

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Police arrests two drug peddlers in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 2 drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Spokesperson said, "A police party of Police Station Uri headed by SHO PS Uri at a checkpoint established at Tyre Morh Uri, intercepted one person. During his search, 42 grams of Charas like contraband substance was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Abdul Aziz Chaneeza son of Ghulam Mohammad resident of Uri Baramulla. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Uri where he remained in custody."

"Similarly, A police party of Police Station Tangmarg headed by SHO PS Tangmarg at a checkpoint established at Beighpora Hariwatnoo Tangmarg, intercepted one person. During his search, 25 grams of Charas like contraband substance was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Mohammad Assadullah Bhat son of Ghulam Mohammad resident of Rambailpora Bawah Kunzer. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Tangmarg where he remained in custody", he said.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at police Station Uri & Tangmarg and investigations have been initiated.

### NIA raids 32 places in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab in Terror-Gangster case

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): In another major step towards demolishing the terrorist-gangster-drug smuggler nexus in the country, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday, conducted searches at 32 locations in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, officials said.

The raids began early this morning and multiple teams of the anti-terror agency conducted searches in close coordination with state police forces.

Jhajjar and Sonpat in Haryana are among other places being searched by the

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## Situation along Northern Border stable but sensitive: Chief Of Army Staff



NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Thursday said the situation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh is "stable" but "sensitive", and asserted that Indian troops are maintaining a "high state" of preparedness to deal with any challenge.

Addressing a press conference ahead of

Army Day, Gen Pande also said that both India and China continue to hold talks at military and diplomatic levels to find a resolution to the remaining issues.

Our operational preparedness continues to be at a high level, he said, noting that the Indian Army is maintaining adequate reserves to confront any security challenge in the region.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

On the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Gen Pande said the ceasefire understanding with Pakistan is holding along the Line of Control (LoC) though there have been infiltration attempts.

We are foiling infiltration attempts along the LoC, he said.

Gen Pande said there has been a drop in overall incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir but such incidents have

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## Mehbooba Mufti escapes unhurt in car accident in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's former Chief Minister and PDP President, Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday escaped unhurt when her vehicle met with an accident in Sangam area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to officials,



Mehbooba's vehicle met with an accident in the Sangam area. There were no injuries to Mehbooba Mufti; however, reports said that her driver has received minor injury in his leg.

A police officer confirmed the incident to Kashmir Dot Com

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## Security forces recover four IEDs, ammunition in Rajouri

RAJOURI, Jan 11 (Agencies): Police and security forces have foiled a possible terror plot by recovering four tiffin based Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), a wireless communication device, a mini music player and bullets.

The recovery was



made during an operation that was launched in Hayatpura village of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district by the police and CRPF.

Officials said that following some specific information, 237 Battalion of CRPF along with Jammu and Kashmir

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## Kashmir freeze unabated as Srinagar records Minus 5.0°C



SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): There was no respite from the intense cold wave in Kashmir as the valley continued to reel under sub-zero temperatures with no improvement in the weather conditions over the next few days, officials said here on Wednesday.

A dry and snowless

winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer than usual days as Srinagar's day temperatures were over eight degrees above the normal for this time of the year, they said.

Jammu, the winter capital of the union territory, has been colder than Srinagar for the past

couple of days, recording a high of 9 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, which was nine degrees below the normal.

Jammu is currently under a cover of dense fog which has resulted in colder days.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, same as the previous night, the officials said.

They said Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.6 degrees against minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, while in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir it was minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.0

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## Vehicle with fake registration plate seized in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): Traffic Police in Jammu and Kashmir have seized a vehicle with a fake registration plate in Shopian district and identified another in central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said today.

In a swift operation, the Traffic Police in rural Kashmir, led by SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir RP Singh, seized a Maruti Alto K10 bearing a fake registration number, JK02CF 2710. Acting on reliable information, the seizure took place on the evening of January

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## 3,422 active Covid-19 cases recorded in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): India recorded 514 new cases of COVID-19, while the number of active cases of the infection has declined to 3,422, the health ministry said on Thursday.

Three deaths – two in Maharashtra and one in Karnataka have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, 2023, but cases began to increase after the emergence of a new

sub-variant — JN.1 — and cold weather conditions.

After December 5, a maximum of a single-day rise of 841 new cases was reported on December 31, 2023, which is 0.2 per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

Of the total active cases, around 92 per cent are recovering under home isolation.

"The currently available data suggests that the JN.1 sub-variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the

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## Fire erupts in Poonch forests, damages vegetation

JAMMU, Jan 11 (Agencies): Fire broke out in a forested area in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, destroying a huge forest cover, officials said today.

They said that the blaze which has consumed a huge forest area broke out in Nar village in the Bhata Durian area of Mendhar sub-division where five soldiers were killed after terrorists attacked their vehicle on the national highway passed through this forest in April last year.

An official told

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## Indian online delivery platforms served 65 lakh food orders on New Year's Eve

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): There were 65 lakh online food delivery orders from Zomato, Swiggy and others on the New Year's Eve 2023, setting a record and delivering 18 per cent higher volumes than the New Year's Eve 2022, a report showed on Thursday.

The average order value (AOV) on the day was also at least 30 per cent higher compared to other days of the year, according to market research firm Redseer Strategy Consultants.

"Spike days like the IPL, Cricket World Cups, Diwali, NYE etc. are critical for online food



delivery services as customers order more and spend more," said Abhijit Routray, Associate Partner at Redseer.

It is also important for the brands and platforms to be able to serve the increased load on these days as customer

experience cannot be hampered on these celebratory occasions, he added.

The day started with gross merchandise value (GMV) in breakfast (orders placed between 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.) being 1.5-2 times

the daily average of the year.

The GMV peaked in the dinner and late-night orders, being 2.5-3 times the average of other days.

"Another dimension to premiumisation was people ordering from premium restaurants to treat themselves on the day," the report noted.

Given the super-normal demand, platforms were able to step up to provide superior customer experience on the day with customers across city tiers expressing high satisfaction with food quality, packaging, delivery time and in-app discounts.

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## EDITORIAL

## YOUTH ROLE IN NATION BUILDING

The government understands this and that is why education is being given an important role. An educated person plays an important role in the development of the country because only an educated person can help in taking right decisions in different situations of the country and also the job and business done by him is successful which also benefits the country.

By looking at the history and present situation of our country, we can understand how important a role a student plays in nation building. The Constitution of our country today was written by some educated people, only then all people are able to get their rights.

If anything wrong happens in the country, law and order is made for it, only if it is done by an educated person, he is able to leave the country. From this we can understand how important education is and the person who receives education comes in the category of a student. Because of this, from history to present and future, a good student can take credit for building a good country.

When a student acquires education and makes himself aware enough to understand his responsibility towards the country and fulfill it successfully, then it is his duty in this journey to acquire so much education that he can exercise his rights.

The duty of a student does not end here, it is believed that unless education benefits the individual and the country, education is useless. Because of this, it is also the duty of a student to do a good business or job so that his family can get good facilities so that after that he can do something good for the society and this will ultimately be his role in taking the country forward. The life of a student is full of troubles. He has to receive education in his life so that he can develop different types of perspective and he can see the problems coming in his life from a different perspective. A student's life supports the country when due to his knowledge he is able to do a good business or job because its tax goes to the country.

Apart from this, a student supports the country when he brings all kinds of facilities for his family and thinks about the well-being of the family, about the society around him and stops the bad effects happening in the society or brings about various types of changes.

Student life teaches us discipline. Teaches a new perspective. It also tells us how something can be achieved by working hard, which we can use in our lives to make not only the country but also our lives successful. It is the duty of every student to protect the nation and contribute to its progress.

## Why US, Saudis aren't in a hurry to halt war in Gaza

By: Sunanda K Datta  
Ray

Uncommitted readers of this newspaper who wonder why the United States of America does not put its foot down and stop the carnage in Gaza should remember the American phrase "All politics is local". It explains why Washington won't displease American Jewry.

From the Vatican to the Kremlin, from the White House to Capitol Hill, the world's movers and shakers view them as a force to be reckoned with. They can influence events, define and achieve important goals, reward friends and punish enemies. When, in the 1990s, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao sought to improve India's ties with Israel, he tasked a senior diplomat, Lalit Mansingh, in India's Washington embassy, to explore openings. Mr Mansingh approached the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Jewish community's main foreign-policy lobbying organisation, which has 55,000 members, a staff of 150 and a \$15 million budget. In May 1991, Washington brokered a one-day ceasefire in the bloody Ethiopian civil war only so that Israeli aircraft could evacuate 20,000 Jewish tribespeople in an unprecedented 24-hour airlift.

Mr Mansingh was only following the lead of Presidents and Prime Ministers visiting the United Nations or passing through to Washington for whom the New York offices of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League are obligatory stops.

More than a dozen foreign embassies assign diplomats to a semi-official "Jewish desk" to maintain friendly ties with American Jews. Evidence of the community's clout

is the \$3 billion Israel enjoys annually as US aid. Fully one-fifth of America's foreign aid has gone to a nation of barely five million people, just one-tenth of one per cent of the world's population. Such is the power of the Jewish lobby.

This US-Jewish entente seemed unlikely on February 14, 1945 -- Valentine's Day -- when US President Franklin D. Roosevelt flew to the Great Bitter Lake in the Suez Canal straight from the Yalta Conference with Josef Stalin and Winston Churchill to meet Saudi Arabia's King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud who had driven out his family's hereditary enemies, united the Arabian peninsula, and established himself as the first monarch of the only country that takes its name from its royal family. The discovery of oil had made Saudi Arabia fabulously wealthy. King Abdul Aziz -- better known as Ibn Saud -- and FDR met on board the naval cruiser USS Quincy.

Ibn Saud was an absolute monarch supported by the fanatical Wahhabi clergy. He had never been to sea or travelled outside the Arabian peninsula, except once briefly to Basra. A warrior with little experience of international diplomacy, he had sent two sons, Khaled and Faisal, both later Kings of Saudi Arabia, to America to meet FDR, tour America, and report back that the US was the world's richest and most powerful nation. He was also a philosopher: when a European visitor expressed surprise at a beggar addressing Ibn Saud as "O Brother!" the King retorted that no man could insult another by calling him his mother's son.

Looking ahead, Ibn Saud would not have been surprised to learn that a descendant of his, Prince Bandar bin Sultan al Saud, Saudi ambassador to Washington in 1991, would

virtually run the US administration during the First Gulf War. Or that oil-rich Saudi coffers would defray the costs -- an estimated \$120 billion -- of a war that, according to the Pentagon, "demonstrated effectively the capability and determination of the US and other participating nations (no fewer than 42!) to intervene forcefully to protect their interests".

In 1945, however, Ibn Saud was at least formally the supplicant. As the representative of the Palestinian-Arabs he did not deny that Europe's Jews had been cruelly treated. But he argued that innocent Palestinians should not have to pay for Germany's crimes. "Give them and their descendants the choicest lands and homes of the Germans who oppressed them", he told FDR, making no allowance for Jewry's "sentimental desire" to settle in Palestine. The desert King and FDR got on famously exchanging gifts and pleasantries. "From Ibn Saud, of Arabia, I learned more of the whole problem of the Moslems and more about the Jewish problem in five minutes than I could have learned by the exchange of a dozen letters," FDR admitted, promising to "do nothing to assist the Jews against the Arabs". The US would make "no move hostile to the Arab people," he wrote on April 5, 1945. He was dead a week later.

His successor, Harry S. Truman, tore up FDR's promises and told high-ranking US officials less than six months after his predecessor's death: "I'm sorry, gentlemen, but I have to answer to hundreds of thousands who are anxious for the success of Zionism. I do not have hundreds of thousands of Arabs among my constituents." In giving precedence to domestic politics, he had Winston Churchill's full support, albeit for different reasons.

One was Britain's Balfour Declara-

tion supporting the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with very few Jews, contained in a letter dated November 2, 1917 from Britain's foreign secretary (later Prime Minister) Arthur Balfour, to Lord Rothschild for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. Turkey's entry into the war on the side of the Axis powers was another reason for supporting Zionism.

Race and colour were other determinants whose impact can never be exactly measured. Just as Israel's defence minister, Yoav Gallant, dismisses Palestinians who are being slaughtered in Gaza as "human animals", and Nazis called Jews "vermin", the British also spoke contemptuously about the Arabs. "You'd think they'd be grateful after all we did for Feisal and Abdullah", Churchill said of Ibn Saud, choosing to ignore the fact that King Feisal and King Abdullah were British proteges from a rival royal house and sworn enemies of the Saudis.

If the major powers failed the Palestinians, their own race brothers were not very helpful either. When they rejected the UN partition in 1948, Egypt, Transjordan and Syria invaded mainly to seize what Palestinian territory they could. Saudi Arabia was too remote to benefit territorially but it was only a token participant in the war. The Saudis were about to normalise relations with Israel when the Gaza conflict erupted. The canny Israelis must know that in spite of fine promises of solidarity with Palestine, wealthy Saudi Arabia won't stop supporting the US even now with vast purchases of American arms. US support helps the Saudis against local and regional adversaries.

## Beauty Trends in the Year 2024



By: Shahnaz Husain

In the always-changing world of beauty, trends come and go, yet 2024 promises an exquisite fusion of classic beauty and cutting-edge innovation.

Thanks to social media, makeup trends tend to cycle in and out quickly these days. However, there is still freshness about the New Year that inspires many to try something different and ignites new trends, and in 2024, we'll see a mix of viral sensations and classic beauty.

2024 is all set to see beauty enter new realms.

It's that time of the year when we start looking forward to what the next 12 months will have in store in terms of trends

Want to get a jumpstart on the 2024 makeup trends to know about?

From futuristic aesthetics to eco-conscious choices, brace yourself as we delve into the makeup trends that will dominate the beauty scene in 2024

And if you want to get a head start on the beauty trends set to dominate the year, there's plenty to discover.

1---Tech-infused beauty  
Artificial Intelligence (AI), once thought to be completely fiction is gaining popularity in the beauty and cosmetic industry. Tech-infused

beauty not only addresses individual needs but also fosters a sense of empowerment and inclusivity, embracing diversity and catering to a wide range of beauty preferences and skin types.

The introduction of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality technology to the beauty industry has modernized the capabilities of beauty brands and the experiences they can provide a consumer. Beauty enthusiasts are increasingly turning to cutting-edge technologies to enhance their skincare, haircare, and makeup routines.

AI can understand a human's perception of attractiveness, a difficult task even for humans themselves, as beauty is incredibly subjective. Yet it is relatively simple for a machine to discern when an individual finds someone attractive, as their body emits different signals through dopamine.

AI is helping beauty companies develop products that are more sustainable and align with the growing market demand for responsibly created products. By analyzing ingredient data and product lifecycles, AI can suggest eco-friendly alternatives and reduce the environmental footprint of cosmetics and skincare products.

AI tools are monitoring social channels to track brand mentions, customer sentiment, and emerging beauty trends. This real-time feedback helps brands adjust their strategies and stay ahead of the beauty game.

We can anticipate more sophisticated apps that can track changes in skin condition during the year 2024 and adapt skincare routines accordingly, all through a smartphone camera.

AI can analyze skin conditions and provide personalized skincare analysis. Brands can develop AI-powered tools that assess factors like skin type, concerns, and environmental influences.

As smartphones became an integral part of our lives, big beauty brands grabbed this chance and offered consumers personalized services and

products to cover their individual needs.

2---Virtual Makeup Try-On Software

Most of beauty companies are likely to use technology to enable the virtual try-ons for cosmetics.

The application enables customers to virtually try-on multiple brand-related products in real-time through AR-based facial tracking technologies. They identify users' faces and specific elements to modify them in real-time by applying beauty products along with other pre-built filters. virtual-reality technology makes shopping for make-up and hair colour online an easier feat, allowing you to see exactly how each product will look before making a purchase. People are turning to digital platforms to test out the latest beauty looks, from the comforts of their home.

3--SOFT GLAM MAKE UP---

Soft glam makeup is dominating social media and the runways in 2024

Soft glam creates a monochromatic makeup look, meaning the products used on the eyes, lips, and cheeks are all in the same color family.

It highlights the best parts of the face without making you look like a different person.

Soft glam simply means radiant-looking or diffused makeup, applied in a way that ensures it's perfectly blended into your skin. Most soft glam makeup looks are created using a warm, neutral palette to give your skin a soft effect.

Soft glam usually encourages an element of glamour but the overall finish should be soft, blended, and complimentary.

Soft glam is a step up from natural makeup. There shouldn't be harsh lines or heavy finishes. The skin should be glowing, soft, and natural. The eyes softly blended, whilst being enhanced.

One must stay away from bold colors and instead stick with skintoned hues across your eyes, lips, and face meme of 'a natural look,

4---Blue Make Up

Blue can be a tricky color in makeup

According to Social Media trends, blue makeup is expected to continue to trend well into 2024.

The first step to blue makeup actually involves no blue at all, the best pairing for blue makeup is fresh, glowing skin. So, naturally, the look begins with skincare -- the brighter the skin, the better. Start with a gentle exfoliator to brighten, followed by a hyaluronic acid applied to slightly damp skin to hydrate, and finish with a glow-boosting moisturizer.

How to get the look  
Blue is a universally flattering color, so there's really no one who can't give this trend a try. The key, however, is to pick the right shade of liner for your skin tone

You need to start by colour-correcting and concealing any blemishes on your skin and follow up with a lightweight foundation to get an even tone. Then, pick a bright blue colored kohl pencil and line your upper and lower lash line. Using a mascara in a similar colour, give your lashes two, thick coats to open them up, and run a light brow pencil through your arches. Complete your makeup with a glossy nude balm

Knight Blue Makeup  
Knight blue makeup is simply ultra-bright blue beauty looks. This spans from graphic ultramarine eyeliners and a bold blue lip to hazy cobalt eyeshadow smudged out to the eyebrow line. Whichever feature you pick, the goal is to create a look with a vibrant colour pop befitting this new shade of Burberry blue.

*(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)*

## DC Kulgam assures all possible support from administration



### Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 11: Days after taking over as Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan on Thursday held an interactive session with media persons at his office.

The delegation of JUOK representing different print and electronic media organizations was led by its President Gh Nabi Khanday and other journalists who sought cooperation and

support from DC Kulgam in upholding the dignity and sanctity noble profession journalism and fourth estate as there is onslaught of social media being handled unethically.

At the outset, DC said that the media is the important and fourth pillar of Democracy, helping District Administration to perform more accurately and efficiently.

He said the media

works as an interface between government and public.

The DC urged the media fraternity to follow journalism ethics in letter and spirit while performing in the field and ensure quality journalism is displayed by each one of them.

He assured media persons full support from District Administration in highlighting the genuine public issues for their prompt redressal.

## Kulgam teenage boy bags gold medal in National Sqay Championship

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 11: A 9-year-old boy from South Kashmir's Kulgam district has clinched the Gold Medal in Sqay category at the prestigious 24th Sqay national championship, 2023-24 held at Jaipur in Rajasthan.

Ehsaan Ahmad Bhat (09) son of Irshad Ahmad Bhat resident of Toli Nowpora area of Qaimoh in South Kashmir's Kulgam district who is a class 4th student at Ayesha Ali Academy, Kanipora Kulgam won a gold medal at the 24th SQAY National Pre-Teen, Pre-Junior, and Junior Championship held at Jaipur, Rajasthan, from 4th January to 6th January 2024.



Reflecting on his success, Ehsaan credits his achievements to the unwavering support and motivation provided by his coach, and his family.

"Sports infrastructure needs more improvement as the biggest challenge that they have also faced is lack of facilities like academies that almost every sports person faces. I guess that is something which can create a great

impact on your journey," he said when asked about sports infrastructure in J&K.

Irshad Ahmad Bhat, father of Ehsaan, told voice of india (VOI) that his son loves martial arts and has been learning different art forms from last two years.

Ehsaan is learning different art forms at local stadium where trainer is training them and wants to go to international level.

"I am very happy that my son has achieved the Gold in the championship. He was always inclined towards sports and today his hard work has fructified. If we guide our children's in the right direction with proper support they are sure to make their parents proud," he said.

## JKMA President meets with DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: Jammu and Kashmir Media Association

(JKMA) President and Editor Valley Headlines, Tariq Mir on Thursday met with Deputy Commissioner Srinagar

Bilal Mohudin and SMC Commissioner Kashmir Dr. Owais and discussed with them for development works in Kashmir valley and general public issues.

SMC Kashmir Dr Owais and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohudin assured President and Editor Valley headlines as soon as possible I focus who developed work in Kashmir valley and Srinagar city. Tariq Mir highly thankful to SMC Commissioner and DC Srinagar.

## GDC Darhal concludes 7-day special winter camp

### Top News Report

DARHAL, Jan 11: The NSS unit of Govt Degree College (GDC) Darhal concluded a 7-day winter camp under the aegis of Viksit Bharat@2047 here on Thursday.

The week-long winter camp was organized under the patronage of Prof Mussaraf Husain Shah, Principal of GDC Darhal, and led by Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Programme Officer of the College.

Spread over 7 days,

a number of activities including cleanliness drive, awareness about drug abuse, essay writing, painting, and quiz competitions were organized on the theme "Role of NSS in making India a developed Nation 2047".

Prof. Shah highlighted the role of youth and students, especially NSS volunteers, in nation-building and transforming it into a developed nation by 2047, in line with the ideals of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan. He

appreciated the NSS unit of the college for undertaking this initiative.

A large number of students and staff members participated in the programme. Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Head of Department of Geography, presented the formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among others were Dr Ghulam Abbas, Dr M Saleem Wani, Dr. Mohd Riaz, Dr. Mukhtar Hussain, SamanaQusar, Abdul Qayoom and Jameel Ahmed.

## Galaxy Unpacked 2024: Opening a New Era of Mobile AI

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: A revolutionary mobile experience is coming. Get ready to discover a new era full of possibilities with the latest Galaxy innovations, designed to transform how you live, connect and create.

The new Galaxy S series will set a higher standard for the most intelligent mobile experience yet. Experience the epic in everyday life like never before.

On January 17, Samsung Electronics will

host Unpacked in San Jose. Join us as we unveil the latest premium Galaxy innovations, providing an all-new mobile experience powered by AI.

The event will be streamed live on Samsung.com, Samsung Newsroom India, and Samsung's YouTube channel beginning at 11.30 p.m. IST. Stay tuned at News.samsung.com/india for all the upcoming teasers, trailers and news about Galaxy Unpacked 2024.

## Vivek Bali chairs workers meeting-cum-joining programme



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: JD(U) State General Secretary Vivek Bali on Wednesday chaired a workers meeting-cum-joining programme at RS Pura.

The meeting laid emphasis on party strengthening and awareness about the unbiased agenda of Janata Dal (United), which is peace, prosperity and brotherhood.

The gathering delved into strategies for the upcoming Parliamentary elections and underscored the party's unwavering commitment to democratic values.

Vivek Bali on the occasions instructed the workers to gear up for the upcoming Parliamentary elections and strengthen the party from grassroot level.

In a statement issued to the press, Vivek Bali impressed on the workers to work diligently for the public welfare & ensure that public grievances reach to the concerned quarters.

"My aim is to work rigorously for the betterment of the condition of my people in order to

end their sufferings that have continued to exist for decades altogether without any resolution due to indifferent attitude adopted by the local inhabitants," Bali said.

During the meeting, various issues pertaining to the area were discussed and highlighted. The highlighted issues are impassable roads, inadequate supply of electricity and shortage of drinking water.

Vivek Bali assured them to work on those issues promptly and cater to their needs.

Later on a joining programme was also held after the meeting where a businessman Om Kaith, Raman Kumar and dozens of prominent workers from other political parties join JDU. Bali welcomed the new entrants into the party cadre.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Chairman Sikh community Dilawar Singh and District leaders Raj Kumar, Prem Paul, Rahul Mandi, Ankush Chaddha and Sonu Kumar.

## Empowering Women: J&K Bank's CSR hits 9th District



### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jan 11: J&K Bank is delighted to announce a significant milestone in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) collaboration with Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) - "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)."

This initiative, aiming to promote menstrual hygiene awareness, encompasses the distribution of 5,00,000 sanitary napkins and the facilitation of 100 awareness seminars.

The project, implemented across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir, has already reached 50,000 individuals, successfully dismantling taboos surrounding menstruation. Baramulla, the

9th district to complete this mission, witnessed the distribution of over 25,000 sanitary napkins and the delivery of five impactful awareness lectures, reaching more than 2500 people.

The seminars took place in both government and private schools & college, including Govt. Girls Hr. Sec School, Sopore; Govt. Girls Hr. Sec School, Town Baramulla; Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Baramulla; JET College; Guru Nanak Dev Ji Model School.

The resource persons for these seminars were Ayesha, Aparna, Urfee and Hafsa.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health. Currently, we eagerly

anticipate the initiative's expansion to other districts, with our team working diligently on its implementation," said Vishal Singh, Co-Director & COO of LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF expresses gratitude to the Director School Education Jammu, C.E.O Baramulla, and the Principals of all participating schools & College. Special thanks go to J&K Bank for organizing this impactful activity through their CSR fund, as acknowledged by Afreen, President, Kashmir Province.

Key members present during this activity included Shah Aamir, Maroofa, Shubam, Babita, Sahil, Urfee, Afreen, Samar, Jasleen, Abhishek Raina, Shruti, Sachin and Kunal.

## JKBS terms Gandharb Motan as 'Bhajan Samrat'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) at its brief function held here on Thursday termed Singer Gandharb Motan as 'Bhajan Samrat'.

JKBS members said, In his formative years Gandharb Motan would practice for hours but now his voice is trained. Gandharb Motan expressed his happiness

on the unique position his particular brand of music occupies. Devotional music can never go out of style, as long as there are Hindu festivals. I feel very lucky that people listen to my Bhajans. When people tell me that my bhajans give pleasure to their souls I feel honoured, he said.

When asked about secret of his smiling disposition, he replied, My face exudes peace

because what I have inside is peace. I am happy from within.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Former Corporation Rashpal Bhardwaj, JKBS President Rachpal Kaith, Duni Singh Motan, Diwan Chand Motan, Mangal Singh Sandhu, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra, Sarsa Ram Lynder, Krishan Lal Kaith, Rakesh Kumar, Parveen Kumar and Ankush.

## Congress non-participation in Ram Mandir consecration a drama to appease particular community: Purnima

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor, has lambasted the Congress party for its decision of not participating in Ram Mandir consecration ceremony.

She said that the move is simply part of its appeasement policy towards a particular community to maintain its decimated vote bank.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Congress party communiqué said on Wednesday that Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leaders including former president Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will not attend the Ram Temple consecration event to be held in Ayodhya on January 22.

In a statement issued



to media here today, Purnima Sharma said that Congress continues to maintain its old rhetoric on the issue and the decision of this so called grand old party not to participate in the historical event is an insult to the people of India irrespective of the caste creed colour or religion to which they belong.

She asserted that Shri Ram is revered by one and all not only in India but even abroad as a symbol of 'Maryada' and the decision of the party not to attend the consecration should

not surprise anyone as Congress has blatantly violated 'Maryada' prior to independence and thereafter during its about seven decade rule in India.

Specifically making reference to the reason forwarded by Congress high command that BJP and the RSS had made the temple its political project is nothing more than a lame excuse.

She said that the fact remains that Congress leaders finding the party nearly decimated today is yet again trying to stick to its appeasement policy of keeping a few left out supporters in its Muslim vote bank in the party's good books. However, it is not at all going to benefit this party or its leaders as people can see the ulterior motives behind every Congress initiative and decision today, she added.

## Army promotes national harmony with Kaumi Ekta Meet at Chas



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 11: In a dedicated effort to strengthen the bonds of unity in diversity, Indian Army organized a Kaumi Ekta Meet at village Chas of Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir.

This event aimed at promoting spirit of togetherness among the community.

The Kaumi Ekta Meet provided a forum for

discussion, cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

Indian Army personnel engaged with the local community, emphasizing the significance of unity in the nation building process.

53 prominent society members from village Chas and nearby areas attended the meeting.

The event concluded with a collective pledge for communal harmony and a shared vision for a united India.

## While star actors will be seen on the big screen this year too, here are a few debutants who are ready to shape the narrative of Bollywood and carve a niche for themselves

As we eagerly await the cinematic offerings of 2024, a new wave of talent is set to grace the silver screen in Indian cinema. Departing from the successes of industry veterans in 2023, the stage is now poised for promising debutants. Shanaya Kapoor, Rasha Thadani, Ibrahim Ali Khan, Junaid Khan, Pashmina Roshan, Aaman Devgan, each with their unique legacy, mark the exciting entrants of the year. These debutants are all ready to shape the narrative of Bollywood now!

**Pure passion**  
Shanaya Kapoor  
Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of Bollywood actor Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor, is poised for her much-anticipated debut in the South Indian film *Vrushabha*, where she shares the screen with renowned actor Mohanlal. With a notable family legacy in the film industry and a clear passion for acting, Shanaya is set to bring a distinctive charm to the big screen. Additionally, she is involved in the Dharma-backed project *Bedhadak*, alongside Laksh Lalwani and Gurfateh Pirzada. Originally slated for her debut, *Bedhadak* faced a temporary halt, but now Shanaya is all set to make an entry into the world of cinema with *Vrushabha*.

**Right act**  
Rasha Thadani  
Raveena Tandon's daughter, Rasha Thadani, is gearing up for her acting debut in an upcoming untitled film directed by Abhishek



Kapoor, which is slated for release in February. She is teaming up with Ajay Devgn's nephew, Aaman Devgn, in this project. Rasha has previously been in the spotlight for her singing videos that have gone viral.

**Action zone**  
Ibrahim Ali Khan  
Ibrahim Ali Khan, the son of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, is set to embark on his Bollywood journey, carrying forward the legacy of the Pataudi family. Being launched under Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, Ibrahim's debut film, titled *Sarzameen*, features seasoned actress Kajol. This action thriller, directed by Kayoz Irani, son of Boman Irani, explores themes of national identity, evident from the film's title, which evokes a strong sense of patriotism.

**First step**  
Junaid Khan  
Aamir Khan's son, Junaid Khan, is set to

make his acting debut with Yash Raj Films' *Maharaj*, which will premiere on Netflix. The anticipation surrounding his debut is complemented by the news that Junaid has already commenced shooting for his second film, where he will be sharing the screen with Sai Pallavi. Junaid, who made his theatre debut in Quasar Thakore Padamsee's adaptation of German dramatist Bertolt Brecht's play *Mother Courage and Her Children*, is an alumnus of Los Angeles' American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Interestingly, his recent pictures from sister Ira Khan's wedding with Nupur Shikhar went viral, as fans noticed Junaid's striking resemblance to Hollywood actor Henry Cavill!

**Romantic journey**  
Pashmina Roshan  
Hailing from the renowned Roshan family, Pashmina Roshan, cousin of

Hrithik Roshan, is gearing up for a noteworthy double debut in the world of cinema. Her first venture, *Ishq Vishq Rebound*, promises a romantic journey, featuring co-stars Rohit Sharaf and Jibraan Khan. Adding an extra layer of excitement to her debut portfolio, Pashmina is also set to appear in an untitled film alongside Tiger Shroff.

**Leading man**  
Jibraan Khan  
Best known for his role as Krishi Raichand, the son of Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol in *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, Jibraan Khan is set to take on a leading role in *Ishq Vishq Rebound*, alongside Pashmina Roshan. Serving as the sequel to the Shah Kapoor-Amrita Rao-starrer, *Ishq Vishk*, this film marks Jibraan's debut as the leading man. Having been a popular child artiste, Jibraan is now stepping into a new phase of his career, gar-

nering attention not just for his acting skills but fashion choices.

**High flying**  
Veer Pahariya  
Veer Pahariya is set to make his acting debut in Sandeep Kewlani's film *Sky Force*, alongside Akshay Kumar and Sara Ali Khan. The movie, based on India's first airstrike against Pakistan, is scheduled for release in October. Veer is rumoured to be Sara Ali Khan's ex-girlfriend. Some also say that the two are back together, as they were spotted at Manish Malhotra's Diwali bash last year.

**All in the family**  
Aaman Devgan  
Ajay Devgn recently took to Instagram to introduce his nephew, Aaman Devgan, who is all set to make his debut under the mentorship of renowned filmmaker Abhishek Kapoor. Sharing a picture with Aaman, Ajay expressed excitement about their upcoming collaboration in Kapoor's next big screen action adventure. Aaman Devgan's entry into Bollywood adds a new chapter to the Devgan family's legacy in the industry.

**Big break**  
Ahaan Panday  
Ahaan Panday, actress Ananya Panday's cousin, hogged the limelight with his viral dance videos during sister Alaana Panday's wedding. Reports suggest that the star kid has got his big Bollywood break under the YRF banner. He is said to be training with the production house and will soon be seen in the lead role.

## Sheela Sharma talks about her love for television



On the rising demand of OTT projects, senior actress Sheela Sharma, who is known for her work in shows like *Mahabharat* and *Junoon*, says she thinks television is still in demand, and it is no less than any other medium.

The TV industry is going through a transition phase for the last few years due to stiff competition given by OTT platforms.

Sheela, who portrayed Devaki in the 1988 BR Chopra's *Mahabharat*, says that TV as a medium is still close to

audiences and it touches and reaches every household in rural and urban areas.

"OTT platforms are coming up with really good concepts. Their budget is also good and everything is nice about it. But TV would never stop. There are so many shows which people are hooked to. There are shows which have been going on for so many years with good ratings and that proves TV is still in demand. I love television and it's no less than any other medium," she says.

Sheela is currently seen portraying the character of Dadi in *Rabb Se Hai Dua*.

Talking about her role, she says, "My character Dadi is very interesting. Being the head of the family, she has a say in everything happening in the house. I feel very happy about it. In my personal life I have not become a Dadi, but in the show she is a very happening Dadi, just the way I am. So, it makes me feel happy."

## Avika Gor happy to play Modern Jugni



Avika Gor has continued to charm the audience with her incredible performances for over 15 years and now she is back with a party number, *Modern Jugni*. From her looks to the lyrics to her moves, everything about the song has kept us hooked and how.

On what made her say 'yes' to the song, Avika says, "I am super excited about *Modern Jugni*. This is the first time I'm doing a proper dance in a Punjabi music video. It's a chance to reveal a new aspect of myself and showcase my abilities. The way they've portrayed me and the dance they've choreographed is beyond what I expected." The song is sung by Jyoti Nooran.

## Raveena Tandon says she is experimenting with her character in Kamma Calling



Raveena Tandon, who will be seen playing Indrani Kothari in the upcoming show *Kamma Calling*, shares how this character has

helped her explore a very different aspect of herself as an artiste, adding that it is unlike any roles she has played before.

Talking about her character in this series, the actress known for her work in *Aks*, says, "Playing Indrani helped me explore a very different aspect of myself as an actor, it is unlike any characters I have played before. I am experimenting with my characters."

Raveena further decodes her character, "Indrani is powerful, strong-headed and wants to maintain her position in the elitist society. She has secrets to hide but her life is altered in many ways as Karma Talwar enters the picture but she is not a woman to give in to her karma that easily."

The actress adds that *Kamma Calling* is a tale of the glamorous, powerful Indrani Kothari and the enigmatic Karma Talwar and it'll surely keep the audiences hooked.

The guilty pleasure series *Kamma Calling* features reigning queen of Alibaug, Indrani Kothari (Raveena), who is ready to take on Karma Talwar (Namrata Sheth) as secrets are dark and stakes are high.

## Anupamaa touches many chords, reflects reality, says Sukirti Kandpal



Sukirti Kandpal, who plays the role of Shruti in the show *Anupamaa*, says that the show has touched many chords, and reflects reality.

Talking about her character's relatability factor, Sukirti, who is known for her work in *Dill Mill Gayye*, says, "Shruti is today's girl. She is a photographer, who is 34 years old, and has a cool lingo. She loves herself, so it's pretty much relatable. At the same time, she has a mature side to herself as well. So yes, I can relate to her."

The actress further says that she thinks the story is real. "For any story to touch so many hearts, it has to be real. Teenage issues are a reality and so are extramarital affairs. So many people belong to the middle class. The show has managed to touch many chords and reflect reality, so I think it's great that the story has been able to show so much," says the Kaala Teeka actress.

## Tom Cruise strikes strategic movie partnership with Warner Bros

Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise and studio Warner Bros Discovery have announced a new partnership that will see them develop and produce theatrical films. Cruise, known for delivering blockbusters like *Mission: Impossible*, *Top Gun* series and many more, will also star in the feature film projects. As part of the deal, Cruise and his production company will have offices on the Warner Bros Discovery lot in Burbank, California.

The pact with Warner Bros will mark a sort of homecoming for Cruise, who started his acting journey with the studio's *Risky Business* and then worked on films such as *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Last Samurai*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Interview with the Vampire* and *Magnolia*.

Michael De Luca and Pam Abdy, co-chairs and CEOs of Warner Bros Motion Picture Group, hailed Cruise as an 'absolute legend' of the film industry. "We couldn't be more excited to welcome Tom back to Warner Bros and look forward to bringing more of his genius to life on screen in the years ahead," they said. On his part, Cruise said he was looking forward to making 'great movies' with Warner Bros Dis-



covery. "I have great respect and admiration for David, Pam, Mike, and the entire team at Warner Bros. Discovery and their commitment to movies, fans, and the theatrical experience. I look forward to making great movies together," the 61-year-old actor

said. Cruise's upcoming projects include the eighth installment of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise as well as an upcoming action movie with filmmaker Doug Liman, who also directed the film *Edge of Tomorrow*.











## Knocking Afghanistan out cold?

India's T20 WC preparation begins with series against Afghans in chilly weather | Kohli pulls out of first game

MOHALI, Jan 11 (Agencies): With a cold wave sweeping the northern states, the opening game of the first bilateral three-match T20I series between India and Afghanistan is expected to provide the fireworks for the spectators here today.

Due to the cold weather conditions, heavy dew is expected at IS Bindra PCA Stadium. It could make life difficult for the bowlers, resulting in a big-scoring game. "The dew factor will be for both the teams," India coach Rahul Dravid said. "Usually, it affects the team bowling in the second innings. However, given the cold weather conditions, the dew is expected to come early, which will affect both the teams," he added.

Spotlight on Rohit

The series will see the return of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to the T20I team. However, Kohli has opted out of the first game due to personal reasons. In his absence, the limelight will be on Rohit, who will open the innings with Yas- hasvi Jaiswal. Local boy Shub- man Gill is expected to come in at No. 3.

"We will be certainly opening with Rohit (Sharma) and (Yas- hasvi) Jaiswal," said Dravid. "You have to have that flexibility to do whatever is required. So, nothing is closed. But certainly, we're really happy with what Jaiswal has done as an opener for us, and he gives us a left- right combination as well as the



top," he added.

The coach kept his cards close to his chest about the inclusion of Rinku Singh in the middle-order. "He has started his career well. He has finished some important games for us, and played the role of a finisher with responsibility," said Dravid.

Picking the wicketkeeper for this series will be another task for the coach. In KL Rahul's absence, Jitesh Sharma and Sanju Samson are available for selection.

The bowling attack will be led by local pacer Arshdeep Singh. With the pitch and weather conditions offering help to fast bowlers, India are expected to play three pacers.

Prioritising events: Dravid

It will be India's last T20I series before the World Cup, and the

players will have to rely on the IPL experience for preparation. The league will also help Dravid with the team selection.

"There have been quite a few ICC events over the last few years. At various stages, in the last couple of years that I've been here, we've had to prioritise certain formats, certain tournaments, simply because of the amount of cricket that is being played," said Dravid.

"We have always had to prioritise what is important, especially for the players who are playing all the three formats. Even in this series, people such as Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Siraj have missed out because of the five Test matches that we have against England," he added.

No disciplinary issues with

Ishan, Shreyas

Rahul Dravid denied reports that there was a disciplinary reason behind the non-inclusion of Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer in the squad for the series. "He (Kishan) was not available for selection. He had requested for a break in South Africa which we agreed to and supported," said Dravid. "I am sure when he is available for selection, he will play some domestic cricket before coming back to the squad," he added.

"Iyer's case has absolutely nothing to do with any disciplinary issue. It is just that he missed out. There are a lot of batsmen in the team. He did not play in the T20s in South Africa as well," he added. "It's unfortunate because he is a fine player but there are a lot of batsmen and it is not easy to fit everyone into the squad or playing 11. No discipline issues were discussed, at least during my discussion with the selectors," he added.

India vs Afghanistan T20I results

1 May, 2010: India beat Afghanistan by seven wickets.

19 September, 2012: India beat Afghanistan by 23 runs.

3 November, 2021: India beat Afghanistan by 66 runs.

8 September, 2022: India beat Afghanistan by 101 runs.

7 October, 2023: Match abandoned due to rain.

## Ibrahim Zadran hopes his team shows bite

Afghanistan looking to improve batting, says captain



MOHALI, Jan 11 (Agencie): Relying heavily on their spin attack, Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran said that the India series will be a platform to improve the team's batting before the T20 World Cup.

Afghanistan have never defeated India in T20Is, having lost four of the five matches — with one being a no result — played between the two teams.

"Playing against India on their home soil is difficult, but we are here to win and show our skills," said Zadran. "We have

lots of good players in T20 and we are good in this format, I am sure we will perform well.

All our boys are playing good cricket, so I am sure they will have a good series against India," added the 22-year-old.

Afghanistan are 10th in the T20I rankings. "We have one of the best spinners in the world, we have fast bowlers as well, but our aim is to improve batting skills," he said.

Rashid ruled out of series

The skipper also confirmed that Afghanistan's

trump card Rashid Khan will be unavailable for the series.

The leg-spinner, who underwent a back surgery after the ODI World Cup in November, has been named in the squad but will not be available for the three games as he undergoes his rehabilitation.

"He is not totally fit, though he attended the practice sessions.

He is doing his rehab. We will miss him in the series. Without him there are a few players we trust," said Zadran.

Rashid has not played a competitive game since the ODI World Cup and missed Afghanistan's series against the UAE. In his absence, Afghanistan's spin attack is expected to be led by the experienced Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

"We have been training here for the last two-three days, and there was no dew. Hope the conditions will remain similar on the match day," said Zadran.

## David Warner to land via helicopter at Sydney Cricket Ground for BBL 13 game after brother's wedding

SYDNEY, Jan 11 (Agencie): David Warner is set to make a Hollywood-style grand entrance at the Sydney Cricket Ground as the star opener is likely to arrive via helicopter for the Big Bash League (BBL) Sydney derby.

The 37-year-old cricketer's arrival is not just any entry; it follows his attendance at his brother's wedding in the Hunter region earlier that day. Warner will make a dramatic transition from wedding festivities to the cricket field, landing on the SCG outfield before the gates open to the public.

This game marks Warner's return to the BBL, where he will play in the final three regular-season games for the Sydney Thunder. Following these matches, Warner is scheduled to travel to the United Arab Emirates to join the Dubai Capitals in the ILT20 league. However, fans can look forward to seeing him back in action on Australian soil as he is expected to return for the Twenty20 series against West Indies, taking place from February 9 to 13, which will be his last international games in Australia before his swansong at June's T20 World Cup in the Carib-



bean.

Warner's high-profile return to the BBL is juxtaposed with the absence of English all-rounder Tom Curran, whose season with the Sydney Sixers has ended prematurely due to a knee injury. Curran will miss the final two regular-season games and potentially his ILT20 commitments as well, following a ban and subsequent apology for an incident involving an umpire during the season.

As the SCG prepares for Warner's thrilling arrival and the BBL gears up for an electrifying match, the stage is set for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of cricket under the lights.

## January 11, 2021: R Ashwin, Vihari forge defiant SCG partnership to snatch a historic draw vs Australia

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencie): Ravichandran Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari displayed remarkable resilience to forge a defiant stand and help India secure a historic draw against the formidable Australian side at the SCG on this very day in 2021.

The day began with India's hopes hanging by a thread, as they resumed at 98 for two, with a daunting target of 309 runs ahead. The early loss of skipper Ajinkya Rahane added to the pressure, but Cheteshwar Pujara and Rishabh Pant reignited India's chances with a 148-run stand. Pujara's stoic 77 off 205 balls and Pant's aggressive 97 off 118 balls kept the game alive. However, their dismissals set the stage for what was to become a legendary last stand.

Enter Ashwin and Vihari, who were not just battling the Australian bowlers but their physical ailments. Vihari, hampered by a severe hamstring injury



sustained during his innings, and Ashwin, suffering from excruciating back pain that prevented him from sitting down even during breaks, displayed a masterclass in grit and endurance. Their partnership was not about scoring runs; it was about survival, about saving the game one ball at a time.

Together, they faced 259 deliveries, adding an unbeaten 62 runs over more than 42 overs after joining forces in the 89th over of India's second innings.

Vihari's 23 not out off 161 balls and Ashwin's 39 not out off 128 balls were not just numbers on the scoreboard; they were a testament to their indomitable spirit. The duo wore down the Australian attack, which had been relentless throughout the series, and batted through pain, having taken large doses of painkillers to continue their rescue operation.

Their partnership was a lesson in Test-saving batsmanship, a skill that seems largely extinct

in the era of fast-paced cricket. It was a partnership that spoke volumes about the mental fortitude required at the highest level of the game.

The communication between Ashwin and Vihari was pivotal, as they navigated through the challenging conditions and the formidable Australian bowling lineup.

India finished the day at 334 for 5 in 131 overs, achieving an extremely unlikely draw, thanks to the tenacity of these two cricketers.

The SCG partnership between Ashwin and Vihari will be remembered as a magical moment in cricket, where sheer willpower triumphed over adversity. It was not just a draw; it was a moral victory, a statement of courage that resonated with cricket fans around the world. On that day, Ashwin and Vihari didn't just save a match; they inspired countless others with their exemplary display of perseverance and teamwork.

## Shooter Rhythm Sangwan seals record 16th Olympic quota for India

CHENNAI, Jan 11 (Agencie): It has barely been two years since Rhythm Sangwan began competing at the elite level and yet she has become one of the recognizable faces in Indian shooting.

Her nose for big scores and her ability to compete in two vital Olympic events with similar amounts of output have made her one of the key members of the team, especially ahead of the upcoming Paris Games.

But despite her talent and her visible aptitude for the sport, she has had to be patient. In a sport that is defined by fine margins, Rhythm has had to endure some harsh realities in crunch moments, moments that have seen her miss out on potential medals in marquee competitions. During the Asian Games, where Indian shooters had a his-

toric campaign, the team gold (25m pistol) masked her miss in the individual category. Moreover, despite her decent efforts at elite competitions, which included her shattering a Qualification World Record (women's 25m pistol), she was yet to earn an Olympic quota for the country.

But a talent like Rhythm cannot be denied for long.

On Thursday, Rhythm's wait for an Olympic quota finally ended after she pocketed a bronze medal in the ongoing Asian Championship, an Olympic qualifying event, in Jakarta. After near-perfect hits in the rapid stage of women's 25m pistol qualification, she showed she can thrive under pressure in the finals. Despite flirting with danger early on in the finals (she missed five out of her first 10 shots), Rhythm



managed to steady the ship and get back on track before finishing off strongly. Incidentally, this is India's 16th Olympic quota in the sport so far, which is the highest ever. In the last Olympics in Tokyo, India had won 15 quotas. During the 2016 Olympics in Rio, India had won 12 quotas.

Jiin Yang and Kim Yeji, meanwhile, led South Korea to a one-two finish. With Rhythm's effort, India now has secured

the maximum number of quotas (two) in this event. Manu Bhaker, who is not part of this ongoing continental event, had won the other quota last year. The latest outcome should come as a big relief for the 20-year-old, who was inspired by her father, DSP in the Haryana Police, to pursue the craft. Just a few days ago, she had captured a bronze medal but missed out on the all-important quota to compatriot Esha Singh.

## AUS vs WI: Shimron Hetmyer left out of ODI and T20I squads by West Indies after poor run of form

MELBOURNE, Jan 11 (Agencie): Shimron Hetmyer has been left out of both West Indies' ODI and T20I squads for the upcoming tour of Australia after his wretched run of form with the bat recently.

Jason Holder and Kyle Mayers, who had made themselves unavailable for the Test series to play franchise cricket, are back in the T20I squad but won't be part of the side that will be playing the 50-over format against the Aussies.

Brandon King and Sherfane Rutherford will also be part of the T20I squad as they have been allowed to play franchise cricket. Lead selector Desmond Haynes said, as quoted by Cricinfo, he expects the ODI side to be very competitive in Australia after their series win against England.

"On the back of a



series win against England, we are expecting our ODI team to be very competitive in Australia," lead selector Desmond Haynes said. "We have some new inclusions, who have impressed over a significant period and a couple of returning players, who we think will have an impact.

"For the T20I series, this forms part of our crucial preparations for the upcoming T20 World Cup where we are hosts. We are hoping to build on strong overall performances against India and England and to keep improving as we approach the major tour-

vs Australia

Shai Hope (capt), Alzarri Joseph, Alick Athanaze, Teddy Bishop, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge, Tevin Imlach, Gudakesh Motie, Kjohn Ottery, Romario Shepherd, Oshane Thomas, Hayden Walsh Jr.

West Indies T20I squad vs Australia  
Rovman Powell (capt), Shai Hope, Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd, Oshane Thomas.

The ODI series between Australia and West Indies will be from February 2-6 while the T20I series will start on February 9. Steve Smith will be captaining Australia's ODI side.

West Indies ODI squad

