

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Riddhima Kapoor Sahni: Trolls ka kaam hai kehna, humara ignore karna



NATIONAL | 7

Ex-VP Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates exhibition as part of LokManthan event

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Former Pak PM Imran Khan arrested in protest case hours after bail in second Toshakhana case



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-321 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Gautam Adani charged in US with USD 250 mn bribery, fraud



NEW YORK/NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by US prosecutors over his role in an alleged bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

US prosecutors charged Adani, 62, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over USD 250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than USD 2 billion in profit.

This, they alleged, was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project.

Police solve hit and run case in Sopore

SOPORE, Nov 21 (Agencies): Sopore police Thursday said, they solved a hit and run case of a doctor who was killed in a road accident two weeks ago.

Police official said, on 5th of November 2024 Police Station Sopore received report about an unknown motorcyclist hitting and injuring one pedestrian Dr. Azhar Hassan Janwari, from Upper Ashpeer, Sopore during evening hours. An FIR (No. 233/2024) was registered in this matter, and the investigation began. The victim was initially treated at SDH Sopore and later referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment where he succumbed to his injuries on 18th of November 2024, official said. He said, after extensive efforts, including technical means, one Nadeem Hameed Badam also from Upper Ashpeer, Sopore was identified as the

Turn to page 9

K Sanjay Murthy takes oath as Comptroller and Auditor General of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): In a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to K Sanjay Murthy as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

The event marked a pivotal moment for the nation's governance and financial accountability framework.

During the oath-taking, Murthy pledged unwav-



ering allegiance to the Constitution of India and affirmed his commitment to uphold the

sovereignty and integrity of the country.

In his solemn vow, he said, "I am Kundu

Sanjay Murthy, who has been appointed as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, who has been appointed as the Comptroller and Examiner General of India, I take an oath to God. I swear by God to the Constitution of India established by law and to the Constitution of India established by law. I will have true faith and loyalty. I will have true faith and loyalty."

Turn to page 9

Jammu Petrol Pumps declare 'No Fuel For Vehicles Driven By Minors', DSE issues circular



JAMMU, Nov 21 (Agencies): In a bid to ensure the safety of underage children, petrol pumps in Jammu have put up

posters declaring "no fuel for vehicles driven by minors".

The Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of

School Education (DSE) has also issued a circular prohibiting minor students from driving motor vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, to school.

The poster, first displayed at petrol pumps in the Gandhi Nagar area on the Jammu-Pathankot highway reads, "No fuel for minors".

"The poster, which

Farooq Abdullah refuses to sit in Bigger Chair at Jammu Event, Earns Praise

JAMMU, Nov 21 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday politely declined to sit in a chair specially arranged for him during an event here as it was larger than the other chairs.

Abdullah inaugurated the four-day 'National Agriculture Summit and Kisan Mela' at the main campus of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sci-



ences and Technology (SKUAST) in Chatha. As Abdullah came on the stage, he noticed that his chair was notably larger. He requested

the SKUAST management to replace it with a chair of the same size as the others on the dais, garnering applause from those present at the event.

Since assuming office on October 16, Abdullah has emphasised public accessibility, instructing police not to create 'green corridors' for his movements to minimise disruptions caused by VIP traffic.

Turn to page 9

Hope Centre will investigate allegations against Adani Group: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Nov 21 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said the Centre should take the allegations against the Adani group seriously and investigate the matter thoroughly.

The former chief minister said while he does not have much information about the issue related to the Adani group, there have been

allegations of wrong doing earlier as well.

"If it has happened, it needs to be investigated," he said.

"There is a demand for JPC. I hope the Central government will take the issue seriously and investigate it thoroughly," Abdullah told reporters.

The billionaire industrialist has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of

a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts.

This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors have alleged. US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if

Turn to page 9

Terrorist Infiltration Case: NIA raids 8 locations in Jammu

JAMMU, Nov 21 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is conducting raids at eight locations across the Jammu division in connection with a recently registered case involving the infiltration of Pakistani terrorists into India, official

Turn to page 9

Jammu and Kashmir tops Urban Youth Unemployment Rate at 32 Per Cent: PLFS Report



SRINAGAR, Nov 21 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest urban youth unemployment rate at 32 per cent among job-seekers aged 15 to 29

during the July-September quarter, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). The Times of India reported that Odisha followed closely

with a youth unemployment rate of 30.4 per cent, while Delhi had the lowest rate at 4.3 per cent, followed by Gujarat at 8.3 per cent.

The nationwide urban youth unemployment rate stood at 15.9 per cent for the quarter, marking an improvement from 16.8 per cent in the preceding April-June period. Overall unemployment across all age groups in urban areas also reached a record low of 6.4 per cent, down from 6.6

Turn to page 9

JDA demolishes Kashmir Migrants' Shops; sparks protests, condemnations

JAMMU, Nov 20 (Agencies): The Jammu Development Authority has demolished a dozen shops belonging to displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu city, allegedly without issuing notices, sparking protests from various sections that demanded action against the officials.

The demolition drive was launched on Wednesday, targeting shops built by displaced Kashmiri Pandits near the Muthi camp three decades ago, officials said.

The old shops were located on land belonging to the Jammu Devel-



opment Authority (JDA). Relief Commissioner Arvind Karwani visited the area to assess the situation and assured the affected families that new shops would be constructed for them in the area.

"These shops were on JDA land. The relief

organisation has floated tenders for constructing a shopping complex in Muthi Camp Phase II. Ten shops will be constructed soon and allotted to these shopkeepers," he said.

Political parties, including the BJP, PDP and

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

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Prem Lata Soni** W/o Shri I.D. Soni (Bhaddu Wale) who left for heavenly abode on 12-11-2024.



Smt. Prem Lata Soni

Tenth Day will be performed on 21-11-2024 (Thursday) at 11 AM at our residence 3/103, Indira Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu. **Kriya** will be performed on (Saturday) 23-11-2024 at our residence at 12:30 PM.

Uthala shall be held on 23-11-2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Mahajan Hall, Shalimar Road, Jammu (Near Rambheshwar Temple)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Shri I.D. Soni - Husband
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Alka Soni & Shri Vinod Soni
Smt. Anupama Soni & Shri Sanjay Kumar Soni
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Vijay Lakshmi & Shri Chaman Lal Gendotra
Smt. Kuldip Anand W/o Late Shri Vidya Sagar Anand
Smt. Neelam Kapahi W/o Sh. S.C. Kapahi
Smt. Anu Radha Nargotta W/o Dr. Narinder Nargotta
Grand Children: Deepankar & Eya, Danish, Aakarika & Shubam Gupta, Ansh
Phone No: 6005421997, 9419191938, 9419317819

TENTH DAY KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Soma Devi** W/o Late Sh. Manish Ram Anand.



Smt. Soma Devi
DOD : 8/11/2024

Tenth Day will be performed on Sunday 17/11/2024 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Shiv Temple, Janipur Colony, Jammu. **Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday 20/11/2024 at our residence H.No. 127B, Sector 4, Pamposh Colony, Jammu, at 12:00 Noon

Uthala will be performed on Friday 22/11/2024 at Shiv Temple, Janipur Colony, Jammu, 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sneha Anand & Late Deep Raj Anand
Smt. Sneha Lata & Sh. Sheetal Kumar Anand (Sheetal Medical Agencies)
Smt. Indira Verma & Sh. Neeraj Kumar Anand (PNB-AGM)
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Satish Khanna - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Tripta & Late Sh. Vijay Kohli - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Kiran & Sh. Devi Prasad Abrol - Daughter & Son-in-law
Mobile : 9419126661, 8899759650

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SDR. SANDEEP SINGH (GOLDY)** S/O LATE SH GURCHARAN SINGH GUJRAL R/O 629 PANJBAKHTAR ROAD, JAMMU, WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 13/11/24.



SDR. SANDEEP SINGH (GOLDY)

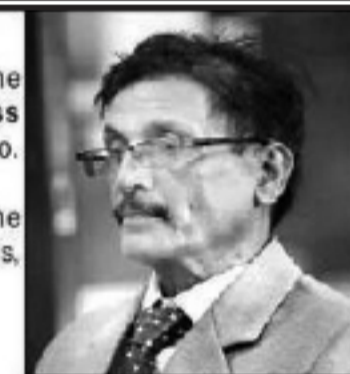
PROGRAMME AT OUR RESIDENCE
AARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB - 20-11-24 10AM

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS AT GURDWARA SAHIB, CHAND NAGAR, JAMMU ON 22-11-24 FROM 11 AM TO 12:30 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
GURMEET KOUR (MOTHER)
SANDEEP KOUR (WIFE)
ABHAJEET SINGH (SON)
RASLEEM KOUR (DAUGHTER)
& FROM ALL GUJRAL FAMILY

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh. Devi Dass Damathia** H/o Smt. Madhu Devi Address: H. No. 30/D Sainik Colony, Jammu.



Late Sh. Devi Dass Damathia

TENTH Day will be performed on Saturday the 23th of November 2024 at 10:00 AM Onwards, Venue: Ram Mandir Sainik Colony, JAMMU

GRIEF STRICKEN
(Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Isha Damathia / Vikramjeet
Ishant Damathia (Son)
Ishita Damathia (Daughter)
Contact No. +91-9419 155336
Damathia Family

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Lachhman Dass Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Sadhu Ram Sharma R/O Devnagar, Nardi (Akhnor) on 11 Nov, 2024 (Monday)



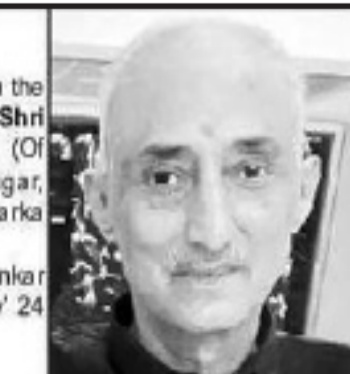
SH. LACHHMAN DASS SHARMA

10TH DAY will be performed at our residence on 20th November, 2024 (Wednesday) at 12 Noon. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 21st November 2024 (Thursday), at 2 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Vashno Devi (Wife)
Sons and Daughters in Law:
Smt. Kamlesh Sharma & Sh. Vinod Kumar Sharma (Retd. A.E. PWD)
Smt. Shoba Rani & Sh. Sudesh Kumar Bhatnagar (Retd. A.E. PDD)
Smt. Sunita Sharma & Sh. Subash Chander Sharma (Executive Officer)
Daughter and Son in Law:
Smt. Sharda Devi and Sh. Madan Lal Sharma (Retd. ZEO)
Grandsons / Grand Daughters:
Rakshat Sharma, Parul Sharma, Shifa Ii Sharma, Dr. Sahil Sharma, Ankush Sharma, Ruhani Sharma, Ashwani Singhra, Sahil Sharma, Renu Sharma, Harishta Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Nikka Sharma, Nitin Sharma.
Leo Sharma - Great Grand Son
Mob: 9419260644, 9419110683, 9419259210

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)
Giga & Vijay Tikoo (Sister & Brother in law)
Pratiksha (Niece)
Kaushik (Nephew)
Hemanti, Jasodhya, Jyestha, Yashika (Grand children)

CREMATION

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Sanjay Kak** S/o Late Sh. Chaman Lal Kak, R/O 9/1, Shakti Nagar, Jammu, presently at Bratislava (Slovakia) on 18th of November, 2024. Cremation will take place on 22nd of November, 2024 at Bratislava (Slovakia).



Sh. Sanjay Kak

Grief Stricken

Parana Kak (Mother)
Samta Kak (Wife)
Brother & Sister-in-law
Rakesh Kak and Sarina Kak
Anil Kak and Archana Gupta

Sister & Brother-in-law
Usha and Ravi Dhar
Sunita and Virender Dhar
Anita and Ashok Koul
Nalin, Rohini, Sameer, Priyanka, Anmol, Ankur, Aashir, Archit, Savina, Harshit, Arnab, Ayush

Samast Kak, Ojha & Ticku Parivar
9419136997, 7298008130

Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Sham Lal Sharma** (S/o Lt. Sh. Har Dut Sharma) R/O H.No 201, Old Janpur, Jammu.



SH. SHAM LAL SHARMA

Tenth Day will be performed on 21-11-24 (Thursday) at our residence, H.No. 201, Old Janpur at 11:00 a.m. **Kriya** will be performed on 22-11-24 (Friday) at our residence mentioned above at 12:00 (noon)

Uthala will be performed on 23-11-2024 (Saturday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony Chowk on 23-11-24, 3:00 p. m onwards.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Tara Vati (Mother)
Kalash Sharma (Wife)
Jasta Sharma & Manoj (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Shikha Sharma (Daughter)
Ishon Sanyal (Son)
Mrgsyn (Grandchild)
Sister & Brother-in-Law
Kame Devi & Madan Mohan Lal Sharma
Brothers & Sister-in-Law
Rishi Kumar & Rta Sharma
Yogesh Kumar & Bharti Sharma
Ramesh Kumar & Sushma Sharma
Contact No: 9706153324, 605446339, 7951363439

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden demise of our beloved **Sh. Tirath Ram Gupta** (Kir Pind Wale) S/O Late Sh. Dewan Chand Gupta R/O. H.No.F-1260, Lane No. 5, Sec-6, Nanak Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 19-Nov-2024.



Sh. Tirath Ram Gupta

Uthala will be performed on 22-Nov-2024 (Friday) at Shri Ram Mandir, Sec-8, Nanak Nagar Jammu from 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN: (PARGAL FAMILY)
Son & Daughter in law
Late Sh. Tarun & Anita Gupta
Sh. Rohit & Bindu Gupta
Daughter & Son in law
Pooja & Vikas Gupta
Contact No. 9419111891, 9149762834, 9419191214

Obituary/Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Jawahir Lal Langer** S/o Late Karthi Joo Langer originally resident of Rose Enclave Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar Kashmir at present Plot No. 37 Flat No. UG4, Shalimar Garden Extn. 1 Sahiabad (UP). He left for heavenly abode on November 17th 2024 (Sunday).



Sh. Jawahir Lal Langer

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on November 26th 2024 (Tuesday) at Murad Nagar Ghat, Distt. Ghaziabad (UP) at 8.30 am.

Grief Stricken
Ameet Langer and Rekha Langer - Son & Daughter-in-Law
Namrita Raina & Ramesh Raina - Daughter & Son-in-Law
Binu Tutu and Sudhir Ji Tutu - Daughter & Son-in-Law
Grand Children:
Shivam Pithore, Priyanka Raina, Akshita, Pranav, Vidhita, Nimisha, Shivin
In Grief: Koul's, Babu's, Tikoo's, Raina's, Tuti's, Sapru's
Mob.: 9818499988, 7006855151, 7011001815

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Phoola Bhat** (originally from Kulgam, Kmr) presently at D 66, Senior Citizen Home Complex, Sector Phi-2, Pocket P4 Greater Noida. who left for heavenly abode on 15/11/2024.



SMT PHOOLA BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 24th November at 08.00 AM at Murad Nagar Ghat Ghaziabad UP and assembly at 11.30 AM at home Greater Noida

GRIEF STRICKEN
Pandit Parivar, Bhat Parivar, Dhar Parivar
Sushil Pandit - 9818509635
Meenakshi Bhat - 9818030954
Purnima Bhat - 8146334446
Sunita Dhar - 9818666142

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we deeply regret to inform the tragic demise of **Sardar Kashmir Singh Sokhi (Retd. Chief Tech. Xray GMC Jammu)** R/O 103, Lane No. 10 Down side, Greater Kailash Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 15-11-2024.



Sardar Kashmir Singh Sokhi (Retd. Chief Tech. Xray GMC Jammu)

Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 10:00 AM on 20-11-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 10:00 AM on 22-11-2024 (Friday) at our residence.
Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurdwara Sahib Greater Kailash lane 10 Upper side, Jammu on 22-11-2024 (Friday) from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.
Followed by Guru Ka Langar.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Ani Kaur (Wife)
Amandeep Singh Sokhi (Son)
Ardeep & Jatin Dua (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Shama Dua & Harmeet Singh Dua (Sambandh)
Sandeep Kaur & Sharanjeet Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Indipal Singh & Harmeet Kaur (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)
Karanpreet Singh & Nirmita Kaur (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)
Lata Pathbhat Kaur & Shri Singh Vazir (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)
Prabpreet Singh Dua (Grandson)
949006038, 9419194006, 9908876225

MASWAR & VAHARVAR

It has been one year but still feel like you are amongst us. No word can express the feelings of our loss, an exceptionally caring, loving, intelligent, vivacious and noble soul, full of confidence and positivity. You were the backbone of the family and a source of inspiration for everyone. Your blessings are always with us.



Roshan Lal Tikoo (Kaka Ji)

Maswar and Vaharvar of our beloved **Roshan Lal Tikoo (Kaka Ji)** will be performed on 22 Nov and 23 Nov at our residence - 96C / JG3, Vihar puri, New Dehli.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY
Smt. Resma Tikoo (Wife)
Sh. Raj Nath Tikoo & Smt. Anita Tikoo (Brother & Bhabhi)
Shurfi & Viren - Daughter & Son in law
Veta & Rahul - Daughter & Son in law
Son's : Vinay Tikoo, Rishi Tikoo
Tikoo's : Raina's (in laws)
CONTACT NUMBER : 9500102971, 91499 5408

UTHALA

With deep sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of **Smt. Vijay Laxmi Suri**, passed away peacefully on 9th Nov, 2024.



Smt. Vijay Laxmi Suri

UTHALA will be performed on 22 Nov, 2024 (Friday) from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM at Gita Mandir Smriti Bhawan, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Suri - Husband
Son and Daughter-in-law
Sh. Ajay Suri and Smt. Arti Suri
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Smt. Sangeeta Sharma and Sh. Vijay Sharma
Smt. Meena and Lt. Sh. Gopal Krishan
Grand Children : Esha Suri, Pratham Suri, Krishna Suri
Mob: 9906079057, 9103171473

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. Suchetra Pandit
Miss Simran Pandit (Grand Daughter)
Miss Janvi Pandit (Grand Daughter)
Daughters & Son-in-Laws
Smt. Vijay & Sh. C.L. Raina
Smt. Ranjni & Sh. M.L. Tikoo
Smt. Sanbosh & Sh. C.L. Pandita
Smt. Basanti & Sh. A.K. Bhat
Smt. Khemlata & Sh. Chand Ji Koul

Contact Numbers:
9596722260, 8492809832, 7006977430

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

INTUC delegation meets PCC Chief, highlights issue of daily wagers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: A delegation of Indian National Trade Union Congress (J&K) led by its President Shiv Kumar Sharma called on President JKPC Shri Tariq Hameed Karra at PCC HQ Jammu and apprised him about the burning issues of daily wage workers, need based, contractual, adhoc and ITI and others engaged by the State Govt. in various departments. Shiv Kumar Sharma and other senior functionaries of the INTUC put forth various demands of the employees working at various categories in Govt., semi Govt. and Private sectors. Their main demands are : i)



Monthly regularization of pay of C.P. workers. ii) Those C.P. workers who have completed 7 years service be regularized. iii) Those ITI workers who have completed 5 years service should be regularized. He requested the PCC President to discuss the issue of community participation workers with the state Govt. in order

to solve the most genuine problems of these workers who are providing essential services to the people by working day and night in PHE and other departments. Shiv Kumar Sharma further said that the concerned authorities had engaged thousands of young workers at various level to meet the urgent requirements of

the departments, some of them have completed more than 10 years and were waiting for enhancement of their wages. But it was unfortunate that the services of some workers who have been retired/ superannuated without regularization and without any retirement benefit to them. And those who were engaged on land basis, too are either denied regularization or stopped wages. PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra gave patient hearing to the delegation and said Congress party and INTUC has always advocated the welfare of labour class for their contribution and rise in the socio economic progress of the country. He said that

UPA Govt. had brought land mark legislation to the benefit and protect the rights of labour class in the organized and unorganized sector. All beneficiary labour laws were applied in J&K during the Congress regime. He assured the INTUC delegation that congress party will extend full cooperation to their struggle for acceptance of their genuine demands. Besides Shiv Kumar Sharma other members of the delegation included Harbans Lal, Jamiyati Ali, Mangal Dass Madan Lal, Radehy Shama, Jugal Kishore, Bahadur Singh and Pt. Dwarka Nath, Vinay Sharma and Narinder Sharma(Happy).

ADC Ramban finalizes arrangements for OMR-based JKSSB Examination

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Nov 21: Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak, convened a meeting with all stakeholders to finalize arrangements for the upcoming OMR-based JKSSB examination for the post of Constable in the Police Department. During the meeting, the ADC emphasized the importance of conducting the examination in a fair and transparent manner. He sensitized the stake-

holders on their specific roles and responsibilities to ensure efficient execution of the examination across the district. The JKSSB written examination is scheduled to be held on December 1, 18, and 22, 2024. In Ramban district, five examination centers have been designated for approximately 1,000 candidates. Besides imparting training to all stakeholders for forthcoming examinations being conducted by JKSSB, The

meeting included comprehensive discussions on key arrangements such as drinking water facilities, power supply, seating arrangements, security protocols, and videography to ensure seamless and secure conduct of the examination. The ADC encouraged all stakeholders to work in coordination to uphold the sanctity of the recruitment process and provide a conducive environment for candidates appearing in the examination.

World COPD Day: raising awareness about a global health crisis

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Day, observed annually, serves as a reminder of the significant health threat posed by this progressive lung disease. COPD is the third largest cause of death globally, following heart disease and cancer, but it remains widely misunderstood, with many people misattributing its symptoms

to the normal effects of aging. COPD is a progressive condition that inflames and damages the airways and air sacs in the lungs, leading to decreased airflow and breathing difficulties. In its early stages, COPD may go unnoticed, as its symptoms can be subtle and mistaken for ordinary signs of aging, such as breathlessness or persistent coughing. However, as the disease advances, symptoms

worsen, leading to significant limitations in daily activities and a reduced quality of life. Dr. Sonal, a pulmonologist at Livasa Hospital in Mohali, explains that COPD affects nearly 63 million people in India, which accounts for about 32% of the global COPD population. This alarming statistic highlights the importance of recognizing COPD as a serious health issue and addressing its causes and effects.

NILM NGO organizes School-Level Painting Competition on Environment Conservation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: The National Incredible Literacy Mission Jammu (NILM) organized a school-level painting competition at R S Public High School, Jammu, focusing on the vital theme of "Environment Conservation." The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various grade levels, who showcased their creativity through vibrant paintings, highlighting the importance of preserving and protecting the environment for future generations. The competition aimed to raise awareness among the youth about pressing environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation, climate change, and



wildlife conservation. The participants expressed their thoughts on these topics through their artwork, reflecting their commitment to spreading the message of environmental sustainability. The event was inaugurated by R S Thakur Project Director NILM who commended the students for their innovative efforts in raising awareness about environmental issues through art. In his

address, he emphasized the role of the younger generation in contributing to environmental protection and called for more such initiatives that inspire action towards a greener planet. Vidhushi Sharma Principal of RS Public High School Krishna Nagar Dogra Mohalla, Jammu was also present during the event. She appreciated the role of NILM NGO to promote environment

conservation by mean of Painting and drawing. The National Incredible Literacy Mission Jammu is committed to empowering the youth through educational initiatives and such events that promote social and environmental responsibility. The NILM encourages students to continue using their talents to drive positive change in their communities. The event was a resounding success, with

the collective efforts of the school, NILM and students paving the way for greater environmental consciousness among the youth of Jammu.

DIG CRPF Jammu inaugurates Shaheed Naik Joginder Singh Chenab View Saloon at Chanderkote

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Nov 21: DIG CRPF Jammu North Operations Range Vivek Bhandral, today inaugurated the Shaheed Naik Joginder Singh Chenab View Saloon at the Tactical Headquarters of 84 Bn CRPF in Boom Chanderkote, Ramban. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Commandant Ranbir Singh, Assistant Commandant Inderjeet Singh, CUBB Raj Kumar, personnel of 84 Bn CRPF, and members of the media. The saloon is named in honor of Shaheed Naik Joginder Singh of 84 Bn CRPF, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while combating militancy in Moga, Punjab, on November 23, 1989. The Chenab View

Saloon has been meticulously designed to provide modern grooming and relaxation facilities, including hair cutting, facial treatments, bleach services, foot massages, and body massages. While addressing the gathering, DIG Vivek Bhandral commended the officers and personnel of 84 Bn for their initiative in developing this state-of-the-art facility. He emphasized that such amenities enhance the well-being of the unit personnel, who serve far from their homes in demanding conditions. The saloon is envisioned as a common facility that will support the physical and mental rejuvenation of CRPF personnel, further boosting their morale as they continue their service to the nation.

Inter-collegiate power lifting and weight lifting competitions organized by CLUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Inter-Collegiate Power lifting and weight lifting (Men and Women) Competitions organized by cluster University of Jammu at Govt. SPMR College of Commerce on November 20, 2024. Prof. Pawan Gupta graced the event as the Chief Guest during the Opening Ceremony, While Dr. Vinod Bakshi Director Physical Education & Sports at CLUJ was Guest of Honor. Additionally, Dr. Chetna Gupta, Prof. Sanjeev Verma, Prof. Esha Abrol, Raman-deep Physical Director of GCOE was present during the Competition. The Tournament was organized under the overall Supervision of Ravi Kumar Physical Director Govt. SPMR College of

Commerce. In Weight Lifting women team of Govt. SPMR College of Commerce emerge as a winner of the tournament while PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar runner-up. In Men section Karan Jot Singh of GGM Science Won Gold Medal and Hetender Singh of GCOE won Gold medal. In Power Lifting women team of Govt. SPMR College of Commerce emerges as a Winner of the tournament while PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar Runner-up. In Men section Govt. SPMR College of Commerce emerge as a winner of the tournament while GGM Science Runner-up. The Competition was officiated by Ajay Sharma, Deepak Jyoti, Akash Kath and Rahul Sawhney.

KCCI President discusses special OTS Scheme with J&K Bank CEO

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 21: President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Javid Ahmad Tenga, met with the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Baldev Prakash, to discuss key banking-related issues faced by the business community. During the meeting, the President of KCCI raised the urgent need for the announcement of a Special One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for borrowers. Tenga emphasised that the OTS scheme should be designed without



restrictive conditions and must include a long-term repayment tenure to genuinely support the financial recovery of borrowers. The MD/CEO of J&K Bank told the KCCI

President that the bank is actively working on OTS scheme, signalling a positive step towards resolving long-standing issues. The meeting also included discussions on strate-

gies to promote economic growth and enhance the synergy between the business community and the banking sector. President KCCI praised J&K Bank's growth trajectory and its commitment to the economic prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated KCCI's dedication to working hand-in-hand with the bank to strengthen the region's economy. "J&K Bank and KCCI, as two of the oldest institutions in the region, have consistently played a pivotal role in driving economic development. This partnership will continue to contribute to the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir," said Tenga.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH
TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 157 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:- 18-11-2024 2nd Call
For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. 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	Position of Funds	
1	Construction of B/Path/P/work from Hill bridge to Mohalla Saraban Pyl. Dogran Lower Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.00	200	6000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 25-11-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded	
2	Construction of B/path/P/work Kulbel to Masjid Ratheran Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		3.00	200	6000	20 days				
3	Construction of B/path/P/work near I/o Shakoor Bhat Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.50	200	5000	20 days				
4	Construction of B/path/P/work Near I/o Abdul Hamid Rather Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days				
5	Construction of Toilet Complex near the H/O Zarifa Begum W/o Late Mohd Basfir W.No 2 Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.30	200	4600	20 days				
6	Construction of Pacca Path in W.No. 01 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days				
7	Construction of Pacca Path Zairat to H/o Iqbal in W.No. 02 and 07 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		4.00	300	8000	30 days				
8	Construction of Pacca Drain from L/o Zulfqar to Ali Mohd W.No. 03 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days				
9	Construction of Pacca Path in W.No. 8 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days				
10	Construction of P/Work in front of Jamia Masjid along with drain Upper Dogran Moh. Poshori Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		3.50	300	7000	30 days				
11	Construction of Water Tank at Dhan Pyl. Kharapa Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		5.88	500	11760	40 days				CEE/ DEE
12	Construction of B/Path from Masjid to Mohalla Shiyani via H/o Asgar Ali Mir and others Pyl. Palera-B Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		4.90	300	9800	30 days				DEE
13	B/Wall Moh Shan W.No 2 Nr. H/o Shoket Ali Mir Pyl. Palera-B Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.98	200	1960	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 25-11-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded	
14	Tractor Road from Hayst Nagar to Narbal W.No 10 Pyl. Tantraygem Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		3.00	200	6000	30 days				
15	Up-gradation of Playground HS Balia Pyl. Balia Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		2.45	200	4900	30 days				
16	Up-gradation of Toilet Complex with Tiles and Fittings Nr. Jamia Masjid Khet Sawjan-B Pyl. Sawjan-B Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 2 nd Call		1.76	200	3520	30 days				

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs, in local Panchayat works.

- The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.
- Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-11-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-11-2024 to 23-11-2024, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-11-2024 from 1700 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	23-11-2024 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	25-11-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process.

No:- XEN/REW/P/2333-42
Dated:- 18-11-2024

DIP/J-7111/24
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

EDITORIAL

FOSTERING
COMMUNAL HARMONY

Communal harmony is the cornerstone of a peaceful, progressive, and inclusive society. It signifies a state where people from diverse religions, cultures, and communities coexist with mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. In a pluralistic nation like India, which is home to myriad ethnicities, languages, and faiths, fostering communal harmony is essential for maintaining social stability, national integrity, and economic development.

Communal harmony ensures social cohesion, enabling people to live together despite differences in beliefs and customs. It creates an environment where individuals feel safe and valued, irrespective of their cultural or religious backgrounds. Such harmony fosters collaboration, innovation, and shared progress by minimizing social conflicts and creating avenues for collective growth.

The significance of communal harmony is particularly critical in a country like India, where historical and cultural diversity is unparalleled. With its rich tapestry of traditions, festivals, and practices, India thrives on unity in diversity. Any disruption in communal harmony not only threatens societal peace but also undermines the nation's democratic values and secular fabric.

Despite its vital importance, communal harmony often faces threats due to several factors.

Misunderstandings and biases about other communities can lead to mistrust and animosity. These stereotypes are often perpetuated by a lack of inter-community interactions and awareness.

Communal divisions are sometimes exploited for political gains, leading to polarization and hostility between groups.

Social media and other digital platforms, when misused, can amplify communal tensions through the rapid spread of false information.

Economic disparities between communities often exacerbate tensions, creating a perception of favoritism or marginalization.

Historical conflicts or perceived injustices can linger as unresolved tensions, reigniting communal disputes when manipulated.

Fostering communal harmony requires a multi-pronged approach that addresses societal, political, and cultural aspects. Below are some effective strategies.

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping perceptions and attitudes. Schools and colleges must inculcate values of tolerance, empathy, and mutual respect. Curriculum content should celebrate diversity, highlighting the contributions of different communities to India's development.

Platforms that encourage dialogue between different religious and cultural groups can help bridge gaps and dispel misconceptions. Events like inter-faith conferences, community meals, and joint celebrations of festivals promote understanding and unity.

Stringent laws to curb hate speech, discrimination, and communal violence are essential. The judiciary and law enforcement agencies must act impartially and swiftly in cases of communal discord to reinforce trust in the system.

Media outlets should play a constructive role in promoting positive narratives about communal harmony. Highlighting inspiring stories of unity and coexistence can counter divisive rhetoric and misinformation.

Integrated community development initiatives that involve people from diverse backgrounds can foster mutual cooperation. Projects like neighborhood clean-ups, joint entrepreneurship ventures, and skill-development workshops can bridge divides by creating shared goals.

Religious, political, and social leaders must act responsibly, promoting messages of peace and solidarity. Their influence can significantly impact the public mindset and deter divisive tendencies.

India's vibrant festival culture provides a unique opportunity to bring people together. Joint celebrations of festivals like Diwali, Eid, Christmas, and Guru Nanak Jayanti reinforce bonds and allow communities to experience each other's traditions.

The youth, as the torchbearers of tomorrow, have a crucial role in fostering communal harmony. With their energy, openness, and adaptability, young people can challenge prejudices and advocate for inclusive practices. By participating in cultural exchange programs, community service initiatives, and social media campaigns, they can become ambassadors of peace and unity.

Educational institutions and youth organizations should encourage young people to engage in activities that promote inter-community collaboration. Platforms like debates, cultural fairs, and sports tournaments can help them build friendships beyond cultural or religious lines.

Several examples from history and contemporary society illustrate the power of communal harmony. The celebration of festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi in Muslim-majority areas or the participation of Hindus in iftar gatherings showcases the spirit of unity. Organizations and movements dedicated to peace-building, such as the *Sarva Dharma Sambhav* initiatives, have demonstrated that collaboration and understanding can overcome divisions.

Communal harmony is not just a social ideal but a necessity for a nation like India, where diversity is both a strength and a responsibility. By embracing our shared humanity and focusing on values of respect, compassion, and collaboration, we can create a society that thrives on inclusivity and peace. It is the collective responsibility of individuals, communities, and leaders to nurture this harmony, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where differences are celebrated and not feared.

A Guide to Cyber Security Awareness for Students

By: Umesh Sharma

Cyber Security awareness is critically important among students as they are frequent users of digital technologies, yet often lack the knowledge or experience to recognize the risks they face online. With increasing amounts of personal and academic data being stored and shared online, students are prime targets for cyber criminals who exploit vulnerabilities such as weak passwords, unsecured networks, and social engineering tactics like phishing. As students, understanding the basic principles of cyber security is paramount to navigating this digital landscape safely. Cyber security awareness is more than just a nice-to-have skill for students; it's a necessary competence in our increasingly digital world. Recognizing the threats online and understanding how to protect yourself from them is critical for your safety, privacy, and overall digital well-being. Cyber security is not a destination but a journey that involves constant learning, adaptation, and vigilance. As a student navigating the digital landscape, your active participation in cyber security is crucial. Your decisions can make a significant difference in creating a safer online environment for yourself and your entire academic community.

As students continue to immerse themselves in the digital world, cyber security awareness becomes an essential skill. By educating students about potential risks and how to protect themselves online, educational institutions can help build a safer digital future. Ensuring that students are not only aware of the dangers but also equipped with the tools and knowledge to defend against cyber threats is crucial in today's technology-driven world.

Ultimately, fostering a culture of cyber security among students doesn't just protect individuals—it helps to create a more secure and resilient digital environment for everyone.

The Role of Schools and Universities

Educational institutions have a significant role to play in promoting cyber security awareness. Many schools and universities have already begun to integrate cyber security lessons into their courses or offer workshops and seminars on the subject. Educational institutions, policymakers, and parents must work together to ensure students are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the online world safely. This includes integrating cyber security education into school curriculums, conducting awareness campaigns, and providing students with practical tips for maintaining their online security.

As student, taking proactive steps to boost your cyber security awareness is essential not only for protecting your personal information but also for contributing to a safer digital environment for everyone. In today's interconnected world, understanding the risks associated with online activities can help prevent cyber attacks, data breaches, and identity theft. Additionally, staying informed about the latest cyber security trends and sharing this knowledge with peers can help create a more security-conscious campus community, where everyone takes responsibility for safeguarding their digital presence.

Some tangible steps you can take as a student to boost your cyber security awareness and help create a safer digital environment:

- Stay Informed: Cyber security is dynamic, with new threats emerging regularly. Stay updated on the latest

cyber threats and security practices by following reliable cyber security blogs, podcasts, or news outlets.

- Use Secure Connections: Whenever possible, avoid using public Wi-Fi for activities that require you to enter personal or sensitive information. If you must use public Wi-Fi, consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to secure your connection.

- Regularly Update and Back up Your Data: Ensure your devices are constantly updated with the latest software versions, as these often contain security enhancements. Additionally, regularly backing up your data can help mitigate the damage if your device is compromised.

- Learn About and Implement Privacy Settings: Each social media platform and online service has different privacy settings and options. Take time to understand these settings and customize them according to your comfort level and needs.

- Enable Two Factor Authentication (2FA): Two factor authentication adds an extra layer of protection on your accounts. Even when someone gets hold of your password, they won't be able to access your account without the second factor – usually a code sent to your phone.

- Strong Password Practices: Encouraging students to use complex passwords and change them regularly. They should also avoid using the same password across multiple accounts.

- Recognizing Phishing Attempts: Identify suspicious emails, messages, or websites that could be phishing attempts designed to steal sensitive information.

- Safe Use of Social Media: Helping students understand the risks of over sharing on social media platforms and

the potential consequences of revealing too much personal information online.

- Downloading untrusted files: Additionally, students should be mindful of downloading files or software from untrusted sources, as these may contain malware.

- Participate in cyber security programmes: Many schools and online platforms offer cyber security training. Participate in these pieces of training to deepen your understanding of cyber security and learn practical skills for staying safe online.

Cyber security awareness among students is no longer a luxury but a necessity in today's increasingly digital world. As students engage with technology daily for educational, social, and personal purposes, their vulnerability to cyber threats grows. The lack of adequate cyber security knowledge can lead to devastating consequences, such as identity theft, data breaches, or falling victim to scams and cyber bullying.

Moreover, fostering a culture of cyber security mindfulness helps students not only protect themselves but also contribute to a more secure digital ecosystem. By empowering students with the right tools and information, we can create a generation that is more resilient to cyber threats and more responsible in their digital interactions.

Promoting cyber security awareness among students is essential for their safety and well-being. It is an investment in their future, enabling them to thrive in a digital landscape while safeguarding their privacy, security, and personal data.

(The author is working as Chief Coordinator DPS Jammu)

Sanatan Board a pressing Need in India

By: Omkar Dattatray

Constitution of a Sanatan Board by the centre government for the temples and Mathas is the pressing need and necessity to safeguard and protect them. This is the demand of the whole Hindu society and the government of India should recognize and appreciate the necessity of a Sanatan Board and constitute it to satisfy the aspirations of Hindu's. At the outset it is in the fitness of things to mention that it is the brain child of the famous Kathavachak and Hindu thinker and saint Devakinandan Thakur who proposed this noble and needed idea and proposal. He made painstaking efforts and was successful in holding and organizing a Virat Hindu Sansad in New Delhi on 16th and 17th November in which all the saints and seers of Hindu religion participated and discussed the novel and noble as well as needed proposal and idea of a Sanatan Board and impressed upon the Modi government to constitute a Sanatan Board at the earliest to satisfy the aspiration and demand of Hindu sarva Samaj and the centre government should appreciate and accept this pressing need and demand of the Hindu community and set up the Sanatan Board. Hundreds of Hindu dharma gurus, saints, seers and Hindu thinkers and even political leaders took part in Dharam Sansad as first being Hindu's and participated in the Virat Hindu Sammalen perhaps first of its Kind in the recent history. Some saints called it the Kumb before the Maha Kumb Mela at Prayaj Raj and in fact there is no exaggeration in this. The august participants deliberated, discussed and threw threadbare light on the proposal of Devakinandan Thakur of having a Sanatan Board for temples and Mathas in the country and all the participants agreed in one voice for the need of a Sanatan Board and

impressed upon the centre government to accept this genuine and pressing need of the Hindu Samaj and so constitute a Sanatan Board to safeguard Hindu temples and Mathas. It has also being necessitated by the illogical, untenable and false claims of the Muslim waqf board that many temples had been constructed on the lands of the waqf board. It is the height of falsity that waqf board has also made the claim that centre parliament, railways and even Adani's business infrastructure had been constructed on the waqf lands. A Hindu saint has truly said while addressing the religious parliament that if the mosques in the country will be demolished, the signs of Hindu temples will come as evidence that all mosques had been built on temple lands. But it is very surprising that under a well planned manner waqf board is staking claims on the lands beneath Hindu temples and it is sheer falsity and needs to be countered strongly and legally. Therefore to counter the waqf boards illogical and unreasonable claims on the land beneath the temples, there is urgent need for a sanatan board on the lines of waqf board. Centre government should take steps in the direction of constituting the Sanatan board so that the demand of Hindu community is fulfilled. Kathavachak Devakinandan Thakur & great orator called and organized Sanatan Dharam Sansad in New Delhi's Burandi. The main plank and the reason for holding this Samalan is to press the centre government to constitute Sanatan Board in the country. Besides this significant issue, Jove Jihad, total ban on cow slaughter and liberation of Krishana Janamboomi Mathura were also discussed and deliberated in the religious parliament as these issues also formed the place in the agenda of the Hindu gathering in New Delhi. All big leaders of political parties including Malliuk Arjan Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, J.P.Nadda, Akliesh Yadav etc were also invited to Virat Dharam Sansad. Deveke-

nandan is demanding the constitution of Sanatan Board and all saints, seers and other Hindu leaders supported this important demand and impressed and implored on the centre government to accept this demand of constituting a Sanatan Board. On this occasion Davekinandan said, enough has been tolerated and now will not tolerate anymore. We will seek and will stop only after getting our right. Now we will not be divided and will not be perished. He roared whosoever will plan to kill, my dear I will see! While addressing the august and big gathering he said to them to say in high tune so that those in power will hear us. He further said if Sanatan board is constituted, our kulguru tradition which has been destroyed, will be revived again. Our mata cow which is suffering much, for them Gowshallas will be established to cater to their needs. Those who are converting because of abject poverty, will be brought to their original religion back with through the medium of Sanatan Board. Devekinandan Thakur said, in our Mathura, Krishna is still under the ladder of Jamia Masjid. God worshippers please tell has your conscience died? If your conscience is alive, then Kanaiya has to be taken from the Ladder of the Jamia Masjid and a grand temple has to be built in Mathura. When Devekinandan was addressing, there was much enthusiasm in the audience. People cheered loudly on the demand of Sanatan board. In this congregation, there were several big leaders from Hindu religion. Jagth Guru Shankaracharys Sadan and Sarwati was the chief guest of the grand event. Raju Das of Hanuman Garhi Ayodhya and Pradeep Mishra among others also attended the event. The issue of animal fat in Tirupati Balaji temples Prasad is a big issue. We demand a Sanatan board so that such incident does not happen again. Through the grand event, a demand for the formation of the Sanatan Board was raised in a unified voice. Saints from 13

akharas participated in the event along with others including, Dr Ram Vilas Vedanti also participated in the Virat Hindu Sansad. Besides hundreds of learned saints also took part in the programme. Before Dharam Sansad, a Sanatan Yatra was organized and in it Devkenandan said all believers in Sanatan religion should come forward to get the Sanatan Board constituted by the government, besides addressing and demanding other agenda items of the religious parliament. On the agies of Sanatan Nayas foundation and its auspices in connection with the organizing of Sanatan Dharam Sansad, a Sanatan Yatra was also held before the religious parliament. The foundation's president has appealed all Sanatanis to remain united. Sadavi Rithambra started Sanatan Yatra with the slogans of Sanatan Dham ki Jai and said that the Sanatan Board is the need of the present day. Then followed the Sanatan dharma Sansad which was attended by saints from Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura and Viindavan among others. Thousands of Hindus also attended the historical event. He said, "I am giving you a mantra of now or never." He added, "Hindu's should not be reduced in number rather it should keep increasing." He also raised the voice for Krishanjanamboomi. He added that Hindu girls should be married only in Hindu religion. Speaking about further action, Devkinandan Thakur announced that the next Dharam Sansad will be held in Utrakhand's Haridwar. In brief the main aim and objective of this historical religious gathering of Hindu saints, seers and intelligentsia is that the centre government should constitute a Sanatan Board to protect their religious rights and their temples and Mathas.

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

Week-long lecture series on "environmental degradation and management" held at GCW Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 21: A week long lecture series on the Theme- Environmental Degradation and Management was Conducted by Department of Zoology, Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur from 13 Nov 2024 to 20 Nov 2024 in which a number of students participated and expressed their views on the theme under the guidance and patronage of Principal (Dr.) Nalini Pathania.

The Programme commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Sanjeet Kour, HOD Zoology. Speaking on the occasion, She highlighted the importance of the theme in day-to-day life and the role of students as a reformer in different spheres of life through sustainable practices and lifestyle changes for the betterment of the environment.



The programme started with the introduction to the theme and various types of pollution which are degrading the environment by Sonali of BSc Sem III. Four Students Sonali, Shruti Chib, Kirti Sharma and Shiney Singh of Sem III presented a gripping power point presentation on the Air pollution, its types, major air pollutants, sources, its effects on human and plant health. Various schemes and initiatives to combat air pollution with special emphasis on Air Quality index (AQI) were also discussed on

the first day.

Day 2 was dedicated to water pollution. Arti Sharma, Arushi Sharma, Priya and Priya Sharma of Sem III canvassed the importance of water and the intensity and scourge of water pollution, its major water pollutants, sources, effects, control and preventive measures with public participation especially the role of youth. Plastic pollution was battled around by Prashi Devi, Samiksha, Danisha Bhardwaj and Meenakshi Devi on the 3rd day. The menace of plastic pollution and its

effects, especially micro-plastic pollution was discussed by the presenters and the audience as well. This was followed by day 4 dedicated to Soil pollution and Solid waste pollution which was presented by Isha Sharma, Priya, Simran, Rippy and Sakshi of BSc Sem III. The Fifth and Sixth day were dedicated to the concept, sources, effects, control of Noise pollution and thermal pollution through a very interesting and powerful powerpoint presentation by Monika, Simran, Vanishika, Veena, Lakshmi,

Priya and Bhumika of BSc Sem III respectively.

The Lecture series culminated with the appreciation of the student presenters for their hardwork and energetic presentations.

The event was attended by a large number of students and faculty members and was very effective in bringing awareness about the theme- Environmental Degradation and Management. The Presenters were awarded with the certificates of appreciation which was applauded by the audience.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anita Kumari while the proceedings of the programme were carried out by Dr. Neha Antal and Prof Munaza Mehraj. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr Sanjeet Kour, Head, Department of Zoology.

Delegation of Jammu Kashmir Electrical Employees Union meets MD KPDCL

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Nov 21: A delegation of Jammu Kashmir Electrical Employees Union under the chairmanship of President South Circle Bijbehara Syed Ahmed Meets Managing Director (MD) Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited and Superintendent SE South Bijbehara met in the office to bring forward these demands.

For, the MD issued a central order to address the demands and problems of the employees immediately.

Presidents accompanied by Mumtaz Mukhtar Ahmed Nath, Vice President Muhammad Husain Wani Circle Chairman Muhammad Iqbal itoo, Waseem Ahmed Jan, Central Spokesperson while Tariq Ahmed Dar President Kulgam Mukhtar Ahmed Ganai



President Anantnag sub unit sharers and employees are worth mentioning.

Union President Syed Ahmad Reyaz told that KPDCL Kashmir called itself the public demands regarding Difficulties of employees to order safety tools etc. are solved with good manners and seriousness.

The MD said that every small or big employee is always being fed for me.

The union said that we are also grateful to S.E. South Circle Bijbehara who is the solution to our problems at the circle level always offered to serve. Genuine demands and complaints will be reviewed and resolved on priority basis.

National Go Championship 2024-25 concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: The National Go Championship 2024-25 concluded successfully, highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's exceptional performance in the National Pair Go Championship, held from November 15 to 17, 2024, at Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Mahu, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

The event comprised multiple categories, including the 2nd Senior Men & Women National Go Championship 2024-25, 1st Sub Junior & Junior National Go Championship 2024-25, and 2nd Sub Junior & Junior Pair Go Championship 2024-25, and was jointly organized by the Indo Amachyur Go Association and the Go Game Development Association of Madhya Pradesh.

In the Junior Pair category, Aryana Choudhary of Delhi Public School Kathua and Sushant Thakur of Dogra Higher Secondary School Jammu brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir by winning the bronze medal. This achievement marked a significant milestone for the state in this strategic mind sport.

Sunny Nanda, Conventor of the Jammu Kash-



mir Go Game Association, praised the players' efforts and stated that winning a medal in such a prestigious event is a matter of pride. He highlighted that Go Game, a celebrated mind sport featured in the Asian Games, is gaining momentum in Jammu and Kashmir and expressed optimism about its bright future in the region.

First Prize was bagged by Paramjeet Kour and Yasmeen and Second Prize was bagged by Mohammad Kaif.

The celebration of World Fisheries Day served as a reminder of the importance of collaborations between generations in addressing the growing challenges of urbanization. The event closed with a call to action for students i.e. Together, let's pledge to safeguard our aquatic ecosystems for generations to come.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Palak Gupta. Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College appreciated the students' efforts stating it is heartening to see such passion and creativity from our young leaders.

Chenab Valley Zone residents facing huge electricity bills which is very unfortunate: Ajeet Bhagat

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 21: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat demand reduction in Electricity bills in Chenab Valley Zone, Kishtwar District of Chenab Valley Zone is set to become a major power hub in north India, as it will generate nearly 6,000 megawatt of power after the completion of the ongoing power projects, but it is very unfortunate people's of Chenab Valley Zone facing huge electricity bills.

The Senior National Confrance leader said the surplus Power from Chenab Valley Zone will not only be utilised for other parts of the Jammu and Kashmir State but will also be sold to other States. He said 1000 megawatt (MW) Pakal Dul Project, 624 MW Kiru Project, 540 MW Kwar Project, 850 MW Ratle Project are all located



in close vicinity of each other, along with 930 MW Karthi Project which has been revived as a joint venture between the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir State.

Pakal Dul HE Project (1000MW) is under active construction after river diversion was carried out.

The Senior National Conference leader said the project will generate 3230 MWs annually and expected to be completed by July 2025, but people of Chenab Valley Zone are suffering badly due to huge electricity bills which are totally injustice with the residents of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone.

Dogra Degree College celebrates World Fisheries Day

Top News Report

SAMBA, Nov 21: The Eco Warrior Club of Dogra Degree College is thrilled to announce an inspiring Slogan Writing Competition in celebration of World Fisheries Day on November 21, 2024. This event underscores the vital importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems and fostering sustainable fisheries to ensure the health of our waters and the life within them.

With the theme "Let the Waters Teem with Living Creatures," the competition aims to ignite creativity and raise awareness among students about the critical role of marine life in maintaining ecological balance and food security. Participants are encour-

aged to craft impactful slogans that reflect the significance of conserving aquatic biodiversity and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

The highlight of the event was the slogan writing competition where students from various disciplines i.e. BBA, B.Com and B.A presented their insights about marine conservation and celebrate the diversity of life in our waters. Total eight participants from Dogra Degree College participated in the event.

The participants expressed their perception on the importance of World Fisheries Day. The judges had a tough time deciding the winners. After scrutiny the result was declared. In the competition the

First Prize was bagged by Paramjeet Kour and Yasmeen and Second Prize was bagged by Mohammad Kaif.

The celebration of World Fisheries Day served as a reminder of the importance of collaborations between generations in addressing the growing challenges of urbanization. The event closed with a call to action for students i.e. Together, let's pledge to safeguard our aquatic ecosystems for generations to come.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Palak Gupta. Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College appreciated the students' efforts stating it is heartening to see such passion and creativity from our young leaders.

Idols of Lord Vishnu Narayan, Goddess Lakshmi installed at Nageshwar Temple

Top News Report



JAMMU, Nov 21: The sacred installation of the idols of Lord Vishnu Narayan Ji and Goddess Lakshmi Ji was conducted by Raj Rishi Sharma, an eminent writer, at the Shri Nageshwar Temple, located at the end of Nagbani School Road, opposite the Forest Nursery. The temple, which houses idols of all major deities, witnessed a grand ceremony on this occasion.

The event drew a significant gathering of dignitaries and devo-

tees from the surrounding areas, all of whom actively participated in the religious ceremonies with devotion. Following the Puja, Prasad was distributed among the attendees, and a Langar was served, symbolizing unity and spiritual fulfillment.

This auspicious occasion not only deepened the sense of community and faith among the people but also sent a positive religious message, encouraging greater participation in spiritual and cultural activities.

Vivek Bali mourns Srinagar's Abi Gurpora Fire tragedy, seeks relief for displaced families

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Prominent political leader Vivek Bali has expressed deep sorrow over the devastating fire incident in Abi Gurpora, Rainawari, Srinagar, which has rendered numerous families homeless. The blaze engulfed eight residential houses, leaving the affected families in a state of distress as winter approaches.

Bali extended his heartfelt solidarity and sym-



pathy to the affected families and highlighted their urgent need for support. "It is disheartening to witness such a tragedy, especially with the harsh winter looming,"

he stated.

He urged the government to swiftly provide immediate relief and compensation to the affected families. "These families require urgent assistance to rebuild their lives and cope with the loss," Bali emphasized.

As winter sets in, the need for support becomes even more critical. Bali appealed to the authorities to take prompt action to help the displaced families and alleviate their suffering.

Guest lecture organized for Transitional Curriculum in JIAR

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: The "AYURDIKSHA" 15-day Induction Program for the 1st Professional BAMS students of the 2024-2025 session began on November 11, 2024 and will continue until November 28, 2024.

On November 21, 2024, as part of this program, a guest lecture was delivered by Dr. Abhishek Sharma, a renowned "Ksharsutra Specialist." Dr. Sharma discussed

the significance of Ayurveda and provided an in-depth explanation of Ksharsutra therapy. Additionally, he demonstrated the practical application of mantra chikitsa (healing through mantras).

The session was held at JIAR and was part of the Transitional Curriculum for the first-year BAMS students. After the lecture, Dr. Sharma was honored and thanked by the management of JIAR for his valuable insights and words of encouragement to the students.

Subsequently, arrangements have been put in place to meet the fertilizer requirements for the month of December.

He further added that the Agriculture Department is well-equipped to meet the fertilizer needs of our farmers and closely monitoring the supply chain to ensure that there are no disruptions, and all fertilizers will be made available to farmers as per their requirements.

Dir Agriculture Jammu assures farmers of adequate fertilizer supply in Jammu Division

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Director of Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen has assured the farmers that all necessary arrangements have been made to meet their demands for fertilizers for Rabi 2024-25 season.

In a recent statement, Director Agriculture mentioned that till date 1318.5 Metric Tons (MT) of Nitrogenous fertilizers and 4425 Metric Tons

(MT) of Phosphatic fertilizers has been received for early sowing in Jammu Division.

In addition, 2634 Metric Tons (MT) of DAP fertilizer has been dispatched by IFFCO for Jammu Division that will be unloaded at Jammu Rake point on 22nd of November 2024.

Another consignment of DAP has been arranged through IPL and will be available to the farmers by end of this month.

Subsequently, arrangements have been put in place to meet the fertilizer requirements for the month of December.

He further added that the Agriculture Department is well-equipped to meet the fertilizer needs of our farmers and closely monitoring the supply chain to ensure that there are no disruptions, and all fertilizers will be made available to farmers as per their requirements.

World Television Day 2024 | Aishwarya Sakhuja, Sumbul Touqeer to Kanwar Dhillon, stars decode why is TV still relevant

You can love it or hate it, but you can't ignore it—this saying stays true to the medium of television. With the advent of OTT, people assumed that TV might slowly die down, but the medium has stood the test of time and still continues to be a primary source of entertainment for a large part of the country. On World Television Day, we speak to some prominent names from the small screen, who discuss what makes the medium still relevant in today's time.

Aishwarya Sakhuja

TV's regular presence makes you more relevant and familiar to the audience. As an artiste too, no other medium provides this kind of consistent practice. The daily routine of working on TV trains you to adapt and deliver without feeling overwhelmed. If you can excel in television, you can succeed anywhere. TV challenges you in ways that make other mediums feel much easier by comparison. Television is still relevant because it continues to address issues and topics that resonate deeply with Indian families, ranging from saas-bahu conflicts to matters like child marriage and dowry. These are subjects people often hesitate to talk about, yet they're eager to see them discussed.



A show that airs every day has the power to consistently reinforce its message, making it more impactful than a three-hour film or a six-episode web series. This consistent engagement helps drive the point more effectively.

Sumbul Touqeer

Television provides a sense of continuity and relatability that other mediums sometimes lack. For actors, it offers the opportunity to evolve with their characters over time, allowing for greater exploration of emotions and growth. The medium remains timeless because it's the heartbeat of family entertainment, in most of the places in India. The beauty of television is its ability to adapt—offering fresh stories, cultural touch, and relat-

able content while staying rooted in tradition.

Adaa Khan

Television is the heart of entertainment medium. It's there where even the internet can't reach. Television has given me a digital family. It will always stay relevant. Watching a TV show on a television channel is much more cost-effective than a movie or a web show. Web is a bright medium, but its diverse nature and subscription module make it, at times, difficult for people to subscribe to so many different OTT platforms, whereas TV is available everywhere.

Sneha Wagh
TV is a very prestigious medium. When the audience watch a television show they relate to the characters and find the actors to be one of them. Watching the

shows every day, is like watching a part of their family everyday. Reaching every household is the ultimate power of Television. Whenever I have met my fans, they have always given me a feeling of being their daughter or mother or someone who's a part of their family and that they know me.

Kanwar Dhillon

With any other medium, you just watch the content, and then switch it off. But with television, it's a daily practice. There is a very high recall value of TV shows and its actors. It has a certain connect that no other platform has been able to achieve. The other mediums won't be able to achieve that too because be it a web show or films, you watch it and move on to

the next one. But with television, for the duration of the show, people are connected to you, watching you every day. TV is still relevant, because people are emotionally and habitually connected to it.

Aashiesh Sharrma

TV as a medium has always been open to embrace new talents. It gives a chance to newcomers wholeheartedly without any prejudice or being biased. It has made established actors and stars who come from no background in the industry. So, TV has been the flag bearer of newcomers, and not just in acting. The medium has given me creative and financial stability where I can choose to do what I want and today I have a production house because of it where I am creating my own stuff.

Karan V Grover

The advantage of television is regular employment and steady payments. There is a more structured pattern of working. It has made my life memorable right from day one, 20 years ago. Television still holds the maximum reach not just in the country but across the world. Otherwise, why would we continue to make so many serials, and adding to the length of the already running shows.

Riddhima Kapoor Sahni: Trolls ka kaam hai kehna, humara ignore karna



Riddhima Kapoor Sahni recently made her debut with the reality TV series. Her entry into the world of entertainment feels almost inevitable, given that she's the daughter of late actor Rishi Kapoor and actor Neetu Kapoor. "Everybody knew this (stepping into the spotlight) would happen at some point. But they didn't know when," Riddhima shares, adding, "The decision was made organically when an opportunity [from filmmaker Karan Johar] arose."

Does she feel any pressure to live up to the Kapoor family legacy?

"I'm doing my own thing. I'm living a beautiful life with my family in Delhi. People talk so much about privilege. My privilege is living with my family. I get to spend so much time with them, both in Mumbai and Delhi, and I express gratitude for that every single day. So legacy for me means... I'll try and prove myself every single day to whatever ability I can and take it from there," the 44-year-old says.

Naturally, her first sounding board was her mum, actor Neetu Kapoor. "She already had an idea, and she was all for it. She told

me, 'You've been a fan of the series. You've watched season one and two, and you could have a good time filming it. This is a shot. Go for it,'" Kapoor recalls, adding that she was excited and nervous at the same time. "She asked me, 'Will you be okay doing it?' and I told her, 'I'm slightly skeptical.' But then she gave me a pep talk, and it all worked out for the best."

Riddhima reveals that her brother, actor Ranbir Kapoor was also supportive. "Ranbir never says anything. He told me, 'You want to do it, do it. We are with you and we support you.' And then he told me jokingly, 'I know how you are... you will mess it up.' [Of course] he didn't mean 'mess it up' [literally], but he knows I'm someone who doesn't hold back and I don't believe in pretense and drama."

When asked if she was nervous about how the audience would perceive her, Sahni admits she doesn't dwell on online reactions. "People will say good and bad things. I never cared about the trolls because unka kaam hai bolna, humara kaam hai ignore karna. The reality is I also got a lot of love online, and I'm grateful for it," she says, adding, "I do what I want to do, whatever makes me happy. I'm not looking for validation."

Mrunal Thakur: My style statement is owning it up

For actor Mrunal Thakur, fashion is all about making bold choices and exuding confidence. "It's not just about what's trending, but also about what suits your body."

Styling is essential and at times, you have to get a bit uncomfortable and experiment," she says, adding, "One needs to strike a balance. When you walk into a room, people should not just talk about your shoes or your outfit, but also your personality or your sense of humour. My style statement is owning it up."

From her teenage years to her early days in showbiz and today, Thakur is "proud" of how much her fashion sense has evolved and she credits movies and fashionistas like Rekha, Sridevi, Kajol, Raveena Tandon, and Kareena Kapoor Khan for the change.

The actor, currently filming for Son of Sardaar 2, adds, "We all grew up watching (designer) Manish Malhotra's



designs in films and it was my dream to be dressed in such designer outfits."

Denzel Washington admits to drinking 2 bottles of wine a day in the past

Hollywood star Denzel Washington has shared that at one point he used to wash down his throat with two bottles of fine wine a day.

The 69-year-old 'Training Day' star spent years battling a drinking problem but he has been sober for 10 years and he has revealed that his issues with alcohol started when he got a taste for pricey vintages after adding a wine cellar to the family home, reports 'Female First UK'.

He told 'Esquire' magazine, "Wine is very tricky. It's very slow. It ain't like, boom, all of a sudden. I never got strung out on heroin. Never got strung out on coke. Never got strung out on hard drugs. I shot dope just like they shot dope, but I never got strung out. And I never



got strung out on liquor. I had this ideal idea of wine tastings and all that, which is what it was at first. And that's a very subtle thing." He further mentioned, "I mean, I drank the best, I learned to drink the best (when we added the wine cellar). So I'm gonna drink my '61s and my '82s and whatever we had. Wine was my thing, and now I was popping \$4,000 bottles just because that's what was left."

As per 'Female First UK', he revealed he used to drink two bot-

tles a day but he would never indulge when he was working.

Denzel shared, "I never drank while I was working or preparing. I would clean up, and go back to work, I could do both. However, after many months of shooting, bang, it's time to go. Then, boom. Three months of wine, then time to go back to work."

He went on to concede his drinking impacted his health but he's hoping a decade sober will help him live well into old age. He added, "I've done a lot of damage to the body. We'll see. I've been clean. Things are opening up for me now like being 70. It's real. And it's OK. This is the last chapter -- if I get another thirty, what do I want to do? My mother made it to ninety-seven. I'm doing the best I can."

Shalini Passi on being a viral sensation: 'If Orry is a liver, I am a learner'

Shalini Passi's life took a dramatic turn when the latest season of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives premiered, catapulting her to overnight stardom. Her charismatic presence resonated deeply with audiences making her a sensation. Shalini is still coming to terms with the tag and not thinking about overshadowing Orhan Awa-tramani aka Orry.

In an interview with agency, Shalini gets candid about life after Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives, her plans to come back to the world in another season, being the viral sensation and why she is against going under the knife.

On the fab life after the show

The art aficionado, who hails from Delhi, is enjoying the ride to fame.

"I'm absolutely overwhelmed and really humbled by the response. I had expected some fame with the series as it's a very popular series and it's on Netflix which is such a huge platform. Bu what I had not anticipated was the love. The love that is pouring over the internet," she tells us, adding, "People are calling me the pop-culture icon, the national sweetheart... The love is coming from everybody. It's little girls, grandmothers, women, men, everybody is just reaching out, and they're saying such affectionate things, which is heart-warming for me."

Born in 1976 in Delhi, she married businessman Sanjay Passi in the late 1990s. They have a son, Robin, together. When it comes to her family's reaction to the



show, Shalini shares, "My husband hasn't seen the series yet, and my son watched it with his friends as I was in Mumbai. And he loved it, his friends loved it, and my son was very happy with the outcome and the love that has been showered on me."

The entire proceeds from Shalini's television debut in Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives were donated to UNICEF India to further their joint mission of enhancing childcare missions in Purnea, Bihar.

On takeaway from the show
The hit show's latest season, retitled Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives, stirred things up by adding a dash of Delhi's lifestyle. The original cast members Maheep Kapoor, Neelam Kothari, Bhavana Pandey, and Seema Sajdeh were joined by newcomers Shalini Passi, Kalyani Saha, and Riddhima

Kapoor Sahni (Ranbir Kapoor's sister). The result was an action-packed ride full of drama and conflicts.

That being said, Shalini only packed good memories and walked away from the show. "My takeaway from the show is that seven girls are always fun. There's always going to be lots of drama. There will be lots of humor, fun, and I loved being with the girls. Each one of them is very special to me, and has a special place in my heart, in my life, in my prayers," she shares.

And she stays in "touch with most of them, and we also meet together sometimes". Ask her if she is willing to appear again for the fourth season of the show, and she is quick to note, "Let's see how things go. Let's see how things plan out. If the viewers want me there and the makers want me there, I will be there."

On being a viral sensation

Shalini's multifaceted personality fascinated audiences in the show, from her '20,000 staff members' to her creative spirit, who enjoys singing, dancing, and painting. She emerged as the show's breakout star.

Talking about coming to terms with being a viral sensation, Shalini says, "I don't know, like, how do you come to terms with something so huge? And honestly, I didn't anticipate it. I'm just enjoying being; I'm just enjoying the love that I'm receiving. It has just made me want to do more good things and be a better person".

When asked if she can overshadow Orry as a viral sensation, Shalini responds, "Well, I think it starts with small things and making conscious efforts. And then over time, you know, you have to inculcate those things little by little and you have to live by them. Whether it's doing meditation or doing things that make you happy. Because only if you are happy you are able to give back to society only if you feel loved then you're only able to give love if you don't feel love for yourself if you don't have self-love you cannot give unconditionally also following your passions being happy with what you have been content with what you have been wanting more having goals — so there's a whole lot of dimension to it, lots of reading, lots of travel, lots of understanding different cultures helps me understand things better every day and every day I learn new

things like I said if Orry is a liver I'm a learner," she mentions.

On being against going under the knife

Shalini Passi has been making waves not just with her glamorous persona, but also with her refreshing beauty mantra. One of her most notable quotes that caught everyone's attention is, "I don't hold grudges against other people because it affects my skin". Opening up about her beauty mantra, Shalini reveals, "My beauty skin mantra is that you are what you eat".

"I think having a very tight regime is so important. I think people who do go for drastic things, I mean, these getting cosmetic changes do come out of some sort of insecurity. Always look for other options like exercise. I mean, exercising can make you a really fit body. And I'm totally against superficial, another knife kind of a situation," she shares.

On future projects
Shalini Passi's presence in Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives has sparked immense curiosity, leaving everyone wondering when she will be back on the screen again. The answer? Super soon!

"I have been receiving a lot of shows... There's been a lot of interest for talk shows and as well as other things, but we are just in talks with all that and let's see what comes out of it. And will be definitely willing to take up offers for acting though I'm not an actress if the roles that the producers feel suit me would be happy to do that," she ends.

Formulate proposal to address inter-state trafficking of bonded labourers: SC to Centre

SC seeks unified proposal with states, NHRC involvement to streamline financial aid for rescued minors

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Centre to hold a meeting with all the states and union territories and formulate a proposal to address the issue of inter-state trafficking of bonded labourers, including minors.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan termed as "alarming" after figures placed before it showed in Uttar Pradesh of the 5,264 bonded labourers released, only 1,101 had received immediate financial assistance.

The apex court observed the problem was in the disbursement of immediate financial assistance to the rescued children as in some cases minors were taken from their home states and forced into bonded labour in adjoining states.

"We find that in order to address the issue of inter-state trafficking of children, the issue needs to be addressed by the union as well as all the states in a unified manner," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking enforcement of fundamental rights of people trafficked as bonded labourers.

It therefore directed the secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment to have a meeting with his counterparts in all the states and union territories and formulate a proposal to address the social evil.

The bench wants the propos-



al to comprise a simplified procedure to assist the scheme of providing immediate financial assistance to the rescued child labourers.

"Taking into consideration the importance of the matter, we find that it will be appropriate to have the assistance of the Attorney General. We, therefore, request the Attorney General to assist us in the matter," it said.

The Centre was further directed by the apex court to take on board the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) while finalising the procedure.

The matter will be heard after six weeks.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for the petitioners flagged the issue over the immediate disbursement of financial assistance to the rescued bonded labourers.

The bench referred to Uttar Pradesh's figures and said over 4,100 released bonded labourers had not received financial assistance.

The state's counsel said they had compiled the district-wise data along with the number of bonded labourers released and the disbursements made to them and he would place it on record.

When asked how the state prevents bonded labour, the counsel said he would also place on record the procedure being followed in Uttar Pradesh.

The counsel for the petitioners said it was an inter-state issue as there were cases wherein people from Bihar were taken to Uttar Pradesh for bonded labour.

"Why don't you as a union have coordination with all the

state governments?" the bench asked the Centre's counsel.

It said the secretary of the ministry concerned should hold a meeting with his counterparts in all the states and union territories and come out with a unified formula applicable to all.

The bench further observed in the digital era, there should be a portal akin to the one pertaining to missing children.

"You have to find a unified procedure," the bench remarked.

During a hearing in August, senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing in the matter, said not even 10 per cent of such labourers were paid financial assistance or compensation.

In July 2022, the apex court agreed to hear the petition and sought responses from the Centre, the NHRC and some states and union territories on the plea.

One of the petitioners claimed he and some other bonded workers were rescued and released on February 28, 2019 from a brick kiln in Shahjahanpur district in Uttar Pradesh before being trafficked by an unregistered contractor from their native in Bihar's Gaya district.

The petitioner said he and his fellow workers were forced to work without the payment of minimum statutory wages and their fundamental rights to movement and employment were severely curtailed.

Ex-VP Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates exhibition as part of LokManthan event



HYDERABAD, Nov 21 (Agencies): Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday inaugurated an exhibition here organised as part of LokManthan-2024, a colloquium of "nationalist thinkers".

Speaking on the occasion, Naidu said the underlying idea of this event is to decolonise the minds of Indians and to foster a sense of pride and commitment to Bharatiya intellectual discourse, culture, heritage, music and dance. "That is the purpose of this programme. It's a noble idea behind the programme," he said.

Minister G Kishan Reddy was also

present. President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate LokManthan-2024 on November 22.

Organised by Prajna Pravah, an organisation of 'nation-first' intellectuals, researchers, and academicians, the event will feature debates on various topics as well as cultural programmes.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, and other dignitaries are also expected to attend the event to be held till November 24.

Delegates from foreign countries, including groups that follow pre-Abrahamic traditions, will also participate and perform cultural dances and other exhibitions. The Yazidis, who faced attacks by ISIS, are also expected to attend the conference, the organisers said.

LokManthan, a biennial event, was previously held in Bhopal, Ranchi, and Guwahati, starting in 2016.

Five killed in bus-truck collision on Yamuna Expressway in Aligarh

ALIGARH (UP), Nov 21 (Agencies): Five people were killed and several injured when a bus collided with the truck on Yamuna Expressway here, police said Thursday.

The incident took place in the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday when the vehicles were passing through the Tappal area of the district, they said.

An injured passenger told reporters that the privately operated bus was en route to Azamgarh in eastern Uttar Pradesh from Delhi's Kashmere Gate.

The truck involved in the collision was carrying glass items, the man added.

Police said it reached the spot immediately on receiving information about the accident and carried out relief and



rescue operations.

"Police sent the injured to the hospital for treatment. The bodies of five deceased were sent for post-mortem," Aligarh Police said in a brief statement on X.

Police said legal proceedings were initiated in the case and normal traffic was resumed on the Yamuna Expressway carriageway where the accident took place.

Zambian student at Chandigarh university charged with murder dies by suicide in police custody

CHANDIGARH, Nov 21 (Agencies): A Zambian student from Chandigarh University allegedly murdered a Tanzanian student from the same university and died by suicide in the Punjab Police custody by hanging himself.

Police sources said that 24-year-old Saviour Chikopela of Zambia on the intervening night of November 20 and 21 allegedly committed suicide in the police lock-up at the Sunny Enclave Police Post in Kharar near Chandigarh by hanging himself using thin nylon rope inside the jail bar.

The police rushed him to the Kharar Civil Hospital around 12.10 am where he was declared brought dead.

He was arrested yesterday at 11.38 pm on the charges of allegedly murdering another foreign student Nuru Mari hailing from Tanzania who was his batch mate.

The police have remained tightlipped on

the incident and even kept the gates of the police station closed on Thursday morning.

A case under section 103 BNS dated November 20 has been registered at Police Station City against Saviour.

Sources further said that the girl Nuru Mari was found dead in Kharar. Police investigated and found out that the alleged accused Saviour Chikopela murdered her. The police traced the CCTV footage of where Nuru lived and also spoke to the students of the African community thus cracking the case.

Confirming the development, Senior Superintendent of Police of SAS Nagar, Deepak Pareek confirmed that a student was found dead. Initially, police suspected suicide; however, murder was confirmed after the investigation.

"The accused student was arrested yester-

day late evening but he committed suicide in the police lock-up. The investigations are going in this matter," he said.

Meanwhile, in another incident, Chandigarh Police arrested two students including a Panjab University student for the death of an outsider in the boys' hostel number 7 of the university on Monday night following drug overdose.

Those arrested are 21-year old Aryan Parbhat, a student at the University Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management, hailing from Banjar village of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh and 24-year old Parikshit Kaushal belonging to Madhawani village in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh. He is an ex-student of the university. The deceased also a resident of Kullu, had been staying in hostel number 7 as a guest of his friend.

Rahul, Congress tried since 2002 to target Modi's image, PM's credibility remains high: BJP on Adani row

BJP spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra made it clear that as far as allegations against the Adani group are concerned it is for the company to issue a clarification and defend itself.

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): The BJP on Thursday dubbed Rahul Gandhi's attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the US prosecutors' indictment of Gautam Adani on alleged bribery and fraud charges as part of his long-running efforts to target its leader, and noted that none of the four states named in American courts had a BJP government.

Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra made it clear that as far as allegations against the Adani group are concerned it is for the company to issue a clarification and defend itself.

"Law will take its own course," he said, while keeping the focus on Gandhi's allegations against the prime minister and the BJP government at the Centre.

Since 2002, Rahul Gandhi, his mother Sonia Gandhi and the



Congress have been trying to tarnish Modi's image, but they have not succeeded and the prime minister received the highest civilian award in a foreign country on a day the opposition party was attacking him, the BJP leader said.

Rahul Gandhi claimed in his press conference that the opposition has been successful in destroying Modi's credibility over his alleged proximity to the business tycoon.

Citing the Adani group's investment in various states ruled by the Congress and its allies, Patra noted that

it invested Rs 25k crore and Rs 65k crore in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan when Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot were at the helm there respectively. The conglomerate invested Rs 45k crore in the DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu and had recently given Rs 100 crore donation to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a skill development foundation, he added.

If Adani is "corrupt", then why are the Congress governments seeking investment from his company, he asked. The billionaire industrialist has been charged

by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts.

This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors have alleged.

US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets.

The Adani group, however, has denied the charges.

The Congress, Patra alleged, cannot tolerate the Indian economy gaining in strength with Modi as prime minister, as it is now on track to become the third biggest global economy.

Rahul Gandhi has been trying to target the Indian economy by making all kinds of alle-

gations, and over 2.5 crore investors even on Thursday lost a lot of money as the stock market tanked, he said.

The Congress leader targeted the government over the alleged corruption in the Rafale aircraft deal and had also gone after it over the issue of Covid vaccines, he added.

Patra also objected to Gandhi's claim that his party has to do the job of the judiciary as well, saying it amounted to contempt of court.

Gandhi does not understand legalities and technicalities around an issue and merely repeats what he is briefed by a few advisors, he added.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha will now start a "drama" when Parliament's Winter session begins from November 25 and try to disrupt its proceedings and target the economy, he claimed.

Manipur people deserve better than a 'part-time' gov, 'failed' CM, 'super-failed' HM: Congress

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): In the wake of fresh violence in strife-torn Manipur, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday said the people of the state deserve better than "a part-time governor, a failed chief minister and a super-failed Union home minister".

The Congress general secretary in-charge of communications said the tenure of former Governor Anusuiya Uikey was curtailed to less than 18

months, and even she was puzzled as to why the prime minister did not visit Manipur despite several requests sent to him.

"Since July 31, 2024, Manipur does not have a full-time Governor. The present incumbent spends most of his time in Assam.

"The tenure of the earlier incumbent Anusuiya Uikey ji, a distinguished tribal political leader, was curtailed to less than 18 months.



Even she is puzzled why the PM has not

visited the state in spite of repeated requests,"

Ramesh said in a post on X.

"A part-time Governor, a failed CM, and a super-failed Union Home Minister.

Surely the people of Manipur deserve better," the Congress leader said.

The Congress has been repeatedly questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting Manipur despite ethnic violence rocking the state for several months now.

Seven killed, many injured after bus overturns in Jharkhand



HAZARIBAG, Nov 21 (Agencies): At least seven people were killed and several others injured on Thursday after a Patna-bound

bus with passengers on board overturned in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, police said.

The incident occurred near Gorhar Police Sta-

tion area, around 50 km away from district headquarters, when the bus overturned while it was taking a turn, a senior officer said.

"Seven deaths have been confirmed so far. Some more people may be trapped in the bus," Hazaribag SP Arvind Kumar Singh told agency.

There were about 50 passengers in the bus which was going to Patna from Kolkata when the accident took place.

Australia cracks down porn access for minors after social media ban for children younger than 16

Australia is also looking for ways to prevent children under 18 from accessing online pornography

MELBOURNE, Nov 21 (Agencies): Australia's communications minister introduced a world-first law into Parliament on Thursday that would ban children younger than 16 from social media, saying online safety was one of parents' toughest challenges.

Michelle Rowland said TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram were among the platforms that would face fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (USD 33 million) for systemic failures to prevent young children from holding accounts.

"This bill seeks to set a new normative value in society that accessing social media is not the defining feature of growing up in Australia," Rowland told Parliament.

"There is wide acknowledgement that something must be done in the immediate term to help prevent young teens and children from being exposed to streams of content unfiltered and infinite," she added.

The bill has wide political support. After it becomes law, the platforms would have one year to work out how to implement the age restriction.

"For too many young Australians, social media can be harmful. Almost two-thirds of 14- to



17-years-old Australians have viewed extremely harmful content online including drug abuse, suicide or self-harm as well as violent material. One quarter have been exposed to content promoting unsafe eating habits," Rowland said.

Government research found that "95 per cent of Australian care-givers find online safety to be one of their toughest parenting challenges," she said.

Social media had a social responsibility and could do better in addressing harms on their platforms, she said.

"This is about protecting young people, not punishing or isolating them, and letting parents know that we're in their corner when it comes to supporting their children's health and well-

being," Rowland said.

Child welfare and internet experts have raised concerns about the ban, including isolating 14- and 15-year-olds from their already established online social networks.

Rowland said there would not be age restrictions placed on messaging services, online games or platforms that substantially support the health and education of users.

"We are not saying risks don't exist on messaging apps or online gaming. While users can still be exposed to harmful content by other users, they do not face the same algorithmic curation of content and psychological manipulation to encourage near-endless engagement," Rowland said.

The government announced last week that a consortium led by British company Age Check Certification Scheme has been contracted to examine various technologies to estimate and verify ages.

In addition to removing children under 16 from social media, Australia is also looking for ways to prevent children under 18 from accessing online pornography, a government statement said.

Age Check Certification Scheme's chief executive Tony Allen said Monday the technologies being considered included age estimation and age inference. Inference involves establishing a series of facts about individuals that point to them being at least a certain age.

Rowland said the platforms would also face fines of up to AUD 50 million (USD 33 million) if they misused personal information of users gained for age-assurance purposes.

Information used for age assurances must be destroyed after serving that purpose unless the user consents to it being kept, she said.

Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia, described the age limit as a "20th century response to 21st century challenges."

Former Pak PM Imran Khan arrested in protest case hours after bail in second Toshakhana case



ISLAMABAD, Nov 21 (Agencies): The chances for the release of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan vanished after he was arrested in a protest case hours after getting bail in a case of alleged corruption, a media report said on Thursday.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted him bail in the second Toshakhana case related to the purchase of an expensive Bulgari jewellery set at a throwaway price, igniting hopes of his release.

However, hours later, Rawalpindi police arrested him late at night in connection with a case registered at New Town Police Station on terrorism and other charges.

The police alleged that Khan, while imprisoned in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, had called for a protest in Rawalpindi on September 28.

Dawn newspaper quoted a police spokesperson as saying that Khan had been detained in the case filed on September 28 and a team has been tasked to probe the charges.

The charges include violations of the Anti-Terrorism Act, defying the government ban on public gatherings, obstructing police duty, damaging police vehicles and endangering public safety.

Even before the formal arrest in the

case, federal information minister Atta Tarar doused the idea of his release by saying that Khan was wanted in eight cases related to May 9, 2023 violence and should secure bail before being set free from jail.

Dawn reported that Khan needs to secure bail in nearly two dozen other cases registered across Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad before being released.

According to Islamabad police, at least 62 cases were registered against Khan in various police stations of the capital while his PTI party said that another 54 cases were registered in Punjab province.

Meanwhile, an accountability court on Wednesday held a hearing on the GBP 190 million case at the Adiala Jail and was informed that Khan and Bushra Bibi have yet to submit responses to the questionnaires issued to them.

The court granted Bibi's request for an exemption from court appearance on medical grounds and adjourned the hearing till November 22.

Separately, the Lahore High Court dismissed a plea by Khan's sister, Noreen Niazi, seeking bail for her brother in all cases against him in Punjab and Islamabad.

An assistant attorney general presented a report to the court, stating that 62 cases had been registered against Khan by the Islamabad police.

After going through the report, Justice Farooq Haider turned down the request, observing that bail petitions must be filed personally by the suspect.

Dozens of cases have been registered against Khan since losing power in April 2022.

His party maintained that all cases were politically motivated.

Philippines typhoon death toll rises to 12

MANILA, Nov 21 (Agencies): The death toll from Super Typhoon Man-yi in the Philippines has risen to 12, the national disaster agency said on Thursday.

Man-yi submerged villages and smashed flimsy buildings in the archipelago nation over the weekend, packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 185 kilometres (115 miles) an hour.

It was the sixth major storm in a month to strike the Philippines.

The storm have killed at least 175 people and displaced thousands, as well as wiping out crops and livestock. Most of the Man-yi deaths were in mountainous areas north of the capital Manila, including seven people killed after a landslide buried their house in Nueva Vizcaya province.

A boulder also crushed a house, burying three people alive, in the coastal town of Dip-



aculao, where Man-yi had made a second landfall, Ariel Nepomuceno, a senior official with the government's civil defence office, told agency. Four people remain missing, he added.

"We are now in the recovery period, people have started to fix their houses. Construction materials have been arriving in hard-hit provinces," Nepomuceno said.

In the northern city of Tuguegarao, floodwaters induced by a dam release and a swollen Cagayan River have started to subside, after swamping thousands of

houses in the days after the typhoon exited the country.

"The water level has subsided and is now just one foot (0.3 metres) high. Some evacuees have also gone back to their homes," city disaster official Ian Valdepenas told agency on Thursday.

Schools and government offices have reopened.

About 20 big storms and typhoons hit the Southeast Asian nation or its surrounding waters each year, killing scores of people, but it is rare for multiple such weather events to take place in a small window.

Hong Kong activist Jimmy Lai denies he asked a newspaper colleague to draft list of sanction targets

HONG KONG, Nov 21 (Agencies): Former publisher Jimmy Lai denied that he asked a colleague to draft a list of potential sanction targets in his second day of testimony Thursday at his landmark national security trial in Hong Kong.

The 77-year-old founder of the now-shuttered Apple Daily pro-democracy newspaper is being tried on charges of colluding with foreign forces to endanger national security and conspiring with others to issue seditious publications. He was arrested in 2020 in a political crackdown following massive anti-government protests in 2019. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

The testimony highlighted WhatsApp conversations between Lai and Apple Daily's ex-associate publisher Chan Pui-man. She



was one of six former Apple Daily executives who pleaded guilty to conspiring with Lai to call for sanctions or a blockade or to engage in other hostile activities against Hong Kong or China.

Lai's lawyer Steven Kwan showed the messages in court after Chan earlier in the trial said that Lai had suggested the newspaper prepare a sanction list after then-President Donald Trump signed a directive seeking to punish those the U.S. government determines

whether he intended to ask Lee to work up such a list, Lai answered "that would be ridiculous."

After the security law was enacted in June 2020, the Trump administration imposed sanctions on Hong Kong officials, accusing them of cooperating with Beijing's effort to undermine autonomy and crack down on freedom in the city.

Authorities have used the law to prosecute Lai and other leading activists. Under the threat of the law, dozens of civil society groups disbanded and some other activists were forced into self-exile. Apple Daily closed in 2021 following the arrests of some of its senior managers.

Critics say the drastic political changes reflect the freedoms promised to be kept intact in the former British colony when it returned to Chi-

nese rule in 1997 were shrinking. But Beijing and Hong Kong governments said the law restored the city's stability following the 2019 protests.

The court also heard Lai had reminded his staff working on international news not to go against Trump in 2020 when they were hoping Trump would do something to stop the national security law. Lai said he did not interfere with the way those journalists worked until the law loomed.

On Wednesday, asked how he thought Trump could help, Lai said "a call to China, a call to Xi Jinping, whatever," referring to the Chinese president. He said his newspaper would not be able to survive under the law but he never communicated with Trump.

The trial will continue on Friday.

Former UK Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott dies at age 86

LONDON, Nov 21 (Agencies): Britain's former deputy prime minister John Prescott, who served under Tony Blair and with him helped transform the country's Labour party, has died aged 86, his family said on Thursday.

"We are deeply saddened to inform you that our beloved husband, father and grandfather, John Prescott, passed away yesterday (Wednesday) at the age of 86," a statement read.

Blair, the privately educated lawyer who appointed working-class Prescott to help appease the Labour left as he moved the party to the centre ground, said he was "devastated" at Prescott's death. "There was no one quite like him in British politics," he told BBC radio.

Keir Starmer, who became Labour's first prime minister since 2010 after a landslide

general election win in July, called Prescott "a true giant of the Labour movement".

"He was a staunch defender of working people and a proud trade unionist. During a decade as deputy prime minister, he was one of the key architects of a Labour government that transformed the lives of millions of people across the nation," he added. "So much of John's work set the path for those of us fortunate enough to follow. From leading climate negotiations to fighting regional inequality, his legacy will live on well beyond his lifetime." Prescott, a former merchant seaman and trade union activist who served as a member of parliament for Hull in northern England for four decades, died "peacefully" at a care home, his wife Pauline, and two sons said.

"He did so surrounded by the



love of his family and the jazz music of Marian Montgomery," they added. Prescott, who was appointed to the House of Lords, suffered a stroke in 2019 and had been suffering from Alzheimer's. He stopped being a member of the upper chamber of parliament in July because of his health problems. Plain-speaking, Prescott served for 10 years as Blair's deputy following Labour's landslide 1997 general

election win. During a campaign stop in north Wales he punched a protester who threw an egg at him. But he also acted as a mediator between Blair and his finance minister Gordon Brown, who also helmed the transformation of Labour in the 1990s and who had designs on power.

Prescott's brief included the environment and transport, as well as leading negotiations for Britain for the international Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

Blair said in a 2007 letter to Prescott that he saw his role as "smoothing out colleagues and sorting out colleagues and trouble-shooting".

"The completely unique Prescott blend of charm and brutality... got you through the decade, kept the government together and above all, gave me a lot of fun. I was lucky to have you as my deputy," he told him.

Ukraine's military says Russia launches ICBM, a claim denied by Western official

KYIV, Nov 21 (Agencies): Russia on Thursday launched an intercontinental ballistic missile toward Ukraine, officials in Kyiv said, but a Western official told agency that the attack did not appear to be an ICBM.

It was instead a ballistic missile, which was aimed at Dnipro, in Ukraine's southeast, the Western official said.

The claim was not immediately confirmed by Moscow, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declining to comment, saying questions about it should be instead directed to the Russian Defense Ministry.

The launch of an ICBM, if confirmed, would arrive amid concerns that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine could further escalate. Ukraine's military this week first launched U.S.-made ATACMS missiles toward targets within Russia, days after U.S. President Joe Biden allowed for such use of the long-range weapons.

Within hours of Russia announcing it had struck down some of those ATACMS missiles, the Kremlin announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin had updated the country's nuclear doctrine, a move that lowered the bar for a response with nuclear weapons.

The Ukrainian Air Force announced on Thursday morning that it had tracked the launch of the ICBM, along with six additional missiles, all of which were targeting the Dnipro region. The ICBM appeared to have been launched from the Astrahan region, in Russia's southwest, Ukrainian military officials said.

All of the missiles were launched in about two hours, beginning at about 5 a.m., Ukraine said. They were targeted at businesses and critical infrastructure.

The six other missiles were shot down, Ukraine said. No casualties or damages were reported, officials said.

Samsung R&D Institute, Noida and IIT Bombay Sign MoU to Pioneer Research in Digital Health

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-Noida), has strengthened its commitment to industry-academia collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). Under this MoU, SRI-Noida and IIT Bombay will explore breakthroughs in artificial intelligence (AI), digital health, and other critical areas. The five-year partnership will facilitate joint research projects, providing IIT Bombay students and faculty an opportunity to collaborate with Samsung engineers.

This approach will not only open newer avenues for the students, but will enhance their industry readiness. In addition, it will equip Samsung



engineers with specialized training and certification programmes from IIT Bombay in emerging technologies such as digital health and AI.

The MoU was formally signed by Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director of SRI-Noida, and Prof. Upendra V. Bhandarkar, Associate Dean of Research and Development at IIT Bombay. The event, which took place at IIT Bombay, was attended by faculty members from the Koita

Centre for Digital Health (KCDH), including Prof. Ranjith Padinhateeri, Head of KCDH, Prof. Nirmal Punjabi and Dr. Raghavendran Lakshminarayanan.

"This collaboration represents a powerful blend of industry expertise and academic excellence, opening doors for pioneering research, innovation, and talent development. We look forward to working closely with IIT-B's exceptional faculty and

students to drive meaningful advancements and develop solutions that address real-world challenges in the field of Digital Health, AI and other emerging technologies.

Together, we aim to create an ecosystem of knowledge-sharing and innovation that benefits both our organization and society at large," said Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, SRI-Noida.

"Today marks an exciting milestone as we formalize

our partnership with SRI-Noida. This MoU presents our shared commitment to innovation, knowledge exchange and pursuit of excellence. By working together, we are creating new pathways for students and faculty to engage with industry, advancing research opportunities and contributing to the growth of our communities," said Prof. Upendra V. Bhandarkar, Associate Dean (R&D), IIT Bombay. The MoU encourages the publication of joint research papers, promoting knowledge sharing that will drive technological progress and industry-aligned innovation. Through this partnership, Samsung and IIT Bombay are setting the foundation for a sustained exchange of expertise that will push the boundaries of next-generation technologies and inspire future breakthroughs.

SPPND GDC Samba signs MoU with JKEDI to make students industry ready

Top News Report

SAMBA, Nov 21: In a landmark initiative to promote innovation and self-reliance among students, SPPND GDC Samba signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute.

The collaboration aims to nurture entrepreneurship skills and provide students with the resources and mentorship needed to transform their ideas into successful startups. The MoU was signed in formal ceremony attended by key officials from both the institutes. The signatories included Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college and Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Director JKEDI.

The Principal, in

her welcome address applauded the partnership as a significant stride to help the student community in getting exposure and experiential learning. She impressed upon the students to materialise their potential and achieve maximum through start-up initiatives undertaken by JKEDI in J&K UT.

She further exhorted that this association will build confidence among students and prepare them to have a smooth transition from academic to working career. Director, JKEDI delivered an insightful lecture on the role of JKEDI in entrepreneurship development and startups in J&K.

He emphasized the role of JKEDI in training the young students in emerging technology in order

to bridge the skill gap and make them industry ready. They were further made aware about various challenges faced by an entrepreneur and the ways to overcome them.

The students were also briefed about the successful startups of Jammu for e.g., Namhya Foods with an annual turnover of Rs. 40 Crore. Earlier Dr. Pooja, HOD Commerce highlighted that this joint venture will enhance opportunities for students in innovation culture. This collaboration was an initiative of the Career Counseling Cell of the college.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Shaveta Choudhary, HOD Political Science and formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Banpreet Kour, Convener IQAC.

GAMC Akhnoor students visit Regional Ayurveda Research Institute

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: In a significant educational initiative under the guidance of Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of Government Ayurvedic Medical College (GAMC) Akhnoor, students of the BAMS batch 2024 visited the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Rajendra Nagar, Bantalab Road, Jammu as part of their Transitional Curriculum.

During the visit, students interacted with the institute's staff and gained insights into ongoing research projects and activities. The comprehensive field visit included tours of various

departments such as OPD (Outpatient Department), IPD (Inpatient Department), Panchkarma Unit, pharmacy, and research labs.

The visit was facilitated by Dr. Rahul Gupta, Dr. Abhishek Magotra, and Dr. Ankush Bharadwaj, Associate Professors from GAMC, who accompanied the students to ensure they benefited from the experience.

Key scientists at the institute, including Dr. Talat Anjum (Research Officer - Botany, Scientist-3), Dr. Harbans Singh (Research Officer - Ayurveda, Scientist-3), and Dr. Aditya Shah (Research Officer - Ayurveda, Scien-

tist-2), provided detailed explanations about the institute's functioning and highlighted the pivotal role of research in advancing Ayurveda.

The students explored the practical applications of Ayurveda in clinical settings and learned about the benefits of integrating research into traditional medicine. The experience was lauded as highly educational, offering the students a deeper understanding of the science and practice of Ayurveda.

This visit underscores the importance of experiential learning and bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications in the field of Ayurveda.

GDC Marh Eshaan Saini bags gold medal in Judo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Eshaan Saini of BA Sem V, GDC Marh won gold medal in Open District Judo Championship 2024 held at M.A Stadium, Jammu from November 18 to 19, 2024.

The Championship was organized by Judo Association J&K under the banner of J&K Sports Council and J&K Olympic Association. Around 200 students from different colleges and schools participated in the championship. Eshaan Saini won gold medal by defeating three players in below 60kg weight category in Men's Junior

Category.

He has also won Gold Medal in Inter College Judo championship, Gold Medal in Judo District Championship, Gold medal in Judo J&K UT Championship and Silver Medal in Wrestling and Pencak-Silat Inter Collegiate competition recently and also has participated in Khelo India 2024 at Guwahati.

Principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumal Koul congratulated Eshaan on his achievements, dedication which has brought laurels to the college in the field of sports. Eshaan thanked Principal of the college for constant support and encouragement.

Army organizes Child Rights Day celebration at Batsiyala



Top News Report

REASI, Nov 21: In a commendable initiative aimed at promoting awareness about child rights and education, the Indian Army organized a vibrant celebration of Child Rights Day at Batsiyala in the Reasi District.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from children, parents, educators and community leaders underscoring

the importance of protecting and empowering the younger generation. The program highlighted the significance of education, healthcare, and equal opportunities for children.

The Indian Army delivered lectures on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), emphasizing the need for safeguarding rights to education, health and a safe environment.

They encouraged children to aspire toward a bright future through education and determination.

The local community expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for its continuous efforts in fostering development and well-being in remote regions.

Initiatives like this not only empower children but also strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the communities they serve.

FROM PAGE 1

K Sanjay Murthy takes oath as Comptroller and Auditor General of India

He added, "I will keep the sovereignty and integrity of India unbroken. I will maintain the sovereignty and integrity of India in such a gentle manner and with reverence and with all my sacrifice, knowledge, and wisdom. And I respect my plants in all respects and with all my ability, knowledge, and wisdom. I will perform the duties of my position without fear, prejudice, affection, or country. I will follow without fear, prejudice, affection, or malice, and I will maintain the limits of the Constitution and the laws."

Murthy, known for his expertise and distinguished service, succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu, taking on the constitutional responsibility of auditing government accounts and ensuring financial discipline across public institutions.

As CAG, Murthy will play a critical role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and adherence to fiscal policies in India's governance structure.

His appointment comes at a time when the nation is focusing on financial reforms and enhanced public sector efficiency.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials, dignitaries, and members of the judiciary, reflecting the importance of this constitutional office in India's democratic framework.

Jammu Petrol Pumps declare 'No Fuel For Vehicles Driven By Minors', DSE issues circular

specifically focuses on minors riding two-wheelers without helmets or four-wheelers, is aimed at ensuring the safety of children," said an employee of the petrol pump.

This step has drawn praise from residents and encouraged the authorities to take proactive measures.

On November 14, two young boys died while another was critically injured after a tragic collision between two vehicles near the Tengpora area in Srinagar. This incident sparked a debate on driving by minors and road safety in the valley.

Following another accident in Srinagar last week, in which two teenage boys died and two others were injured after their car rammmed into a stationary truck, the DSE issued an order prohibiting minor students from driving motor vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, to school.

"It has come to notice that some underage students are driving vehicles while going to schools or coaching centres. Such an act has the potential of causing road accidents, endangering public safety, and is also in violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act," the DSE said in a circular issued on Thursday.

It further said, "In view of the above, it is impressed upon Heads of Institutions of all government and private schools & coaching centres to implement these instructions strictly. They should keep a close vigil to ensure that no underage student is allowed to attend the institution while driving any motor vehicle, including two-wheelers or four-wheelers."

Such students must not be permitted entry and their parents should be informed accordingly, the circular added.

The directive further instructed schools and coaching centres to ensure proper sensitisation of students and parents about the dangers and risks involved in underage driving. Awareness programmes on age restrictions and traffic rules should be organised in collaboration with the traffic police, it said.

"Parents and guardians should be educated through PTMs (parents-teachers meetings) about the consequences of underage driving and their responsibilities," it stated.

Additionally, schools and coaching centres are required to monitor parking areas and entry points to ensure compliance, it said.

"Any instance of a minor driving a vehicle should be immediately reported to the concerned authorities. They should also regularly coordinate with the Traffic Police to enforce strict measures," the circular said.

The directive emphasised activating all road safety and school safety clubs to raise awareness in schools.

"All government and private schools & coaching centres must strictly ensure the implementation of the above circular instructions in letter and spirit. Any violation of the instructions shall invite legal action under the Motor Vehicle Act and relevant laws, including the withdrawal of recognition and registration of the institution," it

said.

Farooq Abdullah refuses to sit in Bigger Chair at Jammu Event, Earns Praise

During the fair, the chief minister toured the numerous stalls set up across the expansive venue, engaging directly with farmers and discussing their needs.

The four-day event is being hailed as a potential game changer for the agricultural community, featuring a comprehensive Agricultural Fair, an engaging Farmers' Symposium, and a series of informative workshops.

A spokesperson for SKUAST highlighted that the workshops will cover essential topics such as high-tech agriculture, precision livestock farming, dairy and poultry farming, agri-mechanisation, and climate-resilient practices.

Hope Centre will investigate allegations against Adani Group: Farooq Abdullah

they involve certain links to American investors or markets.

The Adani group, however, has denied the charges in response to a question on his party MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi seeking a review of reservation, Abdullah said "this is a good thing that the Lok Sabha member is raising people's issues."

"The job of the government is to bring forth all the issues of the people. The 'gundaraj' is over. We are answerable to people because they have voted for us," he said.

Terrorist Infiltration Case: NIA raids 8 locations in Jammu

sources said.

Sources said that NIA officials, assisted by the police and paramilitary CRPF, are searching premises in districts including Reasi, Doda, Udhampur, Ramban, and Kishtwar.

The raids aim to gather evidence and dismantle networks linked to terrorist infil-

tration.

"The raids are being conducted on the premises of terrorist Over Ground Workers (OGWs)," they said.

Jammu and Kashmir tops Urban Youth Unemployment Rate at 32 Per Cent: PLFS Report

per cent in the previous quarter, indicating continued recovery in the labour market post-Covid-19.

Youth unemployment remains a pressing concern, with rates consistently in double digits across most regions. Among 22 states and union territories covered, 20 reported double-digit unemployment rates for the 15-29 age group.

The report highlighted stark gender disparities, with the overall unemployment rate among females at 21 per cent, a slight drop from 23 per cent in the previous quarter. Jammu and Kashmir reported the highest female unemployment rate at 53.6 per cent, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 43.9 per cent and Assam at 39.3 per cent. In contrast, Delhi and Gujarat recorded the lowest rates at 1.8 per cent and 5.3 per cent, respectively.

For males, Odisha had the highest unemployment rate at 28.1 per cent, followed by Andhra Pradesh at 22.5 per cent and Bihar at 21.5 per cent. Delhi again fared the best, with a male unemployment rate of 5 per cent, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 6 per cent, according to the newspaper.

JDA demolishes Kashmir Migrants' Shops; sparks protests, condemnations

Apni Party, and several Kashmir Pandit organisations condemned the JDA's action and called for the construction of new shops for the displaced community to help them sustain their livelihood.

Pointing to his demolished shop, its owner Kuldeep Kisroo said, "Instead of helping us survive by providing better facilities and financial support, this government has snatched our bread and butter by bulldozing our shops."

Jav Lal Bhat, another shopkeeper who set up his shop in a tin shed in 1991, said,

"How can we feed our families when we are solely dependent on the earnings from these shops? We urge the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister to intervene and give us justice."

Another shopkeeper, Jawahir Lal, described the demolition as "sheer hooliganism". He said, "No notices were served to us for the demolition."

President of the Muthi migrant camp Anil Bhan criticised the timing of the demolition. "It should have waited for another month as the relief department is already constructing shops for them within the camp. This unfortunate incident could have been avoided," he said.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti shared a clip of the affected shopkeepers on X and urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the issue with compassion and urgency.

"Heartbreaking scenes emerge as Kashmiri Pandit shopkeepers stand helplessly by the rubble of their demolished shops, reportedly brought down by the JDA without prior notice. This act further deepens their sense of alienation and loss," she said on X.

BJP Spokesperson G L Raina, who visited the site and met the affected families, said, "This visibly seems to be a revenge action soon after the return of the NC-Congress Government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah." "JDA should have provided alternatives to these families. The Government must stop targeting this hapless community," he said. Apni Party General Secretary and former legislator Vijay Bakaya expressed dismay and questioned the intentions of the JDA. "Many shops being run by Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Muthi for nearly 30 years have been demolished. If these shops had to be removed for any legitimate reason, notice should have been given and alternative locations provided. This high-handed action by the authorities is most condemnable," he said.

Police solve hit and run case in Sopore

accused. He has confessed to hitting the victim while riding his scooter bearing no. (JK05H-4292) recklessly. Fearing consequences, he fled the scene and did not report the incident to authorities, an official said. The accused has been arrested, and the vehicle has been seized. Section 106(2) was added to the victim's death and further investigation is on, official said.

Ladakh all set to hold 'Ladakh Education Conclave Access to Quality Education for Vibrant, Viksit Ladakh'

Top News Report

LEH, Nov 21: The Higher Education Department, School Education Department, and Ladakh Skill Development are organizing a two-day Ladakh Education Conclave 2024' from 22 to 23 November at the Zen Hotel Leh. Brig (Dr) BD. Mishra Retd, Lieutenant Governor UT Ladakh, will grace the occasion as Chief Guest, while the Chairman, LAHDC Leh, and Kargil have been invited as Guests of Honour.

The event aims to unite policy-makers, institutions, industries, experts, teachers, students, and communities to collaborate on a holistic approach to education by aligning school education, vocational skilling, and higher education as per the National Education Policy 2020 and current trends.

The conclave will focus on topics like Seamless transition from school to higher education; ensuring continuity and relevance, Skill integration at all levels of education to

foster employability and entrepreneurship; Equity and Inclusion; providing access to education for students from remote, tribal, and marginalized communities; innovative pedagogy and digital learning tools to enhance quality and access, especially in rural and challenging geographies like Ladakh and Sustainable development through education aligned with regional socio-economic needs.

Renowned experts from the field of School Education, Faculties from

Colleges and Universities, Industry representatives and Organisations with field experience shall sit with Policy makers and local practitioners to deliberate in a structured framework on key focus areas. Based on the deliberations a draft action plan for the next five years will be prepared for the concern departments.

lected representatives, CSOs and students will also be a part of the ten Working Groups and give their inputs during the two days Conclave. Senior

Professors from NCERT, Bhopal & Delhi, Professors from RIE (Regional Institute of Education), Ajeer & professors from NIEP from School Education sector, senior Professors from Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Kashmir, IIM Jammu, IIT Delhi are among the academia participants while Maruti Suzuki Ltd, HCL Tech, TATA IIS, Deloitte, Jaquar Pvt Ltd, Hero MotoCorp, NASSCOM, Parimal Foundation are among the industries representatives.

EPG calls for high-level inquiry into deteriorating condition of Mirgund Wetland



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 21: In its continued efforts to address the environmental challenges facing Kashmir's wetlands, the Environmental Policy Group (EPG) conducted a detailed visit to the Mirgund Wetland, also known as Mirgund "Jheel," located 16 kilometers from Srinagar on the route to Gulmarg. Once a thriving bird sanctuary spanning approximately 4 square kilometers and primarily fed by the Sukhnag Nallah and the Jhelum Flood Spill Channel, the wetland now lies in an utterly desolate state.

The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has expressed grave concern over the alarming condition of the Mirgund wetland, which has now turned into a parched landscape due to mismanagement, lack of timely intervention, and insensitivity. During a recent visit, the EPG team, including Convener, Faiz Baskhi, Er. Ajaz Rasool, Dr. Tauseef Bhat, Ahmed Ayaz, Reyan Sofi, and Javid Ahmad Ganie, found the wetland devoid of water and migratory birds—an indicator of the severe ecological degradation.

The EPG team found the wetland completely dry, devoid of water, marshes, or bird activity. This alarming transformation has turned a once-vibrant ecosystem into a barren grassland, raising serious concerns about mismanagement, neglect, and insensitivity to environmental preservation. The drying up of the wetland has led to encroachment and illegal activities in the area. Some locals have begun cultivating portions of the wetland, ploughing the land and preparing it for agricultural use. Land mafias have also exploit-

ed the situation by marking plots with cement blocks and undertaking earthfilling to raise ground levels, likely for sale or construction purposes.

The team noted that the wetland's boundaries, as recorded in official revenue documents, were indistinguishable on the ground, exacerbating the encroachment issue. Although the Wildlife Department has begun efforts to reclaim encroached areas on the northern side of the wetland by erecting boundary pillars, the process has been agonizingly slow, taking over 15 years of legal battles in the courts.

Adding to the dismay, infrastructure managed by the Wildlife Department, such as a two-room shed commissioned in 2005, was found in a state of disrepair. The structure, with broken walls and missing doors and windows, symbolized the neglect faced by this critical wetland. Ironically, a signboard on the premises that once read "Life Thrives in Wetlands, Let's Protect Them" stood in ruins, a stark reminder of the disparity between intent and reality.

The EPG team also identified failures in water management as a key factor behind the wetland's deterioration. The Sukhnag Nallah, which could supply water to the wetland, remains disconnected due to a closed MS iron gate at the offtake point in Rakh Kawoosa village. The team observed that opening this gate could immediately restore water flow to the wetland, but no action has been taken in this regard.

During interactions with local stakeholders and Wildlife Department field staff, it became apparent that the higher authorities responsible for managing the wetland had failed to

act proactively. Despite the drying of the wetland being partially attributable to climate change-induced drought conditions, the department's lack of contingency planning and timely interventions has exacerbated the situation.

The Environmental Policy Group has called for an immediate high-level inquiry to determine the circumstances that led to the current state of the wetland. The EPG emphasized that globally, the Rights of Wetlands movement underscores the importance of preserving wetlands' ecological balance and natural hydrological connections—rights that have been grossly overlooked in the case of Mirgund.

EPG intends to escalate the matter by pursuing legal recourse to ensure the protection and restoration of the wetland. The group also plans to communicate its findings to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, including Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, with an urgent request for intervention. The EPG team strongly believes that opening the Sukhnag Nallah gate and implementing stricter measures against encroachments are essential first steps toward saving the wetland.

Convener, EPG Faiz Baskhi said "The state of Mirgund Wetland is a heartbreaking testament to mismanagement and neglect. While climate change contributes to drought conditions, the complete apathy of responsible authorities is inexcusable. Wetlands are vital ecosystems, and their preservation is essential not only for avian species but also for maintaining ecological balance. We demand immediate and decisive action to reverse this environmental tragedy."

IIC of GDC Bishnah organizes student's visit to Kisan Mela at SKUAST-J

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: The Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Bishnah in collaboration with Department of Botany and Zoology organized an insightful visit for its students to the Kisan Mela held at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu on Thursday.

The event was aimed at exposing students to the latest developments in agriculture and encouraging innovation in the sector.

During the visit, students explored a wide range of stalls showcasing advanced scientific tools, technologies, and innovative agricultural practices such as hydroponics, sericulture etc.

The exhibition provided hands-on experience and demonstrations on sustainable farming, crop management, and modern agricultural techniques, Agri Startups, Farm Mechanization, Digital Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Agriculture, Livestock management, Veterinary Sciences, Microbiology, Apiculture, Use of Drones in agriculture Industry-Academia Linkages.

In addition to learning about cutting-edge agri-

cultural practices, students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful interactions with agricultural experts, researchers, and industry professionals.

These interactions not only enriched the students' understanding but also sparked their curiosity about potential career opportunities in the agricultural field.

The visit also served as a platform for the students to explore the importance of innovation in agriculture, and how technology and science can help solve real-world challenges in the sector. It was a valuable learning experience that provided students with a deeper understanding of the career possibilities in agriculture, farming technologies, and sustainable practices.

The event concluded with students expressing their newfound interest in pursuing careers related to agriculture and innovation.

The IIC team, 40 students of all the semesters and faculty GDC Bishnah led by Prof Sania Hamid convenor IIC, Prof Shroika Rajput, Dr. Ashma Gupta, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Shiv Kumar Khajuria aims to continue organizing such enriching activities to foster creativity and entrepreneurial spirit among students.

Akshini Manhas brings laurels to KCIS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Akshini Manhas, a class 5th student of KC International School has won runner-up trophies in U-11 and U-13 categories in 51st J&K UT Championship under which 32 skilled players of the UT have participated.

She has been selected

to represent the Union Territory in National level in both U-11 and U-13 the categories

President KCIS Chaitanya Chowdhary and Principal Anupama Sinha have congratulated Akshini Manhas for her stellar performance in the J&K UT Badminton championship and wish her all the best at National level.

Farmers enthusiastically participate in National Agriculture Summit of SKUAST-J

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: During the ongoing National Agriculture Summit-2024 being held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), a series of events and shows including a farmer-industry academia meet, fruit show, vegetable show and rural sports were organized.

Industry-Academia-Farmer meet was attended by about 30 industries, 10 startups, 20 progressive farmers, 20 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), winners of recently held AgriThon event, students and officers of university.

Panel discussions on topics including 'Bridging gap between academia, farmers and industry', and 'Opportunities and Challenges for FPOs in current agricultural landscape' were deliberated

during the event.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKAUST-Jammu and Chief Guest of function appreciated the participants and emphasized the need of better ties among all the stakeholders for strengthening Agricultural Education and Research in India.

He asserted that more industries should come forward for partnering with institutions so that employability skills of outgoing human resource and quality of research could be enhanced for the betterment of farming community and mankind. Guest of Honour, Rahul Yadav, Mission Director, HADP, UT of J&K applauded the efforts made by University, industry partners, FPOs and startups.

During the meet, Gulshan Singh Rana, Vice President, Bayer Crop Sciences was conferred with 'Professor of

Practice'. On this occasion, SKUAST-Jammu signed three MoUs with industries including Tropical Agro-systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., Saraswati Agro Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd. and Kandhari Beverages Pvt. Ltd.

An impressive vegetable and fruit show featuring over 70 entries of vegetable samples and 400 entries of fruits received special attention of the visitors. Among fruits, 120 entries were classified as post-harvest products showcasing innovations in processing and storage.

A cultural programme was organized during Kisan Mela where local artists of Jammu mesmerized the audience by their performance. Various rural sports were also organized for the participants. The second day of the event was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Students of GDC Nagrota participate in National Agriculture Summit 2024 at SKUAST

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Students from Government Degree College Nagrota participated in the prestigious National Agriculture Summit 2024, organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology (SKUAST) at its main campus in Chatha, Jammu. The summit, themed "Harnessing Innovations in Agriculture and Allied Sciences," commenced on November 20, 2024, and will conclude on November 23, 2024.

The summit provides a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, focusing on technological advancements and innovative practices in agricul-

ture and allied sciences. The event features live demonstrations, technical sessions and showcases of cutting-edge technologies, offering attendees a unique opportunity to explore the latest developments in the field.

GDC Nagrota students actively participated in the summit, gaining valuable insights into modern agricultural techniques and observed real-time demonstrations of advanced technologies. The engaging sessions enhanced their understanding of contemporary challenges in the agricultural sector and equipped them with practical knowledge to contribute effectively to its future.

The students were accompanied by Dr. Van-

dana Ghai, Convener of the Skill and Innovation Committee, along with committee members Prof. Arvind Sharma, Dr. Radha Rani, and Prof. Jaspal Singh.

Speaking about the visit, Dr. Vandana Ghai remarked, "Exposure to such significant events broadens students' perspectives and inspires them to innovate and contribute to the agricultural domain with a scientific approach."

This visit is part of GDC Nagrota's ongoing efforts to provide experiential learning opportunities, enabling students to develop the skills and expertise required for impactful careers in agriculture and allied sciences.

Army organizes Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Surankote

Top News Report

POONCH, Nov 21: The Indian Army organized a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign at Surankote, Poonch, aiming to promote a clean and healthy lifestyle in society.

The initiative raised awareness among soldiers about the importance of cleanliness in their environment and its impact on health and well-being. The campaign highlighted the link between cleanliness and a healthy society, emphasizing better waste management, improved sanitation, and personal hygiene. Soldiers were educated on health problems related to waste disposal, unhygienic living conditions, sewage issues, and personal hygiene. Following



the awareness drive, a cleanliness initiative was conducted to clean the unit surroundings of Surankote.

The participants enthusiastically demonstrated their commitment to a healthier environment. The event culminated with all participants

taking a pledge to maintain cleanliness in their lines, surrounding areas, and countryside.

This initiative reinforces the Indian Army's dedication to community service and nation-building, promoting a cleaner and healthier India.

Army organizes ex-servicemen rally at Galuthi

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 21: The Indian Army recently organized an Ex-Servicemen Rally at Galuthi, Rajouri district, reflecting its unwavering commitment to its retired fraternity. This event aimed to honor veterans, Veer Naris and their families while addressing their grievances and fostering camaraderie.

The rally witnessed participation from numerous ex-servicemen, widows and dependents who were provided a platform to resolve pressing issues such as pension anomalies, medical benefits and welfare schemes.

Various assistance booths were set up, offering services related to the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), documentation, Aadhaar-related issues and banking support. Medical and dental specialists were also available to deliver free consultations and medicines.

The Indian Army recognized the sacrifices made by the veterans and pledged to uphold their welfare. They reiterated the Indian Army's commitment to ensuring quality healthcare, dignity, and timely grievance redressal for all attendees.

Veterans and their families had the opportunity to engage directly with Indian Army and civilian

authorities, fostering a deeper connection and addressing long-pending issues.

The rally exemplified the Indian Army's dedication to strengthening its bond with its retired personnel, ensuring their contributions to the nation are never forgotten.

Events like these not only resolve practical concerns but also serve as a testament to the enduring respect and gratitude the Armed Forces have for their veterans.

This initiative highlights the Indian Army's holistic approach to honoring its legacy while looking after those who have served the nation selflessly.

Army conducts lecture on Women Empowerment at Beharamgala

Top News Report

POONCH, Nov 21: A 'Lecture on Women Empowerment' was conducted by Indian Army at Beharamgala, Poonch for spreading awareness amongst girls and women to enhance their skill for self-employment and better job opportunity in remote parts of Rajouri and Poonch.

The lecture was addressed to local populace about employment campaign/ various initiatives for employment by State and Central Government. A total strength of 43 (18 Women, 15 Girls



and 10 Gents) attended the event.

The aim of the event was to interact & educate girls, women and

local populace about the various educational and scholarship schemes of Central Government/ State Government to

address the problems of unemployment in our country. Representative of Indian Army addressed local residents and gave an insight on various initiatives of the Government and actions being taken to slowly decrease the level of unemployment.

(DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUP-PEP). This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by local populace.

This endeavor by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Indian Army and Awam. It showcased Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

“Spoke to Rohit Sharma earlier but...”: Jasprit Bumrah on taking up Perth test captaincy

PERTH, Nov 21 (Agencies): India's stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah on Thursday insisted that his team is not carrying any baggage from the unprecedented 0-3 defeat at home against New Zealand as it embarks on a challenging Test series against fierce rivals Australia. Bumrah replaced Rohit Sharma as the team's captain for the series opener after the latter had to miss the match due to the birth of his baby boy. While it isn't a usual sight to see bowlers taking up the leadership role, Bumrah feels they are 'tactically better' than batters, and hence, should be given leadership responsibilities more often.

“It is an honour. I have my own style. Virat was different, Rohit was different, and I have my own way. It is a privilege. I don't take it as a position. I love



taking responsibility. I spoke with Rohit earlier. But I got a little bit of clarity on leading the side after coming in here,” Bumrah said in the press conference on the eve of the start of Perth Test.

“I have always advocated

for pacers being captains. They are tactically better. Pat has done a phenomenal job. There are a lot of models in the past as well. Kapil Dev and lot of other captains in the past. Hopefully a start of a new tradition,” the pacer said on being

given the captain's role for the match.

The five-match Test series starts here on Friday.

“When you win you start from zero but when you lose, then also you also start from zero. We are not carrying any baggage from India. Yes, we have our learnings from New Zealand series but those were different conditions and our results here have been different,” said Bumrah, who is leading in the opening Test in the absence of Rohit Sharma, who is on paternity leave.

Bumrah also said that the team has finalised its playing XI although he will reveal it only at the toss.

“We have finalised our playing XI and you will get to know tomorrow morning before the start of the match,” the skipper said.

It's going to get more attritional, says Cummins on eve of five-match series against India



PERTH, Nov 21 (Agencies): Australian captain Pat Cummins anticipates the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against arch-rivals India to be a more “attritional” affair this year, with the two heavyweights of world cricket clashing over five Test matches instead of the usual four.

Australia are keen to avenge consecutive series losses on home soil as they face India in the opening Test at Optus Stadium on Friday.

“The Border-Gavaskar Trophy has always been very tight every series. A five-Test match series gets really attritional; it's a big one, really,” Cummins remarked during the pre-match press conference on Thursday.

Cummins dismissed concerns about the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction, which is scheduled for Sunday in Jeddah, coinciding with the third day of the match. He believes the magnitude of the series will keep players focused.

“Yeah, I think he [assistant coach Daniel Vettori] is there in the

auction. I don't think so [it will be a distraction]. Dan has flown over there, but he has been here for the whole preparation. He has done all the meetings, all the chats, watching it. We came to know that anyway,” Cummins said.

“For the players, I don't think so. Most of these guys have been there in the auctions before. They know they can't really do anything. You're a sitting duck and seeing whether you get selected or not. It doesn't make a difference to how we go about the first two days. It is not a distraction as far as I can see it,” he added.

Australia will, however, be under pressure, given their recent record against India. The visitors have won the last four Test series, including historic triumphs on Australian soil in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

“There will always be pressure when you are playing at home. India are a very talented side, and it will be a good challenge. But we are not looking too far ahead,” Cummins said.

“It would be great to

win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. India are a great side, but we are well prepared,” he added.

Cummins also commented on Nathan McSweeney, who will make his Test debut as Australia look to fill the void left by retired opener David Warner.

“He should play his natural game. He shouldn't try to imitate David Warner. That's not his game. As long as he makes the bowlers bowl again and again, that's his game,” Cummins advised.

The Australian skipper also shared his thoughts on India's young all-rounder Nitish Reddy, whom he played alongside in the IPL for SunRisers Hyderabad.

“He is an impressive youngster. Didn't bowl much for SRH. He can swing the ball and is a really talented kid,” Cummins noted.

Interestingly, both teams will be led by fast-bowling captains, a rarity in international cricket. Cummins leads Australia, while Jasprit Bumrah steps in for India as regular skipper Rohit Sharma is on paternity leave.

“It should happen more (pacers leading teams),” Cummins said when asked about the unusual coincidence.

The blockbuster series promises to be a battle of endurance and skill, with both teams eyeing supremacy in one of cricket's fiercest rivalries.

Don't count yourself as favourite: Erigaisi's advice to Gukesh

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has a word of advice for World Championship contender D Gukesh ahead of his clash against China's Ding Liren — just focus on your preparation and don't count yourself as a “huge favourite” going into the title showdown.

Gukesh, partly because of Liren's listless performances in the lead-up to the World Championship showdown in Singapore from November 25, is being seen as the firm favourite

for the crown.

“If I were Gukesh, I would not think that I am a huge favourite. I would just try to focus on my preparation and everything. And, I am sure, Gukesh is also doing the same,” said Erigaisi, who earned the title of GM as a 14-year-old and achieved a peak rating of 2799 in September this year, making him the 15th-highest-rated player in history.

“I think it's clear that Gukesh is the favourite. Both of them have their strengths and weaknesses. But Gukesh is

a massive favourite. It's more to do with Ding's form because the Chinese has not been in good shape,” said Erigaisi.

However, Erigaisi feels that if Ding plays to his potential it could turn out to be a cracker of a contest.

“If he (Ding) shows up anywhere close to his best, then it will be a really interesting match. And, as a chess fan, I hope that it happens. Not just me but any chess fan would hope that Ding shows up well

and is able to play at his best, so that it will be an interesting match. But, as an Indian, I cannot help but support Gukesh.”

Gukesh recently trained with acclaimed mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton, who has also worked with the Indian men's cricket and hockey teams, and Erigaisi feels it will help the teenaged Indian in crunch situations during the World Championship.

“Chess is a mental sport. To be in a good

frame of mind is very important. We saw what happened to (Russian GM) Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 2021 World Championship match (against Magnus Carlsen). It started out with five draws, but then Nepomniachtchi lost the sixth game and then he just collapsed.”

“He couldn't fight after he lost one game. So, I think, in that aspect, it surely helps if you have a mental coach who can guide you and put you in a good frame of mind,” opined Erigaisi.

Not Virat Kohli, this current RCB star backed to lead franchise in IPL 2025

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (Agencies): Former India cricketer Robin Uthappa has thrown Rajat Patidar into the mix as a possible contender to lead the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. Ahead of the upcoming edition of the IPL 2025, RCB will be evaluating its captaincy options after deciding to go against retaining Faf du Plessis. While the likes of Jos Buttler, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and many more options are available in the mega auction, Uthappa believes that RCB should try their hand by using Patidar.

“I think they should look at Rajat Patidar to take over that role because it seems like you need a new leader after two years. So, you might as well do it

now to get ahead of the curve and build a captain for the next three to five years. Rajat is one of those players who can actually play that role for them,” Uthappa said on JioCinema.

RCB decided to expand their purse for the mega auction by retaining just three players. RCB decided to rope in Kohli, Patidar and uncapped seamer Yash Dayal.

As a result, top stars of the franchise, including Mohammed Siraj, Will Jacks and Glenn Maxwell, parted ways with the franchise. With a purse of Rs 83 crore and the option to use Right To Match, RCB will be keen to make a formidable squad that could lift the franchise to its first IPL title.

Former India cricketer

Saba Karim feels RCB could use the RTM to bring Siraj back along with Jacks, players who offer versatility in different departments.

“RCB can always go back to Siraj because he's been phenomenal for the side. They got Yash Dayal as a left-arm seam bowler, which is a wonderful thing, but they also need someone to give him proper company. So, if RCB can have Siraj, then at least the pace bowling section is kind of filled up. I'm also looking at Will Jacks. He was very good for them last season. He can come in right at the top, and he's also a very useful right-arm off-break bowler,” Karim noted.

The IPL mega auction will be held on Sunday and Monday in Jeddah.

Ponting predicts 3-1 series win for Australia, warns of Rohit Sharma's return disrupting India's campaign

PERTH, Nov 21 (Agencies): Legendary Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting has predicted a 3-1 series victory for Australia in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy, warning that Indian captain Rohit Sharma's return in the second Test at Adelaide could be a “potential disruption” for the visitors.

The highly anticipated five-match Test series begins on Friday, with Rohit unavailable for the opening game due to a paternity break. In his absence, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will lead the Indian side.

“I just think there's potential for more disruption through their campaign with Sharma coming back and whatever else. So I'll stick with it (3-1 verdict in favour of Australia),” Ponting said on ICC Review.

The second Test, a day-night match, is



scheduled to start on 6 December.

Australia banking on star performers Ponting emphasised the importance of key players delivering for Australia. “Marnus (Labuschagne) and (Steve) Smith need to make runs for Australia. And their bowling attack obviously is as good as anyone's in the world. So I'll stick with my 3-1 Australia prediction,” he stated.

Despite India's recent home series loss to New Zealand, Ponting believes the visitors appear well-prepared heading into the series.

“India will be pretty

certain of what team they're going to play (in Perth). They've known for a while that Rohit probably wasn't going to be here. They've probably known for a while that Bumrah was going to be captain. So they've probably known what holes they've needed to fill. So they'll be reasonably settled,” Ponting observed.

India's Past Dominance Over Australia India has dominated the past four series between the two sides, including consecutive away series wins in 2018-19 and 2020-21. Ponting reflected on his incorrect predic-

tion during the 2020-21 series, which India won 2-1 despite being bowled out for their lowest-ever Test total of 36 in the first Test in Adelaide.

“I think I might have said 2-1 at the start,” Ponting recalled. “And then Sunny (Sunil Gavaskar) looked at me and said, ‘It will be 2-1, but it will be 2-1 (in favour of) India.’ And I thought there was no way in the world that they could bounce back after losing the way they did in Adelaide. But they did.”

India's comeback included victories in Melbourne and Brisbane, achieved without several first-choice players, including then captain Virat Kohli, who returned to India after the Adelaide Test for the birth of his daughter.

Mental Preparation Key for Success Ponting stressed the importance of mental

preparation for such a significant series. “Preparation is always a hard one to get right. Because I've seen guys like Travis Head in the past where they've almost had no preparation at all, going into a game and then turn up and play one of the all-time great innings,” he explained.

“... with this game, your skills don't ever leave you. They don't go too far away. But as long as you're thinking clearly and thinking the right things, then you can make your body do pretty much whatever you want it to do,” Ponting concluded.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy promises to deliver another fiercely contested chapter, with both sides eager to assert dominance. Ponting, however, remains steadfast in his belief that Australia will triumph this time around.

Ravi Shastri's advice to Gautam Gambhir: Don't make knee-jerk decisions

PERTH, Nov 21 (Agencies): Former India head coach Ravi Shastri wants Gautam Gambhir to keep a cool head on the tour of Australia. India coach Gautam Gambhir will be under pressure in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy having lost a home Test series against New Zealand 0-3. Speaking on Star Sports, Shastri said that Gambhir needs to understand his players and not make knee-jerk decisions in the 5-match series.

If reports in the Indian media are to be believed, the Board of Control for Cricket in India had a long meeting with the Indian coach and captain Rohit Sharma ahead of the

Australia tour, and harsh decisions could be taken if India once again falter poorly in the upcoming Test series. However, amidst all this chaos, former India coach Shastri has asked Gambhir to not listen to outside noise.

“I think would be the first thing would be to be calm, you know, don't let outside elements, influence you in any way. Because of that, don't get into a position where knee-jerk reactions happen. Get to understand your players. You will see them in bad situations, you'll see them in India, you'll see them in overseas, you know, you will, notice what it takes for a player



to click. You will understand situations of a team where a certain player might be better than the other,” Ravi Shastri said in the Star Sports press room.

Shastri said that building relationships with players does not happen overnight and Gambhir needed to be receptive to all the players and their quirks in the dressing room. Shastri said that Gambhir needed to respect the sensibilities of each individual and steer the ship towards success.

“It took me some time to understand everyone. He might have seen them from the outside of the IPL, and he might have sat with a

few players in the dressing room when he played the game, but there are a lot of other players and they come from different mindsets, different cultures, and different parts of the country. And for you to dig deep and understand their mindsets would be the most important thing. There could be a player, you know, who's an introvert, but actually, if you push him out there and give him the confidence, he could be a match-winner for you,” Shastri concluded on the matter.

India begin their 5-match Test series against Australia on Friday, November 22. The opening Test match starts at 7:50 am IST.

Vijay Bakaya anguishes over demolition of shops belonging to displaced KPs in Muthi

Asks JDA to immediately rehabilitate the shopkeepers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Apni Party's General Secretary, and Ex-MLC, Vijay Bakaya today expressed dismay and anguish over the dismantling of the shops being run by the displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Muthi area. In a press release, Vijay Bakaya, quoting

media reports about the demolition drive in Muthi, questioned the intention of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) for targeting the migrant community. "... many shops being run by Kashmiri Pandit migrants for the nearly thirty years at Muthi have been demolished by JDA," said Vijay



Bakaya, expressing his displeasure.

Bakaya has expressed shock at the insensitive and ruthless manner in which this destruction has been done. He stated that if for any legitimate reason these shops had to be removed a notice should have been given and an alternative location should have been provided.

He said that this high-handed action by authorities is most condemnable. The JDA has deprived the displaced KP's from their means of livelihood after nearly 30 years. Meanwhile, Bakaya demanded that the JDA should immediately rehabilitate the shopkeepers.

Various activities held on third day of Refresher/Orientation Course

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 21: On the third day of the ongoing 5-Day Refresher/Orientation Course for PETs/ReKs of district Udhampur under the patronage-ship of Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General Youth Services & Sports UT of J&K, under the chairmanship of Saloni Rai Deputy Commissioner Udhampur with the meticulous guidance of DYSSO Udhampur Romesh Chander Mishra and overall supervision of Pushpinder Kour ZPEO Tikri, Yoga session was conducted by Som Dev Khajuria PEM, Morning assembly by Ajit Singh PEM.



Whereas Raj Kumar PEM & Raman Kumar PEM today involved the trainees in mass PT with various new exercises. After that a joyful Trekking expedition led by

Sanjeev Kumar PEM, Rakesh Kumar PEM & Sanjeev Khajuria started from Subash Stadium Udhampur in three groups and concluded with recreational activities at Ganga Top hill in lush green environment. The collective efforts of all the experts engaged is stimulating the mind

Youth encouraged to embrace sports at motivational event by Jaswinder Kuku

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: In an inspiring initiative, Jaswinder Singh Kuku, President of the Rotary Club Helping Hands, successfully organized a vibrant event yesterday to promote youth participation in sports. The gathering, attended by sports enthusiasts and community leaders, aimed to highlight the transformative power of sports in shaping a better future for young individuals. The event was graced by the Chief Guest Mahant Rajesh Bittu, along with Guest of Honour Karan Singh, and prominent figures Manav Mahajan, Varun Khajuria, and Ishant Mahajan. Their compelling speeches energized the audience, emphasizing



the essential role sports play in developing discipline, teamwork, and mental and physical well-being. In his keynote address, Mahant Rajesh Bittu stressed the critical role of sports in empowering the youth. "Sports are not just about physical activity; they are a pathway to developing perseverance, unity, and leadership. These qualities are

essential for both individual success and national progress," he said. He further highlighted the role of sports in keeping youth away from negative influences, fostering constructive engagements, and building strong character. The event featured interactive sessions where local sports achievers shared their inspiring journeys, recount-

ing the challenges they overcame and motivating young attendees to pursue their passions. Additionally, sports demonstrations showcased the abundant talent within the community, offering practical insights into the rewards of dedication and hard work in athletics. Jaswinder Singh Kuku, the driving force behind the initiative, expressed his gratitude to Mahant

Bittu and the attendees for their support. "This event is a small step toward a larger vision—providing platforms and resources to nurture young talent and instill a lifelong appreciation for sports," he stated. The event concluded with a collective pledge by attendees to embrace sports as a cornerstone of their lives, fostering a culture of health, collaboration, and growth. With leaders like Mahant Bittu inspiring communities and visionaries like Jaswinder Singh Kuku taking proactive steps, the future of sports in the region appears bright. Events like this underline the immense potential of sports in transforming lives, uniting communities, and paving the way for a healthier, more dynamic generation.

Rudraksh Seva Sangathan distributes stationery at GPS Bahu Fort

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: In a heartfelt initiative, the Rudraksh Seva Sangathan, led by Directors Virendra Gupta and Mohit Sharma, distributed stationery items to students at the Government Primary School, Pakka Talab, Bahu Fort, Jammu. The event aimed to support children's education and bring smiles to young faces. The school's Principal, Subhash Chandra, expressed his gratitude to the Sangathan for their thoughtful contribution, emphasizing the positive



impact such gestures have on students and the school community. Speaking on the occasion, Virendra Gupta, Director of Rudraksh Seva Sangathan, stated, "Our NGO is dedicated to promoting education, protecting the environment, and helping those in need. Today, we took a small step by providing notebooks, pencils, and erasers to the children of this school. We hope to continue these efforts and reach more children in the future." He further extended his thanks to Dr. Shrikant Sharma and Dr. Varun

Padha, whose generous support made the distribution of these items possible. "It is because of compassionate individuals like them that society is able to carry out such meaningful work," Gupta remarked. This initiative by the Rudraksh Seva Sangathan reinforces the importance of community involvement in education and development. The Sangathan's efforts serve as a reminder of the collective responsibility to nurture and empower the younger generation through small yet impactful acts of kindness.

Man held with 36 grams of brown sugar in Kulgam's Kund

Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 21: Kulgam Police on Thursday arrested an alleged drug peddler from Kund area of Kulgam district and seized 36 grams of brown sugar from his possession. Mohd Maqbool Lone son of Sonaullah Lone of Waripora Razloo Kund held with 36 grams of brown sugar-like contraband substance recovered from his possession.



A case under FIR no 31/24 under 8,21-28 NDPS act registered at Police station Kund and further investigations set in motion.

Kyra Thakyal of DPS Jammu wins gold in Open National Taekwondo C'ship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 21: Kyra Thakyal (Prep-C), a child prodigy from Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by winning two gold medals in Open National Taekwondo Championship 2024 organized by Rohit Martial Art Academy held at Uttarakhand from 16-17 November, 2024. She had participated in Fighting event and Poom-



sae event in below 18 kg girls category. Kyra had also received merit certificate. The management of DPS Jammu under the

leadership of President-RCT, Ajashatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Kyra for her glorious achievement. They also commended the dedication and efforts of Coach, Suresh Kumar for his unwavering support. Further, they also extended their best wishes to her for all her future endeavours.

Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple Management Trust nominates Additional President

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 21: In a significant development aimed at bolstering the management and welfare activities of Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple, the Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple Management Trust, Gai Dessa, has announced the nomination of Shri Stash Chander as the Additional President of the Trust. Stash Chander, son of Badri Nath Thakur and a resident of Gai Dessa, brings with him a wealth of experience and dedication to community welfare. The decision was taken by the Trust in response to the growing need for enhanced development and welfare initiatives for the temple and its devotees. As Additional President, Stash Chander will work closely with the Trust's management to ensure the smooth functioning of temple activities and the implementation of welfare



programs for the benefit of the community. The Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple in Gai Dessa holds immense cultural and religious significance for the region, and this appointment is expected to strengthen its management and outreach efforts. The Trust extended its gratitude to Shri Stash Chander for accepting this important role and reiterated its commitment to serving the community. This development marks a positive step towards the holistic growth of the temple and its surrounding areas, fostering a spirit of unity and devotion among the devotees.

MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

📍 NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) ☎️ +91-9086207123