

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Inquiry ordered into poor road blacktopping in Rajouri

JAMMU, Nov 24 (Agencies): An inquiry has been ordered into alleged poor blacktopping work on Shadra Sharief to Sohra Bridge road in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner (Rajouri) Abhishek Sharma ordered the inquiry after conducting an on-site inspection while taking cognisance of a video circulating on social media that highlighted the poor quality of work on the road, the officials said. During the inspection on Saturday, Sharma assessed the road's condition and reviewed the quality of blacktopping work. Expressing concern over the lapses, he directed the department concerned to immediately initiate an inquiry to ascertain the facts and fix responsibility, the officials said.

Sharma said ensuring transparency and accountability in development work was the district administration's top priority.

"Any compromise on quality will not be tolerated," he said, instructing the executing agency to take corrective measures wherever required and submit a detailed report on the matter at the earliest.

The deputy commissioner also emphasised the importance of adhering to the prescribed standards of road construction to create durable infrastructure for the public.

Black Bear captured in Bandipora: Wildlife officials

BANDIPORA, Nov 24 (Agencies): A Black Bear was captured alive in Arin-Dardpora village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, reports said Saturday night.

Wildlife official Tanveer Ahmad of Block Bandipora told agency that the beast had been roaming the area for many weeks, creating panic among the residents.

"The Wildlife Department employees were camping in the area to capture the Bear," Ahmad said.

"After weeks of persistent efforts, the bear was caught alive, tranquilized, and put in a cage," he added.

All-Party Meet: Govt Appeals to all parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (Agencies): Amid demands from the opposition to discuss bribery charges against the Adani group, the government on Sunday said the business advisory committees of both Houses will decide on matters to be discussed in the Winter session and appealed to parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament.

Ruling party leaders



met floor leaders of political parties ahead of the start of the Winter

session on Monday. After the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs

minister Kiren Rijju told reporters that the government appealed to all parties to ensure smooth running of Parliament.

Responding to a question on opposition's demand for taking up the Adani issue, he said the respective Business Advisory Committees of the Houses will decide on matters to be discussed in Parliament with consent from Lok Sabha speaker

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Ideals and Vision of Sant Kabir represent universal values: LG Sinha



JAMMU, Nov 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that the

ideals and vision of Sant Kabir represent universal values enshrined in our culture. "Sant Kabir's divine

verse also reflects on various social issues and challenges and advocated women empowerment and upliftment of weavers, farmers, and other disadvantaged sections," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said while attending 'Satsang Samagam' organised by All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha in the Bishnah area of Jammu.

Speaking about the rich contribution of Sant

■ Turn to page 9

Fresh plea in Supreme Court seeks probe into US indictment of Gautam Adani

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (Agencies): A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a probe into the indictment of billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani who has been charged in the US for alleged bribery and fraud, saying the move "unveiled malpractices carried out by the conglomerate".

The plea has been filed by advocate Vishal



Tiwari as an interlocutory application in the batch of pleas in the Adani-Hindenburg row over allegations of stock

price manipulation by the Indian corporate giant.

The US Department of Justice has accused Adani of being part of an elaborate scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts in four Indian states.

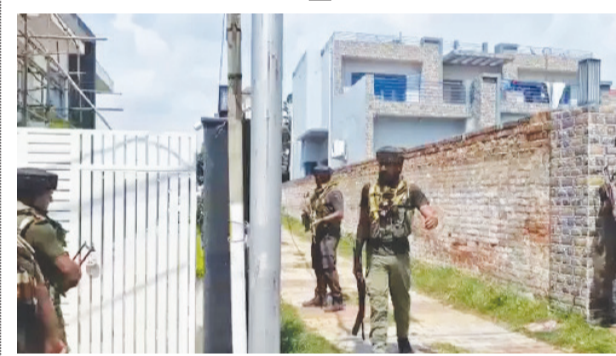
■ Turn to page 9

Woman delivers baby on snow-covered road in Machil Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Nov 24 (Agencies): In a rare incident, a woman in the remote Machil area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district gave birth on a snow-covered road in Chontiwari Payeen after being unable to reach the hospital due to

■ Turn to page 9

Security forces conduct search operation in Sidhra



JAMMU, Nov 24 (Agencies): The Spe-

cial Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir

Police on Sunday conducted a search operation near here following information that terrorists had planted an IED, security officials said.

However, the four-hour-long search operation in the Sidhra bypass area was called off around noon after no explosive material was found, they said.

A party of the Special

■ Turn to page 9

Devotees gather in thousands to celebrate 50th Urs of a Sufi saint in J&K

JAMMU, Nov 24 (Agencies): Thousands of devotees from various religious communities participated in the 50th annual Urs of Bajji Mian Ghulam Nabi Naqshbandi celebrations in Trimili Sharif Kanthol, which is 50 kilometres from Rajouri district



headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have come to this

■ Turn to page 9

Two drug peddlers arrested in Srinagar; Contraband substance, cash recovered



SRINAGAR, Nov 24 (Agencies): Police in Srinagar have arrested two

drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances & cash from their possession.

A Police spokesperson said, "At a checkpoint established on NHW opposite Tehsil Office Central Shalteng by Srinagar Police, a truck bearing registration number JK18-2323 was intercepted with two persons on board. They have been identified as Tajamul Rafiq son of Mohd Rafiq resident of Kandi Tangdhar and Manzoor Ahmad Khan son of Jalal ud din Khan resident of Hayhama Kupwara A/P Palpora

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North Kashmir turns white as higher reaches receive snow; rains lash plains

SRINAGAR, Nov 24 (Agencies): Several areas of north Kashmir were blanketed by snow Saturday morning as overnight snowfall accumulated over 8mm at some places. While snow was witnessed over many higher reaches, plains in Kashmir were lashed by rains.



The snowfall over Kashmir alpenes has

forced the closure of

■ Turn to page 9

Gupshup
Restaurant & Homestay / Guest House
 Air-Conditioner Rooms with attach Bathroom
 Location like Dalhousie

Room No: 1	RESTAURANT
Room No: 2	
Room No: 3	
Room No: 4	

Situated at Ban, Bantalab, Old National Highway Road Nagrota, Jammu.
 Contact for Kitty Parties, Birthday Parties and other parties
 Contact: 9086072548, Email: gupshupjammu@gmail.com

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Ravi Ji Pandita** S/o Late Shri Janki Nath Pandita, originally resident of Hawal, Pulwama, Kashmir presently at H.No. 10, Vitasta Lane - 2, Sector-1, Durga Nagar, Jammu.



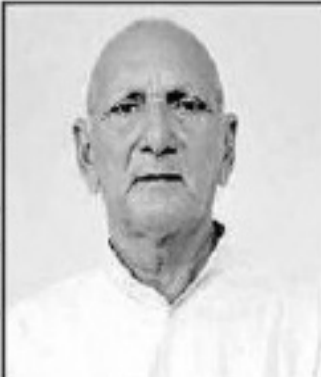
Ravi Ji Pandita

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Tuesday 26th November, 2024 at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sunita Pandita - **Wife**
Ritik Pandita - **Son**
Aditya Pandita - **Son**
Khema Ji & J.L. Pandita - **Aunt & Uncle**
Anita & Ashok Sharma - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Poonam & Veer Ji Pandita - **Bhabhi & Brother**
Contact No.: 8899483980, 9149493109, 9469170567

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound sorrow, we would like to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Onkar Singh** S/o Lt. Sh. Bashi Ram Langheh who left heavenly abode on 14/11/2024.



Sh. Onkar Singh

TENTH DAY will be performed on Saturday (23/11/2024) at 11:00 am at their residence Akhnor Road Bathera.

KRIYA will be performed on Tuesday (26/11/2024) at our own residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Pushpa Devi - **Wife**
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Sukhdev Singh & Smt. Rita Devi
Sh. Swarandev Singh & Smt. Meenu Devi
Mobile: 9419155873

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Savitri Devi** W/o Lt. Shri Uttam Chand H.No. 123 Panjirthi (Jnu).



Smt. Savitri Devi

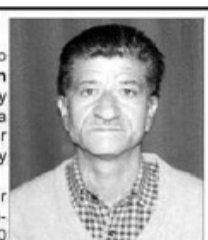
Tenth Day will be performed on 25-11-2024 (Monday) at our residence, Rani Talab at 11:00 am.

Kriya will be performed on 26-11-2024 (Tuesday) at our residence.
Uthala will be performed on 27-11-2024 (Wednesday) from 3 to 4 pm at Swam Kant Sabha Opp. Satya Narayan Mandir Panjirthi.

Grief Stricken
Son
Lt. Sh. Rattan Kumar Sharma
Sh. Tilak Raj Sharma
Redd Head Clark (PHE)
Grand Son: Rajesh Sharma, Karun Sharma
Ph. No.: 9469220260, 9419226252, 8716048710

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Both Raj** S/o Late Shri Jagger Nath originally resident of Rawanpora District Baramulla presently at Lane No. 4, H.No. 406 Laxmi Vihar Tolal Colony, Bohri who left for heavenly abode on 16-11-2024.



Sh. Both Raj

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnor Ghat and assembly will be held at our residence Bohri on 25-11-2024 (Monday) at 11:00 AM.

Grief Stricken:
Smt. Raj Kumar - **Wife**
Sh. Kishan Lal & Smt. Santosh Devi - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Sh. Ravi Kishan & Smt. Jyoti Kishan - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Sh. Raj Kishan & Smt. Monica Raj - **Son-in-law & Daughter**
Sh. Mohi Lal & Smt. Sharda Devi - **Brother-in-law & Sister**
Sh. Ashok Bhasin & Smt. Poojyoti - **Brother-in-law & Sister**
Sh. Madan Lal Bhasin & Smt. Veena Bhasin - **Son-in-law**
Sh. Tej Kishan Bhasin & Smt. Rozy Bhasin - **Son-in-law & Daughter**
Sh. Satish Badwan & Harshita Badwan - **Son-in-law & Daughter**
Sh. Harshdeep Badwan & Sakshi Badwan - **Son-in-law & Daughter**
Grand Children: Aashan, Mayank, Tijeel
Contact No.: 9815442512, 9149827178, 7890339352

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rakesh Gandotra (Babbi)** S/o Late Sh. Hem Raj Gandotra R/o Ward no 5, Reasi.



Sh. Rakesh Gandotra (Babbi)

Tenth Day shall be performed at Saran Dharam Sabha, Reasi on Sunday 24th Nov, 2024 at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Uthala shall be performed at Saran Dharam Sabha, Reasi on Wednesday, 27th Nov, 2024 at 3:30 PM.

Grief Stricken:
Rita Gandotra - **Wife**
Son and Daughter-in-law
Sumit Gandotra and Sarthi Gandotra
Daughter and Son in law
Sonika Pandohar and Tarun Pandohar
Pooja Kohli - **Sister**
Brother and Bhabhi
Ramesh Gandotra and Shashi Gandotra
Naresh Gandotra and Sunita Gandotra
Grand Children's: Sehaj, Myra, Chickoo
Contact No.:
Sumit - 9469606200,
9419168080, 9419187733

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Late Hira Lal Chhangoo** S/o Late Kashi Nath Chhangoo R/o House No. 773, Subash Nagar, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 17th. Nov. 2024.



Late Hira Lal Chhangoo

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 25th Nov. 2024 at Muthi Ghat, Jammu at 9AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sheela Koul Chhangoo - **Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Sanjay Chhangoo & Smt. Reema Chhangoo
Sh. Rakesh Chhangoo - **Son**
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Archana Chhangoo Fotedar & Sh. Abinav Fotedar
Harshit, Arnav, Arunima - **Grand Children**
Mob.: 9810768358, 7837556399

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Suraksha Kumari (W/o Late Sh. Madan Lal Saliada)**, who left us for her Heavenly Abode on 16th November 2024.



SMT. SURAKSHA KUMARI

TENTH DAY: Will be performed on Monday, 25th November 2024 at our residence, Ward No. 4, Hiranagar, at 11:00 AM.

KRIYA: Will be held at our residence, Ward No. 4, Hiranagar, at 12:00 noon on 26th November 2024.

RASAM PAGRI: Will be held at our residence, Ward No. 4, Hiranagar, on 27th November 2024.

Grief Stricken
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Ashok Sumbria & Auma Kumari
Chander Kishore Basotra & Karuna Basotra
Rajesh Pandey & Jyoti
Harsh Vardhan & Rachna Pathania
Dheeraj Saliada & Neelam Dogra
Mobile: 9 622230993

TENTH DAY/RASAM UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Reeta Rani W/o Sh. Satish Kumar** who left us for heavenly abode on Friday, 15th Nov 2024.



Smt. Reeta Rani

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence H.No. 135 at 11 AM on Sunday 24th Nov 2024 Main Bazar Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

Rasam Uthala will be performed on Monday 25th Nov 2024 at Vishwakarma Mandir Gurha Bakshi Nagar from 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Satish Kumar - **Husband** -9796228434
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Amrith and Sakshi - 9419189632
Akshit and Nikita - 9697336470
Daughter & Son-in-law
Parul & Ashwin Verma
Grand Children :
Arav, Avika, Avyukt, Avisha
All Chalotra Family

M/S HEM RAJ & SONS
TRANSPORT NAGAR, JAMMU
MADHUR PAINTS AND MADHUR TRADERS
TRANSPORT NAGAR, JAMMU

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Banarsi Lal S/o Late Sh. Mehanga Ram R/o 153/6, Shakti Nagar, Jammu**



SH. BANARSI LAL

10th Day will be performed at our residence on 23.11.2024 at 10 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 24.11.2024 at 12:30 Noon.

Uthala will be performed on 25.11.2024 at Om Palace near (AG Office) Jai Hind Chowk, Shakti Nagar, Jammu from 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Son and Daughter-in-law
Raja Ram and Shashi Bala Sharma
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Ram Shakti and Rakesh Sharma
Smt. Rupa & Naresh Sharma
Grand Son and Daughter
Vinayak and Vanshika Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

It is with profound grief and deep sorry that we announce the passing of **Shri Autar Krishen Miskeen**, son of Shri Shambhoo Nath Miskeen, originally from Ganpatyar, Srinagar (Kashmir) in Bangalore on 17/11/24.



Shri Autar Krishen Miskeen

The **Tenth-Day Kriya** will be held on 26th November 2024 at Srirangapatna, Bangalore. May his soul rest in eternal peace. The family requests your prayers and support during this difficult time.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Miskeens
Rajesh - 9426585769, 7990435665
Lovely - 9902985078; Sahil - 9574309017

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Raj Kumar Raina** S/o Late Mohisher Nath Raina erstwhile of Gairco Noorpara (Awantipora), Kashmir presently at Jammu on 19th November 2024.



Shri Raj Kumar Raina

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Jammu on 28th November 2024 at 10:00 am.

The Mourning is being observed at Durga Nagar Sector 1, near JMC Park, Lane F (Migrant Zonal Office Lane).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Haminder Raina (Son) 9611471525
Diksha / Shallu Raina & Mohit Baru - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Samast Raina, Bhat, Koul Parivar (7889621956)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **10th Day** of our beloved **Smt. Tripta Kumari** W/o Sh. Dwarka Nath Soodan R/o Ward No. 5 Soodan Mohalla Baran Jammu will be performed on Sunday 24th November, 2024 at our residence at 11 AM.



Smt. Tripta Kumari

The **Kriya** will be performed on 25th November 2024 at Ward No. 5 Soodan Mohalla Upper Baran Jammu at our residence at 12 Noon.

Uthala will be performed at 4 pm on 25 Nov 2024.

Grief-Stricken:
Dwarka Nath [Husband]
Son & Daughter in Law
D.P Soodan [Deepji] & Nisha Soodan
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Indu Raina & Sh. Rajnish Raina
Neelam Sharma & Sh. Pardeep Sharma
Anju & Late Sh. Ram Paul Sharma
Manju & Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma
Sheetal & Sh. Daleep Sharma
Grand Sons & Daughter
Ritisha, Sonakshi, Ruhani, Ridhima, Kanu, Jyoti, Bhavari, Sahil, Rajul
Mobile Number: 9419178678, 9596185987

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

"Your life was blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure..."
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Major Dalip Singh**.



MAJOR DALIP SINGH

BORN ON 16TH DEC 1921

EXP. ON 14TH NOV 2024

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Saturday 23 Nov 2024 @ 10 AM

THIRTEENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Tuesday 26 Nov 2024 @ 10 AM.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on Wednesday 27 Nov 2024 at our residence, Mendli Sangwari @ 2:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Shakuntla Devi - **Wife**
Smt. Neela Sambhal - **Daughter-in-law**
Colonel Sunil Singh - **Son**
Smt. Asha Sambhal - **Daughter-in-law**
Smt. Sanita Bhandral & Asst. Comd. Pramod Bhandral - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Grand Children & Great Grand Children

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Shri Muna Ji Kaul**, S/O Late Sh. Madhusudan Kaul (Of Nishat Wines), erstwhile resident of Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar and presently residing at Dwarka Mor, New Delhi on 17th Nov'24.



Shri Muna Ji Kaul

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Gauri Shankar Temple, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram on 26th Nov' 24 (Tuesday) at 10 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Nirmala Kaul - **Wife**
Subhir & Neeta Kaul (Son & Daughter in law)
Mob: 9818871242
Sudhir & Pranali Kaul (Son & Daughter in law)
Kavita & Deepu Kaul (Daughter and Son in law)
Gija & Vijay Tikoo (Sister & Brother in law)
Pratiksha (Niece)
Kaushik (Nephew)
Hemanti, Jaishrva, Jyestha, Yashika (Grand children)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Chand Rani** W/o Late Sh. Sri Nath Pandit resident of Sagam, Anantnag, Kashmir at present Lower Barnai, Shankar Vihar, near Bhagwati Haqiqat School Jammu.



Smt. Chand Rani

10th Day Kriya will be performed at 8:30AM at Muthi Ghat (DSE) Jammu on 25th November 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Sh. Surinder Pandit & Smt. Neetu Pandit
Sh. Sanjeev Pandit & Smt. Komal Pandit
Grandson and Grand Daughter-in-law
Sh. Venus Pandit & Smt. Sucheta Pandit
Miss Simran Pandit (**Grand Daughter**)
Miss Janvi Pandit (**Grand Daughter**)
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt. Vijay & Sh. C.L. Raina
Smt. Ranjini & Sh. M.L. Tikoo
Smt. Santosh & Sh. C.L. Pandita
Smt. Basanti & Sh. A.K. Bhat
Smt. Khemlata & Sh. Chand Ji Koul

Contact Numbers:
9596722260, 8492809832,
7006977430

TENTH DAY- KRIYA- RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief we wish to inform you the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Chanchala Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Jai Krishan Verma (Ramsu Waley) left for heavenly abode on 15th Nov. 2024.



Smt. Chanchala Devi

10th Day will be performed on Sunday 24th Nov 2024 at Shanti Ghat Bhagwati Nagar at 10 am.

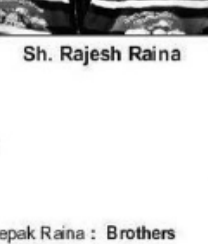
Kriya will be held at home H.No. 50 Bhagwati Nagar Jammu 12 after noon 27th Nov 2024

Rasam Pagri will be held at Shiv Mandir (Peela Mandir) near Care Well Chemist Bhagwati Nagar on Wednesday 27th Nov. 5 PM

Grief Stricken :-
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Anil Verma & Nisha Verma
Rajnish Verma & Anu Verma
Shashi Kapoor & Kevali Krishna Kapoor - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Sunita Verma & Lt. Ashok Verma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Grand Son & Daughter
Rohan, Pranav, Muskan, Raghvi
M/S CARE WELL CHEMIST
LIFE CARE MEDICATE
MOB: 9419226956, 8803016203

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajesh Raina** S/o Late Sh. Hari Krishan Raina.



Sh. Rajesh Raina

10th Day will be performed at Paloura Chowk, Shiv Mandir, Jammu on 25/11/2024, at 11:30 am (Monday)

Kriya Karam will be performed at our residence H.No. 48-A Lane No. 4, Basant Nagar, Paloura on 26/11/2024 at 12:00 Noon (Tuesday)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Suman Lata - **Wife**
Mr. Mehul Raina - **Son**
Sh. Rakesh Raina & Sunita - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Sh. Nand Kishore Raina - **Chachaji**
Brother in Law & Sister
Sh. Ashwani Kumar & Smt. Anita Sharma
Sh. Chander Shekhar, Sh. Dinesh Raina, Sh. Deepak Raina - **Brothers**
Mobile: 9419252039 7006447158

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International Peer-Reviewed Journal on Cross-Domain Possibilities in Music released

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Nov 24: A landmark publication, the International Peer-Reviewed Journal on Cross-Domain Possibilities in Music, edited by Dr. Bharat Bhushan and Prof. Roopali Jamwal from GLDM Government Degree College, Hiranagar, was formally released today by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology.

This prestigious journal, which has an impressive impact factor of 8.627, is a significant addition to the academic and cultural landscape, offering a platform for interdisciplinary research and dialogue in the field of music.

The journal features research papers from



across the country, delving into the dynamic interaction between music and diverse disciplines such as mathematics, science, philosophy, and psychology. Highlighting the transformative potential of music beyond its artistic roots,

it emphasizes its role as an educational and spiritual science. This interdisciplinary approach enriches Indian music, offering new dimensions and possibilities for students, researchers, scholars, and music lovers alike.

Pandit Vidyadhar Vyas, former Vice Chancellor and Executive Director of the ITC Sangeet Research Academy, West Bengal, commended the journal, stating that its exploration of music's interaction with other fields recognizes it as more than an art form—it is also a profound medium for education and spirituality.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of GDC Hiranagar, congratulated the editors, reviewers, and contributors for their efforts in producing a publication of such academic significance. She remarked on the journal's potential to inspire further research and collaboration across domains.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, DC Kathua

wished the editors the very best in their future projects.

Applauding the editors, Dr. Jitendra Singh praised their commitment to promoting academic excellence and fostering a multidisciplinary approach to education. He emphasized the importance of such endeavors in creating a broader, more inclusive platform for intellectual exploration.

This journal is a testament to the evolving role of music as a bridge between disciplines, creating opportunities for enriched experiences and groundbreaking research. It represents a beacon of academic and cultural progress, making significant contributions to both the scholarly and artistic communities.

Toolkit delivery begins for PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Ladakh

Top News Report

LADAKH, Nov 24: The MSME-Development Nucleus Cell (MSME-DNC), Ladakh, under the Ministry of MSME, has commenced the distribution of toolkits as part of the PM Vishwakarma scheme. This initiative aims to uplift skilled artisans across all 18 traditional trades in Ladakh, contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage and boosting the local economy.

The PM Vishwakarma scheme, implemented with active support from the Government of Ladakh, offers benefits such as training with stipends, loans up to Rs 3

lakh, incentives of Rs 1 per digital transaction, and toolkits worth Rs 15,000. A total of 5,363 artisans in Ladakh have been registered under the scheme, with training programs successfully conducted in Leh and Kargil.

Toolkits, provided as per scheme guidelines, are designed to enhance the artisans' production capabilities and improve product quality, leading to higher productivity and value. This initiative is being carried out in collaboration with India Post to ensure efficient delivery.

The first toolkit recipient, Mr. Mohd Raza from Kargil, expressed

his gratitude and shared plans to leverage the toolkit to produce high-quality products. He also aims to establish a shop to market his creations, demonstrating the scheme's potential to empower artisans and foster entrepreneurship.

The successful implementation of the scheme in Ladakh is attributed to the dedicated efforts of MSME-DNC, led by G. Velladurai, IEDS, Joint Director. Complementary programs such as Entrepreneurship Awareness, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness, and Skill Development are also being conducted to support artisans further.

Natrang presents 'Diary Kuse Lok Naath Di'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: In its commitment to promote Dogri language and literature, Natrang today presented Prof. Madan Mohan Sharma's 'Diary Kuse Lok Naath Di' under the direction of Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series, Sunday Theatre today at its Studio Theatre. Natrang Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur said that Natrang will showcase more such significant works of Dogri writers in its weekly theatre series. The play was based on a story written by one of the most celebrated Dogri writer Late Prof. Madan Mohan Sharma - proud Sahitya Akademi Awardee. The short story was creatively devised into a thrilling theatrical performance which was appreciated by the audience.

As the title suggests, the play revolves around the diary of one 'Lok Nath'. The writer's son finds a diary from a pack and takes it to his home. The cover of the diary was so tempting and attractive that the writer could not resist going through it, knowingly peeping into someone's personal affairs is not a good habit but reading the pages of the diary, he finds a very interesting and dramatic life account of Lok Nath. Whenever there was any unusual happening in the life of Lok Nath he has not for-



gotten to pen it down. The life of Lok Nath is portrayed in such an interesting manner that a common man identifies with each situation and turns of his life. The opening pages finds Lok Nath disillusioned with everyone around him even to the extent that he has lost faith in God. Later he looks for something exciting to happen in his life. Cash starved Lok Nath opts to do tuitions by teaching the children of his own boss, this way he will be able to please the hierarchy and make some pocket money as well. Here he happens to have some encounter with the sister-in-law of the boss. Lok Nath finds her very attractive, charming and pleasing, which prompts him to venture into an affair. Every day he goes with a new plan

to approach her but is unable to muster courage to do so. Finally he withdraws his plan for the reason that if his boss will come to know about his intentions he is not only going to lose the girl of his dreams but the tuition and the regular job as well. The most interesting part of the play was its language which was itself a complete theatre.

Neeraj Kant as 'Writer' maintained the required tonality whereas Pawan Verma as 'Lok Nath' portrayed the inner conflicts of the character in a beautiful manner. The lights were designed & executed by Brijesh Avtar Sharma whereas the music of the play was scored by Mehak Chib who also did the presentations. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Medical Camp organized by Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: The Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) hosted a successful medical camp at its registered office in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The event was honored by the presence of Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, as the Chief Guest. The event was presided over by Rajinder Kakkar, President of TNWS, with blessings from A.K. Arora, TNWS Patron. The camp featured the



expertise of Dr. Nikhil Mahajan, a globally recognized Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist. Dr. Mahajan, known for his Advanced GE Fellowship (Meerut & China), offered guidance on maintaining a healthy gut through proper diet and

lifestyle habits. During the camp, he examined and treated 48 patients, providing specialized advice and care. The event also celebrated the 70th birthday of Rajinder Kakkar, TNWS President and

President of the Transport Nagar Automobile Association. Dr. Jain presented a detailed life sketch of Kakkar, highlighting his contributions and achievements. Attendees extended warm wishes for his continued health and happiness. Dr. Jain also

shared valuable tips on leading a long and healthy life, enriching the audience with his insights.

The camp was graced by several dignitaries, including Vijay Gupta (Secretary), Sandeep Sharma (Secretary, Administration & Treasury), Dr. T.R. Gupta, N.K. Bali, Krishan Lal Gupta, and Shailja Gupta, Rama Jamwal, and Rajni Malhotra.

The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Rajinder Kakkar, acknowledging the efforts of all participants and contributors in making the event a success.

Modi Government is committed to resolving public issues at their doorsteps: Dr Singh

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 24: Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy with Independent Charge of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh held a nearly two-hour "Public Durbar" in block Marheen in Hiranagar sector, district Kathua today as part of his ongoing spree of reaching out to the public directly to listen to their issues and concerns.

Several issues raised by individual citizens and delegations were resolved on-the-spot. Instructions for immediate action were issued in several other cases.

The entire district administration led by Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas and senior officers from PWD, PDD, NHAI, Police, Revenue and



other departments were also present during the Public Durbar for instant intervention and follow-up.

This is the third such Public Durbar in different parts of district Kathua in recent months.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, elected representatives owe the obligation of not only addressing the genuine requirements of the electorate but also to seek to convince them that they are cared and heard. And, a Public

Durbar like this serves that purpose, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh asserted that the NDA government led by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi is committed to serving common citizens and reducing public inconvenience. He said, the government is focused on delivery of public services at their doorsteps, with an objective of ensuring ease of living for the citizens, rising above the

narrow considerations of politics, caste, creed and region.

During the public durbar, Dr Jitendra Singh was briefed by the administration about the status of matters brought to his notice by the general public on previous occasions.

While interacting with them, Dr Jitendra Singh assured the visiting delegations that he would himself monitor the status of their issues raised today, and take all possible steps so that they are addressed by the district administration in a time-bound manner.

Lately, the Union Minister has been crisscrossing districts falling under his Parliamentary constituency of Udhampur-Doda-Kathua as part of this public-outreach measure to meet numerous public delegations under one roof, with an objective to seek redressal and resolution

of their issues with the local administration.

Dr Jitendra Singh travels to the interiors of these districts to meet a cross-section of the public, leveraging the direct interface of the Public Durbar to address citizens' issues, guided by the motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas.

Today's Public Durbar was attended by the entire district administration led by Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rakesh Minhas.

BJP leaders, public listen to 116th Episode of Mann Ki Baat in Jammu West

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: BJP leaders, along with prominent citizens, gathered at Ward No. 29, Shakti Nagar, Jammu, to listen to the 116th edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio program, Mann Ki Baat. The event was led by Braham Jyot Satti, Senior Leader and Incharge of BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir, along with other party leaders and local citizens.

The gathering included prominent figures such as Perveen Badyal (District Vice President, OBC), Vicky Baba, Bharat Bhushan, Parshotam Sharma Bittu, Anshu Sharma, Raja, Sanjay



Kumar, and several other citizens of Jammu.

In his Mann Ki Baat address, Prime Minister Modi spoke on several important issues, including announcing the launch of a program called 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Neta Manch,' to be held in Delhi on January 11-12, 2025. The initiative aims to encourage youth to actively participate in politics.

PM Modi also praised the National Cadet Corps

(NCC) for its role in instilling discipline, leadership, and service among the youth. On the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, he celebrated the achievements of the Indian diaspora, highlighting their contributions in promoting India's unity and cultural heritage worldwide. He urged the younger generation to engage in politics and contribute to the country's progress.

Braham Jyot Satti, after

the broadcast, summarized the episode for the attendees and emphasized that India is progressing rapidly under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that "Mann Ki Baat" provides a unique platform for PM Modi to engage with the citizens on national issues, airing on the last Sunday of every month.

Satti praised PM Modi's leadership, asserting that he is the only Prime Minister who consistently honors the valor and sacrifices of the nation's armed forces. He reiterated that "Nation First" is the core ideology of the BJP, and party workers are committed to serving humanity and contributing to the nation's growth.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No.38 of 2024-2025 Dated: 21-11-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of RCC water Tank (1 lakh ltr & 1.5 Lakh Ltr) with pump room for Fire Fighting system in GGM Science College Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	59.57	1500	2% of Advertised Cost	90 Days	28-11-2024 (12.00Pm)	"A" Class

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned
Position of Funds: Available

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://ktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-11-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21-11-2024 to 27-11-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
4	Bid Submission Start Date	21-11-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	27-11-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-11-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

7. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu at the time of allotment.

Sd/-
(Er. Sandeep Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bakshi Nagar Jammu

No :- EE/R&B/BN/ 6378-97
Dated:-21-11-2024
DIP/J-7257/24

EDITORIAL

Developing
Heritage

Jammu and Kashmir, a region renowned for its natural beauty, is also a cradle of rich cultural heritage. Nestled in the northernmost part of the Indian subcontinent, it has been a melting pot of various cultural, religious, and ethnic influences, which have shaped its history, architecture, art, language, and traditions. From the majestic snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas to the verdant valleys and serene lakes, the region's heritage is as diverse as it is profound.

The history of Jammu and Kashmir dates back thousands of years, with evidence of early civilizations found in the region. Ancient texts like the *Rajatarangini**, written by Kalhana in the 12th century, provide a detailed account of the region's history, spanning the rule of various dynasties, including the Mauryas, Kushans, Guptas, and the Hindu Shahi kings. The region has also been influenced by Buddhism, as evidenced by numerous Buddhist relics and monastic sites, especially in areas like Ladakh.

In the medieval period, the region became a significant center for Islamic culture under the rule of the Delhi Sultanate and later the Mughal Empire. The Mughal emperors, especially Akbar, were drawn to Kashmir for its beauty, and their legacy is visible in the architecture, gardens, and culture of the region. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the rise of the Dogra dynasty in Jammu, while Kashmir became a princely state under British suzerainty.

Jammu and Kashmir's architectural heritage is a unique blend of indigenous styles, Buddhist influence, Islamic elements, and the royal Mughal legacy. The most iconic of these are the Mughal gardens, which include Nishat Bagh, Shalimar Bagh, and Chashme Shahi, designed by Mughal emperors. These gardens, with their symmetrical layout, terraced platforms, and cascading fountains, reflect the Persian-influenced Mughal style of landscaping.

Kashmir also has its own architectural traditions, particularly in the form of wooden structures and the distinctive **Kashmiri** style of houses, often with intricate wooden carvings, sloping roofs, and decorative patterns. The historic Shankaracharya Temple and the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar are remarkable examples of ancient Kashmiri architecture. The region also features numerous Buddhist stupas, especially in Ladakh, like the ones in Hemis and Thiksey monasteries.

Jammu and Kashmir is famous for its traditional crafts, which include Pashmina shawls, Kashmiri carpets, Kangri (a traditional fire pot), and papier-mâché items. Kashmiri Pashmina, derived from the soft wool of the Pashmina goat, is known for its exquisite texture and is a prized possession worldwide. The region's carpets are known for their intricate designs and vibrant colors, with motifs drawn from nature, Persian influences, and Islamic patterns.

The art of **papier-mâché**, which involves creating decorative items from paper pulp, originated in Persia and was refined in Kashmir. Today, papier-mâché items, including bowls, vases, and wall hangings, are popular souvenirs of the region.

Kashmiri cuisine is another essential aspect of the region's cultural heritage. Known for its rich flavors and the use of a variety of spices, the cuisine includes dishes such as Rogan Josh, Yakhni, Gushtaba, and Kahwa. The traditional *Wazwan** feast, a multi-course meal served at weddings and special occasions, is an iconic part of Kashmiri culture. It consists of lamb dishes, rice preparations, and various aromatic side dishes, and is a symbol of Kashmiri hospitality.

In Jammu, the cuisine is influenced by the region's Hindu traditions, with dishes like Rajma, Kalaadi, and **Dum Aloo** being local favorites. The presence of a significant Buddhist population in Ladakh adds yet another layer of flavor with their unique dishes such as **thukpa** (noodle soup) and **momo** (dumplings).

The languages spoken in Jammu and Kashmir reflect its diverse cultural heritage. Kashmiri is the dominant language of the Kashmir Valley, with its own script, Sharada, though it is mostly written in the Perso-Arabic script today. Other languages spoken include Dogri in Jammu, Ladakhi in Ladakh, and Pahari in the outer regions. Urdu, as a result of Islamic influence, is widely spoken, and English is used for administrative purposes.

Kashmir has a rich literary tradition, especially in poetry. Poets like Shah Muhammad, Habba Khatoon, and Allama Iqbal have left an indelible mark on the literary history of the region. Kashmir's Sufi poets, in particular, have made significant contributions to both Persian and Kashmiri literature, promoting mysticism and spiritual themes in their work.

Jammu and Kashmir celebrates a variety of religious and cultural festivals. In Kashmir, Eid, and the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Amarnath attract thousands of devotees every year. The Tulip Festival, held every spring in Srinagar, celebrates the blooming of the region's tulip gardens and attracts tourists from all over the world.

In Jammu, the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage is one of the most important religious events. The region also celebrates **Navratri** and **Diwali** with great enthusiasm, marked by religious processions, rituals, and festivities.

The heritage of Jammu and Kashmir is an amalgamation of diverse cultural, religious, and historical influences, creating a region with an extraordinarily rich and varied cultural landscape. From its ancient monuments and stunning architecture to its intricate arts and crafts, the region's heritage reflects its historical significance as a center of civilization and its ongoing importance in the cultural fabric of India. Despite the challenges the region faces today, its heritage remains a source of pride and a testament to the resilience and diversity of its people.

The traditional Kashmiri Pandit's Dejhoor

By: Omkar Dattatray

Kashmiri Pandits have a distinct, unique and peculiar cultural identity and heritage in the broad spectrum of Sanatan Dharma. The KP's attire, dress and ornaments are very distinct and these are traditional and from these symbols their cultural identity finds expression. It is every body's knowledge that Kashmiri Pandits were forced to migrate in 1989-90 and thereafter because of militancy and they took refuge in Jammu and other states of India. But the minuscule Kashmiri Pandit community needs commendation that despite their exile they have somehow preserved their traditional culture and heritage albeit with some modification here and there. Not only their attire and dress used to be different but their food habits and cuisines too are different and the KP community is identified by these distinct and unique things of cultural. One such symbol of Kashmiri Pandit culture is Dejhoor which is the wedding ornament of married Kashmiri Pandit women which they wear after marriage and carry / wear it throughout their life and in fact up to their passing away from this mortal world. Dejhoor is the symbol and sign of the married life of Kashmiri Pandit women and is the symbol of Suhag that means it shows that a KP women continues to have a husband. Dejhoor is a slender, intricate gold ornament and signifies a talisman of heritage that is sworn by the Kashmiri Pandit bride before the wedding procession to mark her transition into womanhood. It has three parts – a chain, the main hexagon shaped ornament and the charm that hangs at the end. Married KP women wear it in their ear and it keeps hanging. Dejhoor is crafted in gold with a hexagonal shape and features a central dot representing, Shiva and Shakti. The tradition of Dejhoor

earrings dates back centuries in Kashmiri Pandit history, reflecting ancient beliefs and customs passed down through generations. In the modern time the KP's have preserved this identity of theirs and are passing it to future generations and the Kashmiri Pandit women take great pride in wearing Dejhoor earrings. Every Kashmiri Pandit parent gets a Dejhoor crafted and prepared irrespective of his economic standing and gifts it to her girl at the time of her binding into nuptial -knot and he well before Lagan –ceremony of burning sacred fire. Dejhoor also symbolizes union between two Kashmiri Pandit families. The dejhoor ornament is always hexagonal and as mentioned above it symbolizes a yantra denoting Shiva and Shakti. Non-kashmiris are welcome to wear dejhoor as a form of cultural appreciation, as long as they do so respectfully and with an by understanding of its significance. Today many non-Kashmiri women wear Dejhoor and it is a welcome development. The Dejhoor Athoor is more than just a jewelry. It is a reflection of the rich heritage and deep -rooted traditions of Kashmir. A married Kashmiri Pandit women is identified by the two long gold chains with pendants that hung from both her ears. Dejhoor is akin to a Mangalsutra worn by married Hindu in the length and breadth of India. As already mentioned at elsewhere Dejhoor is put into the pierced centre of the ears at the time of a ceremony called Devgoan. The ceremony of Devgoan is generally solemnized a day before the wedding day. It indicates the transition from Brahmacharya Ashram to Grahasthya Ashram of the bride and bridegroom. Before Devgoan, the bride & bridegroom in their respective homes are given a bath called Kanyu Shraan –a pre-nuptial bathing ritual. A fire is lit and Guruji called Gor performs Devgoan ceremony in front of the

holy fire. Both bride and bridegroom offer prayers in accordance with Vedic rituals. They observe a fast till the Puja is completed. The Dejhoor has a deep spiritual meaning and significance. The hexagonal shape depicts the union of Shiva and Shakti. The Ath and Dejhoor is a permanent thing while Athoor is changed often. It is customary that a new Athoor is worn at every important occasion such as birthday of both the couples and a fresh Athoor is worn at marriage festivals and other important religious festivals. A piece of Kashmiri culture and heritage, this traditional and conventional gold ornament has undergone a transformation and modification in the hands of modern KP women. The chain of Dejhoor goes over the ear and hangs as low as the chest. The Dejhoor is put on in a religious ceremony on the red thread before wedding by the bride and mantras are chanted into it. In modern time with the evolving aesthetics modern brides hold their traditions and wear modern designs of Dejhoor while maintaining the cultural and traditional sanctity of this ornament. In modern times very small Dejhoor called Aathoor & Ath are worn by the married Kashmiri Pandit ladies but maintaining the cultural heritage, tradition and ethos of Kashmiri Pandit community. Even today also the KP ladies feel pride and see it as their privilege to wear Ath & Athoor. It in fact is mini-Dejhoor and it is security proof as it also hung on the both ears, but it a very small chain with Athoor. It points to the fact that Kashmiri Pandits and its womenfolk has preserved its rich, beautiful and pristine culture they pass it on to the future generations. Dejhoor in fact is the symbol of married Kashmiri Pandit women and it clearly identifies the Kashmiri Pandit ladies from the rest. It is also the symbol of Kashmiri Pandit ladies married life and

it shows that a KP lady is married and as already mentioned Dejhoor is akin to a Mangalsutra which Hindu married women wear across the country. In the same way the married Rajasthani women wear Decktick and it is the symbol of their married life and also a symbol of their being Suhag. At some places in India, married women get their nose pierced and wear a small ornament called in Hindu dialect Rung. It shows that there are cultural diversities among the Hindu's and in fact among the Indian married women. The Dejhoor is placed in the inner-center cartilage of the ear with a read thread on the day before the wedding. After the wedding, the thread is with a golden chain called an ath, given by the bride's in laws. A small gold ornament called an athur, is attached to the dejhoor. Only married Kashmiri Pandit women wear the dejhoor. It is not worn by Muslim Kashmiris or other Hindu communities, though in modern days some married Hindu women also wear Dejhoor and take pleasure in wearing it. The dejhoor is worn even after the death of the husband. It in fact is a hexagonal, dangling ear ornament worn by Kashmiri Pandit women to symbolize the union of not only the bride and bridegroom but also the union of two families. An interpretation of the term Dij is that it represents "dvija" and is thus the female counterpart of a yajnopavita in the Brahmin community. Its function is similar to that of a mangalsutra or Sindoor in other regions of India. Let the Kashmiri Pandit women continue to wear Dejhoor and preserve and protect this beautiful and pristine as well as traditional item of cultural heritage and pass it on to the coming generations.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

Mental Health Deteriorating due to Stress

By: Vijay Garg

Mental health refers to the state of being emotionally and socially healthy. That is, for mental health, a person's mood should be positive, stable and balanced. The World Health Organization defines mental health as a state of mental well-being in which a person realizes his or her own abilities. They can cope with the normal stresses of life. Not only this, we can take appropriate decisions in every situation and be helpful in the development of society. Can. But since the rapid expansion of modern technology and digital age, mental health is now being challenged not only in our country but in every society of the world. Today almost every person is seen facing mental instability, stress, frustration and disappointment at some stage of life. It is true that their reasons may be different. Some studies have revealed that at present, an increase in mental health disorders is being seen in India. According to the organization 'The Lancet Psychiatry Commission' 'More than 197 million people suffer from conditions like depression, anxiety and substance abuse. There is no doubt that economic and technological development has created many new opportunities for employment and progress, but it has also increased social pressures and personal expectations among people, especially the youth. And when human beings' aspirations increase, it is often seen that they ignore physical and mental health. This new culture has not only promoted materialism and ostentation, Rather,

it has also created many threats to nature and human existence. Today, many new types of diseases are emerging, the names of which people had never heard of, and what is more, the diseases which earlier used to occur in a certain age (such as adulthood or old age), are now occurring in teenagers and youth (such as blood pressure, diabetes, heart attack or vision disorders, amnesia and knee pain etc.) have also started occurring. It is clear that modern life. Style, metropolitan glamor and intense competition have changed the lives of youth and teenagers. It has made it so stressful that when they are unable to bear the pressure, they do not hesitate to end their lives. It is a matter of concern that such news becomes headlines every day. In the middle of this year, a 26-year-old woman working in a multinational company committed suicide due to excessive work pressure. Just two months ago, a 38-year-old software engineer, working in another company based in Chennai, ended his life. In another incident, a 25 year old employee of McKinsey & Company jumped from the ninth floor of his residential complex in Mumbai's Wadala area due to excessive work pressure. All these incidents have to be taken seriously. It is worth thinking that why even after getting the desired career and high salary, this young generation is ready to kill itself. Probably, after spending six-seven years in a professional course like engineering, medical or management, the youth feel that after getting a job in a good company, life will be better and they will not have to struggle much in the future. Again They will be able to live

the life of their choice. They keep hearing from their elders that with a few years of hard work in studies, their future will improve and they can live a high standard of life, but does this actually happen in life or do dreams get shattered? We all know that life goes according to some planned plan. Things do not happen as a person thinks, but this does not mean that a person should not make any plans for the future. There is a need that teenagers and youth should now be prepared for this also That they should always be ready to struggle in life and know how to face every challenge. There is no such challenge or problem in life for which there is no solution. Especially in today's developed technological era, where man has made many impossible things possible, such as artificial intelligence, artificial womb, machine man or creation of virtual world etc. The question is that when human intelligence can do so much, why can't it solve its own problems? It cannot be denied that individualism, economic insecurity The resulting instability and psychology of fear and dissatisfaction are factors that have led to uneven and unbalanced development in various societies, especially in developing countries. Today, in the consumerist, capitalist and technology-equipped society in which we live, collectivism has been replaced by individualism. It has become so self-centered that family and friends often say that a person is becoming isolated and unfamiliar. Used to be. As a result he is becoming so insecure and lonely that he starts feeling depressed and stressed. It seems that he is becoming an

easy prey. The character traits of today's young generation need to be understood in this context. The teenage generation believes in the culture of living freely, roaming around and adopting the lifestyle of their choice and consumption without any restrictions, without worrying about anyone. Whenever parents ask their children to face the reality of life. They ignore their words by saying phrases like 'keep calm' or 'be-cool'. On the other hand, it seems that the younger generation They do not live to live in reality, but to live a lifestyle of high ambitions, high status jobs, huge salaries and high brands. Unfortunately, due to excessive work pressure, they are not able to consume or enjoy the money and resources they have earned in the future. Perhaps the new generation does not even know what they want from their life? Everyone should consider whether material prosperity, high salary and consumption of branded goods are a symbol of happiness. If a happy life can be lived only with things without family, friends and group, then it cannot be said that it is appropriate to keep humans in the category of social animals. Choosing death instead of life is not courage, it is cowardice. In today's era, no one's life can be without struggles or challenges, but one can learn to face them and find solutions.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street Kaur Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

NILM NGO organizes school level painting competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: The National Incredible Literacy Mission (NILM) held an inspiring school-level painting competition focused on the vital theme of environment conservation at the Government High School, Sure Chak, Jammu. This event aimed to engage students creatively while raising awareness about the importance of preserving our natural surroundings. This competition aimed to aware the school children about green wealth and need of conservation of forest, water and other need full environment resources. "This year thousands of students actively participated in this competition and has evaluated their



approach for environment and water conservation through painting" Thakur KD Kurhan Chairman NILM J&K said. The painting competition attracted enthusi-

astic participation from students across various grades, showcasing their artistic talents and their understanding of environmental issues. The young artists illustrated diverse aspects

of environmental conservation, including the significance of trees, clean water, and wildlife protection, all through vibrant colors and innovative ideas. Participants were

awarded with certificates in an effort to motivate them and their peers to continue advocating for environmental protection through art. During the event school Headmistress Inderjeet Kour along with school teachers including Kamaldeep Kour, Harmeet Sudan and Raj Bharti actively participated in the event. The National Incredible Literacy Mission remains committed to facilitating activities that not only promote literacy but also instill a sense of duty towards the environment in the younger generation. Through initiatives like these, NILM hopes to cultivate a culture of sustainability and conservation among the youth, said Chairman NILM.

Dr Manyal inaugurates Bhagat Medicare Centre in Vijaypur



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Nov 24: Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and General Secretary BJP Jammu & Kashmir, along with Sarbjit Singh Johal, DDC Member Ramgarh, inaugurated the Bhagat Medicare Centre in Vijaypur today. The center, dedicated to providing advanced healthcare services to the local population, is managed by Dr. Butti Ram Bhagat, a highly regarded medical professional. The inauguration ceremony saw the presence of several prominent personalities, including Hardev Singh, Shiv Kumar Choudhary Mandal President Ramgarh, Former Sarpanch and Panch also participated in the event.

During the event, Dr. Butti Ram Bhagat expressed his heartfelt gratitude to MLA Devinder Kumar Manyal for his unwavering support and for inaugurating the facility. Dr. Bhagat emphasized that the Medicare Centre would be a vital healthcare resource for the region, helping to meet the medical needs of Ramgarh and its surrounding areas. We are committed to ensuring that quality healthcare services are accessible to everyone in our community," said Dr. Bhagat. "This facility will offer advanced medical treatments, and I am deeply thankful to all the dignitaries for their presence and continuous support in bringing this project to life." In his address, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal

MLA Ramgarh congratulated Dr. Bhagat for his dedication to improving the community's well-being. He assured the public of continued support in enhancing healthcare infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir. Bhagat Medicare Centre will serve as an important healthcare hub for the region, providing essential medical services to the residents, said MLA Manyal. I am committed to ensuring the growth of healthcare infrastructure and resources for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The Bhagat Medicare Centre is set to play a pivotal role in delivering essential healthcare services to the local population and will become a cornerstone for medical care in the region.

Not to destroy nature of pilgrimage in race for facilities: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU/KATRA, Nov 24: On the third day today of the four-day strike by local stakeholders against the proposed ropeway project on the Tarakot route of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra, shops remained closed on the Yatra path and the services of Pitthu-Palki also remained stalled. Shiv Sena (UBT) State Chief Manish Sahni, along with senior party leaders, joined the protest going on at the Holy Banganga Deori and main Bazar. Sahni said in his address that the nature of the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra is being destroyed and affected in the race for facilities. Due to the ropeway project being on the Tara-



kot route, the devotees taking advantage of this facility will be deprived of the darshan of the Holy Banganga, Charan Paduka, Ardhkunwari. There is a threat of livelihood of thousands

of shopkeepers, porters and horse service providers on the traditional pilgrimage route being affected. Sahni said that we do not have the weather and tourist places like Srinagar, Pahalgam and

Gulmarg but the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi remain in our economy and employment. The development of rail and road routes has already ruined the trade of Jammu. There

is a danger of the shopkeepers of Katra, thousands of people providing porters and horsemen on the traditional pilgrimage route and their families being affected due to the construction of the ropeway project on the Tarakot route. Sahni said that he is not against development and facilities but it cannot be tolerated at all if religious faith is attacked and employment and trade are affected. Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board) to cancel the ropeway project and spend the Rs 250 crore allocated for it for the development of Katra and surrounding temples.

Free health camp organized at Health & Wellness Centre Kudwal



Top News Report

ARNIA, Nov 24: A highly impactful health camp was organized today at the Health and Wellness Centre, Kudwal, under the able guidance of Block Medical Officer Bishnah Dr. Ghanesh Singh, aimed at improving health awareness and providing essential medical services to the local community. The event focused on key objectives such as offering free health screenings for conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and other chronic diseases, raising awareness about preventive healthcare, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle choices, and providing medical consultations and free medications. The camp also encouraged active community participation in health-related activities, fostering a culture of wellness within Kudwal. Dr. Gyaneshwar Sharma, speaking about the initiative, said, "such health camps play a crucial role in bridging the gap between com-

munities and essential healthcare services. Our aim is not just to treat but to educate and empower individuals to take charge of their health and adopt preventive measures. It is inspiring to see the enthusiasm and participation of Kudwal residents." The Key highlights of the health camp included free screenings for various health conditions, ensuring early diagnosis and prevention, informative talks on nutrition, mental health, and disease prevention were held throughout the day. Essential medicines were provided at no cost to those in need. Participants received personalized medical advice from healthcare professionals. The event's success was significantly bolstered by the proactive involvement of Sarpanch Raghuvver Singh. His leadership and dedication to community service were pivotal in the seamless execution of the camp. He personally encouraged residents to attend the camp and take advantage of the serv-

ices provided. Sarpanch Raghuvver Singh, addressing the gathering, said, "The health and well-being of our community are the top priorities. This camp is a step towards ensuring that every resident has access to essential health services. I am grateful for the support of healthcare Department and the enthusiastic participation of the community." The health camp met overwhelming appreciation from residents and healthcare providers alike. It provided an opportunity for individuals with limited access to medical care to receive critical health services and guidance. Dr. Sharma and the participating healthcare team commended Sarpanch Singh's leadership, noting that his efforts were instrumental in the camp's success. Many participants expressed gratitude for the Sarpanch's dedication and called for similar events in the future. The health camp at Kudwal's Health and Wellness Centre was a resounding success, demonstrating the power of community collaboration in addressing healthcare challenges. With leaders like Sarpanch Raghuvver Singh and initiatives supported by experts like Dr. Gyaneshwar Sharma, Kudwal is setting a strong example for proactive community health management. Moving forward, such events will continue to be a cornerstone in building a healthier, more aware community.

BJP's winning streak continues, Maharashtra victory marks another milestone: Rohii



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary and Media Prabhari Jammu South Rohii Chandan has hailed the BJP as a victorious party under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chandan's statement comes on the heels of the recent assembly polls in Maharashtra, where the BJP-led Mahayuti emerged as a clear winner, garnering the trust and support of the general public across all domains. The BJP's triumph in Maharashtra is a resounding endorsement of the party's commitment to fulfilling the dreams of the common masses. Chandan emphasized that the BJP, under PM Modi's leadership, has consistently delivered on its promises, ensuring inclusive growth and development that benefits all sections of society. He said the BJP's victory in Maharashtra is not an isolated incident. The party has a proven track record of winning elections and forming governments that truly represent the will of the people. From its humble beginnings as the Bharatiya Jana Sangh to its current status as a dominant national party, the BJP

has consistently demonstrated its ability to connect with the masses and deliver on their aspirations. Mentioning the BJP's impressive performance in Uttar Pradesh by polls, Rohii Chandan highlighted that the results for bye-elections across nine seats in Uttar Pradesh, seven in Rajasthan, and four in Bihar came in on Saturday, following which he hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the BJP's victory in Maharashtra, and good governance, and prosperity," Chandan said. As the BJP continues to build on its successes, Chandan expressed confidence that the party will remain a dominant force in Indian politics. With its strong leadership, grassroots connect, and commitment to inclusive growth, the BJP is poised to lead India towards a brighter future. In conclusion, Rohii Chandan's statement is a testament to the BJP's enduring popularity and its ability to deliver on its promises. As the party continues to march forward, it is clear that its victory in Maharashtra is only the beginning of a new chapter in Indian politics.

GDC Kishtwar celebrates NCC Day with zeal



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 24: The NCC unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar celebrated NCC Day with great zeal and enthusiasm under the conensorship of Dr. Tabassum Saleem and Prof Prithvi Raj and the able guidance of Principal Dr. Basharat Iqbal. The event commenced with a ceremonial parade by NCC cadets, showcasing their discipline and commitment to the ideals of the National Cadet Corps. Principal Dr. Basharat Iqbal, in his address, commended the

cadets for their dedication and highlighted NCC's pivotal role in instilling leadership, discipline, and patriotism among the youth. Dr. Tabassum Saleem emphasized the significance of NCC Day as an occasion to celebrate the achievements of cadets and their contributions to national development. She urged them to continue their journey with commitment and a sense of responsibility. The celebration featured activities such as patriotic speeches, cultural performances, and a cleanliness drive,

embodying the NCC motto "Unity and Discipline." Cadets also shared their experiences and reaffirmed their dedication to serving the nation. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by senior NCC cadet Simran Thakur, who expressed gratitude to the college administration, faculty, and cadets for their support in making the event a success. The NCC unit of GDC Kishtwar continues to play a significant role in nurturing responsible citizens and contributing to societal betterment.

NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers paint Govt School Tareen



Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 24: NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers organized a wall painting event at Govt. Primary School situated in Tareen village. Creative paintings were drawn on the walls of the school. English and Hindi alphabets in creative way were also drawn. The main motive behind the

initiative was to make school students feel proud and happy while coming to school. Volunteers sincerely worked for around four hours and showcased their creativity during the event. NSS volunteers Sadhvi Sharma, Abhishek Sharma, Dheeraj and Ambuj worked enthusiastically during the event.

NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the whole event in the school. School In-charge, Mrs. Shameem appreciated the efforts of SMVDU volunteers for beautifying the school with their creative skills. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar also appreciated the initiative of NSS volunteers.

Rupali Ganguly's lawyer says Esha Verma has not responded to Rs 50 crore defamation notice

Rupali Ganguly's became the subject of recent internet drama when her stepdaughter Esha Vema levelled allegations against her for breaking her parents' marriage and 'mentally, emotionally and physically' abusing her and her mother. In an interview, Esha, who is the daughter of Ashwin K. Verma and Sapna Verma, also claimed that her stepbrother, Rudransh, was born illegitimately.

Last week, Rupali slammed a defamation case against Esha for Rs 50 crore, after which she deleted her Instagram post regarding the Anupamaa actress. Speaking to News18, Rupali's lawyer, Sana Raees Khan, said that



Esha is yet to respond to the defamation notice.

"She (Esha Verma) hasn't responded. However, she has deleted all defamatory posts and deleted one account pursuant to receiving our notice which is an acknowledgement of

her wrongdoing." She further added that her client decided to file a defamation case against Esha when she dragged her brother into the drama. "Rupali decided to take this drastic step when her stepdaughter malicious-

ly labelled her 11-year-old child as illegitimate and the matter escalated with continuous and constant defamatory and derogatory posts thereby character assassinating Rupali. It was imperative (to send notice), in view of the

fact that she was constantly posting defamatory and baseless posts, thereby attacking Rupali's reputation and character. She crossed all limits by attacking an 11-year-old child and terming him illegitimate."

Sana said that the allegations levelled against the actress has "left her deeply hurt". "The false and malicious allegations made by the stepdaughter caused immense emotional distress and mental anguish to my client. These malicious and baseless accusations not only attacked her personal integrity but also tarnished her reputation. Such baseless claims have left her deeply hurt."

Rajkumar Rao breaks silence on if he increased fee to Rs 5 cr after Stree 2 success: 'Being part of biggest blockbuster...'

Actor Rajkumar Rao has opened up about reports that he charged Rs 5 crore for every film after the success of his last film, Stree 2. Speaking with Indian Express, Rajkumar said he isn't "stupid to burden my producers". The actor also called money "just a byproduct". Stree 2 released in August this year. (Also Read | Stree 2: Shradha Kapoor or Rajkumar Rao, who took the fatter paycheck? Stars' salaries revealed)

Rajkumar charges Rs 5 crore per film?

Rajkumar said, "I read different figures every day. I'm not stupid to burden my producers. Being a part of the biggest blockbuster is not going to change me as an actor, money is just a byproduct of my passion. I want to work all my life so I keep looking for roles that surprise me, excite me, challenge and help me grow."

Rajkumar charged Rs 6 crore for Stree 2: Report

According to an ABP News report in August this year, Rajkumar earned Rs 6 crore for his role as Vicky in Stree 2. For the same



film, Shradha charged Rs 5 crore, which was the second-highest paycheck.

What Rajkumar had said earlier

Last month, speaking on the YouTube channel Unfiltered with Samdish, Rajkumar clarified he isn't as rich as people assume him to be. "Yaar, honestly itna paisa hai nahi jitna logon ko lagta hoga ki ye toh bhai Rs 100 crore. Itna nahi hai. Bhai, EMI chal rahi hai. Matlab ghar liya hua hai, uski EMI hai achi khasi. Toh matlab aisa bhi nahi hai ki nahi hai. Par aise wala bhi nahi ki aaj main kia ki showroom mein ja ke, 'Kitne ki hai wo?' 'Sir,

Rs 6 crore ki.' 'De de' (I don't have that much money. People would assume I have Rs 100 crore. I don't have that much. I've been paying a hefty EMI for a house I bought. It's not like if I feel, I can visit a showroom and purchase a car worth Rs 6 crore)," Rajkumar had said.

Directed by Amar Kaushik, the film earned over Rs 850 crore gross globally, as per a report by Sacnilk.com. The horror-comedy tells the story of how a villain named Sarkata now terrorises the people of Chanderi, and they look to Stree for help. It has special cameos by Akshay Kumar and Varun Dhawan.

Mallika Sherawat reveals the secrets of the iconic 'Bheege Hont' kissing scene

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since Murder graced our screens, bringing with it the unforgettable track "Bheege Hont." The song, with its passionate melody and sizzling chemistry between Mallika Sherawat and Emraan Hashmi, remains a fan favorite even today. Its sensuous appeal set new benchmarks for romantic songs in Bollywood, cementing its place in the hearts of audiences.

Reflecting on the iconic song, Mallika Sherawat recently shared some behind-the-scenes memories that make it even more special.



In a conversation with Ranveer Allahbadia, she revealed that the sequence was shot in the vibrant city of Bangkok, where the heat was almost unbearable. To add to the challenge, the shoot took place on the roof of a building under the blazing sun, making the atmosphere intense and exhausting.

Despite the soaring temperatures, the choreographer constantly motivated the duo, urging them to embody "passion" with every move and expression. Mallika admitted it was tough to stay composed while battling the heat, but the dedication of the entire team paid off,

resulting in a song that continues to mesmerize even after two decades.

The chemistry between Mallika and Emraan was a revelation at the time, sparking conversations across the industry. Their performances not only elevated the song but also set the tone for many romantic numbers to follow. Two decades of Murder, "Bheege Hont" serves as a reminder of the timeless magic Bollywood is capable of creating. The song's enduring popularity proves that passion, both on-screen and behind the scenes, can truly stand the test of time.

'My ex's expensive gifts': Samantha Ruth Prabhu on her most 'useless' expense

Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Varun Dhawan who recently featured together in 'Citadel: Honey Bunny' sat down for a round of Spy-cy rapid fire. The two posed interesting questions to each other during the round divulging some juicy information. Samantha was asked about her most ridiculous expense on something useless and she had a very sassy answer for it.

What's the most ridiculous amount of money you've spent on something completely useless? M ex's expensive gifts," replied Samantha without skipping a beat. Varun Dhawan was also faced with some interesting questions.

For the unaware, Samantha was earlier married to actor Naga Chaitanya. The couple separated in 2021 after four years of marriage. They issued a joint statement, revealing that their separation was mutual and amicable. They had met on the sets of Samantha's debut film and eventually fell in love.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu on life post divorce
While the former couple

announced the end of their marriage with a separation post on social media and refused to

make any further comment, the internet ruthlessly dissected the cause behind it. Every now and then, Samantha would hit back at comments that hit a nerve. Post that, she was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition. She took a break from work and also started the journey of her recovery.

In a recent interview with Elle India, Samantha spoke about that phase in her life and how it only made her stronger. "We all wish we could change certain things about our lives, and I sometimes wonder if I needed to have gone through the things I have. But looking back, I wouldn't have it any other way. I was discussing this with my friend a while back, and I always thought I didn't want the last three years to have happened, but now I feel that you have to deal with whatever life throws at you. And as long as you come out of it, you have won. I feel stronger and more rooted than ever. That's because I went through fire to get here."

'Phir goli kisne maari?': Govinda reveals Shilpa Shetty's hilarious reaction to his gunshot injury



opened, he said, "Voh giri aur chal padi (it dropped and went off)." Dr Ramesh Agarwal, who tended to the actor after the accident, said the bullet hit him below his left knee and that he had got 8-10 stitches.

The 60-year-old actor came out of the Criticare hospital in Juhu on a wheelchair and had a cast on his left leg.

The actor, a member of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, was accompanied by his wife Sunita Ahuja and daughter Tina Ahuja. He greeted media persons and fans with folded hands.

"I was about to leave for a show in Kolkata. It was about 5 in the morning. Aur uss time par vo giri aur chal padi (and it just fell and went off). I was shocked by what happened and when I looked down, I saw a fountain of blood. Then I made a video and spoke to the doctor and got admitted," he told reporters waiting outside his home.

Asked why a fun-loving actor like him has a revolver, he said, "When you have fame, you have to be cautious as there are people who love you and then there are those who envy you.

Govinda was admitted to the hospital recently when he suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The actor was visited by his friends and family but seems like Shilpa Shetty had the best reaction to his situation. (Also read: Govinda and Krushna Abhishek end long 'kalesh' with a hug on The Great Indian Kapil Show, actor calls comedian a 'gadha')

Shilpa Shetty's witty reaction
The 90s star will be seen on the next episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show on Netflix. A promo from the show—attached with Saturday's episode—shows Govinda, Shakti Kapoor and Chunky Panday as the latest

guests. On it, Govinda speaks about Shilpa Shetty's hilarious reaction to his injury.

"Kapil, when Shilpa came around to visit me, she first asked, 'Chi Chi! How did you get hurt? Where was Sunita (his wife)?' Govinda told her that Sunita was at a temple. Shilpa joked, "Toh goli kisne maari (then who shot you)?" The comment left everyone from Kapil to Archana Puran Singh rolling with laughter.

The episode will premiere on Saturday November 30.

How did Govinda get injured?

Govinda injured his leg in October when his revolver accidentally went off. When asked what exactly hap-

Jerry Brotton's book delves into the history, significance of the compass

Author: Jerry Brotton
Publisher: Atlantic Monthly
Pages: 209

In times like these, it can be hard to know which way is up. But it's always been a subject of debate: For the 16th-century cartographer Juan de la Cosa, the top of the map was west, in the direction of his first voyage with Christopher Columbus. Nearly 500 years later, Stuart McArthur of Melbourne, Australia, produced a map with a southward orientation; when his teacher reprimanded him, he held his ground, finally publishing his upside-down map in 1979.

"East is East, and West is West," as Kipling had it — but where does the one start and the other end?

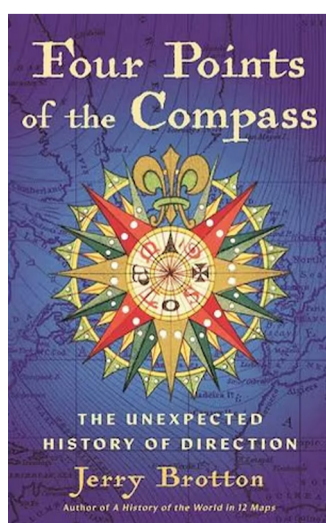
It's a topsy-turvy world. We're just rotating on it.

This at any rate is the conclusion of Four Points of the Compass, a cultural history from the author and University of London academic Jerry Brotton that explores the whats and whys of those little arrows that guide our feet and, occasionally, our fate.

The book is not for those with severe inner ear imbalances: Chapter by chapter, Brotton hopscotches from

east to south to north to west, systematically destabilising our inherited conventions of spatial organisation along the way.

"There is no reason why north should necessarily sit at the top of modern world maps," he writes, then proceeds to enlist a rather dizzying array of sources — not just Kipling and McArthur and de la Cosa, but Henry David Thoreau, José Martí, the Manus islanders of Papua New Guinea, NASA and Frodo Baggins — to show us how we got here, and where we might be headed.



"The configuration and language of the four directions is common to many — though not all — cultures," Brotton observes. From the Chinese (whose ideographs for south and north suggest bodies facing towards or away from the sun), to the ancient Egyptians (who reckoned from the south, the origins of the Nile), to the Aztecs (rare adherents of a five-point system, with a spare axis running clear through the earth), human societies have adopted a remarkable array of positional schemata, the only common thread being their adoption.

Hard-wired into the collective consciousness by way of myth, faith and historical experience, these semi-arbitrary coordinates became the determinative framework through which entire civilisations viewed themselves and others: A "conflation of direction with identity," writes Brotton, "that still persists today."

With so much ground to cover, and with a device as mutable and evidently subjective as the compass to lead him, the author has set himself no easy task. His work, and ours, is made easier by the chronological structure of the

discrete sections, and to some degree of the book as a whole. Thus, in the introduction, we learn that the third-millennium B C Mesopotamians were the first to deploy the familiar tetrad; in "East," we witness the evolution of China in the global imagination, from the Orientalist idyll of the Victorians to the economic dynamo of the contemporary Middle Kingdom. In "West," we go all the way from Plato's Atlantis to the decline of Spengler's "Abendlandes," with a quick nod to Tolkien's plucky band as they schlep toward Sauron and the sunset.

Maharashtra voters endorse Ajit Pawar's NCP, strengthening his hold on the party

NCP-SP cadre fears that Supriya Sule, who is expected to take over the faction after her father, may struggle to counter Ajit Pawar

MAHARASHTRA, Nov 24 (Agencies): Even as Sharad Pawar remains locked in a legal battle with his nephew Ajit Pawar over the ownership of the National Congress Party (NCP) and its party symbol, voters in Maharashtra have delivered a decisive blow to the veteran leader, bolstering Ajit Pawar's claim over the party.

By 6.15 p.m., it became evident that Ajit Pawar's faction of the NCP was set to secure approximately 41 seats, while Sharad Pawar's group was struggling to even reach double digits. This marks a critical juncture in the ongoing power struggle that began in July 2023, when Ajit Pawar defected from the party, joined the



BJP-led alliance, and became Deputy Chief Minister in the Eknath Shinde government. A majority of the NCP MLAs sided with Ajit, and the Election Commission subsequently recognised his faction as the legitimate NCP, granting him the party's

title and symbol. Sharad Pawar challenged this decision in court, where the case is still pending. "People have spoken, and they've made it clear which NCP is real," a jubilant Ajit Pawar told reporters in Mumbai. He added that the State's voters have

placed their faith in the BJP-led alliance, leaving no doubt about the legitimacy of his faction. Waning 'Pawar'? Senior leaders in Ajit Pawar's camp believe that Sharad Pawar's remaining MLAs may hesitate to stay in his fold. With just 14-15

MLAs in the Assembly, Sharad Pawar's faction is unlikely to have a significant influence or the ability to serve its constituencies effectively. "Sharad Pawar will not back down. He will return to the field, continue his grassroots work, and persist with the legal fight," remarked political analyst Vijay Chormare.

However, the ground-level cadre of Sharad Pawar's faction is reportedly growing restless. At 84, Sharad Pawar's age has prompted calls for Supriya Sule to step into a leadership role. Yet, some party workers fear that even she may struggle to counter Ajit Pawar, who now enjoys the strong backing of the BJP.

UP: 3 killed in clashes during violent protest against Sambhal mosque survey

SAMBHAL (UP), Nov 24 (Agencies): Three people were killed as protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here clashed with security personnel on Sunday.

The protesters tried to torch vehicles and pelted stones at the police who used tear gas and batons to disperse the mob. "Shots were fired by the miscreants and some pellets struck our policemen. We are investigating where the shots were fired from, particularly in the Deepa Sarai area," an officer said.

Tension has been brewing in Sambhal since Tuesday when the Jama Masjid was surveyed on the orders of a local court following a petition that claimed that a Harihar temple stood at the site.

Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar Singh said, "Three people, identified as Naeem, Bilal and Nauman, have been killed. Some policemen, including the gunner of the superintendent of police, have also been injured."

Ten people, including two women, have been detained and a probe has been launched, an official said, adding some people even set afire some motorcycles parked on the roadside.

The official said the accused in the violence would be booked under the stringent National Security Act (NSA).

The trouble started on Sunday morning when a large group of people gathered near the mosque and started shouting slogans as the survey team began their work in the Shahi Jama Masjid. District officials said the survey was planned in the morning to avoid interference with the mosque prayers that are usually held in the afternoon.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav lashed out at the BJP, saying the ruling party, government and the administration orchestrated the violence "to divert attention from electoral malpractice".

According to the local administration, a second survey by an "Advocate Commissioner" as part of a court-ordered examination into the disputed site started around 7 am and a crowd began gathering there.

"The survey was pro-

ceeding peacefully until a group of people gathered near the mosque and began raising slogans. When the police attempted to clear the area, a group of miscreants in the crowd started pelting stones at the police," said the Moradabad divisional commissioner.

He said the people involved in the violence were likely incited by individuals with vested interests aiming to disrupt peace in the area.

Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi said, "The police used minor force and tear gas to bring the situation under control." He said those who engaged in stone pelting and those who incited them will be identified and action taken against them.

"We are in the process of registering an FIR in the incident. The accused will also be booked under the NSA," the police officer added. District Magistrate Rajendra Pesia said, "Some miscreants resorted to stone pelting but the situation is peaceful now. Around 10 people have been detained in connection with the stone-pelting incident. They are being interrogated."

Uttar Pradesh police chief Prashant Kumar told PTI that the situation was under control in Sambhal.

"We are monitoring everything. All police and civil administration officials are handling the situation on the spot. They are patrolling those areas. Anti-social elements will be identified very soon and strict action will be taken against them," the director general of police (DGP) said.

Additional police units have been deployed near the mosque to ensure law and order and officials are closely monitoring the situation.

At a press conference in Lucknow, Akhilesh Yadav said, "A serious incident occurred in Sambhal. A survey team was deliberately sent in the morning to disrupt discussions about the elections. The intention was to create chaos so that no debate on election issues could happen."

"I don't want to go into the legal or procedural aspects, but the other side was not even heard. This was intentionally done to provoke emotions and avoid dis-

cussions on election rigging," he said.

"What happened in Sambhal was orchestrated by the BJP, the government and the administration to divert attention from electoral malpractices," the former UP chief minister alleged.

On Saturday, the Sambhal district administration bound down 34 people on a bond of up to Rs 10 lakh on apprehension of a breach of peace.

Subdivisional Magistrate Vandana Mishra told PTI on Saturday that among the people bound down is Mamlukur Rahman Barq, the father of the Samajwadi Party's Sambhal MP Zia ur Rahman Barq.

Supreme Court lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who is a petitioner in the case, had said the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) ordered the constitution of an "Advocate Commission" to survey the mosque.

The court has said that a report should be filed after conducting a videography and photography survey through the commission, he had said.

The Central and Uttar Pradesh governments, the mosque committee and the district magistrate of Sambhal have been made parties in the petition concerning the mosque, Jain said last Tuesday.

Vishnu Shankar Jain and his father Hari Shankar Jain have represented the Hindu side in many cases related to places of worship, including the Gyanvapi Mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute.

Gopal Sharma, a local lawyer for the Hindu side, told PTI on Friday that in his petition filed in the court, he mentioned that "Baburnama" and the "Ain-e-Akbari" has confirmed that a Harihar temple was at the site where the Jama Masjid now stands.

He also claimed that the temple was demolished by Mughal Emperor Babur in 1529.

Samajwadi Party MP Zia Ur Rehman Barq had objected to the developments. "The Jama Masjid of Sambhal is historical and very old. The Supreme Court had given the order in 1991 that whatever religious places are there in whatever condition since 1947, they will remain at their places," he had said. (PTI)

Akhilesh Yadav blames BJP for Sambhal violence; accuses govt of 'electronic booth capturing' in Uttar Pradesh bypolls

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav condemned the violence in Sambhal over a survey of a mosque on Sunday and accused ruling BJP in the state was behind the attacks. Yadav charged the ruling was trying to divert public attention from its electoral malpractices through the attacks.

"A serious incident occurred in Sambhal. A survey team was deliberately sent in the morning to disrupt discussions about the elections. The



intention was to create chaos so that no debate on election issues could happen," Yadav charged. "Several persons suffered injuries in the attack and even one person got killed," PTI reported quoting Yadav.

Yadav questioned why a second survey was conducted at the site on Sunday "that too in the morning and without preparation". "I don't want to go into the legal or procedural aspects, but the other side was

not even heard. This was intentionally done to provoke emotions and avoid discussions on election rigging," he said. Yadav charged, "What happened in Sambhal was orchestrated by the BJP, the government and the administration to divert attention from electoral malpractices."

The Samajwadi Party leader demanded an impartial probe into poll rigging charges and said the Election Commission should conduct a forensic examination of electronic voting machines.

Violent protests erupted in Sambhal on Sunday morning when a survey team reached Shahi Jama Masjid site amid heavy police deployment following a local court order. Stones were pelted at the survey team and the police had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd. The team conducted a survey on Tuesday as well.

The court ordered the survey after hearing a petition claiming the Mughal-era mosque was constructed by demolishing a temple which stood at the site.

Jharkhand: Hemant Soren government to be sworn in on Nov 28; will Congress get deputy CM post?

JHARKHAND, Nov 24 (Agencies): Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar has invited the JMM-led alliance to form government in the state after their massive victory in the recent assembly elections. JMM chief Hemant Soren, who resigned as the chief minister on Sunday, said the new government will be sworn in on November 28.

Earlier, Soren met the government to stake claim to form govern-



ment in the state after the INDIA bloc parties elected him as the legislative party leader. "I have staked claim to form the government, and have handed over support letter of alli-

ance partners to the governor. He invited us to form the government. The swearing in ceremony will be held on November 28," Soren told reporters. The ruling coalition

pulled off a thumping victory in the elections, winning 56 of the 81 seats. Soren retained the Barhait seat, defeating BJP's Gamiyel Hembrom by a margin of 39,791 votes.

There have been speculations that the Congress, the other major constituent in the alliance, may demand the post of the deputy chief minister.

Among the INDIA bloc, JMM won 34 of the 43 seats it contested, the highest-ever seats won

by the party. The Congress bagged 16 seats while the RJD and the CPI(M) secured four and two seats, respectively.

The opposition BJP, meanwhile, won 21 seats and emerged as the second largest party.

In 2019, the JMM-alliance had won 47 seats, wresting power from the BJP. The JMM had won 30 seats, while Congress bagged 16, apart from the one seat secured by the RJD.

Won't contest bypolls until EC prevents fake voting: Mayawati

LUCKNOW Nov 24 (Agencies): BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday alleged irregularities in voting in the recent Uttar Pradesh bypolls and said her party will not contest by-elections in future, particularly in the state, "until Election Commission takes measures to prevent fake voting".

By-elections to nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh were held on November 20 and results of it were declared on Saturday. Bahujan Samaj Party contested all nine seats but failed to win any.

"In the bypolls held for nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, there is widespread discussion about the votes cast and the results

announced yesterday. I am not saying this myself; it is a common perception among people that earlier, during elections conducted with ballot papers, fake votes were cast by misusing the system, often through fraud," Mayawati said in a press conference here.

"Now, similar practices are being carried out using EVMs, which is a matter of deep sorrow and concern for democracy," the former UP chief minister said.

Not only this, but these activities are now being executed more openly, especially during by-elections, as opposed to general elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, she

claimed.

"We recently witnessed this in the Uttar Pradesh bypolls. Similar concerns have also been raised regarding the recent general elections in Maharashtra. This is a major warning bell for democracy in our country," she said.

"Given this situation, our party has decided that until the Election Commission of India takes strict measures to prevent fake voting, we will not participate in any by-elections across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. I am specifically referring to by-elections here," Mayawati said.

As far as general elections are concerned, she continued, there is a somewhat better

safeguard because the fear of power changing hands makes the ruling party more cautious.

"In general elections, it is not guaranteed that the party in power will return to power and another party may take over. This fear keeps the government machinery somewhat restrained," she added. Considering all these factors, our party will contest general elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies with full preparation and strength, Mayawati stressed.

In the bypolls, the BJP and its ally RLD together won seven seats while Samajwadi Party candidates emerged victorious on two.

Maharashtra Assembly poll results: MVA's poor show likely to cost alliance opposition leader's chair

MAHARASHTRA, Nov 24 (Agencies): The Maha Vikas Aghadi's poor performance in the Maharashtra Assembly elections is likely to cost it the opposition leader's post in the new assembly. As none of the opposition parties managed to win more than 20 seats in the election, perhaps for the first time in six decades, the new assembly is unlikely to get an opposition leader.

The ruling Mahayuti alliance won the Maharashtra Assembly polls by a landslide and retained power. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance won 234 of 288 seats in the assembly. The BJP alone won 45 per cent of seats in the assembly.

However, the MVA comprising Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar faction) suffered a humiliating loss in the recently concluded polls. The Congress, which contested in 101 seats managed to win only



16. The Shiv Sena (UBT) won only 20 seats out of the 95 it contested and the NCP (Sharad Pawar) faction won just 10 out of 86 seats it contested. However, tallies of parties in MVA do not meet the requisite for opposition leader's post.

With none of the opposition parties winning at least 10 per cent of seats of the total strength of the assembly, i.e. 28 seats, the new assembly is unlikely to have

an opposition leader. According to reports, though the combined strength of MVA fulfils the regulation, it is not considered for the opposition leader's role.

According to NDTV, states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim don't have opposition leaders because of the lack of parties in the opposition with at least 10 per cent seats.

'Paltry sum': India slams \$300 billion COP29 annual funding pledged for developing nations

BAKU, Nov 24 (Agencies): Indian delegate Chandni Raina called the \$300 billion a "paltry sum", saying the new deal is "nothing more than an optical illusion". She pointed out that the agreement failed to address the enormity of the challenges faced by many countries.

She said the agreed funding is incompatible with the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and equity.

A fiery speech by India's Environment Secretary Leelan Nandan also highlighted the frustration among developing nations. She said India cannot accept the deal



and the propose goal will not solve anything for the country.

Nandan added that the deal is not conducive to climate action that is necessary for India's survival.

Marshall Islands envoy Tina Stege slammed the negotiations as the "very worst of political opportunism". Nigeria said the funding was a joke, while Malawi and Bolivia

also backed India.

The deal was reached after a fortnight of talks that saw boycotting and disagreements and the negotiations went 30 hours beyond the deadline. The develop-

ing nations boycotted meetings and threatened withdrawal unless rich nations agreed to give more funds. However, they later allowed the passage of the deal.

The agreement requires rich nations like the US and other rich countries to provide \$300 billion every year by 2035. But developing nations want wealthy nations to pledge a bigger pie of the fund. They also advocated the funding to be given in the form of grants instead of loans to avoid debt traps.

The talks also could not reach an agreement to "transition away from fossil fuels".

'India Counted 640 Million Votes In 1 Day': Elon Musk Hails Electoral System, Jabs US Process

CALIFORNIA, Nov 24 (Agencies): Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Saturday (local time) praised the Indian electoral system and its ability to deliver the outcome of an election in a day, while also taking a jibe at the process in the US where the poll is yet to be called in California.

Musk was responding to an X post that shared a news article with the headline "How India Counted 640 Million Votes in a Day". The post was captioned "Meanwhile in India, where cheating isn't the primary goal of their elections".

Elon Musk Praises India's Electoral Process

Quoting the post, Musk said, "India counted 640 million votes in 1 day. California is still counting votes."

He responded to another post on X which said, "India counted 640 million votes in a single day. California is still counting 15 million votes...18 days later."

BJP Leader Responds Former Union Minister and BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar reacted to Elon Musk's post on X and listed the features that make India a



modern democracy. "Unhackable EVMs, Voter IDs, Biometric DigitalIDs – essentials of a Large, modern Democracy that India is," he said.

Why Has California Election Not Been Called Yet?

Over two weeks have passed, however, California is yet to count over 300,000 ballots, reports said.

It's been weeks now since Donald Trump was declared the winner of the US Elections and the President-elect of the US.

California is the most populous state in the US with nearly 39 million residents. It saw the participation of at least 16 million voters in the November 5 polls. However, it has been among the slow-

est states to tally and report election results in recent years. The delay is primarily because of its vast size and predominance of mail-in voting.

According to Election officials, it could take weeks to call the poll, as was the case in the 2020 election.

Russia 'Testing Cousins Of Oreshnik' Designed 5 Years After US Unilaterally Dumped Nuke Treaty

California's elections largely rely on mail-in voting which requires more time and effort to process as compared to in-person voting.

Each mail-in ballot has to undergo individual validation and processing, a process that takes longer than simply scanning ballots at polling stations.

Design Changes May Delay India-Russian Vande Bharat Project, Matter Escalated To Diplomatic Level

RUSSIA, Nov 24 (Agencies): The India-Russian collaboration for manufacturing Vande Bharat trains has hit a roadblock over design changes, with the matter now being escalated to diplomatic channels. Russian rollingstock company Transmasholding (TMH) has taken the issue to intergovernmental level seeking quick resolution.

The matter was discussed in a high-level meeting between India and Russia, attended by India's foreign minister S Jaishankar and First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov. "We raised this issue during this meeting, and we hope that it was raised in



the right manner and on the right level," said Kirill Lipa, CEO of TMH, while speaking to Indian journalists at his Moscow office.

"We definitely need some support from the governmental leaders in India, and I believe that after this meeting we had last week, we

will get it," Lipa said. "It's not about design of the coach. It's the engineering behind it. While design can always be tweaked, real problem comes for the systems around. The whole layout of the coach is disturbed."

TMH officials revealed that on May 24, 2024,

they received an official letter from Indian Railways requesting changes to the composition and internal features of coaches. The modifications included altering the train composition from 120 trains with 16 cars each to 80 trains with 24 cars each. Additional changes involved increasing the number of toilets from three to four per car and including pantry cars and luggage zones, which weren't in the original design.

Indian Railways, responding to the situation, stated that they had sought responses for certain technical modifications as per MCMA, which were received after 4-5

months and are currently under examination.

The manufacturing was scheduled to begin by year-end at the Marathwada Rail Coach Factory (MRCF) in Latur, Maharashtra, where equipment installation is currently underway. However, production cannot commence until the design is finalised.

On the financial implications, Lipa stated, "We have insisted on certain compensation for the redesigning of the product because it takes time, which will escalate the cost. We sent an official document in last week of September and are awaiting official response."

Islamic State is primed to be thorn in the side of incoming Trump administration

GAZA, Nov 24 (Agencies): Amid a presidential campaign with foreign policy discussions more focused on the wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon, the Islamic State stayed under the radar while calling on supporters and operatives to attack Americans on election day.

The FBI thwarted a serious plot in Oklahoma City only weeks before the vote, prompting a similar public reaction to news involving the terror group that has become customary of late: is the Islamic State a renewed threat?

But the reality is that the terror group has always been one to watch.

For the last few years, since the fall of its so-called caliphate, IS was forced to reimagine itself and rallied by restructuring its cells in Europe and reinforcing strongholds in Afghanistan under the banner of the very busy Khurasan (ISKP) branch, and another in Somalia among others.

Now IS is primed to be a major thorn in the side of the incoming Trump administration and wants to be active this holiday season, as it has in years past.

In the depths of its chatrooms on Rocket.Chat, its chosen encrypted communications platform, IS talk of operations in the west has

spiked as Christmas and Thanksgiving approach. "For the brothers interested in stealing a car and using it in the next attacks," wrote one IS operative in November, with a YouTube link explaining remote car-jacking techniques.

Vehicle-ramming has been a hallmark of IS operations, including the 2017 attack on London Bridge and another on a Berlin Christmas market (which involved a stolen truck) in 2016. The terror group recently posted other manuals, one which urged the use of civilian drones as weapons.

A flurry of graphic propaganda images in October and November also beckoned followers to act. One image had the slogan "target them in their temples" with a knife and a Catholic church in the background, while another featured a Christmas tree and the barrel of what appears to be a Kalashnikov rifle and a hand grenade as an ornament.

The threat posed by [IS] should be at the very top of the Trump administration's priorities in terms of counter-terrorism

"ISKP has begun setting the information space by releasing threatening propaganda images depicting one of its fighters holding a gun beside a Christmas tree, another urging support-

ers to follow European terrorists who had conducted recent attacks in Europe," he said.

Though the amateurish IS imagery might suggest unseriousness, there is more than ample reasoning to take the threats very seriously.

ISKP carried out a lethal attack on a Moscow theater in March that brutally killed 145 people. Afterwards, the terror group vowed to bring the same level of carnage to an American target. It then released a poster featuring the US Capitol building and the message: "You are next."

Webber said recent plots involving Somali IS planners show the group has multiple, international vectors of attack.

"The Islamic State's Somalia branch has been linked to plotters in Sweden, for instance, where the branch's leader lived for a time," he said. "IS-Somalia was likewise linked to a bomb plot in Italy."

But the US and its political significance is never far from the brains of IS planners.

President-elect Donald Trump, who in a televised event announced the killing of the IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2019, is a common topic of online discussion among its followers and operatives.

Trump picks former policy adviser Brooke Rollins as Agriculture secretary

WASHINGTON, Nov 24 (Agencies): President-elect Donald Trump has selected his former policy adviser and lawyer, Brooke Rollins, as secretary to lead the Department of Agriculture.

If ratified by the Senate, Rollins is bound to lead a department which has a 1,00,000 person-agency with the agricultural offices in every county in the US. The budget of the Department of Agriculture in 2024 was \$437.2 billion.

"As our next Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke will spearhead the effort to protect American Farmers, who are truly the backbone of our Country. Brooke's commitment to support the American Farmer, defense of American Food Self-Sufficiency, and the restoration of Agriculture-dependent American Small Towns is second to none," Trump said in a statement.

Rollins is currently the CEO of America First Policy Institute which is reported to have close links with Trump's transition team and has been a champion of supporting Trump in the presidential campaign.

In her congratulatory post earlier this month after Trump won the election, Rollins posted



on X, "We love you, Mr. President, and we are so proud to continue the battle for an America built around your America First vision."

According to the Associated Press, Rollins, 52, graduated from Texas A&M University with an undergraduate degree in agricultural development before completing law school at the University of Texas. During Trump's first term, she served as the White House Domestic Policy Council director.

Prior to that, Rollins was president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, for 15 years. Her name was previously brought up as a potential White House chief of staff.

But she stood down and made way for Susie Wiles, communicating to Trump's transition team that the Agriculture secretary would be another role she can be up for. According to CNN, Trump and Rollins spoke about the role this week.

Missing Rabbi's Body Found In UAE, Israel Vows Action Against 'Anti-Semitic' Murderer

ISRAEL, NOV 24 (Agencies): The Israeli government has said that the body of a rabbi, who went missing on Thursday has been found in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), calling it a "criminal anti-Semitic terrorist incident".

Zvi Kogan, an envoy for the Orthodox Jewish group Chabad, had been missing since Thursday, according to the Israeli Prime Minister's office, prompting investigations by Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and UAE authorities.

"The murder of Zvi Kogan is a criminal anti-Semitic terrorist act. The State of Israel will use all its resources to bring the perpetrators to justice," the statement from the PM's office read.

Israeli officials have



been in contact with Kogan's family since his disappearance. Kogan, an Israeli-Moldovan national, was being searched for by the UAE's interior ministry, which is also investigating his case, British broadcaster BBC reported.

Russia 'Testing Cousins Of Oreshnik' Designed 5 Years After US Unilaterally Dumped Nuke Treaty

Abu Dhabi, which formalised ties with Israel through the US-brokered Abraham Accords, has upheld this relationship during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

However, Israel's travel advisory urges citizens to visit the UAE only for "essential reasons," citing "terrorist activity" that poses a "real risk" to Israelis in the country.

Tens of thousands protest soaring rents in Spain's Barcelona

SPAIN, Nov 24 (Agencies): Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Barcelona on Saturday evening to protest soaring housing prices across Catalonia.

Under the banner "It's over!" protesters demanded more accessible rentals for residents of the north-eastern region of Spain. According to organizers, 126,000 people participated in the protests, though Barcelona police estimated the crowd at around 22,000.

About 4,000 organizations — including unions, separatist groups, neighborhood associations, and femi-

nist collectives — joined the march.

Enric Aragonès, a spokesperson for the renters' union, told Spanish daily El País that the protesters have four clear demands.

First, they are calling for rents to be cut in half immediately, given that prices have doubled in the last decade.

They are also demanding indefinite rental contracts and for the government to return vacant homes and tourist rentals to the housing market.

Finally, they are urging the government to outlaw speculative purchases and enact measures to block the

accumulation of properties.

"Investors should not be able to come to our cities and play with homes as if it were Monopoly," said Carme Arcaño, another spokesperson for the renters' union.

A recent report by the CCOO union found that in Barcelona, the average cost of renting an apartment exceeds 50% of the average wage.

Although the city has announced a plan to ban all short-term rentals in the coming years, both legal and illegal tourist apartments remain a significant problem, protesters say.

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh NCC Directorate pays homage to martyrs on 76th NCC Raising Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: 2 J&K BN NCC, Jammu under the aegis of NCC GP Jammu, organized solemn Wreath Laying Ceremonies at Balidaan Stambh in Jammu and five other locations in Jammu, Udhampur and Reasi Districts to honor our brave martyrs on the occasion of the 76th NCC Raising Day. The ceremony at Balidaan Stambh, Jammu, a poignant tribute to the sacrifices made for the nation, was attended by Brig Pranab Misra, Offg ADG of JK&L Dte,



along with Officers of the Jammu GP, ANOs, Staff and NCC cadets.

Amidst an atmosphere of solemnity, the participants paid their respects

by laying wreaths at the Balidaan Stambh. The ceremony served as a heartfelt remembrance of the courageous soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation, Bharat.

Brig Pranab Misra expressed gratitude for the commitment and valor displayed by the

armed forces and emphasized the importance of commemorating the 76th NCC Raising Day as a symbol of honor, duty, and patriotism.

The event underscored the NCC's commitment to instilling a sense of discipline, leadership, and national pride among its cadets. The Wreath Laying Ceremony followed by 2 Minutes Silence in honour of the Martyrs Culminated with Bharat Mata Ki Jai stood as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by the armed forces in safeguarding the sovereignty of our nation.

Saba Ali congratulates BJP on their victory in Maharashtra LS elections

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 24: Saba Ali, BJP media incharge Srinagar extends her warmest congratulations to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for their resounding victory in the Maharashtra Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP's impressive performance in the elections reflects the trust and support of the people of Maharashtra in the party's leader-

ship and vision. Saba Ali commends the BJP for their dedication and hard work in serving the people of Maharashtra and believes that they will continue to work towards the progress and development of the state.

Saba Ali also acknowledges the efforts of the BJP workers and supporters who tirelessly campaigned for the party and helped secure the victory in the elections. Their commitment and

enthusiasm have played a crucial role in ensuring the success of the BJP in Maharashtra.

As a leader who values democracy and the will of the people, Saba Ali expresses her support for the BJP and looks forward to working together with them for the betterment of Maharashtra. She hopes that the BJP will continue to serve the people with integrity and dedication, and wishes them success in their future endeavors.

76th NCC Day celebrated with dedication, service to Nation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: The 76th National Cadet Corps (NCC) Day was celebrated with immense zeal and commitment under the aegis of the NCC Directorate, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. The occasion was marked by a series of impactful events reflecting the NCC's unwavering dedication to service, patriotism, and nation-building.

Cadets across the region actively participated in blood donation camps, contributing an impressive 829 units of blood. Tributes were paid to fallen heroes through wreath-laying ceremonies at war memorials in Reasi, Udhampur, Paloura, Rakhmuthi, and



Jammu. One of the most poignant moments of the day was the wreath-laying ceremony at the Balidaan Stambh in Jammu, where solemn tributes were paid to former NCC cadets who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. A wreath was laid on behalf of all ranks of the NCC Directorate as a gesture of respect and remembrance for their valor and dedication.

In recognition of exemplary service to the

NCC's mission, one Associate NCC Officer (ANO) and eight cadets were honored with the prestigious Director General NCC Commendation Cards. These awards celebrated their remarkable contributions to promoting the ideals of the NCC and their role as youth ambassadors committed to nation-building.

The awardees included Lt. Jamsheed Ahmed Zargar 3 J&K Bn NCC,

Baramulla; SUO Talib Hussain Piswal 3 J&K Bn NCC, Baramulla; JUO Maheema Maini 5 J&K Bn NCC, Poonch; Cdt Partiksha Sharma 1 J&K Naval Unit NCC, Srinagar; SUO Musadiq Razaq 1 J&K Girls Bn NCC, Srinagar; SUO Sanchi 1 J&K Girls Bn NCC, Srinagar; LDG Cdt Bandhana 1 J&K Naval Unit NCC, Srinagar; JUO Stanzin Yangzom 1 Ladakh Bn NCC, Leh; Cdt Purab Kumar 2 J&K Bn NCC, Jammu

Major General Anupinder Bevil, Additional Director General (ADG) of the NCC Directorate, congratulated the awardees and praised their dedication to the NCC's vision. He lauded the cadets and officers for their exemplary efforts

in shaping the nation's future and emphasized NCC's pivotal role in engaging youth beyond its traditional role as a feeder organization for the armed forces.

Major General Bevil highlighted the NCC's efforts in inspiring cadets to participate in social causes, instilling values of discipline, leadership, and community service. He encouraged all ranks to continue their outstanding contributions toward building a stronger and more united India.

The 76th NCC Day stands as a testament to the enduring values of service, leadership, and patriotism that the organization has consistently fostered among India's youth.

Haji Abdul Gani Bhat passed away Many social, political, media fraternity express grief

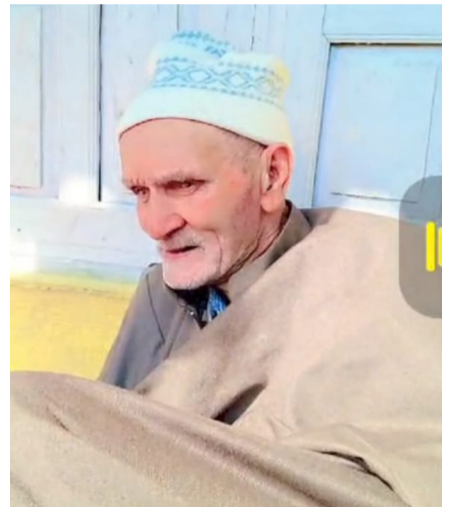
Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 24: Former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and president Democratic Progressive Azad Party Ghulam Nabi Azad has expressed grief shock over the sad demise of Haji Abdul Gani bhat father of our party leader Irshad Ahmad bhat resident of Bahihama area of Qazigund and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed sympathy and solidarity with family members of the deceased especially irshad Ahmad bhat.

Meanwhile former MLA Devser and Provisional President J&K DPAP Mohammad amin bhat expresses grief shock over the sad demise of Haji Abdul Gani and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed sympathy and solidarity with family members of the deceased

National Conference leader Reyaz ahmad bhat extended his deepest sympathies with the bereaved family in their hour of grief. He also prayed for peace to the departed soul.

DPAP Leader Choudhry Nazir also expresses grief shock over the sad



demise of Haji Abdul Gani and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed sympathy and solidarity with family members of the deceased

In a condolence message, President Journalist Union of Kulgam Gh Nabi khanday and other members has prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family in its hour of grief.

FROM PAGE 1

All-Party Meet: Govt Appeals to all parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament

and Rajya Sabha chairperson. At the meeting, Congress members raised the issue of bribery charges against the Adani group as well as the situation in Manipur.

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said the party wants discussion on Adani as well as ethnic strife in Manipur. He said while the chief minister of Jharkhand was arrested, the government still has confidence in the chief minister of Manipur despite bouts of ethnic violence.

The opposition party also sought a discussion on the issue of rising pollution in north India and train accidents.

Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said his party wanted the issue of Adani to be taken up in Parliament as the first thing when it meets on Monday.

It is a grave issue involving the country's economic and security interests as over Rs 2,300 crore were allegedly paid by the company to politicians and bureaucrats to get favourable deal for its solar energy projects, the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts.

The group has denied the charges. The Congress, he said, also wanted a discussion on issues like severe air pollution in north India, the Manipur situation, which has gone "out of control", and train accidents.

The meeting was convened by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju.

BJP president J P Nadda, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Gaurav Gogoi besides T Siva, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Anupriya Patel attended the meet.

The Winter Session of Parliament, beginning Monday, is scheduled to last till December 20.

The government has listed 16 bills, including the Waqf Amendment Bill, for consideration in the session.

The bills pending in the Lok Sabha include the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which has been listed for consideration and passage after the joint committee of the two Houses submits its report to the Lok Sabha.

The panel is mandated to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the Winter session.

Opposition members on the panel are demanding an extension in the timeline to submit its report. They have alleged that committee chair Jagdambika Pal, a BJP MP, is bulldozing the committee meetings and has sought the intervention of Speaker Om Birla.

Rijju said there is a provision to extend the tenure of the joint committee but as of now, there have been no discussions. He underlined that that the business advisory committee of the Lok Sabha is the platform to discuss the issue of extension of time for the panel.

The presentation, discussion and voting on the First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 has also been listed.

The other bill listed by the government for introduction, consideration and passage is the Punjab Courts (Amendment) Bill to enhance the pecuniary (defined as the monetary value of a case) appellate jurisdiction of Delhi district courts from the existing Rs 3 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

It also includes the Merchant Shipping Bill that seeks to ensure compliance with India's obligation under maritime treaties to which New Delhi is a party. Besides, the Coastal Shipping Bill and the Indian Ports Bill have also been listed for introduction and eventual passage.

As many as eight bills, including the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, are pending in Lok Sabha. According to a Lok Sabha bulletin, two bills are pending with the Rajya Sabha.

The Rajya Sabha bulletin said an additional bill The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, passed by the Lok Sabha is pending with the Upper House.

A set of proposed bills to implement simultaneous elections in the country are not part of the list yet, though some reports suggested that the government is likely to bring the proposed legislation in the coming session.

Ideals and Vision of Sant Kabir represent universal values: LG Sinha

Kabir to society, Sinha said, "his vision and ideals represent the universal values enshrined in our culture."

"His emphasis on inner search and social reform will continue to inspire every Indian and future generation," he added.

Security forces conduct search operation in Sidhra

Operation Group (SOG) launched the search operation this morning after getting information that terrorists might have planted an improvised explosive device (IED) on the main road adjoining a famous temple.

Police parties along with a bomb disposal squad armed with metal detectors rushed to the scene and conducted a thorough search operation on both sides of the bypass road near Bajalta Morh and adjoining forest area, the officials said.

Woman delivers baby on snow-covered road in Machil Kupwara

uncleared roads post snowfall. Locals alleged administrative negligence, stating that despite only few inches of snow, the roads remained non-motorable, leaving them to fend for themselves.

"The administration, particularly the concerned department, failed to clear just few inches of snow," said a local resident, adding that the situation reflects the step-motherly treatment of far-off villages. In videos shared on social media, residents expressed anger and frustration. "Is there anyone listening? We are being left at God's mercy," lamented a local, highlighting the difficulties faced in transporting the patient to the hospital.

Muhammad Jamaal Lone, a resident of Chontiwari, criticized the absence of adequate healthcare facilities in the area. "We have a health center, but there are no doctors. We've been struggling for hours to save the mother and child," he said. The incident sparked outrage, with locals demanding accountability from the administration besides, immediate measures to improve road clearance and healthcare services in the region, to avert such incidents in future.

Meanwhile, Tehsildar Saqib Ahmed, refuted the allegations, calling them baseless. He clarified that the woman developed severe labor pains and delivered the baby en route to the hospital. "Both the mother and the child are safe," he said.

He added that the administration had earlier advised expectant mothers nearing their delivery date to stay in Kupwara for immediate medical attention due to the snow. "I spoke to the family, and they expressed satisfaction with the services provided. Immediate healthcare was ensured, and both mother and child are currently under medical care at PHC Dudi," he stated.

Regarding snow clearance, the Tehsildar said, "Major roads have been cleared, and efforts are underway to clear the remaining ones."

Devotees gather in thousands to celebrate 50th Urs of a Sufi saint in J&K

area for the first time. The Urs happens every year for the Sufi saint. People are encouraged to learn from the Sufi saint who promoted brotherhood and knowledge all his life. All this is done so that people take inspiration to be a better human being and a follower of not only their religion but humanity as well," Islamic Scholar Abdul Rashid Dawoodi told ANI on Saturday.

The celebrations were held in the Kotranka sub-district yesterday where people from Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian communities participated in the event that was marked by spiritual devotion and unity. The program was attended by prominent Kashmiri scholar Raheed Dahoodi who presided over the event and Kotranka MLA Iqbal Choudhary.

Baji Mian, a revered Sufi saint from Kashmir, arrived in this region many years ago and settled in Trimili Sharif, where he passed away. His shrine, located in the heart of Trimili, has become a symbol of spiritual solace and unity. It is said that anyone who came to him with a sincere wish or request had it fulfilled, earning him a special place in the hearts of people from all walks of life.

The shrine remains a place of communal harmony, where people from all religions come together, sharing meals in the same 'langar' as an expression of brotherhood. However, despite its spiritual significance, the region remains remote and underdeveloped. Located approximately 50 kilometres away from the Rajouri district headquarters, Trimili Sharif and Kotranka are hilly and difficult to access, with limited connectivity.

Due to the area's sensitive nature, extensive security measures were put in place during the event, including the deployment of central forces and local police officials, ensuring the safety of all attendees.

The 50th Urs was not only a celebration of faith, but also a poignant reminder of the enduring legacy of Baji Mian Gulam Nabi Nakshbandi, whose teachings continue to inspire unity and peace across religious divides.

Two drug peddlers arrested in Srinagar; Contraband substance, cash recovered

Noorbagh, Srinagar." "During search, 14 grams of Brown Sugar and cash amount of Rs 34,000 (believed to be proceeds of narcotics) have been recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized", he said.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No.72/2024 has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace.

North Kashmir turns white as higher reaches receive snow; rains lash plains

many important roads including Mughal Road along the Pir Panjal, Bandipora-Gurez Road. Officials said, Mughal Road was closed for "precautionary measures" and that it will be thrown open soon.

Famous ski-resorts and tourist hubs of Gulmarg, Dhoodpathri, and Sonmarg also received fresh snowfall on Saturday.

As per a private weather forecaster, Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded 7.mm of snow accumulation today morning, Bandipora, also in north Kashmir recorded 5mm, Baramulla, also in north Kashmir recorded 4mm, and Handwara, also in north Kashmir received 8mm of snow.

Fresh plea in Supreme Court seeks probe into US indictment of Gautam Adani

The Adani Group has denied the charge, saying the allegations levelled by the US prosecutors are baseless and that the conglomerate is compliant with all laws.

It also vowed to pursue all possible legal recourse.

In his plea before the apex court, Tiwari contended that the allegations against Adani are of "serious nature" and should be investigated by the Indian authorities.

"The SEBI has to inspire confidence by concluding the investigations and placing on record the report and conclusion of the probes. As there were allegations of short selling in the SEBI investigation and the present allegations levelled by the foreign authorities might have connection or may not have, but SEBI's investigation report should clear this so that the investors may not loose confidence," the plea said.

Dimple leads protest demanding Statehood, Darbar Move restoration

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a large protest rally comprising hundreds of traders from Amphalla and New Plot to Janipur High Court Chowk. The rally was held to demand the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the resumption of the Darbar Move, which has been halted, affecting the region's trade and economy.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to use the upcoming parliamentary session to announce the revival of the Darbar Move. He highlighted the severe financial losses traders have faced since the move's suspension and called for action to allevi-



ate their hardships. Dimple also demanded the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the implementation of the conditions outlined in the Instrument of Accession, and the passage of a resolution to reinstate the region's

Dogra statehood with special privileges and state subject rights. He pointed out that despite significant GST revenue generated from traders, the government's decision to halt the Darbar Move has caused immense eco-

conomic damage. Dimple warned that continued inaction would further cripple the region's economy, affecting traders, transporters, and hoteliers. Dimple also accused the government of ignoring corruption scandals,

including alleged bribery scams involving Gautam Adani, which he claimed exploit innocent citizens. He criticized the BJP government for increasing unemployment and exacerbating the economic downturn in Jammu and Kashmir. Reaffirming his commitment, Dimple promised traders and residents that the fight to restore statehood and special status would persist. He also vowed to continue the struggle for the unification of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Prominent leaders, including Sachin Soi, Sat Sharma, Rupesh Bhat, Anmol Anand, Sanjay Kumar, and others, supported the rally, reinforcing the collective demand for justice and statehood restoration.

Army organized motivational lecture on highlighting local achievers at Gambhir Brahmana



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 24: Indian Army organized an event at Gambhir Brahmana Government High School.

It was conducted as an interactive Lecture on Local Achievers and their contributions which aimed to highlight the role of local personalities through actions in inspiring the younger generation. The session was attended by 80 civilians fostering a sense of unity and inspiration within the community. During the event, Indian

army personnel as well as community leaders delivered a lecture on the achievements of local figures to include elders of Gambhir who have made significant contributions in various fields. The speakers emphasized the importance of hard work, dedication, and community service.

This lecture not only helped the children learn about local heroes but also motivated them to pursue their goals with perseverance and a sense of responsibility towards society. The interaction between

the Indian Army personnel and the local community was an enriching experience for all participants.

The children were especially engaged, learning from the real-life examples of local achievers. The event ended with a sense of pride and motivation, reinforcing the importance of community spirit and the role of individuals in shaping the society.

This event, with its blend of education and inspiration, served as a reminder of the power of local role models in influencing positive change.

DFSS holds protest demanding restoration of Darbar Move

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: Workers of the Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by party president Ashok Gupta, held a massive rally in Jammu city, demanding the restoration of the Darbar Move.

The rally emphasized the significance of the bi-annual shift of the state secretariat and other government offices from Srinagar to Jammu, a tradition that had been in place for over 150 years until its discontinuation in 2021.

Gupta highlighted the importance of resuming the Darbar Move to revive Jammu's economy. He stated that the move would not only ensure administrative efficiency but also provide a boost to local businesses and industries, which have been



struggling since the move was halted. He pointed out that Jammu is primarily dependent on tourism, particularly from Kashmir and pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, and that

the end of the Darbar Move had affected both tourism and business in the region.

The Darbar Move, a practice initiated by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872, saw the shifting

of the capital between Jammu in winter and Srinagar in summer. The practice involved hundreds of carts, buses, trucks, and over 10,000 employees to transport the state's administra-

tive functions twice a year. Gupta emphasized that reviving this tradition would significantly support Jammu's local economy and tourism.

Gupta also expressed optimism that, following the recent partial resumption of the Darbar Move, the government would extend this practice to include all government employees. Additionally, he called on the government to fulfill its promise of providing free electricity (200 units) and 12 free LPG cylinders annually to residents of Jammu.

The protest saw participation from several party members, including Ashish, Abhishek, Prem, Bantu, Kalu, Vignesh, Vinay, Rampal, Vikky, and Suresh, among others, all united in their call for the restoration of the Darbar Move.

With time, people will realise they were misled by unachievable commitments: Bukhari

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 24: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Sunday, said that false and misleading propaganda against Apni Party led to its defeat in the assembly elections. However, he asserted that "those who misled the people and secured votes through unattainable promises and emotional sloganeering will soon be exposed, as they will fail to deliver on their poll commitments." He added, "Over time, people will realise that those who secured votes by making grand promises will be unable to fulfill them, both on political and economic fronts, simply because their commitments were neither realistic nor achievable."

Bukhari made these remarks today while addressing a party workers' convention in north Kashmir's Uri constituency.

The event was attended by party leaders and senior workers from across the constituency. Prominent party leaders, including the party's District President for Baramulla, Shabir Ahmad Shah; District Vice President Baramulla Mehmood Bukhari; the party in-charge for the Uri constituency, Choudhary Mushtaq; and all block presidents from Uri, were present on the occasion.

The event was aimed to deliberate on certain party matters, review the current political scenario, and address important public issues and griev-

ances. Speaking on the occasion, Bukhari urged the leaders and workers from the constituency to continue their sincere efforts to serve the people.

He said, "Our commitment is to uphold the politics of honesty and integrity for the greater good of the people, and we are in politics to serve the people. Time will prove that the Apni Party's agenda, which was outlined on its inception day — March 8, 2020, is deeply rooted in a realistic approach. There is no doubt that August 5, 2019, was a black day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, our dignity, special status, and rights were taken away. It deeply pained our hearts, and it continues to hurt us."

He added, "However, the politics of truthfulness and realism teaches us to move forward with dreams of a better future. We cannot afford to keep the future of our youth and coming generations hanging in uncertainty or continue walling on the events of August 5. Reality might be bitter and not politically beneficial, but Apni Party is committed to always speaking the truth."

He went on to say, "Unlike our political opponents, we do not believe in selling false dreams for our personal or political gains. We focus solely on achievable goals. After August 5, 2019, we ensured that the people of J&K retain their special rights to land and jobs here. If no one has been able to purchase

land or secure a job here in the past five years, it is solely because of our efforts. That was our contribution. And we will continue to strive to protect the rights of the people."

Reaffirming his demands and aspirations, he said, "The detainees must be released and given a chance to live a normal life with their families. We want our youth to prosper and have a brighter future. This is the time when each one of us must strive for a better and brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir and its people. Apni Party will remain committed to this cause."

Regarding the government, Bukhari said, "Since this government has recently taken over, we do not identify its faults and failures. However, as time passes, we will raise our voice against the failures of this government and continue highlighting the pressing public issues and grievances."

He stressed that "the government and ruling party should not indulge in revenge politics and should not make those who disagree with their ideology or policies suffer."

He said, "It is true that the NC has regained power after about 15 years, but that does not mean it will resort to taking revenge on its political opponents."

Bukhari urged the party leaders and workers to rejuvenate themselves and start their sincere efforts to serve the people in their respective areas of the constituency.

Community Radio Station inaugurated at Hanle

Top News Report

LEH, Nov 24: A Community Radio Station has been inaugurated by Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, GOC-in-C, Northern Command on Sunday at Hanle in the Changthang region of Eastern Ladakh.

The event was witnessed by the civilian dignitaries of the Changthang region and the community members of Hanle, Punguk and Khaldo villages.

This initiative aligns with efforts to extend the reach and enhance socio-economic development in the region. The Radio Station



will broadcast programs in Ladakhi as well as Hindi &

English languages.

The programs will be based on information, education, entertainment and local culture. It will serve as a platform for promoting cultural heritage, address social

issues and empower youth & women.

This project underscored the Army's commitment towards integration, bridging gaps in remote areas & promote local development.

Viksit Bharat Dialogue Empowering Youth in Politics: Ishant Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized a program for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat at Ward No. 50, Channi Himmat, Jammu. It was attended by BJP State IT Head Advocate Ishant Gupta, along with State IT Executive Member Rajinder Mehta, Ward General Secretary Amit Gandotra, Ashudeep Kohli, Nishant Sharma, and Advocate Arjun Pandoh. The gathering was held at Sham Kapoor's residence in Channi Himmat. During the 116th episode of Mann Ki Baat, PM Modi announced the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue to celebrate Swami Vivekananda's 162nd birth anniversary. The event will be held on January 11-12 at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, to engage youth with no political background in the nation-building process. He emphasizing the importance of technology and digital empowerment. PM Modi also praised the NCC for pro-

moting discipline and leadership. He encouraged citizens to share inspiring stories of Indian immigrants and their contributions to the world using #IndianDiasporaStories on the NaMo App or MyGov platform. He also highlighted the role of young Indians in aiding senior citizens and combating cybercrime.

Advocate Ishant Gupta described the Viksit Bharat Dialogue as a "game-changer," offering youth a platform to contribute to nation-building without needing a political background. He emphasized that the BJP's digital outreach has revolutionized citizen engagement, making governance more inclusive and accessible. Gupta highlighted the transformative role of technology in youth empowerment and credited the Digital India initiative for connecting people and creating new opportunities. He urged the youth to actively participate in such programs and utilize the opportunities provided by the government.

Army conducts medical patrol for Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Kulali

Top News Report

POONCH, Nov 24: Indian Army undertook a significant medical patrol for Gujjar and Bakkarwal Deras at Kulali who were returning back from the higher reaches during reverse migration.

The initiative was conducted over a period of last two weeks, where multiple patrols navigated through numer-



ous dhoks and tracks used by Bakkarwals for movement and provided them with crucial medical assistance.

To include elderly individuals, women and children who lack access to healthcare facilities in dhoks.

During these patrols the army medical team administered basic treatment conducted health check-ups and distributed essential medica-

tion to address the pressing health needs.

This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment to ensuring the welfare of communities residing in challenging regions.

A total 35 Gujjar and Bakkarwal were benefited from medical patrol conducted at various routes from which the Deras were returning back to their original habitats.

IPL Mega Auction 2025 Day 1 schedule: Check out when Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Jos Buttler will go under the hammer today!

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (Agencies): The much-awaited IPL Mega Auction 2025 will start at 3.30 PM (IST) in Jeddah on Sunday. However, not every player will be placed on the table for the bidders today as a total of 84 players have been selected for the opening day's auction. Sunday's list includes some of the planet's finest cricketers as the 'marquee pots' will be introduced before the teams on Day 1. Teams are likely to shell out huge sums of money and even use the Right

to Match (RTM) rule (which allows former franchisees the option to buy back their previous player for the sold price) to bring home these superstars. Some of the names included in the marquee list include KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami and Jos Buttler. Ahead of the IPL Mega Auction 2025 Day 1, here are a few things you need to know to enjoy the bidding war! On the first day, 12 sets will go under the hammer. This means the fate of 84 players will be sealed on Sunday.



The marquee lists will be revealed to the teams first to begin the day's proceedings. The Marquee Players are divided into two groups, each comprising six high-profile names. The first group includes Jos Buttler, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Kagiso Rabada, Arshdeep Singh, and Mitchell Starc. The second list comprises Yuzvendra Chahal, Liam Livingstone, David Miller, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, and Mohammed Siraj.

The auction will break for lunch once the marquee lists are completed. Capped Batters, All-Rounders, and Wicket-keepers will go under the hammer next before the bidding for Capped Bowlers begins. There will be a short break before the war for the bowlers begins, BCCI said. The first day of the IPL Mega Auction will come to an end after the first Uncapped Players set, comprising seven players, is made available before the teams.

Tottenham Hotspur thrash Manchester City 4-0 to end Pep Guardiola's 52-match unbeaten home run



NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (Agencies): Pep Guardiola conceded Manchester City are in uncharted territory after a 4-0 thrashing by Tottenham inflicted a fifth consecutive defeat on the English champions and ended a 52-game unbeaten home run. James Maddison struck twice in seven first-half minutes before Pedro Porro rubbed salt in the wounds of his former club and Brennan Johnson completed the rout. City's first defeat on home soil from open play since the eve of the 2022 World Cup leaves them still five points adrift of Premier League leaders Liverpool, who play their game in hand at bottom-of-the-table Southampton on Sunday. Guardiola has committed himself to turning around the poorest run of his managerial career after extending his contract until 2027

this week. But hopes his new deal could revitalise a City side, that have won an unprecedented four consecutive Premier League titles, proved short-lived. "In eight years we have never lived this kind of situation," said Guardiola, who joined the club in 2016. The 28-year-old is not expected to play again this season after suffering knee ligament damage in September and his absence has been at the heart of City's demise. Guardiola's men did start strongly as Guglielmo Vicario denied Erling Haaland and the Norwegian had another shot deflected wide. But the momentum of the match completely swung on Tottenham's first serious attack after 13 minutes. Dejan Kulusevski's teasing cross picked out Maddison who applied a

cool first-time finish. "In this moment we are fragile defensively," added Guardiola. "We started really well as normal but we could not score and then after that we conceded. After that we conceded some more which is difficult for our emotions right now." Spurs inconsistency Maddison had been frozen out of Postecoglou's starting line-up in recent weeks and was keen to prove a point to his manager. Son Heung-min's inventive pass freed the England international inside the box and he dinked the ball over the advancing Ederson to double Spurs' lead. Inconsistency has been the scourge of Tottenham's season so far. A 2-1 home defeat to Ipswich before the international break saw Postecoglou's men slip to 10th in the table. But they have now twice won comprehen-

sively in Manchester after a 3-0 win over United at Old Trafford. "It is significant because obviously they've got an unbelievable record here at home," said Postecoglou. "We've reached these standards before. It's about now not dropping as we have in certain games." Spurs quashed any idea of a comeback seven minutes into the second period. The excellent Kulusevski crossed for Dominic Solanke and he patiently laid the ball back for Porro to blast home from close range. Haaland clipped the bar from an almost impossible angle as City laboured to find a response. Instead, they were hit with one final sucker punch as Timo Werner eased past Kyle Walker and crossed for Johnson to tap home at the far post. The one glimmer of hope for City may be the return of Kevin De Bruyne after a two-month injury absence as a late substitute. However, Guardiola has to find solutions fast if his side's title defence is to be maintained into the new year. A daunting trip to face Liverpool at Anfield is next up in the Premier League, where City have not won in front of a crowd since 2003.

Kapil Dev praises Bumrah for leading team from the front

MUMBAI, Nov 24 (Agencies): Mumbai, Legendary Kapil Dev on Sunday praised Jasprit Bumrah for leading India's fight from the front in the ongoing Perth Test against Australia, and said the visitors have so far performed beyond expectations. Bumrah, the stand-in captain for the Perth Test, led the team's charge towards a vital 46-run lead in the first innings returning 5 for 30, as Australia were bowled out for a mere 104. Bumrah's 11th five-for in Test cricket was also his seventh in SENA, which put him at par with Kapil for most five-wick-



et hauls in these nations. "Special congratulations must be given to Bumrah because it is very rare that bowlers are chosen as captains and it feels very good to see him lead the way he has done," Kapil told the media here during the Vishwa Samudra Golden Eagle Golf Championship. Kapil lauded Bumrah

for bringing fast bowling back into the discussions in the country. Team India receives much-needed positive update on star batter's fitness amid KL Rahul's latest injury setback. "I hadn't thought before that a fast bowler would be discussed so much in India but that is happening today and I feel happy and proud about

that," he added. Win exciting prizes daily India staged a stunning comeback to take complete control of the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with Yashasvi Jaiswal's superlative 161, KL Rahul's 77 and a fifty from Virat Kohli extending their overall lead beyond 400. Kapil said India's performance was contrary to the exceptions given the team was recently trounced 0-3 by New Zealand at home. "The team is playing really well. They should win the first Test, positive thinking should always be there," he said.

India Padel Open: Kotomi-Elisabeth pair in women's final

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (Agencies): On the face of it, Kotomi Ozawa and Elisabeth Nogueras Lorenz form the unlikely of pairs. Kotomi, the 26-year-old Japanese tennis enthusiast turned padel amateur is a qualified midwife who has attended to countless women and newborns in her three-year nursing career. Lorenz, another tennis amateur who is trying to eke out a career in padel, holds a Masters in Business Administration who had to quit her high-paying finance job in Spain to test the uncertainties of the sport she loves. At the ongoing FIP Promotion India Padel Open – an initiative by the global body to take the sport to new geographies – the duo that came together only in February put on a superlative display to beat India's Sharmada Balu and Prerana Prathap 6-1, 6-2. Kotomi and Elisabeth will face Spaniards Ainize Santamaria Landa and Aitana Solan Domenech in the women's doubles final



on Sunday. The latter served a double bagel to the Indo-Irani duo of Tulsi Mehta and Banafsheh Shahpar. "It was a good game. I think we executed our strategies well and we hope to continue the momentum in the final," said Kotomi. Hailing from Shizuoka near Mount Fuji in Japan, Kotomi grew up aspiring to play professional tennis. During her university years though, she tried her hand at padel and instantly fell in love with the sport that marries squash and lawn tennis and is

played on courts around half the size of a tennis court. "I liked the dynamics and the style. It took me some time to adjust to its rhythm because the body was used to react differently. I had to get used to the corners and the glasses, but once I unlearned the tennis habits, it became easier," Kotomi, who has competed in international meets in Australia, Spain, England, Sweden, Italy, Indonesia and Singapore, says. A baseliner during her tennis days, Kotomi is happy to station herself

close to the net in padel while Elisabeth does most of the retrieving from the back court. With a decade of experience behind her in padel-crazy Spain, Elisabeth hopes to turn professional soon. A title on Sunday might just be the catalyst she needs. Finals line-up: Women's: Ainize Santamaria Landa - Aitana Solan Domenech (Spain) vs Kotomi Ozawa (Japan) - Elisabeth Lorenz (Spain) Men's: Pol Alsina - Edu Altimires Ros (Spain) vs Arthur Hugounenq - Thomas Seux (France)

How India's Chennai mints world-beating chess champions, one move at a time

CHENNAI, Nov 24 (Agencies): Chennai, India – Giant banners of a smiling teen beamed down on hundreds of students gathered at the school campus of Velammal Nexus to receive the young champion. It was August 10, 2024, and the school was ready to put on a show unlike any it had witnessed before: 220 drones projected the teenage hero's face into the sky as students held placards wishing him luck. In a country that reserves this kind of adulation for movie actors and cricketers, a new and unlikely star had been born – in chess. Clad in his checked school uniform, 18-year-old Gukesh Dommaraju finally walked up to the stage to receive a gift from his school – a luxurious E-Class Mercedes Benz that he did not have a licence to drive yet. The event was held to honour the young grandmaster's many accomplishments, including becoming the youngest ever to win the Candidates Tournament – an event that saw 16 top-rated chess players battle it out to determine who



would take on the reigning world champions. Gukesh, a poker-faced, lanky teen, belongs to the latest crop of chess wizards that the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu has churned out in the last decade. The state is home to 31 grandmasters out of 85 in all of India and even proudly boasts of a temple for the sport in the Tiruvallur district. Now, the biggest prize of all awaits: Starting on Monday, Gukesh will face off against China's Ding Liren at the World Chess Championship in Singapore. Over 14 gruelling games that will stretch until mid-December, Gukesh will try to better the much older Ding, 32, who is the defending champion. Yet, the glory that has embraced Indian chess

in recent years is rooted in humble beginnings, defined by sacrifice and dedication – from the stars themselves, their families and coaches – at schools and academies where dreams are forged, and then shaped for success. A school for champions Gukesh is far from the only – or first – star chess champion to graduate from a Velammal Nexus school. The school's roster includes other young trailblazers like Rameshbabu Pragnanandhaa, Rameshbabu Vaishali and Arjun Kalyan. While the Rameshbabu siblings compete with each other to break national and international records, Arjun is one of the coaches of the Indian national team, which won double

gold at the Chess Olympiad in September in Slovenia. They have all been trained by one man: 56-year-old Velavan Subbiah, the coach of the school's chess team for more than a decade. Located in the bustling neighbourhood of Mogappair in Chennai, 150 metres (490 ft) from the main Velammal school campus, the educational group's exclusive chess academy is impossible to miss, with large posters of its famous alumni propped up behind a glass facade at the entrance. We walk into a room designed like a large conference chamber, complete with 50 odd chairs and tables and a chess scene playing out on a giant poster in the backdrop. As he waits for the first batch of students for the day to troop in, Velavan takes a trip down memory lane. "I had initially been associated with the school as the parent of their former student – chess grandmaster Varshini. I stepped in to coach the team when the old coach resigned," he says.

BMS national office bearers meet concludes, calls for ESI, PF ceiling revisions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: The two-day National Office Bearers (NOB) meeting of Bhatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) concluded in Jammu today, attended by national representatives from various states and UTs. Key issues confronting the working classes were discussed, with a focus on revising the ceiling limits for Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI).

The meeting highlighted that the current PF contribution limit of Rs 15,000, set years ago, is outdated, as minimum wages now exceed this amount. Similarly, the ESI ceiling, last revised five years ago, is inadequate and requires immediate revision. BMS emphasized the need for



universal EPF and ESI coverage for employees, irrespective of their salary scale.

BMS resolved to launch awareness programs on the Labour Codes, advocating for the implementation of the Wage Code

and Social Security Code while opposing the Industrial Relations (IR) and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Codes due to anti-worker provisions.

National General Secretary Ravinder Himte announced that the 70th

year of BMS would be marked with yearlong celebrations, concluding in Delhi on 23 July 2025. A "Shramik Sampark Abhiyan" will run from 1-15 December 2024 to connect with workers across industries, followed by

industry-wise seminars and public meetings focusing on social harmony, family values, self-reliance, environmental protection, and civic duties.

J&K-specific issues were also discussed, including the regularization of daily wagers and the revision of honorariums for scheme workers such as Anganwadi and Asha workers, which have remained stagnant for 15 years. BMS demanded that J&K Bank's administrative control be shifted to the Finance Ministry for parity with other national banks.

The press conference, addressed by Ravinder Himte and Vice President S. Mallesam, underscored BMS's commitment to addressing workers' concerns nationwide.

Jodhamal's 20th Annual Day culminates

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: Jodhamal Public School celebrated its 20th Annual Day and Prize-Giving Ceremony on Sunday. The event was graced by Chief Guest Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, J&K, and Guest of Honour Ansuya Jamwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, alongside dignitaries including MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa and Director Industries & Commerce, Arun Kumar Manhas.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp and a captivating invocation dance. Principal Girish Kumar presented the Annual Report, highlighting the school's academic and co-curricular achievements. Jodhamal retained its top rank as J&K's No. 1 Co-Ed Day School for the 10th consecutive year, as per Education World and Brainfeed Magazine rankings,

securing 28th position Pan-India. The Principal proudly shared exceptional CBSE results for 2023-24, with Class XII achieving an average of 84.06% and Class X attaining 87.8%.

Major milestones included hosting ICARUS-24, India's first school-level drone war competition, where Jodhamal's teams advanced to nationals. The school also triumphed in the F1 in Schools National Championship, qualifying for the World Finals in Saudi Arabia. Innovations by Karman Singh, securing British and Indian patents, further showcased Jodhamal's excellence in STEM education. The literary contributions of 177 student authors were also lauded.

This year, Jodhamal sent 120 students to represent J&K in national sports championships, a record-breaking achievement. Participants excelled in skating, swimming, and Matsogi-do, reinforcing

the school's holistic development ethos.

Cultural highlights included the play "Ripple Effect - Waves of Change, emphasizing empathy and sustainability. Performances ranged from divine renditions of Shiva to Kathak and an orchestra featuring 120 students, transporting the audience through the '70s, '80s, and '90s. The rock band, Stampede, left the audience spellbound, while the unveiling of "Jodhamal Reels 2024" offered a glimpse behind the scenes.

Awards recognized student leaders and achievers, with Challenge House sweeping the Academic, Sports, CCA, and Overall Trophies. Trustee Nandan Kuthiala commended the team's synergy in making the event a grand success. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by CCA Prefect Devisha Gour and the National Anthem, leaving a lasting impression of excellence and celebration.

DG NCC Commendation Awards for Civilian Employees Recognize Outstanding Service

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: The Director General of the National Cadet Corps (DG NCC) has honored three civilian employees from the NCC Directorate, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh with the prestigious DG NCC Commendation Cards and Medals for the year 2024. These awards recognize their exceptional service, unwavering commitment, and significant contributions to the smooth functioning of the NCC organization.

The recipients of the DG NCC Commendation Awards for 2024 were Paramjit Kaur, Junior Statistical Assistant (JSA), NCC Directorate, Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh; Tilak Raj, Senior Stenographer, NCC Group Headquarters,

Jammu; and Ramanjeet Singh, Lascar, 3 J&K, Baramulla.

These individuals were recognized for their dedication, professionalism, and tireless efforts in supporting the operational and administrative functions of the NCC Directorate. Their invaluable contributions have been instrumental in maintaining the high standards of service and efficiency within the organization.

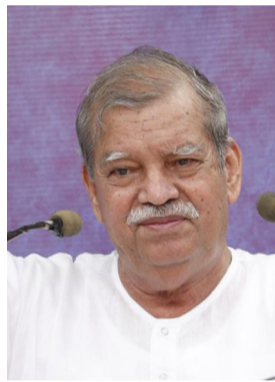
The awards were presented during a ceremonial event that celebrated the hard work, discipline, and exceptional service of the honorees. The DG NCC extended his heartfelt congratulations to the awardees, commending their critical role in ensuring the NCC's continued success and effective execution of its programs.

Sadguru Madhuparamhans enlightens congregation with teachings of Kabir Sahib

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 24: Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi, Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, captivated the congregation today with his profound discourses, delving into the unique and unparalleled teachings of Kabir Sahib. He emphasized that while the words of Kabir Sahib are often misunderstood and ridiculed, those who sincerely contemplate and internalize them can grasp the essence of the soul and the Supreme Soul.

Sadguru explained that Kabir Sahib likens the soul and the Supreme Soul to dreams, as saints have described the Supreme Soul as Niranjana. He elaborated that Kabir Sahib's words carry immense depth, offering insights that reveal the dream-like nature of the world. "The world, the Guru, and the disciple—all are dreams," he said. "Only the Sadguru transcends this dream. Everything else is a construct of the mind. If the mind is con-



trolled, the illusion of the world ceases to exist."

He recounted the knowledge imparted by Vashishtha Muni to Lord Ram, where the sage explained that the world is a manifestation of the mind. By halting the mind's activity, the worldly illusion dissolves. Sadguru emphasized the importance of meditation but cautioned against superficial expectations, stating, "Meditation is not about seeing or hearing anything specific. The true essence lies beyond these sensory experiences."

He dismissed the notion that spiritual sounds, often referred

to as 'anahad,' represent ultimate truth, explaining that they arise from the union of nerves and eventually fade. True realization, he asserted, comes from connecting with the wordless, eternal sound, known only to saints. "A genuine Sadguru does not entangle a seeker in these intermediate stages but guides them toward ultimate liberation," he added.

Sadguru also reflected on the universal reference to the divine as "Sahib," a term that signifies the Supreme Being and is found in various scriptures, including the Ramayana and the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He reminded the congregation that divine grace through the Sadguru is essential for true spiritual progress.

In closing, Sadguru urged seekers to move beyond superficial practices and align themselves with the deeper truths of Kabir Sahib's teachings, guiding them on the path to self-realization and ultimate liberation.

Viksit Bharat young leaders dialogue to begin on Nov 25

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 24: District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta announced the launch of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, a reimagined version of the National Youth Festival, which commemorates Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary.

The event will take place on January 11-12, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and will be graced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative aims to heighten youth participation in shaping India's future by engaging them in dialogues and workshops led by global and national icons.

Gupta emphasized that this year's program, aligned with the Prime Minister's vision, has been restructured to inspire transformative youth engagement. The

event will feature interactive sessions and workshops, providing young participants with opportunities to exchange ideas, gain insights, and learn from inspiring personalities, thus fostering their role in nation-building.

A key component of the festival is the Viksit Bharat Challenge, a four-stage competition designed to unlock youth creativity and ideas for India's development. The first stage, the Viksit Bharat Quiz, will run from November 25 to December 5, 2024, on the MY Bharat platform.

Open to individuals aged 15-29 years, this quiz will test participants' knowledge of India's achievements. Winners will progress to the second stage, **Essay and Blog Writing, where they will present innovative ideas related to India's growth across 10 identified themes.

In the third stage, Viksit Bharat Vision Pitch Deck, state-level qualifiers will present their ideas on chosen themes. These presentations will form state teams for the national competition.

The final stage, National Championship, will take place at Bharat Mandapam, where state teams will compete on January 11-12, 2025. The winners will present their ideas directly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Calling for active participation, Gupta urged the youth of districts Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam, and Shopian to register for the Viksit Bharat Challenge.

Registration is open to individuals aged 15-29 on the MY Bharat platform (mybharat.gov.in) starting November 25, 2024.

GMC Doda observes World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2024

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 24: To commemorate World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2024, the Department of Microbiology Govt Medical College Doda, hosted a series of different awareness programmes from 18th-24th November 2024 under this year's theme, "Educate, Advocate & Act Now".

The programmes/events held during the week were conducted under the patronage of Principal GMC Doda Prof Dr Rakesh Bahl and under the guidance of HOD Department of Microbiology GMC Doda Dr Safia Khan.

The different programmes organized during the week were aimed to raise awareness about the growing concern of antimicrobial resistance, emphasizing responsible and rational use of antimicrobials.

Speaking on the occasion, HOD Micro GMC Doda Dr Safia Khan emphasized the significance of responsible antibiotic use, stating Antimicrobial resistance

is a pressing global concern, threatening our ability to treat infections effectively. As healthcare professionals, it is our responsibility to promote judicious antibiotic use and develop strategies to combat resistance.

The week featured different events held by the MBBS and Nursing students besides staff of the concerned department viz marathons, mehendi competition, poster making competition, slogan writing and rangoli making events followed by signatures for prescribed pledge, creating awareness about the Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR), where the staff have shown their full participation by signing the pledge on judicious use of antibiotics.

Pertinent to mention here that every year, World Antimicrobial Week is observed from November 18-24 under different themes. The theme stressed on the global community to educate stakeholders on AMR, advocate for bold commitments and take concrete actions in response to AMR.

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