

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Police Arrest drug peddler with contraband in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): Police have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substances from his possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. Police on Tuesday said it intercepted one person at a checkpoint established at Eco Park Baramulla, and during frisking, 65 grams of contraband Charas-like substances were recovered from his possession.

The accused has been identified as Roshan Ahmad Awan, a resident of Paranpeelan Uri was arrested and shifted to Police Station Baramulla, where he remained in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Baramulla, and an investigation has been initiated.

Police have urged the people, if they witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near them, to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112.

Terrorist associate arrested along with arms, ammunition in Handwara

SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): Security forces on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a terrorist associate in Handwara along with arms and ammunition. A spokesperson said that during a cordon and search operation in Bongam Chogul area of Handwara, security forces apprehended a terrorist associate named Ashiq Hussain Wani of Sopore.

The statement reads that a pistol along with a magazine and seven live rounds were also recovered from his possession. "A case FIR No. 200/2024 under relevant sections has been registered in police station Handwara and investigation is underway," it reads.

J&K Admin gears up to update electoral roll for Panchayat Polls

JAMMU, Nov 5 (Agencies): To initiate the process for the panchayat polls, the Jammu and Kashmir administration

Indian Army successfully conducts patrolling of key point in eastern Ladakh's Depsang

NEW DELHI, Nov 5 (Agencies): The Indian Army successfully patrolled one of the patrolling points in the Depsang area of eastern Ladakh on Monday, days after Indian and Chinese troops completed the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, the two friction points in the region.

The patrolling at Demchok began on Friday, a day after the completion of the troop disengagement process.

"Following the consen-



sus reached between the Indian and Chinese sides for disengagement and resumption of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok, the Indian Army patrol

to one of the patrolling points in Depsang was successfully conducted today. This is yet another positive step towards maintaining peace and tranquility on the LAC,"

the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps posted on X.

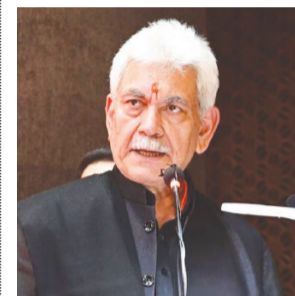
It was not immediately known which patrolling point the troops patrolled.

The Indian Army has commenced a verification patrolling at Depsang, the second friction point in eastern Ladakh, the government said on Saturday.

Replying to a query at a weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had

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Statehood restoration as certain as sun rising in East: LG Sinha



SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that restoration of statehood to J-K is as certain as 'the sun rising from the east.'

He was quick to add that no political effort or promises are required to fulfill this commitment.

LG made these remarks while addressing a gathering in North Kashmir's Baramulla district during an event, appeared to be a pointed response to the National Conference's repeated pledges to restore statehood—a task, he suggested, that requires no political efforts.

"The assurance that

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'Never knew he was so ill': Omar regrets losing Devender Rana

SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): While speaking in the assembly, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said he regretted loss of Davender Rana, saying he didn't know that he was so ill.

Speaking during the obituary references in the House, Omar Abdullah said he would prefer

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Maj Gen A P S Bal takes over as GOC of Delta Force in J&K

JAMMU, Nov 5 (Agencies): Major General A P S Bal took charge as General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Counter-Insurgency Force 'Delta' in the Chenab Valley region of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

He succeeds Major General Upkar Chander. "Major General APS Bal, SM (Sena Medal) assumed the command as GOC CIF (Delta)," the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

He honoured bravehearts by laying a wreath



at the war memorial here and extended his best wishes to all ranks, encouraging them to uphold the highest standards of operational preparedness at all times, it said.

Based in Batote, the Delta force was raised on September 5, 1994. It has been instrumental in countering terrorism in the Chenab Valley districts of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban.

Omar Abdullah remembers Atal Bihari Vajpayee's efforts for J&K

SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while showering praises on the former Prime Minister of India late Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tuesday said that had Vajpayee's roadmap on J&K been followed in full, J&K would not have



been where it is at present.

"What should I say about the late Vajpayee.

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CM Omar's sons watch J&K Assembly proceedings for first time



SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's two sons Zahir and Zamir watched the legislative assembly proceedings for the first time on Tuesday.

In their 20s, both Zahir and Zamir Abdullah —

Omar's sons with his estranged wife Payal Nath — are lawyers by profession.

They arrived at the legislative assembly complex here and watched the proceedings during obituary references. The fourth generation Abdullahs sat beside Nasir

Aslam Wani," the advisor to the chief minister.

Both Zahir and Zamir actively took part in the campaign for the assembly elections in the family's bastion Ganderbal from where their father contested and won.

They had joined him in electioneering even during the parliamentary polls which Abdullah lost from north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency.

In the assembly polls, the duo was actively seen canvassing for their father, meeting and interacting with party

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Will take action against private schools violating govt norms: Education Minister

SRINAGAR, Nov 5 (Agencies): Education Minister Sakina Itoo Tuesday said that government will examine and take action against those private schools that are violating the norms.

Speaking with reporters, Sakina, said that government has already notified norms and criteria regarding charg-



ing of tuition and other charges.

She said that private schools in Jammu and Kashmir are being regu-

lated by the government and those hiking fee in violation of norms will be taken to task.

"If in case any private schools is working against the rules and norms framed by the government, the concerned authorities will accordingly examine and take action against those institutions," she said.

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EDITORIAL

MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING

Mutual understanding is the foundation of effective communication and healthy relationships, whether in personal lives, workplaces, or within communities. It involves the recognition of different perspectives, needs, and emotions, fostering an environment where individuals feel valued and heard. In a world that often feels increasingly divided, the importance of mutual understanding cannot be overstated. This essay explores the significance of mutual understanding, its components, and strategies for cultivating it in various contexts.

At its core, mutual understanding is about empathy and respect. It is the ability to see situations from another person's viewpoint, which enables constructive dialogue and conflict resolution. In personal relationships, mutual understanding helps to strengthen bonds and build trust. When partners or friends strive to understand each other's feelings and perspectives, they create a safe space for open communication. This understanding allows for the resolution of misunderstandings and reduces the potential for conflict, leading to healthier and more fulfilling relationships.

In the workplace, mutual understanding is equally vital. Diverse teams bring together individuals from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. By fostering an atmosphere of mutual understanding, organizations can harness this diversity to drive innovation and creativity. Employees who feel understood and respected are more likely to contribute their ideas and collaborate effectively. Moreover, a workplace characterized by mutual understanding promotes employee well-being, reducing stress and increasing job satisfaction.

Several key components contribute to mutual understanding. First and foremost is active listening. Active listening involves fully concentrating on what is being said, rather than merely waiting for one's turn to speak. This practice requires an open mind and the willingness to consider the speaker's feelings and viewpoints. Active listening can be cultivated through techniques such as summarizing what has been said, asking clarifying questions, and reflecting on the speaker's emotions.

Another essential component is empathy. Empathy goes beyond mere understanding; it is the ability to emotionally resonate with another person's experience. When individuals practice empathy, they connect with others on a deeper level, which can lead to greater trust and cooperation. Empathy can be nurtured by seeking to understand the underlying emotions behind someone's words, allowing for a more profound connection.

Respect is also crucial in fostering mutual understanding. This means valuing others' opinions, even when they differ from one's own. Demonstrating respect encourages open communication and helps to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings. Without respect, conversations can quickly become confrontational, stifling any potential for understanding.

To cultivate mutual understanding, individuals can implement several strategies in their daily interactions. One effective approach is promoting open communication. Encouraging individuals to express their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment fosters a culture of honesty and transparency. This can be achieved through regular check-ins, feedback sessions, or informal gatherings that allow for open dialogue.

Practicing patience is another important strategy. Understanding that mutual understanding may take time and effort is crucial, especially when dealing with complex issues or deeply held beliefs. It is essential to approach conversations with patience, allowing for a thorough exploration of different viewpoints without rushing to conclusions.

Conflict resolution techniques can also enhance mutual understanding. When conflicts arise, it is vital to address them constructively. Techniques such as mediation or facilitated discussions can help individuals navigate their differences and find common ground. These processes encourage participants to listen to each other, express their needs, and collaboratively work towards solutions.

In educational settings, teaching empathy and conflict resolution skills can have a profound impact on future generations. Programs that focus on social-emotional learning help students develop these essential skills early on, preparing them for respectful and understanding interactions in their personal and professional lives.

Mutual understanding is an indispensable aspect of all human relationships. It fosters empathy, respect, and effective communication, ultimately leading to healthier connections and more productive environments. By actively listening, practicing empathy, and promoting open dialogue, individuals can cultivate mutual understanding in their interactions. In a world that often emphasizes differences, it is essential to prioritize mutual understanding as a means of bridging divides and fostering unity. Through conscious effort and commitment, we can create a more understanding and compassionate society, where every voice is valued and heard.

Census, caste & citizenship: Spin to win in endless cycle

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The obviously leaked stories about the launch in 2025 of the long-delayed Census and the move to keep everyone guessing on whether the exercise will include a caste-based enumeration are guaranteed to rekindle the public's interest and rebuild the BJP's and its helmsman Narendra Modi's political capital. The calculation seems to be that if the Census were to include an update on the National Register of Citizens, there would be even higher yields on the capital, all to the advantage of the ruling BJP.

The timing of the leaks suggests that the politically astute Mr Modi and his BJP team probably sense an urgent necessity to strengthen the appeal of the over-used and now possibly marginally declining appeal to over-exposed voters of the decades-old slogan, newly paraphrased by Yogi Adityanath as "Batange to Katange", that is, divided we fail, as it would instigate new confrontations about identities, citizenship, infiltrators and terrorists, targeting the Muslim community and so infusing fresh significance to the slogan. A Census with a new, updated version of the National Register of Citizens would give fresh meaning to the Hindu majority in danger of being overwhelmed by the rapidly increasing Muslim minority population, as the BJP and Mr Modi have belatedly realised the potential of the hoary tag: statistics are damn lies.

Much thought has gone into marketing the Census exercise; there are political benefits to be earned by marketing it as Mr Modi's magnanimity. One obvious constituency of potential voters that the BJP and Mr

Modi can hope to capture through the Census exercise will be women, who have been guaranteed 33 per cent reserved constituencies in state legislatures and in the Lok Sabha. By holding out the promise of more power to women through the representation route, Mr Modi is targeting women as voters and as party loyalists who can be mobilised to bring in more women into the very patriarchal BJP. Offering a share in power is going one step further than doling out cash to women through the once derided now embraced variations on the "Ladki Bahin Samman Yojana".

The value of women's votes was measured by the BJP in the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh elections. It was confirmed in Haryana. With the crucial Maharashtra elections coming up, where the BJP's ruthless tactics of buying out the Opposition by splitting and appropriating regional parties will be tested, the women's vote matters even more. After resisting the idea of a head count, the renewal of speculation stoked by leaked information suggests that the Modi government appears to have overcome its distrust of numbers and data generated through surveys and research, the probability that a caste enumeration would be part of the Census exercise implies that the ruling side has found political value in getting it done. It could be that the build-up of pressure from the Congress and its INDIA group partners on one hand and from within the NDA, especially Nitish Kumar in Bihar and N. Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh, have forced Mr Modi and his team to rethink the politically sensitive issue.

By kicking off a caste and religion-

sect based Census as part of the decadal head count exercise, the Modi government can take credit then it will serve to deflate the Congress, which has made the issue part of its core agenda as and when the INDIA group comes to power at the Centre. For a leader who campaigned at one point during the Lok Sabha elections that the Congress and its regional party allies were intent on dividing the "nation" and destroying the Constitution by trying to amend the provisions on reservation for Scheduled Castes, the volte face on the caste census is significant. Either the BJP and Mr Modi by himself, or the RSS, BJP and Mr Modi may have collectively come to the realisation that the caste census issue and its data can be used to serve the Hindutva agenda of a uniform, universal, homogenised and hegemonist Hindu identity. Critics of reservation and the politics of quotas and reservation and the tug of war over expansion of quotas and additions to the list of caste-based reservations have argued, convincingly, that the more the quotas and the additions to the "list" of castes, the greater the control dominant caste elites gain by seeding internecine and inter caste competition. The rush to raise the cut-off to Rs 15 lakhs a year for the "creamy layer" within the Other Backward Classes by the Eknath Shinde government in Maharashtra is a case in point. The Chhattisgarh government decision to create 50 per cent OBC reservation for councillors and panchayat representatives in municipalities and panchayats is a pointer that the BJP is testing how the caste census can be utilised for political gains. The imperative to reinvent itself is understandable; neither Mr Modi

as the helmsman nor his team masterminded by Amit Shah succeeded in giving the BJP a clear majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The BJP won in Haryana, but it did so because the Congress failed to convert its advantage into wins and ended up snatching defeat from the predicted victory. The BJP must be under stress because it is certainly aware, probably acutely so, that the theory of marginal returns does set in once the peak is over. Between now, that is in every state and Union territory election, in municipal and panchayat elections, and the next Lok Sabha election in 2029, the BJP will have to face the prospect that every election could be the one where the margin has been crossed and the decline has begun. In this extremely uncertain time, the BJP and Mr Modi have no choice except to overhaul the narrative of Hindutva by creating a diversion. As Prime Minister Modi tours the country from election meetings in Jharkhand and Maharashtra to his annual face-to-face with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia, where his repaired statue, twice the size of the Statue of Liberty, was unveiled in 2018, the public patiently waits for him to get to the crux of matter; how much money will he spend; not on alleviating the distress caused by chronic and incurable poverty but something much less, a tiny direct transfer into individual bank accounts. The bitter pill, therefore, needs sugar coating. After 10 years in power and elected for another five years, the going is getting tough even for the tireless helmsman and his BJP, aided by the RSS. Spinning the bits in the kaleidoscope in what appears to be an endless series of bewitching patterns can change soon enough into a dull and dreary distraction.

Who reads books these days?

By: Vijay Garg

As we have become a modern, we are becoming slaves of technology. As a result, the distance from books is continuously increasing. The scope of education being accessible to all has increased, rather than actually happening, it is becoming more an impression that the continuous distance of students from the education on which books have been the basis, is a cause of great concern for the educationists. Education policies and curriculum have been changing with time, yet students are finding other ways instead of books. For example, the distribution of education is being crossed with the help of notes, passbooks and 'One Week' series etc. If students are pursuing higher education without books, then how much are they able to learn or absorb? What kind of citizens are being created in the citadels of education? The truth is that despite the advice and lectures given to the readers or students, they do not become book-oriented because the environment is continuously becoming anti-book. After TV, the arrival of smartphones and easy access to data after this, everything has become online.

It seems that consumers no longer need to go to the market or children to school, nor do employees need to go to the office. 'Work from home' or work and meetings from home has started happening online and all the education is being done sitting at home through video. In such a situation, who would open the book and sit down to read? The question has arisen that who reads books in such times? When there is a plethora of information, 'Google Baba' is present to give every information without even opening the pages, then why should students reach for the book? Who will look after libraries when there are so many options for books? With audio-videos of every subject available on YouTube and a network of coaching centers spread across every city, aren't books just going to become mere adornments of libraries? Time cannot be turned back under any circumstances. It is true that the speed of man has increased a lot. No one has extra time or they want to achieve success in minimum time and at all costs. Now the thought of walking long and safely has completely disappeared. While restraint, contentment there is complete

scarcity, in such a situation everyone wants peace, but not now, it can be achieved only in the grave, because peace is needed tomorrow. Today everyone is in the race to achieve and get more money. In such a situation, instead of becoming readers of books, they have become constantly in the grip of audio-video. In literature, this is the time of story, not novel. It has been a subject of debate that who has more readers in poetry or story? The way novels are coming out every year, this proves that even though there is less inclination towards books in colleges, but readers of the popular genre of literature, the novel, remain even today. The novel has not been called the epic of the present times for nothing. Even in these anti-book times, novels being published and read on a large scale is proof that novels have readers. Any reader who wants to understand time and society in depth is still buying and reading books. There is a big difference between being a reader of literature and students becoming readers. Those teachers who pass the examination through the 'One Week' series and sooner or later, when they start teaching, are the teachers of this

era. The hidden layers and reasons behind readerlessness can be understood. How will such teachers be able to create new readers without being readers of books? Therefore, at this time, there may be many other reasons behind the increasing lack of readers and the process of turning away from books or the end of books, solutions to solve them can also be found, but unlike the increasing technology, changing thinking and decreasing restraint on books. It is happening. In such a situation, being a reader of books feels like an oasis in the desert. In almost any public place or on trips everyone holds the smartphone in their hand and keeps their attention focused on it, as if they are doing some deep research in it. In such a situation, whenever a person is seen reading with a book in his hand, it seems that something strange in the world is passing through the scene.

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

Somy Ali calls being Salman Khan's ex-girlfriend 'the biggest curse'

Somy Ali, an actress and social worker who dated Bollywood actor Salman Khan in the 90s, says being known as his ex-girlfriend is the biggest curse for her.

Speaking exclusively to agency, Somy Ali spoke about her days with Salman, her tryst with Bollywood, her NGO 'No More Tears', underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, etc.

When asked, "if her tumultuous relationship with Salman Khan had yielded any benefits, such as increased recognition, as even today she's often identified as Salman's ex-girlfriend".

Somy replied: "It is the biggest curse for me. I have done such good work in America and achieved so much, still, people



identify me as Salman's ex-girlfriend."

She continued, "Salman Khan will be turning 59 or 60 this December, still behaves like a playground or high school bully, harassing others due to his inse-

curities. He keeps telling people not to talk to me."

She also discussed Manisha Koirala, revealing: "Manisha told me that someone had informed her I had cancer. I was shocked. I said: 'No, what are you saying?

I wanted to reach out to you because we hadn't been in touch for so long. In fact, I had no idea about your cancer."

She shared insights on her relationship with Salman Khan, saying, "Salman has a pattern — the seven-year itch. Women usually stay with him for seven years before discovering his true self. Interestingly, he never ends relationships; the girl always walks away. It takes her seven years to figure out what he truly is."

Somy Ali revealed she had no contact with the Indian film industry for a long time. She explained, "Whenever I thought of Indian cinema, it reminded me of Salman, filling me with sadness and depression."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu de-stresses through exercise



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu took the help of some heavy weights to de-stress herself.

Samantha took to Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself doing some heavy weighted squats. She is seen dressed in a black oversized T-shirt paired with shorts and

knee caps.

In the clip the actress is seen holding weights, which seems to be above 40 kilos of weight, as she did one squat.

For the caption, the actress wrote: "Destressing #CitadelHoneyBunny premieres today."

'Citadel: Honey Bunny', which also

stars Varun Dhawan, is by Raj & DK. While Varun takes on the role of Bunny, a skilled stuntman, Samantha plays a spy in the film.

The storyline revolves around Varun and Samantha as they change their identities and embark on an exciting, globe-trotting adventure. The cast also includes Kay Kay Menon, Saqib Saleem, and Sikandar Kher in significant roles.

Samantha on Sunday enjoyed a serene holiday in the picturesque landscapes of Rajasthan.

She shared a collection of photos from her trip, showcasing her stunning looks, pottery sessions, and delightful food experiences. She showcased a range of outfits, including one featuring the Tamil word 'Azhagi', which means beautiful woman and is also described as a girl whose smile could outshine the sun.

Sharing the photos, the 'Kushi' actress wrote in the caption: "A blissful few days Now ready for a crazy November How gorgeous is @sixsens-esfortbarwara A beautiful mix of old and new... Thank you for a wonderful experience!"

She had previously shared her stunning photos, exploring the splendour of nature alongside wild animals. The post was captioned, "Witnessed the splendour of nature alongside half a tiger. PS. The last slide is the magnificent picture of the tiger."

Akshay is a 'proud husband' as wife Twinkle's book gets shortlisted for award

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has called himself a "proud husband" after his "brilliant" author wife Twinkle Khanna's book "Welcome to Paradise" got selected for an award.

A true cheerleader, Akshay took to his Instagram, where he shared a link to vote for Twinkle's book for the award.

He captioned it: "Proud husband alert! My brilliant wife's Welcome to Paradise has been shortlisted for the Crossword Books Award in the fiction category. If you like her work, now's the time to show some love and cast a vote."

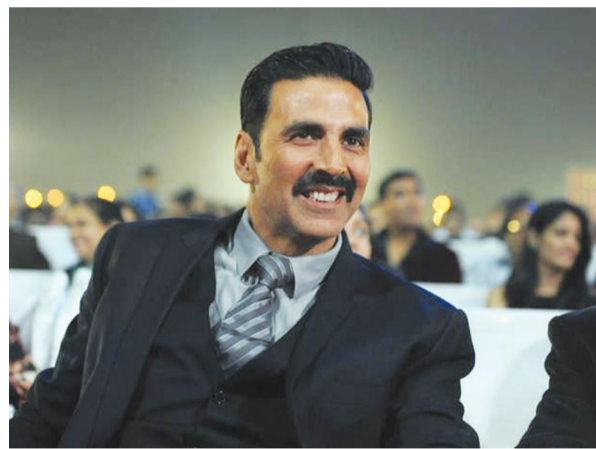
"Welcome to Paradise" is Twinkle's fourth book.

It has a collection of five short stories, each with a central female character.

On the film front, Akshay was seen in the recently released "Singham Again" by Rohit Shetty.

The third installment from the "Singham" franchise has a motley of stars. It has Ajay as Bajirao Singham, Ranveer Singh as Simmba, Akshay Kumar as DCP Veer Sooryavanshi, Kareena Kapoor as Bajirao Singham's wife Anvi, Deepika Padukone as police officer Shakti Shetty, Ravi Kishan, Jackie Shroff and Tiger Shroff.

Arjun will be seen play-



ing the role of antagonist named Danger Lanka. The film will have a contemporary spin to the "Ramayana" and was released on Diwali on November 1.

He also has "Housefull 5" produced by Sajid Nadiadwala. "Housefull

line Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, Chitrangda Singh, and Soundarya Sharma.

Chunky Pandey will reprise his comedic role as Aakhri Pasta in the film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani. Production for 'Housefull 5' commenced on September 15 in London, where the initial 45 days of shooting will take place. The movie is scheduled for theatrical release on June 6, 2025.

The 'Housefull' series was launched in 2010 and has since enjoyed three successful sequels: 'Housefull 2' in 2012, 'Housefull 3' in 2016, and 'Housefull 4' in 2019.

Diljit Dosanjh professes love for India during Jaipur tour

Punjabi sensation Diljit Dosanjh, during his Dil-Luminati Tour, expressed love for the country and said yeh pagdi hamari shaan hai. The singer-actor took to Instagram, where he shared a reel from his team's profile. In the video, Diljit was joined by a fan on stage, who was sporting a traditional Rajasthani turban.

Diljit was heard saying, "Inki pagdi ke liye zor daar taaliya. Yeh pagdi hamari shaan hai. Yeh humari desh ki khoobsurati hai... (Please clap for his turban. The turban is our pride. This is the beauty of our country.)"

"Har do-teen chaar ghante baad humaari boli, khaana change hojata hai. Yeh humaari desh ki beauty hai. (In every two-three hours our language and food changes. This is the beauty of our country.)"



He then talked about his love for the country.

"Aur hum jaahan jaahan se hai —koi Jaipur se hai, Koi Gujarat se hai, Delhi se hai, Haryana se hai, Punjab se hai — Hum sab ko pyaar karte hai. Aur hum sab ke saath is desh ko pyaar karte hai. Marwariyo ke liye zor daar taaliyon. (And wherever we are from — Jaipur, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana or Punjab — We love all. And together we love our country. Please clap

for my Marwari brother.)"

Diljit's performance in Delhi marked the beginning of his extensive 10-city Dil-Luminati tour. The tour includes stops in various cities such as Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Pune and Kolkata, among others. The singer launched the Indian segment of his Dil-Luminati tour in the national capital on October 26. The tour is set to conclude in Guwahati on December 29.

Dance chose me, says Kathak exponent Meghranjani Medhi

Katha kahe so kathak kahave... not just a beautiful dance form that tells a story, but the accompanying footwork, both slow and fast; hast mudras taken from nature and accessible languages — Sanskrit and Hindi — make Kathak stand apart from other classical forms. Two of its leading exponents, Marami Medhi and Meghranjani Medhi, were in Chandigarh on Sunday for their first-ever performance together in the city.

Based out of Guwahati, this mother-daughter duo, which has been performing together for about 25 years now, were here for Triveni Kala Utsav, organised by the Chandigarh Sangeet Natak Akademi in collaboration with Triveni Sangeet Sabha. Meghranjani, who started dancing at five, feels fortunate to have gotten this in her life. "I danced for fun when I was a child, and loved doing it with my mother," opens up the dancer. In due time, she started training under her mother Marami Medhi in guru-shishya parampara. "My training started at home. I was fascinated to begin with and in due time, fell in love with Kathak. It is my oxygen



now; dance is my life."

Not just her mother, her father too has played a significant role in Meghranjani's journey. Joy Prakash Medhi, a renowned classical vocalist, composes pieces for them to perform. "Together, we have travelled the world, taking Kathak far and

wide."

Not just the dance, the mother and daughter are actors too. If Marami acted in a couple of films, for Meghranjani offers started coming rather early. For long she did acting and dancing, trying to balance both the worlds.

However, lately, dance has taken precedence over films.

"When you are called a Kathak exponent, the responsibility on your shoulders is huge. Most of my time now goes in practice and performances. Though I do take film projects off and on, dance is a priority."

She often practises with her mother. Together, they run the dance school Sur Sangam in Guwahati. Meghranjani's journey is pretty different from her mother's though. Marami is amongst the first few who introduced Kathak to the North-East. She would travel from Guwahati to Lucknow to learn dance from her guru, late Surendra Sethiya ji, and, at times, he would visit her.

Running the school for over three decades now, they are happy to see enthusiastic learners every year. "There is a rich art scene in Guwahati today. Our dance institute has been playing its part in promoting Kathak in the North-East. My mother started it, and now, as her daughter and disciple, it's my duty to promote and propagate Kathak further."

'Young boy at heart': Anil Kapoor praises Anupam Kher as they turn gym-buddies

Actor Anil Kapoor took to Instagram, where he shared a string of pictures of the two working out in the gym

Bollywood star Anil Kapoor has lauded Anupam Kher's hard work and said that a Hindi medium boy managed to cross over and make his mark in Hollywood is a testament of his hunger to make a mark.

He even shared moments from the gym working out together.

Anil took to Instagram, where he shared a string of pictures of the two

working out in the gym. The first image has the two posing together for the camera.

The second picture shows the two stars doing a plank workout.

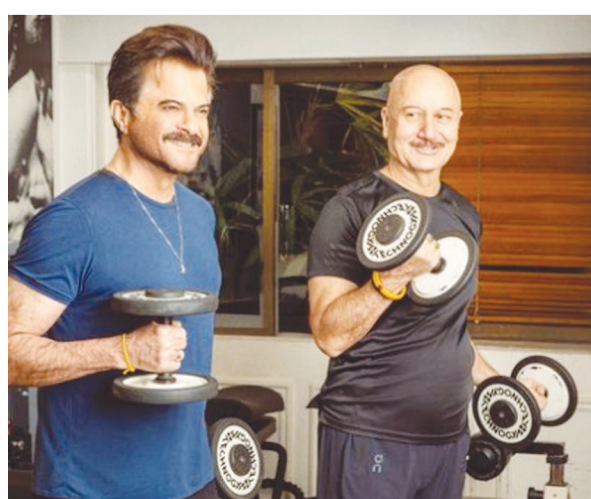
In the third photograph, Anil is seen doing a leg workout while Anupam is exercising his back.

In the last image, the duo is seen working on their biceps and toning it.

For the caption, he

wrote: "Anupam Kher is the joker in the pack, a chameleon who can do anything. That fact that a Hindi medium boy managed to cross over and make his mark in Hollywood is a testament of his hunger to make a mark, to make his family proud with his work. I have been extremely fortunate to work with him and know him personally..."

"At 69, Anupam is a



young boy at heart and trust me, I can vouch for the fact that he can push himself at the gym too! All the best Anupam Kher for #Vijay69.. by celebrating your 40 years in cinema, the entire industry is saluting you... We love you."

Last month, Anupam shared details about the injuries he suffered while making his upcoming film "Vijay 69."

He told agency, "It was

a serious injury. I had a broken shoulder, delicated, it was thrown out of my socket. But then work has to go on, I think that's what training teaches you. When you're a drama school product, the show must go on, that's the first thing that they teach."

The star added: "Life has to go on. I've seen my father, unless he was bedridden, I saw him going to the office every

single day. Leave at 8 in the morning, come back at 8 in the evening, walk 14 kilometres one side, 28 kilometres both sides."

"So I think it was part of our life that we never saw anybody in the family. We were a family of 14 in a small room. Complaining was not a luxury. I think complaining about smaller things is a luxury for different people."

Shiv Sena, Swami Ji express anger over proposal on Article 370, tribute to Geelani

Omar advised to focus on public issues, not to spark flames of fundamentalism

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 5: Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj, head of Shri Rajmata Jhande Wala Mandir group, and Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni have strongly criticized the proposal on Article 370 brought by the PDP MLA during the Jammu and Kashmir assembly session and paying tribute to the late radical Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who was accused of being anti-India statements and was a supporter of Pakistan.



In a joint press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that reciting the praises of the late pro-Pakistan separatist and fundamentalist leader Syed Ali Shah

Geelani in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly is a highly condemnable and unnecessary act.

He said that this misdeed can once again ignite the spark of separatism and fundamentalism in Kashmir.

Sahni said that Geelani had many allegations against him ranging from treason to Hawala funding, inciting stone-pelters.

He used to dream of merging Kashmir, an integral part of India, with Pakistan. Due to which the masters sitting in Pakistan were pleased and awarded him 'Nishan-e-Pakistan'.

While expressing anger, Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand ji Maharaj said that during the oath taking ceremony of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah had taken oath on the unity and integrity

of the nation, had given a statement of keeping Article 370 on hold and focusing on the development of the state and suddenly on the first and second day of the assembly session, Omar has changed his colour like a chameleon by singing the song of Article 370 and Geelani. Sahni and Swami ji advised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to focus only on the overall development of the state and public issues and not create an atmosphere of confusion in the state by raising useless issues.

Chandel urges strong stance against terrorism

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 5: Hinduist BJP leader Gururaj Raju Chandel spoke to journalists about the severe air pollution currently affecting Pakistan.

According to Shri Chandel, Pakistan's pollution levels have reached alarming heights, reportedly close to 2000, which he attributed to the Diwali firecrackers set off in India. He compared this with pollution levels in Delhi, which have reached around 400, stating that Pakistan's pollution levels are 40 times higher than Delhi's.

Chandel claimed that the worsening air quality has forced the Pakistani government to declare a week-long holiday as people seek shelter



indoors to protect themselves.

Chandel remarked that India's firecrackers are so powerful that they impact the air quality across borders, highlighting Pakistan's vulnerability. He further added that if India's military were to initiate action with missiles, the consequences for Pakistan would be devastating. According to Chandel,

Pakistan is experiencing the strength of Indian gunpowder and is helpless to counter Indian missile power.

Chandel also criticized Pakistan for continuing to infiltrate terrorists into India, despite the ongoing issues within its own borders.

He called upon the Indian Army to consider conducting another surgical strike in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to reclaim the territory for India. He assured Indian soldiers that the government fully supports them in defending the nation.

Chandel expressed that the entire country stands in gratitude to the Indian Army, emphasizing that every Indian is indebted to the Army for ensuring the nation's safety.

AJKTWA passes various resolutions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 5: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) convened a meeting under the chairmanship of Ajit Singh at its head office in Channi Himmat, Jammu.

During the meeting, association members discussed a range of issues faced by the transport sector, including the delayed elections for various unions. This session led to a series of resolutions aimed at addressing these concerns and fostering more democratic processes within the organization.

In a press conference following the meeting, AJKTWA informed the public that five bus group presidents had been discharged from membership. These individuals, including Gurdeep Singh from the Banihal Group, S. Kuldeep Singh from the Kathua Group, Labh Singh Chib from the R.S. Pura Group, Bharat Bhushan Sharma from the Chamb Group, and



S. Mohinder Singh from the 2x2 Jammu Poonch Group, had held their positions for 7-8 years without proper elections. Their prolonged tenure was viewed as a barrier to fair representation, and their dismissal was aligned with a resolution passed by the AJKTWA on October 17, 2024. Additionally, Vijay Singh Chib, the President of the Matador Union Jammu, was expelled due to alleged indiscipline and actions that reportedly undermined the unity of AJKTWA.

The association revealed that concerns about the delayed elections were previously raised by opposition members, who warned of potential disruptions to bus services if the issue wasn't addressed. This led to a recent AJKTWA meeting with opposition members, where it was decided that any caretaker president obstructing the election process would face removal from AJKTWA membership. In response to the growing urgency, AJKTWA also met with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to discuss the pending elections. The LG expressed his support and assured that efforts to hold these elections would be initiated soon.

AJKTWA's leadership appealed to the J&K government and administration to expedite the elec-

tion process, stressing that democratically elected unions are essential for fair governance within the transport sector. The association noted that empowering its members through elected representation would help dismantle the influence of self-proclaimed presidents who have held their positions without proper procedures.

To address the recent vacancies and strengthen AJKTWA's leadership, the association announced a new committee that will work alongside Chairman S. Ajit Singh.

The appointments include Naresh Bakshi Chief Patron, Mohd Shafi Mir Deputy Chairman JKUT, Rajinder Sharma Vice Chairman Jammu Province, Mohd Ashraf Lone Vice Chairman Kashmir Province, Davin-

der Choudhary President Jammu Province, Sheikh Javaid Ahmed President Kashmir province, Arun Bakshi General Secretary Jammu Province, Haji Abdul Rashid, P K Vaid, Gurdeep Singh, Inderjit Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Nanak Singh, Tajinderpal Singh, Ramesh Chander Sawhney, Sher Singh and Mohinder Singh Mintu Advisors, Sanjay Sethi Vice President J&K All Auto Union, Shabir Ahmed Ganai General Secretary Kashmir province, Afaq Hussain Khan Advisor, Manmeet Singh Cashier Jammu Province, Mohd Ashraf Cashier Kashmir province, Pankaj Vaid Chief Coordinator Jammu Province, Gourav Kapoor Chief Organiser Jammu Province, Mohd Shafat Bhat Chief Organiser Kashmir province, Raspal Singh, Babu Singh, Baldev Singh, Harinder Singh Randhawa and Roshan Lal Sharma Vice Presidents, Chanchal Singh Deputy Cashier, and Amandeep Singh Vice President Jammu Province.

This expanded committee, with members appointed across various roles, is expected to contribute to the smooth functioning of AJKTWA and advocate effectively for the welfare of transporters in Jammu and Kashmir.

GDC Marh organizes blood donation camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 5: Red Ribbon club, GDC Marh in collaboration with Dept. of Immunohaematology and Transfusion Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Jammu, National Blood Transfusion Council (NACO) and JKACS, Jammu organized blood donation camp in the college premises under the supervision of Principal Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul who urged the students to actively participate in this virtuous act.

He apprised the students that blood donation is one of the best ways to thank the humanity and God. Besides, saving precious lives of our fellow citizens during the tough time, it helps the donor by activating the bone marrow, lower blood pressure and other various health benefits.

Dr. Taseer Mehraj (Sr. IHBT) from GMC Jammu raised awareness among the college students about the importance of blood donation and his team including Savita (Sr. Staff Nurse), Renu Sharma (Sr. Staff Nurse), Sonu (Counsellor), Badal (MTS), Rafiq, Pawan

Sharma accompanied him in the double Decker bus.

The camp was organized by Red Ribbon Club Convenor Prof. Anjana Chib and coordinated by Dr. Shakun Sharma and Dr. Sheetal Sharma.

Principal of the college appreciated the indefatigable efforts of team of medical GMC, Jammu and college faculty (Red Ribbon Club) especially Prof. Anjana Chiba and Dr. Shakun Sharma for organizing the Blood donation Camp in the college and assured that such type of camps will be organized in the future for the wellbeing of humanity. Potential donors had to go through preliminary tests before donating. Once they cleared these tests, they could donate their blood.

About 70 Students namely Abhay Jamwal, Nitish, Gourav, Geetanjali, Sahil, Diksha Devi, Riya, Komal, Roshni, Kashiv, Kunal, Vedan, Koshal, Vivek, Rohit, Summy, Tarun, Nikhil, Raman, Rahul, Udhay, etc. of Sem 5th, 3rd

participated with great enthusiasm in this ethical event and 40% of the donors were pioneers.

In addition to the students, few faculty members Dr. Ashu Jolly, Dr. Balwinder Saini, Prof. Surbhi Gupta and Alumi President Atul, Akhil and Abhishek Singh also participated in the blood drive and donated blood.

President of the Student college Presidium, Sushain Sharma (Sem V), members of college presidium Eshaan, Atinder, Riya, Manish, Richa, Sneha, Kashish, Navpreet, Keetan, Abhishek, Sangeeta and their team played a significant role in organizing the maiden event.

This activity has proved the strength of the college and a new dimension added to it. Refreshment was arranged for the donors and the GMC staff by the College and each donor was given a certificate by JKACS acknowledging their effort.

The officials from the IHBT, GMC Jammu presented a certificate of Appreciation to GDC Marh.

The Principal of GDC Marh presented a memento to Dr. Taseer Mehraj and his team as a souvenir.

DC Doda ensures fairness in auto fares, addresses long pending public concerns

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 5: J&K, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh, has introduced impactful reforms to ensure fairness and transparency in auto rickshaw fares, addressing long-standing public concerns.

The initiative, spearheaded by DC Singh in collaboration with the ARTO Doda, aims to provide clarity on fare regulations and taxes, benefiting both auto drivers and passengers alike.

In response to questions raised by local auto drivers, the ARTO Doda clarified the tax obligations for different types of auto rickshaws. Traditional petrol and diesel autos are required to pay several fees, including registration, token tax, fitness fees, and passenger tax. These fees are designed to ensure compliance with safety and regulatory standards. On the other hand, electric autos, promoted as a sustainable option, are only subject to a registration fee. This lower cost makes electric autos an appealing choice for operators and aligns with the district's focus on eco-friendly transportation solutions.

To address the issue of fare transparency, the

ARTO mandated that all auto rickshaws display fare lists visibly. Fitness certificates are not issued to autos that fail to comply with this rule. By implementing this measure, the administration seeks to prevent overcharging, allowing passengers to verify fares easily and fostering greater trust in the transportation system.

Under guidelines set during the Amarnath Yatra, the ARTO has instructed electric auto drivers to charge a uniform fare of Rs 10 per kilometer. This rate standardization ensures consistency and fairness, especially as electric autos gain popularity. Although no specific rates beyond this guideline have been established, this Rs 10 per kilometer rate provides a clear reference to avoid confusion among passengers and drivers.

In response to concerns about inconsistent fares, the ARTO has taken a firm stance on fare enforcement, warning that strict action will be taken against any electric auto driver charging more than the standard Rs 10 per kilometer rate. This approach aims to prevent arbitrary pricing and protect passengers from inflated fares.

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