







## EDITORIAL

DOGRI MANYATA  
DIVAS

**D**ogri is a language spoken in Jammu, Kangra of Himachal and some provinces of Northern Punjab in India. In the year 2003, it was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. In the family of western hill dialects, among the people languages of the middle hill belt, Dogri, Chambyali, Madawali, Mandiyali, Bilaspuri, Bagdi etc. are notable.

Dogri is a special public language in this huge family for many reasons. Its first characteristic is that the number of its speakers is particularly high compared to other dialects. Secondly, in this family only Dogri is literary dynamic and prosperous.

The third specialty of Dogri is that at one time this language had been the medium of internal dealings of the state administration in the princely state of Kashmir and Chamba state. Due to this language, its speakers are called Dogras and the linguistic area of Dogri is generally called "Duggar".

The historical city of Jammu, the autumn capital of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, is the main center of literary practice of Dogri, where the representative organization of Dogri literary people, in the name of "Dogri Sanstha", has been striving for the literary welfare of this language for the last 60 years.

Dogri has its own script which is called Takri or Takri script. This script is quite old. Gurmukhi script is believed to have originated from this. It is known from some ancient copper plates of Kullu and Chamba that this script was initially developed in the 10th-11th century. However, many scripts falling under Takri category are prevalent in this vast region like, Lande, Kishtwadi, Chambyali, Mandayali, Sirmauri and Kullui etc. Dr. Grierson considers Sharda and Takri as sisters. Takri script is still used in book-keeping in the rural community of Duggar. It also has a developed form in which many texts have been published. Kashmir King Maharaj Ranveer Singh, during his reign about a hundred years ago, had tried to reform the Dogri script in line with Nagari. The use of quantity and symbols was adopted and for the first time, Ranvir Press was established by the government in Jammu to make proper arrangements for printing Dogri language texts in the new Takri script.

## Technology has taken away skills from man's hands and has created a counter-man against man

By: Vijay GarG

**A** supporter of the non-violent ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave was an Australian-born philosopher, Ivan Illich. His view was that vehicles had taken away the strength of human legs. Mechanical technology has taken away the skills of man's hands and efforts are being made against man to develop a replica of him in the form of 'robot' and leave man alone in the jungle of cement, concrete and machines. There is family and society, yet they are in the clutches of slavery of machines, their freedom By putting intelligence into the robot, we are busy making it the ruler of humans. Till now, the work of developing robots in new forms was done by humans in the form of scientists, but artificial intelligence has given such wings in the sky of technology that robots have now started updating themselves with the help of artificial intelligence. Whether the consequences of this power of automatic transformation of robots and creation of new robots will be fruitful or fatal, is in the womb of the future, but it is definitely a point to consider. The robot of the future will no longer be merely a mechanical human. Efforts are being made to transform it into a living human being with the help of machines and artificial intelligence. In this direction, American scientists have also invented a model of a living robot. A group of scientists has succeeded in transforming the living cells of frog embryos into other new life forms. In this, sense perception can be achieved through a device of minimum weight. Twenty-four sensory instruments are attached to it. It carries out work by sensing muscle movements and brain. It is called 'Esper Bionics Prosthetic' Named 'Hand'. Keeping it functional is done with the help of AI and cloud technology. Through this technol-

ogy, data and programs available on the Internet are obtained. In the initial stage, the robot was a device made from the coordination of hardware and software. Initially its utility was associated with difficult and dangerous tasks within the reach of humans. In view of its effective productivity, changes continued in it and this technology was named robotics. Over time, living robots became living robots through the coordination of digital, AI and internet technology. A species of robots came into use, which were named 'Bionics' and 'Xenobots'. Scientists of the world have been making efforts to develop two types of artificial humans since the beginning of the twentieth century. One is 'Android' i.e. artificial human and the other is 'Cyborg' i.e. machine human. Scientists got the idea of creating such humans from fiction literature. Literature and science are two such subjects which have the power to make the present past and the future present in industries. These mechanical humans who used to do manual labor can now do it automatically with the help of artificial intelligence. While being operated, thousands of intelligent machines are becoming humans. The wonder of this artificial intelligence is that now there will be no need for any expert human being to guide it, rather it will remain active automatically with the artificially developed intelligence system in its nerves. Chat-GPT and Chat Bots software will be their tools, which will make them multilingual with advanced word-formation capabilities and will automatically become active towards solving problems. The world's scientists have created artificial intelligence in 'android' and 'cyborg' forms. I am trying to make a human being. Android means such humans, who are made in the laboratory only from organic compounds and are completely artificial. Their structure is similar to that of humans, hence these robots

are also called 'human robots'. Well, we know the word Android very well as Android mobile. Battery operated moving dolls come in this category. In the present world, many types of artificial human-shaped robots have been invented and have come into discussion. Various among the community performing different types of roles. Among these, 'Ada' is a feminine robot, who has been considered the world's first 'robot artist'. Artificial intelligence is used in its eyes to detect cameras and objects. Through its performance at Oxford Ye Manav University, it proved how different people present art from different angles. Similarly, a Hong Kong company has given shape to a robot named 'Sophia'. It will become a symbol of the future in the field of artificial humans and intelligence. Is e. Its amazing uniqueness is that it is capable of capturing a person's imagination. It has proved its artificial intelligence in many TV shows and international conferences. It has made significant contributions to the latest research through ultra-modern intelligence. Saudi Arabia has accepted its human incarnation by granting it citizenship. It has been developed with a view to work in the fields of education, research and entertainment. Now the world has moved ahead with the creation of robots that look like men and women. This China is leading in the race. Now robots like dog, cat, butterfly and other animals based on Android technology have come into existence. China has developed seven hundred and forty types of unique robots. These robots help us in our daily tasks and complete them easily. That is why they have been named companion humanoid robots. Among them, there are robots that prepare tea, coffee and serve food, but there are also robots that clean and keep the scattered items in their place. Therefore they are included in the category of professional servants. Has

been kept. They are also capable of talking like humans. India is now taking initiative towards becoming a big player in robot manufacturing. India is far behind America, China, Japan, Germany and South Korea in robot technology. As a result, the government is coming up with a national strategy to give impetus to the robotics business. Under this, the government will provide financial assistance for everything from making robots to adopting robotics. A complete system of research and development will be developed in this field, starting from the necessary raw materials used in robots. 'Robotics Innovation Unit' (RIU) will be established for this work. This unit will function as an agency under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. At present, robots are used in India for everything from patient surgeries to automobiles. Its global turnover has reached \$6.7 billion. India is still far behind in this field. Approximately 33 thousand robots are operational in all sectors together. Human robots invented by human intelligence are also proving to be Bhasmasur. kiss by robot The first incident of taking a human life has occurred at the car manufacturing company 'Fox Wagon' plant in Berlin, the capital of Germany. Here a robot caught hold of an employee in its claws and threw him to death. This robot was doing the work of assembling car parts. In this case, since the killer is a mechanical human, police action was also not possible. After all, no machine can be made an accused?

(Vijay Garg Retired  
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## New Rajasthan CM hits the ground running

By: Dilip Cherian

**I**n 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 Raghbir 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 Thaosan. 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 secretary 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.











# No Hello, No Namaste only "Jai Dugger": Shiv Sena

**Demand to include Dogra history, a symbol of heroic bravery, in the curriculum**



**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 22: "Mithri Ae Dogre Di Boli, Te Khand Mithe Log Dogre", despite having such a sweet voice, Dogri language could not reach its true destination, let's come together and take a pledge of "Jai Dugger", this is stated by Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni.

On Dogri Recognition Day, a special program was organized at Shiv Sena office, Shiv Sainiks held placards written "No Hello, No Namaste - only Jai Dugger".

Party state chief Manish Sahni said that after a struggle of almost half a decade, Dogri language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution on 22 December 2003 and exactly after 17 years, on 2 September 2020, Dogri got the status of the official lan-

guage. of Jammu and Kashmir, but even today Dogri language has not reached its original destination.

Sahni said that Dogra's history and stories of bravery and Dogra rulers who brought out the social evils should be included in the school curriculum.

Sahni said that regarding the promotions of Dogri, the administration is merely fulfilling its needs. In government schools, Dogri is taught only up to the primary level, after that Dogri language is disrespected from the secondary level. Along with this, Dogri was completely ignored in private schools.

Sahni said, "Dogri represents our linguistic identity and we need to make it a part of the curriculum from school to university level."

He stressed the need to communicate in mother tongue. Sahni

said that Dogri is a thriving language but the way Dogras are focusing on teaching Hindi and English to their children, Dogri will soon turn into an endangered language.

He said that unless we respect our languages, we will not be able to respect our culture, civilization and nation.

Sahni called upon the people to make all efforts to promote Dogri language, art, culture and preserve the Dogra heritage.

Sahni said that let's come together and take a pledge of "No Hello No Namaste only Jai Dugger".

On this occasion president Mehila wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Charman Rakesh Gupta, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli and Balwant Singh, president Kanghar wing Raj Singh, Mangu Ram and many others were present.

# District Library Kathua celebrates Dogri Manyata Divas



**Top News Report**

KATHUA, Dec 22: District Library Kathua celebrated Dogri Manyata Divas in District Library Hall with great pomp and show with the collaboration of Literary Organisations namely Triveni Kala Kunj and Sabras Sahitya Sangam. Librarian, Dist Library Kathua Sunil Sharma Welcome the dignitaries and brief the details of the programme.

A Dogri Kavi Sammellan was organised in which noted Dogri Poets and students studying in the library participated.

All the poets recited their dogri poems stressing the need for spread of Dogri language and especially introducing Dogri as compulsory subject in the schools and colleges.

Prominent poets who participated in the Kavi sammellan were Usha Monga President

Triveni Kala Kunj, Tilak Raj Sumbriya President Sabras Sahitya Sangam, Vijay Sharma Hasya Kavi, Madan Lal Toofan IRS (Retd), Sham Lal Khajuria, Shashi Sharma, Vijay Sharma compared the proceedings. Other prominent dignitaries present were Manuj Kesari, Shadi Lal Sharma ETO Retd, Yash Paul Sharma, President Wholesale Pharmaceutical Products.

# Vedyansh of DPS Jammu excels in open Jammu Taekwondo Championship

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 22: Vedyansh Rana (III-D), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by securing second place and silver medal in Open Jammu Taekwondo Championship organized by J&K Taekwondo Association held at Indoor Stadium, Bhagwati Nagar from

19-20 December, 2023.

The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Vedyansh and her parents for the brilliant performance in the event. They also extended their best wishes to her for all her future endeavours.

# Dogri Sanstha Jammu celebrates Dogri Maanta Divas

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 22: Dogri Sanstha Jammu celebrated 'Dogri Maanta Divas' in a simple but an impressive function organized at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar Jammu. B.R Sharma (Retired IAS), State Election Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir was chief Guest, Ravi Shankar Sharma, Special Secretary Higher Education Jammu & Kashmir was special Guest and Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function.



On this auspicious day with a memento and a shawl. In his address, chief guest B.R Sharma said that we should be concerned about our mother tongue and promote it right from our own home. It is the high time that we should realize our responsibilities towards our language and cultural traditions.

As a special guest, Ravi Shankar Sharma said that it is a special day which makes us realize our duties towards our roots which get nourished by mother tongue while Prof. Lalit Magotra recalled the contributions made by Dogri Sanstha for the last so many years for preserving and promoting Dogri language.

He extended his warm greetings to all Dogras on this special day and hoped that our mother tongue will flourish with

the active participation of all Dogras.

On this occasion, a musical evening was also organized which enamored the audience with scintillating performances by Chinamay Sharma, Kusha Sharma and Vanshika-Jaral who gave voices to Ashok Anguarana and Gyaneshwar's lyrics. On instruments Sunil Sharma was on synth and Rajeew on Dholak. The music was composed by prominent music composer of UT of J & K Brij Mohan.

The proceedings of the function were conducted by well-known theatre activist and poet PawanVerma whereas vote of thanks was presented by Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' General Secretary, DogriSanstha Jammu. A large number of litterateurs and literature lovers attended the function.

# Discussion on 'Hindi Language: Technological Development' held by Hindi Deptt JU

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 22: A discussion on the topic 'Hindi Language: Technological Development' was organized by the Hindi Department, Jammu University, Jammu on 22-12-2023 at 10:30 am in the smart class room of the Hindi Department. In this program Prof. Rajni Bala, Head of the Hindi Department, served as the keynote speaker.

Explaining the importance of Hindi at the global level, he inspired to find the development of technology in Indian languages.

He also clarified that Hindi language has the culture of Indianness and in the absence of this culture, technical development is not possible. Highlighted the importance of Hindi conferences

organized at the global level.

He also said that IIT Kanpur, Delhi and Pune, while playing a major role in connecting Hindi with technology, have also connected it with the language of the economic world. The House was introduced to various packages, websites and software in the context of Hindi and technology.

Dr. Parshotam Kumar of Hindi Department, Dr. Bandana Thakur and post-graduate students of the department and all the researchers of the department were present in this program.

About 75 students, researchers and teachers participated in this discussion. Formal thanks were given by Dr. Koshiha Sharma and the program was conducted by Dr. Bhagwati Devi.

# Journalists honoured by NDS on Dogri Manata Divas

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 22: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) held a special programme to commemorate Dogri Bhasha Manata Divas. Kavinder Gupta former Deputy Chief Minister Jammu Kashmir was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Nishi Kant Khajuria a Senior Journalist Presided over the function. Nidhi Dogra Sharma Patron Dogra Samaj Trust Mumbai and Daughter of Late Girdhari Lal Ji Dogra was Guest of Honour and Parveen Sharma Chairman The Citizen Co-operative Bank was Special Guest.

Prof. Anupama Sharma Patron NDS, Capt. Lalit Sharma Convener NDS and Advocote Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS shared the Dias.

Four eminent Journalists Surinder Sagar, Ritesh Gupta, Rajinder Kitchloo and Jang Singh Verman were honoured and felicitated on the occasion for their outstanding services in Field Journalism in general and for propagating the cause of Dogri Lan-



guage and its Culture in particular.

A Trophy and a Ang Vastar each was presented by the dignitaries on the occasion.

Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS read citations as the mementoes were presented to the journalists.

Capt Lalit Sharma IFS former APCCF in his opening address said that inclusion of Dogri language in 8th schedule of Indian Constitution started way back in 1954 when Padam Shree Ram Nath Shastri and his team of Dogri Sanstha pledged it in the constitution of the Sanstha.

Though Dogri Language was not fulfill-

ing the request parameters for 8th Schedule at that time but he and his team took up the challenge to create the parameters in terms of cataloging the Dogri Folk, writing of literature on all modes, journals for Dogri, compilation of dictionary in collaboration with Cultural Academy so on and so forth. After five decades of preparatory struggle in 1990 Dogri Sangharsh Morcha was formed to accelerate the movement. Finally the Dogri got the esteem position of standing along with other major language in 8th schedule during December 2003 when Parliament passed the bill and President of

India gave accent on 4th of January 2004.

Kavinder Gupta, while congratulating the Dogras on Manata Divas, said that we all have to join heads to formulate a concrete strategy that our children start speaking dogri in their homes.

Nishi Kant Khajuria said that we have to take help of emerging technology to take Dogri Language to every household and to write the healthy literature.

Nidhi Dogra Sharma expressed concern that we are disassociating ourselves from our mother tongue, Dogri Culture and our rich heritage.

He said that our elite

class has to come forward and lead from the front to re-establish our strong connect with Dogri and its heritage.

Praveen Sharma said that new generation has started associating with Dogri and our rich heritage and suggested that Artificial Intelligence can play a big role to strengthen this cause.

Prof. Anupama Sharma called for new experiments in the field of Dogri Music bringing to the taste and likings of our younger generation.

Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila appealed all Dogras to make Dogri and its culture a mass movement.

Yash Paul Yash General Secretary conducted the programme and Dr. Sushil Bhola extended vote of thanks.

## NIA team visits site of Poonch terrorist attack

Forest of Kokernag in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. The operation was completed after six days on September 19.

Stating about the Kokernag encounter, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh had said that it was the handiwork of some vested interests to blow the Kokernag encounter out of proportion.

The DGP had said that terrorists opened the fire first in the encounter leading to the killing of three officers.

## 14 dead, 25 injured in Prague university shooting

the police, there would have been many more victims."

Earlier, Vondrasek told journalists that more than 15 people lost their lives and at least 24 others were injured.

Police said on social media X that they are still investigating the identity of the victims, one of whom is a foreigner. The assailant has been eliminated.

According to the Czech News Agency (CTK), local police were informed that a young man from Hostoun in the Central Bohemia Region was to leave for Prague, saying he wanted to take his own life. About 25 minutes later, the young man's father was found dead in Hostoun, and the police consequently launched a search for the son as a suspect.

The police were also informed that the shooter was to give a lecture at the Faculty of Arts building on Celetna Street in Prague. Thus they evacuated the building, but the shooting took place in another one at Jan Palach Square, the CTk reported.

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala told media on Thursday evening that at the moment, the shooting seemed to be the act of a lone gunman, and it was neither international terrorism nor the act of an organised group.

Calling the shooting "a terrible act, unprecedented in the history of the Czech Republic," Interior Minister Vit Rakusan has said that there is no indication that the shooting was linked to international terrorism.

## "Terrorism has not ended": Farooq Abdullah

## FROM PAGE 1 on Anti-Terror Ops during next 24 hrs: MeT

morning conducted a search operation in the forest area of Dera ki Gali in the Rajouri district where two Army vehicles were ambushed by heavily armed terrorists.

Four Army personnel were killed while three others were injured in the terror attack on Thursday evening.

The terrorists ambushed two Army vehicles carrying troops in Thanamandi, Rajouri.

"At around 3.45 pm on December 21, two Army vehicles carrying troops were moving to the operational site, which was fired upon by the terrorist. The fire was immediately retaliated upon by our troops," an Army official said.

Indian Army troops immediately retaliated after being attacked by terrorists, they said.

"The troops were going to reinforce a joint operation against terrorists underway in the area since last evening. The operations are taking place in the 48 Rashtriya Rifles area," Army officials added.

## Rain, snowfall likely over higher reaches of J&K

3-5°C, it'll still be cold enough for precipitation to occur in the form of snow, especially in the Shopian-Kulgam belt".

He said the chances of snowfall are likely in Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara and a spell of snowfall can't be ruled out at Gulmarg and Sonmarg, he said.

In view of the WD the minimum temperature improves at most stations and Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded below 1.3°C of the normal -2.0°C against the -3.3°C on Thursday.

The freezing cold continued in Kashmir valley resulting in choking of water taps and several water bodies in parts of iconic Dal Lake and other parts of the valley due to the impact of the falling temperatures.

The maximum temperature in Srinagar was 1.8°C above the normal of 9.0°C recorded the previous day. Day temperature also recorded above normal in other parts of the Kashmir valley amid sun appearing during the period.

Qazigund, on Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir settled at 3.0°C on Friday against -4.0°C and it was 1.0°C

below normal, while Kokernag recorded a low of 2.4°C against the -3.0°C recorded on Thursday and it was 0.3°C below normal for the famous picnic spot of south Kashmir.

The mercury in Pahalgam further improved and was recorded at -4.8°C on Friday against the -5.8°C on Thursday. It was 0.2°C above normal for the tourist hot spot of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Gulmarg recorded a low of -1.4°C against the -3.0°C recorded a day ago. It was 4.8°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

The minimum temperature at Kupwara had a low of -3.4°C against the -4.0°C recorded Thursday night. It was 0.8°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district, the MeT office said.

## Friday prayers allowed at historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar

security arrangements were put in place outside Jama Masjid to thwart any misadventure. Meanwhile Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was not allowed by authorities to lead the prayers as he was confined to his residence at Nigeen Srinagar.

## Markets climb in early trade on firm global trends

**Sensex climbs 180.55 points to 71,045.65; Nifty goes up by 58 points to 21,313.05**

MUMBAI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices began the trade on an optimistic note on Friday tracking firm global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 180.55 points to 71,045.65 in early trade. The Nifty went up by 58 points to 21,313.05.

However, both the benchmark indices faced volatile trends after early optimism but later bounced back to trade with significant gains.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, NTPC, JSW Steel, Sun Pharma and Bajaj Finance were the major winners.

Infosys, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and



Shanghai were trading with gains while Hong Kong quoted lower.

The US markets ended in the positive territory on Thursday.

"Despite FII selling and concerns about the Omicron variant, optimism prevails with expected Federal Reserve rate cuts and positive sentiments on India's growth," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.92 per cent to USD 80.12 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,636.19 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark jumped 358.79 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 70,865.10 on Thursday. The Nifty rallied 104.90 points or 0.50 per cent to 21,255.05.

## AI could help in early diagnosis of autism: Study

NEW YORK, Dec 22 (Agencies): Artificial intelligence (AI), coupled with data from an iPad colouring game, could assist in early diagnosis of autism, a new study shows. Researchers from the University of Southern California (USC) said the results indicate the potential for an easy and novel method for early detection of autism and developmental coordination disorder.

"This is especially important as motor signatures appear early in autism usually before social symptoms. And this methodology does not involve potential biasing by the assessor," said Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, a professor at USC.

Previous studies have shown it is possible to use technology to categorise autism from typically developing individuals, but it can be difficult to distinguish autism from other similar developmental disorders.

For example, developmental coordination disorder primarily a motor skills disorder has features that overlap with autism.

Children with autism spectrum disorder often have both motor and sensory deficits in addition to the social deficits that are the hallmark of the disorder.

For the study, published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 54 children between the ages of 8 and 17 took part in a five-minute colouring game on iPads. Eighteen had autism, 16 had developmental coordination disorder, and 20 were developing typically.

The iPads collected touchscreen kinematic data for example, how hard kids are pressing and the jerkiness or velocity of movements.

The researchers used machine learning analytics, a form of artificial intelligence, to process the information. "We were able to correctly

distinguish between a typically developing child and one with autism spectrum disorder with 76 per cent accuracy," said Aziz-Zadeh.

Researchers also were able to correctly distinguish between typical development and developmental coordination disorder with 78 per cent accuracy, and autism and developmental coordination disorder with 71 per cent accuracy.

The study was conducted in high-functioning children and adolescents with autism and needs to be replicated in larger, younger, and more diverse groups, researchers said.

"We would want to see this signature as early as possible," said Christiana Dodd Butera, a postdoctoral student at USC. "Early identification allows for tailored therapeutic approaches, which result in better long-term developmental outcomes," she added.

## Childhood trauma increases risk of chronic pain in adulthood

LONDON, Dec 22 (Agencies): Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or neglect, either alone or combined with other types of childhood trauma, increases the risk of chronic pain and related disability in adulthood, according to a new research.

The new findings underscore the urgency of addressing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—potentially traumatic events that occur before 18 years of age—and taking steps to mitigate their long-term impact on people's health.

ACEs may affect a child or teenager directly through physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or neglect—or indirectly through exposure to environmental factors like domestic violence, living with substance abuse or parental loss.

Chronic pain is one of the leading causes of disability worldwide.

Long-term painful conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, headache and migraine, can affect a person's daily functioning to the point they can't work, eat properly, or participate in physical activities.

For the study, published in the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, the team conducted a systematic review that included 85 studies.

Of those, results from 57 studies could be pooled in meta-analyses.

They found that individuals exposed to a direct ACE, whether physical, sexual,

or emotional abuse, or neglect, were 45 per cent more likely to report chronic pain in adulthood compared to those not exposed.

Childhood physical abuse was associated with a higher likelihood of reporting both chronic pain and pain-related disability.

The odds of reporting chronic pain or pain-related disability in adulthood increased with exposure to any direct ACE, either alone or combined with indirect ACEs.

The risk of reporting chronic pain in adulthood significantly increased from exposure to one ACE to four or more ACEs. "These results underscore the urgency of addressing ACEs, particularly in light of their prevalence and health repercussions," said Prof Jan Hartvigsen, from the University of Southern Denmark.

"A more nuanced understanding of the precise relationship between ACEs and chronic pain will empower health-care professionals and policymakers to devise targeted strategies to help diminish the long-term impact of early-life adversity on adult health."

The researchers proposed that future research should delve into the biological mechanisms through which ACEs affect health across the lifespan, aiming to deepen understanding and develop ways to mitigate their impact.

## Walmart invests \$600 mn in Flipkart

**Latter likely to receive another \$400 million, new investors to join fresh funding round**

BENGALURU, Dec 22 (Agencies): Homegrown ecommerce marketplace Flipkart has received \$600 million fund infusion from parent company Walmart. Flipkart confirmed the fundraising to this newspaper. As per reports, the company might receive another \$400 million funds and new investors will also join the fresh fundraising round. Though Flipkart didn't comment on this, it is said the funding will value the company at a premium of 5-10% from its current valuation. It was last valued at about \$35 billion. Flipkart will use the funds to expand its operations. Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, Accel and Tiger Global Management in July exited the e-commerce firm and sold their shares to Walmart.

Earlier in July, Walmart in its filing said during the six months ended July 31, 2023, it paid \$3.5 billion to acquire shares from



certain Flipkart non-controlling interest holders. The US retail company paid about \$1.4 billion to Tiger Global to buy its remaining shares in Flipkart. In 2018, Walmart paid about \$16 billion for a 77% stake in the ecommerce firm, and according to Tracxn, Walmart now holds about 80.5% stake in the company.

Flipkart hived-off its payments entity PhonePe in December

last year and in July, the company distributed cash payout worth \$700 million to nearly 24,000 employees, including former employees. This is to compensate them for the separation of PhonePe from the ecommerce firm. In an earnings call in August, Walmart had said that both Flipkart and PhonePe are continuing to demonstrate impressive growth and Flipkart delivered strong GMV (gross

merchandise value) and net sales growth as the core business continues to grow well.

The Flipkart Group includes group companies Flipkart, Mynta, Flipkart Wholesale, Flipkart Health+, and Cleartrip. It claims a registered user base of over 500 million, and there are over 14 lakh sellers on the platform, including Shopsy sellers. In FY23, Flipkart reported consolidated losses of Rs 4,890.6 crore and its consolidated net income stood at Rs 56,012.8 crore.

In its Flip Trends 2023, the homegrown ecommerce firm said that shoppers spent an average of 7 hours on Flipkart this year, and that the platform also witnessed over 41 million new customers up until November 2023. It also said that the company saw 100% growth in infant formula and premium skin care baby products which saw 50% growth in 2023.

## Marengo CIMS Hospital endeavours to create increased awareness about IPAH

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Lung Transplantation is the most complex medical endeavor undertaken by mankind. Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad is a recognized Lung Transplant Centre.

Lung transplantation is a definitive treatment for Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (IPAH), also known as Primary Pulmonary Hypertension (PPH), manifests in the second and third decades of life. It kills young people suddenly and is one of the causes of sudden cardiac (heart) death.

Symptoms of IPAH are shortness of breath, easy fatigability, chest pain, blackouts, and sudden cardiac death. These symptoms are progressive.

Marengo CIMS Hospi-



tal therefore endeavors to create awareness of this disease - Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (IPAH).

The Lung transplantation team consists of Dr Jnanesh Thacker, Director, Lung Transplantations, Minimal Invasive Lung Transplantations, Marengo CIMS Hospital with Dr Dhiren Shah, Director, Heart Transplant & Cardiothoracic Surgery, Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) and rest of the transplant team which consists of five other surgeons, 4 Anesthe-

tists, and 5 Perfusionist to mention a few.

The total number of transplantation team members exceeds more than 50.

Dr Jnanesh Thacker, Director, Lung Transplantations, Minimal Invasive Lung Transplantations said, "The IPAH can be a combination influenced by genetic and environmental factors. There are treatments at the early stages of diagnosis that can help manage symptoms and improve the quality of life for a patient. These may include medications to dilate the blood vessels, reduce blood clot formations, and alleviate symptoms. However, at end-stage failure of the lungs, a transplantation of the lungs from a cadaver is a preferred option."

Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad is the only hospital that offers Minimally Invasive Lung Transplantations (MILT). This is compared to the standard procedure which is done by clamshell incision. A clamshell incision is a bilateral anterior thoracotomy with Transverse Sternotomy. Simply means that this incision is a cut right across the chest.

In Minimally Invasive Lung Transplantations, the cuts are made only on the sides. The sternum is not divided. The advantages of MILT are less pain, quick recovery, and cosmetically loved by female patients. The scars are not seen from the front and the back or the side. It is only seen when she raises her hands as the incisions lie in the

crease of her breasts.

The deceased organ donation rate in India at less than 1 percent per million population, is a major handicap and translates to less than one person per million opting to donate their organs. Superstitions and stigma, lack of transplant coordinators, and lack of required infrastructure for certifying and maintaining brain-dead patients are the reasons behind the low donation numbers in India. While the lack of organ donation is one side of the story, the other is the lack of required processes, skilled experts, hospital infrastructure, and the lack of sufficient examples of long-term organ transplant survivors in the community who become role models for organ transplantation.

## Mumps cases rise among children: Experts reveal why

**The viral infection, mumps, presents as fever followed by painful swelling of both areas around the ears.**

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): There has been a rise in cases of mumps in children in several parts of the country including Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, making it a matter of concern for parents.

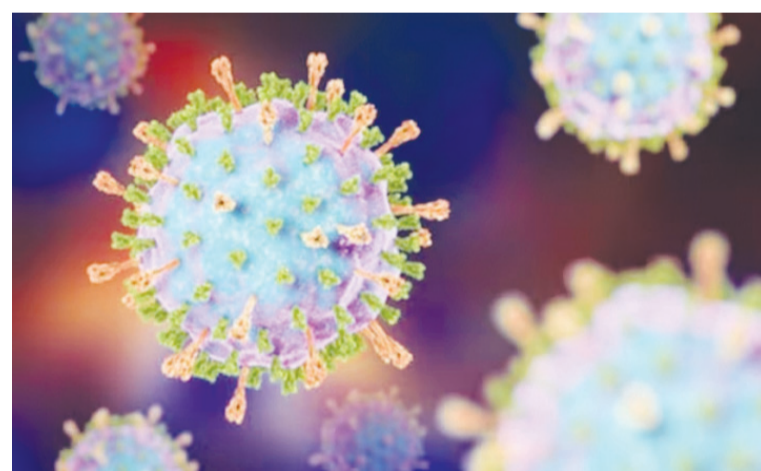
The viral infection, mumps, presents as fever followed by painful swelling of both areas around the ears. It begins with non-specific symptoms such as low-grade fever, malaise, headache and loss of appetite, lasting around 3 to 4 days.

This is followed by inflammation of the parotid glands located on both sides of the face, causing pain, swelling and tenderness in the cheek and jaw area, which typically lasts from 7 to 14 days.

It is caused by paramyxovirus, a member of the Rubulavirus family.

"Mothers are at increased risk if they are infected during the first trimester, which could result in miscarriage. If they were immunised or had mumps during childhood then there is no need to worry.

Other complications of mumps, more severe than orchitis and more common in unvaccinated individuals, include pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), meningitis, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), and myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)," Dr Prashant



Udavant, Paediatrician, Neonatologist at Ruby Hall Clinic, told IndiaToday.In.

Though less frequently reported, these complications can lead to intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and result in prolonged effects like deafness and heart failure.

Mumps usually spread if there is a history of contact with another child with mumps in the school or at home, followed by fever and neck swelling.

Consulting a doctor and immediate quarantine are important steps when a child is infected with mumps.

Dr Rupkatha Sen, Chief Intensivist, Critical Care, SRV Hospitals, Chembur, told IndiaToday. In the reason for this increase in mumps cases is the decline in vaccination rates.

"Mumps is a preventable viral infection, and routine immunisation is crucial for maintaining

herd immunity. If a significant number of children are not vaccinated or are under-vaccinated, the virus can easily spread within communities," said Dr Rupkatha Sen.

The expert added that another reason for this rise is the "waning immunity over time."

"The mumps vaccine usually administered in childhood, may offer protection for a certain period. However, as time passes, immunity may decrease, leaving individuals susceptible to the virus," said Dr Sen.

Additionally, variations in vaccine coverage and access to healthcare can lead to pockets of vulnerable populations where the virus can circulate more easily.

Social and environmental factors may also play a role. "Increased contact among children in schools or other

communal settings provides opportunities for the virus to spread. Poor hygiene practices and inadequate sanitation can further facilitate transmission," added Dr Sen.

Preventive measures  
Ensuring sufficient hydration by drinking plenty of fluids orally to prevent dehydration. A soft diet is recommended to ease discomfort while chewing.

Getting adequate bed rest.  
Applying scrotal support and ice packs to reduce inflammation, especially in cases involving swelling of the testicles.

Using cold compresses on the parotid glands to alleviate swelling.

Taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to manage pain and reduce inflammation.  
Preventing secondary bacterial infections.

Considering the use of steroids in extremely complex and severe cases.

Mandatory MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)vaccination has been introduced by the IAP (Indian Academy of Paediatrics). This has significantly decreased the number of complications in mumps cases.

However, as the virus spreads through infected respiratory droplets, it's crucial to implement contact isolation for affected individuals to prevent a mumps outbreak, suggested the experts.

## Unfortunately haven't been able to give Samson chance at No. 3: KL Rahul

*Samson, elevated to No.3 spot, smashed his maiden ODI century in the third and final match against the Proteas on Thursday as India won by 78 runs to wrap up the series 2-1*

PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA), Dec 22 (Agencies): India captain KL Rahul conceded that a "phenomenal" Sanju Samson was finding it difficult to find a place in the side as stalwarts in the team occupy key spots, adding that he was pleased the talented cricketer grabbed his chance in the series against the Proteas.

Samson, elevated to No.3 spot, smashed his maiden ODI century in the third and final match against the Proteas on Thursday as India won by 78 runs to wrap up the series 2-1.

"Pleased for Sanju, he's been a phenomenal performer in the IPL over the years. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to give him the chance at No. 3, because obviously there are stalwarts in the ODIs who occupy those key spots.

"Glad he was able to grab his chances here," said Rahul following the big win.

Samson's measured 108 (114 balls) and Tilak Varma's patient 52 (77 balls) guided India to a competitive 296 for eight. South Africa challenged the tourists through a fifty by Tony de Zorzi (81, 87 balls) but were eventually bowled out for 218 in 45.5 overs.



Samson didn't get the opportunity in the first ODI as the target set by South Africa was very low, while in the second match, the wicketkeeper-batter scored 12 coming in at No.5. But in the decider, he was elevated to No.3 as Virat Kohli is not touring with the ODI side.

Rahul added the focus of the team will now shift to the two-Test series beginning in Centurion on December 26. Regular skipper Rohit Sharma and Kohli will be back in the side and Rahul will be the first-choice keeper.

"Will celebrate with the boys and then switch back to focusing on the Test series in a day or two. Love being around the boys, that's how it's been

since I came over to South Africa after some time away following a disappointing World Cup final," he added.

'Player of the match' Samson said he was happy to have scored his maiden ODI century in 16 outings, and added the extra 3-4 overs he got to bat coming in at No.3 helped him in his endeavour.

"Proud of it (century), especially considering the result as well. Have been working hard. This format gives you some extra time to understand the wicket and the bowler's mindset. Batting at the top of the order gives you those 10-20 extra deliveries," said Samson.

He added that the juniors in the side had really upped their

game and made the seniors proud.

"The whole country is very proud of how Tilak Verma has stepped up, lots more expected from him. The seniors have set the standards of Indian cricket and the juniors are coming in and doing the job. It's not very easy, travelling in between and playing every 2-3 days but they're getting the job done."

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who returned sublime figures of 4 for 30 to add to the five-for in the first ODI, said the IPL experience had made him a much better cricketer.

"The plan was simple, it was to bowl wicket-to-wicket and get lbws and bowled. Sometimes when there isn't anything happening on the wicket, you need some support from the umpires, that's why I had to appeal a lot," said the 'Player of the Series' for his 10 wickets.

"IPL has been a very good platform for us youngsters, there isn't a big gap between IPL and international cricket. You understand the mindset of international cricketers and it helps. We are all loving the chances we've got. We'd love to give our all in the future as well and do well," he added.

## Last 3-4 months were mentally challenging, grateful for maiden ODI ton: Samson

PAARL, Dec 22 (Agencies): India wicket-keeper batter Sanju Samson revealed that the past three-four months have been mentally challenging for him but he kept at it by working on himself and bounced back by scoring his maiden ODI ton.

Samson was overlooked for the ODI World Cup in India with selectors preferring to go with the likes of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav despite the Kerala batter averaging 55.7 with a strike rate of 104 in 13 ODI innings.

"The last three, four months were challenging for me mentally," Sanju said after the 78-run win on Thursday.

"So going through all that and coming here I think doing what I did today, I think I feel really happy and grateful."

Samson was also not picked for the Asian Games, indicating that he is really low in the selectors' pecking order.

On Thursday, however, he took things in his own hand and scored his maiden ODI century to help India win the third game and clinch the series 2-1 against South Africa.

"I've been blessed in my genes. My father is also a sportsman, so how much ever setbacks you have, I think there's always no other way to come back and bounce back... think how much you can work on yourself and how you can come back more strongly," he added.

Elevated to the number three spot, Samson, who scored a measured 108, joined forces with Tilak Varma (52) to take India to a competitive target.

"Honestly, I think I was not looking at

the scorecard. Until I had a partnership with Tilak till then I just wanted to play and like go with the merit. I just watched the ball and bat and the boundaries and the scoring options ultimately happened.

"So I was just focused on the process and playing one ball at a time and then I think the scorecard kept on ticking."

"When Tilak came in when we both had a tough four or five overs where I think (Keshav) Maharaj, was bowling the best. I think both the ends were a bit tight. That's when we thought that we need to go on and take some risks at the moment."

Asked how he kept his calm during the knock, Samson said, "I don't know actually. It comes very naturally to me."

"It's very important to make really good decisions. When you are calm and when you are aware of your thoughts, emotions of your physical being and mental being that helps me to make some really good decisions."

The home side looked on course for victory before the Indian pacers, led by left-arm Arshdeep Singh, bowled the South Africans out for 218 in 45.5 overs.

"I think the power-play, the way South African openers batted, I thought they are taking the game away five overs before."

"But after that when our fast bowlers came in between, and the ball I think was maintained nicely by all the teammates... the fast bowlers also hit some proper areas to get those crucial wickets of David (Miller) and crucial wickets were important for us."

## Wrestling Federation of India election a fixed match

*Those opposing Singh panel also accommodated; Bajrang says career 'doomed'*

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): In Indian wrestling the term 'noora kushti' is a way to explain if a bout is fixed. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election had the same feel. The opposing groups — led by Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh and Anita Sheoran — did not show any signs of friction.



"I want to thank the government," a heavily garlanded Brij Bhushan told the media. "It was the government that cleared the way for today as they pleaded to restart the election process with the Supreme Court. The Sports Ministry also opposed the stay by the Punjab & Haryana High Court and today I want to congratulate the government, the ministry that free and fair elections could be held today," he added.

Two-time Asian Games gold medallist Kartar Singh was elected as a vice-president after getting 44 votes, the highest in the elections.

Other than Sheoran, who could only tally seven votes, the other losers in today's elections were the protesting wrestlers, who had made it a personal fight to see that none of the Brij Bhushan loyalists got elected into the new body. The results did not sit well with them as they questioned the government for failing to act on their assurances.

"The Sports Minister (Anurag Thakur) said on camera in January that neither Brij Bhushan nor his people will be part of the new body," Bajrang said. "But results unfortunately show that it has not been done. I do not feel that we will get justice for the girls as the system worked to break the unity of the complainants. It is still

happening," he added. "His (Brij Bhushan) man has won the WFI elections. After what happened today, I think he will get a favourable verdict from the court as well. I still believe in the courts. We fought and this fight has to be continued for the next two generations. We fought with all our might but whatever assurances the government gave to us, they did not fulfill. It is sad that we need to fight to get justice," he added.

Threat, allegations Bajrang also raised the spectre that those who joined the protests may perish in accidents or face allegations to tarnish their image.

"Those who joined us, coaches and wrestlers, our careers are doomed now. We may face an incident like a car accident or wild allegations. Wait and watch, it will start to happen now. We have seen how powerful he is. We do not know whether we will get justice," Bajrang said.

"We fought but we lost today but someone needs to continue this fight. Vinesh just said that despite Bhagat Singh's sacrifice it took us a number of years to get independence. We do not know when we will get independence in wrestling. We are doubtful that we will be allowed to continue in wrestling because all his people have been elected today," he added.

## ICC reprimands Australia batter Usman Khawaja over black armband to support Palestinians in Gaza

SYDNEY, Dec 22 (Agencies): Australia batter Usman Khawaja has been reprimanded by the International Cricket Council for wearing a black armband in support of Palestinians in Gaza during the first cricket Test against Pakistan.

ICC regulations prevent cricketers from displaying messages of political, religious or racial causes during international matches.

Khawaja was born in Pakistan and is the first Muslim to play Test cricket for Australia.

An ICC spokesperson confirmed the charge in breach



of the clothing and equipment regulations to Australian media.

"Usman displayed a personal message (armband) during the

first Test match against Pakistan without seeking the prior approval of Cricket Australia and the ICC to display it, as required in the regulations for personal messages," it said.

"This is a breach under the category of another breach and the sanction for a first offence is a reprimand."

The charge means Khawaja can accept a warning and continue to play. However, he faces additional sanctions if he wears the armband again in the second Test against Pakistan beginning in Melbourne on Tuesday.

## South Africa star Dean Elgar to retire from international cricket after Test series against India



CAPE TOWN, Dec 22 (Agencies): Former South Africa captain Dean Elgar has said that he will retire from international cricket after playing the two-match Test series against India at home.

Elgar is set to conclude his international career following the Test series against

India at home, as announced by Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Friday, December 22nd.

"Playing the game of cricket has always been a dream of mine but having the opportunity to represent your country is the ultimate!" Elgar said in his statement. "Having had the

privilege to do it for 12 years internationally is simply beyond my wildest dreams. It has been an incredible journey that I have been fortunate enough to have.

"As they say, 'all good things come to an end', and the Indian home series will be my last, as I have made the decision to retire from our beautiful game. A game that has given me so much. The Cape Town Test will be my last. My favourite stadium in the world. A place I scored my first Test run against New Zealand and hopefully my last too."

Elgar is set to play 86 Test matches after featuring in both games against India, marking a 12-year career that has seen him accumulate 5146 runs. This places him as South Africa's eighth-highest run-scorer in Test cricket, with only eight players

crossing the 5000-run mark. He trails Mark Boucher, the seventh-highest, by 352 runs.

However, his decision to play these Tests means he'll miss South Africa's two-Test series in New Zealand. This absence creates a challenge as key players will be engaged in the SA20 league, leaving the team with a makeshift lineup. Elgar, without an SA20 deal, would have been a valuable addition and potentially considered for captaincy in Temba Bavuma's stead. Instead, the Titans' batsman Neil Brand is anticipated to lead the squad, partnering with Tony de Zorzi at the top of the batting order. This pairing showcased their opening prowess for South Africa A against West Indies A in a recent three-match series.

## NZ vs BAN: Kane Williamson, Kyle Jamieson withdrawn from Bangladesh T20I series

WELLINGTON, Dec 22 (Agencies): New Zealand have withdrawn Kane Williamson and Kyle Jamieson from their upcoming T20I series against Bangladesh. The Black Caps took the decision as a precautionary measure before the Test series against South Africa and Australia.

The 33-year-old Williamson was earlier named as the Kiwis' skipper for the series, but will now be replaced

by Mitchell Santner. Williamson returned to competitive cricket in the World Cup after facing injury concerns over the last seven months or so.

Jamieson, on the other hand, has had issues with his hamstring and New Zealand refrained from taking a chance with him in the Bangladesh T20I series.

"We want both Kane and Kyle to be in the best possible place leading into the next

block of Test cricket against South Africa and Australia. Based on discussions with the medical staff and the players it was decided a period of rehabilitation and conditioning was the best option for both of them," New Zealand coach Gary Stead was quoted as saying.

The hosts, in the meantime, have roped in fast bowler Jacob Duffy and talented all-rounder Rachin Ravindra for the upcoming series.

"Jacob is an experienced T20 cricketer and always brings a lot when he is part of the Black Caps environment. He's worked very hard on his white ball skills in recent seasons. Rachin adds to any environment he's a part of and has a great desire to learn and develop his game - across all three formats," Stead added.

New Zealand's opening T20I against the Tigers is on Wednesday, December 27 at the

McLean Park in Napier. Mount Maunganui will host the other two T20Is on December 29 and December 31 respectively.

Updated New Zealand squad for Bangladesh T20Is

Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Mark Chapman, Jacob Duffy, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Ben Sears, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee.

## Dogri Dept of GDC R S Pura commemorates “Dogri Manta Diwas”



### Top News Report

**R S PURA, Dec 22:** 22 December 2023 is a major milestone for Dogri language because on that day Dogri was recognised as a National language of India in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian constitution which is a matter of pride for all Dogras. From that day it is celebrated as 'Dogri Manta Divas' every year.

To commemorate the day Department of Dogri, Government Degree College (GDC) R. S. Pura organized a seminar on "Role of Mother Languages in achieving goal of Viksit Bharat". Under the banner of Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative. The objective of the event was to open new vistas for Dogri language as it is the part of culture, produced or created by cultural beings and entrusts new responsibilities upon the Dogras in development of Dogri as its study expands over knowledge of its

makers and its processes, their creative processes and strategies, their material functions.

Students of the college participated in the event with great zeal, enthusiasm and fervor. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HoD Dogri said, "Mother-tongue education enables better understanding and transfer of the structure of language to several new languages, which flows down into the entire socioeconomic fabric. It also helps in other essential skills, such as critical thinking and literacy skills.

By learning in their native language, students will be able to understand and appreciate their culture more effectively which help in promoting social cohesion and national unity and also play a vital role in achieving India's goal of Viksit Bharat upto 2047.

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajni

Bhagat, Principal of the College.

She highlighted the need for the promotion of Dogra language and culture in today's times and it is a matter of pride that Dogri language was included in the eighth schedule after a long period of struggle and now when it has received recognition it become our duty to take care of it and for this we have to pledge for taking this language forward by joining hands together.

The whole event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HoD Dogri/ Nodal officer Viksit Bharat@2047 and the faculty members who grace the occasion were Dr. Rajinder Sharma, Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Prof. Meeshu Pandita, Prof. Shelly Kalsi and Prof. Vishal Sharma.

The event concluded with formal vote of thanks which was presented by Dr. Bandana Khajuria from Department of Dogri.

## JKBS mourns demise of Darshan Lal Tugga, Ravi Kumar Motan

### Top News Report

**JAMMU, Dec 22:** To mourn the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Sodagar Kaith and Ravi Kumar Motan, who hailed from Village Chatha Gujran and Phillore Herm Kund, respectively, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sanha called a meeting here today.

While speaking, JKBS' members said, both Darshan Lal Tugga and Ravi Kumar Motan were humble, thorough gentle and of helping nature.

All present prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and give immense strength to the bereaved families to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

## GDC Darhal organizes trekking from college to Noonpal

### Top News Report

**DARHAL, Dec 22:** The ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) aimed at creating awareness about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes across different Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir. As part of the yatra, Govt. Degree College Darhal in collaboration with the Visiting/Prabhari Officer of Panchayat Chowkian-A (Darhal) conducted an adventurous trekking program to Noonpal (Chowkian, Darhal) on 21st of December 2023 under the banner of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra program.

Darhal as well as District Rajouri especially for unemployed youth of the region.

Dr. Rizvi reported that this physical visit of the area also aimed to review/follow-up the issues raised during B2V4 & B2V5, reassessment of the progress made during back to village programs and inspection of the ongoing Govt. developmental projects in the Panchayat as all the Visiting/Prabhari officers have been instructed by the J&K government to make quarterly physical follow up visits to the Panchayats (allotted to them) besides monthly virtual participation every month.

The general public of the said Panchayat thanked the Principal GDC Darhal Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah and Visiting/Prabhari Officer Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi for their keen interest forencouraging public engagement in developmental initiatives and compassion shown for upliftment of the area.

During the program Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi Visiting/Prabhari officer of Panchayat reported that tourism department has been conveyed to select some "View Points" in the Panchayat.

As "Noon Pal/Bagla" Ziyarat is a beautiful place in this Panchayat, hence developing this place as a tourist spot by providing sheds, electricity, water and road connectivity will be a great step to promote local tourism which will be very beneficial for whole Tehsil

The whole event was organized under the esteemed guidance of the Principal GDC Darhal, Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, who appreciated the Visiting/Prabhari Officer of Panchayat for his collaboration and accompanying them for the cause of development and betterment of the area.

The trekkers started their journey from the College and reached at their destination at 11:00 am.

They spent a couple of hours their and trekked downhill reaching in the college at 03:00 pm.

College staff members who participated in the trekking include Dr. Ghulam Abas (HOD Persian), Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani (HOD English), Dr. Taseem Ahmed (HOD Geography) and Dr. Mohd Akhlaq (HOD Mathematics).

## Sociology Dept JU celebrates “Viksit Bharat @2047: Samajshastra Ki Drishti Se”



### Top News Report

**JAMMU, Dec 22:** A group discussion and poster-making activity was successfully organised by the Department of Sociology in light of the vision plan Viksit Bharat @2047.

A group discussion was organised with the students and scholars of the department under the guidance of Dr Hema Gandotra, Head in charge, Department of Sociology.

She acquainted the students with the agenda of Viksit Bharat@2047 and motivated the stu-

dents to post their ideas and suggestions on the My Gov.in portal.

A brief documentary was screened, following which the students engaged in stimulating group discussion.

On the second day the poster-making activity was also organised on the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047: Samajshastra ki drishti se" and was supervised by the teacher in charge Kajal Kalsi, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology.

Students of both 1st and 3rd semester enthu-

siastically participated in the activity and the posters reflecting sociological vision of a Viksit Bharat were displayed in the department.

Other faculty members of the department including Diksha Nargotra and Dr Gopal Sharma were also present during these activities.

Dr. Hema Gandotra appreciated the students for participating in the activities. All the students of the Department of Sociology (M.A. IIRD and 1st Sem) have registered on the My Gov.in portal.

## GDC R S Pura celebrates National Mathematics Day

### Top News Report

**R S PURA, Dec 122:** The Department of Mathematics of Govt. Degree College, R.S. Pura, organized a program to celebrate National Mathematics Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a great mathematics genius of all times, in the presence of Dr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma, convener (IQAC) under the overall guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, the worthy principal of the college.

The proceedings of the programme were initiated with a welcome address by Prof. Jugal Kishore, HOD Mathematics, wherein he

welcomed the chair, the staff members, and the august gathering and informed the audience about the relevance of National Mathematics Day in particular and mathematics in general.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Convener (IQAC), while addressing students, applauded and encouraged the department of mathematics for organizing such activities, as these activities will surely inspire the students to channel their energies toward the advancement of mathematics and advise the students to participate in such activities as this will broaden their

mental horizons in the field of mathematics. A documentary film on the life and works of Srinivasa Ramanujan was screened for the audience.

More than 35 students from the college attended the session, and positive feedback was recorded, which beacons the successful consummation of the program with the expected outcome.

A formal vote of thanks was presented to the chair by Prof. Jugal Kishore.

Dr. Kiran Pathania, Dr. Sunil Kumar, and Dr. Sumita Lalotra were also present on the occasion.

## NCC Wing of GGM Science College organizes Awareness Lecture on Viksit Bharat @2047

### Top News Report

**JAMMU, Dec 22:** The NCC Wing of GGM Science College, under the esteemed guidance of Prof (Dr) Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College, took a significant stride towards fostering awareness and engagement among the youth with an enlightening lecture on Viksit Bharat @2047.

The event witnessed the presence of distinguished personalities, Dr. M.S. Saini, Head of the Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Veer Singh, Associate Professor, including the key note speaker, Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Associate Professor, and Coordinator of Viksit Bharat @2047 at the College.



The program was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Mohd Akhlaq NSS Program officer. A large number of students and staff members participated in the program. Dr. Imran Asad, Head Department of Urdu presented the formal vote of thanks. Prominent among others were Dr. MohdRiaz, Dr.Zahoora Ahmad Mir, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat,SamanaQusar and Gh.Nabi Dar.

student to actively contribute to the growth and development of the nation.

Dr. Hussain urged the cadets to be catalysts for positive change, fostering innovation, embracing sustainability, and promoting inclusivity.

"As students, you are not merely recipients of knowledge; you are architects of the future," remarked Dr. Ashaq Hussain.

Viksit Bharat encourages students to be conscientious citizens, addressing the challenges our country faces and committing to finding solutions across various fields such as science, technology, arts, and social sciences.

The event culminated with a pledge taken on the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, symbolizing the commitment of the cadets towards actively participating in the campaign.

In his address, Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Gupta, the Principal of GGM Science College, encouraged students to work diligently,

think creatively, and contribute their ideas to the Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative.

Prof. Gupta added that this pivotal moment presents an opportunity for students to contribute in building the nation and he further stressed that today our nation thrives on its diversity, and it is the duty of each student to promote tolerance, understanding, and unity. Embrace the richness of our cultural tapestry, and strive to create an India where every individual, regardless of background, has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Prof. Shafia, ANO, NCC Senior Wing of the college, extended a warm vote of thanks, urging the cadets to serve as responsible ambassadors and take the Viksit Bharat @2047 campaign to every student in the College.

The event marked a significant step towards instilling a sense of responsibility and commitment among the youth for the betterment of the nation.

## GDC Darhal celebrates National Mathematics Day

### Top News Report

**DARHAL, Dec 22:** Govt. Degree College Darhal celebrated National Mathematics Day to mark 136th birth anniversary of great mathematician S. Ramanujan as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 here today.

On this occasion an intra-college symposium on the theme "Mathematics for Everyone," organized. Principal of College, Prof. Mussaraf H. Shah was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Dr. MohdAkhlaq, Head, Department of Mathematics coordinated the event.

Prof. Shah highlighted the contribution of S. Ramanujan, in his keynote address, lucidly explained the genius work of Ramanujan discovering some 3900 equations, summaries and results independently in his short life of just 33 years (22 December 1887 – 26 April 1920). At the age of

9, Ramanujan gave PNT solution and at age 17 Bernoulli number then he gave the number theory, prime number theorem (named after him, Ramanujan prime), divergent series, arithmetic functions etc. that laid foundation of mathematics for generations of mathematicians, he underlined.

Prof. Shah said that Mathematics is a mother discipline and lauded the work of Ramanujan as one of the greatest mathematician of all times.

He also emphasized upon the need for the promotion of mathematics at all levels which is more important than many disciplines in today's life.

"Genius work of Ramanujan is a great source of inspiration for all of us and furthering it for a better world shall be real tribute to him", he added.

Hibza Tabassum of Semester-1st, won first prize in symposium

whereas Sayka Kosser and Danish Ali of same semester bagged 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

Dr. Ghulam Abas, Associate Professor & Head Department of Persian, Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Associate Professor & Head Department of English, Dr. Taseem Ahmed Assistant Professor & Head Department of Geography and Dr. Ahsan UI-Rehman, Assistant Professor & Head Department of Arabicadjudged the competition.