

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Pentagon announces new mission to counter attacks on commercial vessels in Red Sea



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BRIEFLY

SPO dies of heart attack in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Dec 19 (Agencies): A special police officer on Monday evening lost his life after suffering from a heart attack in North Kashmir Bandipora district. As per the details available with Rising Kashmir, SPO Mehraj uddin Lone of Chittibanday Bandipora suffered a heart attack and was immediately shifted to DH Bandipora, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He said that the deceased was posted in Police station Hajin.

JK made health supplement fails quality test, banned

SRINAGAR, Dec 19 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir administration has banned a health supplement comprising lysine and zinc with B-complex syrup as it failed the quality test twice. The Tribune reported. The Drugs and Food Control Organization has advised people to discontinue the usage of Corvit-M's supplement after a sample of the syrup was declared to be "misbranded and unsafe" on February 24. It was sent for analysis to Food Analyst National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad by the Drugs and Food Control Organization of JK.

It was sold under the trade name Corvit-M and manufactured in Samba. The report further states that a notice was served to the drug manufacturer — M/S Ravenbhel Healthcare Pvt Ltd — located at Kartholi, Bari Brahmana, and also to Life Care Pharmacy in Srinagar. After the manufacturer filed an appeal before a designated official a new sample was sent to Referral Food Laboratory in Kolkata for additional analysis. Once more, the material was deemed to be unsafe.

People deserve credit for decline in militancy in Valley: CRPF IG

SRINAGAR, Dec 19 (Agencies): The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, deserve credit for the decline in militancy-related violence in the valley, a senior CRPF officer said here on Tuesday. "There has been a huge support of the people, the youth. It would not have been possible without your support. The voice of

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49 more Lok Sabha Opposition MPs suspended today, action against 141 so far



NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Forty-nine opposition MPs, including Farooq Abdullah, Supriya Sule, Dimple Yadav and Shashi Tharoor, were on Tuesday suspended from Lok Sabha for the remainder of the winter session, a day after 33 MPs were suspended from the

House for "misconduct". The action came after the House faced adjournments, with opposition members raising slogans and displaying placards over their demands. They have been demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah over the Parliament security

breach on December 13. With 49 Lok Sabha MPs suspended, the total number of opposition parliamentarians suspended from the two Houses has gone up to 141. With suspensions on Wednesday, the number of those who have been barred from entering Lok Sabha and

Rajya Sabha chambers till the conclusion of the winter session stood at 92. The winter session will conclude on December 22.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal brought the motion to suspend the members.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the members had been suspended for showing placards and that all MPs had agreed that they will not resort to this in the new Parliament building. He said the opposition members had broken rules and disrespected the Chair.

Targeting Congress and other opposition parties, he said they were frustrated over the

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China quake toll reaches 118, rescuers battle sub-zero temp to reach survivors



BEIJING, Dec 19 (Agencies): The death toll from a powerful earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale that jolted China's Gansu province has increased to 118 on Tuesday, with rescuers battling sub-zero temperatures to reach survivors, authorities said.

Of the overall deaths toll, 105 were reported in Gansu, while 13 fatalities were recorded in the neighbouring Qinghai

province. At least 20 people remain unaccounted for as rescuers continue to comb through the rubble.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the quake occurred at 11.59 p.m. on Monday night and has a focal depth of 10 km, reports Xinhua news agency.

The epicentre Liugou Township is about 8 km from the county seat

of Jishishan Bao'an, Dongxiang, Salar Autonomous County in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu.

The earthquake has also left 199 injured and damaged 6,381 houses in Jishishan, Gansu.

As of 8 a.m., 32 aftershocks were recorded, with the largest registering a magnitude of 4.0, according to a spokesperson for the provincial emergency management department, at the press conference.

The quake destroyed some rural roads and led to power outages and telecommunication failures in some areas.

Currently, the overall road traffic, power supply and communications disrupted by the quake have been resumed after

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Four arrested as Police launches drive to identify people providing shelter to Rohingyas in Jammu

JAMMU, Dec 19 (Agencies): Four persons were arrested and many others booked on Tuesday as the police launched a major drive to identify those providing shelter to the illegally settled Rohingya immigrants in different districts of Jammu region, officials said.

Three persons were arrested in Poonch and one in Rajouri, while 10 others were booked in Doda besides seven FIRs were registered at different police stations in Jammu where the police parties swooped on the Rohingya settlements at over two dozen places and carried out house-to-house searches, they said.

"Some locals have provided their plots of land to settle the outside immigrants. We are checking and identifying these facilitators, who are also availing the government benefits for them," Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shakti Pathak, told reporters outside a Rohingya settlement here.

Pathak, who was supervising the crackdown, said some 30 locations in the jurisdiction of seven police stations



were searched in Jammu city.

Earlier, a police spokesperson said that seven FIRs were lodged at Sattari, Trikuta Nagar, Bagh-e-Bahu, Channi Himmat, Nowabad, Domana and Nagrota police stations against the people accused of providing shelter to the foreign immigrants and also availing the government benefits for them.

The searches in the presence of the magistrates were conducted at differ-

ent locations where the non-citizens are accommodated and also at the residential places of the facilitators, the official said, adding that illegally acquired Indian documents like PAN cards, Aadhaar cards and bank documents among other incriminating materials were seized during the searches.

"Investigation into the matter has started and other details will be shared subsequently. Stringent action in the future shall be taken against all such defaulters," the spokesperson said.

The officials said that three persons identified as Nazir Ahmad Gujjar, Mohd Sayaf and Waseem Akram were arrested for creating fake Aadhaar card and ration card of a Rohingya at Dhargloon village of Poonch district.

Gujjar, who had married his daughter Farzana Kossar to Rohingya Mohd Numaan in 2016, had managed fake Aadhaar card and ration card for his son-in-law, the officials said.

Numaan, who was arrested on November 30, is presently in judicial custody, they said. A police spokesman said that another facilitator Lal Din was arrested from his Laam-Nowshera residence in Rajouri district following an investigation of a case registered in October post the arrest of a Myanmar woman named Haleema, who is presently on bail.

The spokesman said the police have registered three FIRs in Doda district against 10 foreign immigrants, including Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals and their

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Two drones, nearly 1 kg heroin seized near International Border in Amritsar

CHANDIGARH, Dec 19 (Agencies): Two drones and nearly one kg of heroin were seized near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Amritsar, a BSF spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The drone was noticed near Dhanoe Khurd village in Amritsar early on Tuesday.

During a search operation along with the Punjab Police, the China-made drone and a packet of heroin weighing 430 grams were seized from a field. A nylon ring and a

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Govt constitutes committees at UT, District level to strengthen Cooperative movement in J&K



SRINAGAR, Dec 19 (Agencies): Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday accorded sanction to the constitution of a Union Territory Level Cooperative Development Committee and a District Level Cooperative Committee to strengthen cooperative movement and deepen its reach in the

UT. According to an order, a copy of which lies with Greater Kashmir, the UT Level Cooperative Development Committee will be chaired by Chief Secretary J&K. Its members will be Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Administrative Secre-

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Kashmir in grip of intense cold wave

SRINAGAR, Dec 19 (Agencies): The minimum temperature across Kashmir dropped several degrees below freezing point overnight, causing hardships to the residents, officials said on Tuesday.

Srinagar city — the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir — recorded a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius on Monday night, a plunge of 4.2 degrees from the previous night's 0.5 degree Celsius, the officials said.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 6.6 degrees

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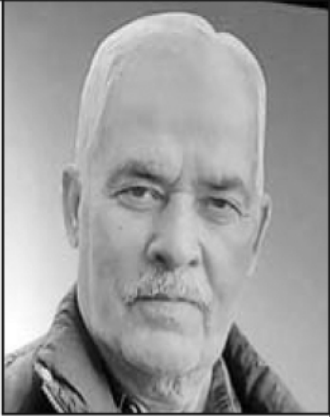
TENTH DAY

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

10TH DAY will be performed at Chota Haridwar (Murad Nagar) on 21-12-2023.

Grief Stricken

Smt. Mohini Raina- **Mother**
Smt. Veena Raina- **Wife**
Ankita & Ajay Raina- **Daughter-in-Law & Son**
Diksha & Anshul Raina- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Nisha & Vijay Kumar Raina- **Bhabhi & Brother**
Saroj Raina- **Bhabhi**
Sarla & Moti Lal Dhar- **Sister & Brother-in-Law**
Reeta & Chuni Lal Koul- **Sister & Brother-in-Law**
Mob.: 8800091264, 9582226156



Sh. Deep Raina

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 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



Smt. Raj Dulari Kaul

REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of **Mr. Sheikh Sajjad Poonchi**, a pillar of kindness and community spirit. His warm smile and unwavering generosity touched us all. Whether leading by example in 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 he made and the countless lives he enriched. Rest in peace.



Mr. Sheikh Sajjad Poonchi

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 Migrant Quarters Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina -**Brother**
Smt. Shashi Raina -**Wife**
Sh. Ritik Raina
Mobile : 9149745317, 9086941089



SH. MAHARAJ KRISHAN RAINA

10TH DAY/KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bhuvneshwar Sharma (Kalu)** S/o Sh. Bishamber Dass Sharma R/o Mandir Wali Gali Rajpura Magotra, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 19th of December, 2023 (Tuesday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu from 10am to 11am.

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 3pm to 4pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt Satiya 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
& All Family Members

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



BHUVNESHWAR SHARMA (KALU) (MANAGER-EEDEN GARDEN BANQUET)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

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

The **10th-Day Kriya**, a solemn occasion to honor his memory, is scheduled to take place on the 20th of December 2023 at 9:00 am. The ceremony will be held at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, located in New Palam Vihar, T-block, Sector 109, Gurgaon-122017. Your presence and support during this difficult time would be deeply appreciated.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shmt. Ashaji Thusoo (Wife)
Mr. Rajender Thusoo & Mrs. Manisha Thusoo +91 9999796871
Mr. Rakesh Thusoo & Mrs. Seema Thusoo +91 9868532919
Sh. Gawsh Lal Thusoo & Shmt. Krishni Thusoo +91 9871681331
Sh. Avatar Krishan Thusoo & Shmt. Cecelia Thusoo +91 9818569966

**The Entire Thusoo Family
The Koul and Pandita Family**



Bansilal Thusoo 1946-2023

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 Triokpur Lane No.1 near Airtel tower, who left us for the heavenly abode on 13-12-2023.

May the lord grant peace to his divine soul.
10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 22-12-2023 (Friday) at 8 a.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

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



SH. RAVI KUMAR

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

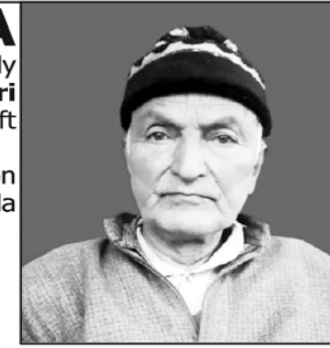
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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.



SHRI MOHAN LAL KOUL

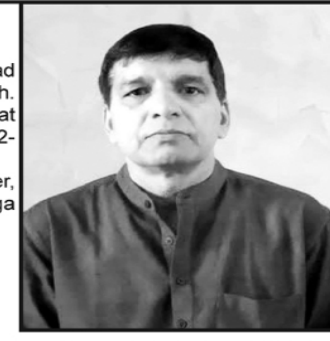
TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Satish Kumar Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Bhat R/o Hawal Pulwama Kashmir presently at N-Block 243-FF Gurgaon Haryana, who expired on 14-12-2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 23rd December, 2023 (Saturday) at 9 AM at Chota 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



SH. SATISH KUMAR BHAT

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

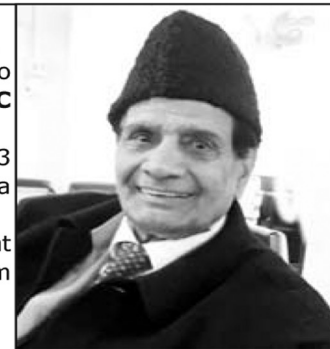
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri S.C Subhash Advocate**

The **TENTH DAY** will be held on 20-12-2023 Wednesday at our residence near B.S.F HQ Patta Paloura, Jammu at 11 am.

UTHALA will be held on 22-12-2023 Friday at Arya Samaj Mandir Bakshi Nagar, Jammu from 3:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sanjogita Devi-**Wife**
Smt. Vandana & Sh. Chander Shakher (Daughter in law & Son)
Smt. Rupali & Ashwani Baru -**Daughter & Son in law**
Smt. Radhika -**Daughter**
Grand Children - Khushi, Krishna, Viraj & Vikhyat
CONTACT NO: 7006868148, 7006015152.



SHRI S.C SUBHASH ADVOCATE

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. M.P. Sharma** (Asstt. Director Agriculture) S/o Late Sh. N.R. Sharma R/o Gandhi Nagar.

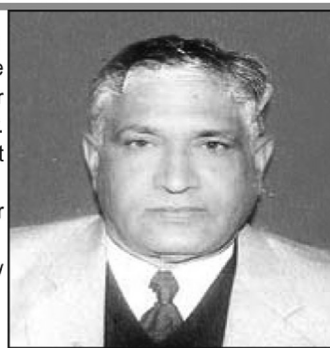
10th Day will be performed on 20.12.2023 Wednesday at our residence 249/A, Gandhi Nagar at 11.00 am.

Kriya will be performed on 21/12/2023 Thursday at our residence 249/A, Gandhi Nagar at 12.00 Noon.

Uthala will be performed on 22/12/2023 Friday at Shiv Mandir Gandhi Nagar at 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

(Sons & Daughter-in-laws)
Sh. Amit Sharma & Smt. Neetu Sharma
Sh. Vikas Sharma (Inspector JKP) and Smt. Neetu Sharma
Smt. Sweety Sharma & Sh. Amit Sharma
(Distt & Session Judge) - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Late Sh. Mohan Lal Sangra & Late Smt. Satya Devi - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Sh. Subash Chander & Smt. Sushma Sharma - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Smt. Darshana & Lt. Col. K.C. Sharma - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Sudha & Dr. Vijay Sharma - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Grand Children : Arnab, Devyansh, Awanish, Chetanya, Pragya, Shravya
M/s Sangra Traders, Greater Kailash
Mobile : 9419610981, 9419143217



Sh. M.P. Sharma (Retd. Asstt. Director Agriculture)

TENTH DAY

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



Smt. Janak Rani Wangnoo

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

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**

GRIEF STRICKEN:

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
Sister & Brother-in-Law
Smt. Sarvadarshan & 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



Sh. Sat Pal Pandoh

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. RANI SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
SH. SANJAY SAHIB & SMT. RENU SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
SH. SUSHIL SAHIB & SMT. SVEETLANA SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)

SAMAST PARIVAAR
(SAHIB'S, RAINA'S, PANDITA'S, BHAT'S & MUNSHI'S)
CONTACT NUMBER - 6005966525, 6006922661, 9419359054



SH. RATTAN LAL SAHIB

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 Srinagar Kashmir, at present TRT Nagrota Block H. Quarter No. 05 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 Migrant Quarters Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina -**Brother**
Smt. Shashi Raina -**Wife**
Sh. Ritik Raina
Mobile : 9149745317, 9086941089



SH. JAWAHAR LAL RAINA

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Rattan Lal Pandita** S/o Late Sh Rughnath Pandita, originally resident of Waterkhani Kupwara at present H No. 138, Lane No. 04, Dream City Muthi, Jammu on 16th Dec. 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate Education office on 25th Dec. 2023 at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Kaushalya Pandita (Mother)
Smt. Dali Pandita (Wife)
Brother and Bhabhi
Sh. Veerji Pandita and Mrs. Jeeta Pandita
Sh. Tej Krishan Pandita and Mrs. Sunita Pandita
Sister and Brother-in-law
Mrs. Vijay and Sh. Piyary Lal Pandita
Son and Daughter-in-law
Mr. Anoop Pandita and Bhavna Bhat
Rudra Pandita
Daughter and Son-in-law
Mrs. Upasana and Mr. Ankush Koul



Sh Rattan Lal Pandita

Children :
Anshul, Aryan, Sehaj, Vikas, Vishal
**Mobile No. 7006739274,
7006324341, 9878982847**

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Elected Govt represents real aspiration of J&K's people, says Manjit Singh

Private School Principal, Panch, social activist join Apni Party

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S Manjit Singh today said that there is no alternative to an elected Govt that represents the real aspiration of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The elections for Legislative Assembly were delayed for several years and have given rise to multiple issues in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir," said Former Minister, while addressing a meeting cum joining program.

In this joining program, private school principal Vijay Kumar, Panch - Vinay Kumar, and social activist Banarsi Das joined the party in presence of Manjit Singh.



Prominent businessman, Vishal Singh Nariana and other leaders of the Party were also present on the occasion.

While welcoming them into the party fold, the Former Minister hoped that their joining would strengthen on the ground.

In his address, he said that the present form of Govt is unable to address the public issues and

the authorities hardly concern about the public issues.

"The public issues mostly remain unaddressed and the Govt offices were a deserted look because the people have stopped visiting the Govt offices in the wake of insensitive approach of the officials," he said.

He said that the people in

both the regions want holding of assembly elections.

"The situation is favourable and peaceful in Jammu and Kashmir to hold assembly polls. Therefore, the Election Commission of India should announce the assembly election," he added, while hailing the directions of the apex court regarding the assembly elections in J&K.

He said that the development has stopped, unemployment has increased, resources and trade both are being grabbed by the non-locals.

"We are monitoring the situation. We believe that the constitutional rights of the local population should be protected by providing them employment, resources, and grab of employment by the outsiders," he added.

NC nominates office bearers District Rajouri Rural in Nowshera Constituency

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Jammu Province, Rattan Lal Gupta has nominated the office bearers District Rajouri Rural in Nowshera Constituency on the recommendations of Surinder Choudhary, Cen-

tral Secretary and former MLC. Sunil Choudhary has been nominated as Block President Nowshera, Chotu Ram Choudhary as Vice President Jammu Province Kissan Cell, Mohinder Sudan as Vice President Pir Panjal Zone and Rajesh Gupta as City

President Nowshera. Rattan Lal Gupta congratulated newly nominated Office bearers and hoped that office bearers will reach to the gross root level workers to mitigate the sufferings of the people in their respective areas and strengthen the party units to face forthcoming challenges.

Gau Gopal Mahayagya begins

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: The first day of Gau Gopal Mahayagya organized at Sohanjana, the holy smadhi of Tyagamurti Shri Dwarka Nath Shastri Ji Maharaj, who is apostle of renunciation, peace, love and patriotism, started with the worship of God.

Under the guidance of revered Gangadhar ji, the chief Acharya of the Yagya, Dr. Rakesh Shastri ji, along with his fellow scholars, prayed to the gods, planets and more than a hundred of devotees who are going to offer oblations in the 9 days duration Yagya in accordance with the scriptures with Vedic mantras throughout the day from 10 am to 5 pm.



Tomorrow, on the second day of the yagya, all the guests will enter the yagya hall after filling the urn from the Samadhi Sarovar.

With the aim of providing religious benefits to the people and also making them aware of nationalism, the operator of this Mahayagya, the Gangadhar, hoisted the national flag at the Yagya Bhoomi and highlighted the impor-

importance of patriotism in everyone's life.

This Mahayagya is being organized to commemorate the 63rd appearance day i.e. birthday of the popular Duggar Ratna Saint Shri Shri Dwarka Nath Shastri Ji. Apart from religious rituals like yagya, puja, bhajan and kirtan, a huge fair also continues here for the whole 9 days.

PG Deptt of Commerce organizes Guest lecture on "Career Opportunities in RBI"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: P.G. Department of Commerce organized guest lecture on "Career Opportunities in RBI" on 19th December, 2023.

The event was organised by the Department under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, HoD, Commerce who urged to take a proactive step towards enhancing career opportunities for the students.

Rohit Rawat, Assistant Manager RBI and Kannagi Lath were the resource person of the event.

Rohit Rawat apprised the



students about various placement avenues in banking sector with special focus on RBI. He also enlightened the students regarding entry strategies and skill required to face the interview in banking sector.

Kannagi Lath familiarised the

students with the work culture of the banking sector.

She further informed the participants about the eligibility requirements to apply for the jobs.

During the engaging session, students had the opportunity

to interact with the resource person, posing questions and gaining valuable advice on pursuing a career in the RBI.

The Quiz contest was also conducted for the students during the session.

They also enlightened the students about the various career opportunities available in other sectors as well. The proceedings were handled by Dr. Rupa Mahajan.

Other faculty members present in the event are Dr. Tarsem Lal, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Harleen Kaur, Dr. Vishal Gupta, Dr. Sumeet Kour and Dr. Deepti Abrol.

Aryan, Inaaya of DPS Jammu shine in UT level sports championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Aryan Mathur (V-I), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by winning gold medal in State Karate Championship-2023 organized by STAIRS Foundation held at Sports Stadium, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 23rd November, 2023. He participated in U-12 years below 50 kg Pool-B Kumite event.

Inaaya Gupta (III-K) also won silver medal and secured 2nd place in J&K U.T Karate-Do Champi-

onship-2023 organized by Traditional Karate-Do Association of Jammu and Kashmir held at Bhagwati Nagar from 7-8 December, 2023. She participated in U-8 Kumite event.

The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, Hon'ble President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu and staff congratulated the winners, their parents and coach, Suresh Kumar for their brilliant performances. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Suspension of 92 MPs in a day India is fast heading towards dictatorship: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 18: Apropos to the news titled "92 MPs suspended in default of raising their voice", demanding statement on the floor of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha by Home Minister or Prime Minister regarding record suspension of MPs in a single day published in a section of press, the AAP, Senior leaders, Ram Singh Chauhan and Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here expressed great shock & dismay over the manner trying to silence or punish any voice against the policy of the ruling dispensation.

The AAP leaders further disclosed that in a bid to shield on BJP MP, Partap Simha who



has issued pass to the youths who succeeded in the breach of security in Parliament & the Government has sacked 92 MPs just to avoid expose of one BJP MP, thus executing the democracy & its procedures, they said that in fact Partap Simha has published a book all out praising Modi as a fruit of which he was made MP in 2014 as also in 2019.

This precedence, AAP release said is Monarchical and very dangerous for the democracy, unity & integrity of coun-

try, they said and added giving priority & saving one blue eyed MP, Modi government has sacked 92 MPs snatching their right of raising voice regarding security of MPs in saving honor and dignity of the House, they regretted.

The AAP release has appealed the masses to read between the lines and judge for themselves as to whether are we not heading towards dictatorship where democratic values have no meaning and relevance in the greatest democracy of the World.

Blanket donation drive under "Share the Warmth" initiated by Talla Jewellers, LFO-BHF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: In the midst of this harsh winter, Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) has extended a lifeline to those in dire need with its successful conclusion of the "Share the Warmth" project in collaboration with Talla Jewellers. A total of 200 blankets were distributed to road-siders and individuals facing economic hardships, providing solace and relief during these winter months.

The foundation strategically targeted key locations, including the Railway Station, Bahu Plaza, Ranbireswar Temple, and various



other areas, recognizing the heightened vulnerability of individuals in these places during the harsh winter conditions.

In the face of these cruel winters, Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation embarked on this mission with the belief that a simple act

of kindness, like providing a warm blanket, can make a significant difference in the lives of those struggling to stay warm.

On speaking with Kashish Gupta, CEO Talla Jewellers said "The success of the "Share the Warmth" project is a testament to the Talla

Jewellers unwavering commitment to alleviating the hardships faced by the less fortunate. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the blankets reached those who needed them the most, emphasizing the foundation's dedication to being a source of

warmth in the community".

While speaking with Vivek Parihar, CEO & Founder of LFO-BHF said "Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to all donors, volunteers, and supporters who played a crucial role in making this initiative a reality. As the winter continues its relentless grip, the foundation remains resolute in its mission to stand by the side of those in dire need, embodying the spirit of compassion and selflessness".

Members who were present in this project were Shubam, Sahil, Samar, Babita, Stuti, Abhishek Raina, Sachin and many more.

Dimple describes suspension of 141 MPs as "unfortunate"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Sunil Dimple, the president of the Mission Statehood, described the suspension of 141 Members of Parliament (MPs) from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as "unfortunate" and characterized as a "murder of democracy." He argued that the act disrespects not only the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also the entire nation.

Dimple emphasized the significance of the Parliament as the "temple of democracy" and believes that the suspension undermines the democratic process.

Dimple asserted that the struggle for Jammu and Kashmir statehood will persist until justice is achieved. He mentions the victories in the Supreme Court, which led to the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir as a princely Dogra state and the decision to hold Assembly elections for a democratic setup in the region.

Looking forward, Dimple outlined the Mission Statehood's goals, including protecting the interests of Jammu and Kashmir residents such as their lands, jobs, identity, culture, and demography.

He emphasized the importance of implementing the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh with India during the accession process.

Dimple demanded the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, calling for simultaneous assembly and parliamentary elections under the Jammu and Kashmir statehood.

He sought to uphold the conditions agreed upon in the Standstill Agreement signed by Maharaja Hari Singh during the state's accession to India.

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

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No.45 2023-2024/ Dated 15-12-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete te-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Fertilizer Quality control Lab store at Krishi Bhawan at Talab Tillo Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	45.47	600	2% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	22-12-2023 (12.00Pm)	"A&B" Class

Position of AAA: Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 15-12-2023 to 21-12-23 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	15-12-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	21-12-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22-12-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan /receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately, No :- EE/R&B/BN/

Dated:- **DIP/J-1273/23** Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bakshi Nagar Jammu

EDITORIAL

ROHINGYAS
IN INDIA

In the eighth century the Rohingya lived in Arakan, an independent kingdom now known as Rakhine. Between the ninth and fourteenth centuries the Rohingya community came into contact with Islam through Arab traders and strong ties developed between Arakan and Bengal. In 1784, the king of Burma (modern Myanmar) captured independent Arakan and thousands of refugees (today called Rohingya) fled to Bengal.

In the year 1790, a British diplomat named Hiram Cox was sent to help these refugees and built the city of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Even today, a large number of Rohingya refugees live in Cox's Bazar. Later, Britain captured Burma and made it a province of British India as Myanmar.

Workers from Burma migrated to many parts of British India in search of work and thus the Rohingyas also joined India. In the year 1942, Japan attacked Burma and expelled the British from there. When the British retaliated, Burmese nationalists began attacking Muslim communities. The result was that in the year 1948, tension increased between the new government of Burma and the Rohingya people.

The majority Rohingyas demanded that Arakan merge with Muslim-majority Pakistan. On this, the Burmese government deported the Rohingya people and the Rohingyas appointed as civil soldiers were dismissed. In the fifties, the Rohingya community began to resist the Burmese government through an armed group called the Mujahid.

General Ne Win finally came to power in the year 1962 and a harsh policy was adopted against the Rohingya people. In the year 1977, Burma's military government-Junta launched several major operations to trace the Rohingya population and areas and two lakh Rohingya people had to flee to Bangladesh. In the year 1989, the name of Burma was changed to Myanmar. In the year 1991, 2.5 lakh Rohingya people had to flee Myanmar.

Later, through a repatriation agreement with Bangladesh, more than two lakh Rohingya arrived in the Rakhine region between 1992 and 1997. After coming here, their conflict started with the Buddhists of Rakhine. Since they were Muslims they were a threat to the rights of Buddhists. In the year 2012 and year 2016, there have been incidents of large amount of bloodshed between Buddhists and Rohingyas, in which soldiers also took retaliatory action against Rohingyas. According to data from the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, approximately forty thousand Rohingya refugees live in India. They have reached India from Bangladesh. India considers all Rohingya refugees as illegal migrants and is seeking an effective repatriation agreement to send them back to their countries of origin. Today the refugee crisis is increasing in South Asia.

In such a situation, if India supports Rohingya, then in some way or the other, the pressure will increase on it to provide security to Tamils, Madhesis and Chakma people also. In such a situation, India's national interests will be affected. Keeping all these things in mind, India has not signed the United Nations Refugee Convention, 1951. India is conscious of its internal security. India has had to deal with the large number of Chakma refugees from Bangladesh in Assam and the challenges posed by them.

Who's a 'terrorist': Spraying smoke in Parliament just like Bhagat Singh?

By: Aakar Patel

A rational nation, a reasonable State, should be able to distinguish between a peaceful protest, however spirited, and an act of terrorism.

That we no longer can is a reflection of two things. One is that India's laws, which have always been bad, have now become demented. The other is our inability to separate the State from the nation. Recent events, whose details we do not need to go into here, shine a light on both. We need to see how, and this is not limited to the events in our Parliament.

Cattle slaughter is an economic offence in India, and not a religious crime. This is because the Constitution's directive principle on this issue advises us that cattle are important for the economy. The Constituent Assembly debates are filled with earnest Congressmen telling the nation that one reason India was malnourished was because there was insufficient milk for our children. And to reverse this, it was necessary that cow slaughter be banned. No evidence was given from elsewhere in the world because none existed. In one of its early manifestoes, the Jan Sangh had opposed the use of tractors because that would mean that bullocks would have no work.

All this has changed over the years, of course. India is now

a milk surplus nation that exports its produce. And tractors have long eclipsed bullocks. But the cattle slaughter laws not only remain, but have been tightened. Gujarat's punishment for cattle slaughter is now life imprisonment. No other economic crime attracts this, but we have accepted that we are so full of passion in this that we cannot turn back from this path.

The law comes with reversal of the burden of proof. In 2019 a Gujarati Muslim was accused of slaughtering a cow to serve beef at his daughter's wedding. The police told the court they could not prove that this had happened. The forensic sciences laboratory said the same thing. The judge sentenced the man to 10 years in jail nonetheless, saying that it was for him to prove that he was innocent and not for the State to prove his guilt. The Gujarat High Court suspended the sentence on the grounds of "judicial discretion". Perhaps the court was embarrassed that we have such laws on the book in this era. But the interesting thing is that you could rationally argue both sides. The higher court was right to overturn the sentence. But the sentence was the result of a law and the judge was not out of place in convicting the man.

Today saying that something is a "security threat" is sufficient to send to jail, possibly for years, if the present is any

indication, a group of youngsters making a point. Whose security? What threat? These are waters too deep for us to venture into as it requires adults to consider such things and we are not adults. In 1919, Mahatma Gandhi led an all-India strike against the Rowlatt Act. In support, a crowd gathered in Amritsar to join the protest at Jallianwala Bagh. Punjab's governor Sir Michael O'Dwyer claimed that British rule was under threat and responded with violence, unleashing the Gurkha and Baloch Regiments on the civilians, killing over 300. The British passed the Rowlatt Act in the face of opposition from all of the Indian members of the Imperial Legislative Council. The British claimed the law would affect very few Indians. However, Gandhi called it an "affront to the nation".

So, what was so offensive about the Rowlatt Act (more properly, the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act 1919)? Why were Indians so angered by it that they were holding public demonstrations and opposing it in the Council?

This legislation did away with fundamental principles of the rule of law. It could hold people without charge or trial and it did away with jury trials, in favour of in-camera trials by judges. This is called administrative detention, meaning the jailing of someone without a crime having

been committed, merely on the suspicion that they will commit a crime in future. That anger which we had when it came to the British trampling over our rights appears to have vanished when it comes to oppression under a government run by our own people.

The UAPA, under which many Indians have been charged and are in jail, does not define "terrorist" or "terrorism".

The law (readers would do well to read the latest version of it) is broad enough to name vast numbers of Indians as "terrorists" because it is so loosely framed. It has to be opposed, by all of us.

At the age of 22, Bhagat Singh became a national celebrity in India. His act of rebellion, his desire to not cause harm to the enemy — the bombs were only whizbangs that produced smoke — and his ability to express himself clearly ensured that the media and the public were both riveted by him.

What was the law that he was opposing? Bhagat Singh threw his smoke bombs to oppose the Public Safety Bill. It allowed the government to jail people without trial. Just like UAPA. Bhagat Singh was right to oppose it. He was right to oppose it in the manner he did. We call him a martyr because he was punished for doing what he did for the rest of us. We call the young people who did exactly the same thing and for the same reason "terrorists".

The generative Artificial intelligence will change the way economy functions

By: Vijay GarG

The generative AI will change the way economy functions and businesses are run; it will be a game changer for in many verticals

In a world driven by unprecedented technological advancements, there emerges a groundbreaking force that promises to reshape the very fabric of innovation: generative artificial intelligence. With its awe-inspiring ability to create, compose, and imagine, generative AI has surged to the forefront of scientific exploration, capturing the imaginations of researchers, entrepreneurs, and artists alike.

From generating realistic images and synthesising music to aiding in drug discovery and revolutionising customer experiences, this cutting-edge technology possesses the potential to revolutionise a vast array of industries, transcending boundaries and pushing the limits of what we thought was impossible.

Potential of Gen AI
GenAI is creating exciting possibilities in various industries, including art, design, entertainment,

and healthcare, pushing the boundaries of human imagination and creative expression.

Hyper-Personalisation
Hyper-personalization, driven by generative AI, refers to the ability to deliver highly tailored and individualized experiences to users based on their unique preferences, behaviours, and characteristics. By leveraging generative AI algorithms, businesses can generate personalized content, recommendations, and product offerings that resonate with each user on a deeper level.

Coding and App Creation
Code and app builders leverage generative AI techniques to assist developers in creating software more efficiently, reducing the need for manual coding and streamlining the application development process.

One industry significantly impacted by this trend is software development. These tools can automatically generate code snippets, templates, or even complete applications based on high-level specifications provided by developers. This also democratizes software development,

making it more accessible to individuals with limited coding experience.

Enhanced Realism and Fidelity

Enhanced realism and fidelity driven by generative AI refers to using generative artificial intelligence models to create highly realistic and detailed outputs in various domains. GenAI algorithms can generate high-quality images, videos, audio, and text that closely resemble real-world data. This trend profoundly impacted numerous industries and domains, revolutionizing how we create, design, and interact with digital content.

In the entertainment industry, it enables the creation of more captivating movies, games, and VR/AR experiences. It enhances immersion, resulting in more engaging storytelling and improved user experiences.

Interactive and co-creative systems

Interactive and co-creative systems allow users to actively participate and collaborate in the generative process. These systems enable real-time interaction between humans and AI, fostering a co-creative rela-

tionship where both entities contribute to generating content, ideas, or designs.

One industry greatly impacted by interactive and co-creative systems is the field of design and creativity. Tools like Adobe Sensei, a suite of AI-powered creative tools, provide designers with interactive features. Another example can be found in the music industry.

Cross-domain Applications

Cross-domain applications are used to generate content or solutions that transcend traditional boundaries and apply to multiple industries or domains. Generative AI algorithms have the ability to learn patterns and characteristics from one domain and apply them to another, enabling the creation of innovative solutions and fostering collaboration between diverse fields.

Generative models trained on medical imaging data can generate synthetic images that resemble accurate patient scans.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)

Farooq Andrabi calls on Chief Secretary J&K Atal Dulloo



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Apni Party Media Advisor, Farooq Andrabi on Tuesday called on Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and discussed various developmental issues with him. As per a press release,

Farooq Andrabi, who was accompanied by Apni Party leaders, met the Chief Secretary J&K at his office in Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

During the meeting, Andrabi congratulated Dulloo on his posting as Chief Secretary and hoped that his posting

would pave the way for a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Farooq Andrabi was accompanied by Apni Party Youth Wing General Secretary, and Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya, and Party leader, Prof GM Paul.

Apni Party holds condolence meet in Jammu

Extend solidarity with Abhinav Gupta on demise of his mother

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Apni Party on Tuesday held a condolence meeting to express sympathy with its youth wing district vice president, Abhinav Gupta whose mother passed away following illness.

The condolence meeting was organised under the leadership of Provincial President Jammu Manjit Singh here at Party office, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

During the meeting, two minutes silence was observed and prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul Sudha Gupta was also held.

The Party leaders also prayed for the courage of

the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Those who attended the condolence meet and extended sympathies with the bereaved family members includes senior vice president, Faqir Nath, state Coordinator SC Wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State Coordinator OBC Wing, Bhagat Ram, State President Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial President Youth Wing, Vipul Bahl, Legal Cell Provincial President Jammu, Vikram Rathore, District Senior Vice President Youth Wing, Sandeep Vaid, District Secretary Youth Wing, Ankush Dogra, and others.

Signature campaign organised by NSS units of GDC Kathua



Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 19: A signature campaign was organised by NSS units of GDC Kathua under the banner of Viksit Bharat Programme.

The motive behind this event was to spread awareness among the students to register themselves on the MY Bharat Portal and share their ideas in contributing to the noble cause of Nation building. Numbers of students participated in the

campaign with full zeal and zest.

Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir along with senior faculty members participated in the campaign. She addressed the students and encouraged them to enroll themselves on My Bharat Portal platform.

She stressed upon the main motive to develop this portal is to allow the youth to develop their Individual profiles enabling them to connect with government and private sectors.

This portal also offers a wide range of opportunities for the youth to engage in Nation building activities.

These activities are being organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by NSS programme officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Dr Kulbir Singh and Prof Shivani Sharma.

The senior faculty members Dr R.K. Manhas, HOD Botany, Prof Shivani Kotwal, HOD Department of English, Dr Ambika Rajput, Dr Gotam Singh, Dr Jogbinder Singh Soodan Director Physical Education and Sports and Dr Tejashwar Singh graced the occasion with their benign presence.

GDC R S Pura organizes Poster Making Competition on "Viksit Bharat @ 2047"



Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 19: In continuation to the sequel of events organized under the banner of "Viksit Bharat @ 2047", Dept. of Dogri, NSS, NCC and RRC of Government Degree College R.S.Pura, organized a poster making competition on Tuesday.

The main mission of the event is to actively involve the youth of the college in the formulation of national plans, priorities, and goals of the country. It will provide a platform for the youth to contribute ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. The theme of the poster-making event was 'Glimpses of Bharat@2047'.

Students actively participated in the event and showcased their creativity in the form of their ideas on Viksit Bharat@2047.

The event was held under the guidance and supervision of the College Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat. She appreciated the efforts of participants and encouraged them to participate in such activities.

She foster the all the students to be a part of this endeavor to further boost the growth and development of the nation and the importance of their role as the future of the country. The primary goal of Viksit Bharat @2047 is to actively involve the youth in formulating national plans, priorities, and goals.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, event coordinator highlighted the importance of activities like Poster Making in channelizing the innovative ideas of the youth into nation-building, contributing not only to the development of the nation but also to the personal growth of the individuals involved. The Poster Making activity at Government College R. S. Pura reflects the commitment of the college to engage students in meaningful ways, fostering creativity and innovation for the collective vision of a developed India by 2047.

Prominent among the others present were Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Prof. Sankeet Gupta, Prof. Neelam Kumari and Rekha.

GDC Kishtwar organizes activities for Viksit Bharat @2047

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 19: Government Degree College, Kishtwar, took an important step towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 by organizing a series of activities aimed at fostering student participation and generating innovative ideas for India's development.

One of the highlights of the event was a lively classroom discussion, which saw the enthusiastic participation of nearly a hundred students. The

portal. Additionally, a designated selfie point was created, where students could capture their enthusiasm and support for the Viksit Bharat Mission @2047. Over 200 students enthusiastically took selfies at the designated point and shared them on various social media platforms of the college.

The organizing committee, spearheading the promotion of Viksit Bharat, comprised esteemed members



discussion provided a platform for students to share their diverse ideas and perspectives, while also guiding them to register on the My GOV portal. The students were encouraged to contribute their ideas, which will play a crucial role in shaping the future of India by 2047.

To facilitate the registration process, a dedicated help desk was set up to assist students in filling out the registration form and sharing their ideas on

including Professor Privithi Raj, Dr. Sehriish Gazal, Prof. Asma Javeed, Prof. Jaideep and Professor Vikram Shaan.

Their efforts in arranging these daily events were commended by Principal Dr. Jyoti Pahar, who further urged all students to register promptly on the My GOV portal and share their invaluable ideas. This collective effort will pave the way for future initiatives aimed at realizing the dream of a better India.

Electric equipment store gutted in Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 19: A fire broke out in an electric equipment store adjacent to a residential house in Okei village of South Kashmir's Kulgam on Tuesday morning.

Locals told Voice of India correspondent Gh Nabi khanday that many electronic appliances including refrigerators and washing machines were damaged in the incident, however, rescuers managed to

save scores of appliances before the fire engulfed the warehouse.

They said various fire tenders were pressed into service to extinguish the fire. No injuries have been reported and the reason for the fire is attributed to a short circuit.

The warehouse owner remained unavailable to elaborate on the estimated cost of loss. An official said that the quantum of loss is being estimated.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-III, JPDC REHARI JAMMU
CIN No: U40300JK2013SGC003898, E-mail:edthreedistribution@gmail.com
SHORT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-Nit No: ED-III Jammu/61-A of 2023-24 dated 16.12.2023

INVITATION:-

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), Electric Division-III, JPDC Jammu, hereinafter referred to as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered Electrical Contractors having a valid license and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document for "Laying of LT line on PCC Poles 8.0 Mtr. long using AB Cable 120 mm sq at Pouni Chah near Agriculture Farm under UT Capex. (Scheme Code : PDSS2324100557) (Rep. received through Sh. Sanjay Singh Jammu & Others Mob. 9419156492)

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications. Bidders are requested to visit the sites of work before participating in bidding process, so that they have clarity regarding topography of area of work.

1. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	16-12-2023; 4:00 PM
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	30-12-2023; 3:00 PM.
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	16-12-2023; 4:30 PM.
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	30-12-2023; 4:00 PM.
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee	30-12-2023 up to 4:30 PM.
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	01.01.2024; 2:00 PM.
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Executive Engineer Electric Division-III, JPDC Rehari, Jammu
I	Tender Value	02.90 Lakh (Rs. 290287.00)
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500 (Non-Refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 5800/-
L	Technical Sanction	Under Process
M	Accord of Administrative Approval	Accorded
N	Position of funds	Available

2. The Bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan,

treasury Challan/receipt, in favour of Executive Engineer, Electric Division-III, Jammu (Cost of Tender to be credited to Head: 0801) or Demand Draft from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu, payable at Jammu. The original demand draft or e-Challan, treasury Challan/receipt shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft/ e-Challan treasury Challan/receipt must be uploaded along with the e-Bids & other asked documents. Bidders are requested to upload asked/required documents only. Pl. don't upload unasked documents.

3. Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDC.

4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu. No Interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be demanded from the successful bidder(s) after the opening of the financial e-Bids.

b. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

6. The JPDC reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of the JPDC will be final and binding.

7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for JPDC office, then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the notified time and venue.

8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

9. To participate in e-bidding process, Bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

Hard Copy of Cost of Tender Document must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari, Jammu in sealed cover at least one day before the scheduled date of opening of the commercial and technical e-Bids. The sealed cover shall be super scribed as "Cost of Tender Document for e-NIT No. & date.

No: ED-III/TS/3064-67
Dated: 16.12.2023

DIP/J-4549-P/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division-III,
Jammu

Weeklong workshop on FDP on Machine Learning begins at Bhandarwah Campus

Top News Report

BHANDARWAH, Dec 19: Weeklong workshop Faculty Development Program (FDP) on the topic "Machine Learning, Theory, and Application with a Special Focus on Electroencephalography, Document, and Sign Gestures Analysis."

Organized by the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology Bhandarwah Campus, University of Jammu, in collaboration with HRDC centre, University of Jammu, iHUB Divya Sampark, IIT Roorkee & LTU Sweden commenced here today. The FDP is scheduled to take place from December 19 to 23, 2023.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, in his message extended his best wishes to Bhandarwah Campus, particularly appreciating Department of Computer Science & IT, Bhandarwah campus for spearheading the organization of this weeklong workshop.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector of Bhandarwah Campus in his message extending best wishes to the Department of Com-



puter Science and Information Technology. Prof. Rahul Gupta specifically acknowledged faculty of Computer Sciences and IT at Bhandarwah Campus, for their instrumental role in organizing the FDP.

The chief guest for the occasion was Mr. Harvinder Singh (IAS), Deputy Commissioner Doda, who addressed the august gathering. In his speech, DC Doda congratulated the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu for launching the "Design Your Degree" program, a unique initiative that transform the educational scenerios of the UT of JK. He emphasized the importance of women empowerment and commended the efforts of Bhandarwah Campus in hosting such enlightening initiatives. "This collabora-

tion, with a specific focus on Electroencephalography, document analysis, and sign gestures analysis. Renowned expert Dr. Rajkumar Saini from Lulea University of Technology, Sweden, is serving as the distinguished resource person for the program. The initiative aims to explore the nuances of machine learning, focusing specifically on Electroencephalography (EEG), document analysis, and sign gestures analysis. Dr. Rajkumar Saini, the distinguished resource person, delivered a detailed lecture covering the intricacies of machine learning theories and applications, with a specific focus on Electroencephalography, document analysis, and sign gestures analysis. His

expertise and insights are expected to provide a valuable learning experience for the participants.

The weeklong FDP aims to foster a deeper understanding of machine learning concepts and their real-world applications, particularly in the domains of Electroencephalography, document analysis, and sign gestures analysis. The organizers express their gratitude to Dr. Rajkumar Saini, all the participants, and the esteemed guests for making this event possible. Dr. Abid Sarwar from the department of Computer Science and IT presented formal vote of thanks.

Present on the occasion include Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Rubash Chander, Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, Dr. Shayan Javed, Dr. Cherrington Tandop, Mr. Mujeeb Shekh, Dr. Rohit Bhagat, Dr. Ajay Lakhnotra, Dr. Neeraj Kumar, Dr. Ashok Sharma, SHO Bhandarwah Amrit Katoch, Mr. Wasim Akram, Ms. Shailu Kotwal, Mr. Abrar Ali Sheikh, Miss Priya Rani, Mr. Yaseer Ali, Mr. Parvesh Singh members from non-teaching department, officials from police and civil administration.

Neha Dhupia to make International film debut with Ali El Arabi's 'Blue 52'

Actress Neha Dhupia is set to make her international film debut with *Blue 52*, a movie directed by renowned Egyptian filmmaker Ali El Arabi, who is known for his award-winning documentary feature *Captains of Za'atari*. *Blue 52* unfolds against the stunning backdrop of Kochi, India, and Qatar. About her international debut, Neha said: "Embarking on the journey of *Blue 52* has been nothing short of magical. The fusion of diverse cultures in this international venture allowed me to delve into a character that is both challenging and emotionally resonant. It's a transformative experience that I believe will leave a lasting impact and I'm glad that Ali chose me to essay the lead in what is my international debut."

Director Ali El Arabi said: "Creating *Blue 52* was a labour of love, blending the cinematic languages of Egypt, America and India. Neha brought an



unparalleled dedication to her role, infusing the character with a nuanced emotional depth. The picturesque locales of Kochi and the vibrant energy of Qatar served as the perfect canvas for our storytelling. This film is a testament to the collaborative

spirit of international cinema, and I am excited for audiences to experience the richness we've crafted together."

The film is the story of Ashish, who at the age of nine is isolated by his father on an island in the backwaters of Kochi after

he loses his eldest son. Growing up, Ashish becomes a boy trapped in a man's body by the age of 22, with little knowledge of the world beyond his idol, ace footballer Messi, and the life lessons imparted by his mother over the years, aimed at preparing him for life beyond their small island home.

Strengthened by newfound resolve, Ashish decides to leave home with his mother's support and an opportunity that seems almost like a fantasy, offering him the chance to meet his idol, Messi, at the World Cup in Qatar 2022. Left to navigate the world on his own for the first time, he discovers his true self and finds his own passion.

The film is presented by Ambient Light with Ali El Arabi serving as director and producer, Tariq Al-Naama as producer, and Krysanne Katsoolis, Joe Matthews and Katara Studios as co-producers.

Anupama Solanki talks about her journey in the entertainment industry



Anupama Solanki, who is currently seen in *Nath Krishna Aur Gauri Ki Kahani* on Dangal TV and has also been part of projects like *Bindya Sarkar*, *Daayan*, *Maddam Sir*, *Chikoo Ki Mummy Durr Ki* and *Vignaharta Ganesha*, says that surviving in the entertainment industry is no easy feat. The actress adds that one needs to be resilient to continue to work here.

"The entertainment industry is extremely tough. There is no surety of success and it's not everyone's cup of tea. In a random job, you get success day by day, but in our industry, today you are a star but tomorrow you are nothing. You have to maintain your aura and that is too tough," she says.

She adds, "I understood as soon as I joined the industry that I needed an alternate option for my income because in this field you cannot earn regularly. If you are lucky, you will get a show that runs for three or four years but still you need a second option because once you become a star you have to maintain that stardom."

'True love involves understanding,' Sherleen Dutt

Sherleen Dutt says that when it comes to love, it is important to understand that it needs to be a two-way street. The actress adds that if both parties are not equally involved, then a relationship cannot work out.

"While it's true that not every relationship works out and self-love is paramount.

Acknowledging that everyone has a role in our lives, and there's a reason for people coming and going, helps in finding peace.

Efforts in relationships are vital, but it's a two-way street. Patience is the key, but if one feels constantly drained, it's important to evaluate the balance.

True love involves reciprocity, understanding, and shared efforts. If it feels one-sided consistently, it might be time for introspection," she says.

While friendships at work are easier, are they genuine? Asks Sherleen, adding, "In



metropolitan areas, work-related companionship might seem practical, yet the depth of personal connections

shouldn't be sacrificed. Balancing professional and personal relationships is essential for a well-rounded life."

Ranveer Singh unveils his wax figures at Madame Tussauds London, Singapore

Actor Ranveer Singh on Monday became the latest Indian personality to get his wax figure at Madame Tussauds set for attractions in London and Singapore.

The figure was originally announced in 2019 when the actor received the Madame Tussauds of the Future Award at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards ceremony.

Singh's mother Anju Bhavnani accompanied him at the launch of the statues at the iconic wax museum here.

"What an incredible moment it is for me to be here with my mum, launching my own figures at Madame Tussauds London. It feels like life has come full circle today. I remember reading in wonderment about this mythical, magical place as a kid, going through my mum's early pictures with popular celebrity figurines here and wondering what this place is all about."

"Today, being immortalised as a figure in the company of such esteemed individuals is a remarkably proud feeling for me and for my family. There is a lot for me to be thankful about this year and I am so grateful for everything," the actor said in a statement.



He joins his wife and frequent collaborator Deepika Padukone who also has her wax figures on display at Madame Tussauds in London and Delhi.

While Singh's London figure pays homage to his culture and heritage with the neon sherwani designed by Manish Arora as part of his wedding celebrations, his Singapore statue is dressed in a custom tuxedo crafted by Gaurav Gupta which features a velvet blazer with floral embellishments.

The London branch of Madame Tussauds also houses wax statues of Indian cinema stars such as Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas. The

Singapore outlet displays the figures of Karan Johar, Chopra Jonas and many more Indian personalities.

A Madame Tussauds London spokesperson described Singh as not merely an actor but a force of creative dynamism.

"He has not just delivered blockbusters and entertained audiences with memorable performances so far in his career, but he also enjoys a humongous fan following across the globe. His influence extends beyond just cinema and his long list of coveted brand endorsements is a proof of that."

"His charming real-life personality is another reason why his stardom transcends globally and the launch of two new fig-

ures sitting in opposite corners of the world is a testament to his undeniable achievements," the spokesperson added.

Andre Timmins, co-founder of the IIFA, said it is exciting for the academy to be a part of this launch.

"It was at the 2011 IIFA Awards Toronto, where he won his first Best Debutant Award, and said on stage that 'this is just the beginning'. And sure it was truly just the start of a soaring career, and we are proud as a brand to have been able to take an icon of Indian cinema to such new heights, with global recognition, such as being honoured at the Madame Tussauds London," Timmins added.

Singh made a phenomenal debut in 2010 with *'Band Baaja Baaraat'* and has gone on to play diverse roles in films such as *'Bajirao Mastani'*, *'Lootera'*, *'Padmaavat'*, *'Gully Boy'*, and his latest, *'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani'*. He was recently honoured with the Honorary Yusr Award at the third Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Singh's London figure will be open for display from December 18 and guests at the Singapore branch would be able to meet his likeness from December 23.

Abrar Qazi talks about his idol—Shah Rukh Khan



The lead actor, Abrar Qazi, from Zee TV's show *Kumkum Bhagya*

is leaving no stone unturned to do justice to his character, *Rajvansh*.

Every actor has an inspiration in his life, and Abrar's inspiration is none other than the Badshah of Bollywood — Shah Rukh Khan.

In fact, it is because of King Khan that Abrar pursued his career in acting. He has been following SRK's movies, and his journey into the industry has truly inspired him to become an actor.

Abrar says, "Since my childhood, I have been a huge fan of Shah Rukh Khan. Every role that I have played in my career, I have drawn inspiration from Shah Rukh sir, the movies he has worked in, and the characters he has portrayed. He is my ideal and my 'guru' in this entertainment industry. His journey from becoming a television actor to Bollywood's King Khan is truly motivational for me. My parents have always supported my decision, and now playing the role of *Rajvansh Malhotra* is a stepping-stone for me to turn my dreams into reality. I am really happy with the way my journey is panning out."

Popstar Demi Lovato gets engaged



Popstar Demi Lovato has got engaged to musician Jordan 'Jutes' Lutes after one year of dating. Demi and Jordan, who went public with their romance in August 2022, got engaged on Saturday in Los Angeles, a representative for the singer confirmed.

Jordan, a 32-year-old songwriter, who first met Demi in January 2022 when they co-wrote her song *Substance*, popped the question with a bespoke pear-shaped diamond solitaire engagement ring.

After a 'personal and intimate proposal', Jordan and Demi headed to Craig's, one of their favourite restaurants in L.A., to celebrate with their families. On Demi's 31st birthday in August, Jordan shared a collection of sweet selfies and silly videos paying tribute to his now-fiancée.

Suite life of Poonam Pandey

Poonam Pandey, who is part of ALTT Balaji's *Honeymoon Suite 911*, is very excited to see how people react to the thriller.

The actress, who has been part of projects such as *Nasha*, *Love is Poison* and reality shows such as *Fear Factor* and *Khatron Ke Khiladi* and *Lock Upp*, says that this role is totally different.

"This is one of the best scripts I have heard so far, an amazing thriller. Every character has done a brilliant job. The story is unique, something that the audience will not expect," she says.

Talking about her character in the web series, she says, "I mostly get bold characters to perform. This role is something people will not expect from me. When they hear Poonam Pandey, they have certain expectations, and I love and am proud of that. However, this character goes beyond the typical Poonam Pandey persona.

The girl, hailing from a small town in Kanpur, has completed her hotel management course. She is driven by the desire to do things per-



fectly. I fell in love with her when I first heard about this character." *Honeymoon Suite*

911 is inspired by true events. The story and screenplay is written by Siddharth Injeti.

Opposition disrupting Parliament in frustration, will lose further ground in 2024 general election, PM Modi says at BJP MPs' meet

The PM was speaking on the day when anti-BJP INDIA bloc parties are to assemble in Delhi in the afternoon to formulate a seat-sharing strategy to take on the saffron dispensation at the national level

NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a blistering attack on the opposition saying it is disrupting Parliament out of frustration over the recent losses in the assembly elections in states and would lose further ground in the 2024 general election.

Addressing the weekly BJP parliamentary party meeting, the PM said the BJP would gain in numbers in the 18th general election while the opposition would shrink further.

The PM was speaking on the day when anti-BJP INDIA bloc parties are to assemble in Delhi in the afternoon to formulate a seat-sharing strategy to take on



the saffron dispensation at the national level.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and other top opposition leaders are in Delhi for the

meeting. "The opposition is rattled by the assembly poll losses and is disrupting Parliament in frustration," Modi said asking MPs to continue focusing on pro-people

work.

He said the Opposition conduct would ensure that its numbers go down in the 2024 polls and the BJP would gain.

He said some parties are voicing support to the security breach in Parliament and this is as dangerous as the breach itself.

His veiled reference was to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi justifying the perpetrators of the December 13 security breach saying the protest was against unemployment.

Both Houses of Parliament continue to be disrupted with the opposition seeking a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the security breach.

Tamil Nadu got a year's rain in a day, need more choppers for rescue ops: Stalin



MADURAI, Dec 19 (Agencies): As Tamil Nadu's southern districts grappled with severe flooding following extremely heavy rain, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday reached out to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, requesting the deployment of additional helicopters for rescue operations in the hardest-hit areas.

Stalin said the state's southern districts received a year's rainfall in a single day, which led to widespread flooding and devastation. Three people lost their lives in rain-related incidents.

"The rainfall received in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi was the highest ever recorded in history - in the last 47-60 years. You all know that a year's rainfall was emptied from the skies in one day. Koyalpattinam alone received 94

cm rainfall," the Chief Minister said.

TORRENTIAL RAIN SUBMERGES TOWNS A cyclonic circulation over the Southeast Bay of Bengal near Sri Lanka led to torrential rains on December 17 and 18, causing flood-like situations in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts.

Villages and towns, including Seevalaperi and Meenakshipuram in Tirunelveli, have seen homes flooded and residents seeking refuge on rooftops. Over 100 houses in Nesavalur Colony, Nagercoil, were evacuated to relief centers.

ARMED FORCES JOIN RESCUE OPS

The Indian Coast Guard has deployed six disaster relief teams (DRTs) and an Offshore Patrol Vessel with a helicopter to monitor and respond to the crisis. The Indian Army

has also been active in rescuing citizens from inundated areas like Vasavappuram in Thoothukudi.

With Tuticorin airport closed and mobile networks down, the Indian Coast Guard has stationed additional aircraft at Madurai to support ongoing relief efforts and facilitate the transport of key personnel.

The State Disaster Response Force has deployed 225 personnel across nine teams in the affected districts. The National Disaster Response Force has stationed eight teams, with two more on the way.

Approximately 7,500 people from 1,545 families have been accommodated in 84 relief centers. Authorities are utilizing 84 boats for rescue operations.

MORE RAIN IN STORE

The Chennai Meteorological Department anticipates moderate thunderstorms with lightning and rainfall in isolated places across Tamil Nadu and Karikal. Light rain is also expected in several districts today.

India resisted pressure from developed nations for phase out of fossil fuels: Environment Minister

NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agencies): India resisted pressure from developed countries at the climate conference in the United Arab Emirates to end the use of fossil fuels, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said India is committed to meeting the energy needs of its people and this cannot be done by "just importing oil and gas".

"While India is committed to increasing its renewable energy capacity, we will have to rely on coal power until we achieve the objective of developed India," he said.

The minister said India accounts for 17 per cent

of the global population but its contribution to global carbon emissions is just four per cent. "Poverty eradication is a priority for many nations. So, we did not accept the pressure from developed countries (for a fossil fuel phase-out)," Yadav said.

The minister said developed nations, which account for a large part of historical emissions (since the start of the industrial revolution), are required to provide finance and technological support to developing countries to help them combat climate change.

"But the developed countries are pressuring developing nations to end the use of fossil fuels. We did not accept it.

"We said efforts to (limit temperature rise to) 1.5 degrees Celsius should be seen in light of national circumstances and should adhere to (the principles of) equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC)," Yadav said.

These principles acknowledge that countries' efforts to combat climate change should be considered in light of their contributions to total emissions. They also stress that wealthier nations should bear primary responsibilities due to their substantial historical emissions.

Yadav said that India reduced its GDP emission intensity by 33 per cent between 2005



and 2019, achieving the target 11 years in advance.

The emission intensity of the economy refers to the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted for every unit increase of gross domestic product (GDP).

Countries reached a historic deal on a 'transition away from fossil fuels' at COP28 in Dubai

last week while emerging economies like India and China strongly resisted the targeting of coal.

The deal called for tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency rates by 2030 which, according to the International Energy Agency, is critical to avoid breaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold.

Nitish's party leader shot by unidentified men in Bihar, cops suspect old rivalry

JAMUI, Dec 19 (Agencies): A Janata Dal (United) leader was shot three times by unidentified men near his house in Bihar's Jamui district.

He was critically injured and referred to Patna for further treatment.

The incident happened late

on Monday night, when JD(U) city president and former ward councillor candidate, Pawan Sah was returning home from the market.

Suddenly, some unidentified men arrived and opened fire at him, before fleeing the scene.

Locals, upon hearing the firing

sounds, rushed to the scene and took Pawan Sah to a nearby clinic.

Pawan Sah, who was critically injured, said he could not identify anyone.

Meanwhile, police also arrived at the scene and launched an investigation into the case.

The criminals carried out this incident due to old enmity and a dispute over a vehicle stand. Though the exact reason is yet to be confirmed, a police official said.

The police are also examining CCTV footage and will soon solve this case, he added.

Former Chief Minister Raman Singh Elected Speaker Of Chhattisgarh Assembly

RAIPUR, Dec 19 (Agencies): Senior BJP MLA and former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh was today unanimously elected as the speaker of the state legislative assembly.

The first session of the newly-elected assembly began in Raipur today.

Raman Singh, 71, filed his nomination for the Speaker's post on Sunday and said his new responsibility will be to take everyone together in the Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha.

The Congress, which ruled Chhattisgarh for last five years, suffered a shock defeat in the assembly polls held last month at the hands of the BJP which bagged 54 out of 90 seats, restricting the grand old party to 35 seats. The Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) won one segment.

As the assembly session commenced on Tuesday, pro-tem speaker Ramvihar Netam administered the oath to BJP and Congress legislators and one MLA from the GGP as members of the legislative assembly.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Leader of opposition Charan Das Mahant, Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma, former CMs Raman Singh and Bhupesh Baghel were among the legislators who were administered oath by the pro-tem speaker.

After the swearing-in of legislators, Chief Minister Sai moved a proposal for the election of Singh as the speaker which was seconded by Deputy Chief Minister Sao.

LoP Mahant also moved a proposal



for the election of Singh as the speaker which was seconded by senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Three more proposals were moved by BJP members in favour of Mr Singh, the seven-term MLA who has won Rajnandgaon seat for four consecutive times - in 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2023.

Mr Singh was elected as the Lok Sabha member once in 1999 and appointed as the Union minister of state for commerce and industries in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

In the recently concluded state assembly elections, Singh defeated Congress' Girish Dewangan by a margin of 45,084 votes.

Mr Singh, credited for transforming Chhattisgarh from a 'backward' state to a model of development, has earned the reputation of being an able administrator during his 15-year-long stint (2003 to 2018) as the state's Chief Minister.

Allahabad High Court rejects suits filed by Masjid Committee in Gyanvapi case

PRAYAGRAJ, Dec 19 (Agencies): The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday dismissed all five suits challenging the maintainability of a civil suit pending before a Varanasi court seeking restoration of a temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque exists.

Pronouncing the judgment, Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal said the suit filed in 1991 before a Varanasi court is maintainable and not barred by the Places of Religious Worship Act, 1991.

The court directed a comprehensive survey of the Gyanvapi mosque site.

The petitions filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC) and the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board had also challenged a Varanasi court order of April 8, 2021 to conduct a com-

prehensive survey of the Gyanvapi mosque.

The AIMC, which looks after the management of the Gyanvapi mosque located adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple at Varanasi, has challenged the maintainability of a suit filed before a Varanasi court, wherein the Hindu petitioners have sought restoration of a temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque currently exists.

According to Hindu side plaintiff, the Gyanvapi mosque is a part of the temple.

The primary contention of the AIMC and the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board was that the suit is prohibited by the Places of Worship Act (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, which restricts altering the character of a religious places as it existed on August 15, 1947.

Gujarat Congress MLA Chirag Patel resigns from assembly; slams party leadership



AHMEDABAD, Dec 19 (Agencies): In a setback to the Congress in Gujarat ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, party MLA Chirag Patel resigned as a member of the legislative assembly on Tuesday, citing disappointment with the working style of the party leadership.

Alleging "groupism" in the party's state unit, he said it is being "operated from Delhi directly by the central leadership as if they are running a princely state while sitting in air-conditioned bungalows".

He also claimed that many other MLAs were also unhappy in Congress and felt suffocated.

Patel, a first-time MLA who represented the Khambhat seat in Anand district, handed over his resignation to Gujarat assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary in Gandhinagar this morning, the speaker's office said in a statement. Chaudhary later told reporters he had accepted Patel's resignation.

With this, the Congress's strength in the 182-member assembly has come down to 16.

Patel had defeated sitting BJP MLA Mahesh Raval in Khambhat by a thin margin of nearly 3,700 votes in the assembly polls held last year.

Speaking to reporters after tendering his resignation, Patel blamed the working style of the Congress leadership for his decision and claimed that some more party MLAs may also resign if the situation does not improve.

"I decided to resign after consulting people from my constituency. Like me, many MLAs are unhappy because they feel suffocated in the party.

Groupism is at its peak in the Congress, and local party affairs are operated from Delhi directly by the central leadership as if they are running a princely state while sitting in air-conditioned bungalows," Patel said.

The Congress has now become "zero" from being a "hero", Patel said and did not divulge his plans for the future when asked if he plans to join the BJP.

The former legislator said that while the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya was a matter of great importance for the entire Hindu population, Congress leaders have not said a single word in favour of the temple's construction.

Amid political unrest, 4 killed as train torched by unidentified persons in Bangladesh

The arson attack on the train was the fifth in the past month but the deadliest so far in terms of casualties

DHAKA, Dec 19 (Agencies): Unidentified persons set a passenger train on fire here in the Bangladeshi capital on Tuesday, killing at least four people, including a woman and her minor son, amidst the political unrest over the January 7 elections.

The attack coincided with the nationwide stoppage called by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Tuesday as part of its ongoing campaign to boycott the polls and launch a formal protest against the Election Commission's polls schedule.

The arson attack on the train was the fifth in the past month but the deadliest so far in terms of casualties.

The miscreants set on fire three compartments of the Dhaka-bound inter-district Mohanganj Express early morning shortly after the train left the Airport Railway Station at the entry point of the capital, police and witnesses said.

"The passengers saw the fire after the train left the Airport station, it was stopped at the next stop at Tejgaon station," Tejgaon police station officer-in-charge Mohammad Mohsin said.

At least four persons, including a woman and her child, have died after the train was set on fire amid a 'hartal' called by the BNP.

Mohsin said another minor boy was missing while his mother awaited in front of the gutted compartment as fire service rescuers were searching inside.

Railway officials said the locomotive master halted the train at Tejgaon where the fire service rescuers doused the blaze and retrieved four bodies while two



of the dead remained unidentified.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Awami League has emerged as the prime contender in the absence of ailing ex-premier Khaleda Zia's BNP which has boycotted the January 7 polls since its demands for a no-party caretaker government to organise the voting were not met.

Awami League is contesting the polls against its technical Opposition in Parliament Jatiya Party and independent candidates, including the rebel contenders who fielded their candidature after failing to secure the party nomination.

Awami League earlier said it would encourage the independent, including the party's rebel candidates to make the polls participatory though voters have little option other than reelecting the ruling party for the fourth consecutive term since the December 2008 elections.

One passenger was killed last week and dozens wounded as saboteurs uprooted railway

tracks on the same train on the same route last week when seven carriages derailed in Gazipur on the outskirts of the capital.

Dozens of trucks, buses and private cars were torched since late October while the violence killed at least six persons.

Hasina, meanwhile, said, "They can't oust the government by killing people".

Bangladesh will deploy the Army for 13 days from December 29 to maintain order "in aid of civil power" ahead of the January 7 general elections amid the political unrest. However, the military called it a routine poll time duty.

The Election Commission announced the polls schedule on November 15 amid continued political unrest.

BNP has repeatedly been saying no election under the ruling Awami League would be fair, demanding the government's resignation to pave the way for an interim non-party neutral government for polls oversight.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal earlier said despite the need for a "congenial atmosphere" for a smooth election, "for a long time there exist differences of opinions among political leaderships on the question of election, particularly over the institutional method of the polling".

In a veiled reference to BNP and its allies, Awal said his office invited all registered political parties who were "reluctant" to take part in the upcoming polls for dialogues with the Commission but "they rejected the invitation".

But he asked the nearly 110 million voters to freely exercise their rights franchise in an "enthusiastic atmosphere, discarding all worries, tensions and unease".

BNP had boycotted the 2014 election but took part in 2018 polls, which party leaders later said was a mistake alleging that the voting was marred with widespread rigging and intimidation.

According to media reports, over 10,000 opposition leaders and activists, including BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir have been arrested in a nationwide crackdown while BNP claimed the figure to be as high as 20,000.

A Dhaka court on Monday denied a bail request from Alamgir, meaning he could not guide his party ahead of the election next month.

He is the key party leader since the ailing Zia is hospitalised and faces 17 years of imprisonment following her conviction in two corruption cases that her party says were politically motivated.

Pentagon announces new mission to counter attacks on commercial vessels in Red Sea



MANAMA, Dec 19 (Agencies): The U.S. and a host of other nations are creating a new force to protect ships transiting the Red Sea that have come under attack by drones and ballistic missiles fired from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced early Tuesday in Bahrain.

The seriousness of the attacks, several of which have damaged the vessels, has led multiple shipping companies to order their ships to hold in place and not enter the Bab el-Mandeb Strait until the security situation can be addressed.

The U.S. military's Central Command reported two more of the attacks on commercial vessels Monday. A strike by attack drone and ballistic missile hit a tanker off Yemen, at roughly the same time a cargo ship reported an explosive detonating in the water near them, the military said.

"This is an international challenge that demands collective action," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in statement released just after midnight in Bahrain. "Therefore today I am announcing the establishment of Operation Prosperity Guardian, an important new multinational security initiative."

The United Kingdom, Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain will join the U.S. in the new mission, Austin announced. Some of the countries will conduct joint patrols while others provide intelligence support in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Several other countries have also agreed to be involved in the operation but prefer not to be publicly named, a defense official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss additional details of the new mission that have not been publicly announced.

The mission will be coordinated by the already existing Combined Task Force 153, which was set up in April 2022 to improve maritime security in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb and the Gulf of Aden. There have been 39 member nations in CTF 153, but officials were working to determine which of them would participate in this latest effort.

Separately, the United States has also called on the United Nations Security Council to take action against the attacks.

In a letter to council members obtained Monday by The Associated Press, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Houthi attacks targeting commercial vessels legally transiting the international waterways continue to threaten "navigational rights and freedoms, international maritime security, and international commerce."

The 15 council members discussed the Houthi threat behind closed doors Monday but took no immediate action.

Two U.S. warships — the USS Carney and the USS Mason, Navy destroyers — have been moving through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait daily to help deter and respond to attacks from the Houthis.

The move to set up the expanded operation came after three commercial vessels were struck by missiles fired by Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen on Dec. 3. Those attacks were part of an escalating campaign of violence that also included armed and other drones launched in the direction of U.S. warships.

To date the U.S. has not struck back at the Iranian-backed Houthis operating in Yemen or targeted any of the militants' weapons or other sites. On Monday Austin did not answer a question as to why the Pentagon had not conducted a counterstrike

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin Set To Launch Rocket To Space Today

WASHINGTON, Dec 19 (Agencies): Blue Origin said it would try again on Tuesday to launch a rocket and return to space for the first time in more than a year, after scrubbing a mission for last-minute technical reasons.

Jeff Bezos' space company has not launched a rocket since an uncrewed September 2022 crash placed its program on hold while it carried out fixes and awaited regulatory approval.

The company finally announced a December 18 launch from its base near Van Horn, Texas. But on the day itself it first pushed back the takeoff window because of cold weather, then declared it was off.

"We're scrubbing #NS24 today due to a ground system issue the team is troubleshooting," Blue Origin posted on X, formerly Twitter.

By late afternoon, the company announced that a new launch window had been set starting at 10:37 am (1637 GMT) Tuesday. "Webcast starts T-20 minutes to launch on BlueOrigin.com," it added.

Though the rocket will carry a payload of science experiments, not people, mission NS-24 must succeed before Blue Origin can return to taking wealthy thrill-seekers to the final frontier.

On September 12, 2022, a Blue Origin rocket became engulfed in flames shortly after launch. The capsule, fixed to the top of the rocket, successfully initiated an emergency separation sequence



and floated safely to the ground on parachutes.

The accident prompted a year-long probe by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which found it was caused by the failure of an engine nozzle that experienced higher-than-expected engine operating temperatures.

The regulator issued a set of corrective actions Blue Origin had to undertake before it could resume flying, including the redesign of certain engine parts. It confirmed Sunday it had approved Blue Origin's application to fly again.

In all, Blue Origin has flown six crewed flights -- some passengers were paying customers and others flew as guests -- since July 2021, when Bezos himself took part in the first flight.

While Blue Origin has been grounded, rival Virgin Galactic, the company founded by British billionaire Richard Branson, has pressed on, flying five commercial flights this year.

The two companies compete in the emerging space tourism sector, operating in sub-orbital space.

- Reusable rocket, no carbon emissions - While Blue Origin launches a small rocket

vertically, Virgin Galactic uses a large carrier plane to gain altitude and then drop off a smaller rocket-powered spaceplane that completes the journey to space.

In both cases, passengers enjoy a few minutes of weightlessness and can view the curvature of the Earth through large windows. Virgin Galactic tickets were sold for between \$200,000-\$450,000; Blue Origin does not disclose its ticket prices publicly.

Blue Origin can boast of the fact that nearly all of the rocket platform is re-used including the booster, capsule, engine, landing gear, and parachutes.

Its engine meanwhile is fueled by liquid oxygen and hydrogen, meaning the only byproduct during flight is water vapor, with no carbon emissions.

Blue Origin is also developing a heavy rocket for commercial purposes called New Glenn, with the maiden flight planned for next year.

This rocket, which measures 98 meters (320 feet) high, is designed to carry payloads of as much as 45 metric tons into low Earth orbit.

Israel faces Gaza ceasefire calls, US vows more arms

TEL AVIV, Dec 19 (Agencies): Israel faced another round of global pressure on Tuesday for a ceasefire in Gaza with a new UN vote and fresh Western diplomatic efforts, although the United States vowed to continue arming its ally. The UN Security Council was set to convene Tuesday to weigh a call for a ceasefire in the besieged Palestinian territory, after a previous bid was vetoed by the United States.

UK Foreign Minister David Cameron was also due to meet French and Italian leaders to push for a "sustainable ceasefire" in the conflict, his office said.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas militants launched an unprecedented attack on October 7, killing around 1,140 people in Israel, mostly civilians, and abducting 250, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says Israel's military response has killed more than 19,400 people, mostly women and children.

The ministry said an Israeli strike killed at least 20 people on Tuesday in the southern city of Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

On a visit to Israel, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin vowed Monday to keep arming its ally, which Washington has already provided with billions of dollars in military aid.

"We'll continue to provide Israel with the equipment that you need to defend your country... including criti-



cal munitions, tactical vehicles and air defence systems," Austin said.

Austin was touring the Middle East as concerns grew over the war's spread around the region, with Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen attacking international shipping in the Red Sea in solidarity with Hamas.

Austin announced the formation on Monday of a 10-nation coalition to quell the rising number of Houthi attacks on tankers, cargo ships and other vessels in the Red Sea.

The coalition includes the United States, United Kingdom, Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain, Austin said.

In the latest Red Sea incidents, Houthi rebels said Monday they had attacked two "Israeli-linked" vessels.

Ceasefire push The UN Security Council had been scheduled to vote on a ceasefire resolution on Monday.

A draft of the resolution called for an "urgent and sustainable cessation of hostilities" in Gaza to allow "safe and unhindered humanitarian access".

However the United Arab Emirates, which introduced the latest text, requested the vote be postponed to Tuesday to allow for complex negotiations to continue,

diplomatic sources told agency.

Qatar, which helped mediate a week-long truce and hostage-prisoner exchange last month, has also said there are "ongoing diplomatic efforts to renew the humanitarian pause", outside of the UN process.

"Hamas is ready for a prisoner exchange deal, but after a ceasefire," an official from the group said Tuesday.

US news platform Axios on Monday reported that Mossad chief David Barnea, CIA director Bill Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met in Warsaw.

'Starvation' International alarm has mounted over the plight of 2.4 million Gazans forced to endure daily bombardment, food and water shortages and mass displacement.

The EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell accused Israel on Monday of displaying an "appalling lack of distinction" in its campaign in Gaza, highlighting the deaths of Israeli hostages, worshippers and other Palestinian civilians.

Human Rights Watch said on Monday Israel was "using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare". "Israeli forces are deliberately blocking the

delivery of water, food and fuel, while willfully impeding humanitarian assistance, apparently razing agricultural areas," the New York-based group said.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said the organisation "has no moral basis to talk about what's going on in Gaza," accusing Human Rights Watch of ignoring "the suffering and the human rights of Israelis".

A report by Washington's Director of National Intelligence, quoted by US media, said that nearly half of munitions dropped by Israeli aircraft on Gaza were "dumb" bombs -- unguided munitions with limited accuracy.

Israeli air force officers on Monday defended their actions.

"All the bombs we use are high-precision bombs," an officer told reporters during a military-organised visit of the Palmahim air base, on the Mediterranean coast south of Tel Aviv.

The Israeli army said Tuesday two more soldiers had died, bringing the toll to 131 in the Gaza Strip since ground operations began in late October.

Aid 'breakthrough' Israel has approved aid deliveries into Gaza via its Kerem Shalom crossing, aside from the Rafah crossing with Egypt, and dozens of trucks entered through Kerem Shalom on Monday, said an AFP journalist.

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller hailed the opening of the crossing for humanitarian assistance and the arrival into Gaza

of trucks carrying commercial goods as "important breakthroughs".

At the Rafah crossing, previously the only point where aid had been allowed through, families gathered in the hopes of finally being allowed across to safety.

"We've been here for about a month," said Safa Fathi Hamad. "We are going to die, food is very limited and we have no protection."

Israeli protests Israelis protested Monday in central Tel Aviv, calling for swift action to release the remaining 129 hostages believed to be held in Gaza.

The anger and fear of hostages' families has intensified after Israeli forces mistakenly shot dead three captives who had escaped their captors.

Reports said the trio waved white flags and used food leftovers to write a Hebrew-language message on a white sheet before they were shot.

Hamas's military wing released footage it claimed showed three of those still held captive. The video featured three bearded men sitting on chairs at an undisclosed location and asking to be released.

The Gaza war has also seen violence spiral in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli forces shot dead four Palestinians in a West Bank refugee camp Monday, the Palestinian health ministry said, taking the toll in the occupied territory to over 300 during the Gaza war.

JKPCC President visits Waltengoo Kund, meets families of accident victims

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 19: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani on Tuesday today visited Waltengoo Nad Gujjarbasti and met the bereaved families, who lost their loved ones in a road accident in Shimla. Wani termed the accident as the most unfortunate incident,



which has shattered all. He said administration should take immediate measures in their

capacity to help the affected families. He also extended sympathies with the

bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the deceased and speedy recovery to

the injured.

He also said that LG administration should provide an adequate amount of financial relief to the families of those killed and the injured to arrange for their specialised treatment.

He was accompanied by DDC Banihal Imteyaz Khanday, District President Kulgam Amanullah Mantoo and workers of the party.

Raiz Aatish conducts public outreach program in Mandi's village

Top News Report

MANDI, Dec 19: Apni Party, Provincial Secretary Jammu Division, Raiz Aatish has launched a public outreach to Tehsil Mandi of District Poonch. During this public outreach program, Aatish visited Arai village of Mandi Tehsil and met different segments of society.

He held a threadbare discussion with the people from the vil-

lage and they were mostly concerned about the inadequate arrangement by the authorities for the winters.

He said that the people have complained of lack of arrangement for firewood, cooking gas cylinder and ration supply to the Govt depots of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Department (CAPD).

He said that the various snow-bound areas remain cut off from the rest of Jammu and Kashmir



because of snowfall.

"The authorities should deploy snow removers to clear the roads and ensure road connectivity in the neglected

areas," he added.

He appealed to the Govt to consider the demands projected by the people of village Arai in Mandi Tehsil.

Yasar Choudhary demands basic amenities in rural areas of Kathua

Top News Report

BANI, Dec 19: Apni Party President Kandi Belt (Bani - Basohli) and Spokesperson, Yasar Choudhary today appealed to authorities to ensure basic amenities and road infrastructure in remote villages of District Kathua.

As per a press statement, Yasar said that the authorities have completely failed to implement public welfare

schemes and developmental policies on the ground for the last several years in rural areas / villages.

"The road infrastructure in shabby condition, the hospitals are without proper equipment and needed specialised staff and doctors," he said, expressing anguish over the failure of the authorities.

He further stated that the authorities should make public the developmen-

tal and public welfare schemes and its implementation. "The people in the hilly region have been ignored regarding all sorts of developmental activities. However, the authorities have not disclosed anything about the implementation schemes meant for public welfare/development," he said.

He demanded that the progress of schemes which have been implemented should be made public.

"There is a need to fix accountability of the officials who fail to implement Govt schemes," he demanded.

He also sought attention of the authorities towards the tourism sector. "Bani and Basohli have huge potential for tourism, but the authorities have failed to identify and explore the possibility of tourism promotion that would help in generating employment and development of the hilly region," he added.

NOTICE

I, Dheeraj Sharma, S/o Sh Ved Parkash, R/o village Bravi, Tehsil Kalakote, District Rajouri, have purchased a vehicle (Swift VDi BS4 M) bearing registration No DL3CCA-4193 from Atul Sharma, S/o Sh Prem Sharma, R/o 16 D, PKT, J Sheikh Sarai, Ph-2, New Delhi. I am applying for the transfer of the same in my name. Objections if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within 7 days of the publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

49 more Lok Sabha Opposition MPs suspended today, action against 141 so far

results of recent assembly polls. BJP MP Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the chair, asked the government to move the motion for suspension of MPs.

A total of 78 MPs — 33 from Lok Sabha and 45 from Rajya Sabha — were suspended for the remainder of winter session on Monday, following a ruckus over the demand by the opposition parties for a statement from Amit Shah on the Parliament security breach incident.

China quake toll reaches 118, rescuers battle sub-zero temp to reach survivors

emergency repairs, the spokesperson said.

With temperatures dropping to 16 degrees Celsius below zero at dawn on Tuesday, the first batch of relief supplies, including coats, quilts, folding beds, tents and stoves were sent to the disaster-affected areas.

The China Railway Lanzhou Group Co., Ltd. launched an emergency response in the wake of the quake, including suspending trains that were in operation in the affected area and sending personnel to check the railway lines.

As of 2.45 a.m. Tuesday, the train service had been gradually resumed.

Following the earthquake, the National Health Commission dispatched a team of medical experts to the affected region.

Additionally, it has mobilised emergency medical teams from various regions, including Sichuan, Shaanxi and Ningxia, to support rescue efforts in both Gansu and Qinghai.

President Xi Jinping has ordered full rescue efforts to Gansu.

In a statement, President Xi Jinping said that "all efforts should be made to carry out search and rescue, treat the injured in a timely manner, and minimise casualties".

Gansu, one of China's poorest regions, lies between the Tibetan and Loess plateaus and borders Mongolia.

China sits in a region where a number of tectonic plates — notably the Eurasian, Indian and Pacific plates — meet, and is particularly prone to earthquakes.

Last September, more than 60 people were killed when a 6.6-magnitude quake hit the southwestern Sichuan province.

A 1920 earthquake in Gansu, which killed more than 200,000 people, is also recorded as one of the world's deadliest in the 20th century.

Four arrested as Police launches drive to identify

people providing shelter to Rohingyas in Jammu

facilitators for illegally procuring Indian identity documents like domicile certificates, Aadhaar cards, Ration cards, Voter ID cards and PAN cards.

The spokesman said that two cases were registered at the Bhandarwah police station, while another case was lodged at the Gandoh police station.

He added a detailed inquiry has been conducted and it emerged that the Rohingyas managed to enter Doda and illegally procured the Indian identity documents to settle in the district illegally.

The police have conducted house searches and recovered incriminating materials which are seized as evidences, the spokesman said.

He said the investigation of all the three cases have been set into motion to ascertain the facilitators and the government employees involved in providing Indian identity documents and other allied assistance to these foreigners so that such helping hands could be brought to book.

A day earlier, the police in Kishtwar district registered a case following recovery of illegally obtained documents like Aadhaar cards during a crackdown against Rohingyas in the district.

The case was registered under various sections, including 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of important documents), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Dachhan police station.

Following persecution in their country, many Rohingyas entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in Jammu and other parts of the country.

According to government data, over 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and other districts of Jammu and Kashmir, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

Earlier in March 2021, the police found over 250 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in Jammu city during a verification drive and subsequently lodged them in a holding centre inside Sub-Jail Kathua.

Two drones, nearly 1 kg heroin seized near International Border in Amritsar

small torch were also attached to the packet, the spokesperson said.

The BSF troops intercepted another drone in the same Dhano Khurd village on Monday evening. During a search operation, a China-made quadcopter and a packet of heroin weighing 540 grams

were recovered, the spokesperson added.

Govt constitutes committees at UT, District level to strengthen Cooperative movement in J&K

Bank; Chairman/Managing Director of State Federation of Dairy Cooperative Societies; Chairman/Managing Director of State Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Societies and Any other Co-opted Member will be the members of the Committee.

The Administrative Secretary Revenue Department will function as Convener of the Committee.

The UT level committee has been directed to ensure that all the Panchayats/Villages in the UT are covered by multipurpose PACS or primary dairy/ fishery cooperative societies, as the case may be. It will review the district-wise action plan for setting up new multipurpose PACS or primary dairy/ fishery cooperative societies, with a total target of establishing two lakh such societies in the next five years across the country.

It will extend all necessary support in preparation and updation of National Cooperative Database. It will also prepare an action plan, in coordination with NABARD, NDDB, NFDB, NAFSCOB, NCDFI & FISHCOPED, to set up UT/ District level federations if not presently existent as per requirement and viability assessment.

The Committee has also been directed to assist in establishing linkages of existing and new primary cooperative societies with DCCBs/ STCBs and/ or their respective District and UT level Federations. It will ensure convergence of various schemes of Government of India at the level of PACS or dairy/ fishery primary cooperative societies to make them vibrant economic entities.

It will provide all necessary policy support for creation of infrastructure at the level of cooperative societies, including allotment of Government/ Gram Sabha land to PACS. To extend all necessary support to District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) for implementation of the plan at the grassroots level. To monitor the progress of implementation of the action plan at the UT level. Any other related matter(s).

Similarly the District Level Cooperative Development Committee will be chaired by Deputy Commissioner; where as Additional District Development Commissioner; Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat; Assistant Commissioner, Revenue; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Assistant Director, Fisheries; Assistant Director/District Officer, Handloom.; Assistant Director/District Officer, Handicraft; Assistant Executive Officer/District Officer, KVIB; Area Marketing Officer/District Officer, Horticulture (Planning & Marketing); Managing Director DCCB/ STCB; District Lead Bank

Raman Suri applauds union government's inclusive move

CGHS scheme extended to J&K pensioners for enhanced healthcare access

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri, on Tuesday extended heartfelt appreciation towards the recent decision by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to include Jammu and Kashmir Government pensioners under the ambit of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).

In a statement issued here, Raman Suri said that until now, only Central Government employees and pensioners were entitled to the benefits of CGHS. However, in a progressive move, the union government issued an order last month, broadening the scope of the scheme by including

pensioners from the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Raman acknowledged this as a significant stride towards ensuring the welfare of J&K UT pensioners. He emphasized that the CGHS scheme, which encompasses various medical systems such as Allopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani, Homeopathy, Indian System of Medicine, and Siddha & Yoga, will now be accessible to a wider demographic.

Suri also highlighted the upcoming awareness camps planned by the CGHS officials across various parts of the Union Territory. These camps aim to educate pensioners about the benefits of the CGHS and guide them on how to avail themselves of this Central Government Health

Scheme effectively. The CGHS offers an array of benefits, including OPD treatment and medication charges, indoor treatment, diagnostic services at Government or CGHS affiliated hospitals, child health services, family welfare, medical advice, and distribution of medicines. The scheme covers various treatments and procedures under Medicine, General Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, ENT, Ophthalmology, and Orthopaedics.

Raman Suri lauded the Union Ministry's thoughtful step in extending the CGHS facilities to Jammu and Kashmir pensioners, underscoring the importance of seizing this opportunity for improved healthcare in the UT.

sius, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.9 degrees Celsius, a drop of more than one degree compared to minus 5.8 degrees Celsius a night earlier, they said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degree Celsius against 0.8 degree Celsius a night earlier, Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at minus 3.1 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius against minus 2.2 degrees Celsius recorded 24 hours earlier.

The weather office has forecast generally dry weather over the next few days in the valley.

The sudden drop in temperature has resulted in freezing of many slow moving water bodies. It has also resulted in freezing of water supply pipes in some areas, they said.

The drop in temperature has resulted in an increase in respiratory problems among the children and elderly. With electricity supply erratic in many areas of Kashmir, people have resorted to use of Kangri, an earthen firepot, to beat the chill.

People deserve credit for decline in militancy in Valley: CRPF IG

new Kashmir is being seen in the fields, be it in cricket, football or other sports.

"So, the major contribution has been of the youth of Kashmir, the people of Kashmir," Inspector General, CRPF, Srinagar sector, Ajay Yadav said when he was asked who deserved credit for the decrease in militancy in the valley.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of a football tournament organised by the CRPF in Srinagar. "It is my strong belief that the coming year will be better than today and the people will lend their support," Yadav added. As many as 16 teams from central Kashmir, including four from Downtown Srinagar, are participating in the tournament. "This is Naya Kashmir and the youth will march ahead."

I am hopeful that many youths from this tournament will play for India in the future. Sports also plays a very important role in keeping youths away from drugs," he said. Yadav said the tournament has been organised especially keeping the youth in mind.

The aim is to engage the youth, provide them a path to live their lives in a better way and provide an opportunity for them to play at the national level. I am sure that many good players will emerge out of the tournament, he said. We have promised that the CRPF will keep the youth engaged. These tournaments are a part of the civic action programme, he added.

Asked if the paramilitary force was ready to provide security for elections in J-K, the IG said the CRPF is ready for any responsibility. He said the tournament would be an annual feature.

Kashmir in grip of intense cold wave

Celsius which was 1.4 degrees higher than previous night's minus 8 degrees Cel-

Indian airlines likely to prune losses to Rs 3,000-5,000 crore this fiscal: ICRA

Indian aviation industry has been facing significant supply chain issues, resulting in around 20-22 per cent of the total fleet being on the ground currently

MUMBAI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Indian airline industry is expecting to prune its net losses to Rs 3,000-5,000 crore in this fiscal from an estimated Rs 17,000-17,500 crore in FY2023 on the back of improved yields and stable cost environment, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

At the same time, ICRA also estimated that domestic air passenger traffic will expand by 8-13 per cent each in FY2024 and FY2025.

The rating agency has also maintained its stable outlook on the industry in view of healthy passenger traffic growth, improved yields and a stable cost environment.

Building on the fast-paced recovery in FY2023, ICRA at a webinar on Tuesday said it is expecting the domestic air passenger traffic to grow by 8-13 per cent in the ongoing financial year, thereby reaching 150-155 million and surpassing the pre-Covid levels of 141.2 million seen in FY2020.

The industry's net loss (is expected) to shrink to Rs 30-50 billion in FY2024 from an estimated Rs 170-175 billion in FY2023, aided by improved yields and stable cost environment, ICRA said.

"The air passenger traffic momentum witnessed in the current fiscal is expected to continue in FY2025, though further expansion in yields from the current levels may be limited. Thus, the industry is estimated to report a similar net loss of Rs 30-50 billion in FY2025 as well," said Suprio Banerjee, Vice President & Sector Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited.



The momentum in air passenger traffic growth is expected to continue in FY2025 as well with a similar estimated year-on-year growth, aided by rising demand for air travel and improving airport infrastructure, ICRA said.

During the first eight months of this fiscal, domestic air passenger traffic stood at 100.7 million, witnessing a 17 per cent year-on-year growth, and 5 per cent higher than the pre-Covid levels (8M FY2020) of 95.7 million.

Further, the international passenger traffic for Indian carriers, at 23.9 million in FY2023, surpassed the pre-Covid levels, although it trailed the peak levels of 25.9 million in FY2019, ICRA said, adding the same is expected to cross this level in the current fiscal, with an estimated 25-27 million passengers.

Moreover, the airlines witnessed better pricing power, as reflected in improved yields and in the spread between revenue per available seat kilometre and cost per available seat kilometre (RASK-CASK) for the airlines, it said.

While capacity addition for the industry will continue with the total pending aircraft deliveries

of around 1,500, supply chain issues at the aircraft OEMs also mean that the addition could be gradual, ICRA said.

Also, a large part of this is towards replacement of old aircraft with new fuel-efficient ones, and with the expected continued growth in passenger traffic, ICRA expects the demand-supply balance to be maintained in the medium-term.

Furthermore, a sizeable part of the fleet addition by airlines will also be meant for expanding international operations, it said and added that in FY2023, the share of Indian carriers in international traffic (to and from India) stood at around 42 per cent.

This offers adequate growth potential for Indian carriers to gain traction in international traffic over the medium term, the rating agency noted.

However, despite a healthy recovery in passenger traffic and improvement in yields, the movement of the latter will remain monitorable amidst elevated ATF prices and depreciation of the Indian Rupee vis-a-vis the US Dollar compared to pre-Covid levels, both of which

have a major bearing on the airlines' cost structure, the rating agency noted.

The average ATF (aviation turbine fuel) prices stood at Rs 103,189/KL in 9M FY2024, which were 59 per cent higher compared to an average of Rs 64,715/KL during FY2020, albeit a decline of 17 per cent compared to Rs 121,013 /KL in FY2023, it observed.

Fuel accounts for 30-40 per cent of the airlines' expenses, while around 35-50 per cent of the airlines' operating expenses 'including aircraft lease payments, fuel expenses, and a significant portion of aircraft and engine maintenance expenses' are denominated in US dollar terms.

"More recently, the Indian aviation industry has been facing significant supply chain issues, resulting in around 20-22 per cent of the total fleet being on the ground currently.

"The recent issue related to powder-coating related concerns in engines manufactured by Pratt & Whitney (P&W) is expected to lead to additional aircraft to be grounded by Q4 FY2024 of this fiscal 'amounting to approximately 22-24 per cent of the industry capacity,'" said Banerjee.

This will result in high operating expenses towards cost of grounding, increase in lease rentals due to additional aircraft being taken on lease to offset the grounded capacity, along with increasing lease rates and lower fuel efficiency, which adversely impact the airline's cost structure, and thus overall cash flow generation," he added.

Sensex, Nifty hit new record highs on firm global trends, buying in Reliance

The Nifty climbed 86.4 points or 0.40 per cent to hit its record peak of 21,505.05



MUMBAI, Dec 19

(Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty scaled new lifetime high levels in intra-day trade on Tuesday before ending with gains on the back of buying in index major Reliance Industries and positive global cues.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 122.10 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 71,437.19. During the day, it jumped 308.62 points or 0.43 per cent to reach its all-time intra-day

high of 71,623.71.

The Nifty climbed 86.4 points or 0.40 per cent to hit its record peak of 21,505.05. It finally closed higher by 34.45 points or 0.16 per cent at 21,453.10.

Among the Sensex firms, Nestle, NTPC, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers.

Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Tata

Steel, Bajaj Finserv and Maruti were among the laggards.

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

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended with gains on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.30 per cent to USD 77.72 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 33.51 crore on Monday after continuous buying, according to exchange data.

Snapping its three-day rally, the BSE benchmark declined 168.66 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 71,315.09 on Monday. The Nifty fell by 38 points or 0.18 per cent to 21,418.65.

BharatPe's net loss widens to Rs 941 crore in FY23

NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Fintech major BharatPe's net loss widened to Rs 941 crore during FY23, compared with Rs 834 crore in the previous fiscal.

"We excluded the loss worth 4,782 crore in FY22 which it incurred due to change in fair value of compulsory convertible preference shares," according to an Entracker report, citing BharatPe's annualised financial statement shared with shareholders.

BharatPe reported revenues from operations at Rs 1,029 crore for FY23, up 2 times from FY22.

The company's non-operating revenue, however, moderated 38 per cent year-on-year (YoY)

to Rs 139 crore in FY23, according to the report.

BharatPe turned EBITDA -- earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation -- positive in October with an annualised revenue of Rs 1,500 crore, which represents a 31 per cent increase over the same period of the previous year on the back of higher growth in its lending and payments business, the company said last month.

The fintech startup

has also significantly cut down its cash burn, which averaged at Rs 60 crore a month in 2022-23, to attain a positive EBITDA.

"This milestone reflects the trust bestowed upon us by our vast network of over 1.3 crore merchant partners. October was a great month for us -- we achieved significant growth with loans facilitated on our platform," said Nalin Negi, CFO and interim CEO, BharatPe.

Researchers identify new Alzheimer's treatment inspired by Covid vaccines

NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have demonstrated a new approach to treating Alzheimer's disease using a delivery system inspired by the technology behind certain Covid-19 vaccines.

In a recent study published in the journal *Advanced Materials*, the team demonstrated the effective use of lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) to deliver small interfering RNA (siRNA) to the brain's microglia immune cells.

Microglia cells play a crucial role in clearing waste from the brain, making them a challenging target for therapies.

Lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) are a type of nanotechnology-based delivery system used to transport therapeutic substances, such as drugs or genetic material, into cells.

The researchers, led by Li-Huei Tsai, Picower professor

of neuroscience at MIT, collaborated with Robert Langer, known for his work on nanoparticle drug delivery, to explore the use of LNPs to deliver siRNA into microglia.

The team focused on reducing the expression of the PU.1 protein, linked to excessive inflammation in Alzheimer's disease. In their prior research, they discovered that blocking the consequences of PU.1 activity could alleviate neuroinflammation and pathology associated with Alzheimer's.

To achieve this, the researchers optimised an LNP, creating a formulation named "MG-LNP." Unlike commercially available reagents, MG-LNP exhibited high delivery efficiency and safety in transfecting microglia.

Further testing on mice demonstrated that injection into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was more effective in targeting microglia without affecting other



organs. The researchers then used MG-LNP to deliver a PU.1-suppressing siRNA, resulting in a significant reduction of PU.1 expression in both human cell cultures and mice.

The study indicated that MG-LNP outperformed a commercially available reagent, RNAiMAX, in reducing inflammatory markers.

While the results are promising, the researchers emphasise the need for further testing before considering the approach for human patients.

The study represents a proof-of-principle for the potential use of MG-LNP-mediated anti-PU.1 siRNA delivery as an anti-inflammatory therapeutic for neuroinflammatory diseases, including Alzheimer's.

These lifestyle habits lead to premature greying

Smoking is one of the most prominent lifestyle choices linked to early greying.

NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Premature greying of hair is a condition that can strike as early as in one's twenties. While it has long been associated with the natural ageing process, recent scientific studies have shown that lifestyle factors can significantly contribute to this phenomenon.

Smoking is one of the most prominent lifestyle choices linked to early greying. A 2013 study by the University of Jordan found a substantial relationship between smoking and the onset of grey hair before the age of 30.

The harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke are believed to cause oxidative stress, leading to damage in hair



follicle melanocytes, the cells responsible for hair pigment.

Dietary habits also play a crucial role. Nutritional deficiencies, particularly a lack of vitamins B12, D3, calcium, and minerals like copper, iron,

and zinc have been correlated with premature greying.

These nutrients are vital for melanogenesis, the process by which melanocytes produce melanin, the pigment that gives hair its colour.

Studies have reported lower levels of these nutrients in individuals experiencing early greying compared to those without such issues.

Nutritionist Nmami Agarwal shared an Instagram post earlier suggesting that diet is essential for one's hair health. She advised having foods that have high amounts of folic acid (dark leafy vegetables), vitamin B12 (egg yolk and dairy products), copper (sesame seeds, cashews, almonds, red meats and whole grains) and zinc (dry fruits and seeds).

Stress, too, has been implicated in the greying process. Although no direct link has been

established between stress and hair greying, increased oxidative load due to psychological stress suggests that emotional factors may influence hair pigmentation.

Furthermore, poor sleep and chronic dehydration are additional factors that may exacerbate the risk of premature greying, as they can impact overall health and, consequently, hair vitality.

While genetics play a significant role in determining when and how quickly one's hair turns grey, these lifestyle factors offer actionable insights into how people might delay greying signs.

Sociocultural practices affecting maternal, neonatal health in Mohali villages: PGI study



CHANDIGARH, Dec 19 (Agencies):

A comprehensive study conducted in rural areas of Mohali from December 2019 to March 2021 sheds light on the sociocultural beliefs surrounding perinatal and neonatal health. The research focused on women up to 3-month postpartum, aged over 18, and revealed significant influences on health practices within the community.

The study conducted by doctors from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, PGIMER, highlighted instances where women, particularly influenced by family members, refrained from consuming certain foods due to cultural perceptions. Mothers-in-law, in particular, played a role in restricting food choices based on their beliefs about potential health impacts.

The study quoted a participant, "A few days ago, my sister-in-law cooked rice and offered me, but my mother-in-law stopped me from eating it as she said it was not good for my health and would directly affect the health of the baby."

While some women adhered to traditional practices and dietary advice provided by elders, others exhibited a more contemporary approach, often influenced by social media. This dichotomy was evident in choices related to place of stay during pregnancy, dietary habits and post-delivery rituals.

Contrary to cultural beliefs, doctors expressed concerns over dietary restrictions imposed on postpartum and lactating women. Deprivation of essential nutrients during this crucial period could negatively impact a woman's recovery and her ability to initiate breastfeeding. Additionally, questionable infant practices such as feeding babies honey and applying kajal (black soot) to their eyes were identified as causes for concern.

According to medical professionals, the introduction of honey to children under 1 year of age may lead to infant botulism, posing serious health risks. Similarly, the use of kajal, though rooted in cultural beliefs, has been associated with potential harm, including excessive lead storage in the body, affecting the brain and bone marrow.

The study underscores the necessity of bridging the gap between cultural practices and contemporary health guidelines. While respecting traditions is important, awareness and education are crucial to ensuring the well-being of both mothers and newborns.

Still on recovery, will need a few months to be 100% fit: Rishabh Pant

Pant hopes to keep his date with the much-anticipated return to competitive cricket during next year's IPL

DUBAI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Cricketer Rishabh Pant hopes to be fully match-fit in next few months and keep his date with the much-anticipated return to competitive cricket during next year's Indian Premier League.

Pant, who miraculously escaped after a horrifying car accident last year, missed the entire 2023 after undergoing surgery has been flooded by the love and appreciation shown by fans that helped him recover quicker than anyone expected.

"I think (I am feeling) much better (than) what I was doing a few months ago. So like, (I am) still on recovery towards 100 per cent (fitness). But hopefully in a few months' time, I'll be able to do it," an optimistic Pant said in a video posted by the Delhi Capitals on its Instagram page.

The Delhi Capitals skipper, who will be present at the mini auction alongside Team Director Sourav Ganguly and head coach Ricky Ponting here, had a close shave after his car hit a divider on National Highway



towards Rourkee and caught fire in a terrifying accident in December last year.

The 26-year-old suffered multiple injuries and is currently undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. However, he is expected to be back in action during the IPL which starts on March 22.

What touched Pant was the love and concern shown by the fans, which he felt he realised for the first time.

"I think it's been really amazing because whenever we keep on playing cricket, we feel no one loves us because there is always pressure in so many things. But actually yes, it's a hard time. But I got to know at least people love us. They respect us and the kind of appreciation and the kind of concern I would say people have shown over a period of time because of my injury," Pant said.

"I think it was heartfelt, like

crazy for me because it means a lot as an individual."

Pant said the love and affection shown by people has helped him make a miraculous recovery.

"When you are going through a very rough time or something like that happens to you. It's not only physical, it's like mentally also and if your supporters and the people support you or show you love, it means a lot and it's really helps in recovering."

In the absence of Pant, Australia opener David Warner led DC last season with the team finishing second from last.

"Thank you for always being supportive all the time. Yes, I know sometimes we have given you a hard time as fans.

"But see, we try to do our best all the time and, hopefully, next year in time to come, we will show the kind of respect or love you have shown over a period of time, hopefully we can reciprocate it over a period of time, and just keep supporting us," Pant said.

"Making Hardik captain may or may not benefit the team," says Sunil Gavaskar



NEW DELHI, Dec 19 (Agency): Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 auction on Tuesday in Dubai, former India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar said that making Hardik Pandya the captain of the Mumbai Indian (MI) may or may not benefit the franchise.

While speaking at Star Sports, Gavaskar said that the 30-year-old has already delivered results while leading the Gujarat Titans (GT). He added that taking a "fresh thinking" is needed.

"Hardik is a young and fresh captain who has delivered the results. He led the Gujarat Titans to two IPL finals and achieved a title once. So pretty sure they made him captain keeping all this in mind. Sometimes you need fresh thinking, and Hardik can bring that.

Making Hardik captain may or may not benefit the team, but it sure won't hurt them," Gavaskar said.

He further added that the Mumbai-based franchise decided for their benefit and it should not be discussed what is right or wrong.

The former cricketer pointed out MI's performance last year and said that even though they have qualified for the IPL 2023 playoffs, the "josh" was missing in Rohit Sharma. He added that Rohit has scored crucial runs for the franchise.

"We should not discuss what is right or wrong. The decision taken by Mumbai Indians is for the benefit of their team. In the last two years, Rohit's contributions with the bat were scarce. He used to score heavily, and two seasons ago if I'm not wrong, MI finished last. Last year, they qualified for the Playoffs but the josh that we are used to seeing in him, has been missing. Perhaps he is tired having played non-stop cricket, or captaining India," he added.

Hardik made a return to the five-time champions in a trade deal between Gujarat Titans and Mumbai Indians ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. While many expected Hardik to play under Rohit's captaincy, MI's decision to hand the captaincy to the 30-year-old all-rounder earlier this week caught many by surprise.

India look to get job done as more new faces set to don international colours

GQEBERHA, Dec 19 (Agency): Immensely gifted Rajat Patidar will be pitted against the flamboyant Rinku Singh for the lone available batting slot when a determined Indian team gears up for the final kill against a lacklustre South Africa in the second ODI here today.

After pacers Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan produced a flawless performance in the opening game that India won by eight wickets, KL Rahul would be keen to heal the wounds of a 0-3 defeat here under his leadership back in 2022.

India will also hand over a debut ODI cap to one of its reserve batters as Shreyas Iyer has linked up with the Test squad after Sunday's game with an eye on the two-match series, which starts on Boxing Day.

The noise around Rinku's debut is growing louder. The left-hander has shown that he has the technique and temperament to succeed on South African tracks that offer way more bounce compared to the sub-continent pitches.

However, the Indore-based right-hander Patidar had made it to the ODI team back in 2022. But in the past one year, he has struggled and also underwent a heel surgery earlier this year.

The Indian team management has very specific roles for players and while Rinku is being looked upon as a finisher at No. 6, the 30-year-old Patidar is more



of a specialist No. 4 when he bats for his state team Madhya Pradesh.

Hence, with Iyer, a right-hander vacating a slot in the playing XI, his like-for-like replacement is Patidar.

In case of Rinku, the No. 6 slot currently has been given to Sanju Samson, who is playing as a specialist batter behind skipper KL Rahul.

As has been the template, the team management would like to give Samson a longer rope before turning to the southpaw.

The opening game witnessed the debut of young left-handed opener B Sai Sudharsan, whose silken half-century held a lot of promise going into the future. For the hosts, this series is a massive white-ball test for its batters in the post Quinton de Kock era.

'Notorious winner' Gambhir alongside Shreyas can transform KKR: Morgan

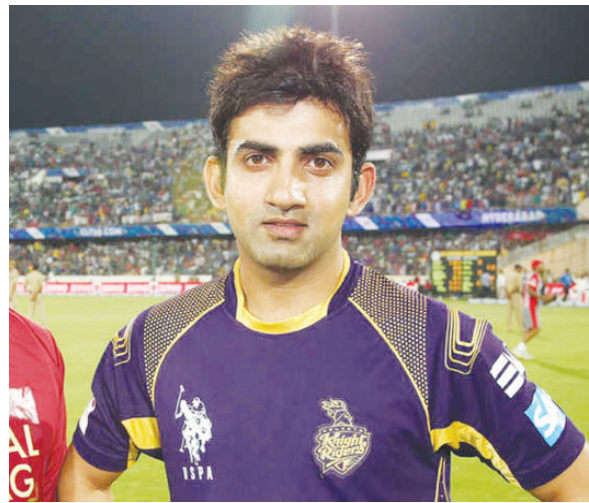
BENGALURU, Dec 19 (Agency): Former Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan believed that the combination of mentor Gautam Gambhir and captain Shreyas Iyer could help the team to resurrect its fortunes in the IPL 2024.

The Knight Riders, who finished seventh in 2023 and 2022, have brought back two-time title winning captain Gambhir as their mentor ahead of the next edition.

Iyer had missed the whole of last IPL owing to an injury as Nitish Rana led the side.

"I think Shreyas missed last year, and obviously, Nitish Rana came in and did what he could on such short notice. You know, under high pressure circumstances and getting to know the new coach and trying to make things work proved very challenging.

"But bringing Gambhir back in who is a notorious winner. Morgan played alongside him



and under him as captain, Gambhir knows how to get it done," said Morgan, IPL expert with JIO Cinema, during an interaction.

"Gambhir along with Shreyas will be mentoring KKR in every facet and given the record that he's had in the Knight Rider shirt, I think, it will make a positive impact."

Morgan, who had led England to an ODI World Cup victory in 2019, said Australian left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc will be a hot property in the auction on Tuesday.

Morgan opined that

While Morgan asserted that bowlers will be in demand during the auction to be held in Dubai, a few batsmen such as England's Harry Brook, Australia's Travis Head and Rachin Ravindra of New Zealand will evince some interest from the bidders.

"When you look at the teams, I suppose they are coming into auction when their top-order is pretty much full. So, in that regard, I don't see many batters going for huge amounts of money. Brook is going to be in there and will be sought after. I think Head is going to create a strong buzz, given the last year and a half to two years he has had in all formats of the game.

Man of the Match in the WTC and World Cup final. He has really left an indelible mark on Indian minds. So, he will definitely be sought after," he said.

The Ireland-born cricketer said Ravindra also has an edge because of

him being left-handed top-order batter.

"Likewise, Head, Ravindra is a player you can actually see teams identify with their need...you know, a top order left-handed batter. Whoever goes for one and doesn't get it and will go for the other," he added.

Morgan felt that all-rounder Shardul Thakur and uncapped batter Shah Rukh Khan could be the biggest buys among the Indian players.

Shardul could be the most-sought-after Indian player given his all-round ability and the flexibility with his bowling and the attacking nature in which he bats. He makes himself a very attractive selection.

"Shah Rukh too, because I think he's in fine form. He's so destructive and carries a sort of Rinku Singh model of finishing, and he could potentially create a bidding war," Morgan signed off.

IPL 2024 Auction: Rajasthan Royals buy Rovman Powell for INR 7.40 crores after bidding war with KKR



DUBAI, Dec 19 (Agencies): Rajasthan Royals (RR) bought West Indies T20I skipper Rovman Powell for a price of INR 7.40 crores in the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction that took place in Dubai on Tuesday, December 19. The hard-hitting batter played for the Delhi Capitals last season where he scored only seven runs from three matches at a disastrous average of 2.33 and a strike-rate of 77.77.

Powell started with a base price of INR 1 crore, after which Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) bid for him. Later, the Rajasthan Royals joined the bidding war. The two teams were involved in a bidding war for quite some time before the Royals secured the services of the right-handed batter.

Powell has been in impressive form of late in the ongoing five-match T20I series against Jos Buttler's England. In

three matches, Powell scored 120 runs at an average of 60 and a strike-rate of 187.50 with a top score of 50 to show for his efforts.

In 184 T20 matches, Powell has racked up 3369 runs at an average of 25.33 and a strike-rate of 139.50 with one hundred and 14 half-centuries to his name.

With Powell in their ranks, the Royals have three top-class overseas players, including Jos Buttler and Shimron Hetmyer. In 17 IPL matches, Powell has scored 257 runs at an average of 19.77 with a top score of 67.

The Royals missed out on qualifying for the playoffs last time around after finishing fifth in the table with 14 points and a net run rate of +0.148 thanks to wins in seven out of 14 matches.

IPL 2024 Auction: Harry Brook sees mega-dip in value, sold for Rs 4 crore to Delhi Capitals



DUBAI, Dec 19 (Agencies): England youngster Harry Brook was sold for Rs 4 crore to Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League 2024 auction on Tuesday, 19 December at the Coca Cola Arena in Dubai.

Brook, who had been sold to SunRisers Hyderabad Rs 13.25 crore in the 2023 auction fetched a lesser amount this time around. Brook had not done well in his maiden season in the Indian Premier League. Brook did score a century against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata but had a string of single-digit scores in the 2023 season. From 11 matches in the IPL, Brook had scored 190 runs at an average of 21.11.

The England batter was phenomenal against West Indies in the 3rd T20I match right ahead of the IPL auction. Brook slammed 31* off just 7 balls to guide England to the highest-ever chase on the Caribbean soil.

IPL Auction 2024: SRH buy World Cup hero Travis Head for Rs 6.80 crore



DUBAI, Dec 19 (Agencies): 2016 IPL champions Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) bought Travis Head, Australia's World Cup hero, for Rs 6.80 crore in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 Auction in Dubai. Initially, there was surprising silence as no team made a bid for Travis Head. Eventually, SRH stepped in, showing a clear interest in bolstering their top order. Adding to the intrigue, CSK joined the bidding war, sparking a brief battle between the two franchises before CSK eventually withdrew from the competition.

Head played a pivotal role in Australia's title triumph in the World Cup 2023. In the World Cup final, Head was instrumental in securing victory for his team with a masterful innings of 137 runs from 120 balls at the Narendra Modi Stadium. This outstanding

contribution not only led Australia to their sixth World Cup title but also etched his name in the record books as only the seventh batter to score a century in a World Cup final. Head's form throughout the tournament was consistently impressive, as evidenced by his Player of the Match award in both the semi-final and final matches. His semi-final performance against South Africa included a significant 62 runs and two wickets, further highlighting his all-round capabilities.

Head, who has a T20I strike rate of 146.17, also played in three of

the recently completed five-match T20I series against India, recording scores of 35 off 18, 31 off 16, and 28 off 18. Despite his World Cup heroics, Travis Head's presence in the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been more modest.

He played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in two seasons, appearing in ten games. His IPL statistics include an aggregate of 205 runs with the highest score of 75 not out, an average of 29.29, and a single half-century to his name. However, he went unsold at the IPL 2023 auction, even after his World Cup success.

BJP's 'Bharat Vikas Sankalp Yatra' a flop show, game plan to mislead people: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its Bharat Vikas Sankalp Yatra terming it as a big flop show. He said that BJP is only launching such programmes to create false narratives and mislead the people by deviating their attention from the basic issues which it has miserably failed to address.

In a statement issued to media here on Tuesday, the senior National Conference leader accused the BJP of coming up with new ideas with the sole motive of promoting the Saffron Party, least both-

ering about the common people of this nation.

He said the leaders of BJP are living in a fools' paradise thinking that it will fool the people in the name of development (Vikas) but people fully realize that they committed a blunder by voting Saffron to power. They are waiting for the elections to take place in 2024 when they will show the door to this party and its governance.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that carrying out events in the name of development is an essential part of BJP's crooked game plan to deceive the people in order to stay in power and Jammu and Kashmir bears testimony to this.

He said that the people



of this Union Territory are the worst victim of BJP's betrayal with people here left to fend for themselves even for the very basic amenities.

He said it is an irony that all claims are being made regarding unprecedented development in Jammu and Kashmir but the ground situation speaks the contrary.

While referring to 'Bharat Vikas Sankalp Yatra', he said that BJP

has been conducting similar programmes like 'Back to Village', 'My Town My Pride, etc earlier too but since these programmes failed to garner public support it now shifted to yet another programme.

He said that in all the aforesaid earlier programmes the issues highlighted by public during such events remain unsolved even today.

Questioning BJP's claims on development the senior NC leader asked why today there are unsafe school buildings, health centres without doctors, damaged roads and shortage of power, drinking water, unemployment, inflation of rates and imposition of heavy burden of taxes

by local bodies including the property tax on the people of UT.

Moreover, the students and employees continue to be on roads for their quite genuine rights, he added. He asserted that BJP has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the common people in J&K.

Rattan Lal Gupta while cautioning the people not to get led away by the misleading statements and such flop events conducted by BJP sought their support to National Conference in the Assembly elections whenever these are held in J&K. He said that only National Conference is capable of providing good governance to the people.

Event and Management Club of PG Department of Commerce organises Essay Writing Competition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Event and Management Club of P. G. Department of Commerce organised Essay Writing Competition to commemorate the 'Viksit Bharat@2047' among the scholars and students of M-Com.

The competition aimed to provide a platform for young minds to reflect on the theme Viksit Bharat@2047, envisioning the future development and progress of India as it approaches its centenary year of Independence.

Students are encouraged to delve into various aspects such as economic growth, sustainable development, technological advance-

ment and societal harmony.

Dr Jeevan Jyoti introduced the theme to the participants and impressed upon the young minds to use their creativity and intellectual skills to depict their vision of how India might evolve over the next 25 years.

She further added that this competition is organised to foster a sense of imagination, innovation and patriotism among the participants.

Participants portrayed their vision on the themes like Empowered Indians, Thriving & Sustainable Economy, Start-ups in India, Innovation, Science & Technology,

Good Governance & Security, India in the world, etc. Participants were evaluated on the basis of relevance to the theme, originality, creativity and the message conveyed.

Prof. Neetu Andotra was the judge of the event. Dr Harleen Kaur, Coordinator of Event & Management Club and Dr. Deepti Abrol, Deputy Coordinator of Event & Management Club coordinated the whole event. Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, HoD applauded the efforts of the students and distributed the certificates.

Other faculty members attended the event are Dr. Tarsem Lal, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Rupa Mahajan, Dr. Vishal Gupta and Dr. Sumeet Kour.

Department of Arabic GDC Darhal celebrates World Arabic Language Day-2023

Top News Report

DARHAL, Dec 19: The Department of Arabic Govt. Degree College (GDC) Darhal celebrated "World Arabic Language Day 2023" with zeal & enthusiasm.

The event was organized under the esteemed guidance of the Principal, Prof. Mus-saraf Hussain Shah, who congratulated the Arabic Dept. for organizing the said program on the importance of Arabic language and also providing a golden opportunity to the college students to know more about the topic.

He said that Arabic is a sacred language because it is a language of Holy Quran.

Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi HOD Arabic delivered a comprehensive lecture on the topic. He told that on Dec. 18th 1973, Arabic language officially became the sixth official language of the United Nations which already have French, English, Russian, Spanish, and Chinese. He also told that international day of Arabic celebration was set by UNESCO for each official language with a goal to celebrate

multilingualism and cultural diversity and promote equal use of all six languages throughout the organization.

Dr. Rizvi also talked about the importance and scope of Arabic Language in Govt. and Private Sector.

He said that hundreds of Universities and Colleges in India are teaching this subject. He also told about the employment opportunities which are available to Arabic experts in different Arab-based industries such as oil, travel, finance and translation. He also recited some beautiful Arabic Quotes and Quranic verses in his informative deliberations. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Dr. Mohd Riaz.

A large number of students and staff members of the college participated in the program. Prominent among others were Dr. Ghulam Abas, Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, Dr. Mohd Riaz, Dr. Mehwish Bukhari, Dr. Mukhtar Hussain, Ghulam Nabi, Fayyaz Ahmed and Samana Qusar.

Impressed by its ideology, Several join AAP



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: Impressed by the ideology of Aam Aadmi Party, Parshotam Singh, Sonia Kumari, Raveena Kumari, Mona Khajuria and Asha Devi joined AAP in Party office Bathindi, Jammu, in presence of Senior AAP leaders Rajesh Padgotra, Safer Choudhary, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Karan Attri, Agya Kour, S. Amrik Singh, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Bachan Lal & others.

Welcoming new entrants into Party fold, the Sr. AAP leaders said

that the AAP has taken its birth to the service of common man, the workers, laborers & exploited class of the society.

He congratulated Delhi people for their wisdom & foresightedness who voted Kejriwal to people, who has, because his visionary pro- people politics & programs, revolutionized & galvanized the Delhi UT & given a new concept of governance in politics-i.e; "governance to serve & not to rule", the Sr. AAP leaders said.

They further said that because of his most popular initiatives in Delhi, almost all Politi-

cal Parties across the country, are promising to dole out Delhi pattern of public initiatives- the fundamentals of every house hold- free electricity, free potable water, quality education in Government Institutions, free quality Health services besides free Metro & Bus services for Women & "Chaar Dhaam" yatra for senior citizens without any caste, creed & colour, which has become most popular talk of the town, the AAP leaders claimed and said that same facilities can be introduced in J&K too if voted to power.

Symposium on sustainable goals under Viksit Bharat @2047 organised



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: The Law School in collaboration with NSS Campus Unit 3, University of Jammu organized symposium on topic "Viksit Bharat @ 2047 with special reference to Sustainable Development Goals' initiative with an aim to actively involve students and faculty members in shaping the vision of a developed India by 2047. Dr. Shubha Vats, Assistant professor, law school addressed the symposium its inaugural speech.

She brought atten-

tion to the fact that we still have 25 years of Amritkaal ahead of us. To ensure that the goal of Viksit Bharat in 2047 becomes a reality, we must strive tirelessly towards this Amritkaal.

22 students in total took part in the symposium and discussed several facets of sustainability, including innovation, infrastructure development, and access to justice, environmental management, zero hunger, zero poverty, and transparent and responsible institutions.

Prof. (Dr.) Manju Jamwal, Director, The

Law School, encouraged and inspired the students regarding their role in attaining the goals, turning India into a fully developed nation.

The discussion concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Monika Bhardwaj, PO, NSS Campus Unit 3, University of Jammu, who said that the provided a platform for insightful deliberations towards Viksit Bharat.

The event was attended by Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Dr. Monica Narang, Dr. Renu Jamwal, Dr. Upasana, Dr. Rajneesh, Dr. Vandita and Dr. Nitan Sharma.

NSF pays tributes Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: National Secular Forum University Unit paid tributes to Saheed Ram Prasad Bismil and Saheed Ashfaqulla Khan on their 96th Death Anniversary at University Campus. Amid slogans "Ram Prasad Bismil Zindabad" "Saheed Ashfaqulla Khan Zindabad" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai" and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District Urban, and Zonal Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and TR Sharma (Retd KAS) presided over the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan.

Dr Vikas Sharma appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF member to remember the death anniversary of Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan. Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction,



female foeticide and dowry. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

He also said that unemployment is all time high in the present scenario which is the root cause of depression and anxiety among the young generation following which it is becoming drug addicts. He said NC had always worked to provide more and more employment opportunities to the youth of the J&K.

He mentioned that during the Janab Omar Abdullah led NC government, jobs were provided to a large number of youth, RTI Act was enacted to eradicate

corruption and several other revolutionary steps were taken to push J&K on the path of development. Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to push for this demand. NC would leave no stone unturned to achieve statehood for J&K.

T.R Sharma addressing on this occasion said that many freedom fighters laid down their life for the sake of the independence of this country. One of the youngest people to walk to the gallows fighting for India's independence was Ram Prasad Bismil.

Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF said that Ram Prasad Bismil was an Indian poet, writer, revolutionary and an Indian freedom fighter who participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918, and the Kakori Conspiracy of 1925, and fought against British Raj. Bismil was hanged on 19 December 1927 by the British for his revolutionary activities.

Abhishek Uppal Jammu District Chairman NSF also addressed and said that Ashfaqulla Khan was put to death by hanging on 19 December, 1927, at Faizabad jail. This revolutionary man became a martyr and a legend among his people due to his love for the motherland, his clear thinking and loyalty.

Mohd Umar Farooq President University Unit delivered the welcome address and Vineet Gupta Chairman University Unit was delivering the vote of thanks.

Among those who spoke on the occasion included, Roshan Sharma, Arun Kumar, Aditya Kargotra and Aditya Khajuria.

ABVP denounces JKBOSE's alarming disregard for students' futures

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 19: In a resounding expression of concern, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) vehemently condemns the recent decision by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) to deny acceptance of class 10th examination forms from students enrolled in Private Schools across J&K and Ladakh established on state land. This refusal, occurring despite ongoing High Court proceedings and an existing stay order, is not just deeply distressing but also casts a shadow on the educational landscape of the region.

The audacious move by JKBOSE has thrust the future of countless students in Jammu and Kashmir into jeopardy. The prevailing uncer-

tainty surrounding the acceptance of examination forms has needlessly burdened students and their families, even as the board has previously granted affiliation to all schools operating smoothly at the designated locations. Private High schools, diligently adhering to government guidelines, are not at fault, and the students within them bear no responsibility for the administrative tangle.

ABVP State Secretary Akshi Billowria unequivocally asserts that every student deserves equitable opportunities to pursue education without hindrance or discrimination. The denial of examination forms to students enrolled in private schools on state land is not only unjust but utterly unacceptable.

ABVP demanded an immediate reconsideration of this decision by

the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE). The welfare and future prospects of the affected students must be paramount in this deliberation. It is imperative to prioritize the educational aspirations of these students, ensuring that administrative constraints do not deprive them of their fundamental right to education.

In a display of unwavering solidarity, ABVP stands shoulder to shoulder with the affected students and their families. We urgently call upon the concerned authorities to expedite resolution in a manner that staunchly upholds the rights and educational pursuits of the students ensnared in this regrettable bureaucratic quagmire. The time to act is now, ensuring that the future of these promising minds is safeguarded from arbitrary disruptions.