Pura organizes seminar to guide youth to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047

**Top News Report** JAMMU, Dec 18:

Underlining their role in engaging with the youth and shaping them for making India a fullydeveloped nation, Dept. of Dogri and Red Ribbon Club of GDC R. S. Pura on Monday organized a seminar with the aim to urged the youth of the college to share their dream and vision for a developed nation, as the suggestions and ideas given by the youth would lead in making a new and vibrant Bharat as it was the youth of today who are going to be the decision-makers and architects of India of 2047,".

Launching 'Viksit Bharat@2047: Voice of Youth', an initiative that aims to provide a platform to youngsters for contributing ideas to the vision of a developed India by 2047, the event coordinator Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch said India's youth power was both the "agent" and "beneficiary" of change.

After his speech, a group discussion and a question-answer session were held with the students on the theme of 'Empowered Indians'.

A brainstorming session was also held in which the students presented their ideas on the vision. The discussion revolved around the themes of education, economy, health and technology for growth and happiness as development.

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, worthy Principal of the college. She exhorted that as outlined by the PM, all those present would have to work towards making India the most powerful economy in the world where every Indian would be happy, content, healthy and empowered.

She further added, "The dream of Viksit Bharat cannot be realized until every hand finds employment and every deprived individual on the margins gets justice. It is necessary that we make this mission a national movement so that the country can move forward in all spheres of life.'

A large number of students were participated in the event. Prominent among other were Prof. Neelam Kumari, Nisha Kumari, Kajal Premi and Shivangi.

# **EDITORIAL**

# DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE SECTOR

s we all know that India is a country of diversity and secular. The primary activity of this country is agriculture and we can also say that agriculture is the backbone of our country. Our country has better weather conditions for the growth of crops as compared to other countries. Agriculture can also include breeding of animals.

Development of agriculture will be a boon for the development of the country and due to successful agriculture the economy of the country will increase. Promotion of agriculture is necessary for the development of the country.

Agriculture plays a very important role in our lives. Without agriculture, human survival is not possible as it is the main source of our food supply to maintain on earth.

Agriculture dates back to 9000 BC. The first agricultural practice has been introduced in the Indus River, where people settled and started cultivating food grains. Because of agriculture, primitive humans started living a stable life. After a few years there was development in the field of agriculture. Therefore, the lifestyle of people changed due to agriculture. Agriculture is also called art, science and commerce.

Agriculture plays an important role in our lives as it is the primary source of food, it gives us various vegetables and fruits to eat, cotton for clothes, fodder and grass for animals, raw materials to run various industries and much more. Provides. In addition, agriculture also supports transportation systems and international trade.

Major industries like jute, cotton, textiles, handloom and sugarcane are dependent on agriculture as they get their raw materials from the agriculture industry.

The country's national income and gross domestic product (GDP) is largely dependent on agriculture. It has also contributed to increasing employment in the country as about 80% of the people are directly or indirectly employed in the agriculture sector. In addition, agroindustry also adds 70% of export goods.

Agricultural products, railways and roadways carry a lot of business within the country. Therefore the economy of any country depends on the prosperity of agriculture.

A lot of change is taking place in the field of agriculture today. As the country develops, the methods of farming also develop. Nowadays, big machinery is being used for farming. Tractors, irrigation methods, equipment and many other things have been changed. The government is always devising new ways for the development of the agriculture sector and many schemes have been launched to help the farmers in their profession.

Agriculture is very beneficial for the economy, but it also has some negative effects on people. Deforestation is the first negative impact of agriculture as many forests are cut down to convert agricultural land. Also, the use of river water for irrigation causes many small rivers and ponds to dry up which degrades the natural habitat. Agriculture plays an important role in our lives as it is the primary source of food. Agriculture is a gift from God because the food we eat every day is produced by the hard work and continuous efforts of farmers and we should not waste this precious food. Agriculture has given a lot to the society. But it has its own advantages and disadvantages which we cannot ignore.

# COP28 and wages of greed: Planet is at breaking point

By: Indranil Banerjie

nother global summit on climate change has concluded last week in Dubai. This was the COP28 summit (the 28th edition of the Conference of the Parties), which made news all over the world. At the summit's close, it was proclaimed that a huge breakthrough had been achieved. It claimed that all the world's nations had signalled the end of fossil fuels.

The truth, however, is very different: there was no agreement on ending fossil fuels. Instead, there was a vague commitment to "transition" away from fossil fuels. In other words, there was no real or binding agreement, and absolutely no commitment on who was going to pay for the means to end burning fossil fuels or finance poorer nations to transition away from coal and oil.

If the "deal" concluded in Dubai was hailed as "historic" and a "breakthrough", it was merely because all the participating nations, for the first time, admitted that fossil fuels were a problem and a major contributor to global greenhouse gases which were pushing the planet's temperature limits off the charts.

UN Climate Change executive secretary Simon Stiell, in his closing speech at the COP28, qualified the summit's success: "Whilst we didn't turn the page on the fossil fuel era in Dubai, this outcome is the beginning of the end. Now all governments and businesses need to turn these pledges into real-economy outcomes without delay."

The urgency of action on climate control has been reiterated endlessly in recent times. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has pointed out that the world is already 1.2°C hotter on an average than what it was during

pre-industrial times. According to the IPCC, global mean temperatures will surpass the 1.5°C limit by 2030 and 2°C by 2050 given that the current commitments by governments to reduce carbon emissions are insufficient.

Did COP28 change all this? Will governments, who now agree on moving away from fossil fuels, actually make the transition voluntarily? Regrettably, the summit itself left these fundamental questions unanswered.

Before the summit, the head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, said climatedamaging carbon emissions needed to fall between 25 per cent and 50 per cent by 2030 but the pledges so far would only lead to a "meagre" 11 per cent cut. She said: "The number one priority for this COP is to recognise that business as usual has to be dropped." But the COP28 summit concluded by signalling that it was going to be business as usual after all.

The summit declaration admitted "with concern that the adaptation finance gap is widening, and that the current levels of climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building for adaptation remain insufficient to respond to worsening climate change impacts in developing countries".

Mr Steill said that some countries had pledged more money (a few million and not even one billion) for helping the Global South meet some of its emission goals, but added that these "financial pledges are far short of the trillions eventually needed to support developing countries with clean energy transitions, implementing their national climate plans and adaptation efforts".

It has been estimated the world will need at least \$200 trillion and

question arises whether it has become

not just billions of dollars to make the transition away from fossil fuels by the end of 2050. As a beginning, the richer nations were expected to pitch in the most. Fourteen years ago, at a similar summit (COP15 in Copenhagen), rich nations responsible for the greatest share of emissions had pledged \$100 billion every year to help the Global South to adapt. That pledge was never fulfilled. Not even one billion dollars has flowed from the rich to the poor countries. Mohamed Adow, director of a Kenyan advocacy group, was spot on when he tweeted: "Finance is where the whole energy transition plan will stand or fall."

One problem with current approaches to curb emissions has been on promises, cash and extremely expensive alternate energy sources. There is no focus on addressing the underlying causes of the rapid and huge rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

The most basic cause behind the rising emissions is the humungous rise of the world's population in the post-industrial era and a concomitant increase in energy usage. In fact, the most notable and perhaps the defining aspect of modern times is the exponential rise in energy consumption, most of which has come from fossil fuels.

The whole world is devouring increasing amounts of coal, oil and gas as aspiring billions in nations claw up the consumption chain. It is the consumption patterns in both the rich and developing worlds that is soaking up all energy, which is now based primarily on hydrocarbons.

The OPEC+ nations blocked attempts at COP28 to script a timetable on the ending of fossil fuels. They were criticised for doing so, but why blame them alone? Every nation and economic grouping is trying to ensure that climate change goals do not conflict with their national priorities. India and China, for instance, continue to oppose any attempt to prevent the construction of coal-based power stations.

Faced with a massive hike in electricity demand and a politically assertive population, India is adding 17 gigawatts of coal-based power generation capacity. It already depends on coal for 73 per cent of its energy needs. There is no way developing countries such as India are going to junk their fossil fuel emitting power plants.

Perhaps the greatest flaw in current climate change negotiations is the exclusive focus on fossil fuels, which is only one contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Equally damaging are deforestation, the rampant extension of cultivated areas, animal farming, military activities, fertiliser usage, fluorinated gases and so on.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported that excessive meat consumption is a major cause of emissions. It said animal agriculture accounted for a fifth of planet-warming emissions and this is only expected to grow -- by an alarming 50 per cent by 2050.

Dr Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 president, patted the participants on their back at the end of the summit by declaring: "We have worked very hard to secure a better future for our people and our planet. We should be proud of our historic achievement." Really?

Our planet's capacity to sustain our greed is finite, already strained to the breaking point. Perhaps it would be more prudent to first curb our avarice, population growth and extreme inequality. If these pre-requisites are met, the control of greenhouse gases will follow naturally.

# Foundation of artificial intelligence

By: Vijay Garg

The impact of computer systems has been a revolution-**\_** ary phase in the scientific development process of society. In this sequence, the influence of Internet came into the society, which did unprecedented work of connecting people through various websites, apps etc. Its next revolutionary phase is the Internet reaching people's palms through smartphones. As a byproduct of this activism, artificial intelligence has become a social presence. Global based on free exploitation of personal dataDigital companies are busy in their expansion, but with this data, other companies are also making profit making ventures. Marketing companies have made it their main tool. The most dangerous thing among all these is that earlier all these shenanigans were visible on television screens, newspaper pages, walls of railway bus stations, to reach which the market had to go through some regulatory mechanism or other social pressures, but in the present digital No such effective regulator has been formed for its coverage in the media universe. everything hereCh is so dynamic that it is not easy to control it. On the other hand, in India, consumption of information has increased rapidly despite it being false, mischievous and misleading. On the other hand, the market has now started working on micro planning for the expansion of its products. With the combination of digital media and artificial intelligence, it has become very easy for the market to reach beyond the palm of people's hands and reach their minds based on their interests. The intimacy that society has become with digital mediums is a new maze of the market, which The consumer accepts it very easily. If the computer network is seen from this window, then it is natural that a

a burden on the society? Because it is no longer accurate information but is also becoming a means of political confusion. The video of an actress in the recent 'deepfake' incident is proof of this. In such a situation, the question is whether the computer system or its digital products are responsible for all this? Probably not, because all the distortions that have come about in digital media these days are actually repositories of our own distortions. of a society Whatever we are doing in this form is getting collected there. In this entire process, it should not be forgotten that digital media has saved and supported many positive changes, due to which society has progressed and transparency has also increased. Rather, it should also be accepted that the society is also maturing after going through the same storms. But if digital media has given voice to people's pain, it has also given voice to their whispers and chatter. It is our responsibility to differentiate between individuality and sociality. We Whispers are being considered equal to pain and are being served on the internet. By the time we reach here, everything that is regulated and organized in a field like 'computing' has become a refuge for widespread un scientificness and anarchy. The market makes its profit in this. In this sequence, threedimensional i.e. 3D printing technology can initiate a radical change in the field of manufacturing in a developing country like India. Obviously this will reduce both cost and time. Manufacturing work at remote and inaccessible locations with minimal risk Can be accomplished with M. Along with infrastructural development, this technology can give a new shape to small and cottage industries. There will be increased pressure from consumers to rethink the industries' tendency to produce mass production

from a single mold. In such a situation, there is every possibility of artificial intelligence based 3-D printing becoming the basis of a new industrial revolution. UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation Report - 2023 states that the 3-D printing market is growing rapidly. Globally, its value will be twelve billion dollars in 2020. Which was expected to increase to fifty one billion dollars by 2030. Also, overall this industry will generate thirty to fifty lakh new skilled jobs. In this sequence, the demand for supporting jobs is also increasing rapidly, because the industry will need engineers, software developers, material scientists along with sales, marketing and other experts. Today, commercial involvement of artificial intelligence can be seen in the development and automation of almost every industry. Therefore, it is difficult to accurately estimate its prevalence figures in the country, butIn February, quoting NASSCOM, the government told the Parliament that artificial intelligence is expected to create employment for about 4,16,000 professionals in India. Apart from this, artificial intelligence is expected to contribute an additional US\$ 957 billion to the Indian economy by 2035. In its current global market, private investment had increased by 103 percent to \$96.5 billion in 2021 compared to 2020. In the US alone, the demand for artificial intelligencebased skilled people across industries and businesses has grown rapidly and between 2010 and 2019The demand for such people increased tenfold. However, there is a need to be cautious about this in the Indian context, because in these situations the need for skilled workers will remain, but the struggle for employment of unskilled workers will increase. The negative use of artificial intelligence as a medium is also going on in parallel. With the help of 3-D printing technology, we can prepare forensic

evidence and analyze it factually with artificial intelligence. This can help in preventing crime, but through these means only These vicious crimes are also getting a boost. Medicines are being delivered to a patient quickly through sensor based drones, but smuggling of weapons and narcotics through such drones has emerged as a challenge today. On the other hand, it is also time to think that the data obtained from our own digital presence is playing a central role in 'Machine Learning' supporting the development of these research, but we are either completely unaware of all these processes or are unaware of it. Unable to do anything The digital world is constantly changing, but It's Even today the work of regulation was being carried out according to the rules made in the year 2000. However, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has just been passed, in which there is talk of creating an Indian Data Protection Board. Only time will tell how this board processes Indian digital data and protects its privacy. But it is worth considering in what form our fundamental participation is taking place in the market which is rapidly being created due to artificial intelligence, so that as the country with the largest population and highest internet data consumption in the world, our role is not limited to just labor or employment. Should not be limited to buyers. If these measures are not swiftly implemented today, it will neither be justice over time nor separate global recognition of our capabilities.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

# AIJMS urges Govt to provide OBC Status, land rights to Jammu Jats

Ch Manmohan urges Jats to unite for community rights, development



#### **Top News Report**

NOWSHERA, Dec 18: The All India Jat Maha Sabha, Jammu & Kashmir (AIJMS), today urged the Central Government to fulfill its commitment of granting Other Backward Class (OBC) status to the Jat community residing in the border areas of Jammu region. The Sabha also demanded ownership rights for custodian land that Jat community members have cultivated for over 60 years.

The demands were voiced at a daylong Jat Maha Sammelan held in Nowshera, in which Ch Manmohan Singh, President of AIJMS and former Mayor, was the Chief Guest. The event saw prominent figures like Sub. Gian Chand Mentor, President Ch Koshal, Chairman AIJMS Col R L Gangaal, Youth President Ajay Choudhary, General Secretary Bindu Choudhary, Ritesh Choudhary, Ch Varinder Chohan, Sarpanch Anita Choudhary, Sarpanch Romesh Choudhary, Sarpanch Bhadhur Nath Choudhary, Balbir Choudhary, Roshan Choudhary, Dwarka Choudhary, Babloo Choudhary, Rajesh Choudhary, Rattan Choudhary, Yash Choudhary, Narain Choudhary, youth leader Sd. Ranjit Singh Goldi, Sd Amanjeet Singh President Kashmir AIJMS Unit participated

munity's longstanding demands.

Addressing the gathering, Ch Manmohan Singh highlighted the extensive efforts of Jat Maha Sabha has undertaken through rallies and Sammelans for getting OBC status and ownership rights of custodian land provided to the members of Jat community land at the time of their migration. He said that the lack of ownership rights for custodian land in possession of Jats for generations was a serious concern.

Ch Manmohan Singh urged the government to find a solution that safeguards the community's land rights. He warned that the Jat community could take action against the government in the upcoming elections if their concerns remain unaddressed.

In a powerful address echoing through the Nowshera Sammelan, Ch Manmohan Singh rallied the community with a stark message: Unity is the bedrock of their success. He declared, "Only through unwavering solidarity can we secure the OBC status we deserve and reclaim the ownership rights of our lands held for generations!"

for generations!"

Ch Manmohan Singh encouraged the community members to prioritize education for their children, ensuring their future success in a com-

asked the community's youth to respect their elders who tirelessly strive to provide them better education for their

bright future. Col. Roshan Lal, another speaker, showcased AIJMS' commitment to community support. He lauded the Sabha's efforts in assisting victims like Rajat, a young man who lost his hand in a blast and received crucial medical treatment by Dr Amandeep Singh at Amandeep Hospital Amritsar and accommodation in Amritsar with AIJMS' support. He mentioned that Ch Manmohan Singh has provide a financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to Rajat family for the medical treatment.

Similarly, Ajay Choudhary, Youth President of Nowshera, acknowledged the Sabha's financial assistance provided to Mahindra Lal for his medical treatment after a severe injury due to HT wires. He mentioned that the Jat Maha Sabha has provided an amount of Rs 4 lakhs to the family for the medical treatment.

The Sammelan concluded with a call for unity and continued pursuit of the Jats' rightful claims.

Later, Ch Manmohan Singh also released the calendar of Dhanna Jat and assured full support in constructing the temple of Dhanna Jat as per the wishes of the

# Do help the blind persons, says Kaith to people



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: Helping blind persons with warm clothes and monetarily at Surya Vihar here today, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha's General Secretary R.L.Kaith said to people, Blindness is a condition where a person cannot see. Blind people need our help to do many things.

The most important thing you can do for

a blind person, or any person really, is to be friendly, include them socially and engage in conversation with them; ask them if they need assistance and do not insist upon trying to help if your offer of assistance is declined.

There is nothing worse than leaving someone out of a conversation just because they cannot see nonverbal cues.

#### Inter-Collegiate Gatka (Men) Championship 2023-24 held



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education University of Jammu organized Inter-Collegiate Gatka (Men) Championship 2023-24, here on Monday.

Fari Soti Team: GDC Kathua (Narinder Singh, Sehajveer Singh and Gurleen Singh), gold; P.G Dept JU (Robin Singh, Lakhdeep Singh and Pushapkant Sharma), silver; GDC Paloura (Prabhiot

Singh, Manpreet Singh and Karun Ghale), bronze.

Single Soti Individual: Sehajveer Singh (GDC Kathua), gold, Robin Singh (PG. Deptt. JU), silver and Prabhjot Singh (GDC Paloura), bronze.

The matches were officiated by Ravinder Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Simrandeep Kour, Lovepreet Singh, Taranbeer Singh, Jasvinder Singh, Varundeep Singh and Padam Dev Singh

# Kothey in Panchayat Gandli Top News Report

# a positive step towards improving village infrastructure, Gurdeep Saini, Sarpanch of Panchayat Gandli and General Secretary of All J&K Panchayat Conference, today kickstarted the construction of a lane

RS PURA, Dec 18: In

construction of a lane and drain in Ward No. 4, Village Kothey Gandli. The project, estimated to cost Rs. 3 lakhs, aims to enhance sanitation and ease of movement for residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarpanch Saini underscored the importance of this project for the village's overall development. He highlighted the benefits of improved drainage and accessibility, ensuring better living conditions for residents.

He expressed his deep appreciation to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi for the generous allocation of funds under various rural development schemes. He acknowledged these funds as instrumental in driving crucial infrastructure projects like the lane and drain construction in Kothey.

**GDC Kathua organizes Poster** 

as first, second and third in the competition.

The other participants

were acknowledged

with consolation prizes.

The event was judged

by Dr Ram Singh, HOD

Department of Educa-

tion and Dr Amreek

Singh Assistant Prof

Department of Geogra-

Principal Prof Seema

Mir GDC Kathua con-

gratulated the winners

and participants for their

participation in the event

and expressed their

ideas of Viksit Bharat

through poster making.

development works at Village

Sarpanch Gurdeep initiates

**Making Competition** 

**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, Dec 18:

Under the aegis of Vikiat

Bharat@ 2047 pro-

gramme, NSS Units of

GDC Kathua organised

Poster Making Competi-

tion on the theme Viksit

Bharat.More than thirty

volunteers participated

in the poster making

Competition in which

volunteers expressed

their ideas of Viksit

The posters of Meen-

akshi Bakshi, Archi

Gupta, and Tamana

Sharma were adjudged

Bharat.

Gurdeep Saini encouraged the local community to actively participate in such development initiatives and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Modi. He empha-

sized the collective responsibility to leverage available resources and continue the positive development momentum in Jammu and Kashmir.

She also congratulat-

ed the NSS prog officers

for continuously organ-

ising activities under

Vikist Bharat @ 2047

The programme was

organised under the

patrornage Principal

Prof Seema Mir and

supervised by NSS Pro-

gram officer Prof Man-

mohan Singh, Dr Kulbir

Singh and Prof Shivani

Dr. Ambica and Dr

Jogbinder Singh Direc-

tor Physical Education

and Sports also grace

programme.

Sharma.

the occasion.

Among those who were present include Naib Sarpanch Payere Lal, Panchs Gurdayal Singh, Somnath, and Pawan Singh, along with Chairman Darshan Singh, Dev Raj Sharma, Sharjinder Singh, and over 100 enthusiastic residents.

# and reiterated the competitive environment. He as per title wishes of the community members. GDC Paloura (Prabhjot Padam Dev Singh. Fadam Dev Singh. GDC Paloura (Prabhjot Padam Dev Singh.) GDC Dark the leading institutions in

Program for Working Professionals

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 18: The Business School, University of Jammu marked a significant milestone with the inaugural function of its pioneering Executive MBA program, in blended mode with the Multiple Entry Exit Scheme (MEES), in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event, held at the **Executive Convention** Centre of The Business School, brought together distinguished guests, faculty, and stakeholders to celebrate this innovative academic endeavor for the academic session 2023-25. Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director, The Business School welcomed the

esteemed guests and provided insights into the Executive MBA program's unique features. Prof. Chauhan emphasized on need of transformative experience with Project Based Learning which is the strength of EMBA program. Director TBS also appreciated the support received from the Vice Chancellor, University authorities and faculty of the Business School in launch of EMBA programm.



Prof. Versha Mehta, Dean Business Studies, University of Jammu, delivered special remarks, emphasizing the importance of the Executive MBA program in the current educational landscape. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Mehta emphasized on the contributions of senior executives with immense experience for overall growth of the department.

Kamal P. Patnaik, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India honored the occasion as the Chief Guest. He congratulated The Business School for introducing such an innovative program and delivered an insightful address, highlighting the program's relevance in the evolving professional landscape. Patnaik also shared the role of RBI in growth and monitoring of Indian economy. He appreciated the executives who have taken the challenge of learning after experience in their respective fields and walked an extra mile despite of tremendous personal and professional challenges.

Dr. Yashpal Malik, Guest of Honor and Consultant to esteemed organizations like Price Waterhouse Coopers and Asian Development Bank, shared his wealth of corporate experience. He spoke passionately about the practical applications of the Executive MBA program for working professionals. Dr. Malik reiterated that knowledge is important but skills have no substitute and emphasized on building competencies and upgrading skills to contribute to their respective organi-

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu, Senior Most Professor of The Business School, and Former Director of IIM Sirmaur, presided over the function. Her presidential remarks underscored the program's importance and its potential impact on the professional development of participants. Prof. Rohmetra appreciated the efforts of Director, TBS for successful execution of EMBA and being able to fetch fourteen participants with diverse background for the program. Speaking on the occasion she encouraged TBS to integrate different University departments and plan something more inclu-

sive with wider scope.
The event was attended by senior officials from the University, including Prof. Arvind

Campus, Prof. Hardeep Chahal, Director, ICCR&HRM as well as senior professors Prof. Alka Sharma, Director ,SIIEDC, Prof. Sameer Gupta, Prof. Rajendra Mishra, Dr. Amisha Gupta, Dr. Komal Nagar, Dr. Rachna Mahajan, Dr. Saloni Devi, Dr. Farah S. Choudhary, Dr. Aubid H. Parrey, Dr. Shelleka Gupta, Dr. Garima and Dr. Rajni from the department. Fourteen executives enrolled in the EMBA program, along with MBA students, added to the vibrant atmosphere of the inaugural function.

Jasrotia, Rector Kathua

of the inaugural function.
Dr. Rachna Mahajan,
Associate Professor of
The Business School,
delivered a formal vote
of thanks, expressing
gratitude to all those
who contributed to the
success of the event.
The master of ceremonies for the evening
was Dr. Aubid Hussain
Parrey who added a
touch of professionalism
and flair to the proceedings.

The launch of the Executive MBA program underscores The Business School's commitment to delivering cutting-edge education that caters to the evolving needs of working professionals, aligning with global standards.

# GDC Darhal observes National Minorities Day

**Top News Report** 

DARHAL, Dec 18: The NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Darhal observed National Minorities day as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 here on Monday.

GDC Darhal, one of the leading educational institutions in the region, proudly celebrated National Minorities Day with a dynamic event held on campus today under the guidance of Principal Prof Musaraf Husaain Shah.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shah briefed audience about the minorities' day which is observed annually on December 18 in India to protect the rights of minority communities.

The day aims to raise awareness about the rights of minority groups

without any discrimination based on caste, race, religion, ethnicity, and other such levels. The event served as a platform for promoting inclusivity, fostering unity, and encouraging students to actively contribute to the country's development as responsible members of minority communities.

The event featured Dr Mohd Saleem Wani. Head Dept. Of English acted as a resource person, who delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the theme of the day. Dr Wani emphasized the importance of peaceful coexistence and encouraged students to play an active role in shaping the nation's future progress. Through his insightful words, he encouraged students to embrace their unique cultural heritage while working collectively for the greater good of the nation.

Dr Mohd Akhlaq Malik, NSS Program officer of the College, introduced the audience about the program and conducted the proceeding of the program. Dr. Ghulam Abas, Associate Professor & Head Department of Persian presented the formal vote of thanks.

A large number of students and staff members participated in the program. Prominent among others were Dr. Taseem Ahmed Malik, Dr. Ahsan Ul-Rehman, Dr.Mohd Riaz, Dr. Mehwish Bukhari, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Samana Qusar and Gh.Nabi Dar.

### **DLL inaugurates workshop on Computer Skills**



#### **Top News Report**

RAMBAN, Dec 18: Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu on Monday inaugurated a 3-days workshop on Computer skills at Government Degree College, Ramban for the students of the college. The theme of this three days workshop is to

spread computer based

knowledge to students, which will help them to become proficient in handling computer based activities.

Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the college in her welcome address expressed the dire need for computer skill development programmes for the students of the college as it helps to build a strong foundation for them. She also appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong

Learning to organise such workshops.

The workshop was organized under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director DLL and it was coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL.

The resource person was Surjeet Kumar from University of Jammu. Around 30 students have registered for the workshop. Rajkumar conducted the proceedings of the programme.

# Shah Rukh Khan praises his 'Dunki' co-star Vicky Kaushal, says he is one of the finest actors

Shah Rukh Khan is super excited as just three days are left in the release of his muchawaited film 'Dunki'.

During film promotion in Dubai, the superstar heaped praises on his co-star Vicky Kaushal.

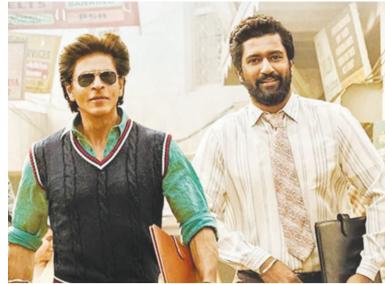
One of the videos of SRK surfaced on social media from the event, where he can be seen praising Vicky Kaushal's performance in 'Dunki' and saving that the audience is going to love him in the film as he has done a great job.

In the video, Shah Rukh was heard saying, "Vicky Kaushal is a great friend. I feel he is one of the finest actors I have worked with. And jab aap Dunki mein Vicky Kaushal ko dekheinge toh aapko bohat pyaar aaega unpar. He has done well and I got a lot to learn from him.'

He also lauded director Rai Kumar Hirani and encouraged fans to watch the movie in the-

"The best director in the country, we all respect him and love him and we need to give the love back because we give so much to cinemas," he said.

He grabbed eyeballs and took over the stage at Dubai's



Global Village while promoting his upcoming film, 'Dunki'.

King Khan caught the attention with his performance on the song 'Jhoome Jo Pathaan'. He thanked his fans for being present there.

While talking about his film, he said, "I made 'Jawan' fir maine socha maine ladke ladkiyu ke liye bana di apane liye kuch nahy banayi fir maine 'Dunki' bana di. Ye meri vaali film hai jo mere dil ke bahut kareeb hai.. year started with 'Pathaan' for me, which was always lady's

first for the girls and I want to end the year with a film for me."

'Dunki' features an ensemble cast, with colourful characters portrayed by Boman Irani, Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal, Vikram Kochhar, Anil Grover, along with Shah Rukh Khan. 'Dunki', a JIO Studios, Red Chillies Entertainment, and Rajkumar Hirani Films presentation, is produced by Rajkumar Hirani and Gauri Khan.

Written by Abhijat Joshi, Rajkumar Hirani, and Kanika Dhil-

lon, 'Dunki' is a heartwarming tale of four friends and their quest to reach foreign shores. It charts the arduous yet lifechanging journey they are about to undertake to make their dreams come true. Drawn from real-life experiences, 'Dunki' is a saga of love and friendship that brings together these wildly disparate stories and provides hilarious and heartbreaking answers.

Recently, the makers unveiled Dunki's official trailer titled 'Dunki: Drop 4' which offers a peek into the world of Rajkumar

Opening with SRK onboard a train sets the tone for the adventure that lies ahead.

The video unit introduces the whimsical characters, starting with Hardy, played by SRK, who enters a picturesque village in Punjab and encounters a group of spirited friends--Manu, Sukhi, Buggu, and Balli--all sharing a common dream of travelling to London in pursuit of better opportunities and a better life for their loved ones back home.

'Dunki' is all set to hit theatres on December 21.

# Tanuja, Kajol's mother, hospitalised in Mumbai, under observation in ICU

She was hospitalised after difficulty in breathing



Veteran actor Tanuja has been hospitalised in Mumbai and is under

As per a source close to the actor, Tanuja was

admitted to Mumbai's Criticare Hospital in Juhu last night (Sunday) after having difficulty breathing. She is in the ICU under the supervision of doctors and is doing well.

Reportedly, she will be discharged from the hospital on Monday eve-

Tanuja Samarth made her acting debut at the age of 16 with 'Chhabili' and won everyone's hearts with her acts in Bollywood.

'Memdidi' followed in 1962, and then she starred in numerous films. Tanuja met her husband, Shomu Mukherjee on the sets of 'Ek Baar Muskura Do', and got married to him in the year 1973. The couple shares two daughters Kajol and Tanishaa.

# People say Kashmir is mini-Switzerland, I say Switzerland is mini-Kashmir: Bhagyashree

Kashmir is tranquil and beautiful, says actor Bhagyashree, who wonders why people go abroad when there is so much beauty in India.

The 54-year-old, who shot to fame with her film debut "Maine Pyar Kiya" in 1989, said a lot of tourists want to visit the Valley but are apprehensive.

"Whenever I come here I am reminded of Amir Khusro's couplet that 'If there is Paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here, it is here'. Do not miss visiting Kashmir in your lifetime. It is so tranquil and beautiful here that I do not understand why people go to Switzerland or

When there is so much beauty in our own country, why go elsewhere?" Bhagyashree told agency at a tourist resort in Anantnag district.

"People here say Kashmir is a mini-Switzerland but I say Switzerland is mini-Kashmir. You feel inner peace here. People are so good that you will never face a problem," she added.

The actor also praised the Kashmiri cuisine and hospitality.

"The food is very tasty and the people are sweet like jaggery," she added.



Bhagyashree was most recently seen in "Sajni Shinde Ka Viral Video", also starring Radhika Madan and Nimrat

## KhanZaadi says she was not in right headspace during 'Bigg Boss 17', hopes Ankita Lokhande wins trophy

KhanZaadi, who is the latest contestant shown the exit door from the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss 17', said that she never imagined that the show would test her mental strength to its limit and

make her stronger. Looking back on her journey in the mohalla of Bigg Boss', KhanZaadi said: "As I bid farewell to the show, I'm happy that I have been sincere all along. I never imagined that this show would test my mental strength to its limit and make me stronger. This journey is a huge inspiration for my first love, hip-hop."

She now wishes to create better songs and explore the music that was suppressed inside of her all this while.

"I regret that I came across as someone who doesn't respect the platform, but that's not what it was. I was just not



in the right headspace to think about anv-

thing other than myself because I was fighting

a few demons inside my head. I'm very grateful that this show celebrated my fierce spirit," she said.

KhanZaadi, whose real name is Firoza, added: "Standing up for yourself without expecting anyone to back you is the lesson I'm taking away from this show. I'm excited about watching this show as a viewer and I hope that Ankita Lokhande wins the trophy."

After her eviction, Abhishek Kumar was in tears. Abhishek and Khanzaadi seemed to be on the brink of being the "new couple" in the house and that's why her departure hit Abhishek the hardest.

Before her eviction was announced, host of the show, Salman Khan introduced a buzzer round and whoever out of the nominees pressed the buzzer on the count

of three would be granted protection from eviction in exchange for reducing the total cooking time of the contestants to 12 hours for the

Abhishek secured immunity by pressing the buzzer, however, owing to his popularity he didn't need it, the one who needed it was Khanzaadi, who garnered the fewest votes among the nominees. During her last few weeks in the house, the rapper had been whining about wanting to guit the show, and her eviction spelled good news for her.

Khanzaadi represented her home state Assam and brought her fierce spirit to the game. She showcased her hiphop style and engaged in lively Bihu dance sessions, creating memorable moments in the mohalla.

Impressed by Shoaib's

phenomenal perfor-

mance, guest judge

Marzi said, "Shoaib,

### Personal note(s): Dua Lipa's new album is based on diary written in 'heat of the moment'

Singer Dua Lipa has revealed her upcoming album is based on her own diary extracts, making it her most personal music to date. Lipa has spent two years working on her third studio album.

Dua says she needed the time to gain 'perspective' on her writing about 'incidents' that she had written down in the heat of the moment. She said: "Most of the album was intimately in diary form, so I write about things when they happened. I think how you feel about something 24 hours after an incident has happened and then when you look back at it two weeks, a month, later your perspective completely changes." "So I think it's important to always



take a bit of a breather from something and then look back on it, and then be, like, 'All right, I'm ready'." Admitting the writing process had

been "quite long", with as many as 97 songs to pick from, she added: "When I write albums, I have to kind of get through a bunch of ideas to get to the ones I feel are special. I feel like now I know where I'm heading towards."

The New Rules singer went on to say she was enjoying a fresh start with a "whole new era and a Her first single from the album,

Houdini, is about catching an admirer's eye in a club and leaving without saying goodbye.

# Word of praise: Malaika Arora calls Shoaib Ibrahim amazing husband, son and dancer

Model and actress Malaika Arora, who is seen as the judge in the celebrity dance reality show Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, has applauded the performance of Shoaib Ibrahim on the track Bheegi Bheegi, and said he had proven that he was an amazing husband, son, actor, and dancer.

Shoaib, known for his versatile acting skills, showcased a new dimension of his talent. He poured raw emotion into his performance and created an emotional atmosphere on the dance floor, accompanied by his choreographer Anuradha Iyengar and celebrity choreographer Nishant Bhatt, to the song Bheegi Bheegi.

Stunned by the trio's act, Malaika said, "Shoaib, what a comeback. Here, we have Marzi Pestonji, who is a master of contemporary dance and he is praising you, I think it's a huge compliment for you all. Shoaib, you've proven that you are an amazing husband, son, and actor, and today you've proved that you're an



you executed contemporary dance exceptionally well. It is a style where you can't cheat; either you do it right, or you will be caught. I was trying to find mistakes, but I couldn't. You were so immersed in the performance that it felt like the situation actually happened with you." "Nishant provided excellent support. Very well-choreographed act. I was looking at all of you as a complete package, and each one of you played a crucial role. It was a phenomenal act; the floor work was clean and looked effortless," added Marzi.

Judge Arshad Warsi shared, "Do you know what the most beautiful thing about dancing is? It's when you combine music, body movement, emotions, feelings, and passion - when all these things come together in perfection, that's what makes a good performance. Today, I got that Broadway feeling from you. You were insanely good."

amazing dancer as well. This is a true, honest, fiery performance. Well done."

#### team in Indian Street Premier League Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Monday announced his association with the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of

team Mumbai. The ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament that will be played inside a stadium, according to a press release. The inaugural edition is scheduled to be held from March 2 to March 9

in Mumbai. The tournament will feature 19 high-intensity matches, boasting a line-up of six teams – Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar.

Bachchan said being part of the

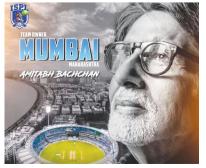
league marks a new beginning for

**Amitabh Bachchan becomes owner of Mumbai** 

"For me an honour and a privilege to be with Mumbai as Team Owner, and to be privy to the surge of talent erupt, for a grand visionary future.." the 81-year-old actor wrote on his personal blog. He described the ISPL as an

exciting and a noble concept. "An opportunity for them that exhibited their capacity on the streets, gullies and make shift home made pitches to play cricket, now to get selected for a team professionally and exhibit their talent in formal setups before the mil-

lions the world over !" he further



said in his post. Recently, actors Akshay Kumar and Hrithik Roshan were announced as the team owners of Srinagar and Bengaluru, respec-

# **India declared freedom from slave mentality: Modi** after inaugurating Swarved Mahamandir

Says after independence, re-building of the India's cultural symbols was essential

VARANASI, Dec 18 (Agencies): Inaugurating the world's largest meditation centre Swarved Mahamandir here on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country has declared freedom from the slave mentality and is feeling proud of its heritage.

"In the era of slavery, the oppressors who made an effort to weaken India first targeted our symbols. After Independence, re-building of these cultural symbols was essential," he said.

Modi said that after India gained Independence, "there was an opposition to the rebuilding of the Somnath temple and this thought process remained dominant for decades."

The result of this was this was



that the country slipped into the pit of an inferiority complex and forgot to feel proud of its heritage, he said.

"After seven decades of Independence, the wheel of time has turned once again. The country has declared from the Red Fort freedom from a slave mentality and a feeling of pride about its heritage.

"The work which started from

Somnath has now become a campaign. Today, the grandeur of Vishwanath is singing the tales of India's glory," Modi said.

For centuries, India has been an example of economic prosperity and physical development, the prime minister said, adding that the government, society and saints are working together for the rejuvenation of Kashi.

Following the inauguration of the Swarved Mahamandir, Modi along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took a tour of the centre that can seat 20,000 people at a time for meditation. Verses of the Swarveda have been carved upon the walls of the Mahamandir -- a seven-floor superstructure.

### Suspension of MPs has nothing to do with protest against security breach, says Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla



NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): The Lok Sabha continued to witness acrimonious scenes on Monday as protests continued on the issue of security breach in the Lok Sabha.

While the Opposition sought a reply from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Speaker Om Birla reiterated that Parliament Secretariat and he himself were responsible for the security of Parliament.

Birla was addressing the House ahead of Question Hour at 11 am when he clarified: "Suspension of members is not linked to it (protests against security breach)."

As many as 13 MPs were suspended for the remainder of the Winter Session on December 14 after they protested against the security breach.

"I don't want to suspend members, but I had to uphold the dignity of Parliament," Birla said.

An inquiry has been entrusted to the Union Home Secretary, who had tasked the DG of the CRPF, Anish Dayal Singh, to lead the probe.

Birla said, "Within Parliament also, we have a high-powered committee that will look at security issues within the House and see that such an incident does not happen again. I will

INDIA alliance will drive PM

Modi out of power: Lalu Prasad

go by your suggestions on the matter."

Birla reminded that in past there had been incidents of security breach in the House. "We have seen a pistol coming in; slogans raised; people jumping into the chamber. In each of the past incidents, the Speaker addressed the issue of security and acted."

Birla said, "It is unfortunate that we are doing politics over it. I have already discussed the matter with all parties. Some opposition leaders have given suggestions that have been noted."

"We will find way to address your concerns," said Birla even as the opposition held placards as part of their protest seeking a response from Amit Shah.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi reminded the House that upon shifting to the new Parliament building, it was decided not to carry placards, but the agreement is being violated.

## 'Insult to Parliament': MP Sibal slams Modi, Shah for not making statement on security breach inside House

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday said it was an "insult" to Parliament that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah made remarks on the Parliament security breach issue in public instead of speaking inside the House.

Two people jumped from the visitors' gallery into the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13, with opposition parties, demanding a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Some members have

also sought Shah's res-

ignation. 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 direc-

In a post on X, Sibal said, "December 13 Security Breach. PM ji, Amit ji. Instead of facing Parliament, you both express yourself in public. An insult to Parliament. But then, for you, institutional etiquette is not part of your vocabulary!'

On Thursday, Shah

had said at a media conclave that the Parliament security breach is a serious issue and the Lok Sabha Speaker has taken cognisance. He accused the opposition of indulging in poli-

tics over the issue. "There has been a lapse in security and a Committee has been formed to look into it," he said, adding that the panel will submit its report in a days time.

In an interview with the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran', Prime Minister Modi said probe agencies are investigating the security breach



gent 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," Modi had said.

#### Minister Narendra Modi will return for a third consecutive term, asserting that the INDIA alliance will "drive him out of power". Prasad was approached with queries

by journalists at the airport, where he had reached, alongside son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav,

PATNA, Dec 18 (Agencies): RJD

president Lalu Prasad on Monday bris-

tled at the BJP's assertion that Prime

to board a flight to Delhi for the coalition meeting on Tuesday.

The ailing septuagenarian began on an ebullient note, saying he was looking forward to the meeting, where all the alliance partners will sit together and chalk out the strategy for the 2024 Lok

Sabha elections. "You people seem to have just one thing to say that Modi is going to come back (to power). If it is so, so be it... Please do not make a big fuss about Modi. We all in INDIA will drive him out of power," Prasad said

He was commenting on the catchphrase 'Modi ki guarantee' with which the BJP has been going to town to assert that the assurance of good governance will ensure the Prime Minister's return to power.



Meanwhile, state BJP president Samrat Choudhary reacted to Prasad's statement, saying, "Lalu ji seems to be joking. He must have lost count of the number of times he has tasted electoral defeat. In Bihar, he is remembered for patronising criminals and indulging in corruption, which has resulted in his conviction in fodder scam cases".

"The RJD is at present enjoying power in Bihar not through legitimate means. but because of the treachery of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who had contested the assembly polls as our ally, but betrayed the mandate. Both his JD(U) and RJD will be punished by the people of Bihar," Choudhary added.

# 4 killed, 8-10 injured after truck hits pick-up vehicle in UP's Jalaun

JALAUN, Dec 18 (Agencies): Four people, including a twoyear-old child, died while 8-10 others got injured late Sunday night in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district after a dumper truck rammed a pickup vehicle.

According to the police, the incident happened near the Katehari toll plaza on a service road that connects the National Highway 27 with the Bundelkhand Expressway.

After the incident, police and the expressway officials rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to the Orai Medical College, while the dead were sent for postmortem.

The incident happened when a coaching teacher, along with his family members and students, was returning to Jalaun in a pickup vehicle after offering prayers at Datia's Peetambra Mata Temple.

As their vehicle reached near the service road, a high-speed truck hit it from behind, following which it overturned.



The dead have been identified as Aniruddha (2), Priyanka (28), Nancy (16) and Munni Devi (50). The truck driver fled from the incident after the incident.

Speaking about the incident,

lowing which it overturned. Four people died in the incident while 8-10 people were injured." "We have coordinated with the doctors and all the necessary medical care has been provided

to the injured," he added. A probe has been launched to look into the accident, he added.

Jalaun's Superintendent of

Police (SP) Iraj Raja said, "We

received information that a

pickup vehicle that was coming

from Jhansi-side was hit by a

truck near the Kaithi bridge fol-

# Karnataka Government makes wearing of face masks mandatory for people above 60

NATAKA), Dec 18 (Agencies): The Karnataka Government on Monday asked those above 60-years of age, with comorbidities, and symptoms of cough, phlegm and fever to mandatorily wear face masks, in the wake of detection of a case of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 in neighbouring Kerala.

Increased tests among those with such symptoms and suspected cases, and heightened surveillance in border districts are among the measures that the officials have been instructed to take up, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told reporters here.

The situation is being continuously monitored, and there is no need for any restriction on movement and gathering of people as of now, he said, adding, the government would come out with an advisory.

"There is no need for anyone to worry. We had held a meeting day-before-yesterday and our technical advisory committee headed



yesterday and there was discussion between our officials and experts regarding the measures to be taken," Rao said.

"Those above 60 years of age and those with comorbidities like issues related to heart, kidney among others, and those with cough, phlegm and fever should mandatorily wear masks. We are communicating this to the public. Also we have asked our hospitals and health centres to be prepared. There should be more surveillance in border districts like—Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Chamarajanagara—which share

added. The government would, based on the situation, decide what

border with Kerala," he

further measures need to be taken, he said. Along with stepping up surveillance at the border, instructions have been issued to increase testing and those with symptoms and suspicious cases are being asked to compulsorily undergo testing.

"In a couple of days we will get to know if the infections are increasing or not. As we increase COVID tests, if more positive cases are recorded, we will decide on further measures that need to be taken. There is no need for imposing any curbs or restrictions now itself," Rao said.

On whether there will be any restriction on Ayyappa pilgrims returning from Kerala, Rao said, as of now there are no curbs on restriction

on movement of people and gathering.

"We will not stop any such thing now, because such a situation—where people should not move or gather—is not there," he said.

"We will monitor the situation daily, in case we get any adverse information, we will say what needs to be done. For those above 60 years of age, those with comorbidities and respiratory issues, wearing masks is good. We will make it mandatory. Advisory will be issued by the government today."

Noting that a mock drill has been conducted at all hospitals by district health officials to check their preparedness, the Minister said, checks have been conducted on the number of beds, ventilators, oxygen supply, masks, testing and PPE kits among other things that are required in case of emergency.

"Instructions have been given to make necessary preparations at all health centres and taluk and district hospitals," Rao added.

# Youth ends life after denied job at Eden Gardens gallery

KOLKATA, Dec 18 (Agencies): The body of a youth was found hanging from one of the galleries of Eden Gardens here on Monday, police said.

The deceased was identified as 21-yearold Dhananjay Barik, son of a ground worker, they said.

Barik was found hanging from the upper tier of gallery K of the stadium by one of the caretakers, a senior officer said,



adding that the youth had been missing since Sunday afternoon.

"The deceased was possibly suffering from depression because he was not getting an appointment as a ground staff at the Eden Gardens like his father and uncle, who are also employed there.

We are investigating whether it is a case of suicide or something else. The body has been sent for post-mortem," the officer said.

The youth's family members had filed a missing complaint with Maidan police station on Sunday, he said, adding that the deceased was staying with his father and uncle at the quarters meant for Eden Gardens' staff.

# Kanpur: Children set 4 sleeping stray puppies on fire while playing at park

KANPUR, Dec 18 (Agencies): Four children aged between 8 and 9 years burnt four puppies to death while the animals were sleeping in a park in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur. The incident took place the Kidwai Nagar neighbourhood.

The kids had gone to the park to play amongst themselves. There, they noticed the puppies sleeping in a shelter, which was made of

straw and jute sacks, and talked to each other for a few minutes. Then, one of the children set the puppies' shelter ablaze using a matchstick, giving no chance for the sleeping animals to flee. On hearing the scream-

ing of the puppies, local people rushed to the park and saw the shelter of the puppies burning and the animals frantically running around. The puppies died soon

Seeing the locals arriving at the spot, three children fled the spot while one 8-yearold child was caught. People then informed the local animal welfare organisation, which came to the spot and

called the police. Assistant Commissioner of Police Amarnath Yadav told India Today TV that action would be taken in the matter based on evidence.

According to information, the small puppies were born at the Geeta Park in Kanpur's Kidwai Nagar. In an attempt to keep

the puppies safe from

the cold, locals built a small hut for the animals that acted as their shelter.

The incident has left the locals shocked as they wonder what gave the children the idea of burning the puppies alive.

# South Korea says North Korea has fired missile into sea in resumption of weapons testing

The launch comes hours after South Korea reports North Korea conducting a short-range ballistic missile test into the sea in a resumption of its weapons testing activities

SEOUL, Dec 18 (Agencies): North Korea fired a second ballistic missile into the sea off the coast of South Korea on Monday, the South Korean military said.

The military said in a statement only that the launch was made on Monday morning without giving further details.

The launch came hours after South Korea reported North



Korea conducting a short-range ballistic missile test into the sea in a resumption of its weapons testing activities.

Observers said the North's back-to-back launches were likely a protest against the moves by South Korea and the United States to bolster their nuclear deterrence plans in the face of North Korea's evolving nuclear threats.

# North Korea missile has 15,000 km-plus range, can reach anywhere in US, says Japan

US condemns N Korea's ballistic missile launches

TOKYO, Dec 18 (Agencies): The ballistic missile that North Korea launched on Monday is an ICBMclass missile that has a range of more than 15,000 km (9,300 miles) and can reach anywhere in the United States, a Japanese government official said.

Parliamentary Vice

Saddam Hussein and

wield important powers,

including selecting

regional governors and

allocating health, trans-

port and education bud-

say that the councils

are nests of corruption

and enable clientelism.

The vote is expected to

consolidate the position

of the ruling Coordina-

tion Framework coali-

tion, an Iran-aligned

bloc that brings together

Shiite Islamist parties

with factions of Hashed

al-Shaabi, a network of

former paramilitary units

integrated into the regu-

For some heavy-

lar army.

**Huge Competition** 

gets

Minister of Defence Shingo Miyake made the comments to reporters, adding the missile flew about 73 minutes. US condemns N

Korea's ballistic missile launches has condemned North

The United States Korea's ballistic missile launches which it said pose a threat to the

country's neighbours, according to a State Department spokesper-

"These launches, like the other ballistic missile launches Pvongyang has conducted this year, are in violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions," a spokesperson

# Giorgia Meloni says 'no place for Islam in Europe, will not allow Sharia law in Italy'

ROME, Dec 18 (Agencies): Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has said that Islamic culture and the values and rights of European civilisation have a "compatibility problem".

"I believe there is a problem of compatibility between Islamic culture or a certain interpretation of Islamic culture and the rights and values of our civilisation," she said.

"It does not escape my mind that most of the Islamic cultural centres in Italy are financed by Saudi Arabia.

She said, "I believe there is a problem of compatibility between Islamic culture and the values and rights of our civilisation," adding that she would not



allow Sharia law to be implemented in Italy as "values of our civilisation are different".

These controversial remarks from Meloni came while she was attending an event organised by her rightwing, ultra-conservative Brothers of Italy party. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and billionaire Elon Musk also attended the event.

Sharia law, commonly

referred to as Islamic law, constitutes a set of principles and regulations rooted in the Quran and the Hadith, representing the foundational religious texts of Islam.

While in Italy, Sunak also held bilateral talks with counterpart Meloni during which tackling illegal migration was stated as a key area of discussion.

#### Iraqis vote in first provincial elections in a decade BAGHDAD, Dec 18 ture ravaged by decades

(Agencies): Iraqis voted Monday in the first provincial council elections in a decade, which are expected to strengthen powerful Shiite pro-Iran groups.

The vote comes at a time of widespread disillusionment among the country's 43 million inhabitants, with endemic corruption eating away at the oilrich nation.

Ballots are being cast in 15 Iraqi provinces but not in three which are Kurdish and operate under a separate autonomous system.

The election is seen as a key test for the government of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani.

He rose to power just over a year ago on the back of a parliamentary coalition of pro-Tehran parties and has focused on developing public services and infrastrucof conflict.

"Turnout to me is the ultimate gage of satisfaction," Renad Mansour, a senior research fellow at Chatham House, told agency.

It will show, he said, "whether the Sudani government's economic populism -- the policy of giving out (public sector) jobs -- can be successful and can capture the young population".

Iraqi state television broadcast the opening of polling stations in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Basra at 7:00 am (0400 GMT) on Monday.

A total of 7,166 polling stations were set to open under tight security and are scheduled to close at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT).

weights within the alli-Some 17 million people ance, the elections are eligible to vote, with are an "opportunity" to "prove they have a social 6,000 candidates vying for just 285 seats in base and that they are the powerful provincial popular" following disappointing results in the

They were established 2021 national elections. after the 2003 US-led said Mansour. invasion that toppled

He added that there was "huge competition right now" among Shiite groups for the regional governor roles.

Influential Shiite cleric and political kingmaker Moqtada Sadr has joined the opposition and is boycotting the vote.

The provincial councils were initially abolished in late 2019 as a concession to massive antigovernment protests.

But Sudani's government subsequently reestablished them, with Monday's elections the first since 2013.

"What use are these elections to us?" said Abu Ali, a 45-year-old taxi driver, who declined to give his full name.

"The years pass, elections come around again, the candidates change, and our situation stays the same," he told agency in Baghdad ahead of the vote.

The candidates "don't build anything, they just seek the interest of their own parties," he added.

To reflect Iraq's multiconfessional and multiethnic population, 10 seats are reserved for minorities, namely Christians, Yazidis and Sabians.

In addition, a 25 percent quota has ensured that 1,600 of the candidates are female.

Observers are keeping a close eye on Kirkuk, an oil-rich northern province where the historic rivalries between the major parties of the Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen communities could resurface.

Despite drone attacks against US and Western coalition troops by pro-Iranian armed groups, regional tensions and the fallout of the Israel-Hamas war are not expected to weigh on the results.

# Thousands flee, one missing as storm hits Philippines

A total of 11,729 residents had been evacuated from Mindanao's east and north coast ahead of landfall as a precaution.

MANILA. Dec 18 (Agencies): A man went missing and thousands of people in the Philippines were sheltering in evacuation centres Monday as Tropical Storm Jelawat hit the large southern island of Mindanao, causing scattered flooding and power cuts.

The storm weakened as it raked across Mindanao after making landfall in the morning, but the state weather service said the threat of floods and landslides remained.

Police in Manay municipality, where Jelawat made landfall, reported one man missing at the swollen Casaoman River that

bisects the coastal town of about 40,000 people.

"A local man ignored warnings and went to gather coconuts floating on the river. It is suspected he's been swept away," acting Manay police chief Major Meliton Sango said. Two areas of Manay

reported knee-deep floodwaters as the river overflowed, the officer told agency by telephone. The civil defence office

in Manila reported two damaged houses in Cortes, another town on Mindanao's east coast, along with power cuts in three other towns.

A total of 11,729 residents had been evacuated from Mindanao's



east and north coast ahead of landfall as a precaution.

They were advised by authorities to remain at emergency shelters for

Jelawat was forecast to plough across the south of the country for the rest of the day, with the weather service warning of heavy rain,

especially in the moun-

tainous interior. "Under these conditions, flooding and raininduced landslides are likely especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards," its latest

storm bulletin said. The coast guard reported widespread shipping disruptions as

sailing restrictions were put in place to prevent accidents in rough seas.

More than 100 ves sels were stranded or sought shelter at ports, with more than 5,000 passengers stuck at the port of Manila as ferry services to the central and southern Philippines were suspended,

it said. About 20 storms and typhoons hit the country or its surrounding waters per year, killing hundreds and keeping many of the areas of the country poor.

Jelawat is only the 11th this year, so far equalling a record low set in 1998, according to weather service data.

# More than 300 rescued from floodwaters in northeast Australia, Cairns Airport shut



BRISBANE, Dec 18 (Agencies): More than 300 people were rescued overnight from floodwaters in northeast Australia, with dozens of residents clinging to roofs, officials said on Monday.

Cairns Airport was closed on Monday due to flooding and authorities were concerned that the city of 1,60,000 people will lose drinking water.

While rain was easing

in Cairns, severe weather warnings were in place in nearby Port Douglas, Daintree, Cooktown, Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale, with

more rain forecast. Queensland state Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll described the flooding as "absolutely devastat-

ing". "Last night, we had an extraordinarily challenging, challenging evening, rescuing some 300 people," Carroll told reporters.

There were no deaths or serious injuries, she

All 300 residents would be evacuated by helicopter from the Aboriginal community of Wujal Wujal, where nine adults and a 7-year-old child spent hours overnight on a hospital roof, officials said.

A Category 2 tropical cyclone passed close by Wujal Wujal on Wednesday. But while strong winds did little damage to the community, heavy rain has continued to lash the region.

Roads and railway lines were cut. communities were isolated and 14,000 homes and businesses were without power on Monday.

# Israel is using starvation of civilians as 'weapon of war' in Gaza: Human Rights Watch

The rights group called Israel's continuing blockade of Gaza and its more than 16-year closure a war crime and a collective punishment of civilians.

JERUSALEM, Dec 18 (Agencies): The group Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Monday accused the Israeli government of intentionally starving civilians in Gaza as part of its offensive in the besieged Pal-

estinian territory. "The Israeli government is using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in the occupied Gaza Strip, which is a war crime," the New York-based group charged in a report.

"Israeli forces are deliberately blocking the delivery of water, food impeding humanitarian assistance, apparently razing agricultural areas, and depriving the civilian population of objects indispensable to their survival," it added. "In addition, Israel's

and fuel, while wilfully

continuing blockade of Gaza, as well as its more than 16-year closure, amounts to collective punishment of the civilian population, a war crime. As the occupying power in Gaza under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel has the duty to ensure that the civilian population gets food

and medical supplies," HRW's statement read.

The rights body also noted that Israel's crushing blockade and its military's extensive airstrikes in the Gaza Strip have resulted in "widespread damage or destruction to objects necessary for the survival of the civilian population."

HRW also urged the Netanyahu administration to "immediately cease using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare" and lift its blockade of the Gaza strip.



Meanwhile, the Israeli government hit back at HRW, accusing it of being an "anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli organ-

isation." "Human Rights Watch

... did not condemn the attack on Israeli citizens and the massacre of October 7 and has no moral basis to talk about what's going on in Gaza if they turn a blind eye

to the suffering and the human rights of Israelis," foreign ministry spokesman Lior Haiat told agency.

The deadliest ever Gaza war began with the by Hamas on October 7, when the group killed 1,139 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250, according to updated Israeli figures. The health ministry in

unprecedented attack

the Hamas-run territory says more than 18,800 people, mostly women and children, have died in Israel's campaign in Gaza.

Following months of fierce bombardment and fighting, most of Gaza's population has been displaced and people are grappling with shortages

of food, water, fuel and medicine. Israel on Friday

approved the "temporary" delivery of muchneeded aid to Gaza via its Kerem Shalom cross-A humanitarian aid

convoy entered Gaza

through the crossing on Sunday, the first since Israel approved the move, an Egyptian Red Crescent official said. A total of "79 trucks

began entering today," the official, who is not authorised to speak to the media, said on condition of anonymity.

# Govt Polytechnic Jammu organises seminar on 'prevention of sexual harassment at workplace'

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: Government Polytechnic Jammu organized a seminar on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace" for the female faculty, staff and students with an objective to ensure a safe, secure and gender neutral campus.

The resource person for the seminar was Shaheen Wahid, SP South Jammu.

The session began with the address by Er. Arun Bangotra Principal, Government Polytechnic Jammu.

He addressed that sexual harassment at workplace does not only cause both mental and physical damage to the person



harassed but also leads to a less effective and discriminatory work environment. He stressed upon addressing such incidents and reporting them at the right time.

In her address Shaheen Wahid

covered the aspects related to hearing and addressing complaints regarding sexual harassment and spreading awareness about gender related issues and functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee. She talked about Sexual Harassment of Workplace Act, 2013 and the timelines and pit stops for ICC.

She explained how a person's body language plays an important role in understanding what he or she feels.

The speaker explained the process of filing complaints at Police Stations and at the same time encouraged to always report and speak up for oneself if such incident occurs.

The seminar was coordinated by Er Rani Devi HoD Computer Engineering, Er Sakshi Kapahi I&C Department and Ar Manu Rajput, Architecture Department.

# TNWS Jammu organizes Ration distribution camp on subsidy rates



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) Jammu organised Ration distribution camp on subsidy rates as per the Government of India policy for the general public and residents of Trikuta Nagar colony Jammu in TNWS complex from 11.30 AM to 3 PM.

Rajinder Parshad Kakkar, President TNWS inaugurated the camp with the association of NCCF Jammu.

The camp will continue on every alternate day at the same time till the last man of Trikuta Nagar colony will be

benefited.

There is no need of any I card to get the subsidy rates Bharat Atta onions and Channa.

Team TNWS Jammu thanks the team of NCCF above all to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reduce the load of finance of common man.

Besides a large gathering of Trikuta Nagar residents N.K Bali, Dr. Arun Gandotra, Er. Varinder Kumar Suri, S.Davinder Khorana, Som Nath Kaul, Subhash Kumar, O.P. Sharma and Dara also gets the subsidy rates.

plies of essential commodities, imposition of

## Modi-led government magical schemes changed way of life of the common masses: Vinay Gupta

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 18: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is touching enormous heights to enhance and accelerate the mega "Booth Jan Samvaad Abhiyaan" public outreach program in Jammu. BJP senior leader and Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta bolstered the Jan samvaad abhiyaan in Sanjay Nagar Ward 46, Gandhi Nagar, Mandal of District Jammu South.

The program was conducted in Gandhi Nagar Mandal, under the leadership of Vinay Gupta in the presence of Neha Mahajan program main speaker and State Mahila Morcha General Secretary, Mandal President Bharat Bhushan, District Vice President Narinder Koki, Shakti Kendra Parmukh Sahil Mahajan, Priyanka Sharma and others were present on the

occasion.

While delivering the public gathering, Vinay Gupta, asserted that the PM Modi-led Government's supernatural policies play a vital role in boosting morale and uplifting the improvised segments. BJP leader highlights that public-friendly schemes in the nation are the master

stroke and turning point to form the next Government once again for the third consecutive term in the 2024 parliamentary polls.

Vinay Gupta added that Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan will empower citizens with information, and exchange of ideas and will strengthen the democratic process. During the meeting, Vinay also informed that the main focus of the Abhiyan is on various developmental initiatives of the Modi Government after 5 August 2019.

The campaign will last till January 15, next year and during this campaign, BJP aims to bridge the gap between citizens and the Modiled government and will create a platform for open dialogue on various issues that matter

most to the people.

He said that the BJP has initiated this Abhiyaan on the national level to acquaint the people with the welfare schemes, works, and

the achievements of Modi government in the last 9.5 years.

Vinay underscored that the party will organize 'Choupal' to discuss all these works by the BJP-led government with the common masses.

He also appealed to the people to vote for the Modi government to power once again in 2024 to increase the pace of development in the whole nation especially Jammu & Kashmir adding the Modi government has brought peace and prosperity to the J&K.

Vinay Gupta enlightens as India is aiming to become a developed country by 2047, The BJP-led government wants the common man to know how the government functions and how they can be associated and become a part of the development pro-

cess,".

He enlightened that in 2014, when Narendra Modi took the oath as PM, India's economy was in the 14th position in the world and today it has jumped to the fifth place.

The objective of the Booth Jan Samvaad is to not only disseminate information but also to learn from citizens' experiences.

# Kundal urges workers to get ready for upcoming elections

**Top News Report** 

RAMGARH, Dec 18: Continuous onslaught on the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir and the recent Supreme Court verdict on Article 370 which was granted them by the country's constitution has disappointed the people of Jammu and Kashmir, stated former Minister and State Vice President Yash Paul Kundal while addressing one day party workers meet-



ing at Ramgarh.

Kundal urged upon the workers especially youth to get ready for upcoming elections and defeat the nefarious plans of those who

hoodwinked us all on the name of development and prosperity he told workers be in touch with common people and aware them about the party's agenda.

Kundal further said that the people of Ramgarh and elsewhere are facing multiple problems and issues which include power crisis inadequate suphuge taxes, price hike, deduction in rice quota, power fee increase, installation of smart meters, rising unemployment and demanded immediate redressal of the grievances confronting to people in ongoing chilly winters the administration has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to people and to sustain the J&K's healthy economy.

# Satsang in memory of Samitri Devi organised



**Top News Report** 

R.S.PURA, Dec 18: A Satsang was organised at Chack Mohd Yar in memory of Samitri Devi, who was the most respected lady.

A large number of people hailing from different corners participated therein.

Addressing the sangat, the religious Guru Tarsem Lal said, The word Guru is coined by two

letters 'Gu' means 'amalgamation' and 'Ru' means 'Soul'.

An organism amalgamated with soul is called Guru. According to Hindi version 'Gu' means 'Dark' and 'Ru' means 'Light'. A person leading the pupil from dark to light is called Guru.

Without Guru one cannot see light inside. Outside light is seen by eyes but eternal light is felt due to the blessings of Guru. It is just like enlightening another

lamp. The soul has no colour, no shape, size, no flesh, blood no smell.

Soul never requires water, food and air. Soul is an inexplicable gift of God to living being. Soul is a chetana and free from the pangs of birth, winter, summer and other phenomenon. To whom an alive person loves, after death the soul goes to him.

It is an exact faith of all the religions of the world. The job of the Guru ends not even after death.

The Guru works like cukoo bird. The egg of cukoo resembles with egg of crow in shape, size and colour.

Cukoo lays egg in the nest of crow and crow assumes them as his own egg and helps in hatching it.

When the tiny cukoo comes out, the parental cukoo every time watches the situation and

knows the tiny cukoo has come out. The parental cukoo produces his sound.

The tiny cukoo immediately attracts towards parental cukoo with the help of sound. Something from the inner exerts due to which tiny cukoo believes that the sound producers are his parent/guru. Thus parental cukoo flies keeping in claws the tiny cukoo towards his desired place. Similarly, when the body dies, invisible soul wanders around the guru who watches his pupil every where, produces special sound. The soul has love for guru, attracts towards guru and then flies towards Sat-

Among others who listened the satsang included DDC Member Vidya Motan, Subedar Tilak Raj Motan, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Tarsem Lal Sandhu, Jagdish Raj Kaith and Rashpal.

### RS passes bills to extend women's reservation to J&K, Puducherry Amid Din, adjourned till 4 PM

will be shared with the House in due course," the chairman said.

As the uproar continued, Dhankhar said he was in a "helpless situation", expressing hope that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge would see him in his chamber. The chairman then adjourned the House till 4 pm.

Rajya Sabha proceedings witnessed two adjournments in the morning session and met again at 2 pm as opposition parties led by the Congress raised the issue of Parliament security breach.

The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill were passed within nearly 20 minutes of being tabled by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

Rai requested all members to support the Bills "in favour of women's rights".

Members spoke briefly on the Bills, extending their support to the proposed legislations. Some members urged the central government to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

JKPSC headless; recruitments stalled, exams postponed held from December 24, 2023, to January 28, 2024, are hereby postponed till further notice," reads the JKPSC notice issued on December 15.

"The candidates in their interest, are also advised to be prepared for the exams which can be scheduled at a short notice at the discretion of the commission," it reads.

The repeated postponement of exams has left the aspirants aghast who say that the abrupt decision to cancel the exams proves costly for them and subjects them to mental disturbance.

"We are doing private jobs or coaching outside Jammu and Kashmir and we book our tickets following the date sheet issued by the JKPSC. But we are continuously disappointed by the commission because of repeated postponement of exams," said an aspirant.

He said that the money spent on booking air tickets goes to waste.

"We booked our tickets twice but both times it cost us dearly as our exams were postponed," the aspirants said.

Another group of aspirants who have been selected as Assistant Professors for various subjects like Botany, Psychology, English, and Political Science in the Higher Education Department (HED) complained that the ongoing recruitment process had been stopped for a prolonged time due to the superannuation of the former chairman JKPSC.

"Our files have been stuck with JKPSC for almost a month. We JKPSC Secretary repeatedly but we were told that the Commission cannot process without its chair-

man," said a group of selected candidates. The aspirants have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to personally look into the FROM PAGE 1
matter and appoint a new chairman for the commission.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar told Greater Kashmir that the matter would be examined.

"The issue is not directly under my purview, but I will get it examined and ensure that the commission gets the chairman as early as possible," Bhatnagar said.

### NIA raids 19 places in South India against a 'Highly Radicalised Jihadi Terror Group'

four accused, one of whom is still absconding, were extensively searched in the case on December 13 as part of the NIA's continuing investigations into the case (RC-28/2023/NIA/DLI). The other locations that were searched were premises connected with two other suspects.

In that raid, the NIA teams seized a host of digital devices, various incriminating documents, and cash amounting to Rs 7.3 lakhs during the raids, conducted at the premises of Mohammed Umar, Mohammed Faisal Rabbani, Tanveer Ahmed and Mohammed Farooq, as well as absconder Junaid Ahmed. Three accused are currently absconding in the case, registered under various sections of IPC, the UA(P) Act, 1967 and the Explosive Substances Act, 1884.

Mehar Tunnel excavation along Jammu-Srinagar highway suspended after

#### bulges appear on sidewalls

informed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and joint teams of experts and designers are likely to visit the tunnel for a thorough investigation," a senior official of DMR Construction Vinay Kumar

The work on the four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway started in 2011 and has already missed several deadlines due to the sluggish pace of work.

#### Nearly 1.7 million Tulips to be displayed at Tulip Garden in 2024

national and internationals visited the garden. We hope the record will be broken in the next Tulip show," he said.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which is the largest tulip garden in Asia, is spread over an area of about 30 hectares (74 acres). The garden is situated in the foothills of Zabarwan range, built on a sloping ground in a terraced fashion consisting of seven terraces with an overview of the Dal Lake.

The garden is likely be thrown open any time after March 20 next year depending on the temperature.

4 get life term for killing girl, eating her liver in Kanpur

lasted three years, Additional District Judge (POCSO Act) Baquar Shamim Rizvi, sentenced the accused couple Parshuram and Sunaina, their nephew Ankul and his associate Viren, to life imprisonment.

The court imposed a fine of Rs 45,000 each on Ankul and Viren and Rs 20,000 each on Parshuram and Sunaina.

Additional district government counsels Ram Rakshit Sharma, Pradeep Pandey and Ajay Kumar Tripathi said that a resident of a village in Ghatampur had lodged a complaint that her seven-year-old daughter had gone missing while playing outside her house on November 14, 2020.

The following day, her mutilated body was found in a field outside the village.

Police lodged an FIR against Parshuram, Sunaina, Ankul and Viren and launched an

investigation.

Cops came to know that Parshuram and Sunaina were childless even after 19 years of their marriage and had approached an occultist who asked them to consume the liver of a girl.

Ankul and Viren sexually assaulted the

girl and then killed her.

They extracted the girl's liver and gave it

to Parshuram and Sunaina.

The court announced the sentence on

#### Youth missing since Nov 24 found dead in Pulwama

Malikpora went missing from his home on November 24. The officials said that his body was recovered this morning behind R&B Office Pulwama. Police has taken cognizance of the matter and initiated investigations in this regard.

# Stock markets snap record-breaking run on profit taking; Sensex drops 168 points

The Nifty climbed 273.95 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at its new closing high of 21,456.65

MUMBAI, Dec 18 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined on Monday due to profit-taking by investors after a record-breaking rally in the last week and a largely weak trend in Asian markets.

Snapping its three-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 168.66 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 71,315.09. During the day, it fell 341.46 points or 0.47 per cent to 71.142.29.

The Nifty fell by 38 points or 0.18 per cent to 21,418.65.

Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, ITC, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, IndusInd Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards.

Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech, Hindustan Uni-



lever, Bajaj Finance and Maruti were among the gainers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The market started on a subdued note as concerns over oil supply disruptions through the Red Sea and elevated valuations dented investor sentiment."

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Seoul ended in the green.

markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended mostly with gains on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.29 per cent to USD 76.33 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their buying momentum as they bought equities worth Rs 9,239.42 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Rising for the third day running, the BSE benchmark jumped 969.55 points or 1.37 per cent to settle at its record closing high of 71,483.75 on Friday. During the day, it surged 1,091.56 points or 1.54 per cent to 71,605.76, its all-time intraday high level.

The Nifty climbed 273.95 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at its new closing high of 21,456.65. During the day, it zoomed 309.6 points or 1.46 per cent to hit its record intra-day peak of 21,492.30.

# UCO Bank recovers Rs 705 crore mistakenly credited to thousands of accounts

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): UCO Bank has recovered Rs 705.31 crore out of the Rs 820 crore that was mistakenly credited to numerous accounts in November, said Union Minister of State for Finance, Bhagwat Karad, on Monday.

The transfer of funds to 41,000 UCO Bank accounts was a consequence of a technical glitch in the bank's IMPS payment channel.

The glitch occurred in the Interbank Mobile or Immediate Payment System (IMPS), a 24/7 instant domestic fund transfer facility accessible through various channels, including internet banking, mobile

banking apps, ATMs, and bank branches.

On November 15, UCO Bank filed an FIR with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against two of its support engineers and other unidentified individuals.

The CBI subsequently conducted searches at around 13 locations in West Bengal and Karnataka on December 5, recovering electronic evidence such as mobile phones, laptops, computer systems, email archives, and debit/credit cards.

Highlighting the government's response to cybersecurity challenges in the financial services sector, Karad mentioned that the Union

Ministry of Finance held a meeting on November 28 to assess the readiness of banks and financial institutions.

He stressed the importance of a focused approach to addressing cyber-attacks and frauds related to digital payments.

To facilitate the swift reporting of financial fraud, the government has established the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System.

Karad also noted that this system has saved an aggregate amount exceeding Rs 1,000 crore in over 4 lakh incidents up to December 4, 2023.

# **PVR Inox focuses South** market for expansion

BENGALURU, Dec 18 (Agencies): Given the high movie consumption in South India, multiplex chain PVR Inox continues its expansion in the South market with the opening of its first multiplex in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.

PVR INOX said it will strengthen its foothold in Tamil Nadu with 139 screens in 23 properties. It continues expansion in the southern part with 549 screens in 98 properties.

Ajay Bijli, Managing Director, PVR Inox Limited, said, "We are delighted to strengthen our foothold in Tamil Nadu with the opening of the first multiplex in

the city of Cuddalore. The launch of the new 3-screen multiplex at Cuddalore aligns to our vision of accelerating growth in underserved markets"

"At PVR INOX, we are paving the way for expanded access to entertainment in untapped markets with cutting edge technologies, world class ambience, opulent comfort and exciting range of F&B options," said Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Executive Director, PVR Inox Limited.

Nirmal Bang in its recent report said the next 2-3 quarters (3QFY24-1QFY25) are going to be muted partly due to lack of material Hollywood content for the multiplex chain. "Even if Dec'23 is as strong as Aug'23, we think EBITDA for 3QFY24 will likely show a steep decline QoQ (50-55%) from the record levels seen in 2QFY24."

It added, "while a bulk of new screen openings (40-45%) are going to be in South India, we really doubt whether the bargaining power would shift to PVRL in the next five years." PVR Inox is the largest film exhibition company with 1712 screens across 359 properties in 114 cities

(India and Sri Lanka).

# Udaan sacks over 100 employees days after \$340 million funding: Report

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencies): B2B e-commerce giant Udaan has reportedly laid off approximately 150 employees, constituting about 10 per cent of its total workforce, merely days after securing \$340 million in capital.

The recent funding was intended to fortify the company's supply chain and strengthen vendor partnerships. According to sources cited in a Moneycontrol report, the layoffs are attributed to a fundamental shift in Udaan's operational strategy.

The actual number of affected employees could potentially exceed 150, impacting roles



across various divisions within the organization.

Udaan is said to be decentralizing its operations, moving away from its previous all-India operational model. The FMCG team, for instance, will now operate on a cluster-wise basis, with different

NEW DELHI, Dec

18 (Agencies): A body

of Indian healthcare

professionals has pro-

posed guidelines rec-

ommending prophylaxis

treatment in haemophil-

teams assigned to specific clusters overseeing all categories.

A spokesperson for Udaan commented on the restructuring, stating, "Over the last few years, we have made significant investments to build a solid and sustainable business. We

Prophylaxis treatment in Haemophilia

with first-of-its-kind Indian guidelines

believe in efficiency as a driver of profitable growth and are continuously making efforts to enhance efficiency, grow business sustainably, and further improve customer experience."

This isn't the first instance of workforce downsizing at Udaan; the company laid off 10 per cent of its staff in November 2022 after securing \$120 million in convertible notes.

In 2022 alone, Udaan has reportedly let go of 500 employees in two rounds of layoffs, occurring in June and November.

Despite the recent layoffs, Udaan remains focused on its long-term goals, with plans to go public in 2025.

Vaibhav Gupta, cofounder and CEO of Udaan, expressed confidence in their business plans, stating that the recent funding will position them to be "publicmarket ready" within the next 12-18 months.

Udaan was founded in 2016 by three IIT alumni, Amod Malviya, Sujeet Kumar, and Vaibhav Gupta, all of whom had prior experience at Flipkart.

The company has become a major player in the B2B e-commerce space, facilitating transactions between businesses across various industries.

# HPV vaccines can eliminate cervical cancer 'in our lifetime', says Indian scholar at Harvard

WASHINGTON, Dec 18 (Agencies): The low cost of the latest HPV vaccine with high-throughput manufacturing facilities puts India in a position to supply them globally and domestically to help eliminate cervical cancer "in our lifetime," an Indian public health scholar at Harvard has said.

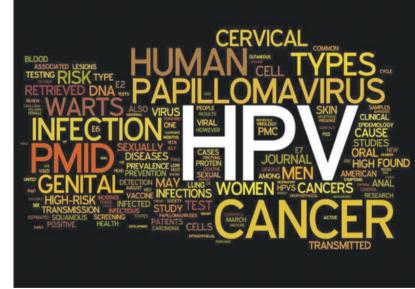
"India has a safe human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. It is a powerful tool to prevent cervical cancer and save lives. India has a nationwide screening programme that can eliminate cervical cancer in "our lifetime," said Dr Mrinalini Darswal from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

"The low cost of the Indian HPV vaccine with the availability of high-throughput manufacturing facilities puts us in a position to supply HPV vaccines globally and help save millions of precious lives. We demonstrated such leadership with Covid-19 vaccines recently, earning the admiration of the world," Darswal, a 2002 batch IAS officer, said.

Darswal was the Commissioner, Food Safety; Drugs Controller; Project Director, National AIDS Control Programme, Special Secretary Health, and Family Welfare and Member Secretary of the Coordination Committee on Juvenile Drug Addiction, Government of Delhi. Before coming to Harvard, she moved to the University of Texas (UT) at Austin for a Master's in Economics.

"As a mother of a nine-year-old daughter and a physician myself, I was one of the first in line to get the HPV vaccine shot when it was first made available in India in 2014. We got three doses each. The latest vaccines offer close to 100 per cent protection with a single shot," she told agency.

The latest vaccine she referred to is the 'Cervavac', India's first indigenous HPV vaccine that can prevent cervical cancer and other HPV-associated cancers.



Developed and manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), this vaccine is soon to be included in India's national immunisation programme in 2024.

Pointing out that a wider range of affordable and accessible vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) are needed to meet global cervical cancer elimination efforts, a November 2023 study by The Lancet Oncology evaluated the immunogenicity and safety of a quadrivalent HPV vaccine in the 9–14 years cohort. "We observed a non-inferior immune response with this quadrivalent HPV vaccine in girls and boys aged 9-14 years and an acceptable safety profile compared with the comparator vaccine," it said.

Yearly, about 1,24,000 new cases, most of them poor, are diagnosed in India, and 78,000 women die from this disease, an ominous but highly preventable mortality rate of 80 per cent, she noted. As many as 2.5 crore women among 50 crore women in India harbour HPV16/18 infection, the cause of 83.2 per cent of invasive Cervical cancers. Six in 10 women with such cancers succumb.

The low coverage of screening-

just 2 in 100 women- and vaccination, coupled with the high burden of poverty and social stigma, contribute to the high mortality rate of cervical cancer in India, she said, and asserted, "This cancer is preventable! And it can be eliminated within our lifetime."

Referring to India's national immunisation programme including the latest HPV vaccine, she said, "The urgency of the move is amplified in view of India bearing one of the highest burdens of cervical cancer globally, with the load falling majorly on the poor, lacking health coverage and financial resources for treatment."

According to her, besides vaccination, screening for cervical cancer is also crucial to detect and treat pre-cancerous lesions before they become invasive, reducing cervical cancer mortality by 50 per cent.

"However, screening for cervical cancer faces many challenges in India, such as lack of awareness, stigma, cultural barriers, structural barriers, and low compliance. According to the National Family Health Survey 2021, only 1.97 per cent of women aged," she said.

ia patients to prevent them from bleeding as the standard of care in line with global clinical best practices.

The Haemophilia and Health Collective of North (HHCN) in collective with National

Health Collective of North (HHCN) in collaboration with National Health Mission (NHM) representatives from 16 states have proposed these first-of-its-kind Indian guidelines for the treatment of Persons with Haemophilia (PwH).

The HHCN, which has been working in the domain of hae-mophilia care for over two decades, has also highlighted the need for comprehensive care for PwHs and recommended budgetary calculation for payers and policy-makers to understand the budgetary requirements of each state and central reimbursement bodies.

Current treatment modalities in India primarily focus on ondemand therapy 'FVIII replacement' to address bleeding episodes as they occur.

Experts noted that India is home to the second largest population of patients living with haemophilia, and worldwide, countries are moving towards advanced non-replacement therapy or prophylaxis care.



patients, healthcare professionals come out

The new guidelines clearly articulate the need for comprehensive care, including the significance of timely diagnosis, physiotherapy and multidisciplinary care for PwH.

First time a separate category for non-factor replacement (currently available as Emicizumab) is incorporated in the selection criteria. The real-world experience bears out the rapid switchovers to Non-factor products which remains the drug of choice, the guidelines stated.

It has recommended a scoring-based patient selection criteria so that patients get maximum benefit from products.

A relevant scoring pattern to identify the patients who qualify for prophylaxis with non-factor replacement potentially leads to improved patient adherence with better treatment outcomes.

People with severe haemophilia bleed frequently and often spontaneously, including repeated bleeds into joints and muscles. In addition to disease severity, the frequency of bleeding also varies by bleed site.

Depending on the area affected, these bleeds

can be debilitating or even life-threatening. As a result, people with Hemophilia A bleed for a longer time than normal, due to a deficiency of clotting factor VIII, the

HHCN said.

Current treatment modalities in India primarily focus on ondemand therapy 'FVIII replacement' to address bleeding episodes as they occur. However, exposure to exogenous Factor VIII could lead to the development of inhibitors.

This renders treatment with Factor VIII ineffective, the HHCN stated.

The new guidelines recommend the adoption of advanced care to tackle such bleeding incidents and reduce disability and improve quality of life for haemophilia patients, Dr Naresh Gupta, chairperson of Haemophilia and Health Collective of North, said.

North, said.
Worldwide, countries are moving towards advanced non-replacement therapy or prophylaxis care because breakthrough bleeds remain an issue with the levels of protection offered by current FVIII concentrates.

"In India, prophylaxis adoption is estimated

whereas in most other developing countries it is over 20 per cent and in developed countries 80-90 per cent of haemophilia patients are on prophylaxis," Dr Gupta said.

India is home to the second largest population of patients living with haemophilia, with an estimated 1,36,000 individuals grappling with Haemophilia, he stated.

Gupta said, "As we navigate the dynamic landscape of haemophilia treatment in India, these guidelines address the challenges of selecting and using new drugs for its treatment.

"Prophylaxis treatment stands out as a crucial solution in preventing spontaneous bleeds and improving the overall quality of life for individuals. We believe these guidelines are not just a step forward; it's a leap towards a brighter future for haemophiliac treatment in India." In India, the prevalence of haemophilia necessitates a comprehensive approach to address the unique needs of those living with this condition, he said,

The new guidelines are a crucial step in that direction. These guidelines will also empower policymakers to formulate state protocols and allocate funds judiciously, said Premroop Alwa, President of the Hemophilia Federation of India.

# 1st ODI: Arshdeep, Avesh star in emphatic Indian victory over South Africa

Also, debutant B Sai Sudharshan (55 not out off 43 balls) showed during his stay at the wicket why he is rated so highly

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 18 (Agencies): Pacers Arshdeep Singh bowled a dream first spell and found an ally in equally menacing Avesh Khan as a second-string Indian team completely annihilated South Africa by eight wickets in the opening ODI here.

India now lead the threematch series 1-0. Having gone into the match without a single wicket in his previous three ODI appearances, Arshdeep more than made up for it with his maiden five-wicket haul as South Africa were all-out for 116 in 27.3 overs. The target was surpassed in only 16.4 overs.

Playing their first 50-over game post the World Cup final, it seemed that Arshdeep (5/37 in 10 overs) and Avesh (4/27 in 8 overs) had picked up a cue from their seniors Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah as a quality Proteas batting line-up was made to look like novices on a track that offered a lot of help due to underlying moisture.

In reply, debutant B Sai Sudharshan (55 not out off 43 balls) showed during his stay at the wicket why he is rated so highly. He made the chase look like a cakewalk.

The sinewy southpaw looked elegant and upright while driving on the up and looked strong off the back-foot, while pulling the short ball.

Against spinners, he put a big stride forward, which is hallmark of a good player. The on-drive off Tabraiz Shamsi was a treat for the eyes.

Sai had seasoned Shreyas lyer (52 off 45 balls) for company, who looked in fine touch,



it up and ensured that most

of the South African batters

stayed rooted to the crease.

In fact, both were on hat-tricks

with dismissals off successive

Arshdeep would get more

credit as he blew away the top-

order within the first Powerplay

with four wickets and then left

it to Avesh, who bowled fast

and full, hurrying the batters for

In between, Avesh would slip

in the occasional short ball for

the tailenders, who were in two

minds whether to go on the

It started with Reeza Hen-

dricks (0), who dragged a deliv-

ery that was angled across

the right-hander back onto the

stumps and the dangerous

Rassie van de Dussen (0) must

have expected an away-going

one but got one that darted back

Tony de Zorzi (28 off 22 balls)

chanced his arms and Mukesh

Kumar (0/46 in 7 overs), who

had an off-day, went for a few

before Arshdeep showed his

front-foot or back-foot.

from middle-stump

deliveries.

something that augurs well for India, ahead of the upcoming Test series

However, the story of the day was how Indian pacers rattled South Africa with the ball jagging around for the first hour and a half which spelt doom for the home side.

Arshdeep would certainly feel good having drawn a lot of flak for his inconsistency in the shortest format.

In their last encounter at Kolkata's Eden Gardens, South Africa were bowled out for 83 under lights on a slow deck but never would have Aiden Markram thought that he and his men would be bullied at the 'Bull Ring' which has been a safe haven for them in white ball cricket.

Only three players who played the World Cup final -- skipper KL Rahul, wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer -- are a part of this current playing eleven, and India's back-up pacers gave a good account of themselves.

The two Indian pacers pitched

and the ball ballooned for skipper Rahul to complete an easy

variation by digging one short

However, the wicket that completely broke the home team's back was Heinrich Klaasen's (6) dismissal, which would have even made the great Wasim Akram proud.

Arshdeep bowled one slightly back of length but flicked his wrists in a manner that it turned into a vicious in-dipper which clipped the leg stump bail, leaving the right-hander in complete

The end of Powerplay didn't end Proteas' woes as skipper Markram played on, completely beaten for pace.

David Miller (2) also fell prey to relentless pressure to a delivery pitched on drivable length while Wiaan Mulder and Keshav Maharaj found the speed of deliveries too hot to handle.

It was Andile Phehlukwayo, whose 33 coming in at No. 8, took the home team past the 100-run mark before Arshdeep, in his second spell, completed his coveted five-for.

5/37 Arshdeep Singh picked up his first 5-wicket haul in ODIs, having gone wicketless in his first three games

116 South Africa were bowled out for their lowest total on home soil in the ODI format. Their previous worst was 118 — also against India — in Pretoria in 2018.

Brief scores: South Africa: 116 all out in 27.3 overs (Phehlukwayo 33; Arshdeep 5/37, Khan 4/27); India: 117/2 in 16.4 overs (Sudharsan 55\*, lyer 52).

# Lyon joins 500 club as **Australia thrash Pakistan**



Dec 18 (Agencie): Spinner Nathan Lyon joined the illustrious 500-wicket club today, picking up 2/18 on a seam-friendly Perth Stadium surface to help Australia bowl Pakistan out for a paltry 89 and cruise to a 360run victory on Day 4 of the first Test.

Defending 450, Australia's much-vaunted pace attack ripped through Pakistan's batting lineup in the afternoon, allowing Lyon to trap tail-ender Faheem Ashraf Ibw and celebrate his milestone before the tourists folded inside 31 overs.

"I don't think it has hit me yet, but there has obviously been a lot of hard work go into the journey... It's pretty special to take 500 in my first Test back," Lyon said.

The world Test champions, now 1-0 up in the three-Test series, had declared after lunch on 233/5 in 63.2 overs, having posted 487 earlier and bowling the visitors out for 271 in the first innings.

Pakistan's fourth

innings run-chase started in shambolic fashion as they were reduced to 48/4 inside 15 overs before tea, and it did not get any better.

Josh Hazlewood (3/13) and Mitchell Starc (3/31) inflicted the most damage, but all eyes were on Lyon as he sought to join Shane Warne (708) and Glenn McGrath (563) among Australians with 500 wickets, and become the eighth player overall to reach the figure.

The 36-year-old lost a caught-behind review in the 26th over, but got his man in the 28th, going upstairs again to send Ashraf on his way for five, with Hawk-Eye showing contact with the stumps

The off-spinner, returning from a torn calf which left him sidelined for most of this year's drawn Ashes series in England, held the ball aloft and accepted the embrace of his teammates, and then cleanbowled Aamer Jamal (4) later in the over for good measure.

"I don't think it's any secret that he's the most important cog in our bowling lineup," Australia skipper Pat Cummins said. "It's great having him back, another 500 to go."

Consecutive strikes by Hazlewood to dismiss Saud Shakeel (24) and Khurram Shahzad (0) brought the match to a frenetic end.

Earlier, Pakistan's debutant seamers Shahzad (3/45) and Jamal (1/28), outshining the more experienced Shaheen Afridi and Ashraf, accounted for the three Australian wickets to fall on the fourth day. Usman Khawaja (90) and Mitchell Marsh (63 not out) accumulated throughout the morning session, absorbing some body blows on an uneven pitch.

Brief scores: Australia: 487 & 233/5 dec (Khawaja 90, Marsh 63\*; Shahzad 3/45); Pakistan: 271 & 89 (Hazlewood 3/13. Starc 3/31). 500-wicket club

Muthiah Muralidaran (SL)

800 | 133 | 55.04\* Shane Warne (AUS) 708 | 145 | 57.49 James Anderson (ENG)

690 | 183 | 56.83 Anil Kumble (IND) 619 | 132 | 65.99 Stuart Broad (ENG) 604 | 167 | 55.79 Glenn McGrath (AUS) 563 | 124 | 51.95 Courtney Walsh (WI) 519 | 132 | 57.84 Nathan Lyon (AUS) 501 | 123 | 63.10 \*Read under wickets, Tests and strike-rate.

### Ishan Kishan pulls out of SA Test series, Bharat named replacement

CENTURION, Dec 18 (Agencie): Indian team's premier wicketkeeperbatter Ishan Kishan will not be a part of the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa as he has flown back home due to personal reasons.

Kona Bharat, who is currently in South Africa as India 'A' skipper, has been inducted into the main squad.

"Ishan Kishan has requested the BCCI to be released from the upcoming Test series against South Africa citing personal reasons. The wicket-keeper has subsequently been withdrawn from the Test squad. The men's selection committee



has named KS Bharat as a replacement," BCCI said in a state-

a single fifty.

considering Bharat's

Kishan made his Test debut in the West Indies after Bharat was given five Test matches in which he failed to score It is expected that KL

Rahul will keep wickets in the Boxing Day Test,

inept technique against quality pace bowling.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (vc), Prasidh Krishna,

KS Bharat (wk).

# WI vs ENG: Harry Brook believes record chase vs West Indies will provide clarity for T20 World Cup 2024

GRENADA, Dec 18 (Agencie): England batter Harry Brook believes that the final two T20I of the West Indies series will set the tone for T20 World Cup 2024. Brook played an instrumental role in keeping England alive in the bilateral series. After England were down 2-0, the visiting team chased down a 223-run target against the Rovman Powell side in Grenada.

Brook pulled off an incredible final over exploit, hitting Andre Russell for 24 runs in the 3rd T20I match. Brook remained not out at 31 off just 7 ball and helped England pull back one game in the series. Speaking ahead of the 4th T20I match, set to be



played on 20 December, Brook said that the final two games will make a huge difference.

"We're a fair way away from the World Cup but these two games can make a big difference, especially getting the experience of these pitches and these crowds," Brook told the reporters.

"We had it against Pakistan before the last T20 World Cup where we needed to win the last two games and we just tried to play them all like finals. We've got to

England will come into the side as defending champions. Brook

added.

do that for the rest of this

series." the batter further

believed that chasing high scores will give the side a lot of clarity going into the world tournament, scheduled to be held in June 2024. The T20 World Cup will be jointly hosted by West Indies and the United States of America.

"We can take a lot of confidence from that win. You've got so much clarity chasing a big score like that, you know you've got to get out the blocks quickly," Brook said

The batter has been in up and down form since the Indian Premier League 2023. Brook came into the IPL as one of the most talented young batters in the world.

The batter did score

a century against Kolkata Knight Riders in Eden Gardens but also had a string og singledigit scores to his name. This prompted Sun-Risers Hyderabad to release the player they had bought for Rs 13.25 crore.

Speaking about his own batting, Brook said that he is trying not to get tensed up.

"I'm just trying to be as cool as I can be," Brook said. "I'm trying to be free-flowing – as soon as I get tensed up in any format, I'm never as good," Brook said.

"It was really nice to go out there and finish it off. Hopefully I can do it plenty more times in my career," concluded the batter.

# R Ashwin Picks Two Stars Who Will **Breach Rs 14 Crore Mark In IPL Auction**

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencie): Indian cricket team spinner Ravichandran Ashwin believes that the Australian pace duo of Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc can end up fetching prices above INR 14 crore in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 Auction. The Rajasthan Royals cricketer took to social media to make various predictions about the auction and he thought that both Starc and Cummins can go for massive money after their Cricket World Cup 2023 triumph on Indian soil. He also tipped all-rounder Shahrukh Khan, who was released by Punjab Kings, to fetch a price between INR 10 and 14 crores in a proper bidding war.

For Rachin Ravindra, Ashwin showed that he expects the bids to be around INR 4 and 7 crores while in case of pacer Harshal Patel, he showed a range of INR 7 to 10 crores in the video. Gerald Coetzee was put in the same bracket as Harshal while Ashwin believes Rovman Powell will get

INR 4 to 7 crores.

The one surprise prediction from Ashwin was that regarding World Cup hero Travis Head whom he believes will not fetch a price higher than INR 4 crores. A higher amount was predicted for veteran India fast bowler Umesh Yadav who Ashwin expects to go for somewhere between INR 4 and 7 crores.

Ashwin lauded Australian spinner Nathan Lyon as he achieved the milestone of 500 Test wickets.

Nathan Lyon achieved the significant milestone of 500 wickets in Test cricket during the first Test between Australia and Pakistan in Perth on Sunday. Lyon became the eighth bowler to reach this elite feat, joining the distinguished company of legendary players in long-format cricket.

Following Lyon's feat, Ashwin, a modern-day rival of Lyon, congratulated him on X (formerly Twitter).

"8th bowler and only the 2nd off-spinner in history to pick 500 test wickets. @NathLyon421 con-



grats mate #AUSvsPAK," tweeted Ashwin.

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Ashwin is also just a few wickets away from the club. The Indian spinner, who made his Test debut in the same year as Lyon back in 2011, also has 489 wickets in 94 matches. He is the ninth-highest wicket-taker in Tests while the 36-year-old Lyon sits one spot above at number eighth.

### IPL 2024: Excited to see Rohit Sharma as pure batter for Mumbai Indians, says Sanjay Manjrekar

NEW DELHI, Dec 18 (Agencie): Former India cricketer, Sanjay Manjrekar is excited to see Rohit Sharma as a pur batter in the next season of the Indian Premier League. Sharma was replaced as the Mumbai Indians captain as the franchise decided to hand the reins to Hardik Pandya. Pandya was transferred in an all-cash deal from Gujarat Titans to MI, marking a homecoming for the all-rounder.

Speaking about the move just ahead of the IPL 2024 auction, Manjrekar said that one should not think about the decision sentimentally or emotionally. The former batter believed that Rohit had been in the setup for a very long time and it was the right time for a change.



"We should not be thinking sentimentally or emotionally about Rohit Sharma. It is a good move by Mumbai Indians because Hardik Pandya is a proven leader and player. He is your in-form T20 captain and player and Rohit Sharma has been around for a long time," Sanjay Manjrekar said on Star Sports.

"It makes a lot of cricketing sense to bring in Hardik Pandya, I just hope that Hardik Pandya does not feel the pressure due to the way this has happened. Rohit Sharma will be the same batter. If he continues to be the pure batter and not a captain, I don't mind the leadership change at all," Manjrekar further added.

Sharma has been in fantastic form in international cricket. The batter's aggressive batting in the opening slot has allowed India to get rapid starts. Owing to Sharma's batting, India dominated all matches in the run-up to the ODI World Cup final. Playing against Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Rohit gave India a stunning start, but the Australian bowlers proved to be too good on the day.

On the other hand, Hardik Pandya returned to Mumbai Indians after spending two years in Gujarat Titans. Hardik had led GT to their maiden IPL title in their debut season. In 2023, Pandya led GT to the final of the tournament, where they lost against Chennai Super Kings in a last-ball thriller.

# **Vigyan Parishad conducts State Level Camp of VVM 2023**



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: Vigyan Parishad (J&K), Chapter of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), organized One Day State Level Camp and prize distribution ceremony of Vidhyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) 2023 for the students of Class VI to XI at CSIR-IIIM Jammu.

Twelve top students were selected through rigercus procedure from 120 students, who were initially shortlisted from nearly 1650 registered students at the preliminary stage, for their onward participation in National Level Talent Search Camp.

The programme was conducted by Vigyan Parishad J&K team comprising of Prof. Rajni

Kant (President), Prof. PawaneshAbrol (Vice President), Dr. Parveen Kumar Lehana (Vice President), Samir Vohra (Org. Secretary), Dr. Dhiraj Vyas (Secretary), Er. Deepak Byotra (Jt. Secretary), Pankaj Gupta (Treasurer), Rakesh Chobber (Academic Coordinator of VVM), Tinny Sawhney (State VVM Coordinator), Vikas Langer, Mr. Subash Chander,

and Mr. Vijay Sharma Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu and Chief Guest of the function, shared his thoughts about the existing scientific temper amongst the scientists working across various disciplines of science and technology in the

country.

He also projected the value of Science in our lives and encouraged the students to work hard for the development of this Nation and for its self reliance.

He further congratulated the participating students and appreciated the endeavours of VIBHA In promoting Swadeshi science.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM congratulated for the programme and conveyed his message for the value of Science in our lives. He also expressed that CSIR IIIM will always remain as front runner in organising such events. His message was conveyed by Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, HoD Plant Sciences, CSIR IIIM.

The programme was presided by President Vigyan Parishad J&K, Prof. Rajni Kant, Vice Chancellor, RNTU Bhopal, who in his address apprised the audience about the National Level Competitive Examinations which are available for those students who are willing to take up Science as a career.

He also conveyed that VVM examination has, in order to felicitate young budding scientists, continued with a practice of awarding students for their first, second and third rank with a cash prize of Rs 5000, Rs. 3000 and Rs. 2000 respectively, i.e. first three from each class, along with mementos and certificates. He also encouraged the stu-

terment of this Nation. Tinny Sawhney, VVM Coordinator presented the brief report of the VVM 2023 and Jyoti Sharma conducted the proceedings of the event. Samir Vohra presented the formal vote of thanks.

dents to do science for the bet-

On this occasion, RRL High School was declared as the Nodal School for VIBHA activities, which is first of its kind in J&K. VIBHA J&K thanked CSIR IIIM for its active support. The function was witnessed by the participating students, their parents, teacher coordinators/ evaluators, along with the well learned gathering.

# Viksit Bharat @2047 Ideation Centre launched at CUJ





#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: In a momentous event, the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) unveiled the Viksit Bharat @2047 Ideation Centre, marking a significant step towards shaping a

This remarkable initiative, kick started by the Prime Minister of India, extends a nationwide invitation to educational institutions, emphasizing the imperative of innovation, sustainability, and technological progress. The Central University of Jammu proudly leads the way in this transformative iourney.

Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof.





Sanjeev Jain, the ini-

tiative has taken flight.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi, DSW

and Dr. Vinay Kumar,

ADSW, played pivotal

roles in the meticulous

strategizing and plan-

ning that paved the way

for this initiative's suc-

cessful launch. Their

visionary leadership

and strategic acumen

were instrumental in this

The University com-

munity has demonstrat-

ed remarkable enthusi-

asm by enthusiastically

registering for Viksit

Their eagerness to

engage in vibrant discus-

sions, craft innovative

solutions, and collabo-

rate on groundbreaking

initiatives underscores

their unwavering com-

achievement.

Bharat @2047.

visionary future.

mitment to the project's

The establishment of the Viksit Bharat Ideation Centre, spearheaded by Dr. Amita Gupta, Assistant Professor, CCRC and Jai Bhawani, Assistant Professor, PPPA marks a significant leap in nurturing innovative ideas. This centre is a focal point for students to refine and elevate their contributions to the Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative.

The University is gearing up to host a diverse range of workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions. These meticulously planned events are designed to stimulate in-depth discussions and foster collaborative efforts, aligning seamlessly with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.

The launch of the Viksit Bharat @2047 Ideation Centre at the Central University of Jammu signifies a momentous step towards a brighter, innovative, and sustainable future for India. It marks the beginning of an exciting journey that promises to reshape the educational landscape and significantly contribute to the nation's progress by 2047.

#### Congress mourns demise of Farid Mohd Hari Singh highlights Farid Mohd's unwavering commitment to the Party

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) held a grief-stricken condolence meeting today in Upper Paloura Gujjar Mohalla, Ramzanpura Ward No. 60, to mourn the untimely demise of dedicated party activist

tributions to the party's cause. He lauded his dedication to serving the community and his tireless efforts in strengthening the party's presence in his area.

The meeting observed two-minute silence in remembrance of Farid Mohd and acknowledged the deep loss felt by the party and the



Farid Mohd. The meeting was attended by a large gathering of party members, local residents, and friends of the deceased.

Speaking at the meeting, JKPCC Vice President Hari Singh Chib expressed heartfelt condolences on behalf of the party and highlighted Farid Mohd's unwavering commitment to the Congress ideology and his impactful concommunity. His unwavering commitment to serving the people and his dedication to the party's principles were remembered and celebrated.

Among those who were present in the condolence meeting include Shahbaz Ahmed, Kaka Ram, Marr Hussain, Mohammad Sharief, Barkat Ali, Jamat Ali, Mohammad Asharf, and Molana Hafaz Ali

# **Executive Council meeting of Akhil Bhartiye** Mahajan Biradari Sangh held



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: An executive Council meeting of Akhil Bhartiye Mahajan Biradari Sangh was held under the Chairmanship of Mahesh Gupta at the Press Club of Jammu. The meeting started with the three times recitation of holy Gayatri Mantra and after that Vinod Gupta, secretary Adm. introduced the agenda of the meeting to the house. In the beginning, Ram Langer, Vice chairman Finance distributed copies of the upto date income and expenditure Statement amongst the executive members and special invitees which was highly appreciated and approved by one and all.

It was decided unani-

mously to construct a world class educational institute on the name of Sher e Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan to impart best possible education to the young generation at affordable price. It was agreed that a door to door campaign shall be initiated soon to collect donations from the community mem-

Anil Gupta, Vice chairman membership was assigned the job of planning the fund/donation

raising campaign. Sham Lal Gupta, Vice chairman Relief, presented a plan to extend ration relief to old helpless widows and private employment to young widows to live an honorable life.

Besides this, he

emphasized that a sincere effort must be put forth to register all the deserving widows to get Widow pension from Social Welfare Deptt. The plan was highly applauded and adopted by the EC.

It was further unanimously decided to seek an early appointment from the Lieutenant Governor to give representation to impress upon the Government to give due honor to Sher e Duggar Lala Hansraj Mahajan who revolutionized the Duggar community by his exemplary deeds and relentless efforts. This special task was assigned to the Patrons of ABMBS, Sunil Mahajan and Dr. Pradeep Mahajan.

Adhitya Gupta, Sec-

retary Mahajanganana, gave an impressive demo of the official website of Akhil Bhartiye Mahajan Biradari Sangh named "Mahajanganana" to the members of the house and after comprehending the usefulness of the website, it was decided to launch

Finally it was decided to furnish the Office of the ABMBS under the supervision of Pawan Gupta Patron, Adv. Vaibhav Gupta Vice chairman Legal Aids and Ranjan Gupta Gupta Secretary Membership.

this website at the earli-

est.

Anil Kamal Gupta Chairman Reception presented an impressive Vote of thanks and the meeting concluded with the Chanting of Shanti

# The Law School JU organizes interactive session for Internship **Programme**

#### **Top News Report** JAMMU, Dec 18: The

session commenced with warm welcome address by Prof. Manju Jamwal, Director ,The Law School, who introduced Nitish Kumar, Inspector General of Police CID, Rajeshwar Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police and Zahid Mir. Senior Prosecuting Officer from the CID, Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir. She lauded the CID wing of police department for taking the initiative to continue with the internship program for the students which will provide golden opportunities in their career prospects and would enrich their understanding of the complexities within the realm of law enforcement.

Inspector General of Police, CID Nitish Kumar shared insights into the department's diverse functions, ranging from crime scene investigation and forensic analysis to cybercrime investigation and counter-terrorism operations

He further added that such internship programmes provide valuable opportunity for the law students to learn about the latest legal technology trends that can be used to improve their legal skills. Senior Prosecuting Officer Zahid Mir shed light on the modalities of the internship programme.

The session concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Seema Sharma. Associate Professor, who expressed gratitude to the CID officials for sharing their knowledge and expertise and espe cially efforts initiated by Nitish Kumar to ignite the minds of the young budding upcoming advocates through such insightful programmes. Programme was coordinated by Ishita Bandral and attended by the students as well as all the teachers of the Law School.

Overall, the interactive session cum internship programme served as a bridge between the academic world of law and the dynamic realm of criminal investigation, leaving a lasting impression on the young law students.

# Three-day J&K Silambam Championship concludes at Jammu North Assembly Segment Udhay emphasizes importance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 18: The three-day J&K Silambam Championship concluded in a grand ceremony at Lower Roop Nagar Jammu North Assembly Segment, on Monday.

Over 385 enthusiastic students from across various districts participated in the event, showcasing their agility and skill in the ancient Indian martial art.

Udhay Bhanu Chib, former President of the J&K Pradesh Youth Congress, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. He was joined by Navjot Singh and Bhanu Partap Singh as Guests of Honour. The championship witnessed intense competition, with participants vying for top honours in various categories. Jammu district emerged victorious, securing the coveted Winner's Trophy. Pulwama and Samba districts followed close behind, claiming the 1st Runner-up and 2nd Runner-up positions respectively. Poonch district was awarded the Discipline Trophy for its exemplary sportsmanship and commitment to fair play.

In his address, Udhay Bhanu Chib commended the participants for their dedication and passion for Silambam. He lauded the organizers for their efforts in promoting this rich cultural heritage



and providing a platform for young talents to showcase their abilities. He emphasized the importance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, and a spirit of healthy competition, particularly among the youth.

Navjot Singh and Bhanu Partap Singh also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the significance of Silambam in promoting cultural awareness and physical fitness. They encouraged the participants to continue honing their skills and strive for excellence in the future.

Kaka Ram, General Secretary of the J&K Silambam Association, underlined the importance of such championships in nurturing young talent and preserving the rich legacy of Silambam.

In his concluding remarks, Birinder Singh, President of the Association, presented a heartfelt vote of thanks to everyone who contributed to the championship's smooth execution. He urged the budding Silambam players to persevere in their training and embrace the values of sportsmanship and discipline.

The closing ceremony culminated in a vibrant cultural performance, showcasing the diverse traditions of the region. The event concluded on a high note, leaving a lasting impression on all the participants and spectators.

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