

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2023

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BRIEFLY

Car catches fire on highway in Kulgam, travellers safe

ANANTNAG, Dec 5 (Agencies): A private car was charred to a crisp after it "suddenly" caught fire along Jammu-Srinagar highway near Shamsipora in Kulgam district, officials said on Tuesday.

The driver of the vehicle (JK02CL-4090) belonging to one Arvin Pandita son of M L Pandita of Jammu and other travellers, whose number was not immediately known immediately, escaped unhurt in the fire, they said.

Personnel from Police station Qaimoh reached the spot and started further necessary action.

SHO Qaimoh Muser Asgar told GNS that there were no injuries reported and all people travelling in the vehicle are safe.

Mughal Road closed due to 'avalanche'

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): Authorities have closed Mughal Road due to an 'avalanche' reported along the thoroughfare.

An official told GNS that an 'avalanche' occurred along the road this afternoon, following which the road has been closed as a precautionary measure.

Freezing temp grips Kashmir; Srinagar shivers at minus 1.4°C, Pahalgam coldest at minus 4.3°C

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): Mercury continued to witness downward trend in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday and settled below freezing point in the Valley barring Kokernag.

A meteorological temperature department official told GNS that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.4°C against 0.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for this time of the year in Srinagar.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 1.6°C against minus 0.4°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 0.5°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the official said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 4.3°C against minus 3.4°C on the previous night

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How can country have two PMs, two constitutions and two flags? Amit Shah in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): While replying to TMC MP Saugata Ray's on J-K bills debate in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah countered him asking how can a country have two PMs, two constitutions and two flags?

The Lok Sabha was debating on the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

"How can a country have two PMs, two constitutions and two flags? Those who did this, they did wrong. PM Modi corrected it. We have been saying since 1950 that there should be 'Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan' (One Prime Minister, one flag and one Constitution) in the country, and we did it." HM Shah was speaking on remarks made by TMC MP Saugata Ray's on J-K bills, Home Minister Shah said in Lok Sabha.

Lok Sabha member Saugata Ray remarked during the discussion on The Jammu &



Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Lok Sabha.

"Let me start with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir since Amit Shah took over as Home Minister. One of the major steps taken by him was to abrogate Article 370 and then convert the states of Jammu and Kashmir to Union Territories. First Jammu

and Kashmir and second, Ladakh. Earlier, Union Territories were converted into States and here, Amit Shah converted the states into Union Territories. What have you achieved?" he added.

"If there is no Legislative Assembly, then why are you making the changes? Have a Legislative Assembly and then make it. I don't know what the hurry is; the hurry should be to

hold the elections in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

"They abrogated Article 370 just to fulfil the BJP promise: 'Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan' (One Prime Minister, one flag and one Constitution). This was the slogan at the time of Shayama Prasad, this is not for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as this was a political statement and was his slogan," he said.

Syama Prasad Mukherjee, who was India's first Minister for Industry and Supply in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that earlier in Jammu and Kashmir, there were stone-pelting incidents in Kashmir but today there are no such incidents.

"Earlier there were stone-pelting incidents in Kashmir. Today there are no such incidents. Today, not only at Lal Chowk but the Indian flag is hoisted in every lane in Kashmir," Thakur said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023,

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"Those with nefarious intentions can't set foot on Indian Soil": IG BSF DK Boora



JAMMU, Dec 5 (Agencies): DK Boora, Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force, Jammu Frontier on Tuesday expressed serious concern over recent ceasefire violation from the Pakistan side and said that Security forces will not allow anyone with nefarious intentions to set foot on Indian soil.

"The action taken by Pakistan, was given a very befitting reply by our side. To protect the civilian population and remove the fear

from their hearts is the duty of BSF, which we have been performing brilliantly. The border population has also given full support to BSF. When mountain ways are closed due to snowfall, the focus of militants and infiltrators also shifts. But we are not too worried about that because our job is to make the international border seal-proof. Be it 1 or 10, our preparations are complete" IG BSF DK Boora said.

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NIA raids 8 places in J&K in terror funding case

NEW DELHI [India], Dec 5 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted raids at eight locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror funding case.

The raids are still underway in close coordination with Jammu and Kashmir Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) at seven locations in Kashmir and one in Jammu, said sources privy to the development.

The agency sleuths are carrying out these raids at Shopian and Baramulla, among other areas.



The places searched included the residents and other hideouts of the suspects linked to the case.

The raids were conducted days after the central agency arrested an accused in the Pakistan-backed terrorism case involving the deliv-

ery of weapons through drones to militants active in Kashmir.

The agency had shared the input on November 29 after a team from the NIA Jammu Branch nabbed 22-year-old namely Zakir Hussain of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on

November 27.

He was the eight accused to be arrested in the case registered by the NIA on July 30 last year after taking over the case from Kathua Police.

One of the seven accused arrested earlier had died due to cardiac arrest while in judicial custody while two Pakistan-based terror operatives are absconding.

NIA is continuing with its investigations in the matter to unravel the bigger conspiracy of Pakistan-backed terrorist groups to carry out acts of terror and

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IG BSF Kashmir visits forward areas along LoC in Kupwara



SRINAGAR, Dec 5: Inspector General, Border Security Force, Kashmir frontier Ashok Yadav on Tuesday visited the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district and reviewed the operation-

al preparedness of the Force.

The senior BSF officer in Kashmir also interacted with all ranks and commended them for their professionalism and dedication.

"Ashok Yadav IPS, IG @BSF_Kashmir visited

the forward areas along the Line of Control #Kupwara ensuring strategic preparedness of the unit under extreme weather challenges. He also interacted with All Ranks and commended them for their professionalism & dedication," BSF Kashmir said in a post on X.

The visit of the IG BSF comes at a time when there are high possibilities that militants try to sneak across the LoC before the winter snow blocks the infiltrating routes on high mountain passes. This year security forces have foiled nearly a dozen infiltration bids in Kupwara district in which 27 militants were killed.

J&K witnesses rise in crimes against women

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a concerning rise in crimes against women, with over 11,000 cases registered between 2020 and 2022, according to the latest Crime in India Report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Despite a marginal dip from 3937 cases in 2021, J&K recorded 3716 crimes against women in 2022, significantly higher than the 3405 cases in 2020.

Kidnapping and abduction of women emerged as a major concern, with a staggering 886 cases reported in 2022.

Additionally, 462 cases were linked to kidnapping and abduction with the intent of forced marriage, and six cases involving human trafficking.

Rape cases also remained alarming, with 287 incidents recorded in 2022. Of these cases, 276 involved offenders were known to the victim, indicating the prevalence of intimate partner violence.

The report further revealed that 3214 cases of assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty were registered in 2022, while 34 cases fell under

the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Cyber crimes against women also saw an increase, with 54 cases reported in 2022.

Despite these troubling statistics, the Police disposal of crimes against women in J&K in 2022 paints a complex picture.

Of the 5667 total cases for investigation, 1929 cases were pending investigation from the previous year. Furthermore, 22 cases were reopened for investigation, underscoring the challenges in resolving these cases.

Vasundhara Pathak Turn to page 9

Defeat in State elections failure of Congress not of INDIA alliance: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that BJP's victory in three states is not the defeat of INDIA alliance, but to some extent failure of Congress.

Speaking with reporters in Hazratbal, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the INDIA alliance

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EDITORIAL

USE TIME PROPERLY

There is a saying in English that time is money. Throughout his life, man makes continuous efforts to earn money and attain wealth. Ultimately; He gets the money. By following doctor's advice and doing exercise, lost health is also regained. Lost childhood friends meet again, but the moments of life once gone are never seen again in this life. The wheel of time continues to rotate. Once a moment passes, it never comes back.

Only those people achieve success in life, who do not waste even a single moment of their time, but make maximum use of it. Now it is up to you how you utilize these precious time - in sleep or in personal work, in learning or in dispute, in friendship or in discord, in protection or in torture. How great are Kabir's lines indicating the preciousness of time

The secret of success in life lies in the proper use of time. Be it poor or rich, farmer or laborer, king or subject, scholar or fool, everyone has equal right on time. Usefulness of time makes even the most ordinary person great. The secret of success of all the great men till date has been the proper utilization of precious moments of time. Vijay Vyjayanti always chooses them even in the biggest troubles and most terrible conflicts.

There is an ancient saying "Time waits for no one". This means that all human successes, hopes and desires depend on time. For example, the Austrians, who were unaware of the importance and greatness of "five minutes", were defeated in the war by Napoleon. The five-minute delay in the arrival of Grushy, Napoleon's only companion, left Napoleon with the title of prisoner.

Therefore, it is very important for humans to make good use of time. The usefulness of time is to do every work at the right time without being lazy. People who postpone today's work for tomorrow never complete their work. They always burn in the fire of repentance in life. But there is no benefit in burning because - "Samya Chuki Puni Ka Pachitane" They remain behind even when they are moving forward. A wise person does not let even his leisure moments go waste.

A wise person does not let his leisure time go waste, he spends his time in studying the holy scriptures, but fools waste their time in bad habits, sleeping or fighting among themselves. In their view there is neither value of time nor value of transience of life. But an intelligent person experiences spiritual joy and physical happiness by making good use of time. Society respects such persons.

Wasting time is tantamount to suicide. Being bored with the world, man looks for a means of suicide to become free from life. Suicide frees him from the struggles of life forever. Similarly, misuse of time makes human life dead for an indefinite period of time. Misuse of time makes man cowardly, manless, unindustrious and indolent. Misuse of time not only corrupts thoughts but also leads to moral degradation of humans.

To make proper use of time, a person should properly divide his daily work. He should keep in mind what work he has to do at what time. A person whose schedule is not fixed spends most of his time here and there in vain. The person who works by making a fixed program and concentrating his mental instincts definitely achieves success in the struggle for life.

Congress Complacency Helps Modi win Back Hindi belt

By: Shikha Mukerjee

In politics as in cricket, the better side wins. It is credit that must necessarily be shared between the leader/captain and members of the team. The BJP has won in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, led by its star campaigner Narendra Modi and party mastermind Amit Shah.

The elections in the five states just ended, with the advantage firmly with the BJP, is in part a gift of the Congress and in part the extraordinary resilience of Mr Modi in reinventing his message by tweaking the details to make it a new, fresh package for voters, who were seriously disgruntled over the chronic cost of living crisis, unemployment and meagre poverty alleviation programmes.

In all three states, the fight was a one-on-one combat between the Congress and the BJP. The basic common flaw in the Congress strategy was to believe it could win on its own without the benefit of the multiplier effect that could have delivered more seats if partners from the Indian National Inclusive Developmental Alliance (INDIA) collective had been accommodated. In every state, the advantage of the exclusion of allies worked in the BJP's favour.

The setback for the Congress, contrary to its president Mallikarjun Kharge's initial reaction, is not "temporary". It iterates the biggest problem that is second nature to the Congress, superciliousness combined with complacency born of over-confidence. In other words, the Congress delivered to the BJP an advantage it did not have even three months before the elections were announced. It banked on its old guard to deliver a fresh victory, when what was needed was an

infusion of new blood, within the party and from allies. The failure of the central leadership was underestimating Mr Modi's capacity to renew his image by recasting it in a slightly different new mould.

Mr Modi has summarised the victories as the outcome of "the politics of good governance and development". The subtext is voters have chosen the party that has promised the most. An expansion of the cryptic catchphrase could be read as the "guarantees" Mr Modi promised on the campaign trail, in violation of the Model Code of Conduct and topping of promises by the Congress in direct cash transfers to beneficiaries in the three states, which convinced voters that the BJP was a better choice.

The "guarantees" included the five-year extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, a Covid-19 programme that in the worst of times was repeatedly extended by three months on the plea that the Modi government couldn't sustain it forever. It was a politically masterly stroke, because it allowed Mr Modi as the helmsman to seamlessly link it to his version of caste politics, as a combination of the poor, women, youth, farmers and socially backward. The Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Mission worth Rs 24,000 crores worked like a charm in Chhattisgarh, with its promise of safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Then there were the top-ups on programmes under implementation in erstwhile Congress-ruled states that became part of the development agenda rather than financially unsustainable freebies when Mr Modi endorsed them.

Elections are moments when voters assess what the ruling party has done for them and what they can expect in future. The "double engine sarkar" model is therefore likely to be a winner most times, if backed by five-year guarantees and the probability that Mr Modi will win a third term in 2024.

The perception that the majority of voters, most of whom are Hindus or co-opted as Hindus, are moved by the ideological appeal of decolonisation and the renaming of places to erase the "thousand years" of Muslim subjugation is as likely to be correct as it is likely to be an exaggeration.

When 5 kg of foodgrains per person is offered to 800 million people out of a 1.4 billion total population, the most probable reason for voting for the BJP is the guarantee.

Elections are times when voters bet on future prospects. Mr Modi's "guarantee" that India would become one of the world's three wealthiest economies in the near future is a vision designed to raise hopes that the rising tide would lift the poor and the relatively poor out of poverty. The Congress made promises of development, but failed to lay out a grand and shiny vision of the future. It promised to deliver productive changes that would lead to faster development and release from poverty, but it packaged the future as tough, bleak and boring.

The win in Telangana divides India into two parts: the BJP-mukt South of the Vindhyas and nearly Congress-mukt North, barring Himachal Pradesh. The driving force behind the Telangana victory was the energetic Revanth Reddy, who committed to the fight in ways that Kamal Nath and Bhupesh Baghel failed. In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress outsourced

the election to Kamal Nath. Instead of a thorough cleanup, it allowed him to decide unilaterally on candidates. It allowed him to reject an alliance proposal from the Samajwadi Party, which cost the Congress in terms of seats. In Rajasthan, though Ashok Gehlot fought hard and hostilities with Sachin Pilot were contained, the voter decided a change as usual was better than endorsing the Congress for a second time. Mr Gehlot was allowed to keep the old and dismiss the idea of an alliance with the AAP. In Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel was popular but his teammates were not and the Congress failed to counter the Modi appeal.

The meeting of the INDIA collective on December 6 called by Mr Kharge is likely to be stormy. Partners like the Trinamul Congress are justifiably critical and annoyed, while Sharad Pawar is clearly disappointed. A choice and a decision awaits the alliance and Mr Kharge: will the Congress acknowledge that there is, as of now, no natural leader of the collective? The party is in no position to claim primacy. It urgently needs to repair its relationships with the Samajwadi Party and AAP, if these regional parties are willing to take the risk of giving the Congress a chance.

The Congress' failures in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have made it tougher for the regional parties in opposition to the BJP to hold on to their bases in 2024. Across the territory north of the Vindhyas, the BJP won 178 seats out of 225 in the 10 Hindi heartland states in 2019. A weak Congress could be a liability with the fight for seats in 2024 getting harder after Mr Modi has surged back as an extraordinary vote-winner.

The condition of Newspapers and Writers is Alarming

By: Vijay Garg

Newspapers have played an important role in bringing awareness in the society. This role is not limited to any one country or region, no one can deny the important role of newspapers in all forward-thinking countries of the world. The media, and particularly the print media, has an incredible power to shape public opinion. Newspapers act as a bridge to gather public opinion in policy making and convey public opinion to policy makers. Traditional journalism served by newspapers in India has seen many ups and downs. Be it the first English-language newspaper, the Bengal Gazette published by James Hickey in 1779, or the newspapers that began to be published in Indian languages in the first half of the 19th century. Government restrictions, economic recession and the expansion of television have shaken the newspaper industry before, but never before has the question been asked whether print media will survive in India. But today newspapers and writers also have to defeat Google and Facebook to survive. The question is that the deterioration is located How will they do this, given the way? The most important

factor is the rise of news carriers Google, Facebook and others. On the one hand they take away the news prepared by someone else and on the other hand they take away the livelihood of newspapers. Even worse are the newspaper writers who work hard every day, but when they get paid, it is like finding pearls in the sea, but the writer has no support. Due to the abundance of content on the Internet, the newspaper can be picked up anywhere stick to In such a situation, neither the author nor the writer's support is needed. Due to this, today journalism has become a business of cunning people, who print hundreds of copies or bring digital editions and in turn earn money from advertisements. Not only this, instead of giving literary support to writers, such people ask questions. Writers also ask for money to publish their articles. Such journalism is shameful. This is a worrying situation because newspapers are still reliable because of their format, which is certain. a newspaper is complete. It is finally ready, in itself, certain. In contrast, digital news is constantly updated, improved and changed. This "completion is the strength of newspapers. Once something is printed, it cannot be changed like on television or

digital platforms. But the challenges for this mixed format are mounting. A big dilemma is whether Indian readers are interested in paying for quality content, when free content is available everywhere? The answer to this question is not easy. If readers do not pay, As a result newspapers are also turning away their writers in the name of payment. But if there are no writers left, newspapers will die. So it is the responsibility of newspapers to keep writers alive. One thing to think about with newspapers is what is the financial condition of the writers? I don't know much, but except for a few big writers and journalists, it's hard to support your family just by writing. It is a dream to see two lakh rupees in lump sum. Why does the writer feel overwhelmed by seeing so much money at once? The newspaper's greatest asset is its foundation It is also structured, which is also its problem. This is huge, as the industry is dependent on large numbers of human labor due to large editorial teams, printing presses, circulation and marketing networks. Most newspapers subsidize production costs from their revenues. Circulation due to no support from the government is decreasing day by day. Almost all newspapers

have the same story. They are closing due to lack of funds. Newspapers survive today only because of the commitment of those who run them. Newspapers or serious news The industry can no longer do just one job of aggregating news. Multiple formats. Hopefully, newspapers will focus on these realities before it is too late. Finally, privately run video blogs, social media platforms, messaging groups and applications are also taking traffic away from newspaper portals', Vd. At the same level, consumers understand that their messages on social media can have a greater impact. So naturally consumers around the world are moving away from traditional media. The serious news industry can still survive by producing high-quality content because it still has a strong reporting team under the watchful eye of solid old-time editors, who are not averse to technology and to work with the new generation of dynamics. are ready.

(Vijay Garg
Retired Principal
Educational
Columnist Malout)

As many as 28 songs and 14 artistes, musical thriller Chamak offers an interesting, engaging and intriguing world set in the backdrop of Punjabi music industry

A thriving industry, talented artistes, undercutting jealousies and performances marred by violence, director Rohit Jugraj builds a fictional world that's reflective of the times in Chamak. Twenty eight songs and 14 artistes come together in this musical thriller, which has its lead in Paramvir Singh Cheema, who is named Kaala.

As the ambitious SonyLIV show nears its release, director Rohit Jugraj and actor Paramvir Singh Cheema open up on the journey. "I have lived and observed Punjabi music industry up, close and personal. We have been witness to what the world is seeing today. There was Chamkila and then we have had Sidhu Moosewala. This is a truth that's hard to ignore," opens up Rohit, who has given films like Jatt James Bond, Khido Khundi and Arjun Patiala.

As the writing team dug deep, they found other interesting undercurrents, including jealousies, at play. "While music and violence don't belong together, we found an intriguing world that we believe the audience would enjoy," avers Rohit.

Star power
The story charts a father-



son revenge saga; a Canadian rapper, Kaala, makes it to Punjab and turns into a folk singer. A musical, it has special guest appearances from the likes of Gippy Grewal, Mika, Kanwar Grewal, Afsana Khan, Asis Kaur, Shashwat and MC Square. Music is by Master Saleem, Sunidhi Chauhan, Malkit Singh and the likes. "Chamak brings together legendary artistes, whose songs one has grown up listening to. We have Malkit Singh bhaji, and such super singers will be seen with their amazing music in our episodes." In fact, Rohit wanted Sidhu Moosewala to be part of this web series too, but before anything concrete could be planned the tragedy struck. Not that Rohit did not face chal-

lenges, he reveals, "I got a few calls to know if we intend to show any real names, but our show is fictional. Art essentially mirrors society and that's what Chamak is."

Despite so many artistes, we notice the name of Diljit Dosanjh, with whom Rohit has frequently collaborated, including in Saradaarji and Saradaarji 2, missing from Chamak. Rohit explains, "He is already doing a film by Imtiaz Ali sir in similar space, so it could have been a clash of interests." The shoot of the series that began in Mumbai moved to Delhi followed by Punjab, and dooja (second) Punjab, which is Canada! Mention the reported shooting incident outside Gippy Grewal's house, and Rohit says, "It only

confirms that things have stayed the same."

(Chamak streams on SonyLIV from December 7)

Playing the lead Paramvir Singh Cheema is kicked about getting to play the lead in Chamak. What's heartening is how from a Canadian rapper he becomes a folk singer! Paramvir's name was suggested by SonyLIV team post his Tabbar performance and Rohit signed him sans audition. "When Rohit sir got in touch, I was shooting in Mizoram, and after a few more calls, he sent me the contract. I was zapped. But that's how he works, based on his gut instinct, and I believe that has led to something extraordinary in Chamak." For stepping into Kaala's shoes, Paramvir took inspiration from a host of artistes, "Right from Tupac, the Canadian rapper who was killed rather young, to Gurdas Maan to the late Sidhu Moosewala, I drew inspiration for my character from many stars." Even more fun was the physical transformation. "Not just that I grew my hair and stayed with that look for months together, I also took in a lot of sun, for Kaala couldn't be gora, which I am in real life."

In a first, Deepika Padukone attends Academy Museum Gala in LA



Deepika Padukone is in attendance at the Academy Museum Gala in Los Angeles. She is the first Indian star to be invited to the prestigious event.

The Academy Museum Gala is the second biggest stage after the Oscars, which is organised by the same board. Earlier this year, Deepika was seen on the stage at the Oscars to present the Indian song act.

Deepika took to Instagram Stories, where she shared a string of pictures dressed in a dark purple velvet floor-sweeping gown with a plunging neckline. She completed her look for the event with some sparkly diamonds.

On the work front, Deepika had a fabulous year with Pathaan. She will next be seen in Fighter, alongside Hrithik Roshan and Anil Kapoor. Deepika also has Kalki 2898 AD with Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan lined up.

Actor Dinesh Phadnis, who played Fredricks in popular TV show 'C.I.D', passes away at 57

Actor Dinesh Phadnis, known for his portrayal of Fredricks in the popular television show 'C.I.D' passed away around midnight on December 5. He was 57.

Phadnis' co-star Dayanand Shetty, famous for portraying Daya on 'C.I.D' confirmed the news and attributed his death to liver damage.

Earlier, there were claims that Phadnis had suffered a massive heart attack. However, these claims were rubbished by Shetty.

Reportedly, Phadnis was in a critical condition and had been on the ventilator for the past couple of days.

'C.I.D.' was quite popular and aired for almost two decades from 1998 to 2018 before being discontinued.



In Chandigarh, renowned singer Sargam Sargam vouches for more meaningful lyrics

Popular playback singer Sargam Sargam, the melodious voice behind hits like Har Kisiko Nahin Milta Yahan Pyar Zindagi Main, Jab Koi Baat Bigad Jaye and Teri Umeed Tera Intezar Karte Hain, made a brief stop in Chandigarh on Sunday. "I have come here after long but am happy that Chandigarh has retained its beautiful, natural self," she beamed.

Thirty five years in the industry, the 2002 National Film Award winner for Tamil song Paattu Cholli admitted things have changed drastically. "Only constant in life is change; life, lifestyles to music and musicians have changed remarkably ever since I stepped into the industry," she avers.



As for things she likes is the reach that new artistes have today. "So many reality shows have sprung up giving the young singers a platform. Couple it with the power of social media, now artistes can find their audience anywhere in the world."

On the downside, while she loves the contemporary music and rhythm, she misses the lyrics and melody. "I love the new music and beats. But somehow I would like more songs that have beautiful, meaningful lyrics. Not like we don't have lovely lyrics today, but more would be welcome."

Sing along
As for her favourite songs, she says, "I like songs that have found fans among younger

audience. Pehla Nasha (Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar) and Chupke Se (Saathiya) have gotten much love. Saat Samundar Paar Main Tere Piche Piche Aa Gayi is still demanded and played by the DJs frequently at parties."

While Sargam has continued playback singing, she loves travelling for performances. In fact, she was in city as the celebrity guest for an event by the musical Group Vibrations at Tagore Theatre on Sunday. Sargam mesmerised the audience with her hits, along with other music artistes. While she enjoyed the evening, she couldn't see Rock Garden as she had intended to, so another visit is in the offing soon we believe!

Billie Eilish loses over 100K followers on Instagram after confirming she's queer



Grammy-winner Billie Eilish has reportedly lost over 100K followers on Instagram after she said that she's queer.

It was reported that the singer lost 117,750 followers in the last 30 days with the peak. On that day, a day after the interview took place, 40,428 Instagram users hit the unfollow button

on the Grammy winner's page.

During the interview at Variety's annual Hitmakers Brunch event, Billie discussed her statement about being "attracted" to women in the magazine's Power of Women issue last month, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Asked if she had intended to come out in

the article, the "bad guy" singer said: "No I didn't. But I kind of thought, 'Wasn't it obvious?'... I didn't realise people didn't know."

She went on to say she didn't "really believe in the concept of coming out," adding that "I'm just like, 'Why can't we just exist?' I've been doing this for a long time, and I just didn't talk about it. Whoops."

Upon catching wind of Billie's remarks, fans quickly took to social media to express their shock.

Eilish also talked about her reaction after the article was published last month.

"I saw the article and I was like, oh... I guess... I came out today!" she recalled. "...OK cool. But it's exciting to me because I guess people didn't know... but it's cool that they know. Ooh, I'm nervous talking about it!" before concluding: "But... I am for the girls."

Sumbul Touqeer's talk series premieres with a brave survivor



Sumbul Touqeer, famous for the show Imliee, a Bigg Boss contestant, and currently seen in the show Kavya, takes a courageous leap into uncharted territory with her new YouTube talk series, EK Jazba Ek Junoon. Unlike conventional shows, it promises a genuine look into the lives of everyday heroes who've triumphed over adversity. The debut episode features an anonymous acid attack survivor.

About how this idea came to her, Sumbul says, "Heroes aren't just the ones we see in reel life or on social media; real heroes are those who have bravely faced challenging situations. I've been inspired by them not just recently, but since my childhood. Their stories have always motivated me. I will be interviewing one real life personality every 15 days."

Bully High actress Aneesha Madhok does not believe in networking!

In the entertainment industry, networking and references matter when it comes to getting the right opportunity. But Bully High actress Aneesha Madhok does not believe in networking! "I was acting in a play in Los Angeles and was spotted by filmmaker Bill McAdams Jr, who was sitting in the audience. He cast me as the lead in my first independent Hollywood film. From there on, I just kept getting spotted by other filmmakers and managers. So, I believe one should just keep doing what they love," she says.

Merit has its value, so does luck but the actor with contacts often gets the opportunity. "Hard work beats talent if talent doesn't work hard! I have gotten more opportunities in the global film industry instead of my country. I don't think my talent is valued here and I have made peace with that. I don't care if all the roles go to nepotism



babies, I will create my own opportunities," she continues. "I have not much to say about nepotism because it is everywhere in Bollywood. I feel like I can be friends with anyone so I do vibe with a lot of the star kids, but I feel Bollywood should look for

global talent," she adds. Aneesha shares that right opportunities are everywhere. "Because there is a lack of innovation, retro songs are constantly repeated and the same clichéd structure is repeated. What's the point?" she questions.

Future could be perfect for India

The Australia series may have been devoid of jeopardy but the next batch of youngsters coming through the system have done well

NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): When the Indian team took the field against Australia in a bilateral T20I less than 100 hours after the ODI World Cup final, there were questions over its context. How could a fan be excited for an inconsequential T20I days after such a high-stakes match. After all, India had come so close to ending the ICC trophy drought before falling flat in the summit clash.

The sentiment was understandable. And the schedule came under scrutiny. However, ten more days and five T20Is later, there is something to be excited about in Indian cricket. There are questions, for many of which there are no answers at the moment, but the next generation of T20I cricketers have given something to look forward to.

A 4-1 bilateral series win against Australia might not have had any impact in the larger scheme of things, but the players who stole the show had. Take the case of Yashasvi Jaiswal. He has had some 2023. After having a breakthrough IPL season, the youngster broke into the national side. He made his Test debut and replicated his success with the T20I side as well.

The left-handed opener has infused a breath of fresh air at the top where no bowler is spared. He has married



Indian cricket's favourite word 'intent' with consistency and the results are there to see. At the other end is Ruturaj Gaikwad, very different from Jaiswal in terms of approach, who took some time to get his eye in but when he cashed in, he did it in a big way. And he is capable of playing the aggressor, too, as one saw with Chennai Super Kings in the 2023 IPL season. Gaikwad — 223 runs at an average of 55.75 at a strike rate of 159.28 — and Jaiswal — 138 runs at 27.6 avg and 168.29 SR — have shown what they are capable of.

Then there is Jitesh Sharma and Rinku Singh. The latter's stocks in Indian cricket is rising fast and with a valid reason. The IPL success has boosted his confidence. On multiple occasions, he was there as the last man standing, taking India home. His innate hitting ability apart, what sets Rinku apart is the nerveless method that he applies

and how he backs himself to do the job for the team. Jitesh, at the moment, is still growing as a finisher, but he has shown signs of being the middle-order intent merchant. It does not matter where his entry point is, Jitesh comes out all guns blazing, not letting the bowlers settle one bit. He has less than 100 runs in three innings, but his boundary percentage and immediate impact makes him an exciting prospect to keep an eye on.

Between the openers and the finisher is Suryakumar Yadav, who has a batter is still India's best in the format, and he continued to show why. While Shreyas Iyer was the other batter with SKY, he could just be warming the seat for when Hardik Pandya, who has led India since the last T20 World Cup, comes back from injury. And when he does, the top six — Jaiswal, Gaikwad, SKY, Pandya, Rinku and Jitesh — could be very

exciting in terms of what they can accomplish.

In the lower-order, Axar Patel, who was left out of the South Africa tour with Ravindra Jadeja being made vice-captain, showed why he has to be among the first names on the sheet. Ravi Bishnoi did well and so did Arshdeep Singh, spearheading the pace attack as the senior fast bowler. Even when the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami come back, he could well retain his place in the team.

Strategist & recruitment analyst Dan Weston feels that exciting times ahead for India in the shortest format. "I think that they've got these really good options and there's this new breed of T20 batters coming through, which perhaps wasn't necessarily the case 3-5 years ago where I felt that the Indian batting in general was a little bit too conservative," says Weston while talking about the rise of Jitesh and Rinku.

It might seem like Indian cricket has drawn a line in the sand, beginning to rebrand themselves in T20Is. However, that is not the case yet. The South Africa tour would be a continuation of what the Australian series was with the same bunch of youngsters, most of whom would be playing in such conditions for the first time.

While it goes without saying that they should be backed irrespective of the outcome, that might not be the reality. Will Pandya take over the team officially as T20I captain when he comes back? Are they going to bring back Rohit Sharma to lead because of the way he captained and batted in the ODI World Cup? Will Virat Kohli be back for the T20 World Cup that is set to happen in the United States of America and West Indies? Will Rishabh Pant make his India comeback after the IPL?

Some of the answers could become clear by the time the home series against Afghanistan comes along in January. And for some more, it might all come down to how these youngsters and the seniors do in the first half of the Indian Premier League. For now, all one can say is that the new generation of T20 cricketers have given something to look forward to in Indian cricket.

Youngsters show promise to build on in more A-team tours

Captain Minnu used five bowling options in the death overs, and all delivered in the pressure situation.



NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): One look at the playing XIs for the three-match T20 series between India A and England A would confirm the contrasting aims of the two sides. While England A had the likes of Charlie Dean and Issy Wong, who have represented England on multiple occasions, including World Cups and Ashes, India A's most experienced player was their captain, Minnu Mani, who made her debut just this year against Bangladesh and has played all of four T20Is for the senior team.

On the one hand, England A wanted most of their players, who have not played in sub-continental conditions before, to get acquainted with the environment. India preferred their young performers gain some much-needed experience at the level, which different from their domestic challenge and closer to the international cricket. And even though the result didn't go their way, they learned many

lessons. India's defence of 134 runs in the first T20, even after a fine half-century from Hollie Armitage, showed a sense of maturity in the young players, especially that by the bowling unit who took five wickets in the last five overs, without conceding a boundary. Captain Minnu used five bowling options in the death overs, and all delivered in the pressure situation.

Special mention has to go to Shreyanka Patil, who not only defended nine runs in the final over after giving away five wides up front in the final over, but also dismissed Grace Scrivens, who was player of the Tournament at the U19 T20 World Cup earlier this year. Patil's rise through domestic system and Women's Premier League is a success story itself. And with the selection in the squad for the T20I series against England starting from December 6, she has been rewarded for her consistent performance.

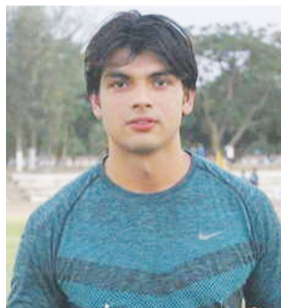
Another takeaway has been the way some of the young batters batted throughout the tournament especially the wicketkeeper and opener, Uma Chetry. Her risk taking approach did not necessarily result in a longer stay at the crease, but it helped give her team a quick start on all three occasions. If India are to compete with the likes of England and Australia, they need more players taking the attacking approach, which could put pressure on the opposition throughout the innings.

In the final T20 of the series India's performance with the bat was certainly below par, but their batters stood up at the different levels to take the game deep. Bowling unit, led by Patil and Minnu with their two wickets each, gave a brave fight till the last over.

Which is why, it came as no surprise that Patil got her maiden India call-up for the England T20Is that begin on Wednesday. With the 2024 T20 World Cup in Bangladesh and 2025 ODI World Cup on the home soil, India has the opportunity to build on this base and go for the ultimate glory. They need to take special care of this young generation and give them more A-team and emerging tours to move up to the next level.

'Virat Kohli is stylish': Neeraj Chopra reveals alternative career path he would have chosen

BENGALURU, Dec 5 (Agencies): Indian world champion and Olympics gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra answered some interesting questions about his life, from his favourite sports movie to what he would have been if not a sportsperson.



"I can bat well. I can also bowl some good bhatta (throw) balls if asked to," said Neeraj. Neeraj said his role model is javelin thrower Jan Zelezny, who has a world record in the discipline. He is a Czech Republic athlete who holds the record of the best throw in men's javelin throw with 98.48 metres. He is also a world and Olympic champion.

Asked about his favourite sports movie, Neeraj replied, 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag'. The movie is based on the life of legendary Indian athlete

Milkha Singh and was released in 2013.

On what he would have been if not a sportsperson, Neeraj said, "I like photography a lot. I like to take pictures wherever I go." On being asked to name the most stylish cricketers, Neeraj said, "Shreyas Iyer, he likes clothes and sneakers a lot. Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli are also stylish."

This year has been a memorable one for Neeraj.

Neeraj lived up to expectations to win the gold at the Asian Games. His compatriot Kishore Kumar Jena took home a silver medal as Indian athletes put up a power-packed performance at the Hangzhou Olympic Stadium on October 4.

Neeraj defended his title and scripted history at the continental event.

Pakistan women clinch historic T20I series win in New Zealand after Fatima Sana, Aliya Riaz heroics

Pakistan women's tour of New Zealand: Fatima Sana and Aliya Riaz shone as Pakistan successfully defended 137 in Dunedin to seal an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the 3-match T20I series.

DUNEDIN, Dec 5 (Agencies): Nida Dar-led Pakistan women scripted history on Tuesday in Dunedin as they defeated New Zealand for the first time in a T20I series. Pakistan held their nerve to clinch a 10-run win in the 2nd T20I of the ongoing 3-match series as they successfully defended 137 against a power-packed White Ferns side at their own backyard.

New Zealand had only won their first T20 international match against New Zealand in the series opener on December 3 and they have followed it up with a historic series victory. It was the first time Pakistan women won a T20I series outside Asia and Ireland and it was their first overseas series victory since October 2018.

Asked to bat first, Pakistan posted a competitive total with handy contributions from the entire batting unit. Young opener Muneeba Ali scored a brisk 35 off 28 balls, and Aliya Riaz provided a late surge with



her 32 off 22 deliveries. With 3 boundaries and a six, Aliya made sure Pakistan gave their bowlers something to work with and kept their hopes of sealing the series early.

Molly Penford rocked the Pakistan batting line-up with wickets of Bismah Maroof and captain Nida Dar in a space of three deliveries. Losing their two well-set batters in the 13th over, Pakistan were under pressure at 86 for 4 but Aliya Riaz's late

blitz ensured the visitors did not collapse after losing their star batters.

New Zealand Women fought valiantly but could only muster 127 runs for 7 wickets in their 20 overs. Hannah Rowe's spirited 33 off 24 balls and Georgia Plimmer's steady 28 off 28 were highlights of their chase. However, the Pakistani bowlers held their nerve, with Fatima Sana leading the charge by claiming three crucial wickets for 22 runs.

Sadia Iqbal supported her well, taking two wickets for 29 runs, ensuring that the pressure never eased on the home side.

NZ vs PAK, 2nd Women's T20I Brief Score

Pakistan - 137 for 6 in 20 ov (Muneeba 35, Aliya 32; Penford (2/17) beat New Zealand 127 for 7 in 20 ov (Rowe 33; Fatima (3/22), Sadia (2/29)) by 10 runs.

Fatima Sana emerged as Pakistan's hero once again as she has now taken 6 wickets in the two T20Is.

Sana got the big wicket of Suzie Bates for the second successive game. It was Sana's opening burst that hurt New Zealand in the first T20I in which they were restricted to 127 in 20 overs. Pakistan chased down the total in just 18.2 overs for the series-opening win.

With Aliya Riaz and Fatima Sana firing on all cylinders, Pakistan will be looking to complete a clean sweep when they face New Zealand in the 3rd T20I in Queenstown on December 9.

David Warner has been an absolute champion: Glenn Maxwell backs his Test selection after Mitchell Johnson criticism

SYDNEY, Dec 5 (Agencies): Superstar all-rounder Glenn Maxwell refused to get drawn into the heated topic of Mitchell Johnson vs David Warner, but backed his teammate and veteran opener's selection to the Test team for the upcoming series against Pakistan. Warner is all set to retire at the end of the 3-Test series and likely to get a farewell in his home ground - the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Maxwell's support for Warner comes

after Usman Khawaja slammed Mitchell Johnson for his comments on the opener. Khawaja had said that he considered his opening partner as one of the heroes of Australian cricket who deserves to be celebrated.

"I am not going to throw my name into some headlines about this," Maxwell told SEN on Tuesday, December 5.

"But Davey's been an absolute champion of Australian cricket for



a long period of time and the selectors were pretty clear on what they thought of it (selecting him). I am looking forward to seeing Davey in that first Test and him making a lot of runs this summer."

Warner was picked in the 14-man squad for the first Test against Pakistan which will get underway from December 14 in Perth. There were speculation about Warner not finding a place in the squad but chief selector George

Bailey said the selectors and the team management believed that Warner is still the best option available for these conditions against Pakistan.

Warner's performance in the Test arena has been underwhelming, with an average of just 31.79 since January 2020, amassing 1399 runs across 26 matches. This period includes only two centuries, with no three-figure scores in 2021. His Ashes series performance in 2023

was particularly lacklustre, averaging a mere 28.50.

Notably, Johnson said on Tuesday that his decision to criticise Warner in the column was ignited by a "pretty bad" and "quite personal" text message he received from the Australian opener. This exchange, which occurred earlier in the year, marked a turning point for Johnson, who felt compelled to address the matter publicly.

