

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**Cheque bounce case | Court sentences man to 2 years imprisonment**

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): A court has here sentenced a man to two years imprisonment and directed him to pay one and half of the amount of dishonoured cheques amounting to Rs 8250000.

"The complainant has been able to prove the commission of offence under section 138 by the accused Hilal Ahmad Khan R/O Hussani Public School, Industry Area H.M.T Batamalo, Srinagar for which the accused is hereby convicted," said a judgment passed by Third Additional Munsiff, Moneer Ahmad.

"... by commission of the offence the accused person has dragged the complainant to litigation which is pending for the last more than seven years," court said.

**Contractor Complains, ACB Acts | Range Officer arrested for accepting bribe**

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Friday said that it caught a Range Officer while accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000.

A statement of the ACB issued here said that it received a written complaint against Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi alleging that the concerned officer was demanding a bribe as a commission of Rs 10,000 for processing his bill for release of due payments.

It said that the complainant alleged that he was a contractor and had completed the allotted work for an amount of Rs 3.21 lakh and that after completing the work, the Forest Department had already released two bills in his favour.

The ACB statement said that however, the final bill of around Rs 1 lakh was pending with the department for the past month and a half for which the concerned Range Officer Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi had demanded a bribe as his commission of Rs 15,000 for all three bills including the two already released bills.

It said that the amount after negotiations with the accused Range Officer was settled on Rs 10,000 and the complainant arranged Rs 10,000 and approached the ACB with a complaint requesting for legal action.

## Tax collection on course to grow 3 times to over Rs 19 Lakh Crore in 10 years of Modi Govt

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Personal income and corporate tax collections are likely to rise to more than Rs 19 lakh crore in 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, providing more leeway to come out with people-friendly tax measures.

Driven by the increasing income of individuals, net direct tax collections after adjusting for refunds increased from Rs 6.38 lakh crore in FY 2013-14 to Rs 16.61 lakh crore in FY 2022-23.

In the current financial year, the collections from net direct taxes — personal income tax and



corporate tax — have so far grown by 20 per cent and at this pace, the mop-up is likely to be around Rs 19 lakh crore in the fiscal ending on March 31, 2024.

The projected amount will exceed the estimate of Rs 18.23 lakh crore in the 2023-24 Budget.

Over the years, the government has been

trying to make the tax regime simpler with lower rates and fewer exemptions. In 2019, the government offered a lower rate of tax for corporates who forego exemptions. Similar scheme was introduced for individuals in April 2020.

The new income tax regime for individuals

was made more attractive in the 2023-24 Budget by rationalising the tax slabs, raising basic exemption limit to Rs 3 lakh and including standard deduction of Rs 50,000. It has also been made the default tax regime in the income tax return form.

However, the government's proposal during the year to include credit card spending in foreign currency under RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme's (LRS) annual limit of USD 2.50 lakh per person faced a strong backlash. The move to bring foreign credit card spends under LRS would have

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## Jammu and Kashmir 2023 | SC Nod to Article 370 abrogation, Key G20 meet in Valley

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): It was a momentous year for Jammu and Kashmir as the Supreme Court gave its stamp of approval to the revocation of its special status and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories, and the Narendra Modi-led government scored a diplomatic victory by holding a key G20 meeting in Kashmir Valley.

However, another year has passed by without elections being held for the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly while urban local body and panchayat polls,

which were due this winter, have been put off for the time being.

The BJP-ruled Centre got a massive shot in arm when a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court upheld the government's decision taken in August 2019 on Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution.

Regional parties like the National Conference, which was one of the petitioners against the Article 370 abrogation before the Supreme Court, and the PDP have vowed to carry on the struggle for the restoration of special status.

"We don't have to lose heart. We will continue our struggle. The Supreme Court is not God. The same Supreme Court had earlier said that Article 370 cannot be amended without recommendation of (Jammu and Kashmir) constituent assembly. They were also learned judges. Today some other judges passed the ruling. We cannot treat it as God's verdict," PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said after the December 11 verdict of the apex court.

"An unconstitutional and illegal act that took

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## Union Minister Nitin Gadkari sanctions 29 road projects in Ladakh worth Rs 1170.16 crore



NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has sanctioned

in the Union territory of Ladakh an allocation of 1170.16 crore for 29 roads projects, encompassing state Highway,

major and other District roads.

In a post Gadkari said additionally, 181.71 crore has been allocated for 8 bridge under the CRIF Scheme for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The Union Minister said Ladakh, the largest Union Territory in terms of area and the second least populous in India, will witness improved connectivity to its remote villages through the

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## Truck driver dies mysteriously in Udhampur, probe ordered

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): A truck driver died under mysterious circumstances during checking at Jakhani Check Naka in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

Reports said the driver identified as 40-year old Tirochan Singh of Jammu was on way from Kashmir to Maharashtra with a fruit-laden truck and was intercepted by police at Jakhani Check Naka in Udhampur.

The transporters alleged that the driver was beaten to death by the police during checking at Jakhani Check Naka, and demanded an in-depth probe into the matter and urged authorities to bring facts to the fore.

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## India records 797 New Covid cases

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): India has logged 797 new cases of COVID-19, the highest in 225 days, while the number of active cases of the infection have been recorded at 4,091, the health ministry said on Friday.

Five new fatalities due to Covid—two from Kerala and one each from Maharashtra, Puducherry and Tamil

Nadu — have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The country had recorded 865 new cases on May 19.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, but the cases have again gone up after emergence of a new variant and cold

weather conditions. The daily numbers were in lakhs at the peak of the pandemic, which began in early 2020 and has seen more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then across the country. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease

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## Dr Mushtaq Dar recalled, posted as Divisional Nodal Officer, NHM

JAMMU, Dec 29 (Agencies): The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) department on Friday recalled Dr Mushtaq Dar and posted him as Divisional Nodal Officer, National Health Mission (NHM).

As per an order issued by Health and Medi-

cal Education Department, "In the interest of administration and patient care, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Medical Officer, presently on deputation to Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) is, hereby, recalled and posted as Divisional Nodal Offi-

cer, Kashmir, National Health Mission, J&K on standard terms and conditions of deputation."

"Meanwhile, Dr. Haroon Qazi, Medical Officer, presently on deputation to the National Health Mission, J&K as Divisional Nodal

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## Intense cold conditions in Kashmir, Dense fog in several places

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): Dense fog shrouded many parts of Kashmir where the minimum temperature dropped several degrees below the freezing point, officials said on Friday.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as water in supply lines.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. "Chilla-i-Kalan" will



end on January 31 and will be followed by the 20-day "Chilla-i-Khurd" and the 10-day "Chilla-i-Bachha". The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius — same as the previous night, officials said.

The visibility in Srinagar city and its adjoining areas was below 50 metres for the third day

due to dense fog. The transport department has issued an advisory for motorists in the city and termed foggy conditions the worst in recent memory.

The city and many other places in the valley have been witnessing foggy conditions over the past week.

Though fog did not affect operations at the

Srinagar International Airport, flights arriving from other cities in north India, including Delhi, were delayed due to bad weather conditions there, according to the Airports Authority of India.

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 5.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, the officials said.

Gulmarg, a famous ski resort in Baramulla, recorded a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees

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## Sonamarg to Host First-Ever Ice Skating Event this Winter



SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): The government is all set to

introduce ice skating at Sonamarg in the Ganderbal district this winter,

which will be a ground-breaking initiative as it will be the first time this popular tourist destination will be accessible throughout the winter season.

A view of Sonamarg during fresh snowfall. KL Image by Bilal Bahadur Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, Ilyas

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## NC only viable solution to people's miseries, particularly in empowering women: Sadhotra



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary JKNC and former minister on Friday reaffirmed the commitment of National Conference to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing its role as the only viable solution to the region's challenges, particularly in empowering women.

The senior NC leader was speaking in a workers meeting of Women Wing District Jammu Urban at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. The meeting was presided by Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing.

The former minister said that the present government has failed to take any concrete steps towards reducing the suffering of women

amid these challenging economic conditions. Despite the escalating costs of living and the clear impact on household management, there has been a noticeable lack of effective policies or relief measures to address the hardships faced by women in managing their homes. This inaction speaks volumes about the government's commitment to the welfare of its citizens, particularly women who are struggling to balance their domestic budgets, he added.

Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province asserted National Conference has always been at the forefront in advocating and implementing policies and programmes that uplift and empower the women of Jammu and Kashmir. "Our party believes in the strength

and potential of women, and we are committed to ensuring their voices are heard, their political rights are protected, and their contributions are recognized." He said that the lack of responsiveness to the plight of women, who are key managers of household economies, raises serious concerns about the government's non-serious approach in addressing the economic challenges faced by the women.

Rattan Lal Gupta also expressed serious concerns over the recent increase in rates or fees for various services and assets by the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He strongly suggested that any enhancement of rates or fees should be deferred until an elected government is in place. He emphasized that it is crucial for the elected

representatives to make such decisions, as they are more attuned to the needs and capabilities of the citizens they represent.

Furthermore, Gupta demanded an immediate rollback of the increased rates or fees for various services and assets. He argued that these hikes are burdensome for the residents and should be reconsidered in the context of the public's best interests and financial well-being.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC Jammu, asked the people in general and women in particular to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah in view of ensuring elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured that the National Conference will leave no stone unturned in empowering

the women with all their genuine rights.

Addressing the gathering, Bimla Luthra said that today there is a dire need to make the women fully aware about their rights and take appropriate and adequate steps to empower the women folk so that they come forward to demand their entitlement under such rights. She said that since majority of women are home makers, they are the worst victims of the sky rocketing prices and unprecedented inflation during the BJP rule due to their wrong policies.

Satwant Dogra lamented that the women have been the worst sufferers under the ongoing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule at the Centre and proxy rule in Jammu and Kashmir. She alleged that during the so called 'Good Governance' as claimed by the BJP women folk have forgotten that even they have some rights in the society.

Among those who were present in the meeting include:- Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary Jammu, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Asha Mehra, Rita Gupta, Som Raj Taroch, Joginder Kour, Paramjeet Kour, Shalu Sharma, Priyanka, Savita Razdan, Devinder Singh, Ravinder Singh Mantoo, Indu Sharma, Sonia Dogra, Sanju Pandita, Seema, Sarita, Priyanka Dogra and others.

## Director Information felicitates Gagan Singh Jamwal for Gold in Roller Skating National Championship

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Director Information, Minga Sherpa, today felicitated Gagan Singh Jamwal, departments' employee, for clinching gold medal in the 61st National Roller Skating Championship held at,

Chandigarh. Minga Sherpa termed the victory of Gagan and his team phenomenal and applauded them for winning gold medal consecutively for the fifth time. He appreciated the unique talent of Gagan while being optimistic about his success in all

the upcoming national and international tournaments. He encouraged the promising player to continue his stint and make DIPR proud in days to come. He complimented and wished him a great future ahead with many more medals.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Vivaik Puri, Joint Director Information, Jammu, Atul Gupta Deputy Director Information (PR), Dr. Vikas Sharma and other senior officers and officials also congratulated Gagan Jamwal and his team members for bringing laurels to the UT.

## CUJ Researcher gets Best Paper Award in International Conference

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Pooja Dhayal, Research Scholar, School of Business, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), has recently been honored with the best paper award at an international conference on "Digital Organizations," hosted by the Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad.

Her acclaimed paper, titled 'Influence of Experiential and Material Product Framing on Consumers' Information Sharing Behav-

ior,' delves into the intricate aspects of product display, branding, and information dissemination on e-commerce platforms. The paper is grounded in experimental studies and is a part of Dhayal's ongoing Ph.D. research, which she is conducting under the mentorship of Dr. Gowhar Rasool. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu and Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean School of Business Studies extended their wishes to the scholar for her achievement.

## Naib Sarpanch, property dealer charge-sheeted in land fraud case

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: The Economics Offences Wing (EOW) of Jammu Crime Branch on Friday presented 544 page charge-sheet against a Naib Sarpanch and a property dealer for cheating a buyer of Rs 20 lakh in a land sale.

The charge-sheet presented against Karanjeet Singh, son of Sain Dass, resident of Badyal Qazian, Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura District Jammu and Rajinder Singh alias Rinku (Naib Sarpanch), son of Parshotam Singh, resident of Sidher, Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura, Jammu in case FIR No. 85/2023 P/S EOW, Crime Branch, Jammu in the Court of law for judicial determination after their involvement in hatching criminal conspiracy, cheating and duping the complainant Maqsood Ahmed, son of Mohd. Latief, resident of Drawtay Tehsil R.S Pura Jammu was established in the case investigated by Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu.

CB official said, a written complaint lodged in Crime Branch Jammu by complainant Maqsood Ahmed, wherein he had alleged that on December 25, 2020 he purchased a plot of land, measuring (15) Marlas at Drawtay Tehsil R.S Pura, Jammu from the accused persons Karanjeet Singh - a property dealer and Rajinder Singh - Naib Sarpanch and property dealer for a monetary consideration of Rs.27 lakhs for which he had paid an amount of Rs.15 lakhs as advance payment.

Later an amount of Rs. 10 lacs was deposited in the account of accused Rajinder Singh by cheque and an amount of Rs. 5 lakh was paid by cash to accused Karanjeet Singh.

Accordingly, an agreed deed was signed

(agreement Biana) by the Executants and witnesses on December 26, 2020.

The official said, the complainant approached the accused Karanjeet Singh for balance payment and execution of sale deed but to his utter dismay accused refused to do so. He again approached him with the request to refund his payment in case he is not able to handover him possession of the said plot. While pressing them to refund the payment accused also threatened him to kill his entire family in case he demanded his money.

The accused issued cheques in his favour which were dishonoured by Bank due to insufficient amount in the account, thus duping the complainant on the pretext of sale of a piece of land.

On receipt of complaint, official said, a Preliminary Verification was conducted and during the course of enquiry the allegations made were prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case under the relevant sections of law for in-depth probe.

During the course of investigation all material evidence in the form of documentary record was collected from concerned quarters besides statements of complainants & witnesses were recorded and the offences established against both the accused for cheating and duping the complainant of Rs. 20 Lakhs on the pretext of selling a piece of land, market value of which has more than 50 Lakhs as of now, official said.

Both the accused did not cooperate in the investigation process and were arrested by Crime Branch Jammu on December 6 and 7, 2023 and charge-sheet has been produced against them in the Court of law, official said.

## 'Implement all OBC reservation issues before Parliament election- 2024'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: All J&K OBC Mahasabha, All India Backward Classes Federation JK-UT unit and All J&K OBC Welfare Forum and Presidents of different castes and communities under the banner of OBC Adhikar Tringa Yatra thankful to Narinder Modi, Prime Minister for start of fulfilling their commitments made in Sept-2014 in public rallies during Jammu & Kashmir Assembly election at Mulana Azad Stadium Jammu & at Hiranagar regarding OBC 27% reservation in JK-UT Govt. services, Educational Institutions and Urban Local Bodies and in Panchyati Raj System.

The startup is Changing Nomenclature from JK-UT Weak & Under Privilege Classes (Social Castes) to Other Backward Classes (OBC) and making amendment in the Panchyati Raj System regarding OBC reservation. We are also highly thankful to Manoj Sinha LG JK-UT for giving it a practical shape keeping in view the Indian constitution Article 243D-6 and 243T-6 and Supreme Court Judgement dt.10.05.2022 on writ petition No:-278 of 2022.

Now we are in hope that The Modi Govt. will soon make an amendment in Municipal Corporation/Committees

Act-2000 regarding OBC reservation as per OBC population in JK-UT and also 27% reservation in JK-UT Govt. services and in educational Institutions.

Modi Govt. & Manoj Singh L.G comes into action after all the OBC organisations of UT decided to unite Under one umbrella Q.B.C.ADHIKAR TRINGA YATRA during the year 2021 when these organisations started first four days OBC Adhikar Tringa Yatra on 25th Sept. 2021 towards villages & Towns of District Jammu-Samba-Kathua to hold Protest rallies and after that the OBC Samaj continued their struggle in 2022 & 23 in other areas of Jammu & Kashmir regions.

The organizations also submitted objections to the CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER OF JR-01 and clection commission of JK-Ui on a Sept.2023 and also old protests on 8th & 12th Sept.2023 against the notification dt.4th sept.2023 for holding the elections of Municipal corporations/ Municipal committees/ Town Area committees & Panchyati Raj System and Govt. was compelled to suspend this election till OBC reservation till incorporate of OBC reservation in Municipal Act-2000 & Panchyati Raj Act.

We request to Prime Minister and L.G JK-UT to implement all the OBC reservation issues

at an earliest i.e before the parliament election-2024.

The JK-UT OBC organisations will carry on their struggle under the Banner of OBC ADHIKAR TRINGA YATRA for their fundamental constitutional rights by holding Adhikar Rallies in all the villages/towns/cities.

The dignitaries who held this press conference were Kasturi Lal Basotra, Chairman OBC Mahasabha, Faquir Chand Satia, President A.I.B.C.F JK-UT unit, Bansilal Choudhary, Convener OBC Mahasabha, Abdul Latif Malik Advocate High Court, Mohan Lal Pawar General Secretary, OBC Mahasabha, Sain Dass Senior Leader A.I.B.C.U, Kewal fotra General Secretary All JK-UT Sain Samaj, Rajinder Kumar Sikka, President All J&K Saain Samaj (Barber community), Mohd Shabir Sambyal, President ALL J&K Dhobi birdari central welfare committee, Ghulam Hassan Sheer Gujri, President ALL J&K OBC Welfare forum Srinagar, Balwant Katria Gen. Sect. A.I.B.C.F, Abdul Qadir, Gen. Sect. Murari Lal Balgotra President All J&K Kashyap Rajput Sabha Sh.Shashi Verma, President Pardesh Vishvkarma Sabha JK-UT, Raj Kumar Chalotra, Vice-president A.I.B.C.F, Rehamedeen Malik Working President, Teeli community, Sonu Kumar.

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251-Elect/T.Notice No.47-Elect/2023-24 Dated: 28.12.2023 4069/2023

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
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For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 10000 GPH x 100 Mtrs. Head submersible pump set along with allied works at Tube Well Gurah Patoli.	7,00,000/-	500/-	14,000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

**Position of AAA: Accorded**  
**Position of TS: Sanctioned**

**Date of Publishing : 27-12-2023 02.00 pm.**

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 27-12-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 27-12-2023 (02.00 pm) to 10-01-2024 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 11-01-2024 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmciammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
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- The original documents when submitted by L1 bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenders are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
  - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
  - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
  - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

**JSM/DNJ/4563-65**      **DIP/J-13179/23**      Sd/-  
Dated: 27-12-2023      Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

## EDITORIAL

## "From a Car shed to the Corner Room &amp; Beyond" a truly illuminating book

By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Recently I have gone through a very well-researched, thought-provoking and eye-opener book "From a Car shed to the Corner Room & Beyond" written by Sunder Rajan Raman a former CMD of Canara Bank. Executive Director of Union Bank of India and former WRM, SEBI. The book narrates the personal and professional journey of S. Raman in an honest and candid manner. A Post Graduate in Economics, Raman holds a Diploma in Business Management and a Senior Diploma in German Language, besides CAIIB from the Indian Institute of Bankers and ACIB from the Chartered Institute of Bankers, London. Raman, who assumed charged with effect from yesterday, would have a tenure of two years up to September 2012 as CMD of Canara Bank. Raman joined the State Bank of India as a Clerk at 19, while not yet a graduate. On completing B.Com as a University Topper and Rank-Holder, he joined Bank of India at 21 as a Direct Recruit Officer where he spent 35 years across India, besides two stints abroad. Raman started with modest beginnings, living in a car

shed for about 6 years of his childhood, before gradually rising to head Canara Bank, one of India's largest banks, where his father had served as a stenographer for more than three decades earlier.

The book exemplifies how a simple career path should be for an honest banker and in reality, how circumstances can stress test the person fully. I feel myself lucky that I got an opportunity to work with S. Raman when he was Zonal Manager in Bank of India - Ahmedabad Zone. Really he has shared the joys of success and sorrows of setbacks experienced in his personal as well as professional journey and the balance he had maintained during his successful tenure.

If you speak particularly of people involved in business endeavours across industries, we're often faced with constant pressure to perform at our best and achieve success, whether it's in our careers or our personal lives. It is rightly said that Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a positive difference to the world. For S. Raman, Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency and consistent hard work has led to success and greatness. During his entire career, Raman's atti-

tude was to go for hard choices that would lead to lasting benefits rather than going for easy options. His book is a well-crafted biography that vibrates with the universal themes of honest hard work and strong determination. On going through many chapters, one feels that Raman is a good story teller as he can turn a minor incident into a major event, worthy of the attention of the unsuspecting reader.

It transports impactful leadership lessons through forthright language that encourages continuous reading. The book reveals the fact that hard work is about doing something that may not directly inspire you but that is necessary for you to achieve your goal. It really speaks of S Raman's professional learnings, including the tougher situations he has had to face. Some of these events tell of difficult times that the author faced personally. Despite the hardships, this book articulates his beliefs in spirituality and his truthful journey.

Post retirement, Raman had to face some disastrous events. The way he faced there difficulties is an important part of the book, which essentially is the story of his professional and personal life, intertwined in a smooth and seamless way.

The author has very nicely depicted the transformative power of mentorship and the impact of meaningful relationships in his life's journey. The acumens can really help to enhance proficiency in business development, operations management, and administrative strategies. The book offers valuable insights into overcoming challenges, making it a motivational read for anyone aspiring to achieve their goals. It delivers impactful leadership lessons through straightforward language that encourages continuous reading. The book is useful not only for bankers but also for individuals with varied interests, given its broad applicability and engaging style. In his epilogue, the author rightly points out that "Positive thinking has ensured that all in our family have retained our optimism and confidence." There is no doubt that this book will be scratched as an inspiring and remarkable narrative for all of us.

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There has been a huge increase in man-made industrialization at a very fast pace, along with which pollution has also increased. Due to this, a huge impact of green house gases has been seen in our atmosphere. Due to the greenhouse effect, the Earth's temperature becomes very hot and the ultraviolet rays emanating from the Sun in our atmosphere are used by solar power plants to prevent them from reaching the Earth.

Greenhouse gases are responsible for the increase in the temperature of our earth. The impact of green house gases on the earth is increasing. Green house gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluoro carbon, perfluorocarbon, sulphur, hexafluoride gas. The gases present in greenhouses absorb the heat from our earth. Due to which there is greenhouse effect.

Some harmful gases are found naturally on our earth: carbon dioxide in the sea, methane in trees and plants because they cause fire in plants, nitrogen oxide in land and water. Due to all these gases, green house gases are formed.

Due to water vapor, the energy of our earth is sucked, which increases the temperature of the earth because the air present on our earth becomes dry.

Animals increase the amount of carbon dioxide and methane gas in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases have an impact. This is the most important reason.

The harmful gases emitted by humans by burning oil and coal affect the greenhouse gas, and when we dig special mines for coal and oil, methane gas is released, due to which it affects the greenhouse gas. Makes a lot of impact.

Due to deforestation, there is indiscriminate cutting of trees on our earth due to which oxygen gas is decreasing and the amount of carbon dioxide gas is increasing.

Harmful gases are being released from the work of industrial areas which is having a great impact on our greenhouse gases. Methane, carbon dioxide, fluoride, all these come in the form of industrial gases. People are cutting forests and building big farm houses to raise animals. Animals keep dropping dung here and there after eating their food, because that food is not digested in their stomach due to which methane gas is formed in their stomach. Due to cow dung, its gas gets mixed in the atmosphere which causes green house.

The way the temperature on our earth is continuously increasing, it is becoming very hot. There are continuous changes in our climate due to green house. The way the heat is affecting our agriculture is also having a very bad effect. There is a possibility of famine and drought and storms and floods will start coming in greater quantities.

Due to global warming, glaciers are melting in large numbers. Due to which that ice water has raised our sea level very high. Due to excessive rise in sea water, the coastal areas of the ocean will submerge and millions of people will become homeless. The cultivable land will also be submerged in water. Due to greenhouse gases, the life of our trees, plants, animals as well as human life has been greatly affected. There has been a huge increase in various types of physical diseases, skin diseases etc. in the human body. Its effect is also visible on animals and plants. Due to greenhouse gases, leaves of trees and plants start falling and large forests get burnt.

There has also been a decline in the nutrition of animals. There may be a greater possibility of changes in their genetic structure.

The way the amount of carbon dioxide gas has increased in on the earth, for this we should grow more and more trees and plants and people should also be made aware about it because only through trees and plants we can control green house gases.

## Narinder Bali presides over Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme at Kishtwar



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 29: People of Kishtwar witnessed an impressive Programme as Er. Narinder Singh Bali, the Mission Director Dairy Development, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, presided over the impactful Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra held at TRC Kishtwar.

The event garnered participation from esteemed local PRIs, the general populace, and District Officers, notably including ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar, GM DIC Mohamad Ashraf, BDO Kishtwar Sumit Singh, and DIO Kishtwar Dr Kuldeep Kumar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ajaz Hussain besides others.

The Yatra commenced with the welcoming of the IEC Van by the Mission Director, alongside other esteemed participants. ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar set the tone with a warm welcome address, shedding light on the program's outline and its district-specific profile.

With a primary focus on the comprehensive dissemination of CSS and its tangible on-ground impacts, the Mission Director led inspections of stalls set up by vari-

ous departments. He provided directives to ensure extensive publicity of these schemes for maximum outreach.

The highlight of the event included beneficiaries sharing their insightful experiences during the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" segment on stage and IEC Van screening the recorded message on impact of citizen centric schemes in the UT.

Furthermore, the program encompassed the distribution of wheelchairs, prosthetic aids, the Abhinandan Patara, felicitation of achievers, and the issuance of KCC and soil cards.

Addressing the gathering, Narinder Singh Bali, IAS, Mission Director Dairy Development J&K, emphasized the evident developmental trajectory of the UT. He underscored the pivotal roles played by both the general populace and government machinery in fostering this progress.

Bali urged all stakeholders to actively embrace their responsibilities, emphasizing the realization of the vision for a Developed India by 2047. He shed light on the HADP programs, aimed at revitalizing

agriculture and allied sectors, elaborating on the dairy sector's fundamental role in family development.

Additionally, he reassured the establishment of Milk Collection Centers/BMCs across the district, further demonstrating the commitment to bolstering the dairy industry.

The programme culminated with the commitment for realising the vision of Developed India. The vote of thanks was presented by GM DIC Mohamad Ashraf and the proceedings of the programme were magnificently carried out by Zorawar Singh PET.

The event at TRC Kishtwar was orchestrated to extensively disseminate awareness about CSS aligning with the spirit of VBSY under the management of the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Kishtwar.

Spearheaded by BDO Kishtwar Sumit Singh and in collaboration with various departments, the program operated under the astute guidance and overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, ensured comprehensive and effective execution.

## Arun Bali qualifies Ph.D



### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 29: Arun Bali, son of Rakesh Kumar and Chanchal Sharma has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

The candidate has worked on the topic, "Study and Design of Adaptive Controllers for Nonstrict-Feedback Nonlinear Systems Using Neural Networks" under the supervision of

Dr. Uday Pratap Singh (On EOL), Associate Professor, School of Mathematics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

Arun Bali has published research papers indexed in SCIE-ranked journals and also presented his research work in various international and national conferences.

He expressed sincere gratitude to his parents and supervisor for their guidance, and acknowledges the School of Mathematics, SMVDU, for providing the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, along with other committee members, congratulated Arun Bali on his achievement and wished him a bright future.

## GDC R S PURA organises Registration Drive to on board of NSS volunteers



### Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 29: A Special Registration Drive to on board of NSS Volunteers and other students was organised on Friday by NSS unit of GDC R.S. Pura under the patronage of Principal of the College Dr. Rajni Bhagat and the supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO.

The idea behind this drive was to achieve maximum participation

of the students (YUVA) to register them on My Bharat portal as per the recommendations of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, New Delhi.

Prof. Shifali Abrol, Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Prof. Jugal Kishore and Dr. Vishal sharma were among the other staff members present on the occasion where near about 30 students registered themselves.

## Lakshay Bhatia of DPS Jammu excels in taekwondo championship



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Lakshay Bhatia (VII-H), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by securing silver medal in Open Jammu Taekwondo Champion-

ship organized by Taekwondo Association of Jammu and Kashmir held at Indoor Sports Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu from 19-20 December, 2023. Lakshay participated in 32 kg weight category.

The Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Lakshay, his parents and Coach, Suresh Kumar for their support.

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

## Will Trace Attackers Targeting Police Personnel: IGP Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone Vidhi Kumar Birdhi Thursday said that J&K Police is working vigorously to trace out attackers who had targeted police personnel in Valley.

IGP urged policemen to take utmost precautions during on and off duty modes and remain vigilant to thwart the designs of militants.

"Police is working on to trace out those attackers who recently targeted our police personnel. Challenges have always been there

when it comes to attacks on policemen but there are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) laid down by the department to thwart the designs of terrorists," IGP Kashmir said.

"SOPs should be strictly followed in letter and spirit. We are identifying culprits involved in attacks. Investigation is underway and soon elements behind such acts will be brought to justice," IGP Kashmir said.

IGP said it is a great achievement for Jammu & Kashmir Police that Shergadi Police Station has been selected

as one of the top three police stations in the country. "It is a great achievement and a moment of pride for all of us. J&K Police will give its best to serve people of J&K and is committed to wipe out issues impeding smooth growth of the society," he said.

On war against drugs the IGP added that police has been working with specific focus on drugs and those involved in this trade have been arrested and notorious ones' have been slapped with PIT NDPS.

## Srinagar Municipal Corporation expands Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to two more locations

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) continued its commitment to community engagement and development by extending the reach of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) camp to two more locations within the SMC jurisdiction.

The camps, which took place at Natipora and Budshah Nagar vicinities, marked an important expansion of the initiative's outreach.

The gatherings provided a vital platform for officers and officials

from various departments to interact closely with the local community, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Through these interactions, representatives from diverse departments were able to elucidate the fundamental goals and procedural details of their respective schemes.

This initiative aimed to bridge the information gap and ensure that citizens are fully aware of the myriad benefits and assistance available to them through various government programs

and initiatives. Furthermore, these efforts underscore the SMC's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive development and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives reach every segment of society.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation remains steadfast in its resolve to continue expanding the reach of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, with the aim of creating a more informed, engaged, and empowered citizenry.

## Bhagat appeals to LG to set up Separate Office of Public Information Office

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 29: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Sr. Leader Ajeet Bhagat has appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to set up public information office (PIO) office in each Districts to prevent wrong doing.

The National Conference Leader said that the RTI Act can be easily implemented. Tactics in Government Departments say Government Officials have become accustomed to violating the RTI Act.

Bhagat said a large number of people have submitted RTI requests for information, but surprising, the information has not been provided. The National Conference Leader said the



appeal has been disposed of with instruction to provide information but no Officer respects the order of the first appealing Officer and no action has been initiated against the Officers concerned by the appealing Officer under the RTI Act. Not done this is the volume of mismanagement.

"We have only RTI as a tool to curb corruption if a Public Information Office is set up outside the departments, it will be beneficial for general Information seekers as

they will work with keen interest to provide Information. It will also report wrong doing to the Central Information Commission Government Officials are doing," he said.

Bhagat said that the Rural Development Department, Public Health Engineering, Agriculture, and Horticulture Departments corruption is skyrocketing due to lack of Information especially in the Rural Development Department.

The National Conference Leader further appealed Lt. Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to form an audit team specifically for now disclosure of Information and to penalize the Government Officers for making mistakes under RTI Act Rules.

## JKTF President Kulgam hails LG for imposition of JKBOSE curriculum from academic session 2024-25



### Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 29: Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum Kulgam wholeheartedly thanks LG Manoj Sinha, SED, JKBOSE for implementing and imposition of JKBOSE curriculum from ensuing academic session 2024\_2025 for classes 1st to 12th.

In a statement President JKTF Kulgam stated that "This is a great move and we appreciate the department of making it common in all schools of the UT Jammu and Kashmir. We request all parents to cooperate with the government and make

no mistake to buy other books or additional books as directed by some private schools. This will also curb the menace of overcharging the parents for text books from shopkeepers."

"Let us clear to all parents that 100% of syllabus in competitive exams comes out of this JKBOSE curriculum. The curriculum is of high standard which has been prepared and framed by well reputed experts of our country. All teacher fraternity is satisfied with the curriculum and welcomes the decision taken by the LG government in UT", reads the statement.

"Now our request to Director Education Kashmir Tasaduq Hussain Mir that during past few years free distribution of text books were not available at appropriate time and this time we hope Directorate shall take up the matter with JKBOSE to ensure that full set of text books remain available to students at the onset of new academic session", the president said.

"We also request to higher authorities to prescribe the text books and syllabus for pre primary classes and also availability of same well in time", he said.

## Govt likely to cut petrol, diesel prices ahead of LS polls

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): The government is likely reduce the petrol and diesel prices ahead of the Lok Sabha polls as crude oil prices have also come down in the international market which will enable the oil marketing companies to bear the burden.

As per sources, the Ministry for Petroleum and Natural Gas has worked out various combinations and permutations

on the price cuts ranging from Rs 4 to Rs 10 per litre in the two fuels and the impact it will have on the oil companies.

The government is also looking at reduction in the excise duty on petrol and diesel so that the entire burden of the price cut is not borne by the oil PSUs -Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum.

The final decision on the

price cut will be taken at the level of the Prime Minister, sources said.

The last time the price of petrol and diesel were reduced was in May last year when the Finance Ministry had cut the excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 6 a litre.

Crude oil prices have also been falling in the global market. The price of bench-

mark Brent crude was hovering at around \$77 a barrel in the international market on Friday. This is down from the \$85 to 90 range in earlier months which makes it easier to go for a price cut in fuel prices.

Meanwhile, the shares of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum crashed by 4 per cent in Friday's trade amid reports of a likely cut in petrol and diesel prices.

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 29: NSS Units of GDC Kathua organised pledge ceremony on Road Safety.

More than hundred NSS volunteers and students Principal GDC Kathua along with faculty of the college participated in the event and took pledge on Road safety.

The pledge was read

out by Vishal Gupta NSS Volunteer of III semester.

Before pledge read out ceremony Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir addressed the august gathering.

She apprised the gathering with traffic rules. She also appealed the NSS volunteers to follow the traffic rules in their day to day life and also become the youth ambassador to carry

forward this campaign in their respective localities.

Principal also appreciated the efforts of NSS unit in creating awareness campaign about Road Safety.

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.

## NSS Units of GDC Kathua organise pledge ceremony on Road Safety



## Here's a look at some theatrical releases, inspired by real-life incidents, which left a powerful impact on audiences

In 2023, the Indian entertainment landscape evolved and how! Apart from the big-budget, multi-starrer movies, the segment that left a lasting impact was biopics.

A fascinating genre, true stories have a way of tugging at everyone's heartstrings and this year gave audiences some memorable stories of extraordinary people. Inspired from real-life incidents and heroes, the larger-than-life treatment turned them into cinematic masterpieces. From refreshing our memories of the Bangladesh War by celebrating Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw to the heart-wrenching story of Sagarika Chakraborty's legal battle in Norway, to showcasing the bravery of unsung mining engineer Jaswant Singh Gill, there was a real-life story for everyone's choice.

**Class act**  
Sam Bahadur  
Portraying India's first Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw, Vicky Kaushal's stellar depiction was both raw and real. The Meghna Gulzar-directorial pays



a heartfelt tribute to India's beloved officer and his contributions to the Indian Army. Being called a class act by Vicky, his dedication to embodying the war hero has been the highlight of this biopic. The way he captured the nuances of Sam Manekshaw's body language, his mannerisms, diction and overall persona were lauded by audience as well as critics alike. The film beautifully chronicled Manekshaw's four-decade-long journey in the Indian Army and his participation in five wars, especially his role in India's victory in the 1971 war.

**Earnest attempt**  
Mission Raniganj  
Based on a real-life

rescue mission of 1989, Tinu Suresh Desai's Mission Raniganj paid homage to a mining engineer, late Jaswant Singh Gill, who led a challenging rescue mission to save the lives of 65 miners trapped in a flooded coal mine in Raniganj, West Bengal. It's not the first time that Akshay Kumar took on the responsibility of playing a real-life unsung hero and his fans called Mission Raniganj called it an earnest attempt. The film vividly depicted the 1989 Raniganj coal mine disaster and the operation (the likes of which had never been seen in India before) that followed.

**Mother's tale**  
Mrs. Chatterjee vs

Norway  
Ashima Chibber's Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway depicted the real-life struggle of Sagarika Chakraborty and her husband. Based on the true story of the 2010-2011 case of Sagrika Bhattacharya, Rani Mukerji portrayed the lead role of an immigrant mother from India, who embarked on a fierce custody battle when she was separated from her children by Norwegian Child Welfare Services. Her performance as a distraught mother touched the hearts of the audiences, which also lauded Jim Sarbh as Daniel Singh Clupek, a lawyer from Norway, for delivering a powerful

show in the film.

**Immersive experience**  
Pippa  
Pippa, based on Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta's book The Burning Chaffees, paid a poignant tribute to India's war heroes on the 50th anniversary of the 1971 war and the birth of Bangladesh. Ishaan Khattar, who headlined the film, was impactful and sincere. Directed by Raja Krishna Menon, the movie has been dubbed as an immersive war experience.

**Story of grit**  
12th Fail  
Directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, 12th Fail has been adapted from Anurag Pathak's bestselling novel by the same name. It is inspired by the story of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma and his wife, IRS officer Shradha Joshi. Vikrant Massey played the lead, Manoj Kumar, with aplomb. Be it the screenplay, dialogues or its realistic treatment, the movie scored on all fronts. Much like other flicks, this true story of resilience, perseverance and determination to win against all odds, won the hearts of moviegoers.

## Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore says she battled cancer

*'Due to health reasons at that time, she couldn't say yes, but it is a regret I have'*



Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore has revealed that she was battling cancer when filmmaker Karan Johar approached her to play a key role in his movie

'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'. The cinema icon and her son, actor Saif Ali Khan, appeared in the latest episode of Johar's celebrity chat show

'Koffee with Karan'. In the episode, which dropped on Disney+ Hotstar on Thursday, Johar said he wanted Tagore to play the role of Alia Bhatt's grandmother in the movie, which came out in theatres in August.

"I had offered Sharmila ji the part played by Shabana (Azmi) ji in 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'. She was my very first choice. Due to health reasons at that time, she couldn't say yes, but it is a regret I have," the filmmaker said.

Tagore, 79, said she didn't want to take a risk during the pandemic as she was not vaccinated. "This is at the height of Covid. They hadn't really grappled with Covid at that time. They didn't know about the vaccine, we were not vaccinated. You know, (it was) after my cancer. So, they didn't want me to take that risk," she said.

Tagore did not reveal the details of her battle and the nature of the disease.

The veteran said not doing Johar's movie is a regret and she hopes to collaborate with the filmmaker in future.

## Ariana Grande announces new album for 2024

Renowned singer-songwriter Ariana Grande is making a return in 2024 with a new album, she confirmed with a series of social media posts.

"See you next year," Grande wrote in the caption to a carousel of Instagram photos and videos.

She tagged her producer Ilya Salmanzadeh, Republic Records and numerous others, and shared a variety of in-studio memories that vary in tone: a video of Grande's mother dancing, a screenshot of a FaceTime call where she's dancing, a photo of a warehouse (possibly a music video set) and another photo shows her crying. "The two moods of the album," Ariana Grande wrote in her Instagram story.

Fans also received a care package from Grande with a photo of her red-tinted lips and red lipstick from her R.E.M. Beauty line with a handwritten note that repeated, "See you next year."



Aside from her entrepreneurial adventures, Grande has also had her

hands full with her role in the upcoming Wicked film, due in November.

## Celebs remember Rajesh Khanna on his birth anniversary

On Rajesh Khanna's birth anniversary today, celebs talk about their favourite Rajesh Khanna movie and who do they think has come close to replicating his level of success in the film industry.

**Blessed soul**  
Somy Ali

I believe that no one has come close to the love, recognition, and stardom that Rajesh Khanna was blessed with throughout his career. I can never forget watching his movies as a child, whether it was Anand, Jaanwar or Souten. As for my favourite film of his, it's tough to pick one because I cherish all of them. If I had to choose, it would have to be Anand. Those who come closest to matching Kakaji's larger-than-life persona, in my opinion are Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. All said and done, anyone can be famous, but no one can be Rajesh Khanna.

**Unparalleled glory**  
Ismail Umar Khan  
When you talk about Rajesh Khanna, all his super-hit songs come to my mind, Mere sapno ki rani kab aayegi tu, Jhoota hai tera vaada, Dil ko dekho chehra na dekho and Accha toh hum chalte hain. I have watched all his super-hit movies. Rajesh Khanna has bests to Bollywood. My childhood's favorite movie



was Haathi Mere Saathi. When I grew up and revisited Anand, he made me cry again. Ittefaq was also a brilliant film. He was the first superstar of Bollywood. I believe his success was unparalleled. The comparison doesn't work for me; Rajesh Khanna was known for romance, while the next superstar was known for action.

**One and only**  
Rohit Choudhary  
Rajesh Khanna is the one and only superstar of the country.

The only superstar who gave more than 15 back-to-back hit films from 1969 to 1971. One movie that broke all records was Haathi Mere Saathi. His dialogue delivery was magical. Dialogues like "Pushpa, I hate work for me; Rajesh Khanna was known for romance, while the next superstar was known for action. One and only Rohit Choudhary Rajesh Khanna is the one and only superstar of the country.

tainly no one has come close to his magnificence.

**Unique contribution**  
Arushi Nishank  
To be honest, I liked all of his movies but the one I really loved the most is Anand. Rajesh Khanna's success was unparalleled during his peak career, and he enjoyed an unprecedented fan following. His unique charm, acting, and the ability to connect with the audience contributed to his superstar status. While other actors have achieved great success, it's challenging to directly compare their careers with his. I would conclude by saying Rajesh Khanna's contribution to Indian cinema is unique, and his legacy as the first superstar continues.

**No one can fill the void**  
Kiran Khoje  
He stood as a superstar in his era, and even today, watching his films brings immense joy. Personally, I hold a deep admiration for movies like Anand, Bawarchi, Amar Prem, Kati Patang and Haathi Mere Saathi. These films have a timeless quality. The songs and dialogues from his movies resonate with me. His movies are not just sources of entertainment but also carriers of profound messages. No one can fill the void left by Rajesh Khanna in the world of cinema.

## Vijayakanth will live forever in people's hearts, says Rajinikanth as he pays him tributes

Thousands of people, fans, celebrities and politicians thronged the Island Grounds near the Marina beach here on Friday to pay homage to actor-turned politician Vijayakanth.

Actor Rajinikanth, who rushed here from Kanyakumari district to pay his last respects, laid a garland on the decorated casket and almost cried when he recounted two incidents that showed Vijayakanth's values and the importance he attached to friendship and supporting colleagues.

Rajinikanth said

though crores of men and women live and die in this world, it is only a few like Vijayakanth and people of his ilk that live forever in the hearts of people.

Expressing anguish, he said though Vijayakanth used to get angry, selfishness had never been the reason behind it. "The monicker captain is very appropriate for Vijayakanth," he told reporters, praising the departed actor.

Starting from December 28 morning, thousands of people visited Vijayakanth's residence and later the



Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) headquarters at Koyambodu here and paid homage.

Crowds spilled on to the nearby flyover and even at midnight there were still thousands waiting to bid adieu to Vijayakanth.

The Who's Who of Tamil Nadu, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin, paid their last respects.

Since the crowd became unmanageable, authorities made swift arrangements and the venue was shifted to the sprawling Island Grounds owned by the

government and from December 29 morning, people gathered there to pay homage.

Stalin has announced a state funeral and arrangements are in place to conduct it at the DMDK office premises, where Vijayakanth will be laid to rest with full government honours.

Vijayakanth, who had been ill for about five years, passed away on Thursday morning after battling pneumonia. He founded the DMDK in 2005 and has been a successful action hero for about three decades, since the 1980s.

## Saamya Jainn talks about her role in Dehati Ladke



Sharing her experience of working with the team, Saamya Jainn from Amazon miniTV coming-of-age drama Dehati Ladke says, "It was amazing. From the directors and the cast to the spot dadas and the makeup artists, it felt like were a family.

Tanish and I were newcomers in terms of professional experience, unlike Raghav and Shine who have done a lot of work yet possess a passion to explore new things.

In general, the team was quite young and high on energy and everyone motivated everyone."

She adds, "I am grateful for all the support and love we are receiving for the series.

This is a light-hearted show with a compelling storyline."

## Yogi Adityanath in Ayodhya ahead of PM's visit for airport launch tomorrow

Yogi Adityanath visited the new Ayodhya airport, which will be inaugurated by PM Modi on Saturday, and will also inspect the route of PM Modi's road show.

AYODHYA, Dec 29 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Ayodhya on Friday afternoon to take stock of preparations ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Saturday.

The Chief Minister visited the new airport, which will be inaugurated by PM Modi on Saturday, and will also inspect the route of PM Modi's road show.

He will also visit Hanuman Garhi and the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi temple.

Ahead of the January 22 con-



separation ceremony, PM Modi is scheduled to hold a roadshow and address a public meeting, after inaugurating the 'Mahar-

shi Valmiki International Airport Ayodhyadham' in Ayodhya on Saturday.

The first phase of the airport has been constructed at the cost of Rs 1,450 crore.

The new terminal building, spanning 6,500 square meters, is designed to accommodate 600 peak-hour passengers, with an annual handling capacity of 10 lakh passengers.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the new building of Ayodhya railway station, renamed as Ayodhya Dham.

## AAP's request to appoint Raghav Chadha as party's leader in Rajya Sabha rejected



NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has declined the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) request to appoint Raghav Chadha as the party's leader in the Upper House of Parliament, sources informed news agency

on Friday.

Earlier this month, the AAP leadership, in a letter to Dhankhar, requested the appointment of Chadha as the leader of the party in the Upper House of Parliament in the absence of Sanjay Singh.

The letter claimed that

due to "health issues", Sanjay Singh was unable to discharge the role.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh is currently behind bars in the Delhi liquor policy case.

Chadha is one of the youngest members of the Rajya Sabha representing the northern state of Punjab. The AAP has a total of 10 MPs in the Upper House currently.

The AAP has the fourth-largest strength in Rajya Sabha after the BJP, the Congress and the TMC.

## Couple, minor daughter found hanging inside home in Chhattisgarh's Raipur

RAIPUR, Dec 29 (Agencies): A couple and their 14-year-old daughter were found hanging inside their house in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, police said on Friday. The man worked as a driver for a steel trader.

Police suspect that the trio might have died by suicide.

Lakhanlal Sen (48), his wife Ranu Sen (42) and daughter Payal were found hanging from a hook, used to hang ceiling fans, with a rope inside a room in their home in BSUP colony under Tikrapara police station limits on Thurs-



day late evening, a police official here said.

Neighbours alerted the police about a foul smell emanating from their house. Police broke open the door and found the bodies, he said.

"Prima facie it seems that the trio hanged themselves two-three

days back. However, no suicide note was found at the spot and the exact details of the matter will be known after the arrival of post-mortem report and further investigation," he said.

A case has been registered and a probe is underway, he added.

## Lalan Singh resigns as JDU chief; Nitish Kumar takes charge

PATNA, Dec 29 (Agencies): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was elected Janata Dal (United) president on Friday at the meeting of the party's national executive which lauded his role in bringing together opposition parties and spearheading the demand for caste census.

Party's chief spokesperson KC Tyagi said Kumar had agreed to take over the mantle from Lalan Singh.

Singh stepped down at the closed-door meeting and proposed Kumar's name, saying his leadership would be needed at this crucial juncture in the run-up to the 2024 general election while he would be busy fight-



ing his own election. He currently represents Munger constituency in Lok Sabha.

The national council meeting of the party, scheduled to be held later in the day, will ratify decisions, including on his presidency, taken in the executive meeting.

Sources said most key leaders within the party were of the view that Kumar being its

should take charge of the organisation at this crucial time.

The party is part of the opposition INDIA bloc.

Singh's leadership style was also criticised by several leaders within the party in their recent interactions with Kumar, sources said.

Amid reports of rift within the party, the chief minister has worked to project a picture of unity by keeping him by his

side.

Sources within the party have been dismissive of reports that Singh's perceived proximity to the RJD was a reason behind his ouster, noting that he has been a close ally of Kumar for decades.

Kumar said in the executive meeting that he was not personally keen to take over as the party's president but would abide by the decision of national executive members who heartily endorsed the development, sources said.

Many enthusiastic members of the party raised slogans at the venue, projecting their leader as a prime ministerial candidate.

Singh had on Thursday rebuffed reports about his likely departure as JD(U) president and any rift within the party.

"You are trying to set the narrative... JD(U) is one and will remain united," he said in response to the media's queries on his resignation and differences in the party, asserting that it is a routine meeting, a view also echoed by Kumar before he boarded the flight from Patna to Delhi.

"If I have to resign, I will call you (mediapersons) and consult you about what to write in the resignation letter so that you can go to the BJP office and get the draft," Singh had said sarcastically.

## Skeletons Of 5 Found In Locked Karnataka Home, Were Last Seen In 2019

CHITRADURGA (KARNATAKA), Dec 29 (Agencies): The skeletal remains of five members of a family were recovered from a house in Chitradurga district in Karnataka, police said Friday.

The skeletal remains are suspected to be those of retired government executive engineer Jagannath Reddy (85), his wife Prema (80), daughter Triveni (62), and sons Krishna (60) and Narendra (57), they said.

However, the identity of the dead could be ascertained only after a forensic examination, police said, adding that the cause of death will be established through

an autopsy.

The family members kept to themselves and had severe health issues.

They were last seen in 2019, and their residence has remained locked since then, police said.

The police learned about the incident on Thursday through local media personnel, who were informed by a person in the locality.

"We visited the spot on Thursday evening and spoke to acquaintances and relatives of the family.

All of them claimed that the family used to live a completely secluded life and was facing critical health issues.

The family was last seen in June-July 2019. The house was always locked.

Around two months ago, the main wooden door was seen broken by someone on their morning walk, but police weren't informed," a senior police officer said. A police visit to the scene of the crime suggested that the house had been intruded on multiple times and ransacked.

Four skeletons (two on beds and two on the floor) were found in one room in a sleeping position, while another skeleton was found in a lying position in another room, he said.

Forensic Science

Laboratory experts from Davanagere were called to collect evidence. The crime scene has been guarded and sealed to ensure there is no tampering with evidence, he said.

"The exact cause of death is not clear. It could be suicide or something else. We are in the initial stage of the investigation. We will be able to ascertain the cause of death only after the forensic examination and autopsy are done and the reports are received," the officer added.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Tumakuru, State Home Minister G Parameshwara said, "There is a report about

finding five skeletons in a house. For how long they have been there and who they are. I have asked the police to investigate it."

The police are already at work, and the samples have been sent to a forensic science lab to find age and other details. Also, information is being gathered as to who the house belongs to and who is living there.

"Whether they died by suicide or were killed by someone, details are not known. After an investigation and a forensic report, we will get to know. Until then, we can't say anything or come to any conclusion," he said.

## 9-year-old girl found dead under mysterious circumstances in swimming pool of apartment complex in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, Dec 29 (Agencies): A nine-year-old girl was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the swimming pool of an apartment complex off Varthur-Gunjur road in Bengaluru's tech corridor, police said on Friday.

The victim has been identified as Manasa. She, along with her family, lived in the same apartment complex, they said.

Residents of the apartment complex have claimed that the girl accidentally fell into the swimming pool after coming into contact with a live wire dangling from

a light pole near the pool. However, whether the exact cause of death is drowning or electrocution can be ascertained only through a post-mortem, police said, adding that they're awaiting the report.

In his complaint, the victim's father said he suspects that his daughter drowned after she accidentally fell into the swimming pool around 7.30 pm on Thursday, a senior police officer said.

The girl was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared brought dead, he said.

"There have been claims of electrocution. However, there were no

visible injury marks on her body.

We are investigating the matter from all angles but we cannot ascertain the exact cause of death until we receive the post-mortem report," he said.

Following the incident, the residents of the apartment staged a protest and demanded justice for the girl.

"We want justice for my daughter. We want to know the truth behind her death. We want the police to probe the matter and fix responsibility," the father of the girl told reporters here, adding that this should not happen to any other child.

## Man Stabs Cab Driver To Death In Delhi Road Rage

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): A cab driver was stabbed to death allegedly by three people, including a minor, after he did not give them way to pass in a traffic jam in south Delhi's Mehrauli area, police said on Friday.

All the three accused have been identified and the minor has been apprehended, they said. "Manoj Kumar (34) worked as a cab driver for a Gurugram-based BPO. On Thursday evening, he picked up five BPO employees from the Malviya Nagar area and then one from Mehrauli. Later, the cab got stuck in a traffic jam in Mehrauli," a senior police officer said. "Around 8:40 pm,



three boys on a scooter came from behind and started honking at Kumar, asking for space to move ahead.

The cab driver was unable to make way for them as there was no room.

"Soon, a verbal spat ensued between the two sides. One of the scooter riders stabbed Kumar in the chest with a knife before fleeing from the spot with his accomplices," the police officer.

Kumar was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, police said.

A case of murder has been registered in the matter, they said.

"The minor has been apprehended. The remaining accused have been identified and will be arrested soon," said the officer.

The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, police said.

## Gujarat to launch country's first submarine tourism in Dwarka

The Gujarat government plans to launch India's first submarine-based underwater tourism facility in Dwarka, which would allow tourists to witness the marine life in the city.

DWARAKA, Dec 29 (Agencies): The Gujarat government is set to introduce a submarine service for tourists in the state, to help them explore the marine life in Dwarka, an ancient city believed to be lost under the sea.

The state government has signed a memorandum with Mazgaon Dock shipbuilders for the project in the city, which holds cultural significance as the 'city of the Hindu God Lord Krishna'.

This will be the first underwater tourism facility in India through a submarine. As per the current plan, the government aims to operationalise the project before Diwali in October 2024.



As per the project, tourists will be taken 100 meters below the sea in a submarine to see underwater marine life. Each submarine will carry 24 tourists, and the vessel will be led by two experienced pilots and a profes-

sional crew. The vessel will be designed to provide a window view for all passengers.

The government hopes that the submarine facility will boost the tourism prospects of Dwarka, one of the prominent

temple towns in the country that attracts a large number of people each day.

Speaking to news agency, Saurabh Pardhi, Managing Director of Gujarat Tourism, said that it is a "different project" in nature, which has the potential to bring a significant boost in tourism to the city.

Tourists will be taken to the sea near Dwarka by submarine, where they will comfortably see the underwater marine life. The main objective of the project is to promote tourism in Gujarat and provide more facilities for tourists visiting religious places, Pardhi said, adding, that passenger safety will be fully taken care of.





## Indo-Tibetan Coordination Association delegation meets LG Manoj Sinha

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Under the leadership of National General Secretary (Youth) and Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Manvendra Singh Manav, a group of Indo-Tibetan Coordination Association (ITCA) warriors living in Jammu and Kashmir province met the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan, here.

State in-charge Manvendra Singh thanked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on behalf of the Sangh for extending the duration of Ama-



rnath Yatra.

He said that after Manoj Sinha came to Jammu and Kashmir, there was all-round development of the state and the pride of

Sanatan culture has been increased. He read all the resolutions passed by ITCA.

LG Sinha praised Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, National President

(Youth) Neeraj Singh and Manvendra Singh for their efforts in the national interest.

He said that the Sangh should rapidly expand the organization within

Jammu and Kashmir, so that everyone can benefit from the values of nationalism.

Rashtriya Mantri of Bal Vibagh, Kumari Ishana Sharma was also present. The delegation included Mukhy Prant Sanrakshak of Jammu and Kashmir Ashok Nehru, Prant Adhyaksh Arvind Sharma, Prant Mahasachiv Vishal Sharma, Prant Mantri Bansi Lal, Prant Adhyaksh (Youth) Karan Pradhan, Prant Mantri (Young) Shivam Bhatt, Satish Singh also participated.

## Sehar Kapoor wins Asia Kids Super Star 2023 contest (Teen Category)



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Sehar Kapoor D/o Mr. Ritesh Kapoor, a student of 7th Class of Presentation Convent Sr Sec School, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu won the contest of Asia Kids Super Star 2023 (Teen Category). She was awarded with Crown, trophy and Sash. She will be getting chance in webseries, chance in Reality shows and Designer shoots & Runway.

The Grand Finale of the same was held on 27th December 2023 at Noida Film City. The contest was organized by Dreamz Production House & Dubai Beauty School. The jury for the contest comprised of Sharad Chaudhary, Founder/Director Dreamz Production House along with the celebrities Rohit Khandelwal (1st Asian to win the title

of Mr. World), Prince Narula (Famous TV celebrity & Actor), Rita Gangwani (Beauty Paegent Trainee), Bhumika Bahl (Makeup Educator), Anubha Vashist (Dubai Beauty School Founder) and Sophiya Singh (Dreamz Production House Director).

The auditions of the contest was held pan India from July 2023 till September, 2023 where in around 2500 children across India participated and only 47 children were shortlisted for the Grand Finale of Asia Kids Super Star 2023 contest to be held on 27th December 2023.

The Grand finale was for three days from 25th till 27th December, 2023 where in the Exclusive Portfolio (Photo-shoot) with make-up & styling was held on 25th December, the talent round was on 26th December and 27th December was the grand finale where in Ramp walk, introduction and questionnaire session was held.

"ASIA'S KIDS SUPERSTAR 2023" Pageant is providing a Platform where they get an opportunity to make a difference to the world. The mission of the Pageant is to nurture and support aspiring kids along their path to personal & professional growth and contribute to public at large. The winners and other suitable finalists will represent India at various platforms both nationally & internationally with the aim at creating role models & empower wish to create their unique identity and achieve new heights in the field of Glamour & Fame.

## Under the leadership of PM Modi, sports culture has achieved new heights: Ashok Koul

### BJP felicitates world championship medalists of Strength Lifting

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: BJP felicitated world championship Medalists of 10th Strength Lifting and inclined bench press world Championship and their coaches at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President BJP along with Braham Jyot Satti, Prabhari BJP OBC Morcha and Dr Pardi- deep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media in-charge felicitated the medalists on the occasion.

The Strength Lifting world championship was held at Hyderabad recently in which Anil

Kumar (95+ weight category) and Manpreet Singh (107+ weight category) bronze medal and brought laurels to the state.

Anil Kumar, Manpreet Singh, Choudhary Sunil Singh (President strength lifting Federation), Ajay Sharma (General Secretary), Umesh Sharma (Joint Secretary) other senior players of Power/strength lifting championship were felicitated on the occasion.

Both medal winner athletes are serving in JKP and brought laurels to our nation by clinching medals at international event.

Ashok Koul, speaking on the occasion, congratulated Anil Kumar, Manpreet Singh and



their coaches for this big achievement and wished them all for a bright and better future ahead. He said in past ten years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the sports scenario in India has been totally transformed and sports culture has achieved new heights.

He said today India has a maximum number of

medals in Olympics, Asian games etc and our para-athletes are also shining in their respective sports disciplines and making us proud.

Koul said also in Jammu Kashmir, the government has launched various schemes like Khelo India, PMDP etc for search of talented ath-

letes and providing job opportunities to senior players and past champions. He appreciated whole sports fraternity and DGP, ADGP, Sports Officer (JKP) for this achievement and said that this proud moment for all Jammuites that our athletes are representing at India at international levels and clinching medals.

Kavinder Gupta said our PM Narendra Modi is also sports lover person. Modi ji is also organizing felicitation ceremonies for meritorious sports. He is providing sports facilities in urban as well as remote areas across nation and as a result India is shining in the field of sports and even talent of Jammu Kashmir is excelling at International/National events. He congratulated all medalists and said when an athlete shines and becomes successful, it is the result of hardwork of that athlete, JK strength lifting

Federation members (Ajay Sharma, Umesh Sharma) and coaches. Yudhvir Sethi appreciated all sports achievers and said they are our pride because they highlighted the name of Jammu Kashmir globally because of their commendable performances at international and national events. He said our dynamic PM Narendra Modi is working alot in the field of sports and construction work of many sports Stadiums is going on and very soon these stadiums will be handed over to coaches and their train-

ees very soon. Braham Jyot, who organized and conducted the proceedings of the program, thanked all the dignitaries for their valuable wishes and said that the BJP always stands with our sports pillars and if any sportsperson needs any kind of help he/she can contact us any time. Dr. Pardeep urged all the students and youth to join sports and make carrier in sports it will make physical and mentally strong and he wished all medal winners for a bright and better future ahead.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Tax collection on course to grow 3 times to over Rs 19 Lakh Crore in 10 years of Modi Govt

also meant that Tax Collected at Source (TCS) would be required to be deducted at the time of making payments.

Banks also conveyed that there would be compliance issues while deducting the TCS and subsequently, the government had to defer the implementation of the proposal.

Indicating widening of tax base subsequent to various reform measures put in place by the Income Tax Department, the number of ITRs filed by individual taxpayers increased from 3.36 crore in 2013-14 to 6.37 crore in 2021-22 registering an overall increase of 90 per cent. In 2023-24, 7.41 crore returns have been filed till October 26, 2023, including 53 lakh returns by first-time filers.

On February 1, the government will present a vote on account as general elections are due in April-May. The full Budget is likely to be presented in July, 2024, by the new government to be formed after the elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government came to power in 2014. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner (Direct Tax) Gouri Puri said the digitalisation of the tax administrations and continued focus on formalisation of the economy have contributed to higher tax compliance rates.

"This should give the government some headroom to rationalise tax rates. Certainty around tax treaty application will be key to ensure ease of doing business in India. The expectation for 2024 would be for the government to continue to streamline direct tax provisions to enhance tax certainty," Puri added.

Deloitte India Partner (Direct Tax) Rohinton Sidhwa said the full Budget is likely to focus on initiatives to tap the China+1 strategy to bolster investment and innovation and also ongoing initiatives to prepare for the World Bank B-READY ranking.

With direct tax collections growing at about 20 per cent so far in the current fiscal (April-March) and GST mop-up scaling a new peak every year, the trend is expected to continue in 2024 on the back of strong economic performance.

The monthly Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection has touched a high of Rs 1.87 lakh crore in April 2023. The average gross monthly GST collection in 2023-24 stands at Rs 1.66 lakh crore and is 11 per cent more than that in the same period in the previous financial year.

The key take away from the meetings of the GST Council, comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, this year is the clarification on levy of 28 per cent tax on online gaming. The council over the course of two meetings decided to clarify that 28 per cent tax would be levied on the full amount put in at the time of entry into the online gaming platform.

Also, the council decided to make it mandatory for all overseas online gaming companies to register with GST authorities.

GST authorities have issued 71 show cause notices to online gaming companies for alleged GST evasion of over Rs 1.12 lakh crore during financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. Many of these companies have approached high courts seeking a stay on the demand.

INDUSLAW Partner (Indirect Tax) Shashi Mathews said the levy of the highest rate of tax has paused the "meteoric rise" of the online gaming industry.

"It may be expected that the government will have a re-look at some of these pain points. Some of these issues have also been pending before the courts and one might expect some respite in the form of judgments by the courts. Overall, it will be beneficial for the stakeholders to have a closure on these issues in 2024," Mathews said.

### Jammu and Kashmir 2023 | SC Nod to Article 370 abrogation, Key G20 meet in Valley

place in Parliament was declared legal. It is nothing less than a death sentence not only for Jammu and Kashmir but for the idea of India," Mufti said.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said his party is prepared for the long haul.

"I am disappointed but not disheartened. The struggle will continue. We are also prepared for the long haul," Abdullah said on the Supreme Court decision.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former chief minister and the chairperson of the Democratic

Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), termed the Supreme Court verdict "sad and unfortunate" but said everyone has to accept it "with a heavy heart".

"We did not expect this decision. We were thinking that the Supreme Court will consider the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and also the historical background under which Article 370 was incorporated into the Constitution. That was our hope but unfortunately that has not happened," Azad said.

Surprisingly, there was no response to the Supreme Court decision from the general public who went on with their lives as usual after the verdict was declared.

While the BJP understandably celebrated the verdict, the party had earned some brownie points by holding a key G20 meeting on tourism in Srinagar as most member states had some form of representation at the event.

The hosting of the G20 event also proved to be a major tailwind for development works in Kashmir as Srinagar was transformed with several new landmarks added to the city.

The historic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower) at Lal Chowk got a major facelift as the town square has become a popular tourist attraction.

The Jhelum Bund walkway has added options for the city dwellers for an evening outing while electric buses and e-rickshaws have been introduced with the aim of combating pollution and providing ease of transportation.

While there were a lot of positives including vast improvement in the general security situation in Kashmir, delay in holding elections to various bodies has drawn criticism from opposition parties.

Assembly elections were last held in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014 and are long overdue as four years have passed since the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed by Parliament. The panchayat and local body polls were last held in 2018 and were due in November-December this year. However, these elections have also been deferred without any explanation being offered by the administration.

Although the security situation in the valley improved during the year, terrorists carried out targeted attacks on minority community members and security forces, both off-duty and on-duty.

The year began with terrorists killing four civilians in Dhangri area of Rajouri on

January 1 while two more civilians died in the same area in an IED explosion on the same day.

The border districts of Poonch and Rajouri saw some major terrorist attacks this year, in which more than 15 soldiers and six civilians were killed. The attacks took place at Bhatta Durain (April 20), Kesari Hills (May 5) and Dera Ki Gali (December 21).

There were terrorist attacks in Kashmir valley as well. A Colonel, a Major and a Deputy Superintendent of Police were killed in an encounter with terrorists in Kokernag area of Anantnag district. Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani died after being attacked by a terrorist when he was playing cricket at Eidgah ground in Srinagar.

A retired senior superintendent of police was shot dead by terrorists when he was reciting 'azaan' inside a mosque in Baramulla district this month.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari sanctions 29 road projects in Ladakh worth Rs 1170.16 crore

approved initiatives.

He said this enhancement is expected to stimulate economic activities, particularly in agriculture and tourism, contributing to the overall infrastructural development of Ladakh.

### Truck driver dies mysteriously in Udhampur, probe ordered

The body of the deceased was taken to Government Medical College Udhampur for autopsy and afterwards handed over to family members for last rites.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Udhampur Anwar-ul-Haq said that the driver fainted during checking at Jakhani Check Naka and was rushed to Associated Hospital Government Medical College Udhampur.

He added that an enquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of death.

### India records 797 New Covid cases

stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according

to the ministry's website. According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

### Sonamarg to Host First-Ever Ice Skating Event this Winter

Ahmed said that basic ice skating activities have commenced, aiming to draw more tourists to this picturesque hill station. He emphasised the inclusion of locals, with plans to enroll 18 participants in the initial course and said intentions to expand and involve more local stakeholders.

Sports enthusiasts welcomed the news, recognizing it as an excellent chance for youth to learn new skills, engage in a healthy lifestyle, and divert from stress and depression.

### Dr Mushtaq Dar recalled, posted as Divisional Nodal Officer, NHM

Officer, Kashmir, is recalled and directed to report in the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir for further duties," the order reads.

### Intense cold conditions in Kashmir, Dense fog in several places

Celsius, Kokernag town minus 2.6 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Budgam recorded the lowest temperature of the season at minus 6.7 degrees Celsius, an independent weather forecaster said. These areas also witnessed very dense fog.

The dip in the minimum temperatures along with dense fog in several areas has caused many problems to the people. Apart from visibility issues, the cold and dry temperatures have increased common ailments like cough, cold, and other respiratory problems, especially among children and the elderly.

The doctors have advised people, especially children, the elderly, and patients, to take precautions like wearing masks and not to venture out unnecessarily in the mornings and evenings.

## Sensex, Nifty snap winning streak to end lower on final session of 2023

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 170.12 points to 72,240.26 at the closing bell, while the NSE Nifty50 ended 47.30 points lower to settle at 21,731.40

MUMBAI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices ended lower on Thursday, snapping its winning run to end lower on the final trading session of 2023.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 170.12 points to 72,240.26 at the closing bell, while the NSE Nifty50 ended 47.30 points lower to settle at 21,731.40. Broader market indices, however, ended the session on a positive note.

While several sectoral indices such as Nifty Auto, Nifty FMCG and Nifty Metal ended the session with decent gains, losses in heavy-weight indices such as Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty IT dampened the sentiments on Dalal Street.

Despite losing on the last trading session of the calendar year, both the benchmark indices have put up a stellar show in 2023, rising over 18 per cent each, with much of the gains



coming in December after a rush of positive developments. According to analysts, domestic stock markets are likely to maintain their winning run in 2024, provided the domestic and global environment remains favourable.

The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Tata Consumer Products, Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto, Nestle and Adani Enterprises. On the other hand, the top losers were BPCL, SBI, ONGC, Infosys and Coal India.

Shrey Jain, Founder and CEO SAS Online, said, "The year 2023 came to a robust conclu-

sion, marked by a solid performance. Looking at the year-to-date performance, the Nifty 50 is on track to conclude 2023 with a 20 per cent increase, while the BSE Sensex is poised to finish the year with a surge of over 18 per cent."

"Looking ahead, it is recommended for investors to capitalize on every market dip by opting to buy rather than sell, considering the strong foundational factors (macros) supporting India. Traders are advised to closely monitor and trail their stop-loss accordingly," he added.

## FirstCry files paper for IPO, to raise Rs 1,816 crore

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): In the ongoing bull run seen in the primary, as well as secondary market, Brainbees Solutions, the parent firm of omnichannel retailer FirstCry, has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator Security Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for launching an initial public offering (IPO).

As per the DRHP, FirstCry will be aiming to raise funds through a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 1,816 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 54,391,592 equity shares. The total size of the IPO is expected to be more than Rs 4,000 crore as the Pune-based company is aiming to issue its initial shares to the public at a valuation of around \$4 billion.

According to reports, the SoftBank-backed company was last valued at under \$3 billion in the private market. SoftBank, the Japanese investment firm, is the largest external stakeholder in FirstCry with 25.55% stake. Other big stakeholders are Mahindra & Mahindra (10.99% stake) and Premji Invest (10.36% stake). DHRP showed SoftBank will be selling 2 crore shares, Mahindra Retail offloading 28 lakh

shares and Premji Invest selling 86 lakh shares in the IPO.

Ratan Tata will sell all his 77,900 shares in the IPO. The business tycoon had picked up a 0.02% stake for Rs 66 lakh in the company in 2016. Other investors such as New Quest Asia, Apricot Investments, Valiant Partners, among others, and the four co-founders will be diluting their stake in the OFS.

The company, which focuses on children's merchandise and apparel, said that it use the net proceeds from the issue for setting up said it will utilize the proceeds for setting up modern stores, warehouses, investment in its subsidiaries, technology and data science, marketing, acquisitions, and general corporate purposes. The company is also eyeing international expansion in Saudi Arabia.

Launched in 2010, FirstCry has seen exponential growth in the last few years and has become one of the few e-commerce firms to have revenue of over Rs 5,000 crore. The company's revenue from operations surged from Rs 2,401 crore in FY22 to Rs 5,632 crore in FY23. However, its losses also grew six-fold to Rs 486 crore in FY23 from Rs 79 crore in FY22

## Govt mulling slew of measures to facilitate public service delivery through digital interventions: Prerna Puri

Chairs Public Darbar: takes stock of public issues, concerns

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 29: The Government is mulling slew of measures to facilitate public service delivery through digital interventions like rolling out of Toll Free Helpline-14471 for accessing government services from the comfort of home besides setting up CSC kiosks at district headquarters to grease the wheels of public visiting DC office.

Emphasizing the need to augment digital footprint, Commissioner Secretary, Information and IT, Prerna Puri, today informed that Commissioner Secretary presided over a public darbar at DC office complex and took stock of issues of public importance.

Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas, SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jammwal, ADDC, Ankur Mahajan, BDC Chairperson Kathua, BDC Chairperson Marheen, BDC Chairperson Barnoti, DDC member Nagri, DDC member Dhar Mahanpur, among representatives of various delegations were present on the occasion.

The public darbar witnessed overwhelming public response who apprised the Commissioner Secretary of issues being faced by them,



seeking intervention in redressing the same.

The DDC delegation, on the occasion, submitted a memorandum of demands concerning power supply, healthcare and vacant post of sports teacher in Dhar-Mahanpur besides development of a Digital Model Village in Hiranagar.

Similarly, issues and concerns raised by the BDC members concerning their respective areas included allotment of suitable land for CFC in BDC

Kathua constituency, development of tourist circuit in border blocks, road connectivity, mobile connectivity in Marheen, land erosion in Ujh catchment area, approval for utilization of Own Resources Funds, repair of hand pumps, restoration of RTIC head at Pipli, exemption of stamp duty for area outside industrial estates, early approval of RDSS works, enhanced allocation under City and Town programme etc.

A delegation of Ex-Ser-

vicemen also presented their issues and demands including renaming of Kathua Railway Station after Kirti Chakra Awardee, Captain Sunil Chaudhary besides highlighting the issue of setting up of a War Memorial in Kathua and construction of compound wall, lanes in Zila Sainik Welfare Office.

Likewise, a delegation of senior citizens from Housing Colony Kathua apprised the Commissioner Secretary regarding various issue like

installation of street lights and utilization of civic amenities.

Other issues highlighted in the public darbar included monkey menace, construction of check dams in marheen, easy mechanism for update of ration cards etc.

Prerna Puri, while interacting with line departments, called for adopting a time bound redressal mechanism in resolving the issues of public importance by making optimum utilization of available resources.

Commissioner Secretary, while addressing the gathering, said that their grievances and demands shall be brought into the notice of concerned departments for timely redressal.

She reiterated the commitment of the UT government for ensuring holistic development in villages, underscoring the administration's focus on infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other key sectors.

The Commissioner Secretary further directed DC Kathua to work out the scope of enhancing the city beautification as Kathua serves as the gateway to Jammu & Kashmir and gives an eclectic impression about the UT.

## India's economic growth sparks optimism as corporates anticipate profit surge: Fitch Ratings



NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Fitch Ratings forecasts a significant uptick in the profitability of Indian corporates, propelled by the country's robust economic growth.

Despite challenges stemming from sluggish overseas markets, India's resilient GDP growth, projected at 6.5 per cent in the financial year ending March 2025 (FY25), positions

the nation among the world's fastest-growing sovereigns.

The anticipated economic expansion is expected to fuel demand across various sectors, contributing to a substantial increase in profits.

Fitch Ratings predicts a profitability surge in FY25, projecting a 290 basis points improvement compared to FY23 levels.

This surge, coupled with easing input cost pressures, is poised to provide Indian corporates with ample rating headroom, mitigating concerns related to higher capital expenditures.

Key sectors poised to benefit from India's economic momentum include cement, electricity, petroleum products, and steel. High-frequency data

for 2023 indicates sustained demand well above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

The country's intensified infrastructure spending is set to drive steel demand, while a buoyant automotive sector is expected to maintain growth despite a projected moderation after robust expansion in 2023.

In the realm of information technology (IT) services, while the slowdown in demand from the US and eurozone may temper sales growth, Fitch Ratings anticipates an offsetting effect.

Easing employee attrition and wage pressure within the IT services industry should bolster profitability, ensuring a solid rating headroom for rated companies.

Oil marketing companies are likely to experience sustained refining margins above mid-cycle levels in the near term.

Lower crude oil prices

post-FY23 are anticipated to support marketing profitability, offering a positive outlook for the sector.

Additionally, the ongoing consolidation within the telecommunications industry is expected to contribute to healthy margins for India's top two telecommunication companies.

Fitch Ratings remains optimistic about India's structural demand visibility, emphasizing the government's supply-side reforms and the improved health of corporate and bank balance sheets.

This positive backdrop is seen as a catalyst for increased capital expenditure across various sectors, building on the momentum initiated in FY23.

As India charts its economic trajectory, the anticipated surge in corporate profitability signals a promising landscape for the nation's business landscape.

## Study finds cell-based therapy to fight cancer

PENNSYLVANIA (US), Dec 29 (Agencies): Wistar researchers successfully evaluated a simple intervention that could unlock higher anti-tumour potential in T-cell therapies, a strategy known as "cell-based therapy," which uses specifically tailored T cells to combat cancer.

Dr. Hildegund C.J. Ertl, a professor in The Wistar Institute's Vaccine & Immunotherapy Centre, led the team that demonstrated an exciting concept: that the common cholesterol drug fenofibrate can boost T cells' ability to destroy human tumours, as described in their new paper, "Treatment with the PPAR agonist fenofibrate improves the efficacy of CD8+ T cell therapy for melanoma," CD8+ T cells work very well in fighting liquid tumours, but for solid tumours like melanoma,

the cell-based therapy approach can stall due to the physical structure of the cancer.

The T cells infiltrate the tumor, but the cancer adapts and saps the T cells' energy by hijacking the form of metabolism that the T cells use: glycolysis, which turns sugar into energy.

Without energy, the T cells first lose functions and then die, and the cancer continues to grow.

But Dr. Ertl's team has been able to circumvent this problem by forcing T cells to use a different energy source than glucose.

They used fenofibrate because, as a cholesterol-lowering compound, the drug is a PPARa agonist.

When PPARa is upregulated, cellular metabolism is switched from glycolysis to fatty acid oxidation, or FAO.

This mechanism works

to improve cholesterol levels in human patients, but for Dr. Ertl's purposes, the fenofibrate-induced switch to FAO provided T cells with a form of energy that cancer couldn't exploit -- which is how Dr. Ertl proved that fenofibrate has been able to boost the killing power of T cells deployed against cancerous cell lines.

In this paper, the authors wanted to see whether this kind of cancer-killing improvement would have similar effects when deployed against not just cancer cell lines but solid human tumor fragments -- a more challenging proposition.

The group treated T cells with fenofibrate, and the hypothesis held: Dr. Ertl's team watched the T cells treated with fenofibrate survive longer and kill more cancer in preclinical

models with human solid tumor masses than the T cells that didn't receive the treatment.

"Treating T cells with fenofibrate before using them as a cancer treatment flips a switch of sorts in their metabolism," said Dr. Hildegund Ertl.

"Once that switch is flipped, T cells can destroy the cancer much more effectively. And we've confirmed that this holds for larger human tumor masses." As a result of these findings, Dr. Ertl and her team think this intervention shows great promise for future anti-tumor therapies. "Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer. Anything we can do to chip away at the cancer and destroy more of it -- even a simple pre-treatment step like this one -- can make a world of difference."

## Covid impairs brain health, but not more than pneumonia, cardiac arrest, or critical illness: Study

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Brain function is impaired in patients following severe COVID-19, but no more than that of people hospitalised with illnesses like pneumonia and cardiac arrest with similar severity, new research has found.

Researchers found that patients hospitalised due to COVID-19 had worse cognitive, neurological and psychiatric effects than healthy participants after an 18-month follow-up period.

However, the researchers at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, also found that these deficits in brain function were not significantly different to those in "carefully matched" patients requiring hospitalisation for pneumonia, myocardial infarction (cardiac arrest), or non-COVID-19, intensive care-requiring illness.

Thus, they say that long-term associations with brain health might not be specific to COVID-19 but associated with overall illness severity and hospitalisation.

They also said that this information was important for putting understandable concerns about brain health after COVID-19 into perspective. Their findings are

published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

Previous studies have found COVID-19 to compromise brain function.

However, long-term prospective investigations with matched control cohorts and face-to-face assessments were lacking, the researchers said.

In this study, the team included 345 participants, including 120 patients with COVID-19, 125 patients hospitalised for non-COVID-19 pneumonia, myocardial infarction, or non-COVID-19, ICU-requiring illness and 100 healthy controls.

Over the follow-up period, the participants were evaluated for their cognition and executive function, along with depression and anxiety. They also underwent a neurological examination, which measured their sensorimotor and cerebellar functions and cranial nerves.

The team also conducted interviews with the patients to gather data on cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms they were experiencing, including fatigue. The symptoms attributable to the

hospitalisation were included in the study, they said.

All the evaluations, except for executive function and impaired sense of smell, showed that patients hospitalised with COVID-19 performed worse than the healthy individuals, but no worse than those hospitalised with similarly severe illnesses, the researchers said.

They also found that patients with COVID-19 had a higher incidence of new psychiatric diagnoses - anxiety and depression - compared with healthy controls, but again, not more than the hospitalised control patients. They said this observation corroborated previous studies.

The researchers acknowledged that because healthy controls had fewer comorbidities than hospitalised individuals, thus multimorbidity could play a role in both hospitalisation and lasting associations with brain health.

Further, even as studies with broader cognitive test batteries are needed to confirm these findings, brain health after COVID-19 seems overall comparable to that after other diseases of similar severity, they said.

## India fined for slow over-rate, lose 2 WTC points after 1st Test defeat against South Africa

India were ruled to be 2 overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration in the match

DUBAI, Dec 29 (Agencies): India's heaviest defeat in South Africa in the first Test at Centurion came along with a fine of 10 per cent of their match fees and Rohit Sharma's team being docked two crucial points in the World Test Championship (WTC).

India lost inside three days in an abject surrender to the South African side, suffering the heaviest defeat in the African nation by an innings and 32 runs in the first of the two Tests.

"Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration," the ICC said in a



release on Friday.

As per the Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which is in context to minimum over-rate offences, players

are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the stipulated time.

Additionally, one point per each over short is docked by the

ICC for its WTC, which means India lost two points.

"India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing," the ICC added.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Paul Reiffel and Langton Rusere, third umpire Ahsan Raza and fourth umpire Stephen Harris.

Before the penalty India were placed fifth in the points table with 16 points and a PCT of 44.44.

After the penalty, they've dropped below Australia to sixth spot with a PCT of 38.39. India play one more Test in South Africa before returning home.

## Avesh Khan Added To India Squad For 2nd Test Against South Africa



CENTURION, Dec 29 (Agencie): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the decision to add pacer Avesh Khan to India's squad for the second Test against South Africa as a replacement for Mohammed Shami who remains unavailable due to an injury. Shami was picked for the tour of South Africa but couldn't prove his fitness in time for the start of the series. Shami missed the first Test in Centurion as the BCCI waited for him to regain full fitness. But, he was ruled out of the second Test too, prompting the board to name Avesh as his replacement.

The BCCI, in a release, said: "The Men's Selection Committee has named Mr Avesh Khan as a replacement for Mr Mohd. Shami for the second Test against South Africa to be played from 3rd-7th

January 2024 in Cape Town."

Avesh has so far claimed 149 wickets in 38 first-class games at 22.65. He was a part of the Indian team that defeated South Africa in the three-match ODI series against South Africa before the Test series began.

At present, Avesh is with the India A side on their four-day tour match against South Africa A at Benoni, where he returned 23.3-5-54-5 to help bowl out the hosts for 263 in the first innings.

Avesh's addition gives the Indian pace bowling unit a boost after the bowlers struggled to impose themselves in the Centurion Test. India skipper Rohit Sharma even called out the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur for their lacklustre performance, saying the trio needs to help Jasprit

Bumrah.

"This was not a 400-run wicket and we gave too many runs. We sprayed the ball all around, but it happens. One can't depend on one particular bowler (Bumrah), the other three pacers also needed to perform their roles, we could learn from how South Africa bowled," Rohit said after the match.

Rohit admitted that although there wasn't lack of effort but Bumrah couldn't alone keep the pressure on hosts' batters.

"Bumrah bowled well and we all know his quality. All he wanted was a bit of support which he didn't get. That happens. All three tried hard, bending their backs but didn't happen the way we wanted to. But games like these teaches you a lot as to what you want to do as a bowling unit," the skipper observed.

India's squad for 2nd Test: India's squad for Tests: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Prasidh Krishna, KS Bharat (wk), Abhinav Easwaran, Avesh Khan.

## Team India Could Get Ravindra Jadeja Boost For Second Test vs South Africa: Report

CENTURION, Dec 29 (Agencie): Amid the doom and gloom following a humiliating defeat, the Indian cricket team has some good news as senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja could be available for the second Test against South Africa in Cape Town, starting January 3.

Jadeja missed the opening Test match after complaining of "upper back spasm" during the morning of the first day at the Supersport Park. However, on the third day of the first Test, those

present at the ground saw Jadeja being a part of the warm-up session before the proceedings started in the middle.

The all-rounder didn't look in any sort of discomfort as he ran multiple 30 to 40 metre short strides during the morning session.

He also did a few fitness drills during the session.

But the most reassuring aspect was his bowling during the lunch break on the third day.

Along with reserve pacer Mukesh Kumar, Jadeja, for close to 20 minutes, bowled on a

practice track and was keenly watched by the team's strength and conditioning coach, Rajnikant.

He was mainly doing spot bowling although he himself has a two step run-up.

He was hitting the spot consistently and was also seen getting to turn a few in the process.

The best part was that he didn't look gingerly at all during the short session when he was bowling.

India missed Jadeja the all-rounder during their humiliating innings and 32-run defeat in the



opening Test.

While Ravichandran Ashwin bowled 19 overs to take 1 for 40, he never really looked threatening as Marco Jansen and Dean Elgar played him comfortably.

Jadeja the bowler might not have inflicted considerable damage

but as a batter, who has played some good knocks at Nos 6 and 7 in SENA countries, he could have made a difference.

With four more days left for the start of the second Test, there is every chance that he will play the match.

## Boxing Day Test: Pakistan's winless run continues as Pat Cummins's heroics guide Australia to 2-0 unbeatable lead

MELBOURNE, Dec 29 (Agencie): Captain Pat Cummins delivered a bowling masterclass, taking 10 wickets in the Boxing Day Test that shattered Pakistan's resistance and secured a 79-run victory for Australia in the second Test, ultimately sealing the three-match series at 2-0.

Cummins emerged as the game-changer as the match teetered toward a nail-biting finish on the final day. He dismissed Mohammad Rizwan, Pakistan's last recognized batsman, marking his 250th Test wicket. Following this breakthrough, he swiftly claimed Aamer Jamal's wicket for a



duck, prompting an additional half-hour of play. In this period, Cummins secured his fifth wicket of the innings and his 10th of the match, efficiently dismantling Pakistan's lower order.

This exceptional performance marked Cummins' second 10-wicket haul in 57 Test matches and capped off a remarkable year.

He led Australia to victories in the World Test Championship, the 50-overs World Cup, and the retention of the Ashes in England. Despite Australia setting a challenging target of 317 runs, Pakistan displayed resilience with several partnerships that frustrated Australia's formidable bowling attack.

## WFI shifts office from ex-president Brij Bhushan's residence after Sports Ministry's strong criticism

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencie): The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has relocated its office away from the residence of its former president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a decisive move following the Sports Ministry's stern disapproval.

Notably, the Sports Ministry had suspended the newly-elected WFI body, which was under the leadership of Sanjay Singh, a close associate of Brij Bhushan. This suspension came as a significant blow to the new office-bearers and was a response to various allegations and procedural discrepancies. The ministry had also expressed concerns that the new body was operating under the complete control of former office-bearers, which was not



in line with the National Sports Code.

Sanjay Singh addressed accusations about the WFI office operating from Brij Bhushan's residence by stating that the recently elected team requires time to secure a new workplace. He assured that he was prepared to swiftly relocate to any location directed by the government.

"One of the allegations is that the federation is

emerged victorious. His election was not welcomed by top wrestlers, including Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik, who retired in protest, and Bajrang Punia, who returned his Padma Shri award.

World Championships medalist Vinesh Phogat also followed suit as she returned her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award.

The athletes' discontent stemmed from the notion that the new WFI body would be influenced by Brij Bhushan.

The Sports Ministry pinpointed several issues with the functioning of the new WFI committee.

It criticized the committee for hastily announcing the organization of U-15 and U-20 nationals without following due procedure or providing

sufficient notice to wrestlers for preparation. The ministry highlighted that such decisions should be taken by the Executive Committee with proper notice and quorum as per the WFI constitution and the National Sports Development Code.

Meanwhile, the Indian Olympic Association has announced that IOA constituted a three-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

Wushu Association of India president Bhu-pinder Singh Bajwa will head the ad hoc committee along with hockey Olympian MM Somaya and former international badminton player Manjusha Kanwar being the other two members.

## Michael Schumacher Driven In Mercedes-AMG Car To Stimulate Brain: New Report Claims On 10th Anniversary Of F1 Great's Accident

Formula 1 legend Michael Schumacher, a seven-time world champion, suffered an accident while skiing in the French Alps ski resort of Meribel on December 29, 2013.

PARIS, Dec 29 (Agencie): On December 29, 2013, the sports world woke up to a piece of terrible news. Formula 1 legend Michael Schumacher, a seven-time world champion, suffered an accident while skiing in the French Alps ski resort of Meribel on that day. Today marks the 10th anniversary of that accident. After the incident, Michael Schumacher was kept in a medically induced coma until June 2014. He underwent several surgeries. The champion racing driver left the hospital in Grenoble for further treatment at the Lausanne University Hospital, before being shifted for treatment and rehabilitation in September 2014.

Michael Schumacher's family has been strict about maintaining privacy about his condition. He is

under tight observation from medical staff and his wife Corinna at their Lake Geneva home.

Now, German publication BILD has come up with a new report where it claims to have fresh details about Michael Schumacher's daily routine on the 10th anniversary of that accident.

Multiple publications like Daily Mail, PlanetF1, quoted the report which provides fresh updates on Michael Schumacher.

According to the report, Michael Schumacher has been driven in a Mercedes AMG car to stimulate the brain with familiar sounds. This was done, according to the report, because the racing great spent over two decades in Formula One or in other classes.

The report adds that Michael



Schumacher receives 24-hour care, with a private infirmary situ-

ated in his former office. 15 doctors and their assistants ensure his

well-being.

Schumacher won seven F1 world titles, including five on a trot with Ferrari. He returned to the F1 racing in 2010 for three years with the Mercedes team. He was replaced by Lewis Hamilton in 2013. In 2021, Hamilton matched Schumacher's record of seven world titles.

In 2018, Michael Schumacher's family released an unseen footage of the 49-year-old shot just two months before his skiing accident. In the interview footage posted on the Formula One legend's website by his family, the seven-time world champion explained the secret behind his historic records was that he has found new ways to improve.

"Records is one thing, doubts, I think it is very important to not be over confident - to be skeptical, to look for improvements," the former world champion said in the clip that was filmed on October 30, 2013.

"Yeah, I always felt I am not good enough, I have to work, and that was one part of the recipe that made me what I became.

"Twenty-one years no championship with Ferrari, four years myself failing, then finally, in a great race, to achieve it, win the world championship.

"The most respected guy in all those years was definitely Mika Hakkinen," he added. "Great fights, but stable private relationship."

## ABVP submits Memorandum to Union Education Minister, outlining demands for Education Sector



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir delegation today submit a memorandum to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, detailing crucial demands for the education sector in the region.

ABVP State Secretary Akshi Billowria said that memorandum encapsulates a series of key concerns and recommendations aimed at fostering the growth and development of the education sector in Jammu Kashmir. ABVP highlighted critical issues such as infrastructural improvements in educational institutions, enhancement of teaching quality, provisions for digital learning infrastructure and the necessity for increased educational access across remote areas of the region.

ABVP emphasized the urgent need for greater attention and resources

directed towards elevating the standard of education in the region. They stressed the importance of ensuring a conducive and enabling environment for students, educators and educational institutions to thrive.

ABVP demands to provide well established and proper infrastructure in Central University of Jammu and Kashmir, Setting up of National Law University at Jammu at earliest, Opening of Cluster based university in Hilly terrains of Jammu Kashmir i.e., In Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban Belt and Rajouri, Poonch Belt so as to make Education accessible to remotest areas.

ABVP is of the firm opinion to open residential schools in border areas so that the education of the wards living nearby border areas couldn't get suffered and also demands to take proactive steps in strengthening Kendriya

Vidyalayas in far flung areas and demands to upgrade the infrastructure of these schools as these are being run in rental accommodation and that too in 3-4 rooms which hampers the effective learning outcome.

National Secretary Ghulam Mustafa Ali said ABVP express confidence that the memorandum would draw the attention of the Union Education Minister and the concerned authorities and urges them to take proactive measures to address these pressing issues in the education sector of Jammu Kashmir.

National Secretary Ghulam Mustafa Ali, State President ABVP Dr. Ajay Sharma, State Secretary Akshi Billowria, National Convener Students For Sewa Muskaan Anand, Special Invitee in NEC Dr. Permendra Singh, State Organising Secretary Tilak Thakur are part of this delegation.

## JKBS grieves demise of its eminent member

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: To mourn the demise of most admired person in the Batwal community Sanga Ram, who was 95 plus and hailed from Village Pouni Chack, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members held a meeting here today.

JKBS general secretary R.L. Kaith said, "We respected Sanga Ram for various reasons, mainly because of his self-confidence. No matter how hard life was, he never gave up. He stood up for himself and his close ones. He



always portrayed himself as a bold-independent man."

All present in the meeting prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give immense strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

## Former Raw Chief not in agreement with Govt version of improvement in Terrorism in Kashmir: TMF



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Team Mask Force (TMF) Chairman Vijay Sharma said quoting media reports that former Raw chief A.S. Daulat is not in agreement with Government version of improved situation with regard to terrorist relat-

ed incidents in Kashmir valley & supports Dr. Farooq Abdullah advocating the dialogue with Pak neutralize the stand "No talks till terrorist related incidents going on."

He further quoted that Manmohan Singh as PM of UPA succeeded in curtailing militancy related incidents during his times while engaging in talks with PAK.

PM Narendra Modi while speaking with situation in Ukraine has too advocated about dialogue and why can't it be possible in the matter of Kashmir with Pak, said Vijay Sharma.

## GHRT India organises "Uttam Bharat Puraskar" ceremony



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec. 29: Dr. H.R. Rahman, Chairman and Founder of (GHRT) India, presided over the event.

GHRT is an International NGO actively engaged in leadership roles, holding a special position in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-DESA).

The program took place on Monday, December 25, 2023 at the Rajasthan International Center in Jaipur.

The chief guests for the event were Dr. Kailash Varma, Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and former Parliamentary Secretary of Rajasthan, and Ram Sahay Varma, Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. The distinguished guests also included Dr. Sanket Kharpude, a

member of the Ministry of Telecommunications, Government of India, along with Professor Dr. Abhay Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Pratap University, Rajasthan.

Talented individuals from all states of India gathered to celebrate being honored with the "Uttam Bharat Puraskar." Awardees include Chet Ram Chopta Manawer Hussain, Talib Hussain, Vinayak Apparao Sarwade, Raksha Katoch, Dr. Manasa Kumar Dash, Payal Kanwar, Ashtha Sharma, Geetansh Goyal, Dr. Uzma Azim, Dr. A. Ashraf, Gajendra Singh Gurjar, Sayed Seema Fatima, Dr. Srinivas Nayanampally, Surendra Bajaj, Sanjeev Singh, Dr. Sumreena Mukhtar, Dr. Lal Babu Singh, Saishruthi Pili-kaje, Dr. Harish Palath-ingal, Master Chef Irfan Khan, Dr. Abdul Nazar,

Bhute Khan and others.

The programme was anchored by Junaid from Jammu & Kanta from Jaipur.

The event highlighted an exceptionally outstanding cultural program recognized internationally, presented by Manju Sapera and her group.

Special guests present at the event included Adv. Vishram Choudhary, Adv. Samrat Sarwar Khan, Gayatri Jain, Sunil Massey, Ravi Prakash Sharma, Sarita Sharma, and Rahul Sharma from Jaipur.

The conclusion of the program was led by Adv. Dr. Anil Massey, a corporate lawyer from Genesis Global Advocates and Associates, and a lawyer at the Rajasthan High Court, expressing gratitude to all participants.

Key note presentation done by Paramjeet Singh, Secretary to GHRT India.

## Mission Swachhta Aur Paani by Harpic and News18 Network launches new cause awareness film

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: If you leave a toilet dirty, you may get one! In an endeavour to encourage appropriate toilet behavior, Harpic and News18 Network under their flagship initiative, Mission Swachhta Aur Paani, unveiled a new cause awareness film to encourage collective responsibility towards toilets. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of cleanliness, the film aims to instill a behavioral change - of leaving our toilets clean - and more importantly, spark mass conversations around the importance of clean and hygienic toilets.

Aligned with the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission, Mission Swachhta

Aur Paani has been a trailblazer in championing inclusive sanitation practices and advocating for appropriate toilet behavior throughout the nation. This campaign underscores a critical link between maintaining clean toilets, good hygiene, and health. Its central theme, 'Healthy Hum Jab Saaf Rakhen Toilet Hardam,' aims to spur a cultural shift towards sustained cleanliness.

Saurabh Jain, Regional Marketing Director-Hygiene, South Asia at Reckitt said, "Toilet habits are still evolving in our country, and brand Harpic has strived for access to clean and hygienic toilets, is taking up the challenging task of starting this conversation among Indians.

Together with our partners, we are helping people adopt better sanitation and practice good hygiene habits. Aligned with Hon PM Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Swachh Bharat Samridh Bharat', this cause-driven awareness film will inspire people to embrace appropriate toilet behavior that is critical to the growth of our nation."

The special film advocates for collective responsibility to prevent unhygienic toilets from becoming breeding grounds for diseases that can impact communities. The mission urges individuals to always leave the toilet clean for the next person, emphasizing that access to clean sanitation is not

a privilege but a shared responsibility.

Sidharth Saini, SVP & Head of Marketing Content & Operations, News18 Studios, emphasized the film's pivotal role, stating, "As India achieves significant strides in universal sanitation coverage, News18 Network is dedicated to driving on-ground action through Mission Swachhta Aur Paani to promote the adoption of appropriate toilet behavior. This film, symbolizing Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, serves as a powerful call for collective responsibility in championing cleanliness. It marks a transformative moment where the film becomes a beacon, propelling conversations on cleanliness, sanitation, and

hygiene to the forefront of our public discourse."

He emphasized that News18 Network's commitment is fuelled by the understanding that the lack of such practices significantly contributes to the burden of diseases, impacting national health and impeding productivity. "The film is a call for collective responsibility to champion cleanliness. News18 Network remains dedicated to its role in nation-building, acknowledging that behavioral change is fundamental to the nation's well-being."

"To us, this film marks a watershed moment in India's tryst with a new norm where cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene take centre stage in our public discourse and collective consciousness," Saini added.

## NDS felicitates Prof. BS Bali on its foundation day



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) celebrated its 26th Foundation Day. Prof. B.S. Bali, renowned Classical Maestro and former Principal Institute of Music and Fine Arts Jammu was honoured and conferred with Sanstha Samaan "Sangeet Kalashree Nipun".

Prof. K.L. Bhatia, former HOD Law Department Jammu University was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Padma Shri Jatinder Udhampuri, Sahitya Academy Awardee and Ex-Director All India Radio presided over the function. A.Q. Manhas Ex-Inspector General of Police was Special Guest and Prof. Nirmal Vinod renowned Hindi and Dogri Writer and Sahitya Academy Awardee participated as Guests of Honour. Rakesh Sharma HOD Fine Arts Jammu was Special Invitee.

Prof. Anupama Sharma Patron NDS and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS shared the dias.

At the very outset guests were welcomed with flower bouquets and sweets were distributed to mark the 26th Foundation Day of NDS. Son of the Soil, Prof. B.S. Bali Ex-

Principal Institute of Music & Fine Arts, renowned Classical Maestro and celebrated teacher was conferred with Sanstha Award "Sangeet Kalashree Nipun" and presented with memento, Shawl and Citation for his long outstanding contributions in the field of Music.

Capt. Lalit Sharma Convener NDS read a Crisp Paper on the life and works of Prof. B.S. Bali and said that NDS has emerged as a movement to propagate Dogri Language and Duggar Culture which has strived all along its journey of 26 years to inculcate pride in Dogras towards Dogri Language and Duggar Culture and made efforts to unite the Dogras through the medium of Art and Culture.

Prof. Bhatia lauded the role and continuous efforts of NDS for the cause of Dogri. He said that the unity of our country lies in her diversity and therefore, there is need to strengthen our diverse cultures and observed that NDS is playing its positive role in this direction.

Jatinder Udhampuri said that the Duggar History is old and rich in all its dimensions viz Social, Cultural, Military or spiritual and Dogras have rea-

sons to be proud of their rich heritage.

A.Q. Manhas said that secular credentials of Duggar have stood test of the time and the societies have lot to learn from this. He appreciated the literary endeavours of NDS.

Prof. Nirmal Vinod while lauding the NDS said that NDS should focus on connecting our youth and children towards Dogri and rich Duggar Culture to infuse a sense of pride in them.

Prof. Rakesh Sharma said that fine arts brighten our outlook and soothen our faculties to make us meaningful and proud citizens.

Prof. Anupama Sharma that NDS is looking forward to use music as a meaningful tool to popularise Dogri especially with our younger generations as music is a strong medium to boost and popularise any language. Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila reiterated the resolve of NDS to proudly connect our children with Dogri and Duggar heritage.

Rajini Sharma conducted the proceedings in a professional and impressive manner. Dr. Sushil Bhola Executive Member NDS extended vote of thanks.

## RTC VRS retired employees protest for release of COLA, arrears

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Pressing for their long pending demand of relapsing COLA and Pay Commission arrears, All J&K RTC Volunteer Retired Employees Association held a protest at Hari Singh Park, here on Friday.

A demonstration was under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali President of VRS Union Jammu. Bali strongly criticized behaviour of Finance Department and the UT Government of Jammu & Kashmir towards them



as they are bent upon to linger their long pending arrears of COLA, Sixth Pay Commissioner and DA.

"We are struggling for the same for the last more than 12 years and

in this long struggle 55 employees from Jammu province have breathed their last as they could not afford proper medical treatment due to paucity of finance," he said appealed to the Central

Govt to personally take the cognizance of their long pending legitimate demands and send a package especially for the retired employees of JKRTC, Jammu as they have already suffered

a lot and are still struggling for the same.

They demanded release of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) arrears from June, 1999 to December 31, 2005; 6th Pay Commission Arrears from January 1, 2006 to March, 2012; and DA arrears from April, 2012 to March, 2021.

The demonstration was attended by Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Prem Nath, G.S. Tohra, P.P. Singh, Rajinder Sawhney, Suraj Singh and others.