

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### ACB arrests assistant engineer in Budgam for accepting bribe

SRINAGAR, Dec 21 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) apprehended Tanveer Ahmad, an Assistant Engineer at the BDO office in Surasyar Chadoora, Budgam district, after he was caught accepting a bribe.

The arrest was made following a complaint, and a significant amount of cash was seized from the engineer, reported news agency KDC.

An FIR was registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and an investigation is ongoing.

The accused was caught red-handed during a successful trap operation conducted by the ACB's team, and further inquiries are being conducted at a local police station.

### Baramulla Doctor Becomes First from Kashmir To Buy Piece of Land on Moon

SRINAGAR, Dec 21 (Agencies): A doctor from Baramulla has become the first person from Kashmir Valley and second overall in Jammu and Kashmir to buy a piece of land on lunar surface (moon).

Dr. Kousar Bakshi, a Kashmir-based doctor from Baramulla and CEO of ARML Labs in Handwara, has been officially communicated by the Lunar Registry about his successful bid.

As per a registered claim, reads that Dr. Kousar Bakshi is recorded as the true owner of the property located at Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquility) 8.35 Degree North Latitude, 30.85 Degree East Longitude, Tract 34, Parcel 21024.

Dr. Bakshi expressed his elation over the achievement. "I applied for the bid on July 6, 2023, and as per a communiqué received by me, my bid shows to have gone through as of September 12, 2023", Dr. Bakshi said.

"I am quite happy to become the first from Valley to make it...", Dr. Bakshi, who runs one of the most reputed testing labs in north Kashmir said.

## Parliament passes bill on appointment of CEC, Election Commissioners

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Parliament passed a bill on Thursday to regulate the appointment and service terms of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners.

The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 was passed by Lok Sabha after a brief debate. It was passed by Rajya Sabha last week.

Major opposition political parties did take part



in the debate on the bill, as 97 of their members have been suspended for "misconduct" for the remainder of the winter session.

The bill provides for the appointment, qualifications, Search Committee, Selection Committee, term of office, salary, resignation and removal, leave, pension of the Chief Election

Commissioner and other election commissioners. Meghwal said that the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991 does not contain provisions regarding the qualifications, search committee for preparing a panel of persons for consideration and recommen-

dation by the Selection Committee for appointment as CEC and election commissioners.

The Supreme Court, in a writ petition, declared that the appointment of CEC and ECs shall be made by the President on the basis of advice tendered by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha or leader of the largest opposition party in the House and the Chief Justice of India. Meghwal said judgment had noted that the norm provided by the Supreme Court will continue to hold good till a law is made by the Parliament.

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## Opposition holds protest against suspension of MPs from Parliament



NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday alleged that Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar had brought casteism to Parliament, after the Vice President had slammed a TMC leader's mimicry of him and called it an insult to his background as a farmer and Jat.

Kharge made the remarks after opposition MPs marched to Vijay Chowk from Parliament to protest the suspension of 143 MPs from the House.

The Congress president, flanked by MPs and leaders of INDIA bloc parties, alleged that it was a matter of breach of privilege of the House that Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken outside Parliament while it was in session and did not apprise the House over the Lok Sabha security breach incident.

"We wanted to raise Parliament security breach issue as to why it happened and who is responsible," Kharge said.

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### J&K Police seeks victims' help to solve financial fraud case

SRINAGAR, Dec 21 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police's cyber wing on Thursday asked the victims of a Rs 59-crore online financial fraud to share information to aid the investigation into the case.

Several people, including social media influencers, have been questioned in the case, officials said and added that multiple locations in the Kashmir Valley were raided on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of the probe and electronic gadgets and documents seized.

"If you've been affected by the recent online financial scam or have info related to it, your contribution is crucial! Share details with us to aid our investigation. Your information matters! Together, we can combat cyber fraud. Your input can make a difference!" the Cyber Police, Kashmir, said in a post on X.

The cyber police have registered a case against unknown persons in connection with the online investment fraud that came to light earlier this week.

Inspired by Bollywood film 'Phir Hera Pheri', the fraudsters set up a company named 'Curative Survey' in the Karan Nagar area and duped several people of at least Rs 59 crore under the pretext of doubling their investment within two weeks, the officials said.

The officials said the amount might increase as the investigation is still in progress.

Initially, the company made good on its

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### Making J&K more attractive to tourists admin's top priority: Chief Secretary

SRINAGAR, Dec 21 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday said that admin's top priority is to make the Union Territory more attractive to tourists.

Talking to reporters after his maiden visit to SPS Museum in Srinagar, Dulloo, as per the news agency—Kashmir

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### "Lived my life with honesty, Have nothing to hide": CM Kejriwal responds to fresh ED summons

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday responded to the fresh summons issued by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, saying it was 'politically motivated' and 'illegal' like the previous one.

"I am ready to accept every legal summons. This summons of ED is also illegal like the previous ones. ED's summons are politically motivated. They should be



withdrawn. I lived my life with honesty and transparency. I have nothing to hide," CM Kejriwal said in a statement on Thursday.

The ED, on December 18, issued fresh sum-

mons to CM Kejriwal, asking him to appear before the central agency for questioning on December 21 in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Fellow AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre over the summons issued to the CM, saying that the saffron party uses central probe agencies to intimidate and silence leaders of

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### 'Chillai Kalan' arrives with full fury in Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Dec 21 (Agencies): Kashmir's harshest winter period, 'Chillai-i-Kalan', began on Thursday with the mercury dropping several notches below the freezing point at many

places, officials said. Srinagar city — the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir — recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, down from the previous night's

minus 3.7 degrees Celsius, they said.

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

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town

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### Gulmarg, Pahalgam sold out ahead of Christmas, New Year's Eve: Secy Tourism

SRINAGAR, Dec 21 (Agencies): Secretary Tourism, Abid Rasheed on Thursday said that this year's winter will be a grand success for the tourism industry in Kashmir. He said Kashmir is witnessing a huge influx of visitors, especially foreigners. "Destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam are already sold out. This is a very positive indication," he said, adding that the stakeholders have played a key role in the revival of tourism in J&K. "This year we

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**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 Chotha Haridwar Upper Ganga Canal Road, Murad Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Gouri Shree - **Mother**  
Smt. Bimla Bhat - **Wife**  
**Brother & Sister-in-law**  
Sh. Jai Krishan & Smt. Sweetie 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. Chandar Shaker (**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. Sweetie Sharma & Sh. Amit Sharma  
(Distt & Session Judge) - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Late Sh. Mohan Lal Sangra & Late Smt. Satya Devi - **Brother & Bhabi**  
Sh. Subash Chander & Smt. Sushma Sharma - **Brother & Bhabi**  
Smt. Darshana & Lt. Col. K.C. Sharma - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Sudha & Dr. Vijay Sharma - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
**Grand Children** : Arnab, Devyansh, Avnish, Chetanya, Pragya, Shravya  
**M/s Sangra Traders, Greater Kailash**  
Mobile : 9419610981, 9419143217



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

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

**IN LOVING MEMORY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA** of **Smt Raj Dulari Chaku**, wife of Late Shri Moti Lal Chaku, born in Bagh Jogi Lankar, Rainawari, breathed her last on December 18th, 2023, in Prayagraj, UP. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren. All who knew her, were touched by the lovingness and generosity, and her legacy will continue to live on in those left behind.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed in Haridwar on December 27th, 2023.

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:**

Indu & V.B. Pandita **Mob: 9811818647**  
Sunila & Vinod Chaku **Mob: 9899472450**  
Surekha & Anud Koul **Mob: 8879797439**  
Radhika & Vineet Pandita with Tarrush and Tallin  
Shaila & Deptanshu Chaku  
Megha & Abhinav Koul  
Sweene & Raghav Taplu  
Ojasvi Chaku

With Chakus, Kouls, Razdans, Mirzas & Wangnes



**SMT RAJ DULARI CHAKU**  
(1934 - 2023)

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Indu Malhotra** W/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Malhotra R/o H. No 280, Sector 9 Nanak Nagar Jammu.

**10TH Day** will be performed on 22-12-2023 Friday at Durga Mandir, Rampura, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 11.00 AM

**Kriya** will be performed on 25-12-2023, Monday at our residence 280, Sector-9 Nanak Nagar Jammu at 12.00 Noon

**Uthala** will take place on 25-12-2023 Monday at Ram Mandir Shastri Nagar at 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Son & Daughter in Law**  
Sh. Manoj Malhotra & Smt Nitika Malhotra  
Smt Sonia & Vikas Gupta - **Daughter and Son in Law**  
Smt Monika & Rakesh Gupta - **Daughter and Son in Law**  
**Brother in Laws and Bhabies**  
Smt Sudesh and Sh C.L. Malhotra  
Smt Saroj and Sh. Romesh Malhotra  
Smt Neelam and Sh. Ashok Malhotra  
Smt Jyoti and Sh. Pawan Malhotra  
Smt Ruma and Sh. Satish Malhotra  
Mr Shivam Malhotra  
**Sister and Brother in Law**  
Smt Prem and Sh. Suresh Kohli  
Smt Suran and Sh. Subash Bhasin  
Smt Sunila and Sh. Vinod Bhalha

Smt Neelam and Shashi Kohli -**Bhabhi & Brother**  
Smt Ekta & Sandeep Kohli- **Mama and Mami**  
**Grand Children**  
Kavya, Gourav, Avedh, Rushil, Mayra  
9419139421, 9419235803, 9906378201, 9419195855



**Smt Indu Malhotra**

**UTHALA**

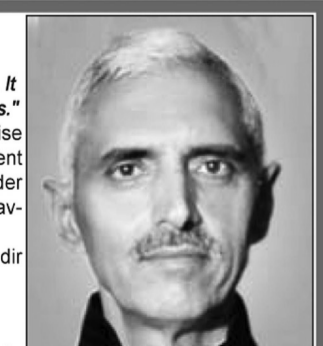
"A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again, it enlightens the path for others."

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma** (Retd. Development Officer. Oriental Insurance) S/o Late Sh. Jagdish Chander Sharma R/o H.No. 91/C, Shastri Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 8-12-2023.

**Uthala** will be performed on 22-12.2023 (Friday) at Ram Mandir Shastri Nagar at 4:00 pm.

**IN REVERENCE AND REMEMBRANCE**

Smt. Anuradha Sharma (**Wife**)  
Sh. Jatin Vashisht & Smt. Akhila Sathe (**Son & Daughter-in-law**)  
Sh. Nitin Vashisht (**Son**)  
Sh. Rakesh Sharma & Smt. Sunita Sharma (**Brother & Bhabi**)  
Sh. Raman Sharma & Smt. Vandana Agarwal (**Brother & Bhabi**)  
Sh. Raghubir Sharma & Smt. Rajni Sharma (**Brother & Bhabi**)  
Smt. Veena Devi & Sh. GL Sadhotra (**Sister & Jija Ji**)  
Smt Shakti Sharma & Sh Vijay Kumar Sharma (**Sister & Jija Ji**)  
Aprajita Vashisht (**Grand Daughter**)  
Contact No: 9419182160, 9622209000, 7006103754



**Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma**

**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 Satya Devi & Sh. Bishamber Dass Sharma (**Parents**)  
Retd. ASP Prisons

Smt Sunita Sharma (**Wife**)

(Tayi Ji & Taya Ji)

Smt Santosh & Sh. Durga Dass Sharma, Retd. SP JK Police

**Bhabhis & Brothers**

Smt Archana & Sh. Sudeshwar Sharma

Smt Manisha & Sh. Rajeshwar Sharma

**Sisters & Brother-in-laws**

Smt Arti & Sh. Rajesh Baskotra

Smt Pooja & Sh. Devinder Sharma

**Son & Daughter:** Ayush & Mahi

**Nephew:** Piyush

**& All Family Members**

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



**BHUVNESHWAR SHARMA (KALU)**  
(MANAGER-EDEN GARDEN BANQUET)

**In-Laws:**

Smt Krishna Devi (**Mother-in-law**)

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

Sh. Omkar Sharma & Smt Shailu Sharma

Sh. Suresh Sharma & Smt Gita Devi

Sh. Romesh Chander Sharma & Smt Gita Devi

Lt. Dilay Ram Sharma & Smt Anita Devi

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

May the lord grant peace to his devine soul.

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Sheela Bhat (**Mother**)

Smt. Rajni Bhat (**Wife**)

Rithik & Harshit (**Sons**)

Smt. & Sh. Hari Krishan

Smt. & Sh. Ashok Kumar

Smt & Sh. Avtar Krishan Bhat

Smt & Sh. Tej Krishan Pandita

Smt & Sh. Rakesh Roshan Koul



**SH. RAVI KUMAR**

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

**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

**OBITUARY & TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Tushar Raina** S/o Lt. Sh. Kiran Raina & Smt. Sunita Raina R/o Patoli Mangotrian Jammu on 17-12-2023.

**TENTH DAY** will be held on 26-12-2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY**

Smt. Sunita Raina- **Mother**

Ms. Mehak Raina- **Sister**

**SAMAST PARIVAR**

**RAINA'S & RAZDAN'S**

**MOB: 7780893485**



**MR. TUSHAR RAINA**  
(MOHIT)  
(2000-2023)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. PRITHVI NATH BANGROO S/O LATE SH. AFTAB RAM BANGROO ON 13TH DEC 2023 AT JAMMU ORIGINALLY R/O RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT 318, BHARAT NAGAR, REHARI COLONY, JAMMU.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**, A SOLEMN OCASSION TO HONOR HIS MEMORY, IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON 22ND OF DEC 2023 AT 09:00 AM AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION, JAMMU.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

SMT. VINOD BANGROO (SON)

SMT. SUMEDHA KAUL & SH. VIJAY KAUL (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)

SWATI, SAKSHI, SHACHI, & SAANVI (GRAND CHILDREN'S)

**BANGROO'S, KAUL'S, RAZDAN'S, PANDITA'S.**

**CONTACT : 9906221644 & 9818567769**



**Sh. Prithvi Nath Bangroo**  
(Papa Ji)

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt Shristha Sharma** W/o Sh. Goverdhan Sharma R/o House No. 210, Sec-1, Lane No. 10, Shivaji Chowk Nanak Nagar Jammu in a tragic road accident at Bari Brahmana on 9-12-2023.

**10th Day** will be performed at (Gorkha Mandir Sec 4) Nanak Nagar on Monday 18-12-2023 at 11 AM.

**11th Day/Kriya** will be performed at our residence on Tuesday 19-12-2023 at 11 am.

**Uthala** will be performed at (Gorkha Mandir Sec 4) Nanak Nagar on Friday 22-12-2023 between 4.00 to 5.00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Goverdhan Sharma -**Husband** (Retd. SRTC Deptt)

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Rahul Dubey & Dr. Rama Prabhakar

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Rohini Dubey & Madhur Sharma

**Grand Children:** Nikunj, Aarya & Manas

**M. No. 9858199230, 9858252000**



**Smt Shristha Sharma**  
(15-08-1961 to 09-12-2023)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD & SUDDEN DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. RATTAN LAL SAHIB** S/O LT. DAMODHAR SAHIB ON 14-12-2023, R/O H.NO. 506, SEC - 2 EXTENSION DURGA NAGAR JAMMU.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT ON 23-12-2023 (SATURDAY) AT 09:30 AM.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY -**

SMT. ASHA JI SAHIB- BHABHI

SMT. CHOTI SAHIB- BHABHI

**SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**

SH. BHARAT BHUSHAN SAHIB & SMT. BHARTI SAHIB

SH. DAYA KRISHAN SAHIB (BROTHER)

SH. KULDEEP SAHIB & SMT. RAJNI SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)

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

SH. SUSIL SAHIB & SMT. SVETLANA SAHIB (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)

**SAMAST PARIVAR**

(SAHIB'S, RAJNA'S, PANDITA'S, BHAT'S & MUNSHI'S)

**CONTACT NUMBER - 600596625, 6006922661, 9419359054**



**SH. RATTAN LAL SAHIB**

**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**)



# LG inaugurates Jammu Kashmir Food Processing & Wellness Conclave in Jammu

**In J&K red tape has been replaced with red carpet for industries: Sinha**

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated Jammu Kashmir Food Processing and Wellness Conclave in Jammu.

On the occasion, J&K SICOP and Apollo Hospital exchanged land deed for setting up of Apollo Hospital in the region.

The Lt Governor welcomed the industry leaders, policymakers and stakeholders from hospitality, wellness & food processing sectors to explore investment opportunities and foster collaboration during the two-day conclave, organized by J&K Trade Promotion Organization.

He said the Exchange of land deed with Apollo Hospital today will pave the way for one of the biggest players in health sector to formally start the ground work in the Union Territory. It will boost healthcare system and enhance opportunities for employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship, he added.

The Lt Governor highlighted the key initiatives of the administration to facilitate industrial growth and transform J&K into fastest growing and most preferred investment destination.

"Jammu Kashmir is on a mission to accelerate all-round development. The captivating meadows, verdant land, serene



lakes, green mountains, the clean environment and eternal scenery offers incredible destinations for all kinds of travelers and attractive opportunity for investors," the Lt Governor said.

He said the two-day conclave is a testimony to the commitment of the UT Administration to showcase the strength and potential of Jammu Kashmir in diverse sectors.

J&K ranks first in the production of Apple, Walnut, Almond and Saffron. It is known as fruit bowl of India. The immense potential in food processing sector will be able to reduce wastage, transform the fortune of fruit growers and become one of the key drivers of economic growth, he added.

"In J&K, red tape has been replaced with red carpet for industries. We are offering

opportunities in various fields of food processing, vegetables, bakery production and nutraceuticals. GI certification will help investors to create global brands and create international standards of food safety and quality," the Lt Governor said.

At the conclave, the Lt Governor also shared the unprecedented growth recorded in tourism sector over the last few years.

He said the UT Administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has placed special emphasis on infrastructural development to stimulate rapid tourism growth and to ensure investors derive maximum benefit from the emerging opportunities in the hospitality sector.

"Tourism sector has been provided industry status to elimi-

nate investment barriers, ensure incentives and facilitate allied business activities. I am confident Jammu Kashmir is poised to emerge as India's major tourist destination," the Lt Governor said.

He said the tourism trend indicates that growth in medical tourism and wellness industry will lead to employment generation, high productivity for the local economy and overall prosperity for the sector.

We offer the best incentives and a supportive environment for the expansion of businesses and industries. J&K is also determined to become number one in Ease of Doing Business. I invite industry leaders to invest in the UT of Jammu Kashmir and contribute to J&K's developmental journey, the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also visited the stalls put up by the entrepreneurs and business organizations.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Head of Departments, senior officials, entrepreneurs and industry stalwarts were present.

# Science Club, Utsaah organizes an interactive talk on Indian Science @ 2047



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Science Club, Utsaah organized an interactive talk under the national banner of Viksit Bharat @2047 by Distinguished Prof. Madan Mohan Chaturvedi, Founder Director of CIC, DU on "Why Should India Follow its own Innovative Strategies for Doing Scientific Research?", detailing how India should go forward to envision Indian Science @ 2047.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof.

Satnam Kour, Chairperson, Utsaah, The clubs, University of Jammu. The event was hosted in Department of Psychology, University of Jammu.

Prof. Chaturvedi in his talk stressed upon the traditional knowledge of India in the field of Biology and emphasized that it can show the path to the world. Indian researchers should have in-depth knowledge of their own roots and confidence to project it to the world with logic and scientific proof.

The highlight of

the program was the exhaustive interaction with Prof. Chaturvedi, students asked and discussed questions about how to reduce the gap between India and rest of the world in Science and Innovation.

Dr Chinmoyee Maharana, Coordinator Science Club organized the event, in her remarks, she explained the need of the hour, why students need to engage and challenge themselves for the innovative ideas to vision Indian Science @2047. The program ended with warm vote of thanks to the guests and participants by the coordinator.

Among the eminent guests were Dr Sadaf Shah, Dr Rakesh Sharma, Dr Aswin, Dr Amarjeet, Dr Dharmender, Dr Karuna Gupta, Dr Lovely Sabarwal and Dr Mridula Bali. The program was highly appreciated and well perceived by the students.

# Aashuutosh of DPS Jammu awarded with 'man of the match', 'man of the series' title in cricket tournament



Aashuutosh made 230 runs in 4 matches and took 5 wickets. He had also received gold medals, Certificate of Merit and Certificate of Achievement.

Earlier too, he was awarded the title of "Best Batsman" and "Man of the series" U-19 Cricket Tournament under his Captaincy.

The Management DPS Jammu, Hon'ble President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director-S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra and staff congratulated Aashuutosh and his parents for the brilliant performance in the event.

They also extended their best wishes to him for all his future endeavours.

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Aashuutosh Mahajan (XI-G), a young cricketer and Sports Captain from Delhi Public School Jammu was awarded the title of 'Man of the Match' and 'Man of the Series' in U-19 Cricket Tournament organized by CSIR-IITM Jammu on its 83rd Foundation Day held from 6-12 December, 2023.

# International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals begins at JU



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: The two-day collaborative international conference on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Post-COVID-19 World: Regional Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Options" organized by Department of Economics in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research, North Western Regional Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh begins today at University of Jammu. In the inaugural function, Prof. Meena Sharma, the Dean Academic Affairs and the Dean Planning and Development, University of Jammu was the Chief Guest, while Prof. A. N. Sadhu, Former, Dean Academic Affairs, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Head and Professor of Economics Department was the Guest of Honour.

The Key Note speech on the topic 'Disasters and Sustainable Development: Evidences from Mountain Economies in India' was delivered by Prof. I. C. Awasthi, Former Professor at Institute for Human Development, New Delhi.

Prof. Awasthi emphasized to integrate SDGs to economic development and need for maintaining environmental sustainability across the fragile mountain areas of India.

Prof. A. N. Sadhu highlighted the need to develop a strong linkage between development and environmental

sustainability, tapping the demographic dividend and talent pool to accelerate innovation and new technologies along with socio-economic transformation to achieve SDGs.

The chief guest of inaugural function, Prof. Meena Sharma emphasized on the relevance of such conferences for academic progress.

Prof. Sunita Devi Sharma, the Head, Department of Economics presented the welcome remarks, the conference convener Prof. Falendra Kumar briefed about the conferences goals, Avni Sablok, Representative of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi highlighted the significance of this collaborative conference and scope for future collaboration with ICWA, Prof. Jasbir Singh, the Conference Coordinator presented the vote of thanks and Dr. Shalu Sehgal conducted the proceedings.

In the subsequent after lunch sessions of the conference, more than twenty well researched papers were presented on topics such as India's Progress in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Optimizing Energy Subsidies, Financial Inclusion Awareness Amongst Youth, Sustainable Development Goal 7 in South Asia, Food and Nutritional Security, Digital Public Infrastructure, Inclusive Digital Governance, Decent Work and Unemployment, Employment Situation in Rural India, Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education, Unlocking Higher Education, Corporate Social Responsibility

Practices and Sustainable Outcomes, Health and Well-Being of the Vulnerable, Leveraging Financial Inclusion, Indigenous Financial Model for Sustainable Banking, Demographic Challenges, Declining Female Employment Standards in India, Sustainable Agriculture, Role of Digital Technology, Better Education for All, and Prospects and Challenges of Regional Cooperation.

The main speakers include Dr. Kanchan Datta, Dr. Om Raj Katoch, Avni Sablok, Dr. Roopam Agarwal, Prof. Dalip Kumar, Dr. Balwant Mehta, Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Dr. Ravita, Dr. Sunita Bishnoi, Prof. Suparan K Sharma, Prof. Aswini Kumar Nanda, Prof. Vani Kamath, Dr. Vishal, Prof. Jasdeep Singh Toor, Dr. Monika Gupta, Dr. Bhawana Sharma, and Dr. Juhi Kohli among others.

More than 100 participants across the states and union territories of India such as Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jammu & Kashmir, and Chandigarh were gathered for brain storming sessions on the various conference themes.

The faculty members and research scholars of the Department of Economics were also present. The outcomes of the conference is planned to be disseminated through edited volume(s) from reputed international publisher.

# Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 37 bovine rescued at Katra



## Top News Report

REASI, Dec 21: Continuing special drive against the bovine smuggler, Reasi police foiled bovine smuggling at Katra.

During Naka checking at PCP Nomain, one vehicle bearing registration no JK02CX-9382 driven by driver namely Mohd Khalid, son of Mohd Dawood, resident of Bhaga Tehsil and District Reasi was intercepted for checking and found 37 bovine animal, which were being trans-

ported illegally without DM permission.

In this cognizance taken and FIR Registered as Case FIR No. 385/2023 under Section 188/IPC 11PC Act, 2/3 PDPP Act at PS Katra, Vehicle seized and investigation started.

The whole operation was led by SHO Katra. Pertinently Reasi Police under the supervision SSP Reasi established zero tolerance towards bovines smuggling and is committed to eradicate the menace of bovine smuggling from the district.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 283 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:- 18-12-2023 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds				
<b>Under SBM</b>													
1	Construction of CSC Nr. Masjid Batwari W.No.1 Pyl. Kamara Block Poonch Under SBM Year 2023-24 3rd call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.00	200	6000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 26-12-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded				
2	Construction of CSC Nr. Masjid Moh. Jabri Bhainch Pyl. Bhainch Block Poonch Under SBM Year 2023-24 5th call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
3	Construction of CSC Near PS Khait Narian W.No.08 Markote Panchayat Brachar Block Loran Under SBM Year 2023-24 5th call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
4	Construction of CSC Near Eidgah Bair Pyl. Fazalabad Bhair Block Buffiaz Under SBM Year 2023-24 3rd call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
<b>Under UT Capex Budget</b>													
5	Construction of Amrit Sarvar at Kayala Danna Tantraygam Pyl. Tantraygam Block Loran Under UT Capex Budget Year 2023-24 5th call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
6	Construction of Amrit Sarovar at Bleda W.No.4 Pyl. Chikhtnban Block Loran Under UT Capex Budget Year 2023-24 5th call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
7	Construction of Amrit Sarovar at W.No. 3 Nr. Mohd Yousaf Pyl. Mangrar Upper Block Poonch Under UT Capex Budget Year 2023-24 5th call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
8	Construction of Amrit Sarovar W.No. 3 at Gai Pyl. Gai Block Mendhar Under UT Capex Budget Year 2023-24 5th call		1.00	200	2000	30 days							
9	Construction of Amrit Sarovar W. No. 03 Araka Pyl. Sanai Middle Block Surankote Under UT Capex Budget Year 2023-24 5th call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
<b>Under PMAAGY</b>													
10	Drain W.No. 03 Near Zia Ud Din and others Pyl. Kalai Block Lassana Under PMAAGY Year 2023-24 5th call	1.50	200	3000	30 days								
<b>Under PRI Grant</b>													
11	Toilet Complex Nr. Masjid W.No. 03 Pyl. Kotan Kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Year 2023-24 6 <sup>th</sup> call	1.80	200	3600	30 days								

<b>Under DDC Grant</b>									
12	Water Tank Near Imran Pyl. Gohlad Mustafa Nagar Lower Block Mendhar Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24 6th call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	1.00	200	2000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 26-12-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
<b>Under 0896-Infrastructure for Welfare of Tribals</b>									
13	Construction of Path-Cum-Drain at Government Middle School to Khul Dakhan W. No. 07 Nr. Lio Ateeq S/o Mohd Rafiq Panchayat Chandak Block NSSB Under 0896-Infrastructure for Welfare of Tribals Year 2023-24 5 <sup>th</sup> call	2.50	200	5000	30 days				

**NOTE:** The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No. 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

1. **The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.**

2. Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc. if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

**NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process**

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-12-2023.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-12-2023 to 23-12-2023, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-12-2023 from 1800 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	23-12-2023 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	24-12-2023 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (if only successful technical bidder)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

2. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. **No-XEN/REW/P/4174-87**

Dated:-18-12-2023

DIP/J-12903/23

Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing  
Poonch



## EDITORIAL

## AVOID CRIMINAL POLITICIANS

Indian politics is the functioning of many parties. We have different cultural and social structures. Religions often rule our social and cultural activities. People fill themselves with the opium of religion and that in the name of religion.

The wise politicians of the seventies and eighties used religion for their own benefit and thus the storm of religion turned violently into political form and today the separation is that our political method is working exclusively in a religious, mechanical system.

In the eyes of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, politics is a powerful medium of service and public welfare. He used to say that those who want to give something to the society or want to sacrifice themselves for the society or the nation, only those with pure character should enter politics, but today all these words of Gandhiji have been buried. The Election Commission has also expressed its concern to curb the entry of people with criminal background in politics. According to the guidelines of the Commission, a convicted person is ineligible to contest elections, but the burning question in this sequence is that in our country it takes years for any criminal case to be proven, then somewhere the court gives its decision.

Casteism cannot be separated from Indian political events. Of Indian religion. Not completely prepared for politics. Whereas in a period of fifty years this situation It is possible to change because the public is gradually becoming literate, aware and prosperous.

According to the guidelines of the Commission, a convicted person is ineligible to contest elections. But the burning question in this sequence is that in our country it takes years for any criminal case to be proven, even then the courts are able to give their verdict. Political parties should take initiative in solving this problem.

Political parties should take initiative in solving this problem. If all political parties decide that they will not give election tickets to people with criminal background, then this problem can be easily solved. Similarly, the public should also not vote for people with criminal background in elections.

If all political parties decide that they should not give election tickets to people with criminal background, then this problem can be easily solved. Similarly, the public should also not vote for people with criminal background in elections.

## The Impact of Artificial intelligence on Society

By: Vijay GarG

The future of AI is a rapidly changing landscape, that's because the present innovations in the field of artificial intelligence are accelerating at such a blazing-fast pace that it's tough to keep up.

Indeed, artificial intelligence is shaping the future of humanity across nearly every industry. It is already the main driver of emerging technologies like big data, robotics and to mention generative AI, with tools like ChatGPT and AI art generators garnering mainstream attention — and it will continue to act as a technological innovator for the foreseeable future.

The Evolution of Artificial intelligence

AI's influence on technology is due in part because of how it impacts computing. Through AI, computers have the ability to harness massive amounts of data and use their learned intelligence to make optimal decisions and discoveries in fractions of the time that it would take humans.

Since then, AI has been used to help sequence RNA for vaccines and model human speech, technologies that rely on model-and algorithm-based machine learning and increasingly focus on perception, reasoning and generalization. With innovations like these, AI has re-taken center stage like never before — and it won't cede the spotlight anytime soon.

What Industries Will AI Change?

There's virtually no major industry that modern AI —

more specifically, "narrow AI," which performs objective functions using data-trained models and often falls into the categories of deep learning or machine learning — hasn't already affected. That's especially true in the past few years, as data collection and analysis has ramped up considerably thanks to robust IoT connectivity, the proliferation of connected devices and ever-speedier computer processing.

With companies spending billions of dollars on AI products and services annually, tech giants like Google, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon spending billions to create those products and services, universities making AI a more prominent part of their curricula and the U.S. Department of Defense upping its AI game, big things are bound to happen.

"Lots of industries go through this pattern of winter, winter, and then an eternal spring," former Google Brain leader and Baidu chief scientist Andrew Ng told ZDNet. "We may be in the eternal spring of AI."

Artificial intelligence in TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is one industry that is certainly teed up to be drastically changed by AI. Self-driving cars and AI travel planners are just a couple of facets of how we get from point A to point B that will be influenced by AI. Even though autonomous vehicles are far from perfect, they will one day ferry us from place to place.

Artificial intelligence in MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing has been benefiting from AI for years. With

AI-enabled robotic arms and other manufacturing bots dating back to the 1960s and 1970s, the industry has adapted well to the powers of AI. These industrial robots typically work alongside humans to perform a limited range of tasks like assembly and stacking, and predictive analysis sensors keep equipment running smoothly.

Artificial intelligence in HEALTHCARE

It may seem unlikely, but AI healthcare is already changing the way humans interact with medical providers. Thanks to its big data analysis capabilities, AI helps identify diseases more quickly and accurately, speed up and streamline drug discovery and even monitor patients through virtual nursing assistants.

Artificial intelligence in EDUCATION

AI in education will change the way humans of all ages learn. AI's use of machine learning, natural language processing and facial recognition help digitize textbooks, detect plagiarism and gauge the emotions of students to help determine who's struggling or bored. Both presently and in the future, AI tailors the experience of learning to student's individual needs.

Artificial intelligence in MEDIA

Journalism is harnessing AI too, and will continue to benefit from it. One example can be seen in The Associated Press' use of Automated Insights, which produces thousands of earning reports stories per year. But as generative AI writing tools, such as ChatGPT, enter the market,

questions about their use in journalism abound.

Artificial intelligence in CUSTOMER SERVICE

Most people dread getting a robo-call, but AI in customer service can provide the industry with data-driven tools that bring meaningful insights to both the customer and the provider. AI tools powering the customer service industry come in the form of chatbots and virtual assistants.

The Impact of AI on Society HOW AI WILL CHANGE WORK

During a lecture at Northwestern University, AI expert Kai-Fu Lee championed AI technology and its forthcoming impact while also noting its side effects and limitations. Of the former, he warned:

"The bottom 90 percent, especially the bottom 50 percent of the world in terms of income or education, will be badly hurt with job displacement ... The simple question to ask is, 'How routine is a job?' And that is how likely [it is] a job will be replaced by AI, because AI can, within the routine task, learn to optimize itself. And the more quantitative, the more objective the job is — separating things into bins, washing dishes, picking fruits and answering customer service calls — those are very much scripted tasks that are repetitive and routine in nature. In the matter of five, 10 or 15 years, they will be displaced by AI."

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

## New Rajasthan CM hits the ground running

By: Dilip Cherian

In a notable display of urgency, newly appointed Rajasthan chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma wasted no time in making his mark on the administration. Even as he is consulting the Centre on the composition of his cabinet, within hours of assuming office he announced the selection of three seasoned IAS officers for crucial roles in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Though it is pointed out that this is a temporary arrangement, T. Ravikanth was appointed as the principal secretary to the chief minister, succeeding Kuldeep Ranka who served ex-chief minister Ashok Gehlot. Adding further depth to Mr Sharma's team, Ms Anandhi, an IAS officer of the 2007 batch, assumed the role of Secretary to the CM, while Dr Saumya Jha of the 2017 batch joined as joint secretary to the CM, to inject fresh perspectives and youthful dynamism.

Such prompt actions, observers note, not only set the tone for Mr Sharma's leadership but also underscore the urgency with which he aims to address key issues facing Rajasthan, as much as his desire to distance his government from the previous Congress government

under Mr Gehlot. Still, these are early days of the administration and among Sharma's tasks will also be to show that despite his rookie status within the BJP, he has what it takes to do a good job.

Security breach fallout: Time for a swift overhaul

The recent security lapse at the Parliament has highlighted the inherent risks associated with prolonged vacancies in critical positions, emphasizing the urgent need for a reevaluation of our approach to national security. This most significant breach since the 2001 terror attack, has prompted a reassessment of key affairs, particularly the management of personnel at the highest echelons.

One glaring issue lies in the extended absence of a full-time joint secretary to head the Parliament security service. Currently filled by Brijesh Singh, a director-level officer, the executive director (security) position at the Parliament has been vacant for too long.

In the aftermath of the security breach, there was a presumption among officers across services that the executive director (security) would be promptly replaced. However, it was discovered that the vacancy had persisted since mid-November, following the departure of Raghubir

Lal, a 1997-batch IPS offer to Uttar Pradesh as ADG (security) after completing an extended one-year tenure.

Further, the incident has woken up the government to the precarious situation of key central armed police forces like the CRPF and CISF, which have been operating under ad hoc arrangements for months. Notably, the post of CRPF Director General has been ad hoc managed by ITBP DG Anish Dayal Singh since the beginning of this month, replacing Dr Sujoy Lal Thakur. Similarly, the DG CISF post has been filled by IPS officer Neena Singh in an ad hoc arrangement, since the retirement of Sheel Vardhan Singh in August.

Prolonged vacancies in such critical roles pose a direct threat to national security and demand swift action.

UP chief secy's next move remains a mystery

With the appointment of three new faces as chief ministers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the Modi Sarkar, once again, revealed its penchant for unpredictability. The attention has now shifted to the intensifying politicking in Uttar Pradesh, where some punters are predicting a similar upheaval. However, among UP babu circles the big question is whether chief sec-

retary Durga Shanker Mishra will get another extension of service.

Mr Mishra's trajectory follows a unique and unprecedented path. Originally the Union Secretary for Urban Affairs, he became chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh in December 2021. A growing consensus suggests that Mr Mishra's tenure may extend beyond this month, marking his third successive extension. But, unlike previous extensions, this one might be limited to six months.

If Mishra indeed secures another extension, sources claim that political rivals are expected to resort to legal challenges, as seen recently in similar cases like that of ED chief S.K. Mishra and Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar. However, the Centre has successfully navigated such challenges in the past.

Another school of thought suggests that after December 31, Mishra may wade into politics and potentially contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from UP. This however seems like a remote possibility given the Centre's likely reluctance to release him before achieving its Mission 2024. Mr Mishra is unlikely to defy the decisions of the Centre.



## JKBS urges 'Padamshri' for Legendary Punjabi Singer Lal Chand Yamla

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Paying tribute to Legendary Punjabi Singer and his soulful renditions on his 32nd death anniversary yesterday, the members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha said, "In a world which is now being ruled by electronic dance music and remixes of various songs, the legacy of Lal Chand Yamla still remains alive."

JKBS General Secretary R.L. Kaith said,

"Born in a Chanjotra family of Batwal community at Chakk no. 384 in Lyallpur District of Pakistan and after the partition of India in 1947, Lal Chand Yamla relocated to Jawahar Nagar Camp, Ludhiana. He was trained in vocal singing by Pandit Dyal Ji and Chaudhry Majid and his writing skills were honoured by Sundar Das Aasi. During his career, he released 11 albums many of which produced some of the



best-loved songs of his generation. He also popularized singing of Dulla Bhatti, Shahni Kaulan and Puran Bhagat. His first recording was with HMV in 1952 and till last

he remained with HMV. He performed all over the world and many a times performed with the late great Alam Lohar. They were also good friends. He also popularized Tumbi, a traditional North Indian instrument. Much of his music has been sampled by Panjabi MC. He was awarded Gold Medal by the then Indian Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 and a lifetime contribution award in 1989 by National Academy

of Dance, Drama and Music, Delhi. Though he is not among us today but would always be remembered for his tuneful melodies which are known to millions globally."

Members once again urged the Government of India to award 'Padamshri' to Lal Chand Yamla posthumously in recognition of his contribution to Punjabi Music. They said, it will bring great joy to the hearts of millions of his fans in India and abroad.

## GDC Marh commemorates 'Dogri Manata Divas'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Department of Dogri, Government Degree College Marh on Thursday organized a Poster Making Competition on the topic "Historical & Religious Places of Jammu" with the aim of popularizing Dogri Language among young students.

The contest was organized in connection with the celebration of 'Dogri Manata Divas' a day to commemorate inclusion of Dogri language in the 8th

Schedule of Indian Constitution and the new heights achieved by the language after 20 years. The College Principal, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul inspired the hosting of the event.

A good number of students from Sem1st, 3rd and 5th participated in the contest. The participants were Simran Devi, Pallvi Devi, Sweety Kaith, Babita Devi, Monika Devi, Vanshika Bhagat, Sohani Choudhary and Sanjana Bhagat. The event was judged by Prof. Anita Kumari, HOD English and Dr.

Ashu Jolly, HOD Education and Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat HOD Pol. Science.

Sweety Kaith Secured 1st position, Suhani Choudhary secured 2nd position, Sanjana Bhagat secured 3rd position, Simran Devi secured 4th position, Pallvi Devi secured 5th position, Babita Devi secured 6th position, Vanshika Bhagat secured 7th position and Monika Devi secured 8th position respectively. The students with high scores in the competition were awarded certificates.

Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal of the college interacted with the students & appreciated the efforts of the department and encouraged them to organize more events in the future also. The whole event was organized by Dr. Sheetal Sharma, HOD Dogri.

## Block Diwas meeting addresses numerous Community Grievances at Chingam

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 21: A mega weekly Block Diwas outreach program was held in Chingam area to address the public issues, the other day.

The pivotal grievance redressal program was presided over by SDM Chatroo, Shokat Hayat Mattoo, who lent an attentive ear to the array of issues presented by the locals. Several grievances were resolved on the spot, while others were duly recorded for subsequent deliberation with the concerned authorities.

Sarpanch Chingam A Akhtar Hussain and Sarpanch Chingam B Om Prakash played host to a gathering aimed at redressing various grievances.

At Chingam A, the presence of esteemed members such as Ab Rehman, Bashir Ahmed, and Mohd Akbar alongside PRIs provided a platform for constructive deliberations. Simultaneously, Chingam B saw the participation of Krishan Lal, Noor Din, Sanjay, and the local populace, fostering a comprehensive discussion on pertinent issues concern-

ing both Panchayats.

Key concerns brought to the forefront encompassed matters related to Bonda road boulder clearance, provision of power connections to left out households in Bonda and Janseer, clearance of impediments in the water supply scheme at Janseer, electricity discrepancies at Bonda, urgent replacements of wooden poles at Shangam and Bungam, the imperative need for a 25 kV transformer at Upper Shanpora, infrastructural deficiencies at High School Chingam, network connectivity at Khawra, road surveys at Khawra, and Dangar Nallah road repairs, among several others.

The people further benefited from the presence and contributions of Tehsildar Chatroo, Suman Ji, BDO Inderwal Hitesh Luna, representatives from NHIDCL, and other sectoral officers.

The Block Diwas stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts aimed at fostering development and addressing community concerns, reflecting a concerted commitment towards a brighter future for Chingam and its surrounding areas.

## SMVDU student presents paper in Indian Geotechnical Conference



### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 21: Abhivik Singh, a final year student of the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented a technical paper at Indian Geotechnical Conference, 2023.

IGC 2023, which was organised by Indian Geotechnical Society, Roorkee Chapter, is the annual national flagship event of Indian Geotechnical Society.

Abhivik Singh worked under the guidance of Srijan (Assistant Professor, SoCE) and Gautam Narula (Assistant Professor, SoCE) to prepare the paper titled 'Behavioural Study of Reinforced Soft Soil Bed Supporting

Embankment: Numerical Analysis'.

The presented paper stands a chance of getting published in Lecture Notes of Civil Engineering which is a Springer based publication and also Scopus Indexed.

This achievement reflects their dedication and the quality of their research, and it serves as a testament to the rigorous academic standards and opportunities provided by the School of Civil Engineering at SMVDU. The School of Civil Engineering at SMVDU continues to nurture and encourage its students to excel in their chosen fields, fostering an atmosphere of innovation and academic growth.

The successful participation of Abhivik Singh at the IGC 2023 is a remarkable milestone in their academic journey, setting an example for future students and highlighting the university's commitment to fostering research and scholarly endeavours.

## GDC Kathua celebrates Dogri Manyata Diwas



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 21: Department of Dogri, Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua celebrated Dogri Manyata Diwas with great favour and enthusiasm.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the college.

The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Dogri language. Dr. Pritima Sangra, Dept.

of Dogri, conducted the proceeding of the programme whereas, Prof. Meena Devi, Head, Department of Dogri delivered a lecture on the importance and relevance of Dogri language and literature.

She emphasized the importance of preserving Dogra heritage. The event featured Dogri songs, poetry recitations and cultural performances.

Students namely Priti,

Tripta Sharma, Vansh Sharma performed various activities on the occasion.

A Dogri Ghazal sung by Dr. Pritima Sangra. Dr. Yash Pal Sharma (HoD Urdu) also addressed to the students and discussed with them the importance of local culture, language and rituals.

Principal, Prof. Seema Mir appreciated the effort of dogri department and congratulated the students.

The event was graced by Dr. R.K Pandita, Dr. Ram Singh, Prof. Ravinder Kour, Prof. Rupinder Kour, Prof. Shivani Sharma, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Sunil Dutt, Dr. Jagmohan Sharma and various other faculty members and large number of students.

## CTF urges Cultural Preservation: Local Languages in Focus

### Top News Report

DODA, Dec 21: In response to the recent statement by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha emphasizing the role of the education system in strengthening culture and ethos, the Chenab Times Foundation (CTF), a registered trust dedicated to art, culture, and addressing public grievances, has highlighted the urgent need for preserving local languages and cultures in the erstwhile Doda region.

The president of CTF, Anzer Ayooob, commended the government's efforts in cultural programs but expressed concerns about the impact of non-local influences on the rich heritage of the Chenab region. Ayooob stated, "While the existing cultural initiatives by the

government are commendable, the amalgamation of non-local cultures with the unique identity of the Chenab region has led to a dilution of our rich cultural tapestry."

Ayooob further emphasized the importance of integrating local languages into the education system to ensure the preservation of cultural diversity.

"We believe that additional classes should be introduced where students are encouraged to engage in activities using their mother tongues. In the erstwhile Doda region, languages like Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Pogli, and Kashmiri are integral to our cultural identity, and fostering them within educational settings is crucial," he asserted.

The CTF president called for a collabora-

tion between educational institutions and cultural organizations to implement measures that not only promote linguistic diversity but also instill a sense of pride in the region's unique cultural heritage. "By incorporating activities that celebrate our linguistic diversity, we can empower the youth to become true ambassadors of a culturally vibrant and progressive Chenab region," Ayooob added.

As the conversation around preserving cultural heritage gains momentum, the Chenab Times Foundation aims to contribute actively to this cause by engaging with local communities, educational institutions, and authorities to develop initiatives that safeguard and promote the distinct languages and cultures of the Chenab region.

## Kathua Campus organizes seminar on "Transformative IT Solutions: Empowering Viksit Bharat"

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 21: Department of Computer Science & IT, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu (JU) organized a thought-provoking seminar focusing on Transformative IT Solutions: Empowering Viksit Bharat under the aegis of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The seminar witnessed active participation from the students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kathua who passionately articulated their perspectives on how Information Technology can contribute to the vision of a developed India.

The presentations of students touched upon crucial aspects such as digital literacy, technological innovations, and the integration of IT in various sectors to foster the nation's growth.

Acknowledging the exemplary performances, Samridhhi Kapoor, Rubby Janotra and Ridhi Kapoor were honored with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes respectively.

The enthusiastic participation reflects their dedication, exploration, and understanding of the role of IT in empowering Viksit Bharat. The event encapsulated the essence of collaboration, innovation, and the collective aspiration for a technologically advanced India.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu in his message commended the organizers for orchestrating such an insightful seminar. He highlighted the significance of comprehending the vision and mission behind Viksit Bharat, emphasizing the pivotal role that Information Technology plays in driving this vision forward. He stressed the importance of empowering the younger generation with IT knowledge to become active contributors to the country's development.

Prof. Jasrotia further emphasized that the seminar is an innovative platform for students to showcase their insights,

ideas, and understanding of leveraging IT to propel India towards becoming a developed nation.

He asked the faculty to guide and encourage students to come up with new ideas and innovations which fall in line with the said vision of our nation.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Head, Computer Science explained the concept of Viksit Bharat and the role students have to play to transform India into a developed country by 2047. He further added that Kathua Campus remains committed to fostering such enriching discussions and initiatives that empower and inspire the youth, aligning with the overarching vision of a progressive and developed India.

Dr. Sunny Sharma, Ritika Goyal and Pranav Ratta gave detailed presentations highlighting the role of IT in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat and also advised the students to share their ideas for Viksit Bharat@2047 on myGov portal.

## Cleanliness drive organised by NSS unit of GDC Kathua



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 21: A cleanliness drive was organised by NSS unit, GDC Kathua under the banner of Viksit Bharat campaign-2023.

Large number of volunteers took part in the drive with great enthusiasm.

The whole event was organised under the guidance of Principal of

the college, Prof Seema Mir.

The drive started from the college main gate and culminated at sports ground of GDC Kathua.

Volunteers collected plastic and polythene waste from the entire college and disposed off at proper place. Volunteers also interacted with the students and appealed them to avoid

Single Use Plastic and Polythene.

They also appealed them to promote this campaign in your respective localities also.

This activity was organised to promote the campaign of Swachh Bharat Mission under Viksit Bharat Programme.

The event was organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by NSS Program officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Dr Kulbir Singh and Prof Shivani Sharma.

The Principal of the college appreciated the efforts put forth by the volunteers in making the college clean and green.

## Slow pace of work delays completion of vital bridge in Oriel Kund in Kulgam, residents suffer

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 21: Even after the lapse of three years, a vital bridge in the Oriel village area of Kund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district is awaiting completion, due to which locals are suffering.

Locals told Voice of India (VOI) that the work on this vital bridge was started three year ago. Since then, we have been facing hardships as the authorities have failed to complete its construction, they said. The locals said the



work on the bridge should be speeded up and completed at the earliest, they said, adding that they have knocked on the doors of every authority but received only assurances.

Adil Hussain Bhat, a

resident of Oriel Kund said that the area is facing problems, especially students and patients as the administration has ignored the importance of this bridge.

"The slow pace of the work and dilapidated

condition of the road itself speaks of the incompetence of the authorities," he said.

They have appealed the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and concerned Executive Engineer to intervene

so that the work is complete and bridge can be used for travel.

When contacted Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of R&B Sub Division Devser kulgam, Rayees Ahmad acknowledged that the "Project was under R&B division Qazigund now due to the change of division the project falls our R&B division Kulgam, adding that we will take up the matter with the concerned contractor and issue will be sorted out soon", he said.



## 'Dunki' release: 'No 1', say fans, come out with tears after watching movie; Vicky Kaushal is a treat to watch

Fans have desperately been waiting for the release of Rajkumar Hirani's film 'Dunki'.

As the movie released on Friday, massive crowds gathered outside Mumbai's iconic single-screen theatre, Gaiety Galaxy, to watch the film's first show at 5.55 am.

Many got emotional after watching the movie.

"We have been preparing for this day for months. We are here from 2 am. We all are really excited for the film."

Another fan said, "It's Shah Rukh Khan's film. Who will not come to see his film? After waking up early in the morning, people might not come to watch other stars'



movies but for Shah Rukh Khan's film, for sure. The sky is the limit for 'Dunki's excitement. We have been waiting for SRK and Rajkumar Hirani's film for so long and finally, it's here."

'Dunki' also stars Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal and Boman

Irani. Dunki has been co-written by Abhijat Joshi, Rajkumar Hirani, and Kanika Dhillon. It is a heartwarming tale of four friends Manu, Sukhi, Buggu and Balli who dream of settling down in London for a better life but have to

take undertake an arduous yet life-changing journey to reach their goal.

At one of the events in Dubai, SRK described 'Dunki' as his best film.

"When I made 'Jawan', I thought I made a film for boys and girls but I didn't make anything

for myself, then I made Dunki. So this is my film. This film is very close to my heart. When I was doing 'Pathaan', many people who write about films, those who apparently know about films more than the filmmakers, were saying what kind of roles I was doing, so I really felt that I should do films that come from my heart and this includes all the films that I did this year. I started the year with 'Pathaan', which was always ladies first, and I want to end the year with a film for myself. So, please watch 'Dunki' on December 21. Everyone will find something in the film that will touch their heart. The film will also make you laugh," he said.

## Trailer of Hollywood star Nicole Kidman's series Expats unveiled



The trailer of Nicole Kidman-starrer Expats has been unveiled. Directed by Lulu Wang, Expats also stars Sarayu Blue and Ji-young Yoo. Based on Janice Y K Lee's 2016 novel The Expatriates, the six-episode limited series follows an international community

in Hong Kong whose lives are bound together forever, following a sudden family tragedy.

In the series, Kidman portrays Margaret, a woman who has moved her whole family to Hong Kong. Blue plays a career-driven woman, Hilary, whose friendship with Margaret is fractured by fate. Yoo stars as Mercy, a carefree New Yorker just out of college, who becomes entangled in the lives of the Hong Kong expat community. On Tuesday, the makers unveiled the series' trailer. Additionally, Jack Huston will portray David, Hilary's husband, while Brian Tee will play Clarke, Margaret's husband.

Expats marks Wang's first TV project. She is best known for her 2019 film The Farewell. Wang also serves as showrunner and writer. The executive producers include Kidman, Alice Bell, Melanie Marnich, Daniele Melia, Per Saari, Stan Wlodkowski and Theresa Park. Lee is also producing the adaptation. Expats will debut on Prime Video on January 26, 2024.

## 'Barbie' director Greta Gerwig, Noah Baumbach marry after 12 years of dating

After a terrific run at the global box-office with her directorial Barbie, Greta Gerwig has now begun a new chapter in her life. Greta and her long-time partner, Noah Baumbach, are married. A source said that the two got married in New York City Hall. The couple first met while filming the 2010 movie Greenberg and began their romantic relationship in 2011.

The news comes after a busy year for the couple, who co-wrote the Barbie screenplay and announced that they quietly welcomed a second son in an interview in July. The new addition joined the couple's first baby together, son Harold Ralph Gerwig Baumbach, whom they welcomed in March 2019. That December, Noah, 54, spoke about why he enjoyed working alongside his now wife.

"I think the pleasure of writing for us is that it seeps into everything. I'd show her a cut of my movie, and then a few months later, I'm watching her movie. I don't want to sound sickeningly happy, but it's a truly great thing to watch



someone you love make something and love the thing they make. I don't know how else to say it without saying a lot," he said.

In 2020, the two had the honour of being nominated for Oscars in the same year. While Noah was nominated for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay for Marriage Story, Greta was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay for Little Women.

## Pallavi Prashanth lands in jail 4 days after winning Big Boss Telugu; know why

Four days after winning Big Boss Telugu Season 7, Pallavi Prashanth has landed in jail for the violent incidents that took place outside Annapurna Studio in Hyderabad on the night of December 17.

Prashanth, a YouTuber, and his brother Mahaveer were produced before a magistrate on Wednesday night. Both were remanded to judicial custody. They were subsequently shifted to Chanchalguda Jail.

Jubilee Hills Police arrested the two from their native village in Siddipet district on Wednesday night in connection with the case filed against them for disturbing peace.

After the reality show



host and actor Nagarjuna declared Prashanth as the winner, fans of the finalists went on rampage outside the studio, where the show was being held.

Fans of the two final-

ists raised slogans and clashed. They also damaged vehicles that were leaving the studio, including that of the participants. They also damaged six buses of Telangana State Road

Transport Corporation (TSRTC), a police vehicle and private vehicles. Runner-up Amardeep Chowdary's car was also damaged in the incident. He escaped unhurt. Vehicles of other contestants Geethu Royal and Ashwini Sri were also vandalised. Police had to use force to bring the situation under control.

TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar had condemned the attack on buses and termed it an attack on society. The TSRTC officials had also lodged a complaint with the police.

Jubilee Hills Police had registered a case against Pallavi Prashanth, Mahaveer and others for causing nuisance and rioting under the Sections 147, 148, 290,

353, 427 of the IPC and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Prashanth and his brother were arrested from their house in Kolguri village in Gajwel mandal of Siddipet district.

They were brought to Hyderabad on Wednesday night and after a medical examination were produced before a magistrate.

Prashanth, son of a farmer, is a popular YouTuber with over a million subscribers. His popularity grew further with Big Boss. He won the contest, defeating television actor Amardeep Chowdary.

Popular as Raithu Bidda, Prashanth won a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 35 lakh.

## Big Boss 17: Ankita Lokhande hid her break-up with Sushant Singh Rajput for 2 years

In the latest episode of 'Big Boss 17', actress Ankita Lokhande got very emotional and revealed that she hid her break-up with late star Sushant Singh Rajput for two years thinking that he will come back someday.

Ankita, who started dating Sushant on the sets of their show 'Pavitra Rishta', said that she kept her break up a secret as she didn't tell anyone about it for two years.

"Bahut baar banda batata nahi hai break-up ke baare main kyunki ussko lagta hai ki shayad wapas relationship thik hojaye. Ek hope rehti hai yaar. For two years, I didn't want anyone to know about my breakup," she was heard talking to Isha Malviya in the kitchen area.

She shared that she was always hopeful that Sushant



would come back to her. "I had hopes of Sushant returning as our relationship was of seven years. I had hoped he would return home and hence I didn't tell anyone. I was staying

in a home which had photos of us all over," Ankita added. The actress then shared that her husband Vicky Jain was massively trolled, when they started dating.

She said, "Phir later when I got into a relationship with Vicky toh everyone trolled him badly but ussne mera bahut sath diya, itna koi deta nahi hai."

Isha shared, "Main samajh sakti hu, when I dated Abhishek, I didn't accept about our relationship in a single interview because of the same reasons. It gets bad with time."

Ankita replied, "I can understand but I had hopes of Sushant returning back as our relationship was of 7 years. I had hoped he would return home and hence I didn't tell anyone. I was staying in a home which had photos of us all over. When I met Vicky I didn't know what it will lead to but he supported me a lot."

Ankita gave the entire credit to Vicky that because of him she could come out of the situation.

## Krista Allen talks about her exit from The Bold and the Beautiful at the 50th Daytime Emmy Awards



The Final Destination star Krista Allen opened up about her exit from TV soap opera The Bold and the Beautiful while attending the 50th Daytime Emmy Awards. The 52-year-old actress, who played Dr Taylor Hayes on the daytime drama for two years, opened up on how she felt about her departure from the show. "I have no idea what's going on," Allen told. However, she stated that she had known 'for a long time' that she would be leaving the show, but CBS 'just never announced it'. "The contract was dropped, which is so crazy," the actress said of her exit.

Allen, who was nominated for Best Supporting Actress in a Daytime Drama Series at the Daytime Emmy Awards, said it was difficult to receive the award and then learn she wouldn't be returning. Allen was informed in October that her contract with the show would not be renewed. Her most recent episode aired on November 8.

## Saqib Saleem joins Team Citadel

Netizens are full of excitement over Saqib Saleem's confirmed participation in the highly awaited second instalment of the acclaimed Citadel series.

The actor heightened the thrill by personally confirming the news, reposting a story on his Instagram.

This revelation has ignited a wave of curiosity and speculation among fans eager to witness Saqib's contribution to the next chapter of the Citadel series.

Known for his dynamic performances in 83 and Rangbaaz, Saqib has been a favourite among audiences.



## Humorously Yours — Get ready to laugh again

ZEE5 recently unveiled the trailer of the third season of its original series and a TVF creation, Humorously Yours. After its successful debut in 2016, the makers returned with Season 2 in 2019 and now after a long wait, Humorously Yours is back with Season 3.

Directed by Anant Singh Bhaatu, this season stars Vipul Goyal, Rasika Duggal and Abhishek Banerjee in leading roles and will premiere on December 22.

Vipul Goyal says, "As we gear up for the rollercoaster ride that is Season 3, I'm excited for the viewers to dive back



into the madness and laughter. The love and support from the audience have been my driving force, and with each season, we aim to ramp up the fun, connect with the viewers, and create moments that resonate with everyone. Get ready for more laughter, more heart, and a whole new chapter of Humorously Yours coming your way!"

Rasika Dugal says, "It was so much fun to slip into Kavya's shoes once again. Playing Kavya has been a joyous ride and a welcome change from the emotional intensity of the other work I was doing at the time. Vipul is a super stand-

up comic. Many of his videos kept me laughing during the lockdown days. It's always fun to share screen space with him. This season has a lot of fun cameos too."

Abhishek Banerjee says, "It is always fun collaborating with TVF. My journey with Humorously Yours started in 2016 and seven years later, we are back with Season 3.

This season, we got a chance to work alongside some of the best comedians like Johnny Lever, Bassi and Harsh Gujral and we are sure that the viewers will enjoy another season of this slice of life comedy-drama."



## Any talk of changing Constitution is meaningless, PM Modi says in a rare interview

*Says our nation is on the cusp of take-off*

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that "any talk of amending the Constitution is meaningless" and maintained that ties with the US were on an upward trajectory despite US federal prosecutors alleging an Indian link in a plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil.

"Regarding the best words to describe this relationship, I leave it to you. Today, the India-US relationship is broader in engagement, deeper in understanding, warmer in friendship than ever before," he said.

On the Hamas-Israel conflict, the PM said he was in touch with the leaders in the region and said India is willing to do everything to take forward efforts towards peace.

The PM sidestepped a question on the recent relaxation of US-China tensions, saying they are "best addressed by the people and governments of America and China".

On plans to amend the Constitution and democratic backsliding, the PM, in a rare interview to the London-based Financial Times, said, "Our critics are entitled to their opinions and the freedom to express them. However, there is a fundamental issue with such allegations, which often appear as criticisms. These claims not only insult the intelligence of the Indian people but also underestimate their deep commitment to values like diversity and democracy."

Later in the interview, he said, many aims "have been realised



without amending the Constitution but through public participation".

When asked what future the Muslim minority has in India, Modi pointed to the economic success of India's Parsis, as per an impressionistic interview released by the FT.

"Despite facing persecution elsewhere in the world, they have found a safe haven in India, living happily and prospering. That shows that the Indian society itself has no feeling of discrimination towards any religious minority," he elaborated.

The PM had a "long and hearty laugh" before answering a question about the Centre's alleged crackdown on his critics. "There is a whole ecosystem that is using the freedom available in our country to hurl these allegations at us every day, through editorials, TV channels, social media, videos, tweets, etc. They have the right to do so. But others have an equal right to respond with facts," he said.

The PM then suggested that the criticism overseas about narrowing of democratic space in India was as misinformed as

the West's earlier perception about India. "In 1947, when India became independent, the British made a lot of dire predictions about India's future. But we have seen that those predictions and preconceptions have all been proven false," he said and suggested that those who today doubt his government "will also be proven wrong".

Describing his official residence complex past a "cordon of airport-style security" as one of "parading peacocks and inner courtyards with ornate flower displays", the FT team had access to a meeting room that had maps of the world painted on the ceiling and the cabinet room where lines from the Preamble to the Constitution were inscribed.

PM Modi insisted that he was "very confident of victory" due to "solid change in the common man's life".

"They realise that our nation is on the cusp of a take-off. They want this flight to be expedited, and they know the best party to ensure this is the one that had brought them this far," said the PM who, the FT team said, was

dressed in a cream kurta and rust-coloured sleeveless jacket, and immaculately barbered and manicured.

He identified the "most transformative steps" as "Clean India" and digital public infrastructure push.

"The world is interconnected as well as interdependent," he said while outlining India's "mix-and-match foreign policy".

Putting national interest foremost "allows us to engage with various nations in a manner that respects mutual interests and acknowledges the complexities of contemporary geopolitics".

The PM also batted away criticism about the slow pace of employment generation by citing unemployment data gathered by the Periodic Labour Force Survey, which points to "a consistent decline in unemployment rates".

"When evaluating different performance parameters like productivity and infrastructure expansion, it becomes evident that employment generation in India, a vast and youthful nation, has indeed accelerated," he added.

He also did not agree about extensive corruption by stating that India wouldn't have achieved the status of the world's fastest-growing economy "if the issues you've highlighted were as pervasive as suggested".

On the flight of skilled people abroad, the PM said India's goal should be to create such an environment in India that it naturally gets people to have a stake in India.

## Brij Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh elected Wrestling Federation of India chief



NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Sanjay Singh on Thursday became the new president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with his panel comfortably winning most of the posts in the delayed polls as outgoing chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh gained indirect control over the sports body.

Sanjay, who is a Brij Bhushan loyalist and UP Wrestling Association vice-president, secured 40 votes as against seven that his

rival Anita Sheoran got. RSS-affiliate Sanjay hails from Varanasi and is a very close associate of Brij Bhushan. Given the tremendous interest the outgoing chief has in the sport, it is expected that Sanjay will consult him in policy decisions.

"It's triumph for thousands of wrestlers in the country who suffered in the past 7-8 months," Sanjay Singh told reporters after his huge win.

"We will respond to politics with politics and wrestling with wres-

ling," Sanjay replied when asked about the politics being played within federation.

The panel of Sheoran, a CWG gold medalist, though managed to win the key post of Secretary-General as Prem Chand Lochab, a former RSPB secretary, beat Darshan Lal 27-19.

Devender Singh Kadian, who runs a chain of food joints on National Highways and is considered to be close to protesting wrestlers, claimed the senior vice-president's post, beating I D Nanavati 32-15.

The Brij Bhushan camp The Brij Bhushan camp won 13 of the 15 posts. It swept all the four posts of vice-presidents with Delhi's Jai Prakash (37), West Bengal's Asit Kumar Saha (42), Punjab's Kartar Singh (44) and Manipur's N Phoni (38) winning the elections.

## Three-year jail term for DMK minister K Ponmudi in disproportionate assets case

CHENNAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): In a lethal blow to Tamil Nadu Minister for Higher Education K Ponmudi and the ruling DMK, the Madras High Court on Thursday sentenced him to three years of imprisonment in a disproportionate assets case.

Justice G Jayachandran pronounced the sentence under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), in the jam-packed court hall number 46 of the Madras High Court even as the Minister was present through video-conferencing.

His wife P Visalakshi is sentenced to undergo imprisonment in the same case for the same quantum of three years.

The court suspended the sentence of imprisonment for 30 days to enable the couple to appeal in the Supreme Court.

Appearing before the court, Ponmudi and his wife Visalakshi submitted their medical records and prayed for a minimum sentence citing their age and poor health.

Since the sentence is for three years, he stands automatically disqualified as a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, to which he was elected in the 2021 polls. The court verdict has deprived him of the eligibility to contest for elections for six years, leaving him in the sunset of his illustrious political career, and given his age, 72 years, a comeback appears to have remote chances.

The Minister is sentenced for the offence under Section 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (e) of PCA for amassing wealth to the tune of Rs 1.72 crore, which accounts for 64.90 per cent, more than his known sources of income during his tenure as Minister for Higher Education, Mines and Minerals during 2006-11.

Ponmudi, an influential leader of DMK, started his career as a teaching faculty in a university and turned to politics later, and became a close confidante of late party patriarch M Karunanidhi and his son and



current Chief Minister MK Stalin.

He is the second senior leader of a political party and a sitting Minister in Tamil Nadu to be disqualified from the membership of the Legislative Assembly after late CM J Jayalithaa who was stripped of the public position of CM and MLA after a special court in Bengaluru convicted and sentenced her in a wealth case.

A PhD holder, Ponmudi is known for his sharp political comments. He continues to remain the face of the party in the northern region of the state.

A 2011 FIR over disproportionate wealth filed by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) after the AIADMK came back to power did him in.

Ponmudi and his wife were acquitted by the special court for PCA cases in Villupuram on April 18, 2016. Challenging this order, the DVAC had filed an appeal in the High Court in 2017.

After almost six years, the High Court convicted him on December 19 and announced that the sentence would be pronounced on December 21, 2023.

"The charge of an offence punishable under section 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (e) of PCA framed against A-1 (Ponmudi) stands proved. The charges under section 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (e) of PCA and 109 IPC against A-2 (Visalakshi) stands proved," Justice Jayachandran had said in the conviction order.

The judge found that Rs 1.72 crore worth of assets were amassed by the couple disproportionate (64.90 per cent) to known sources of income.

"Considering the overwhelming evidence against the respon-

dents, and the unsustainable reasons given by the trial court for acquittal by ignoring that evidence, compel this court to declare the judgment of the trial court is palpably wrong, manifestly erroneous and demonstrably unsustainable. Hence, this is a fit case for the appellate court to interfere and set it aside," Justice Jayachandran had ruled.

He had also assailed the trial judge saying that acceptance of the self-serving declaration of income to the Income Tax authority by an accused in a DA case by ignoring the first principle of law and the judicial pronouncements, is not a possible view but "an erroneous view conceived due to misconception".

Justice Jayachandran had then termed the trial court's misinterpretation of the bank account statements as proof of income, as a "complete miscarriage of justice" that occurred by the "omission of reliable evidence", and by "misinterpretation of evidence".

Further, he had also said that the trial court's ready acceptance of the I-T returns of Ponmudi's wife without any independent evidence is "palpably wrong and manifestly erroneous".

"In the light of the above observations, the dictum and principles postulated by the apex court applied to the case on hand, this court finds that the trial court on a superficial reading of the evidence had proceeded with the process of decision-making on the premise that A-1 and A-2 are separate entities and they both cannot be clubbed together. This is a fallacious approach by the trial court," the judge had said.

## UP woman gets triple-talaq for donating kidney to brother

GONDA (UP), Dec 21 (Agencies): A man gave triple-talaq to his wife over WhatsApp after she donated a kidney to her ailing brother.

The man works in Saudi Arabia, while the wife stays in Bairiyahi village in Uttar

Pradesh's Gonda district.

The incident unfolded after the wife took a decision to save her brother by donating one of her kidneys. Little did she anticipate that the noble act would become the catalyst for the dis-

solution of her marriage.

The husband gave her triple-talaq soon after she sent a message to inform him about the kidney donation.

On the complaint of the woman, police have registered a case and said that they will take

legal action.

The practice of triple-talaq had been declared illegal and unconstitutional in the country in 2019.

Triple-talaq is banned under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage)

Act, which imposes a punishment of up to three years in jail. The Supreme Court has said there is no bar on granting anticipatory bail in such cases, provided the court hears the complainant woman before granting pre-arrest bail.

## Swiss woman searches for her biological mother in Mumbai, the only clue she had no longer exists

MUMBAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Vidhya Philippon, a Swiss woman, has been searching for her biological mother in Mumbai for the past decade. The only clue she has is the mother's surname and address, which is no longer in existence.

Philippon was born on February 8, 1996 and her mother left her at the Missionaries of Charity. From there, she was adopted in 1997 by a Swiss couple and subsequently taken to Switzerland.

Philippon has now come to India to find her roots in Rawal Pada,

Dahisar, and Mumbai. Philippon visited Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity located in the Vile Parle area where her mother left her.

She also visited the area of Dahisar, where her mother used to stay but the address is no longer in existence. But Philippon hopes she will find her biological mother one day.

Advocate Anjali Pawar, Director of Adoptee Rights Council, who is assisting Philippon to find her mother, said, "We are here to assist Vidhya Philippon, who came from Switzerland, to find her biological

mother. She was born on February 8, 1996, and then her mother left her to the missionary charity."

"Missionary charity has helped us with the search and they gave some information about her mother; the address is from the Dahisar area but it is difficult as it's a fast-moving city and people keep relocating to the area," she added.

Appealing to people to find Philippon's mother, Anjali said, "One contact was given by one social worker, who is also helping us find her mother. I cannot disclose much information



about her mother but the family has the surname 'Kambli'. I am requesting people who ever stayed in the Dahisar area at that time to help us find out her biological mother."

Philippon told agency, "Anjali is helping me find my mother. My

mother was 20 when she gave me birth, and for 10 years I have been searching for her. I came to India with my husband. My family surname is Kambli. I wanted people in Mumbai to help me find my mother and give me information about her."

## Fire in commercial building at Delhi's Connaught Place, 15 fire engines on spot

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): A fire broke out in Gopaldas Bhawan, a high-rise building in New Delhi's Connaught Place on Thursday. The fire call was received at around 1 PM, with reports indicating the blaze erupting on the 11th floor.

The Delhi Fire Department dispatched 16 fire tenders to the scene. The blaze was quickly brought under control. Cooling operations are currently underway.

Details regarding potential casualties or the cause of the fire are still awaited. Authorities had cordoned off the area and said no one was trapped inside the building.



## Four die of suffocation in Jharkhand's Hazaribag after they lit charcoal to beat the cold



HAZARIBAG, Dec 21 (Agencies): Four persons, including a teenager, died of suffocation after they lit charcoal in their room to get respite from severe cold in Jharkhand's Sirshi village, police said on Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Rahul Kumar (20), Akhilesh Kumar (21), Prince Kumar (20) and Armaan Ali (19), a senior police officer said. All of them hailed from Buxar district

of Bihar, and were pursuing a computer course at an institute in Sirshi, he said.

They had lit charcoal in their rented accommodation on Wednesday to beat the cold, and prima facie, the deaths occurred due to suffocation after inhaling the smoke, Deputy SP (HQ) Rajiv Kumar said.

A cold wave has been sweeping parts of the state, including Hazaribag, for the last 10 days, the Met Department said.

When the youths did not respond on Thursday morning, locals broke open the door and found them lying motionless, police said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination, and family members of the deceased have been informed, they added.



## 12 Dead, 13 Injured In Coal Mine Accident In China: Report

SHANGHAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Twelve people have been killed and 13 others injured in a mining accident in northeast China, state media reported on Thursday.

The incident took place at 3:50 pm local time (0750 GMT) on Wednesday at a coal mine on the outskirts of Jixi city in Heilongjiang province, state broadcaster CCTV said.

The accident -- which involved a vehicle in the mine's inclined shaft -- "caused 12 deaths and injured 13, and the injured have all been sent to hospital for treatment", CCTV said on Thursday.

"The cause of the accident is still under investigation," CCTV said.



Mining safety in China has improved in recent decades, as has media coverage of major incidents, many of which were once overlooked.

But accidents are still common in an industry with a poor safety record and where regulations are not necessarily enforced. Last year, 245 people died in

168 accidents, according to official figures.

In November, an accident at another coal mine in Heilongjiang killed 11 people.

In September, at least 16 people were killed in a coal mine fire in southwest China's Guizhou province.

In February, a coal mine partly collapsed in the remote and sparsely populated Alxa League of the northern Inner Mongolia region after a 180-metre-high (590-foot) slope gave way.

Dozens of people and vehicles were buried under a mountain of debris, but authorities did not disclose the final death toll for months.

It was only revealed in June that 53 people had been killed.

## Ukraine Says Shot Down 35 Drones Launched By Russia Overnight



KYIV, Dec 21 (Agencies): Ukraine said Thursday that air defence systems in the capital Kyiv and other locations across the country had downed dozens of Iranian-designed drones launched by Russian forces in Moscow's latest overnight barrage.

"Russian occupiers attacked with 'Shahed' type UAVs from three directions: Chauda - occupied Crimea, Primorsko-Akhtarsk, Kursk," the Ukrainian air force wrote on Telegram.

It said it shot down 34 of the 35 drones, without reporting any casualties.

Drone attacks have been near-daily occurrences in Ukraine, and Kyiv has reinforced its air defence systems with weapons from its European and US allies.

Lately, Moscow has stepped up nighttime attacks.

Ukraine has asked its allies to provide more air defence systems.

The Democratic and Republican leaders of the US Senate said Tuesday that Washington would not be able to approve new aid for Ukraine before the year's end.

Kyiv has accused the Kremlin of seeking to terrorise its civilians and destroy its energy facilities in a bid to plunge the country into darkness and cold this winter.

## Missing Indian Student Found Dead Near Lake In UK. Probe Ordered

LONDON, Dec 21 (Agencies): The UK's Metropolitan Police are on Thursday appealing for information to piece together the last movements of Gurashman Singh Bhatia, a missing Indian student whose body was found by police divers in a lake in Canary Wharf area of east London.

The Met Police said the 23-year-old had been reported missing after a night out with friends last Thursday, December 14.

Officers went on to carry out "extensive enquiries", including viewing CCTV, speaking to witnesses and analysing phone and financial data. Water searches were also carried out in the area and a body believed to be that of Bhatia was recovered by police divers in the water in South Quay.

"Gurashman's death is being treated as unexpected, and while there is nothing to suggest it was suspicious, we will ensure our investigation is as thorough as possible to confirm this," said Detective Chief Superintendent (DCI) James Conway, responsible for local policing in the Tower Hamlets area of Canary Wharf.

"Because of this, we are releasing a CCTV image of Gurashman that was taken before his disappearance and would like anyone who



may have seen him in the Marsh Wall area on the evening of Thursday, 14 December and in the early hours of Friday, 15 December, to contact us," he said.

Conway added that this was an "extremely tragic outcome" to their missing persons inquiry and not the news he was hoping to give to Gurashman's family and friends.

"I send them my deepest condolences," he said.

The police noted that although formal identification has not yet taken place, Gurashman's family has been informed. Meanwhile, anyone with information about Gurashman's movements has been asked to call 101 quoting the reference CAD5787/15Dec.

There had been widespread social media appeals by the Indian student community in the UK after the Sikh student was reported missing.

"What a tragic, heart-breaking loss of one of our beautiful lives. I had

spoken to his father and friends only some days ago when we first found out he was missing and had been praying for his safe discovery," said Sanam Arora, Chair of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK.

"Our thoughts are with his family & friends. Requesting all to please say a prayer for the departed soul," she said.

Bhatia was pursuing an MSc in Digital Finance at Loughborough University. After he went missing last week, his case was also flagged with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar by BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of G.S. Bhatia, a Loughborough University student who was missing since Dec 15th. Our thoughts are with the family and friends during this difficult time. May Waheguru give strength to his parents mourning this profound loss," Mr Sirsa said in a social media post.

## North Korea's Kim warns of 'nuclear attack' if provoked with nukes: Report

SEOUL, Dec 21 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Pyongyang would not hesitate to launch a nuclear attack if an enemy provokes it with nuclear weapons, state media reported on Thursday.

Kim made the remark as he met with soldiers under the military's missile bureau over its recent launching drill of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), KCNA news agency said.

"He (Kim) said that the resolute military activity conducted by the company this time ... was ... a clear explanation of the offensive counteraction mode and the evolution of the nuclear strategy and doctrine of the DPRK not to hesitate even a nuclear attack when the enemy



provoke it with nukes," KCNA reported.

DPRK are the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea said on Tuesday

it had tested its newest ICBM on Monday to gauge the war readiness of its nuclear force against mounting U.S. hostility, drawing condemnation from the United States and its allies.

Kim said Monday's launch

demonstrated the military's high mobility and rapid attack capability, and called for efforts to further strengthen its combat efficiency, KCNA reported.

In a separate statement, Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong condemned the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for holding a meeting over its ICBM launch, saying it was an exercise of the country's right to self-defence.

"The UNSC should place heavy responsibility on the irresponsible behavior and act of the U.S. and the ROK, which have aggravated the tension on the Korean peninsula through all sorts of military provocations all year round," she said.

ROK stands for South Korea's official name, the Republic of Korea.

## US Man Hides 17 Bullets In Baby Diaper At New York Airport, Caught By Security



NEW YORK, Dec 21 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, security personnel discovered 17 bullets hidden inside a disposable baby diaper at LaGuardia Airport in New York on Wednesday, according to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA stated

that after the diaper set off an alarm in an X-ray machine at an airport security checkpoint, they removed the otherwise clean diaper from the passenger's carry-on luggage, as per a report.

They added that the passenger, a man from Arkansas who

was flying to Chicago, claimed that he did not know how the bullet-filled diaper ended up in his bag. Sometime later, he stated that his girlfriend put it there. Port Authority police cited him for illegal possession of the 9mm ammunition.

However, this is not the first such case to be reported. Airports all across the United States are experiencing similar issues.

TSA agents discovered a .45-caliber pistol and six bullets in a pair of Nike shoes that were hidden in a checked suitcase at LaGuardia Airport last month. It is to be noted that weapons may be checked as luggage as long as they are kept in a sealed, hard-sided container.

Officers found a carry-on bag

containing two boxes of ammunition (more than 100 bullets) and a loaded .22-caliber handgun in April. According to the TSA, the traveller stated he had been at a shooting range and had forgotten to take the gun and ammunition out before leaving for the airport. He remained under arrest.

In another case, 13 bullets that were concealed within a Mentos chewing gum packet inside a carry-on bag were discovered by security checkpoint agents in January 2021.

According to the TSA, the rounds were packed in with gum pieces. The passenger claimed the bag belonged to his son. He was charged with unauthorised possession of ammunition, according to the agency.

## China's cold snap reaches Shanghai with chilliest year-end in 40 years

SHANGHAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): China's financial hub Shanghai was set to record its chilliest period in December in four decades, spurring authorities to issue warnings for low temperatures and wind, while northern cities battled icy conditions forecast to ease only next week.

The city's lowest temperatures on Thursday will be minus 4 to minus 6 degrees Celsius (21 to 24 degrees Fahrenheit) in Shanghai's suburbs, and temperatures will remain below zero all day throughout the city, the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau said in a post on its Weibo social media account.

Wang Kaiyun, 59, a cleaner in downtown Shanghai who commutes from the city's suburbs on an electric scooter, said the tem-

perature was minus 5 C on her one-hour ride in on Thursday.

"Even though I was wearing gloves, I quickly lost feeling in my hands and they are still painful now," Wang said.

While the city's temperatures remain far warmer than those in northern China, where many provinces have recorded historically low temperatures in recent weeks, the run of cold weather was unusual for Shanghai.

The city's weather bureau said it expects the minimum temperature at one downtown reading station to remain below zero for five straight days until Dec. 25, a run of cold in the month of December that hasn't occurred in 40 years.

"This year is not normal. This year is super cold and it was not

this cold last year," said a 68-year-old Shanghai resident surnamed Li.

The unusually frigid weather ushered in by a powerful wave of cold air from Siberia has spread across China since the middle of last week, with many northern provinces rewriting December records as low as minus 30 C in some cities.

While the snowfall was modest compared to deep snowdrifts and blizzards seen in North America and Europe, the bitter cold, ice and gusty conditions in China have disrupted road, rail and air transportation, sharply increased demand for heating, and even hampered rescue efforts in the northwest where an earthquake destroyed over 200,000 homes.

On Dec. 13, as the cold wave swept into northern China, Yuanqu, a

small county in northern Shanxi province, suddenly found itself without electricity. The rare power outage persisted for the next three days as its grid operator raced to de-ice transmission lines.

Residents without power also went without heating, as well as hot food and even mobile phone signal, according to Chinese media.

In Lvliang, a city of 3 million people also in Shanxi, firefighters had to put out a fire in a building even as their protective helmets and jackets quickly became encased in ice in minus 18 C conditions, state media reported on Thursday.

The cold snap has also threatened to freeze China's busy online food delivery sector. On social media, some people have expressed

their reluctance to order takeout in the extreme cold due to worries for the safety of delivery drivers.

Their concerns prompted the official Workers' Daily on Thursday to urge people "not to dwell on narratives of suffering", but instead, think of the potential loss of income for delivery drivers.

Across China, prices of vegetables have also risen due to the impact of the cold weather. The commerce ministry on Thursday said it would take measures to safeguard a stable supply of daily necessities.

The prolonged sub-freezing conditions across China are expected to ease from Friday, with temperatures rising back to historical averages next week, according to national forecasters.

## Russian frontline troops hit by 'mouse fever' that causes eye bleed, claims Ukraine

KYIV, Dec 21 (Agencies): An outbreak of 'mouse fever' with symptoms ranging from vomiting and bleeding eyes is mowing down Russia's frontline troops, Ukraine claimed, reported the Mirror.

The country's Main Intelligence Directorate (HUR) said the outbreak of the disease was seen among Russian units in Kupyansk, as troops were struggling with a lack of winter provisions.

It said the disease, a type of bacterial infection, was transmitted to humans through direct contact with rodents, or by inhaling their faeces. Listing several symptoms, it said it can cause a "severe headache, body temperature rising to 40 degrees, rashes and redness,

decreased blood pressure, haemorrhages in the eyes, nausea and vomiting several times a day".

The agency alleged that Russian commanders had dismissed complaints about the outbreak, viewing them as excuses to avoid combat. In the Kupyansk front direction, the directorate reported a widespread occurrence of mouse fever, significantly diminishing the fighting capability of Russian troops. Russian army personnel's complaints about the fever have been disregarded by command, perceived as attempts to evade combat participation, with the initial stage of 'mouse fever' resembling the common flu.

As Ukraine's armed forces shift to a more defensive stance fol-

lowing an unsuccessful summer counteroffensive against Russia's army, they are fortifying field defences. Despite Western-supplied weapons, Ukraine's recent assault faced resistance from the Kremlin's deep defences along the approximately 600-mile front line, lacking crucial air cover.

Russian President Vladimir Putin anticipates that Western allies will tire of financing Ukraine's costly war effort, enabling a new offensive push next year. In response, he has geared the Russian economy for war. However, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remains confident in the United States' promise of billions in aid to support Kyiv's ongoing fight.



## Shiv Sena advocates strict action against Rohingyas, supporters, welcome police action

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has alleged that a gang of supporters of Rohingyas, Bangladeshis is active in Jammu and Kashmir and has appreciated the police action against them.

Speaking to media persons at the party office in Jammu, state chief Manish Sahni said that the illegally migrated Rohingyas and Bangladeshis have a big role in the increasing criminal incidents in Jammu.



Sahni said that there is a big gang of supporters, in which there is a suspicion of involvement of local people as well as some corrupt administrative officials, which is very important to be detected.

Who are helping them in making their Aadhar cards and other identity cards.

Sahni said that these people camping illegally in Jammu division are involved in heinous businesses like crime, theft, drug trade and trafficking of women.

Praising the police action against him, Sahni has demanded the uprooting of this alliance which is proving to be a threat to the security of the country and Jammu and Kashmir.

## Law Students of Aryans shine in Punjabi University Patiala Results



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Law students of Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in the examinations conducted by Punjabi University, Patiala.

In BALLB, 8th semester examination, Harnet Kaur bagged 1st position with 80%, Vanshita Mahajan bagged 2nd position with 72.2% respectively and Nihar Bala bagged 3rd position with 72% marks.

Dr. Davinder Kumar Singla Principal Aryans College of Law congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. Such excellent results by the students add more name and fame to the College, added Singla.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans was the only Law College in the region to be associated with Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. For the first time, Pearson VUE on behalf of Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has made Aryans College of Law the Exam Centre for Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The score of the test is being used by famous law schools of America & Canada i.e. Harvard, Yale, Stanford University, British Columbia, Chicago.

## Jammu administration issues notices to 44 accused under NDPS Act

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: The district administration Jammu has taken a strong stance against drug trafficking and related offences as it has issued notices to 44 accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

The measures are part of the ongoing decisive fight against drug menace headed by District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Senior Superintendent of Police Dr Vinod Kumar.

The accused have been given a chance to declare the source of income used to pur-

chase their movable and immovable properties, which have been identified by different government agencies, including the police. They have to do so within 30 days, failing which the government has the right to forfeit such properties.

The Executive Magistrate or the concerned police officer is empowered to identify such properties, which could have been acquired through drug trade and exchange.

Such properties could also be in the custody of a relative or associate of the accused.

The sources of income are verified through multilateral investigation and information.

## Amazon India signs MoU with Indian Coast Guard to create work opportunities for ex-service personnel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Amazon India today signed an MoU with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), under Ministry of Defence, to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across the company, in line with its commitment towards an inclusive workplace.

At Amazon India, there has been a consistent focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in its workforce where unique perspectives are valued and welcomed. The company fosters a culture that is conducive to growth and offers people equal opportunities to unlock their full potential while empowering them to do more. The company's commitment on providing equal access to opportunities and resources cuts across all communities of talent including focused efforts around women, LGBTQIA+, military veterans and the differently abled, amongst others from different backgrounds, demographics, and social strata, to



enable them to expand their horizons. Over the last few years, Amazon India has launched multiple initiatives to bring diversity, equity, and inclusion into the workforce.

In August 2019, Amazon India launched a Military Veterans Employment program to create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across the company's fulfilment network, across India. This was done in partnership with the Army Welfare Placement Organization (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military veterans and their families across India. More

recently, Amazon India further strengthened its commitment to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across its growing operations network in India by renewing its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR). This MoU with the DGR enables Amazon India to mobilize the untapped potential of veterans, giving it access to a greater talent pipeline.

"At Amazon, we are very humbled to build further on our efforts to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion at our workplace. Due to the deep appreciation of the wealth of experience

and unique perspective of ex-service personnel, Amazon runs the Military Veterans Employment Programme globally. With the signing of this MoU, we are excited to work with the Indian Coast Guard towards a common goal of creating meaningful work opportunities for our veterans and their families. We will continue to leverage the wealth of experience of military veterans, who are an incomparable addition to Amazon," said Deepti Varma, VP, People Experience Technology, Amazon India, Japan & Emerging Markets.

The Indian Coast Guard, said, "The vast experience our veter-

ans possess can be leveraged for tremendous success across diverse industries and businesses. Amazon India has taken proactive steps in offering employment opportunities to military veterans. This MoU marks a significant milestone as we unite in the pursuit of a shared objective: fostering meaningful career paths for ex-service personnel from the Indian Coast Guard."

With this new MoU, Amazon India will be collaborating with the ICG, to realize their mutual goal of helping ex-servicemen from military background pursue their corporate careers

through opportunities at Amazon or in other corporate roles.

### NOTICE

I, Abdul Gaffar Bagwah, S/O Ghulam Qadir Bagwan, R/O Jai Road Baderwah, district Doda has sought Professional Trade License from Municipal Committee Baderwah for running of Commercial Parking in survey No. 1903/1904 at Jai Road, Ward No 4. Objection if any may be conveyed to Executive Officer MCB within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

### NOTICE

M/S Sanjeev Engineering Works, Industrial Estate, Hiranagar formally registered with District Industry Centre Kathua vide PMT number 07/005/3372 dated 23/12/95 for the line of activity for assembling of electric motor Steel doors window frames and General fabrication is going to change constitution of unit from partnership to proprietorship.

Any person or any government agency/Semi government/financial institution having any objection regarding change of constitution may file objection to the office of General Manager, District Industry Center Kathua within a period of seven days.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Parliament passes bill on appointment of CEC, Election Commissioners

"We are bringing the law for this purpose," he said.

He said an amendment in the bill is that the search committee will be headed by the Law Minister instead of the cabinet secretary.

The bill provides that CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition or the leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.

The Bill will replace the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

Opposition members have earlier expressed their serious concern over the provisions of the bill, saying it is "one of the biggest blows to democracy" by the Modi government in the last nine years.

Congress leaders said there was a time when EC meant electoral credibility but today it means 'elections compromised'.

### Opposition holds protest against suspension of MPs from Parliament

The opposition wanted to speak on the issue but Prime Minister Modi and Home minister Shah did not turn up, even as the PM continued to make speeches elsewhere, Kharge said.

INDIA bloc leaders will protest at Jantar Mantar Friday against suspension of MPs and nationwide protests will also be held in all district headquarters against the government's "immoral and illegal" behaviour of this government.

He also alleged that the government doesn't want the House to function.

In an apparent reference to the mimicry issue and Dhankhar's remarks on it,

Kharge said, "I am sorry to say that the Rajya Sabha Chairman has in a way brought casteism to Parliament by raising an issue."

A political row broke out on Tuesday after Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee derisively mimicked Dhankhar during the opposition's protest on the stairs of Parliament against the MPs' suspension, drawing strong condemnation from the ruling BJP.

Dhankhar had given vent to his anguish in Rajya Sabha, saying he was personally hurt as his farmer and Jat backgrounds were targeted.

Two more opposition members in Lok Sabha were suspended on Wednesday for displaying placards, taking the total number of members of the lower House against whom such action has been taken to 97.

With these fresh suspensions, the total number of members suspended from the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha since December 14 has gone up to 143.

After two men jumped in the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13 and released smoke from canisters, the opposition has been disrupting House proceedings demanding a statement from Shah on the security breach.

### J&K Police seeks victims' help to solve financial fraud case

promise which brought in more investors and the scheme was promoted by at least two local YouTubers adding to its popularity.

Soon after, the owners of the company disappeared, the officials said, adding that they found the Karan Nagar office locked.

The company had opened branches in several district headquarters and towns of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Making J&K more attractive to tourists admin's top priority: Chief Secre-

### tary

News Observer (KNO) said that J&K, especially Kashmir is an attractive place for the tourists and to make it more attractive for the tourists is the top priority of the administration.

He said that work on SPS museum building is already going on for the last couple of years and it will become an attractive place for the tourists.

### 18 Rohingyas marry locals in J&K for Indian Identity Cards

region could reveal further details.

"We are looking into every angle, be it National Security or their involvement in local crimes, if any. If something similar emerges, we will be initiating legal action separately. This case only pertains to intelligence inputs suggesting Rohingyas having access to India's national identity cards using illegal ways," added the official.

The report highlighted that 18 Rohingyas have been arrested across three Jammu districts as part of the police crackdown on Rohingyas and their supporters who unlawfully acquired 'Indian National' identification cards with the aid of locals. In Kishtwar, 13 arrests were made, with four in Poonch and one in Rajouri. Additionally, over 40 individuals have been detained in the Jammu region. Police recovered illegally acquired Aadhaar cards, bank passbooks, and revenue records during the operation.

### Gulmarg, Pahalgam sold out ahead of Christmas, New Year's Eve: Secy Tourism

have taken up new destinations for promotion. There is an element of hope, growth and development in tourism sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Trekking has been revived and foreigners are taking part in it. This year we are focusing on Sonamarg,

Baderwah, and Sanasar like destinations in order to improve the livelihood of people," he said.

### "Lived my life with honesty, Havenothing to hide": CM Kejriwal responds to fresh ED summons

the Opposition. She asserted that the AAP won't bow down to such threats by the ED and the CBI.

Hitting out at the BJP-led Centre, Atishi said it fears Kejriwal's model of governance which is why leaders of the ruling AAP were being hounded by the central agencies and put in jail.

"It is clear the BJP are scared of the Aam Aadmi Party and the model of governance of our leader Arvind Kejriwal, which is why the leaders of our party are being thrown in jail one by one. The BJP are using agencies at their disposal to scare us," Atishi said.

The Delhi CM was first called by the federal agency to appear for questioning on November 2, but he skipped the summons claiming it to be "vague, motivated and unsustainable in law".

"The said summons is not clear as to the capacity in which I am being summoned i.e. as a witness or a suspect in the above-mentioned case. Please recall the said summons, which is to say the least is vague and motivated and I am advised, unsustainable in law," Kejriwal stated in his letter to Jogendar, assistant director, ED, after being summoned earlier.

Kejriwal was earlier summoned by the CBI in April this year, in connection with the same case.

However, the CM was not named as an accused in the FIR filed by the CBI on August 17, last year.

In February 2023, Kejriwal's Deputy Manish Sisodia was arrested by the CBI for alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi's new excise policy.

The policy was withdrawn amid allegations of foul play by the Opposition.

### 'Chillai Kalan' arrives with full fury in Kashmir

saw the mercury settle at minus 3.0 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a low of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius.

The weatherman has forecast generally dry weather over the next few days in Kashmir.

The drop in temperature has resulted in the freezing of many slow-moving water bodies. It has also resulted in the freezing of water supply pipes in some areas.

The intense cold wave has forced people in the city to put on extra layers of clothes to stay warm.

With electricity supply erratic in many areas of Kashmir, people have resorted to the use of Kangri, an earthen firepot, to beat the chill.

The drop in temperature has resulted in an increase in respiratory problems among children and elderly.

'Chillai-Kalan' is the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

People spend more time indoors to avoid catching common ailments like flu, cough and cold.

Traditionally, the valley residents used to consume dried vegetables to overcome the scarcity of fresh vegetables during the winter months as the Srinagar-Jammu would often be closed due to heavy snowfall.

While dried vegetables are still consumed as delicacies, the highway to Jammu does not face frequent closures anymore.

'Chillai-Kalan' will end on January 31. The cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).



## Markets fall in early trade on weak global trends, foreign fund outflows

**BSE Sensex falls by 585.92 points to 69,920.39; Nifty declines 173.35 points to 20,976.8**

MUMBAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices continued to fall for the second day running on Thursday amid weak trends in global markets and continuous foreign fund outflows.

Investors also went for profit-taking after the recent record-breaking rally in the markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 585.92 points to 69,920.39. The Nifty declined 173.35 points to 20,976.80.

Both the benchmark indices had hit record high levels in intra-day trade on Wednesday.

Among the Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro, IICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra and ITC were the major laggards.



Power Grid, Reliance Industries, Nestle and HDFC Bank were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong were trading lower while Shanghai traded in the green.

The US markets ended lower on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.38 per cent to USD 79.38 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,322.08 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark crashed 930.88 points or 1.30 per cent to settle at 70,506.31 on Wednesday.

The Nifty fell by 302.95 points or 1.41 per cent to 21,150.15.

## Retail inflation for farm workers rises to 7.37 pc in November, 7.13 pc for rural labourers

**Retail inflation in October was 7.08 per cent and 6.92 per cent for farm workers and rural labourers, respectively**

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Retail inflation for farm workers rose to 7.37 per cent and that for rural labourers climbed to 7.13 per cent in November, mainly due to higher prices of certain food items.

Retail inflation in October was 7.08 per cent and 6.92 per cent for farm workers and rural labourers, respectively, according to an official statement.

Food inflation stood at 9.38 per cent and 9.14 per cent for agricultural and rural workers, respectively, in November compared to the respective figures of 8.42 per cent and 8.18 per cent in October 2023, and 6.19 per cent and 6.05 per cent recorded in the corresponding month of previous year (November 2022), a labour ministry statement said.

According to the statement, point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (rural labourers) stood at 7.37 per cent and 7.13 per cent in November this year as compared to 7.08 per cent and 6.92 per cent, respectively, in October 2023.

The two comparable numbers



were 6.87 per cent and 6.99 per cent in November last year, the ministry said.

All-India Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers in November this year increased 12 points to 1,253, while the index for rural workers advanced 11 points to 1,262.

The two indices were 1,241 points and 1,251 points, respectively, in October this year.

Major contribution towards the rise in general index of agricultural labourers and rural workers came from the group of food items to the extent of 10.85 and 10.50 points, respectively,

driven by a rise in prices of rice, wheat, pulses, onion, turmeric whole, garlic, mixed spices, etc.

There has been an upward trend in the index across all the states except West Bengal (both CPI-AL and CPI-RL indices decreased) and Himachal Pradesh (CPI-AL index decreased).

In case of agricultural labourers, the index increased 1 to 10 points in 11 states, rose 11 to 20 points in three states and went up more than 20 points in three states. With 1,453 points, Tamil Nadu topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh stood at the bottom with 958

points.

The benchmark for rural labourers increased 1 to 20 points in 11 states, climbed 11 to 20 points in five states and jumped more than 20 points in three states.

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with 1,439 points each topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh stayed at the bottom with 1,015 points.

Among states, the maximum increase of 27 points in CPI-AL index was seen in Maharashtra, which was mainly driven by the increased prices of jowar, rice, wheat atta, tapioca, arhar dal, onion and sugar etc.

For CPI-RL, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu saw a rise of 24 points each, mainly due to increase in prices of rice, jowar, ragi, fish fresh, onion, arhar dal, vegetables and fruits (especially brinjal, tomato and lady finger) etc.

West Bengal recorded the steepest fall of 14 points in both the indices due to a drop in prices of rice, ginger, chilly green, vegetables and fruits (especially brinjal & lady finger), firewood etc, the ministry stated.

## Airtel Business enters into partnership with IntelliSmart to deploy 20 million smart meters

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Bharti Airtel announced the formation of a strategic partnership to deploy up to 20 million smart meters in collaboration with IntelliSmart Infrastructure Private Limited, a provider of smart metering and digital solutions. Airtel is set to provide an end-to-end Internet of Things (IoT) solution for smart metering, encompassing the head-end system, meter data management system, cloud infrastructure, and analytics.

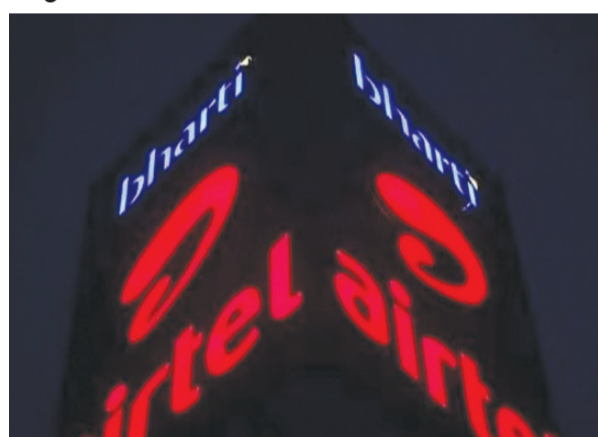
The company said that this deal represents the largest such initiative in the smart metering space within the country. This partnership is poised to make a substantial contribution to Airtel's rapidly expanding IoT deployment across various sectors.

"IoT is one of the fastest-growing business segments for Airtel Business and, with

this deal, we are now strategically positioned to play a pivotal role in driving the Govt. of India's vision of digitising 250 million conventional meters to smart meters. As we connect the devices across the country on our platform, we will exponentially grow our current IoT market share of 55.4% (as of Q1 FY23-24)," said Ganesh Lakshminarayanan - CEO of Airtel Business (India).

Anil Rawal, MD & CEO of IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., said that India's smart metering program is one of the significant steps taken by the government to modernize the power distribution sector. Smart meters are critical building blocks for smart grids and a fundamental enabler of the digitization efforts in the power system.

"As we set forward to implement one of India's largest portfolios



of smart meters, we are relying on some of the most able and potent partners in the sector for various solution elements to support the successful deployment of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) solutions. We are confident that the onboarding of Airtel as a strategic partner will be a significant step towards our goal of creating strong associations to strengthen our infrastructure solution with a resilient and secure cloud-hosted cellular communication

network," said Rawal. India is set to replace 250 million conventional meters with Smart Meters over the next five years as part of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) initiative. Airtel's Internet of Things (IoT) proposition incorporates its proprietary platform, the Airtel IoT Hub.

This platform will play a crucial role in enabling utilities to track and monitor these smart meters using advanced analytics. The emphasis is on maintaining

exceptionally high reliability, supplemented by telco-grade security measures. This initiative reflects a significant stride in the nation's efforts to enhance utility infrastructure through the adoption of smart technologies.

Hosted on Airtel's proprietary cloud network, the IoT hub provides enterprise users with the capability to connect and manage billions of devices and applications securely and seamlessly.

Airtel IoT aspires to play a pivotal role in realizing the government's vision, leveraging its unique capabilities. The digitization of the power sector, supported by the Government of India's initiatives to introduce transparency and consumer-friendly measures, is expected to lead to innovations such as Smart Meters becoming commonplace.

## Ashok Leyland bag orders for 552 diesel buses from Tamil Nadu



CHENNAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Chennai-based commercial vehicle major Ashok Leyland has received an order for 552 low-floor buses from Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) for Rs 500.97 crores, the company said in exchange filings on Thursday.

Ashok Leyland will deliver BS VI diesel fuel type rear engine fully built buses for city operations. It will be ultra-low entry 12-meter buses. This project is funded by the German Development Bank (KfW).

Ashok Leyland will commence the delivery of these buses in April 2024 and expect to complete by July 2024.

The new low-floor

buses have features like the H-series 6-cylinder 4-valve 246 horsepower engine, a step-less entry, rear engine configuration, automatic transmission, front disc brake, electronically controlled front and rear air suspension, and an Intelligent Transportation System with CCTV, destination boards reflecting vehicle location, and tracking.

Sanjeev Kumar, President of medium and heavy commercial vehicle (M&HCV), Ashok Leyland said. "We are thrilled to have received this order from TNSTC with whom we have a long-standing relationship. Our ULE buses represent the epitome of technology and safety in the commercial vehicle

segment."

Ashok Leyland has a long-standing partnership with TNSTC, the state transport unit of its home state, with more than 18,477 Ashok Leyland buses operational in its fleet.

"We are honored to partner with TNSTC towards the realization of the Mobility for All initiative. As we strive to meet the rapidly expanding public mobility needs of our country, our in-depth understanding of markets and customers remains the cornerstone that distinguishes us and has been instrumental in securing these orders," Shenu Agarwal, MD and Chief Executive Officer of Ashok Leyland was quoted as saying.

This collaboration reinforces our dedication to creating products that not only meet but exceed the evolving needs of our customers and contribute to the growth of public transportation, he added.

## Scientists find new method Ebola virus uses to infect cells

NEW YORK, Dec 21 (Agencies): A new study has shown that Ebola virus creates and uses intercellular tunnels to move from cell to cell and evade treatments.

The findings by scientists at Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed) revealed that Ebola virus creates the very tunnels it uses to hide and move within the human body.

The study, published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, may help develop effective drugs and therapies that can stop viruses in their tracks.

"Our findings suggest that the virus can create its hiding place, hide and then move to new cells and replicate," said Olena Shtanko, Assistant Professor at Texas Biomed.

Specifically, the virus is generating something called tunneling nanotubes—dynamic connections between

cells that allow the cells to communicate by exchanging particles over relatively long distances, up to 200 microns.

While these structures have been shown to play a prominent role in promoting neurodegenerative diseases, cancer, HIV-1 and influenza, Dr. Shtanko is the first to investigate their role in disseminating Ebola virus.

"When we launched this project a couple of years ago, we thought the general model of spread of Ebola virus infection—where a viral particle infects a cell, replication begins, new virus particles are made and released into the body to infect neighbouring cells—was a bit too simplistic," Dr. Shtanko said.

Using state-of-the-art technology with live scanning electron and high-resolution 3D-microscopy, Dr. Shtanko and her team

showed that Ebola virus infection in cells enhanced the formation of tunneling nanotubes containing viral particles.

The tunneling nanotubes then promoted the transfer of these particles to other cells. Notably, the full virus was not required to trigger nanotube formation, only small sections of the virus coding for individual proteins were needed.

This happened even in the presence of treatments meant to stop Ebola virus.

"Importantly, we observed that Ebola virus infection could spread in cultures treated with virus entry inhibitors or therapeutic treatments that stop viruses from entering a cell," Dr. Shtanko explained.

However, the scientists are yet to learn how exactly Ebola virus particles are transported through tunneling nanotubes.

## Anti-cold drug combination banned for kids under 4 years

**This common cold fixed drug combination (FDC) is a cocktail of two drugs, chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine.**

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): The use of an anti-cold fixed drug combination has been prohibited by the Indian drugs regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to be used for children under the age of 4.

This common cold fixed drug combination (FDC) is a cocktail of two drugs, chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine.

This decision was made based on the recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) which emphasised that this drug combination should not be used for children below four years of age.

All manufacturers of this common cold fixed-dose combination (FDC), containing chlorpheniramine maleate IP 2mg with phenylephrine HCL IP 5 mg per ml drops, have been directed to include a warning



on the label and the package about the caution: "FDC should not be used in children below 4 years of age."

The order by the regulator on the fixed-drug combination was issued on December 18 and made public on Wednesday.

All about this anti-cold fixed drug combination This anti-cold drug combination contains chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine. While chlorpheniramine maleate is an anti-allergic drug (antihistamine), phenylephrine is a decongestant.

According to Cleveland Clinic, this drug combination helps treat symp-

ptoms of common cold or sinus inflammation. It can help relieve runny nose, sneezing and congestion in the nose. However, this medicine will not treat an infection.

However, experts suggest that it should be consumed after consulting a medical professional. In case you're consuming this drug formulation, do not increase the recommended dose as it could result in serious harm such as hallucinations, seizure and death, as per WebMD.

Possible side effects of this drug combination could be allergic reactions like skin rashes, changes in vision,

breathing issues, anxiety, fast heartbeat, high or low blood pressure and headaches. However, one should consult a doctor before consuming this fixed-drug combination.

Speaking to India-Today.in, Dr Shreya Dubey, Consultant Neonatology and Paediatrics, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, the reason why India has prohibited the use of this drug combination for kids under the age of 4 is because of potential harmful side effects. "Cough is a protective reflex. For a child less than 4 years old, if too many medicines, especially combination medicines, are given too much, it could suppress the cough but predispose the child to more infections. Cough medicines can cause sedation, irritability, respiratory depression and behavioural changes in kids. If this combina-

tion is given more frequently, more than the recommended dosage, it can have potential side effects that can be harmful to the child's health," said Dr Shreya Dubey.

Anti-cold drug formulation prohibited

This order comes after deaths of at least 141 children were linked to cough syrups manufactured in India. The regulator said concerns raised about promotion of an unapproved anti-cold drug formulation in infants prompted a discussion and a resulting recommendation to not use the combination for that age group, as quoted by news agency.

According to the recommendations by the World Health Organisation (WHO), over-the-counter cough syrups or medicines for the treatment of coughs and cold symptoms in children younger than five years of age are prohibited.



## SA v IND, 3rd ODI: KL Rahul-led India look to bounce back and clinch rare series win in South Africa

PAARL, Dec 21 (Agencies): A young Indian side will be looking to bounce back and secure only the country's second-ever ODI series victory when they take on South Africa in the ODI series decider in Boland Park on Thursday, December 21. After winning the first ODI by 8 wickets in Johannesburg, India lost the second in Gqeberha by the same margin as the two have shared honours so far.

Neither India and South Africa have a full-strength squad as their stars, including the likes of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, and Kagiso Rabada, are preparing for the upcoming 2-match Test series, starting December 26.

KL Rahul and Aiden Markram are leading relatively inexperienced sides and a deciding game in a series that has lacked context seems to be the ideal way to spice things up on Thursday.

India have played 7 bilateral ODI series in South Africa and their only win came in 2018 under Virat Kohli in a 6-match series. In 2022, India were blanked 3-0 under KL Rahul and the Lucknow Super Giants skipper will be looking to avenge that and lead the visitors to a series win on Thursday.

Much of the 2nd ODI at St George's Park was overshadowed by the IPL 2024 mini-auction in Dubai on Tuesday. The broadcaster in India kept switching the live match to different channels while the commentary was also dominated by updates from the auction room in Dubai.

While the auction was taking place at the Coca-Cola Arena, South Africa's young guns stepped up and bounced back to level the series. While Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan picked up 9 wickets between them to decimate the South African



batting line-up in the first ODI, they looked flat in Gqeberha as South Africa chased down a 212-run target without breaking a sweat, riding on opener Tony de Zorzi's maiden ODI century.

For India, Sai Sudharsan has looked impressive with fifties in his first two ODIs. On a pitch that had a bit of uncomfortable extra bounce, Sai looked comfortable until he got a ripper of a delivery from Lizaad Williams in the 2nd ODI. KL Rahul also hit a fluent fifty but none of the other batters got going as South Africa pacers, led by left-arm pacer Nandre Burger, who has got a deal with Rajasthan Royals, dominated the Indian batting unit.

Ruturaj Gaikwad lit up the start of the home season in India with a T20I century against Australia, but the Chennai Super Kings opener has struggled so far in the series. With scores of 5 and 4, Ruturaj has been dismissed LBW in both his innings. While Wiaan Mulder got him in the first ODI, left-arm Burger got him with a fuller inswinger in the 2nd ODI.

If Ruturaj has to keep the selectors interested in him in the ODI format, the youngster needs to step up and deliver. In 6 ODIs, Ruturaj has scored only

115 runs, and considering the competition for the opener's slot across all formats, time might be running out for the Maharashtra batter.

Ruturaj might get another opportunity and runs in a decider is worth its weight in gold.

On the other hand, Tilak Varma, who has got a run of 4 matches in South Africa, is yet to light up the series. The left-hander might make way for Rajat Patidar as India would want to give the Royal Challengers Bangalore star, who has returned from a long injury layoff, a go for the first time in the series.

Sanju Samson got an opportunity to bat in the 2nd ODI after returning to the squad following the World Cup squad and the senior man failed to make use of another opportunity as he went for 12. The Rajasthan Royals captain will be desperate to return to scoring ways after having had a consistent run in the format in 2022.

Rinku Singh looked impressive for his 14-ball 17 on his ODI debut, but KL Rahul would want more from his batters in the series decider.

Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan did make merry in the first ODI, but they looked flat in

slightly flatter conditions in the second match. The two young guns are expected to get another go, while India might want to rest Mukesh Kumar ahead of the Test series.

However, India might look to give an opportunity to leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in the series decider. Axar Patel has not had a lot of opportunities so far after his return from injury setback. The left-arm spinner struggled for rhythm in the 2nd ODI but he might get another opportunity. Washington Sundar has also been warming the benches.

South Africa played with a 4-man pace attack in the 2nd ODI and all of them impressed, but they will be tempted to bring back spinner Tabraiz Shamsi for the decider.

With the pitch in Paarl expected to be a little slower than the other venues in South Africa, India have the option to go in with three spinners for the decider. Are we going to see the return of Kul-chah? Keep in mind, the two spinners were pivotal to India's series victory in South Africa in 2018.

It's expected to be a hot day in the city on Thursday and expect an interruption-free game.

SA v IND, 3rd ODI PREDICTED XIs

South Africa: Reeza Hendricks, Tony de Zorzi, Rassie van der Dussen, Aiden Markram (captain), Heinrich Klaasen (WK), David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Keshav Maharaj, Nandre Burger, Lizaad Williams, Tabraiz Shamsi.

India: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, KL Rahul (Captain and WK), Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan.

## Archer Jyothi to approach court after Khel Ratna snub



NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): On a day when the Sports Ministry released the list of the National Sports Awards winners, India's premier compound archer V Jyothi Surekha announced that she will approach the court for being snubbed for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

Jyothi and her father Surendra Kumar had been trying to get in touch with Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and other officials ever since her name did not feature in the list of recommended athletes for the country's highest sporting honour.

In fact, Jyothi wrote a letter to the Minister on December 14, urging him to reconsider as she had the highest points amongst the athletes. The 27-year-old from Andhra Pradesh won three gold medals — in individual, women's team and mixed team events — in compound archery at the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Multiple sources have confirmed that she indeed had the highest points, but her name

was dropped as the compound event was not an Olympics discipline. The committee also felt that the duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy winning the Thomas Cup gold and a World Championships bronze medal was more credible.

Kumar today told The Tribune that they will file a petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court very soon. "This is the biggest tragedy in Indian sport. How can someone who has the highest points as per the criteria, someone who has won medals in three back-to-back Asian Games and World Championships fail to get the Khel Ratna?" Kumar said.

"I have consulted the lawyer and sent him the relevant papers. My understanding is that we will file latest by Friday because we feel that the committee took a very wrong decision. We were only waiting for the final list to come out," he added.

Kumar also informed that Jyothi had tried to get in touch with the Ministry and the Sports

Authority of India a number of times but she did not get any response from the officials.

In her letter to Thakur, Jyothi said she was "disheartened" by the snub. "Despite representing Indian Team for the last 13 years and winning 3 Gold medals in the 19th Asian Games, 2022 and winning 8 medals in the World Championships so far, and having a highest of 148 points as per the given criteria, I am very disheartened to see that my name has not been recommended by the committee for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award," Jyothi said in her letter.

"I would also like to mention that I am not against any athlete or the committee members but I would like to know the reasons or facts behind, as I am having the eligibility as per the criteria given in the Notifications," she added.

Chirag-Satwik get Khel Ratna Badminton stars Satwiksairaj and Shetty will be awarded the Khel Ratna after the Ministry released the official list today.

Indian pacer Mohammad Shami, archers Pravin Ojas Deotale and Aditi Gopichand, long jumper M Sreeshankar, chess Grandmaster R Vaishali, and shooters Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and Esha Singh are a few of the prominent names that figure in the list of Arjuna Award winners.

## West Indies name seven uncapped players for Australia Tests

MELBOURNE, Dec 21 (Agencies): West Indies will blood at least four debutants in the first test against Australia next month after naming seven uncapped players in a 15-man squad for the two-match series.

Languishing at eighth in the world rankings, the Caribbean's hopes of ending a 20-year losing streak against Australia appear faint with all-rounders Jason Holder and Kyle Mayers electing to skip the series to play franchise T20 cricket.

Fast bowler Jayden Seales, meanwhile, is sidelined with a shoulder injury.

"The squad has been affected by the unavailability of some key players," lead selector Desmond Haynes said in a statement.

"However, we have had a very strong red-ball program being run over the past year, which has unearthed significant talent throughout the region." The uncapped players in the Kraigg Brathwaite-captained squad are batsman Zachary McCaskie, wicketkeeper Tevin

Imlach, all-rounders Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge and Kevin Sinclair; and fast bowlers Akeem Jordan and Shamar Joseph.

Australia's least experienced player in the 11 that thrashed Pakistan by 360 runs in the first test in Perth on Sunday is 26-test wicketkeeper Alex Carey.

The West Indies series starts at Adelaide Oval on Jan. 17 before moving to the Gabba in Brisbane from Jan. 25.

Australia completed their seventh consecutive whitewash of the West Indies in tests in the last home summer with wins in Perth and Adelaide.

The Caribbean's last test win over Australia came in their 3-1 home series loss in 2003, while their last victory in Australia was in 1997.

West Indies squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (capt), Alzarri Joseph, Tagnarine Chanderpaul, Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze, Kavem Hodge, Justin Greaves, Joshua DaSilva, Akeem Jordan, Gudakesh Motie, Kemar Roach, Kevin Sinclair, Tevin Imlach, Shamar Joseph, Zachary McCaskie.

## Pakistan pacer Khurram Shahzad ruled out of remaining two Tests against Australia due to injury

KARACHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Pakistan suffered a blow ahead of the second Test against Australia beginning on Tuesday in Melbourne after pace bowler Khurram Shahzad was on Thursday ruled out of the remainder of the series with a rib fracture and abdominal muscle tear.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed that Khurram had suffered a fracture in his right rib cage and after consultation with experts it was decided he wouldn't be able to play the remaining Tests in Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 3-7).

"Khurram Shazad has been ruled out of



the Test series against Australia due to a stress fracture in his left 10th rib, as well as an abdominal muscle tear. He complained of dis-

comfort in his left side during the first Test," the PCB said in a statement.

Khurram was one of the few success stories for Pakistan in the first

Test in Perth which Pakistan lost by a whopping 360 runs. He made his debut in the Perth Test and took five wickets in the match.

Another debutant Aamir Jamal took seven wickets in the match, while pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi got just two.

The PCB said Khurram will first consult a specialist in Australia and then he will be sent back to Pakistan for rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore.

"PCB will now consult a specialist in Australia after which a final management protocol will be established for the player. He will then return to the NCA in

Lahore where he will continue his injury management and rehabilitation."

Pakistan is already without mystery spinner Abrar Ahmad who was expected to be their main weapon in the three-match series.

Abrar missed the first match in Perth due to an injury and was also ruled out of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

Pakistan is already without young speedster Naseem Shah who is recovering from a shoulder operation while two promising pacers Muhammad Hasnain and Ehsanullah were grappling with fitness issues and not considered for the tour.

## IPL auction: Big paycheck moment will stick to us for rest of our lives, says Daryl Mitchell

HAMILTON, Dec 21 (Agencies): When New Zealander Daryl Mitchell was bought for a whopping Rs 14 crore by Chennai Super Kings during the IPL auction, he was wrapping presents for his daughter's birthday at his home and his heartbeat increased when his name popped up on the screen.

His family kept the domestic chores aside and remained glued to the television. In the space of few minutes, the 32-year-old secured a life-changing paycheck at the auction held in Dubai on Tuesday.

"It was obviously a pretty special night for us as a family, sitting here with my wife watching the whole auction," Mitchell said, according to local media.

"To see your name come up and then to go through that whole experience is definitely something that will stick with us for the rest of our lives."

Mitchell became the second-

most expensive Black Caps ever purchased in the 15-year history of the IPL, level with Kane Williamson and behind only Kyle Jamieson, who was picked up by Royal Challengers Bangalore for Rs 15 crore in 2021.

"(Elder daughter) Addie's birthday today (Wednesday), so there was a bit of wrapping up presents and stuff like that while the auction was going on. At the auction, you don't quite know exactly when you're going to come up in the list.

"So yeah, I guess we were just trying to keep ourselves busy and watching it, and then, when it popped up, I guess you end up being glued to the screen to see what happens." Mitchell, who starred with the bat at the ODI World Cup, has played in the IPL once previously, making two appearances for the Rajasthan Royals during the 2022 season, where his services



were acquired for his base price of Rs 75 lakh.

He is an established member of the New Zealand national team across formats after playing 20 Tests, 39 ODIs and 56 T20Is.

He will join Devon Conway, Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra at the Chennai Super Kings next year as they look to

defend their title, under coach Stephen Fleming and captain MS Dhoni.

"Your heart starts to pump a little bit, as you see the paddles going up," he said.

"But having been through the auction before and going unsold, it was a pretty special night last night to experience that."

He said the eye-popping sum will help set up his family in many ways.

"It's my oldest daughter's fifth birthday today (Wednesday), so I got her a pretty good present waking up. Not that she understands what's going on, but ... it will help us set up the family in many ways.

"So they (the two daughters) can grow up and enjoy the things they love, and for me, that's the really cool thing about it, and they are the reason why you do all this."

## "A Decision Like This...": Ex KKR Skipper On Mumbai Indians' Decision To Replace Captain Rohit Sharma

MUMBAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Removing a captain of the stature of Rohit Sharma and replacing him with Hardik Pandya is certainly a bold call. Mumbai Indians didn't budge from making the call ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 auction but a section of fans is understandably not happy with the change. However, former Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan feels the decision has been made by MI keeping in mind the 'long-term benefits' that the franchise hopes to reap from making Hardik the skipper.

Rohit led Mumbai Indians in 10 IPL seasons, winning the title in 5 of them. Hardik, on the other hand, has a similar success ratio though his sample size at Gujarat Titans is quite small. In two seasons as the captain of GT, Hardik won one title while reaching the final in the other. "If you look at the franchise itself, they have had a very forward-thinking, logic-driven and future-proof

driven style of strategy for a long time," Morgan told the Times of India. "A decision like this reinforces that the franchise always comes first."

"You probably see this as being a tough decision that they've made hoping that the long-term benefits will see MI lifting another championship in the coming years. So, in a way, you've to admire the courage that it takes to make a decision like that because not every team would take that decision," he further said.

A lot is changing in Rohit's cricketing career, with there being question marks on his future as the captain of India's white-ball teams too.

With the T20 World Cup set to be held next year, reports suggest that Rohit seems to be the selection committee's No. 1 choice at present, despite the fact that he hasn't played a T20 international since the conclusion of the 2022 T20 World Cup.



# National workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights" held in GCW Gandhi Nagar

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Department of Chemistry in Collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of PSPS Govt College for Women (GCW) Gandhi Nagar Jammu organized a National Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights under the aegis of Prime Minister Narendra Modi vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM).

A large number of students of GCW Gandhi Nagar and faculty members across the UT of J&K and other states participated in the event.

Workshop was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal, GCW Gandhi Nagar in presence of Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, & Head, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, IQAC Coordinator, resource person Dr. Komal Chaudhary Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs NIPAM Officer Chemical Division, Patent Office Delhi, Ministry of commerce and Indus-

try, Govt of India, and members of organizing committee Dr. Aran Kumar, Dr. Rabia, Prof. Sunita, Dr. Babita Jamwal, Dr. Sham Lal, Dr. Manmeet Kour, Prof. Malti Rajput, Dr. Rajni Khajuria and Prof. Raj Kumari.

Prof. Minu Mahajan in her inaugural address stressed on the need of such type of workshops for the faculty as well as students.

She appreciated the efforts of resource person, convener, members of organizing committee and IQAC for taking this collaborative initiative of organizing National Level event in GCW Gandhi Nagar.

She said that protection of intellectual property is a vital component of innovation and scientific advance since many of the benefits of the invention will be lost if the resulting IP is not timely protected. Moreover, she encouraged all the faculty members to organize more such events at this time to educate budding scientists about the importance and advantages IPR.

She further said that such

small initiatives shall definitely help us to fulfil the vision of our Hon'ble PM of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener of the workshop welcomed the Chief Guest, Resource person and all the participants. He said that Department of Chemistry and IQAC of the college is continuously involved in inculcating academic, innovative and research aptitude among faculty & students. The IPR is the basis of protection of any scientific/creative innovation/idea and the knowledge of various aspects of IPR are very much required at this time and said that PM Narendra Modi vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 can only be fulfilled by taking such small initiatives and generating awareness among budding scientists about the importance of IPR.

Dr. Komal Chaudhary Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs NIPAM Officer Chemical Division, Patent Office Delhi was the resource person in the workshop.

She delivered a very informative talk on "IPR: Patent, Design,

Trademark, Copyright and Geographical indications."

In her deliberations she covered all important aspects of IPR like Copyright, Patents, Design, Trademark, Geographical Indications with powerful power point presentation.

She also highlighted the criteria for obtaining patents, design registration and the work to be copyrighted. Moreover, she explained in details how to file patents and apply for copyrights.

In the end she interacted with the participants especially students in which students response was very impressive and most of the students responded to all the questions asked by her on Patent, Design, Trademark, Copyright and Geographical indications etc.

The proceedings of the whole workshop were conducted by Dr. Manmeet Kour, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, GCW, Gandhinagar Jammu and at the end an impressive vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, IQAC Coordinator.

# PTTI Vijaypur organizes friendly badminton match



## Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 21: In order to promote sports activities, enhance physical fitness as well as to inculcate a sense of team spirit and sportsmanship among the Police personnel, Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a Badminton match between Admn. Staff and Indoor Staff.

The match displayed an atmosphere of happiness, harmony and splen-

did struggle.

The entire match remained a process of ups and downs, with two teams keeping neck to neck in strength.

Displaying control in the match, the Indoor team pair of Insp. Anil Kumar and HC Vikas Bhandari carved out a 21-19, 21-18 win over Admn team pair of Insp. Rakesh Kumar and ASI Surjeet Singh.

While speaking on the occasion, Shiv Kumar, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur

emphasized upon everyone to exercise regularly to keep fit and also advocated to play badminton once a week to enjoy the pleasure of this sport.

Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, DySP(Outdoor), Khushwant Singh DySP (Admn.), Insp. Ram Lal Bhagat (CL), Insp. Vivek Kalsotra, Insp. Himanshu Dutta (CTI), Insp. Mulkh Raj, Insp. Ashish Dharmat, Insp. Tariq Mehmood and others were present on the occasion.

# GDC Darhal organizes Speech Making Competition on India's Vision 2047

## Top News Report

DARHAL, Dec 21: GDC Darhal, a renowned educational institution focused on holistic development, successfully conducted a speech-making competition today as part of the Viksit Bharat Programme.

The event, held on the GDC Darhal campus, witnessed enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty, making it a resounding success.

Under the esteemed chairmanship of Principal Prof. Musaraf Hussain Shah, the speech-making competition aimed to provide a platform for students to delve deep into India's Vision 2047 and present their visionary perspectives. This event aimed to nurture visionary thinking, critical analysis, and communication skills among the students, fostering their active participation in shaping the future of our great nation.

The event commenced with an opening address by Principal Prof. Musaraf Hussain Shah, who emphasized the significance of envisioning a futuristic India.

Stressing the importance of the Viksit Bharat Programme, he highlighted the need to empower the youth and encourage them to play an active role in the country's development.

The passionate participants eloquently presented their visions for India in 2047, addressing diverse areas of growth, social progress, and sustainable development.

Their speeches reflected a deep understanding of the challenges India faces today and the transformative steps required to create a brighter future.

The panel of judges, comprising senior faculty members including Dr Ghulam Abbas, Dr M Saleem Wani and Dr Taseem Ahmed, ensured fair evaluation

and recognition of the participants' efforts. The judges evaluated the speakers based on the clarity of their ideas, persuasive argumentation, and stage presence.

The competition witnessed a fierce display of oratory skills, with each participant captivating the audience with their unique perspectives and innovative ideas. The exemplary display of intellectual prowess and cogent presentations showcased the participants' commitment to making a positive difference in our nation.

Following the intense competition, Principal Prof. Musaraf Hussain Shah felicitated the winners, acknowledging their exceptional performances. The first-place winner Hibza Malik delivered an inspiring speech on technological advancements and their role in transforming India.

The second-place winner, Kashish Fatima addressed matters of environmental sustainability and the importance of renewable energy sources. Lastly, the third-place winner Umar Khaif exhibited remarkable insights into gender parity and women's empowerment.

Principal Prof. Musaraf Hussain Shah expressed his satisfaction and pride in witnessing the level of competitiveness and enthusiasm displayed by the students. He reiterated GDC Darhal's commitment to providing a nurturing environment that encourages critical thinking and holistic development.

This speech-making competition coordinated by Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Program officer of the College as part of the Viksit Bharat Programme stands as a testament to the institution's dedication to empowering students and fostering their active participation in shaping India's future.

# Alexander Memorial School celebrates Christmas function



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: The students and staff of Alexander Memorial School celebrated Annual Christmas Programme in the school premises with usual solemnity and gaiety.

The students presented a Nativity Play - "If Jesus was born today which depicted the impact of sin in lives of human beings and God's presence brings transformation.

The Principal, Esther William, received Anand Jain IGP Jammu Zone who was the Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Sudhir Singh, Joint Sec-

retary, JKBOSE who was the Guest of Honour at the function.

The function started with a prayer and message of love & peace by Rev. Dr. Vijay Kumar, Priest Incharge, St. Paul's Church, CNI, Jammu.

The play was appreciated and applauded by all. The School choir in their melodious voice sang carols.

Those prominent among the guests were Johnny William, Former (IGP), President, Alexander Memorial Educational Society, S.M. Gill, I.D. Soni, Sr. Management Member, Dr. Kishor Sharma, Principal,

Govt. Hari Hr. Sec. School and members of the management along with Neeru Puri, Principal, S.D. Tara-puri School, Rajni Gupta, Principal, JK Montessori, Anku Charak, Principal, Humanity School & Rohini Aima, Principal, Sanskriti School, Dr. Ashwani Jojra from Sahyog India and several other dignitaries were among the distinguished guests.

The programme was compared by Rajni Kaul. The vote of thanks was presented by Johnny William.

The program ended with little Santa Claus giving goodies to everyone.

# GGM Science College drives awareness for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: GGM Science College, a leading institution committed to academic excellence, on Thursday organized a comprehensive awareness program under the banner of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

The initiative is in line with the ambitious vision set by the Prime Minister to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, marking the 100th year of its independence. The event was arranged by College Team on Viksit Bharat under supervision of Dr. Ashaq Hussain in association with the NSS unit of the College under the astute guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Gupta, the Principal of the College, and was aimed to enlighten students about the government's vision for holistic development encompassing economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance.

The program started



with a welcome address by Dr. Narinder Kumar, NSS Program Officer of the College, who in his address underscored the significant achievements of the government in advancing India towards becoming a developed and self-reliant nation.

Dr. Kumar emphasized the role of education in shaping the future leaders who will contribute to the nation's progress.

Later the key note speaker Dr. Ashaq Hussain, the driving force behind the College Viksit Bharat Program, addressed the students, providing insights into the vision and objectives

of the government. He highlighted the pivotal role of Chemistry in achieving the goals outlined in Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Dr. Hussain urged students to actively participate in the program by registering and sharing their innovative ideas and contributions towards the nation's development.

In his address, Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Gupta, the Principal of GGM Science College, reinforced the importance of the youth in building the future of the nation. He encouraged students to work diligently, think creatively, and contribute their ideas to the Viksit

Bharat @ 2047 initiative.

Prof. Gupta stressed that this pivotal moment presents an opportunity for students to contribute in building the nation and there by playing their crucial role in India's journey towards progress and prosperity.

The program concluded with a call to action, urging students to register on the Viksit Bharat platform and share their transformative ideas. The College remains committed to fostering an environment where students are not only educated but also inspired to actively participate in the nation's developmental journey.

# Central Govt is engaged in providing employment to unemployed: Billawaria

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Dogra Seva Sambhal Trust on Thursday organized a workshop in Gangyal in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Employment and about 7 other departments in which unemployed women and men aged between 18 to 45 years participated.

In this, all of them were registered and emphasis was laid on making them self-reliant.

This camp was inaugurated by former MLC Vibhoddh Gupta and former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria whereas Regional Director Pankaj Rastogi was also present.

On this occasion, Billawaria said that all these men and women were first made aware by organizing small camps at five places and today all these unemployed



people have come to avail the benefits of government schemes and get themselves registered in them so that they can get help from the skill department.

The benefits of the schemes of various departments can be given to them on the spot. The government also gave Rs 250 to each beneficiary participating in this camp.

Billawaria said that the government is continuously making efforts to make people self-reliant so that no person remains unemployed.

On this occasion, offi-

cial of the departments gave information to the people about Atal Pension Scheme, Worker Education, Technical Education so that they can avail the benefits of the schemes properly.

He has also expressed gratitude to Dogra Seva Sambhal Trust and all the departments for organizing this event.

On this occasion, Vivek Sharma, Ashok Chaudhary, JP Vehra, CH Tour, Manjeet Singh, Parshotam Singh Pathania, BJP leaders Rekha Mahajan, Ranjit Singh, Ajay Pratap Singh were present.

# GDC R S Pura organizes documentary screening show under 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Department of Dogri and Dept. of Political Science of GDC R. S. Pura jointly organizes a documentary Screening Show to inspire students of the college to participate with zeal and enthusiasm in the ongoing Viksit Bharat campaign @2047.

The theme of the documentary was to visit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to educate the students about flagship schemes and explore innovative ideas for making progress in all spheres of life. In the realm of culture, the documentary unfold like a vibrant tapestry, intricately showcasing the diverse hues of India's heritage. From ancient traditions to contemporary artistic expressions, every frame is a celebration of the country's cultural mosaic.

The visuals capture the essence of India's identity, portraying the amalgamation of traditions, languages, and artistic forms that have flourished through the ages.

Further the scientific journey of India is equally spotlighted, with the documentary presenting a kaleidoscope of achieve-

ments in the field. Cutting-edge research, technological breakthroughs, and innovative strides are brought to life through compelling visuals.

Dr. Rajni Bhagat, worthy Principal of the college along with teaching and non-teaching staff witnessed the show. Speaking on the occasion she said that students who are future of the nature should participate in the campaign with zeal and enthusiasm.

She impressed upon students to come out with innovative ideas that can help in solving many problems that our country is facing.

The country is facing a number of problems like pollution, water scarcity soil fertility, and many more. She asked them to come out with creative ideas that can help the country to march forward with dignity. The staff and students listen to worthy principals with patience.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Nodal Officer, Viksit Bharat @2047 and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary (H.O.D Pol. Science).