

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**Srinagar experiences coldest night of the season at Minus 1.2 Degrees Celsius**

SRINAGAR, Nov 22 (Agencies): Srinagar experienced the coldest night of the season so far as most parts of Kashmir reeled under sub-zero temperatures, officials said on Friday. The city recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, a drop from the previous night's minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. The night temperature was 1.3 degrees Celsius, below the normal for this time of year.

Several areas in Kashmir recorded sub-zero temperatures for the third consecutive night, with the mercury staying below freezing point.

Qazigund registered a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded the coldest temperature in the Valley at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

The Gulmarg, a tourist destination famous for skiing, saw a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara shivered at a temperature of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag, in South Kashmir, was the only weather station in the valley where the temperature remained above freezing, at 0.4 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department has forecasted light rain or thunderstorms at isolated places in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

Over the next two days, there are chances of light rain or snow, particularly in the higher reaches of Kashmir.

**J&K | Fuel Stations, Schools take lead in curbing underage driving**

SRINAGAR, Nov 22 (Agencies): In a move to dissuade underage driving in Kashmir, various sections of the society have declared not to entertain minors driving vehicles, with many fuel stations in Srinagar refusing to provide fuel to minors operating vehicles.

Several petrol pumps in the city have displayed posters reading "no fuel to minors". The employees at such fuel stations said minors riding two-wheelers or without helmets, or driving four-wheelers, will

## Omar chairs first Cabinet Meeting, discusses reservation, employment, recruitments

JAMMU, Nov 22 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a cabinet meeting of his Government here on Friday during which various issues, including employment, reservation and recruitment processes, were discussed and directions were passed.

The cabinet, which discussed the growing demand for revising the reservation limit in Government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, decided to form a sub-committee to engage with all stakeholders on the issue.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, other ministers and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo participated in the meeting.



This was the second meeting of this Government during its tenure of over one month.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Minister for Jal Shakti and Forests, Javed Ahmed

ing under the leadership of the chief minister. We discussed the address by the honourable lieutenant governor in the assembly and it has been approved. Rest assured, all the decisions taken in the meeting will be shared with you in due course," Rana said.

He said that the lieutenant governor's speech during the assembly session was thoroughly discussed and approved.

Replying to a question about the demand for the Darbar Move, the minister said "every important aspect mentioned in his address has been included in it".

Responding to another question about unemployment, which emerged

Rana, said that critical issues, including employment, reservation, recruitment processes and development, were deliberated upon. "Today we held a cabinet meet-

## J-K: Houses of several migrant Kashmiri Pandits demolished, they urge Relief Commissioner to rehabilitate them

JAMMU, Nov 22 (Agencies): Days after Jammu Development Authority demolished the shops of several Kashmiri Pandits in Muthi Phase-2 quarters in Jammu, the migrants who have nowhere to go have urged the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) to rehabilitate them.

12 shops were demolished out of which 8 shops were running. Kashmiri migrant shop owners said that the relief they get is not sufficient to run the family and they were dependent on the earnings from the shops.

Kashmiri Migrants living in Migrant quarters of Phase 2 Muthi camp had been running shops opposite to the Quarters for last more than thirty years. According to them their shops were demol-

ished without notice and now they had no earning and only dependent on migrant relief which they get from the Government.

Ashok Raina a shop owner said, "I came during 90s. My shop was here since last 35 years. The day camp was built we had started the shops. The then commissioner supported us. We started small shops for our livelihood. Our children were taught from this money. Day before yesterday some instruction came JDA. Without any notice, they told to vacate the shops. Earlier also they came. They said that we would take action only after compensating."

He further said that yesterday without any notice they carried out the demolition. "In half an hour they

did it. We were on the streets and felt like we are in 90s again. Commissioner allocated space to keep luggage. We were told that we would be rehabilitated. No government official came to see our plight. There were 8 to 10 running shops. When I came I was young. Now I am old. What will be do?," he further said.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) Arvind Karwani said that the shops were constructed on JDA's land.

"JDA has demolished them. We dont have many details because JDA is a different agency. We have already floated a tender for the Muthi Phase-2 migrant camp. There had been a demand from the locals that shops

## No clarity in the rules of business yet, says NC MP Aga Ruhullah



SRINAGAR, Nov 22 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) senior leader and Member Parliament from Srinagar Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi Friday said that the government is doing its job wherever it has clear powers and added the reservation policy won't be aimed to snatch somebody's rights but to

rationalise the policy. "There is no clarity in the rules of business yet. The document has been sent to the LG office. As and when, there would be any response from the LG's office, decisions would be taken accordingly. Things that are in the domain of elected government, are being taken serious-

ly and decisions taken as well," he said while talking to reporters after visiting the fire affected families of Abi Gurpora area of Dal lake in Srinagar.

He was accompanied by MLAs Tanvir Sadiq and Farooq Ahmad Shah from Zadibal and Gulmarg respectively.

Ruhullah according to news agency KINS said that open merit needs to be rationalised. "This is what I wanted to convey through my tweet. I wanted to convey to those demanding rationalisation that if the government won't take any decision on it, I will join them and accompany them in getting their demands addressed. I also told them that I will accompany them to

## Northern Army Commander Reviews 'Asmi' Machine Pistols

JAMMU, Nov 22 (Agencies): Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar on Friday reviewed the newly inducted 'Asmi' machine pistols.

Asmi Machine Pistol was formally inducted

into Northern Command. The Indian Army earlier this month inducted 550 indigenously developed Asmi machine pistols into the Northern Command which oversees operations in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

This is the first batch of the 100 per cent Indian-made weapon intended to equip Special Forces for close-quarter battles and specialised operations in India's Northern Theatre.

"Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Command-

er Northern Command, reviewed and carried out firing of the newly inducted Asmi machine pistols at Udhampur," the Northern Command said on X.

"The induction of the Made-in-India weapon

### Gupshup

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

Room No: 1

Room No: 2

Room No: 3

Room No: 4

RESTAURANT

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 and 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.

**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 Chhamesh Lal Gendotra  
Smt. Kuljip 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, 9419331819



Smt. Prem Lata Soni

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

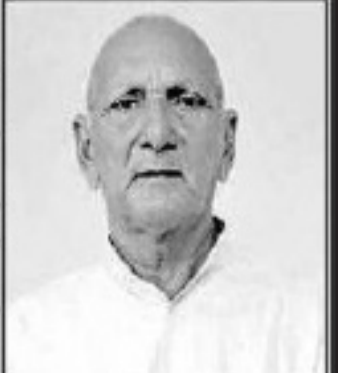
With profound sorrow, we would like to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Onkar Singh** S/o Lt. Sh. Bashi Ram Langeh who left heavenly abode on 14/11/2024.

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

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



Sh. Onkar Singh

**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.

**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**  
Tom Vati (Mother)  
Kalash Sharma (Wife)  
Jash Sharma & Manoj (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Shekha Sharma (Daughter)  
Ishon Sisona (Son)  
Mrgsyn (Grandchild)  
Sister & Brother-in-Law  
Kamo Devi & Madan Mohan Lal Sharma  
Brothers & Sister-in-Law  
Rishi Kumar & Rta Sharma  
Yogesh Kumar & Shari Sharma  
Ramesh Kumar & Sushra Sharma  
**Contact No. 7906153324, 605446539, 7951383439**



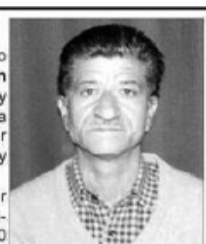
SH. SHAM LAL SHARMA

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

**Grief Stricken:**  
Smt. Raj Kumari - Wife  
Sh. Kishan Lal & Smt. Santosh Devi - Brother & Bhabhi  
Sh. Ravi Kohli & Smt. Jyoti Kohli - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sh. Rishi Khar & Smt. Monica Raj - Son-in-law & Daughter  
Sh. Meera Lal & Smt. Sharda Devi - Brother-in-law & Sister  
Sh. Ashok Bhasin & Smt. Pooni Jyoti - Brother-in-law & Sister-in-Law  
Sh. Madan Lal Bhasin & Smt. Veena Bhasin  
Sh. Tej Kishan Bhasin & Smt. Rozy Bhasin  
Sh. Satish Badwan & Harshita Badwan  
Sh. Harshdeep Badwan & Susha Badwan  
**Grand Children:** Aashana, Mayank, Tiji  
**Contact No. 9815442512, 9149827178, 7890339352**



Sh. Both Raj

**FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Gupta** W/o Late Sh. Jagdish Raj R/o Bishnah.

**Fifth Day** will be performed on Saturday i.e 23rd of Nov. 2024 at Shiv Mandir Sec 3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu from 10 AM to 11 AM.

**Grief Stricken :**

**JANDYAL FAMILY**  
**JANDYAL PROVISION STORE 9419140998**  
**JANDYAL SALES 9419288328**  
**JANDYAL SHOE FACTORY**  
**RIDHIMA ENTERPRISES 9419198750**



Smt. Santosh Gupta

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Prem Nath Langoo** S/o Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Langoo originally resident of Natipora Srinagar, at present H.No. 7, Extension Sector 4, Marble Enclave Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 16th November, 2024.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be held on 24th of November, 2024 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat at 9.15 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Vinod Langoo & Smt. Rajni Langoo - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Vijay Langoo & Smt. Kiran Langoo - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sandeep Langoo & Smt. Priya Langoo - Son & Daughter-in-law  
**Grand Sons & Daughters**  
Sandhya Langoo  
Himanshu Langoo  
Zari Roman Langoo  
Priyanka Langoo (Kouli) & Gaurav Kouli - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law  
Souvik Langoo & Sonali - Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law  
And **Samast Langoo, Tak, Mattoo, Bachu Parivaar**  
**Contact : 7951006606, 9419191163**



Sh. Prem Nath Langoo

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Makhan Lal Khosa** (Ex-DGM J&K Bank), S/o Late Sh. Lakshman Joo Khosa, on 15th November 2024. Originally a resident of Sona Masjid, Fatah Kadal, Srinagar, presently residing at Flat No. 402, Block D, Dream Home Apartments, Greater Kailash, Jammu. (Near Overhead bridge).

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Sunday, 24th November 2024, at Akhnoor Ghat at 8:00 AM.

**DEEPLY MOURNED BY:**

Smt. Grijja Paine & Sh. Kuldip Paine (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Reeta Raina & Sh. Satish Raina (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Daisy Khosa (Sapru) & Sh. Yoginder Sapru (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Shanta Ganjoo (Sister)  
**Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren:**  
All Khosa's, Gigeo's, Dhar's, Kaul's, and Mohakia's  
**CONTACT NUMBERS: 9419142743 | 9149450206**



Sh. Makhan Lal Khosa (Ex-DGM J&K Bank)

**MOURNING (MALEUN SIDE)**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM SAD DEMISE OF **SHEELA KACHROO (BENTATHI)** W/O SHRI M.K.KHUSHU ON 14/11/2024 06:40 P.M. AT HER RESIDENCE DURGA NAGAR HOUSE NO 131, SECTOR 3, JAMMU.

**10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 23/11/2024 AT MUTHI GHAT.**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

ASHOK KACHROO & KIRAN KACHROO - BROTHER & BHABI  
PHOOLA & R.K.JALALI - SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW  
TOSHA & S.K.MOZA - SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW



SHEELA KACHROO (BENTATHI)

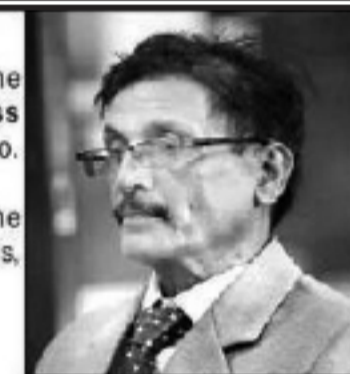
**10TH DAY**

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.

**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



Late Sh. Devi Dass Damathia

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

Miskeens  
Rajesh - 9426585769, 7990435665  
Lovely - 9902985078; Sahil - 9574309017



Shri Autar Krishen Miskeen  
16-12-1939 - 17-11-2024

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr Shashikant Goswami** (S/o Smt. Kamla Goswami and Sh. Mohan Lal Goswami) R/o House No. 6, Lane-1, Vaishnavi Enclave, Sector-7 (Extension), Channi Himmat, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** 22-11-2024 (Friday), 11 am at our residence. **Kriya** 23-11-2024 (Saturday), 12 Noon at our residence. **Uthala** 23-11-2024 (Saturday), 4-5 PM at Panch Mandir Channi Himmat, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Sunita Magotra Goswami- Wife  
**Daughters and Sons-in-law:**  
Garima Goswami and Rishi Bhargava  
Gunjan Goswami and Vishal Khajuria  
**Brothers and Sisters-in-law**  
Naresh Goswami and Manju Goswami  
Rajesh Goswami and Khoma Goswami  
**Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law :**  
Vinod Magotra and Neelam Magotra  
Ravi Magotra & Babli Magotra  
Neera Magotra (W/o Late Varinder Magotra)  
**Nephews and Nieces :**  
Rashika, Mrinalini, Rohan, Manvi, Kriah  
**Grand Children :** Sanchi, Radhika, Aarav



Dr Shashikant Goswami

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

"Your life was blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure..."

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Major Dalip Singh**.

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

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

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



MAJOR DALIP SINGH  
BORN ON 16TH DEC 1921  
EXP. ON 14TH NOV 2024

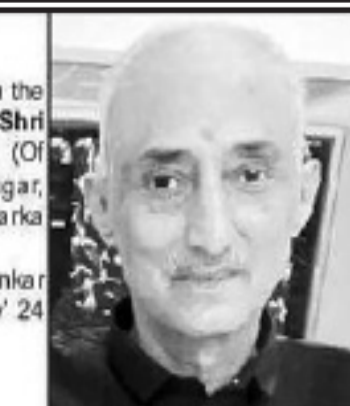
**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

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.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Gauri Shankar Temple, New Palm 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)



Shri Muna Ji Kaul

**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.

**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. Ranjini & Sh. M.L. Tikoo  
Smt. Santosh & Sh. C.L. Pandita  
Smt. Basanti & Sh. A.K. Bhat  
Smt. Khemlata & Sh. Chand Ji Koul



Smt. Chand Rani

**Contact Numbers:**  
9596722260, 8492809832, 7906977439

**TENTH DAY**

In the Loving Memory of **Smt. Krishna Devi**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Sh. Tej Ram, R/o 10/1 Poonch House Talab Tillo Kabir Nagar Jammu, who left us for her heavenly abode on 14th Nov 2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 23rd Nov 2024 (Saturday) at Guru Ravidas Mandir, Krishna Nagar, opp. Science College, Jammu.

**Satsang** 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

**Grief Stricken**  
All Family Members  
**9419113377, 7006269327**



Smt. Krishna Devi

**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."

# Apni Party delegation meets displaced KP's affected with JDA's drive in Muthi

Abhay Bakaya says JDA is infamous for these demolition drives

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Apni Party leaders today met the victims whose shops were demolished recently by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) in Muthi.

As per a press release, the leaders of the Party, General Secretary - Youth Wing and Spokesperson Abhay Bakaya, District Senior Vice President, Vaibhav Mattoo, President TRT Nagrota, Chandji Bhat, Incharge Butta Nagar and Purkhoo Camp, GL Pandita,



Bhushan Lal Bhat, and others, visited the residences of the affected family members, who lost their shops and held

a detailed deliberation with them.

"It was unfortunate to see that some of the families of displaced Kashmiri Pandits still struggle for their respectful survival after the demolition drive of the JDA here recently. These families were poor, and they had no other source of earning. The

JDA should have rehabilitated them. However, they went ahead with their drive which shows how the officials have become heartless and insensitive," he stated.

He demanded that the Govt should intervene and rehabilitate the displaced KP families.

"The JDA's drive cannot be justified. How can it be explained to displace some families, and then settle others by constructing buildings on the dismantled structures of the poor," he stated, questioning the intention of the Govt that has failed to grill JDA for its wrong actions.

He said that the JDA is infamous for such actions, and it should

focus on providing affordable housing schemes for the poor and marginalized families of all the communities instead of creating a situation that shows their insensitive approach.

He said that the waywardness of JDA will not be tolerated by the Party, and the people from all walks of life will come on the roads, if such drives continue in future in any of the places in Jammu.

While expressing his displeasure over the drive, he appealed to the Commissioner Relief Organization Jammu to immediately provide shops to the JDA drive affected families of the displaced KPs to run their business and earn their livelihood from there.

# Sports delegation calls on CM at Poonch



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: A delegation of veteran players and coaches of repute on Friday called on the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, who was on a visit to the border district of Poonch.

Led by India coach and chairman of Shaheed Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club, Mohd Tariq, the delegation made the CM aware of the sports scenario in the district.

It has been reliably learned that the CM

was asked for improved sports infrastructure with independent volleyball indoor training facility and Youth Hostel.

India Devyand Cricket captain, Shah Aziz and retired ZPEO, Narjit Singh were part of the delegation.

# EC Mehdi inaugurates 4G mobile tower at Umla village

Top News Report

LEH, Nov 22: The Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor, inaugurated a 4G BSNL mobile tower at Umla village on Friday.

The inaugural event was attended by Mandal President Cap. Sonam Morup; Vice Mandal President Phunchok Wangdus; AGM, BSNL, Kale Rajesh Gangadar; SD Electrical, Manesh Hankar, contractor besides other BSNL officials and the Nambardar of Umla and local villagers.

Addressing the gathering, the Executive Councillor congratulated the people of Umla on the inauguration of the 4G tower and emphasized the importance of mobile connectivity in today's digital age.

He encouraged the villagers to make positive use of the enhanced connectivity and assured them of his commitment to addressing local infrastructure needs, including the road upgradation under the PMGSY scheme with the concerned department.

# Cabinet to review Reservation Policy, sets 100-day target for election manifesto promises

Top News Report

SRINAGAR Nov 22: Cabinet Minister Javed Rana on Friday said that a sub-committee will be formed to review the reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir.

This sub-committee will engage in dialogue with all stakeholders to ensure an inclusive approach to

addressing policy concerns, he told media persons.

"Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has directed cabinet ministers to initiate this exercise promptly, emphasizing the need for immediate action. The Assembly Secretariat has also discussed delays in implementing certain decisions, urging swift resolu-

tions," he said.

Rana highlighted that the government is committed to fulfilling promises made in the election manifesto. "The Cabinet has set a 100-day target to implement key commitments, showcasing its dedication to deliver on the pledges made to the public," he added.

# Gazetted Aspirants delegation calls on CEC LAHDC

Top News Report

LEH, Nov 22: A delegation of Gazetted Aspirants headed by LEAF President Padma Stanzin called on the Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, at the Council Secretariat today.

The delegation held a detailed discussions on various aspects related to gazetted posts, and requested to take the matter up during High-



Powered Committee meeting on December 3, 2024.

The CEC reiterated LAHDC's commitment to addressing the matter of gazetted posts and

assured to press for early resolution. He further told the delegation that the issue is already being taken up at various levels and expecting positive outcomes.

# Scholars, writers, advocates hold rally for immediate action to promote, preserve Dogri language

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: In a powerful and united show of resolve, scholars, writers, students, and cultural advocates gathered at the Cultural Academy in Jammu today to voice their demands for the upliftment and preservation of Dogri, the language that embodies the cultural heritage of the Jammu region.

The rally saw an impressive turnout of passionate individuals, including luminaries such as Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia of Duggar Manch, Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal, acclaimed writers Inderjeet Kesar and Satpal Gadwalia, Sahitya Akademi Awardee Vijay Verma, and cultural stalwarts like Randhir Raipuria, Khajur Singh, Puraan Chand Badgotra, and Balwan Singh Jamoria.

The event was a clarion call for urgent action to address the marginalization of Dogri, despite its status as a recognized language under the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Protesters expressed their frustration at the lack of concrete steps taken by authorities to ensure the



survival and growth of this ancient and rich language.

During the rally, a comprehensive memorandum was drafted and addressed to all elected members of the Legislative Assembly, urging them to prioritize Dogri in the upcoming budget session. The memorandum outlined specific, actionable measures that need to be implemented to preserve and propagate the language.

The protestors called for significant funding in the state budget to support Dogri education, cultural promotion, and research initiatives, inclusion of Dogri as a mandatory subject in schools across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that future generations remain connected to their linguistic

and cultural roots, the establishment of grants, scholarships, and awards to encourage Dogri scholars, writers, and artists to continue their contributions to the language and culture. The integration of Dogri into official communications and administrative practices to give it practical relevance and visibility, financial and infrastructural support for Dogri newspapers, radio programs, and digital platforms to amplify the language's presence in mass communication.

Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia emphasized the urgency of the cause, saying, "Dogri is not just a language; it is the heartbeat of our cultural identity. Neglecting it is equivalent to erasing our roots. The time for action is now."

Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman of Team Jammu, underlined the years of neglect, stating, "Our mother tongue deserves respect and resources. This movement is a pledge to fight for our linguistic heritage." Sahitya Akademi Awardee Vijay Verma highlighted Dogri's literary richness, remarking, "Dogri has a treasure trove of literature that needs recognition and support. Let us ensure that this language flourishes in every domain."

The protest culminated in the submission of the memorandum to legislative representatives, ensuring that the voices of the Dogri-speaking community resonate in the corridors of power ahead of the crucial budget session. Participants declared this gathering a turning point in their campaign to protect Dogri and reaffirmed their commitment to continue the struggle until tangible progress is achieved.

This rally stands as a testament to the unyielding spirit of the Dogri-speaking community, determined to preserve their language and cultural identity for generations to come.

# Tormented Balak Ram's house caught fire, urges for help

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Poor Balak Ram's house constructed in one Marla at 42-Krishna Nagar Jammu, caught fire when he and his entire family comprising two daughters and a son, had gone to Sheikh Nagar Bahu to attend the marriage of his granddaughter.

His neighbours who gathered outside, watching in shock and concern, informed Balak Ram telephonically that his house on fire was presenting a scene of chaos



and destruction. Flames rapidly was spreading

through room, while thick black smoke was pour out

and darkening the sky. The intense heat and the sound of crackling wood filled the air, creating a sense of urgency and fear. Firefighters arrived swiftly and immediately began battling the blaze, worked tirelessly to prevent it from spreading to nearby homes, but till then, everything lyi in the gutted house had been damaged.

Tormented Balak Ram has urged the government to help him out in this difficult time, as he has nothing to feed himself and his family.

# Shiv Sena supports movement against ropeway

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has announced its support to the four-day strike declared by local traders, horse and pony service operators on the pilgrimage route regarding the ropeway project on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra route in Tarakot, Katra.

Along with this, an appeal has been made to the Shrine Board not to spoil the nature of Shri Mata Vaishnovevi Yatra in the race of facilities and to avoid affecting the business and employment of thousands of people.

In a press conference held on Friday at the par-



ty's state central office, state head Manish Sahni said that we are not against development and facilities, but if it hurts religious sentiments and has a negative impact on local traders and employment, will stand against it.

He said that due to the separation of Tarakot

route from Katra and the main market, the business of local and travel route shopkeepers, porters and horsemen is sure to be affected.

Along with this, the nature of Mata Vaishnovevi Yatra will be completely spoiled. The devotees coming to visit Shri Mata Vaish-

novevi by ropeway will have to remain deprived of the Holy Banganga, Charan Paduka, Ardhekumwari, Garbhjoon. Even before this, the main temple of Jammu, Kol Kandoli of Nagrota (called first darshan of Shri Mata Vaishnovevi Yatra), Deva Mai (second darshan) have been affected due to the development of rail and road routes.

Sahni has requested the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha (who is the Chairman of the Shrine Board) to shift the ropeway project after Holy Charan Paduka temple on the main yatra Marg with the first stop being Ardhekumwari.

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CIRCLE**  
**DODA-KISHTWAR**  
(Email id: [supenqerroadsdoda@gmail.com](mailto:supenqerroadsdoda@gmail.com))

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 01 of 2024-25 Dated: 19.11.2024.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on **Percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Advertisement cost (Rs. in lacs)	Name of Division	Earnest Money Deposit in the form of CDR/FDR (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of 25.0Mtrs Span Deck Steel Motorable Bridge over Battal Nallah in Km 14 <sup>th</sup> RD (325-350) of Ghat Bhadroon Dhara road (Under Bridge Sector).	190.34	PWD (R&B) Division Doda.	380680/=	3000/=	01 Year	11.12.2024 on 12.00 Hrs. at Doda.	"A"
2	Construction of Kashore to Jjote link road & improvement of zig in Km 15 <sup>th</sup> RD (400-600) (under State Sector).	179.62	PWD (R&B) Division Doda.	359240/=	3000/=	04 Years	11.12.2024 on 12.00 Hrs. at Doda.	"A"

**Position of Accord = Accorded**  
**Position of TS = Sanctioned**  
**MH. A/C = State Sector (4059)**

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20.11.2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20.11.2024 12.30 Hrs to 10.12.2024 1600 Hrs
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	Nil.
4.	Bid submission <b>Start Date</b>	20.11.2024 From 12.30 Hrs
5.	Bid Submission <b>End Date</b>	10.12.2024 up to 1600 Hrs
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids ( <b>Online</b> )	11.12.2024 at 1200 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle, Doda.
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids ( <b>Online</b> )	To be notified after technical bid is evaluation completed

**DIP/J-7158/24**

**Sd/**  
Superintending Engineer, (Addl Charge)  
PWD (R&B) Circle,  
Doda-Kishtwar.

## EDITORIAL

## A CALL TO ACTION

Democracy, the bedrock of freedom and equality, has been the beacon of hope for millions worldwide. It is the mechanism through which citizens exercise their rights, voice their opinions, and participate in decision-making processes that shape their lives. However, democracy faces unprecedented challenges globally, including in nations that once prided themselves as its champions. To preserve its essence and secure its future, it is imperative that we confront these challenges with unwavering commitment and collective action.

At its core, democracy is more than just a political system; it is a way of life. It embodies principles of equality, liberty, justice, and accountability. By allowing citizens to elect their representatives and hold them accountable, democracy ensures that power resides with the people. Furthermore, it provides mechanisms to address grievances, protect minority rights, and uphold the rule of law.

A functioning democracy requires an independent judiciary, a free press, robust institutions, and active citizen participation. However, the health of democracy is not solely dependent on its structural frameworks; it also requires a democratic culture where individuals respect diverse viewpoints, engage in constructive dialogue, and prioritize the collective good over narrow interests.

In many parts of the world, democratic norms are being undermined by authoritarian tendencies. Leaders in power sometimes manipulate electoral processes, curtail press freedom, and weaken judicial independence to consolidate their authority. This undermines the very principles that democracy stands for.

The proliferation of fake news and disinformation, often amplified by social media, has deepened divisions and fueled polarization. This creates an environment where facts are overshadowed by propaganda, eroding trust in institutions and democratic processes.

Rising economic disparities pose a significant threat to democracy. When wealth and resources are concentrated in the hands of a few, it undermines the principle of equality. Economic inequality can lead to unequal access to education, healthcare, and opportunities, silencing the voices of the marginalized.

In some regions, dissenting voices are met with repression, censorship, or even violence. Peaceful protests are curtailed, and activists, journalists, and opposition leaders are targeted, stifling the vibrant debate essential for a thriving democracy.

Low voter turnout and political apathy are growing concerns. When citizens feel disillusioned with the system or believe their voices do not matter, democracy becomes weaker, allowing undemocratic forces to gain ground.

Robust and independent institutions are the backbone of democracy. Efforts must be made to protect the judiciary, ensure free and fair elections, and maintain the autonomy of regulatory bodies. Institutions should operate transparently and be held accountable to the public.

Educating citizens about the dangers of misinformation and equipping them with tools to identify credible sources is crucial. A well-informed electorate is less likely to fall prey to propaganda and more likely to make rational decisions.

Governments must adopt policies that reduce wealth gaps and provide equal opportunities for all. Investing in quality education, healthcare, and social safety nets can empower marginalized communities and ensure their voices are heard.

A thriving democracy requires active engagement from its citizens. Grassroots movements, community organizing, and civic education initiatives can help people understand their rights and responsibilities in a democratic system.

Free speech and dissent are cornerstones of democracy. Governments must safeguard the right to protest, ensure press freedom, and protect whistleblowers and activists from harassment or persecution.

Democracy is strongest when it represents the interests of all sections of society, including minorities, women, and marginalized groups. Policies promoting inclusivity and equal representation in decision-making processes are essential.

While technology poses challenges, it can also be harnessed to strengthen democracy. Tools such as online voting systems, platforms for civic engagement, and transparency initiatives can enhance participation and trust in democratic processes.

Every individual has a role to play in safeguarding democracy. Voting is not just a right but a responsibility. By staying informed, participating in civic activities, and holding leaders accountable, citizens can contribute to a more vibrant democracy. Furthermore, fostering a culture of respect, empathy, and dialogue is essential to bridge divides and promote unity.

Democracy is not a static system but a dynamic process that evolves with the aspirations and values of its people. While challenges to democracy are daunting, they are not insurmountable. With collective will, informed action, and a commitment to its principles, we can ensure that democracy remains resilient and continues to serve as a pillar of hope and progress for future generations.

Let us rise to the occasion, defend our democratic ideals, and work tirelessly to create a world where freedom, equality, and justice prevail. For in saving democracy, we secure the future of humanity itself.

## Mistrust, 'won't talk' stand may keep Manipur on boil

By: Wasbir Hussain

In the full-scale ethnic war between the Meiteis and the Kukis that Manipur has been witnessing since May 3, 2023, the one thing that has come as a surprise is that neither side has been hit by conflict fatigue although the blistering fight has entered its 18th month. In this period, around 250 people belonging to both communities have been killed and an estimated 60,000 displaced, who are now living in relief camps, many of them just makeshift facilities. If no side is willing to end the battle or have a dialogue, it means this is a turf war that Manipur is actually witnessing. The latest bout of violence was triggered by the brutal killing of a Hmar woman (Hmars belong to the Kuki-Zo ethnic group) in Manipur's Jiribam district in the first week of this month. The Kukis were obviously agitated. On November 11, armed men, which the Manipur police described as "Kuki militants", apparently attacked a CRPF post near Borobekra in Jiribam district. The CRPF men retaliated, and according to the Manipur police, the gunbattle continued for 45 minutes. A search of the area later led to the recovery of sophisticated weapons and 10 bodies of what the Manipur police said were "Kuki militants".

The same day, November 11, armed men had kidnapped a Meitei family whose home was in the shoot-out vicinity. The hostages were six people: three women and three children, including a 10-month-old infant. Five days later, on November 15, their bodies were picked up from a river in the area. All hell broke loose. On November 16, as soon as news trickled out of the six hostages being

murdered, including the 10-month-old infant, women first gathered outside the iconic Ima Market in Imphal, a market run exclusively by women since the 16th century and a venue of many protests in Manipur's capital. As the day progressed, Imphal was under the grip of thousands of protesters who started blaming the BJP-led government led by chief minister N. Biren Singh of having failed to protect lives and property. Soon, the mobs were on a rampage. They first attacked the residence of BJP MLA Imo Singh, who incidentally is the chief minister's son-in-law. One after the other, the mob vandalised and burnt the homes of at least nine other ministers and MLAs, including the private residence of Mr Biren Singh. A woman MLA, S. Kebi Devi, was seen on television running on the street to escape a mob and hurriedly got into a bullet-proof police vehicle.

For the first few hours on November 16, the state authorities clearly gave out an impression they were helpless as the mobs went unchallenged. Only late in the evening, the Manipur government brought the Meitei heartland, the Imphal Valley comprising five districts, under curfew and suspended Internet services. The Biren Singh government's dilemma was clear -- at a time when the Kukis have been openly expressing their lack of faith and confidence in the Biren Singh government, the chief minister and his team in Imphal were in no position to antagonise their main support base, the Meiteis. By this time, the Centre, particularly the Union home ministry and home minister Amit Shah himself, had gone into a huddle over Manipur.

A few quick fire-fighting measures were set in motion - the Centre dis-

patched 70 additional companies of paramilitary forces, and rushed the director-general of the CRPF and the GOC of the Army's Dimapur-based 3 Corps to Manipur. In New Delhi, home minister Amit Shah reviewed the situation twice in 24 hours. But Mr Biren Singh and his alliance was facing the heat and pushed to the wall. One of the BJP's key partners, the National People's Party (NPP), withdrew support, leaving only the Naga People's Front and the JD(U), besides a few Independents, with the coalition. NPP leader Conrad Sangma, the Meghalaya CM, shot off a blunt letter to BJP president J.P. Nadda saying that his party has lost confidence in Biren Singh's leadership and that the NPP was deeply concerned about the situation in Manipur. The withdrawal of support by the seven NPP MLAs have had no impact on the Biren Singh ministry as it has the numbers, but the NPP pullout sent out a message that Biren Singh was losing the faith of many, including his allies. Biren Singh and his team had to come up with a response. The chief minister called a meeting of alliance MLAs on November 18 and adopted an eight-point resolution. The resolution amounted to Team Biren Singh giving a seven-day deadline to the Centre to launch a full-scale operation against "Kuki militants", withdraw the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from the six police station areas where it was reimposed recently, hand over the case related to the killing of the six Meitei hostages in Jiribam to the National Investigation Agency, and declaring the "Kuki militants" responsible for the killing of the six hostages as an unlawful organisation. The resolution recorded a veiled threat saying

if the demands were not met within the stipulated time of seven days, the BJP-led alliance with decide on their future course of action in consultation with the people. In trying to come up with a response, Biren Singh and his team almost ended up adopting a confrontationist approach with New Delhi. Team Biren also had to send out a message to those who have been taking to the streets in Imphal that the state government would not always take things lying down. Therefore, the meeting with the alliance MLAs decided to set up a "high-powered committee" to probe the mob violence that targeted the ministers and MLAs and had destroyed property and vowed to initiate legal action against the perpetrators. But the biggest conglomerate of civil society groups in the Imphal Valley, the Coordination Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), that had so far been backing Team Biren, rejected the eight-point resolution and acted by shutting down some Central government offices in Imphal. On Wednesday, however, COCOMI announced the suspension of its agitation for a week as the state government leaders had set the seven-day deadline to the Centre to initiate action against the "Kuki militants". The situation remains volatile, it may be impossible to bring things to normal within the deadline of seven days, and the angst of the people against the N. Biren Singh government as well as the Centre may keep Manipur on the boil for some more time to come. This is because the clashing sides are not prepared yet to face each other and talk peace, and neither has there been any serious mediation effort.

## Life struggling with poisonous air

By: Vijay Garg

The air quality in the country's capital Delhi and its surrounding areas is becoming very poor or rather, it is becoming deadly. The air quality index has crossed 400 in many areas of the capital. The apex court is also serious about the increasing pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region and has asked for strict measures. From the central government to the governments of Delhi and surrounding states, they have been making different claims, but this does not seem to bring any major relief in the pollution level. Is. Even though the Delhi government has taken many measures and issued instructions to control pollution to overcome this serious problem, they are not proving effective. The latest report of the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that globally the air has become poisonous to such an extent that the poison is slowly dissolving in our breath. The lungs are clogged with pollutants, which can prove to be a major cause of slow death. WHO report states that every year about five million people die prematurely due to exposure to poisonous air. They say goodbye. According to a report by Greenpeace, an organization working for the environment, the capital Delhi is the most polluted among the capitals of all the countries in the world. The question is why the National Capital Region of Delhi, which has been continuously facing this crisis for the last few years, does not get the light of any permanent solution? Why are governments

and politicians not ready for solutions instead of holding each other responsible? The report of the World Health Organization states that on the basis of PM 2.5, most of the world's 15 Among the cities, 12 cities are from India. According to the report on air quality, the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India, where the annual concentration of PM 2.5 is the highest. A study by "BMJ" has found that many people die every year in India due to pollution. PM means 'particulate matter' is a variety. Its particles are very fine which flow in the air. PM 2.5 or PM 10 refers to the size of particles in the air. These particles present in the air enter our body along with the air and dissolve in the blood. This causes many problems in the body. Health diseases like asthma and breathing problems may occur. The thing to note is that India suffers the most loss in terms of population, hence considering it as its responsibility, it will have to take some meaningful and concrete measures immediately. At present, most of the diseases in the world are occurring due to environmental pollution. More people die each year from diseases caused by pollution than from malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis combined. However, the question arises that what is the difference in deaths caused every year due to air pollution? What steps are being taken by the government to stop it? The government and society have known this for decades, but both remain indifferent about it. It seems that people are completely oblivious to their tragic future. In fact, the prob-

lem of air pollution is becoming so complex. That the future seems bleak. In fact, today man has become so addicted to the indulgent lifestyle and is selfish that he is polluting the very air, the basic foundation of his life. Forgetting all morality and duty. materialistic lifestyle and In the blind race of development, today man has forgotten how important clean air is for life. The increasing number of vehicles and the smoke coming out of factories have polluted the air, the cutting of trees has polluted the life-giving gases and the filth spread by humans has polluted the water at such a speed that now diseases are spreading at double the speed. This trend continues even today. There has been so much change in human thinking and ideology that no one is worried about the future. There is no doubt that today man is depleting nature. As a result of which, due to environmental imbalance, critical situations like global warming, acid rain, melting of snowy peaks, rise in sea level, drying up of plain rivers, loss of fertile land and increase of deserts etc. are being created. All this is the result of human carelessness. Sadly, we are still not waking up. As a result, air pollution is continuously increasing in India. Be it the Central or State governments, no one seems serious in dealing with pollution. Obviously, to fight pollution there is a need to make long-term policies, while people need to make all efforts at their own level to prevent the air from becoming poisonous. It is true that the Central and State Governments had taken many steps to deal with

air pollution. Yet we proved to be a laggard in dealing with air pollution. In such a situation, India's responsibility becomes bigger and more challenging, because we will have to adopt the measures being taken in both developed and developing countries. Actually, air pollution is an issue which is of concern to the whole world. It is a subject matter and cannot be resolved without mutual consent and honest effort. To tackle air pollution, sustained efforts are needed rather than immediate action. Measures such as adopting clean energy sources, controlling the number of vehicles and promoting public transport can have a long-term impact. To solve the problem of stubble burning, it is necessary to provide better technology and subsidies to farmers so that they adopt more environment-friendly alternatives. Besides this, pollution at construction sites Strict adherence to control measures and stringent laws are required to control industrial emissions. It is necessary to evaluate the air quality throughout the year through a systematic monitoring system so that the pollution levels can be kept under control in time. Air pollution not only means planting trees but also preventing land pollution, air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution. Only then will something concrete be visible. Time to do something, not to think.

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

# National workshop on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ends at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 22: The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, a renowned institution committed to sustainability and environmental conservation, organized a National One-Day Workshop on "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Udhampur. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and motivation needed to take meaningful action on climate change. Through expert presentations, engaging discussions, and interactive sessions, participants explored strategies to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts.

In his keynote address, Prof. K.R. Jha, Dean of the



Faculty of Engineering at SMVDU, underscored the university's proactive efforts in organizing high-quality workshops, conferences, and awareness programs.

He emphasized the value of such initiatives in expanding participants' knowledge and advancing sustainable development practices. Prof. Jha also highlighted the importance of raising public awareness to foster sustainable growth and empower climate action.

Shruti Khanna, District Coordinator of JKSTIC, highlighted the importance of government initiatives in promoting renewable energy adoption and energy conservation at the grassroots level. She discussed the state's efforts to integrate technology and innovation into energy systems, ensuring both sustainability and inclusivity.

The event included expert sessions by Dr. Sahil Kalra, Assistant Professor at IIT Jammu,

who discussed the implementation of energy efficiency in automation, and Dr. Pothukuchi Harish, also an Assistant Professor at IIT Jammu, who elaborated on the role of simulations in enhancing energy efficiency, supplemented with practical insights on their applications.

Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering and program coordinator, highlighted the pressing global challenges such as

climate change, resource depletion, and ecosystem degradation.

He stressed the need for knowledge-sharing initiatives to accelerate the transition toward a sustainable future. Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor and organizing secretary of the program, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the critical role of education in driving climate action and promoting sustainability.

The event's inaugural session was co-ordinated by Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean of R&D, and was attended by Deans and Heads of various schools.

Dr. Ankush Raina concluded the event with a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all contributors and participants.

This workshop underscored SMVDU's commitment to fostering education, innovation, and action in sustainability and renewable energy.

# GDC R S Pura organizes educational visit to Kisan Mela at SKUAST-J



Top News Report

R S PURA, Nov 22: As a part of the extension activities, NSS in collaboration with Department of Zoology and Department of Economic of Government Degree College (GDC) R S Pura visited Kisan Mela with a group of 30 students on Friday at SKUAST- Jammu.

Students were made aware that such a mela is an effective and a potent

tool for societal transformation. It is an organized educational activity, a mass communication method for involving and educating farmers, scientists, extension workers, input agencies, developmental departments, non-governmental agencies and all other relevant stakeholders such as students and teachers.

Volunteers were also apprised of various Scientific techniques used in

livestock farming, Dairy- ing and fish farming which are also a part of curriculum.

The visit was organized under the able guidance of worthy principal of the college Dr. (Prof) Preetpal Kour and supervised by NSS PO Dr. Chanchal Angral, Dr. Neena Gupta, Dr. Shifali Abrol, Dr. Kiran Pathania, Dr. Shivani Manchanda and Dr. Hari Singh also accompanied the students.

# IIC GDC Marh organizes student's visit to Kisan Mela at SKUAST-J



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: The Institution's Innovation Cell (IIC) of Government Degree College Marh in Collaboration Department of Chemistry arranged a perceptive visit to the Kisan Mela for its students at the Sher-e- Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu on Friday. The objective of the event was to expose students to the emerging advancements in agriculture and stimulate innovation in the sector.

Students accomplished a comprehensive panorama of counters exhibiting advanced scientific tools, technologies, inventive agricultural practices hydroponics, sericulture,

horticulture, veterinary sciences etc.

The Kisan Mela provided experimental learning and illustrations to students on sustainable farming, modern agriculture 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.

During their visit to the exhibition students also interacted with agricultural experts, researchers, industrialists which not only gave a wide vision and also enhanced their curiosity in the potential career opportunities in the

agricultural field.

Principal of the college Prof. (Dr) Rakesh Kumar Koul appreciated the efforts of the IIC team and aims to continue organizing such enriching visits to foster inspiration and speculator spirit among the students.

IIC convener Dr. Balwinder Saini along with Prof Sachin Kumar Bhagat(NSS PO), Dr. Brij Bir (HOD Physics) and Dr. Ruchika Bavouria accompanied the students. About 30 students of semester of 1st, 3rd and 5th semesters attended the event. The students gave overwhelmed response about the event and expressed their newfound interest in aspiring careers in agriculture.

# SSP Reasi holds introductory meeting with local residents

Top News Report

REASI, Nov 22: In a significant outreach initiative, Paramvir Singh SSP Reasi, held an introductory meeting with local residents at Police Station Reasi today. The meeting, attended by over 100 people, marked the beginning of a strengthened partnership between the police and the community. The gathering wel-

comes SSP Reasi with warmth and enthusiasm, reflecting the community's positive outlook towards the District Police leadership. Prominent citizens, including social workers, local business representatives, and Panchayat members, were present at the event.

Addressing the gathering, a prominent local representative raised key public concerns, including issues related to traffic management, drug abuse, and the need for increased police patrolling in certain areas. The SSP acknowledged



these concerns and assured that the police would prioritize them with immediate action. The meeting concluded with an open session where the attendees shared their suggestions and sought clarifications on various matters. SSP Reasi expressed his gratitude for the public's active participation and stressed the importance of a collaborative approach to addressing community challenges.

The event successfully strengthened the bond of trust and cooperation between the District Police and the citizens of Reasi, setting the stage for enhanced community policing in the region.

# Cambridge International School excels at National Taekwondo Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Cambridge International School celebrated the outstanding achievements of its students at the 2nd Open National Taekwondo Championship-2024, held on 16th and 17th November at K.W.V. Public School, Rishikesh. Our young athletes showcased remarkable

performances, bringing laurels to the school.

Bhagesh Sharma clinched the Gold Medal in the Under-17 category (-43 kg).

Duranjaya Singh secured the Silver Medal in the Under-14 category (-27 kg).

Vansh Chib earned the Gold Medal in the Under-14 category (-45 kg), and Abhijay Sharma won the

Silver Medal in the Under-14 category (-25 kg).

Their exceptional talent, hard work, and sportsmanship have truly made the school proud.

The school management congratulates these champions for their remarkable success and extends heartfelt appreciation to their coach, Sunny, for his dedicated guidance and support.

# JKLCU organizes it's eighth Tehsil level meet at Gandoh, elects Tehsil body

Top News Report

GANDOH, Nov 22: Jammu Kashmir Lamberdars and Chowkidars Union (JKLCU) unit Gandoh (Bhallas) holds its eighth meet at Gandoh to discuss various issues pertaining to them like burning issue to raise their monthly salaries in accordance to atleast mentioned in Minimum Wages Act. and any Lamberdar or Chowkidar who retire at the age of 60 years provide monthly pension to them.

Chairman Mukesh Parihar JKLCU said that the Lamberdars and Chowkidars of District Doda are living in pathetic condition. We get Rs 1501 only for Lamberdars and only Rs 1500 for Chowkidars per month by our government. As you are aware that under new guidelines any Lamberdar or Chowkidar must know read and write and most of the newly recruited Lamberdars or Chowkidars are highly qualified. As the new technology were introduced in Revenue Department every small and big work goes online.



Due to this improvement in Revenue Department our work becomes very difficult now. We falls under 36 Departments to whom we are answerable.

JKLCU District General Secretary Doda Mohd Isaq and Vijay Manhas, Organizer Anil Kumar said "We also appeal to the different district's Lamberdars and Chowkidars to join hands with us so that you can also be a part of our struggle".

District Media Secretary Labh Singh, District Deputy Secretary Gandoh Ajeet Singh said that Lamberdars and Chowkidars are our prime occupation. We are unable to pay

tution fees of school going childrens. We are living in miserable condition. We are requesting to our government which is headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh Omar Abdullah that kindly brings us atleast under Minimum Wages Act, provide monthly pension after retirement to any who retire at the age of 60 years.

JKLCU has elected its tehsil committee which consists of Tehsil Chief Organizer Prabhu Singh, Organizer Mohd Ashraf & Mohd Shaban, Tehsil Cashier Nitam Singh while Tehsil Spokesperson is Akshay Kumar.

# Director Agriculture Jammu conducts extensive tour of Poonch District

Top News Report

POONCH, Nov 22: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen conducted an extensive tour of Poonch district focusing on reviewing agricultural initiatives and engaging with officials and progressive farmers.

The visit commenced at the Chief Agriculture Office Complex, Poonch, where he interacted with Agriculture officers and field staff, emphasizing the importance of commitment and diligence in executing farmer centric initiatives. He provided clear directives for the effective implementation of projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes.

During the tour, Director Agriculture visited the Hi-Tech Polyhouse of progressive farmer Ashwani



Kumar, established under HADP. Ashwani Kumar, known for cultivating exotic vegetables such as Seedless Cucumber, Cherry tomato, broccoli, kale, and bell peppers, received valuable guidance on diversifying his production, productivity and ultimately high returns. The Director of Agriculture Jammu motivated him to go for cultivation of these high value crops in the Hi-Tech Polyhouse round the year to harvest the maximum returns and to enhance income and meet market demands. He appreciated

farmer's innovative practices and commended his role in modernizing agriculture in the district.

The Integrated Farming System Unit in Poonch was also inspected, where he reviewed the production processes and discussed strategies for scaling up mushroom cultivation. Highlighting its potential as a profitable venture, A.S Reen reiterated the department's support for promoting mushroom farming as a key income generating activity for farmers.

The Director Agriculture also visited the Naturally

Ventilated Poly Greenhouse (NVPGH) at the Chief Agriculture Office Complex Poonch where one lakh hybrid seedlings of Broccoli, Knol Khol, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Onion were raised for distribution to the farmers and to promote urban farming in the area. He lauded the establishment of district's first ever modern agricultural infrastructure in public sector. He also emphasized its potential as a model for farmers and directed to raise the seedlings round the year for self-sufficiency of the district in seedling production. Director Agriculture also distributed farm machinery viz Chaff cutter, Power Tiller etc. to the selected beneficiaries of HADP already approved by the DLMC committee.

In addition, Director A.S Reen visited the Sub-Divisional Agriculture

Offices in Surankote and Mendhar. He interacted with officers and field staff, reviewed ongoing projects, and directed a proactive approach in addressing the farmer grievances including credit linked schemes, ensuring the timely distribution of benefits and promoting sustainable farming practices.

The officers accompanying the Director on his visit to Poonch District were Chief Agriculture Officer Poonch, Agronomy Specialist, District Agriculture Officer Extension, Assistant Soil Chemist, SMS-DL, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Poonch, Apiculture Development Assistant and other district officers. The team collaboratively reviewed the implementation of key agricultural initiatives and provided actionable recommendations for improvement.

## My kind of an actor can't stay away from the people: Manoj Bajpayee

Manoj Bajpayee said that an actor must be almost invisible like a "fly on the wall" so that they can draw inspiration to create authentic characters for films.

The actor, known for movies such as "Satya", "Shool", "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Gali Guleiyan", and popular web series "The Family Man", said he has always strived to stay connected to the masses.

Even today, Bajpayee said, he likes being able to "buy vegetables at the market" than give out selfies.

"I feel selfies enter into my private space, nowadays even my wife is not that close to me. On a serious note, if I'm going to keep my car windows black, how am I going to be close to the people? How am I going to understand what they are going through?"

"How am I going to understand those characters.

The more I will cut off from them, the more downward my journey will be. My kind of actor can't stay away from the people," the National Award-winner said during a masterclass at the ongoing International Film Festival of India here.

Bajpayee, 55, said he hasn't chased stardom in his over 30-year career.

"Stardom is about mystery and glamour. I was only chasing roles... I don't want to be seen in public because I'm busy looking at people moving, standing near the bus stop or selling something.

"An actor has to be like a fly on the wall. He's in the room but he's still not there. If you achieve that in real



life then things become easy. You can see things

which are unseen." Citing 2017's psy-

chological drama "Gali Guleiyan" as his most difficult role till date, the actor said he is happy when he's able to do justice to characters that are poles apart from his real self.

"You can't do it if you're away from the people... I would like to travel in a metro or a local train and just see those people celebrating life even in that miserable condition. These stories, the people I'm going to portray on the screen, if I'm not close to them, then there's a problem. That's going to show in my performance."

Bajpayee's next film "Despatch" is a crime drama which will see the actor play an investigative reporter. It is directed by Kanu Behl and produced by RSPV.

It is set to premiere on ZEE5 on December 13.

## 'Starting a new journey': Shehnaaz Gill kicks off shooting for Punjabi film



Actress and social media sensation Shehnaaz Gill has announced that she has commenced shooting for her Punjabi film and tagged it as a "new

journey."

Shehnaaz took to her Instagram, where she shared a motley picture of herself holding on to the clapboard of the film, which is directed by Amarjit Saron. In one image, her "dream team" along with the actress are seen doing puja on the sets ahead of the shoot.

She wrote: "Starting a new journey today and immensely proud and happy to announce that today we commence the shooting of my Punjabi film with my dream team."

The director of the yet-untitled film is known for making movies such as 'Honsla Rakh', 'Saunkan Saunkne', 'Kala Shah Kala', 'Jhalle', 'Babe Bhangra Paunde Ne'.

Shehnaaz recently featured in the new version of the track 'Sajna Ve Sajna' from the film 'Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video'.

It was in 2015, when Shehnaaz began her modelling career with a music video titled 'Shiv Di Kitaab'. In 2017, she marked her debut in Punjabi film 'Sat Shri Akaal England'.

The actress' filmography also includes names such as 'Kala Shah Kala', 'Daaka', 'Honsla Rakh', 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', and 'Thank You For Coming' to her credit.

## Shraddha reveals why she doesn't sign films back-to-back; recalls being replaced

Social media truly has brought the world closer together. It is a boon especially for fans who enjoy getting a sneak peek into the lives of their favourite celebrities. Bollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor, for instance, is one of the most followed and adored stars on Instagram. This is because she is incredibly active on social media. Despite having only a handful releases in the past few years, Shraddha has been in constant touch with her fans through Instagram. She was last seen in Stree 2 this year, before which the actor shared the screen with Ranbir Kapoor in Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar last year. And now fans have no idea what Shraddha's next project will be. But why?

Well, in a recent interview with agency, Shraddha solved the mystery herself. She revealed, "I do what I want to do. I'm not in a rush to sign films back-to-back... following my heart is what keeps me grounded." During this chat, the actor also opened up about her initial days in the industry. Shraddha remembered, "Failure is indeed a very powerful teacher and a very important stepping stone towards success. I gave countless auditions at the beginning of my career. I was even finalised for a few films and then replaced. At that time, it



was very demotivating." However, Shraddha believes these experiences in her journey made her who she is today. Well, fans love her, so the actor is clearly doing it right. But what is Shraddha's next project? While the actor herself has not spilled the beans about her line-up yet, there have been many rumours. Shraddha was reportedly going to shoot a special song with Allu Arjun for Pushpa 2, but was replaced by Sreeleela. Then there was buzz about her joining Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR for a song in War 2. There were also rumours of a reunion with Ranbir for Dhoom 4.

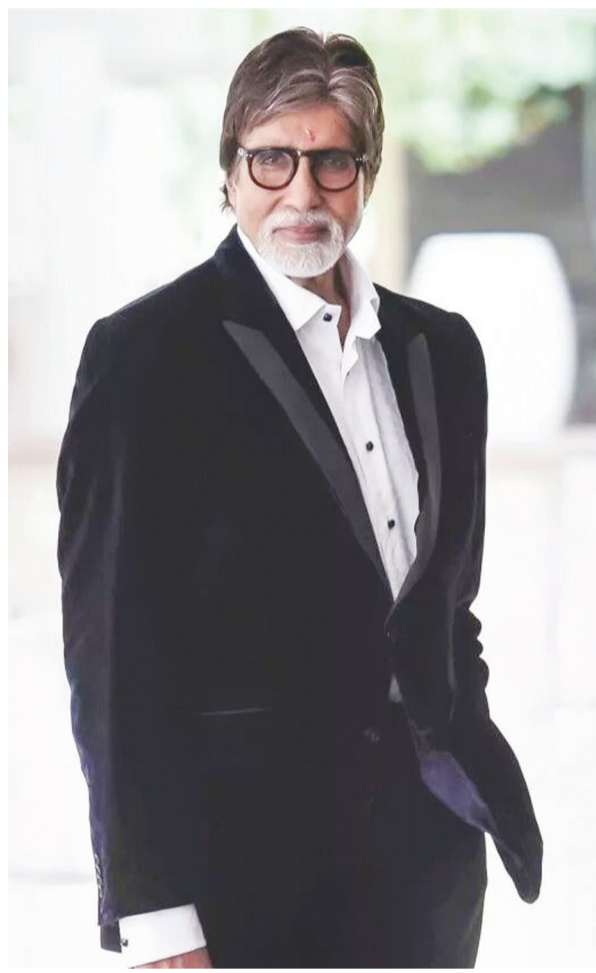
## Speculations are untruths without verifications: Amitabh Bachchan in latest blog post

Speculations are speculated untruths without verifications, said megastar Amitabh Bachchan on his blog, taking on the culture of misinformation in media.

Bachchan said he rarely discusses his family publicly as he believes in respecting boundaries and maintaining privacy.

"It takes immense courage conviction and a sincerity to be different and believe in its presence in life .. I rarely say much about family, because that is my domain and its privacy is maintained by me," Bachchan wrote.

Though the cinema veteran didn't specify in what context he was making these comments, Bachchan said information these days is not properly verified and often used strategically for commercial purposes.



"Speculations are speculations .. they are speculated untruths, without verifications. Verifications are sought by the seekers to authenticate their business and commercials of the profession they be in .. I shall not challenge their desire to be in the profession of their choice .. and I shall appreciate their effort in serving society," he said.

"But untruths .. or selected question marked information can be a legal safeguard for them that inform .. but the seed of suspected belief is sown with this most used emblem .. the question mark?" he added.

Bachchan said any information provided with a hint of doubt is a trap for readers.

"When you follow it up with a question mark, you are not only saying that the write may be

questionable .. but also quite surreptitiously wanting the reader to believe and expand on it, so that your write gets valued repeats ..

"your content is done , not just for that one moment, but for many moments ..the reader when they react to it gives content expansion. The reaction could be in belief or in the negative ..anything that be , give credence to the write," the actor said.

Bachchan, 82, also expressed a concern about the ethical implications of such practices.

"Fill the World with untruth or questioned untruth and your job is over .. how it may have affected the subject individual or situation has been hand washed away from your hands .. your conscience, if ever you have one, has been overridden," he added.

## Nayanthara thanks SRK, Chiranjeevi amid spat with Dhanush

Amid her public spat with the Tamil superstar Dhanush, actress Nayanthara has now expressed her gratitude to Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan for giving her the footage from his production 'Jawan'.

'Jawan', which saw SRK in a dual role, marked the Hindi film debut of Nayanthara, the head of Force One. The actress recently took to her Instagram, and shared a letter of gratitude for all the producers from across the film industries of India.

She wrote in the letter, "Our documentary, 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale,' has now been released. Every film I have worked on, holds immense significance in my life, as my journey in cinema is filled with countless joyful moments. Among these, many films are especially close to my heart, and I wished to include those memories and scenes in our documentary. When I approached the following producers to obtain No Objection

Certificates (NOCs), they granted them without hesitation or delay. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of them."

In the letter she named SRK and his wife Gauri Khan, and Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi.

She wrote in the caption, "The most precious thing I've earned in these 20 years of my career is the friendships, love and respect I've got from the ones I've worked with. I really thank all the producers who have supported me in this endeavour for their goodwill and magnanimity always. Thank you."

Earlier, the actress called out Dhanush after he sent a legal notice to her seeking compensation over the use of certain clips in the documentary without authorisation. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a long letter addressed to Dhanush in which she pointed the gun at the actor for trying to block the release of her documentary as it features footage from the film 'Naanum Rowdy



Dhaan'.

She shared that after two long years of battling it out with the actor for an NOC (No Objection Certificate) and waiting for his approval for the documentary

release, the team finally decided to give up, re-edit and settle for the current version since he declined to permit the usage of 'Naanum Rowdy Dhaan' songs or visual cuts.

## Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor-starrer 'Biwi No. 1' to re-release on November 29

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan and actress Karisma Kapoor's 1999 film "Biwi No.1" is all set to light up the big screens once again as it is set to re-release on November 29.

The film is directed by David Dhawan, father of actor Varun Dhawan. Upon its re-release, the filmmaker expressed his happiness.

"Audiences still talk about the film's humour and the joy it brought to families. Comedy films are best enjoyed when watched in a group and on the big screen. Re-releasing Biwi No. 1 will give fans a chance to celebrate those memories and introduce new viewers," David said in a statement.

"Biwi No. 1", which also stars Sushmita Sen, Tabu and Anil Kapoor explored the themes of love, loyalty, fidelity and family, it struck a perfect balance between tradition and modernity, a feat rarely achieved in comedy movies of that era.

Producer Vashu Bhag-



nani said: "Biwi No. 1 holds a special place in our hearts. The movie connected with audiences against all odds and won the hearts of millions. Bringing it back to the big screen gives us a chance to relive the laughter and fun, especially with its amazing star cast." "The magic of this film is timeless, and we want every cinegoer to

remember the joy of laughter."

The film told the story of Pooja, a simple housewife, lives with her husband and two children. However, when her husband leaves her for a beautiful model, Rupali, she gets a glamorous makeover to grab his attention.

"The upcoming re-release of Biwi No. 1 is one such example. As

a beloved 90s classic, it continues to resonate with audiences through its timeless music, humour, and stellar performances.

"To celebrate its 25th anniversary, we are most excited to have this iconic film back in theatres, for the new generation to experience on the silver screen for the first time and for the nostalgic audience who is showing up to celebrate and reconnect with such classics," says Niharika Bijli, Lead Strategist, PVR Inox Pictures.

The trailer of the film was shared on Pooja Entertainment's official Instagram account, taking all the fans a walk down memory lane.

The trailer was captioned: "It's official! The Biwi No. 1 trailer is OUT now! Get ready for David Dhawan's Biggest Entertainer to take over the screen once again! #29thNovember."

Vashu Bhagnani & Pooja Entertainment's Biwi No. 1 is being re-released on November 29 in cinemas by PVR Inox Pictures.

## PM security lapse in Punjab: SC rejects state's plea seeking statements of witnesses

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): The Supreme Court Friday turned down the Punjab government's plea seeking statements of witnesses who have deposed before former apex court judge Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state in January 2022.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan asked the state government to independently conduct the enquiry against delinquent officers without the aid of the statements.

The top court appointed a committee headed by former judge Indu Malhotra on January 12, 2022, to probe the security breach.

"After receipt of report of the committee, matter was taken up on August 25, 2022. Copy of report was directed to be supplied to Centre and state government. It was directed that report shall be kept in sealed cover in the safe custody of secretary general of this court," the bench said.

"It seems the Punjab government has now sent a letter



seeking statements of witnesses to conduct further proceedings against delinquent officers," it said.

The top court bench said, "We see no ground to entertain the request made by the Punjab government. The state may conduct its enquiry against delinquent officers without the aid of the statements said to have been made by the witnesses before the enquiry committee."

The Supreme Court-appointed committee to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab had found that the Ferozepur SSP failed to dis-

charge his duty even though sufficient force was available.

The committee had also told the top court that there should be an oversight committee for periodic revision and update of the 'Blue Book' and sensitisation courses for police officers engaged in the security of the prime minister.

The Blue Book contains an unambiguous and detailed procedure to be observed by the state authorities and the special protection force to ensure the full safety and security of the prime minister while he is touring a state.

The five-member panel had also told the apex court that the

SSP had sufficient time after then Punjab ADGP G Nageshwar Rao informed him that the prime minister would be taking the contingency route. But the SSP failed to take action, it said.

The top court on August 25, 2022, said it will send the report of the five-member committee headed by former apex court judge Indu Malhotra to the Centre for appropriate action.

"Ferozepur SSP Avneet Hans failed to discharge his responsibility to maintain law and order or take steps to deploy forces to secure the route despite knowledge that there were large hostile groups on the route.

"He failed to do this even though sufficient force was available and even though he was informed two hours before that the Prime Minister would enter that route," the bench had said.

On January 5, 2022, Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur after which he returned from Punjab without attending any event.

## Supreme Court stays disqualification of six CPS in HP Govt

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the disqualification process of six Chief Parliamentary Secretaries of Himachal Pradesh who were appointed by the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led State Government.

It stayed the direction of the Himachal Pradesh High Court declaring the power to appoint Chief Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Secretaries in the state as unconstitutional.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said there will be no further proceedings in pursuant to the Himachal

Pradesh High Court order quashing the appointment of six MLAs as Chief Parliamentary Secretaries.

It, however, made it clear that no more appointments will be made by the State Government, saying it will be contrary to law.

The top court also issued notice to BJP leader Kalpana Devi, who has moved the High Court against the appointment of Chief Parliamentary Secretaries, and sought her response within two weeks and posted the matter after four weeks. It tagged the matter with the pending petitions in the Apex Court on the issue.

## 10 Naxalites killed in Sukma encounter

SUKMA, Nov 22 (Agencies): Ten Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Friday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight broke out in the morning in a forest within the jurisdiction of the Bheji police station when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, said Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P.

The operation was launched based on inputs about the presence of Maoists belonging to Konta and Kistaram area committees of Naxalites on forested hills of Korajguda, Dantespuram, Nagaram and Bhandarpadar

villages, he said. Bodies of 10 Naxalites have been recovered from the spot so far, he said. Besides, a cache of weapons, including an INSAS rifle, an AK-47 rifle and a Self Loading Rifle (SLR), were also seized, he said.

The search operation by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is still underway in the area, he added.

With this incident, bodies of 207 Naxalites have been recovered so far this year following separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Sukma, police said.

## 'Congress allowed illegal migration of foreign militants': JP Nadda on Manipur

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): BJP president JP Nadda on Friday accused the Congress of pushing an "incorrect, false and politically" motivated narrative on the issue of Manipur unrest, as he hit back at Mallikarjun Kharge for seeking President Droupadi Murmu's intervention and alleging the Centre's complete failure in defusing the crisis.

In a rejoinder to Mr Kharge, Mr Nadda said the repercussions of the Congress's "abject failure" in dealing with local issues in Manipur when it was in power are being felt even today.

What is shocking is how repeated attempts are being made by the Congress party to sensationalise the situation in Manipur, he told Mr Kharge, asserting that the current dispensation has been working since the first incidents of violence to bring stability and peace in the state.

He said Mr Kharge seemed to have forgotten that not only did his government legitimise the illegal migration of foreign militants to India, the then home minister P Chidambaram had signed treaties with them.

These known militant leaders fleeing their country to avoid arrest were wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged to carry on their destabilising efforts, Mr Nadda claimed.

"This complete failure of India's security and administrative protocols under your government is one of the major reasons why militant and habitually violent organisations are attempting to destroy the hard-won peace in Manipur and push it back several decades into the age of anarchy," he said.

Unlike the Congress, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government will not allow this to happen at any cost, he added.

He said the governments at the Centre and in Manipur have been working to stabilise the situation and protect people since the initial violence.

The entire government machinery is devoted to bringing back peace and harmony to Manipur, he said, stressing the BJP's commitment to resolving the situation quickly as probe into the incidents of violence are being carried out by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), "one of the most efficient agencies" in the country.

Mr Nadda said he felt compelled to respond to the "incorrect, false and politically motivated narrative" being pushed against the government and which Kharge's words fail to camouflage.

Referring to the Congress president's letter to President Murmu, he said it was "heartening" to finally see "some form of respect" from the Opposition party for the President of India after "uncountable disrespectful remarks" heaped on her by his senior leaders.

Mr Kharge and his party, he said, seemed to have conveniently forgotten the complete failure of government machinery and the "ill-advised strategies" adopted by the Congress governments both at the Centre and state during similar incidents in the early 90s and during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era.

The northeast region has seen a complete transformation in every sector be it economy, security, healthcare, education or access to growth opportunities



under the Modi government, he said.

People have endorsed its work by repeatedly putting their faith in the stability of "double engine" NDA governments over the false promises of the Congress and its allies, he said.

"From more than 10 historical peace accords to unprecedented connectivity, our governments are truly bringing the people of northeast closer," Mr Nadda said. In Manipur alone, the percentage of people suffering from multidimensional poverty has reduced from over 20 per cent in 2013 to just over 5 per cent in 2022, he added.

"Yet, ignoring these developments, you (Mr Kharge) and your party have chosen to use the northeast and its people to rake up political mileage and peddle your nefarious agendas. I wish to remind you that under Congress rule, Manipur witnessed one of the bloodiest periods in history," Mr Nadda said.

In addition to the black period of the 90s when thousands were killed and lakhs displaced due to rampant violence, in 2011 alone Manipur witnessed a complete blockade for more than 120 days, he said.

Petrol and LPG prices were nearly four-times higher than the rest of the country and losses of crores of rupees were being suffered by the exchequer every day, he said. The state was marked by thousands of fake encounters, he alleged.

Mr Nadda claimed that this pattern of Congress leaders endorsing and encouraging a nexus of foreign forces looking to derail India's progress is truly worrying.

"As a result of this failure to recognise the maleficent intentions of these individuals, your party is often seen matching them step-for-step. Whether this failure is an unfortunate blind spot resulting from the Congress's thirst for power or part of a carefully designed strategy to divide the people and sideline our democracy, is what our nation deserves to know," he said.

Mr Nadda reminded Mr Kharge of the "disrespectful and irresponsible manner" in which the Congress acted when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was addressing the issue of violence in Manipur in Parliament earlier this year.

In his two-page letter to the President, Mr Kharge on Tuesday accused both the Union and the state governments of having "completely failed" in restoring peace and normalcy in Manipur during the last 18 months, seeking her intervention.

He said people have lost confidence in the government. Mr Kharge said the violence has claimed more than 300 lives, including that of women, children and babies.

"The deteriorating law and order in Manipur has internally displaced nearly a lakh people, rendering them homeless and forcing them to live in different relief camps," he said, adding the agony continues unabated.

## MVA is united, will decide on Maharashtra CM post within a day: Sachin Pilot

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): Confident of an MVA win in Maharashtra, Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Friday said there would not be any issue among alliance constituents in deciding on the CM post after getting a majority and it would not take more than a day to "figure out who will get what position".

Pilot, who was given the charge by the party in the Marathwada region and campaigned extensively in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and in constituencies where bypolls are taking place, dismissed indications by exit polls that the BJP alliance in the two states would get a majority.

In an interview with agency a day before the results, Pilot said the results of the assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand as well as to the bypolls in various states will provide a "reality check" to the BJP and the NDA.

On the party's prospects in the recent round of assembly polls after the Haryana defeat, the Congress general secretary said Haryana was a setback and a very surprising one but Maharashtra and Jharkhand were a "separate story".

"There is a visible desire among voters to have a change in Maharashtra because this double engine government that was running was not living up to any of the expectations that the voters had," he said.

"The kind of campaign we ran, the kind of guarantees we promised, our coalition partners, candidate selection, our narrative was positive and was well received.

So I think we are going to see a change of government in Maharashtra," Pilot, who held a total of 55 public meetings during the assembly polls campaign, including more than two



dozen in Maharashtra alone, said.

In Jharkhand, a sitting CM was put behind bars on some grounds and ultimately got relief from the Supreme Court.

This kind of misuse of central agencies has not gone down well with the electorate of the state, he said.

"The BJP doesn't have a credible face in Jharkhand. I think in both the states, the INDIA bloc partners are in a good position to form governments," Pilot told agency.

Talking about the impact of polls on the central government in case the INDIA bloc wins in the two states, he said, "It is not our job to make the government stable and unstable, it is the contradictions within their alliance that will end up doing that."

"On many issues on, the allies of the NDA are not in agreement. We have seen many bills in Parliament that have been withdrawn, there is lack of consensus, lack of discussion that the ruling alliance has been used to in the last 10 years," Pilot said.

The results in the Lok Sabha in Maharashtra saw an overwhelming defeat of the BJP and it was reflective of the mood in Maharashtra and it is bound to continue, he said.

Asked whether the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents -- the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SCP) -- would be able to decide on a CM face amicably

in case they get a majority, he said, "Running for the chair is what the BJP and its allies are doing. All of us had decided that let us first get a majority and within a day we will decide who will get what position."

It is really not that important for any of the MVA alliance partners to stake claims and none has done that, he said.

"We have been very mature about this because people's interests are far more important than individual interests. But what is more surprising is that the sitting CM has not been projected because Mr. Ajit Pawar (NCP) and Mr. Devendra Fadnavis (BJP) both are uncomfortable with the current CM and that was openly on display during the campaign," he claimed.

"Everyone is seasoned in the MVA. Mr (Sharad) Pawar is a multiple time CM, Mr. (Uddhav) Thackeray too has been CM before and the Congress had a historically strong presence in Maharashtra.

So three very mature parties were fighting together, who gets what position is not going to be an issue at all, it will be resolved earliest once we get a majority," Pilot said.

"It will not take more than a day once we get a majority to figure out who will get what position," he added.

On talk of churn in Mahayuti with Ajit Pawar expressing disapproval of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'katenge toh batenge' slogan, Pilot said he doesn't know what the Mahayuti alliance would do but asserted that the MVA is committed to people of Maharashtra and has come together with five guarantees, a joint agenda for Maharashtra and will stick to it.

"I think people have liked what we projected, they have faith in the delivery capacities of the MVA and he doesn't see any issue at all once votes are counted," he said.

Slamming Adityanath's statement, Pilot said no right thinking person will approve the comment that he has made.

"I countered the slogan saying 'padhoge toh badhoge'. That is what we have to tell the young generation. 'Ye baantne kaatne ki baat inko election mein yaad aati hai' (they remember this divisive rhetoric during elections)," Pilot said.

"Rahul Gandhi ji has given a very befitting reply to Modi ji's 'ek hain, toh safe hain', he has elaborated who is ek, and who is safe. Business interest and political interest combining to getting rid of India's assets, that is Mr Modi's statement," he said.

Dismissing the exit polls predicting win for the BJP alliance in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, Pilot said, "Less I say about them (exit polls), the better it is. We will wait for the day results come out."

"I am giving feedback from the ground. So in Maharashtra for example, the soya bean farmers, the cotton farmers and onion farmers are in severe distress and the (state) government and the government of India has only empty promises to give," he said.

The farming community in Marathwada and the Vidarbha region is very uncomfortable with their regime in Delhi and Mumbai, Pilot said.

While polling for the Jharkhand Assembly took place on November 13 and 20, voting in Maharashtra took place in a single phase on November 20.

The counting of votes would take place on November 23.

## Elderly woman dies after being hit by train in Kerala

THRISSUR, Nov 22 (Agencies): A 73-year-old woman died and another person was seriously injured on Friday after a train hit them while they were crossing the railway track at Divine Nagar railway station near Chalakudy here, police said.

The incident occurred around 6:30 am when three women, who had arrived at the Divine Retreat Centre here for meditation, were going to the railway station to return to their respective homes, an officer of Koratty police station said.

The deceased and the third woman hailed from Kasaragod district while the injured lady was from Paravur in Ernakulam district, they said.

The condition of the injured woman is said to be critical.

The third woman escaped unscathed as she had already crossed over to the other side of the tracks, they added.

## 3 Dead, 9 injured after gas leak at fertiliser plant in Maharashtra

SANGLI/MUMBAI, Nov 22 (Agencies): Three persons, including two women, were killed and nine others hospitalised following a gas leak after a blast in a reactor at a fertiliser plant in Maharashtra's Sangli district, an official said on Friday.

The incident took place around 6.30 pm on Thursday at the Myanmar Chemical Company in Shalgaon MIDC of Kadegaon tehsil in the district, he

said. Police said a reactor at the fertiliser plant exploded releasing chemical fumes.

"Due to the gas leak, some 12 people in the unit were affected and taken to hospital. Of them, two women workers and a security guard have died. Nine others are being treated," said Sangram Shewale, senior inspector of Kadegaon police station. Sangli Superintendent

of Police Sandip Ghuge said the gas is suspected to be ammonia.

Seven of the injured persons have been admitted to Sahyadri Hospital in Karad and five of them are in the ICU, said another official.

The two women who lost their lives have been identified as Suchita Uthale (50) of Yetgaon in Sangli district and Neelam Rethrekar (26) of Masur in Satara district, the official said.

## North Korea's Kim accuses US of escalating tensions, warns of nuclear war

SEOUL, Nov 22 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has accused the United States of ramping up tension and provocations, saying the Korean peninsula has never faced such risks of nuclear war as now, state media KCNA said on Friday.

In a speech at a military exhibition in Pyongyang, Kim said his previous experience of negotiations with Washington only highlighted its "aggressive and hostile" policy against Pyongyang, KCNA said.

"Never before have the warring parties on the Korean peninsula faced such a dangerous and acute confrontation that it could escalate into the most destructive thermonuclear war," Kim said, according to KCNA.

"We have already gone as far as we can on negotiating with the United States, but what we became certain of from the result is not the superpower's



willingness to coexist, but its thorough stance of power and aggressive and hostile policy toward us that can never change."

During US President-elect Donald Trump's first term, he and Kim held three unprecedented meetings in Singapore, Hanoi, and at the Korean border in 2018 and 2019.

But their diplomacy failed to achieve any concrete outcome

due to differences between US calls for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons and Kim's demands for sanctions relief.

Trump has long touted his ties with Kim, saying last month that the two countries "would've had a nuclear war with millions of people killed" but he stopped it thanks to their relationship.

North Korean state media has not yet publicly mentioned

Trump's reelection.

Kim, in the speech, called for developing and upgrading weaponry into "ultra-modern ones" and vowed to continue advancing defence capabilities to bolster the country's strategic position, KCNA said.

The event, called the Defence Development Exhibition, featured strategic and tactical weapons.

Kim's latest speech came amid international criticism over increasingly deepening military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow, with North Korea having sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

Last week, Kim urged the country's military to improve capabilities for fighting a war, blaming the United States and its allies for stoking tension to "the worst phase in history" and calling the Korean peninsula "the world's biggest hotspot."

## Ukraine's parliament cancels session after Russia fired a new missile

KYIV, Nov 22 (Agencies): Ukraine's parliament canceled a session on Friday as security was tightened after Russia deployed a new ballistic missile that threatens to escalate the nearly three-year war.

Russian troops also struck Sumy with Shahed drones overnight killing two people and injuring 12 more, the regional administration said Friday morning. The attack targeted a residential district of the city.

Ukraine's Suspilne media, quoting Sumy regional head Volodymyr Artiukh, said the Russians used Shaheds stuffed with shrapnel elements for the first time in the region. "These weapons are used to destroy people, not to destroy objects," said Artiukh, according to Suspilne.

Separately, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský arrived on a visit to Kyiv. He posted a photo from Kyiv's railway station on his X account Friday morning.

"I am interested in how the Ukrainians are coping with the bombings, how Czech projects are working on the ground and how to better target international aid in the coming months. I will discuss all of this here," Lipavský wrote.

Three Ukrainian lawmakers confirmed that the parliamentary session previously scheduled was canceled due to the ongoing threat of Russian missile

attacks targeting government buildings in the city center.

Not only is the parliament closed, "there was also recommendation to limit the work of all commercial offices and NGOs that remain in that perimeter, and local residents were warned of the increased threat," said lawmaker Mykyta Poturaiev, who added this is not the first time such a threat has been received.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office continued to work in compliance with standard security measures, a spokesperson said.

Russia on Thursday fired a new intermediate-range ballistic missile in response to Kyiv's use of U.S. and British longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an address on Thursday.

It struck a missile factory in Dnipro in central Ukraine. Putin warned that U.S. air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile, which he said flies at 10 times the speed of sound and which he called Oreshnik — Russian for hazelnut tree.

The Pentagon confirmed that Russia's missile was a new, experimental type of intermediate-range missile based on its RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile.

## Taiwan president will visit allies in South Pacific as rival China seeks inroads

TAIPEI, Nov 22 (Agencies): Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te will visit the self-governing island's allies in the South Pacific, where rival China has been seeking diplomatic inroads.

The Foreign Ministry announced Friday that Lai would travel from Nov. 30 to Dec. 6 to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau.

The trip comes against the background of Chinese loans, grants and security cooperation treaties with Pacific island nations that have aroused major concern in the U.S., New Zealand, Australia and others over Beijing's moves to assert military, political and economic control over the region.

Taiwan's government has yet to confirm whether Lai will make a stop in Hawaii, although such visits are routine and unconfirmed Taiwanese media reports say he will stay for more than one day.

Under pressure from China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory and threatens to annex it by force if needed, Taiwan has just 12 formal diplomatic allies. However, it retains strong contacts with dozens of other nations, including the U.S., its main source of diplomatic and military support.

China has sought to whittle away traditional alliances in the South Pacific, signing a security agreement with the Solomon Islands shortly after it broke



ties with Taiwan and winning over Nauru just weeks after Lai's election in January. Since then, China has been pouring money into infrastructure projects in its South Pacific allies, as it has around the world, in exchange for political support.

China objects strongly to such U.S. stopovers by Taiwan's leaders, as well as visits to the island by leading American politicians, terming them as violations of U.S. commitments not to afford diplomatic status to Taiwan after Washington switched formal recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

With the number of its diplomatic partners declining under Chinese pressure, Taiwan has redoubled efforts to take part in international forums, even from the sidelines. It has also fought to retain what diplomatic status it holds, including refusing a demand from South Africa last month that it move its representative office in its former diplomatic ally out of the capital.

## Russia gave North Korea anti-air missiles in exchange for troops: Seoul security chief

SEOUL, Nov 22 (Agencies): Russia gave North Korea anti-air missiles in exchange for deploying troops to support Moscow's war in Ukraine, Seoul's top security advisor said Friday.

The United States and South Korea have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending more than 10,000 soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine, with experts saying Kim Jong Un was eager to gain advanced technology, and battle experience for his troops, in return.

Asked what Seoul believes Pyongyang has received for the troops, top security advisor Shin Won-sik said: "It has been identified that equipment and anti-aircraft missiles aimed at reinforcing Pyongyang's vulnerable air defense system have been delivered to North Korea."

Speaking to local broadcaster SBS, Shin added that North Korea has received "various forms of economic support" and "following the failure (launch) on May 27, North Korea has been working on satellite-related technology".

Experts have previously said that in return for the troops, North Korea was likely aiming



to acquire military technology, ranging from surveillance satellites to submarines, as well as possible security guarantees from Moscow.

North Korean leader Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a strategic partnership treaty in June, during the Kremlin chief's visit.

It obligates both states to provide military assistance "without delay" in the case of an attack on the other and to cooperate internationally to oppose Western sanctions.

Putin hailed the deal as a

"breakthrough document". Experts say Pyongyang could be using Ukraine as a means of realigning foreign policy.

By sending soldiers, North Korea is positioning itself within the Russian war economy as a supplier of weapons, military support and labor — potentially bypassing its traditional ally, neighbour and main trading partner, China, according to analysts.

Russia can also provide North Korea access to its vast natural resources, such as oil and gas, they say. North Korean Foreign

Minister Choe Son Hui recently visited Moscow and said her country would "stand firmly by our Russian comrades until victory day".

She called Moscow's offensive against Ukraine a "sacred struggle" and said Pyongyang believed in Putin's "wise leadership". North Korea and Russia are under rafts of UN sanctions — Kim for his nuclear weapons program, and Moscow for the Ukraine war.

When asked publicly about the deployment of North Korean troops last month, Putin deflected the question to criticise the West's support of Ukraine.

North Korea said last month that any troop deployment to Russia would be "an act conforming with the regulations of international law", but stopped short of confirming that it had sent soldiers.

North Korea's deployment of troops has led to a shift in tone from Seoul, which has resisted calls to send lethal weapons to Kyiv, but recently indicated it might change its longstanding policy.

## Second Australian teen dies in tainted alcohol case in Laos that has killed 6 tourists

VANG VIENG, Nov 22 (Agencies): A second Australian teenager who fell critically ill after drinking tainted alcohol in Laos has died in a hospital in Bangkok, her family said Friday, bringing the death toll in the mass poisoning of foreign tourists to six.

Holly Bowles, 19, had been in critical condition on life support following the poisoning in Laos more than a week ago.

"We are so sad to say that our beautiful girl Holly is now at peace," her family said in a statement sent to Australian Network 10 and other Australian media. "We find comfort and solace in knowing that Holly brought so much joy and happiness to so many people."

An officer at Vang Vieng's Tourism Police office, who refused to give his name, told The Associated Press on Friday that a "number of people" had been detained in the case but that no charges have yet been filed. Staff at

the Nana Backpacker Hostel, which was still operating but not accepting new guests, confirmed that the manager and owner were among those taken in for questioning.

Tourist police offices are common in Southeast Asia and are set up specifically to help with incidents involving tourists and other foreigners.

The U.S. State Department on Friday issued a health alert for citizens traveling in Laos, warning of "suspected methanol poisoning in Vang Vieng, possibly through the consumption of methanol-laced alcoholic drinks," following similar alerts from other countries whose citizens were involved.

Australia's prime minister announced Thursday that a 19-year-old citizen, Bianca Jones, had died in a Thai hospital where she had been evacuated for emergency treatment, and that her friend — Bowles — remained in

a hospital "fighting for her life." A 28-year-old British woman, Simone White, also died from suspected methanol poisoning in Laos, the British Foreign Office said.

An American and two Danish tourists also died, though specifics about the causes of death have not been released.

New Zealand's Foreign Ministry said one of its citizens was sickened in Laos and was a possible victim of methanol poisoning.

Laos is a one-party communist state with no organized opposition and the government keeps a tight lid on information. In this case, officials have released almost no details.

The Foreign Ministry has refused to comment, and in Vang Vieng the small hospital where some of the victims are believed to have been treated initially referred all questions to the town's health office on the hospital grounds.

The town health officials refused to comment, saying they lacked proper permission.

Methanol is sometimes added to mixed drinks at disreputable bars as a cheaper alternative to ethanol, but can cause severe poisoning or death. It is also a byproduct of poorly distilled homebrew liquor, and could have found its way into bar drinks inadvertently.

Landlocked Laos is one of Southeast Asia's poorest nations and a popular tourist destination. Vang Vieng is particularly popular among backpackers seeking partying and adventure sports.

Neil Farmiloe, a New Zealander who owns the Kiwi Kitchen restaurant in town, said a lot of his customers were very worried about the incident.

"I think it's never happened before, so it is hopefully just a one-off incident," said Farmiloe, who has lived in Vang

Vieng for 20 years. "It's very sad all around. I'm sure nobody intended to cause injury, but it's happened."

The two 19-year-old Australian women who have both now died fell ill on Nov. 13 following a night out drinking with a group.

They failed to check out from the Nana Backpacker Hostel as planned and were found sick in their room and then taken to Thailand for emergency treatment.

Thai authorities confirmed that Jones had died by "brain swelling due to high levels of methanol found in her system."

Duong Duc Toan, the manager of the Nana Backpacker Hostel, told the AP the day before he was detained that the two women had joined other guests for free shots of Laotian vodka before heading elsewhere and returning in the early hours of the morning.

## Australia rejects Elon Musk's claim that it plans to control access to the internet

MELBOURNE, Nov 22 (Agencies): An Australian Cabinet minister on Friday rejected X Corp. owner Elon Musk's allegation that the government intended to control all Australians' access to the internet through legislation that would ban young children from social media.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said Musk's criticism was "unsurprising" after the government introduced to Parliament on Thursday legislation that would fine platforms including X up to 150 million Australian dollars (\$133 million) if they allow children under age 16 to hold social media accounts.

"The idea that Elon Musk is not delighted with our steps to try and protect kids online is not an especially big surprise to us, nor does it trouble us greatly," Chalmers told reporters.

The spat continues months of open hostility between the Australian government and the tech billionaire over reg-

ulators' efforts to reduce public harm from social media.

Parliament could pass legislation as soon as next week that would oblige X, TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit and Instagram to ban young children from their platforms.

The legislation introduced on Thursday will be debated by lawmakers in Parliament on Monday.

Musk responded to the legislation's introduction by posting on his platform, "Seems like a backdoor way to control access to the Internet by all Australians."

Asked if that was the government's intention, Chalmers replied, "Of course not."

"Elon Musk having that view about protecting kids online is entirely unsurprising to us. He's expressed similar views before," Chalmers said.

"Our job is not to come up with a social media policy to please Elon Musk. Our job is to put in place the necessary protection for

kids online," Chalmers added.

In April, Musk accused Australia of censorship after an Australian judge temporarily ruled that X must block users worldwide from accessing a video of a bishop being stabbed in a Sydney church.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese responded by describing Musk as an "arrogant billionaire" who considered himself above the law and was out of touch with the public.

Australian eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant, the online safety watchdog who brought the court case against X, has said the legal battle led to online attacks against her and her family, including the release online of personal information without her permission, known as doxing.

She said Musk had "issued a dog whistle to 181 million users around the globe" which resulted in her receiving death threats.



# J&K Youth Congress accuses Modi-Adani nexus of exploiting nation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Jammu & Kashmir Youth Congress (JKPYC) staged a massive protest at Press Club, Jammu, criticising the BJP-led NDA Government of supporting financial fraud involving industrialist Gautam Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, referred to as the "Modani Scam." The protest was organized by JKPYC by State General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney, and led by Indian Youth Congress Secretary in charge J&K, Maan Singh Rathore. The protestors called out the nexus between PM Modi and Adani, criticizing the government's complicity in exploiting national resources for personal gain.

Addressing the protest, Maan Singh Rathore launched a scathing attack on the Modi government, stating that the BJP government shields the corruption of the rich industrialists in India, "The Adani Group col-



luded with Azure Power, an American-listed company, to secure funds under the pretense of building solar energy projects in India. They raised Rs 25,000 crore by selling dreams to American investors. However, due to challenges in securing solar contracts in India owing to high electricity costs, Rs 2,200 crore was allegedly used to bribe Indian officials. This brazen corruption came to light during an FBI and SEC investigation in the US, which revealed fraud and bribery linked to Adani. Yet, under Narendra Modi's watch, Adani enjoys complete immunity in India. How

long will the BJP act as Adani's spokesperson instead of serving the people?" he questioned.

Anirudh Sawhney, the State General Secretary of JKPYC, added that the grand jury warrant exposes the shameful truth of Adani, "The US Department of Justice has issued a grand jury warrant against Gautam Adani after a two-year investigation. It has been proven that Adani not only deceived American investors but also lied to India's market regulator SEBI. Despite this, the Modi government has remained silent, offering no explanation to the people of India. This silence is

proof of their complicity. We demand that the BJP stop protecting the corrupt and take immediate action to uphold justice. The BJP Government's actions are slowly corroding the once secure fabric of Indian economy and creating a country where the middle class and poor continues to suffer, and the rich continues to enjoy privilege. Taxation in India is one of the world's worst under Modi government, middle class and working class is miserable due to it. However, amidst this the rich continue to make their profits through frauds and loopholes. Ajay Lakhotra, the President of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and Divyansh Singh Jamwal stated that the Indian government is sleeping and emphasized, "It's ironic that while the United States takes action against Adani for bribery and fraud, the Indian government does nothing. The BJP's favoritism towards Adani is blatant.

This scam has not only tarnished India's reputation globally but has also exposed the BJP's allegiance to corporate interests over national welfare. We demand transparency and accountability from the government and an independent probe into these allegations. The Youth Congress has pledged to continue its fight for justice and accountability, urging citizens to stand against the Modi government's policies that they allege have favored corporate exploitation at the cost of public welfare, he said.

The protest saw participation from several prominent leaders, including Divyansh Singh Jamwal, Ajay Lakhotra, Rahul Tandon, Jagdeep Chahal, Anmol Kohli, Rishabh Kohli, Raghav Khajuria, Jai Bhalla. Their united stand reinforced the call for action against the alleged nexus and demanded that the BJP government prioritize the nation's interests over corporate alliances.

# GDC Bishnah visits Kissan Mela



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Nov 22: NSS Wing of GDC, Bishnah attended the Rashtriya Kissan Summit held at Sher-a Kashmir Agricultural university Chatta today under the patronage of Principal of the college Dr. Shailu Samyal.

Around 40 students participated in this Mela. During summit Dr. Manmohan Sharma,

professor of Biotechnology delivered a lecture on career making in an agricultural stream and the lecture followed by the interactive session wherein students cleared their doubts and apprehensions.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education addressed the students and emphasis placed upon the deliverance of skill oriented education.

Along with it students visited different stalls and saw many innovative tools in the field of agricultural field. Besides it students participated in dance performances and won appreciations.

Towards end students partook in community kitchen(Langer). Prof. Anju Bala, HOD, Mathematics and Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, NSS, PO accompanied the students in Mela.

# Leopard kills half dozen sheep in Vednag Village in Kund Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 22: Half Dozen sheep were killed during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday in a leopard attack in vednag kund village South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Locals told Top news JK correspondent Gh Nabi khanday that a wild animal, believed to be a leopard, broke into a cow shed in Vednag Kund



area of the district and killed half dozen sheep on spot and five injured.

The cowshed belongs to Ghulam Nabi janjoh son of Allah- Din Janjoh Resident of Vednag oriel kund locals said that five other sheeps injured and Ten Missing from the cow shed.

They said that more than a dozenb of livestock have been killed by wild animals in last few

months in the area.

Later in the morning a wildlife team Control room Dooru and a sheep Department officials visited the spot and installed cage in the area.

The wildlife department has been informed about the frequent visit of leopards in the villages adjoining the forest area, officials said, adding that the animal will be caught soon.

# AJKPAA deputation calls on Dy CM

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: A deputation of All Jammu and Kashmir Polytechnic Academic Arrangements association (AJKPAA) led by Gagan Pratap Singh and Er. Vicky Sharma (Working President) met with Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary here at Jammu and projected their issues and concerns while seeking speedy redressal of the same.

A copy of representation regarding Regularization of Academic Arrangements working in J&K submitted to Deputy



Chief Minister.

He gave patient hearing to the delegation. The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputation that all their genuine

demands and grievances would be resolved on priority basis. Vidhu Puri , Er. Sunil Bhatti, Pooja Gupta and others were also present.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Omar chairs first Cabinet Meeting, discusses reservation, employment, recruitments

as a major focus during the discussions, Rana said, "The CM has instructed all ministers to prioritize addressing unemployment within their respective departments. They should start their exercise. As part of our 100-day agenda, we are committed to presenting concrete measures within the next two months."

He emphasized that tackling unemployment was a significant promise in the election manifesto and the government is committed to fulfilling it.

On filling vacant posts across various departments, Rana said that "deliberations were held on whether the posts should be referred to the PSC (Public Service Commission) or SSRB".

"We will ensure that advertisements for these posts are issued within a fixed time frame," he added.

Rana further emphasized "our election manifesto is no longer just a promise — it is now an official government document".

"Whether it is the provision of gas cylinders or other welfare measures, the honourable CM has directed ministers to take swift departmental actions to ensure implementation in letter and spirit," he said.

Replying to a question about National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah's threat to hold a dharna at the chief minister's residence on the issue of the rationalization of reservation, Rana said that Abdullah has decided to form a cabinet sub-committee to engage with all stakeholders.

"As per the direction of the CM, a cabinet sub-committee will be formed. The sub-committee will hold talks with all stakeholders. Any decisions taken will prioritize the public's interest," he added.

Rana stressed that dialogue and consensus are crucial in such matters.

Unrest among unemployed youth was triggered after the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission recently advertised 575 posts of school lecturers, out of which only 238 were for open meritorious candidates, while 337 were for reserved categories.

Responding to the strike call of various youth organizations, NC MP Ruhullah wrote on X "And I will sit with all of you outside the office or the residence of HCM (Hon'ble Chief Minister). I have neither forgotten nor backtracked on the issue of Rationalisation of Reservation. I am assured that the government will take a decision to rationalise the policy soon."

On the issue of age relaxation for job aspirants and daily wagers, Rana acknowledged its urgency and said it was also discussed.

"The cabinet has directed the government to address this matter promptly," he said.

Regarding the issue of daily wagers, Rana said, "The issue of daily wagers is a big one. There is a large number of daily wagers. The honourable CM has already issued instructions to the ministers to start the process on this direction at their end."

Rana reiterated the government's commitment to delivering on its promises, ensuring transparency and addressing the pressing issues faced by people of the region.

### Defaced currency notes in J&K: SC grants last opportunity to Centre to file response

with the main aim of destabilising peace and harmony in the region of Jammu and Kashmir and to create an environment of tension and terror in the minds of common residents of the region — is illegal and worth the interference of this court."

He said a separatist group in Kashmir in its statement on Facebook claimed to have stamped separatist slogans on Indian currency worth Rs 30 crore between May and August in 2013.

Bhardwaj, therefore, sought a court-monitored CBI investigation in the case, arguing exchange of currency notes can only be done according to law and no deliberately stamped currency be exchanged as per the rules and regulations of RBI.

### J-K: Houses of several migrant Kashmiri Pandits demolished, they urge Relief Commissioner to rehabilitate them

should be constructed like other camps... The tender has been floated and the work will begin soon... Those who had their shops since the 1990s would be given a preference... The allotment would be done as soon as the hops are made... All the eligible people would be given shops," he said.

Another shop owner said all these land belonged to revenue authority. "We built temporary houses. No one condemned the act. Where will we go? We had a general stores," he said.

President Muthi Migrant camp Anil Bhan said that JDA has demolished 10 shops without notification.

"The families came here 35 years ago and depended on it. We are fighting for it since last 3 years. There was a stay. JDA was told not to carry out demolition till new shops are built. The old quarters are intact.

After this the debris have not been removed. Here construction of EWS colony has been sanctioned but work will start after 6 months. Relief commission has promised that new shops will be built but no authority from state government came here," he said.

He said that the JDA could have waited for 2 months. 10 houses were running their livelihood.

### Northern Army Commander Reviews 'Asmi' Machine Pistols

highlights the unwavering commitment of the Indian Army to Atmanirbhar Bharat," it added.

The weapon has been developed by Colonel Prasad Bansod of the Indian Army in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The weapon is being manufactured indigenously by Lokesh Machines Limited in Hyderabad.

The Army said the pistol's unique semi-bullpup design allows for single-handed operation, functioning both as a pistol and a submachine gun.

According to the specifications, the gun, which features an eight-inch barrel and a 33-round magazine firing 9mm ammunition, is set to arm the Special Forces for close-quarter battles and specialised operations in the Northern Command's operational area.

### No clarity in the rules of business yet, says NC MP Aga Ruhullah

chief minister Omar Abdullah and ensure that their demands are met forthwith by the government," Ruhullah said.

About the rehabilitation of fire affected people, he said that the government is trying its best to provide all possible support to 26 families whose houses were gutted in a devastating fire recently.

"Steps are being taken by the MLA concerned and the government to ensure all the affected people are rehabilitated before the snowfall or bad weather," he added.

### J&K | Fuel Stations, Schools take lead in curbing underage driving

not be provided fuel to ensure their safety and to discourage underage driving.

The move by the fuel stations has been hailed by the people, who have also demanded that all the petrol pumps should follow the suit.

"This is a very good step. Many lives are being lost because of minors driving cars

or riding bikes. Life is precious and they should not take it easy," Muneer Ahmad, a local resident said.

He said the petrol pump owners as well as the administration should not stop it till there is complete ban on minors driving or riding, or riding without a helmet.

Another local Sheikh Owais said all the petrol pumps in the valley should make such a move and stop providing fuel to minors or those without a helmet.

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, and a demand for banning underage driving.

Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) has also announced that no commodities will be sold to minors driving vehicles.

KTMF president Mohammad Yaseen Khan said the decision stems from the collective responsibility of the business community to address the alarming rise in minor driving, which endangers lives on the roads.

"We believe that restricting access to commodities, particularly on items like petrol, cigarettes and other goods often associated with misuse by minors will help discourage this dangerous behaviour," he said.

He said KTMF fully supports the initiatives of the Traffic Department and civil administration aimed at curbing minor driving.

We commend their efforts and pledge our cooperation to ensure public safety. This is not just an administrative issue but a societal responsibility that requires all stakeholders to work in unison, he said.

The KTMF president called on parents, guardians and the society to recognize their critical role in preventing minors from accessing vehicles.

"Let us work together to prevent further loss of precious lives and build safer roads for everyone. We remain committed to promoting responsible practices across all sectors and will continue advocating for measures that safeguard the well-being of our society," he added.

Several schools in the city have prohibited minor students from riding two-wheelers and driving vehicles. They have asked minor students to desist from coming to the schools on two-wheelers and in cars.

They have assured full cooperation to the Traffic Department to curb the menace.

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

"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.

It impressed upon the Heads of Institu-

tions of all government and private schools and coaching centres to implement the 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.

"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.

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.

In the wake of the accident, Traffic Police and Transport Department have initiated a rigorous crackdown on traffic violators across the Kashmir valley, especially against underage drivers.

Days after the accident, the Motor Vehicles Department, led by Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, conducted an intensive enforcement drive across Kashmir.

The operation targeted major violations, including vehicles without fitness certificates, overloading, seat belt non-compliance, underage driving, and other offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

A total of 2,338 vehicles, including buses, school buses, goods carriers, and private vehicles, were checked during the drive in a single day.

Among these, 586 vehicles were challaned for violations including driving without helmets and seat belts, overloading passengers, and lapses in fitness and insurance certificates.

Additionally, 11 vehicles were seized, and Rs.7.98 lakh in fines was imposed.

Transport department in Kashmir has collected a fine of Rs 1.7 crore for traffic violations during the ongoing financial year 2024-25.

Srinagar has emerged as the highest contributor and the department has recovered Rs 32.10 lakh in fines from the district.

According to data, 11,264 challans have been issued across the valley.

Bukhari said the crackdown on violators would intensify, with severe penalties such as license cancellations, RC suspensions, and vehicle seizures becoming the norm for traffic offenders. He urged parents to play a role in preventing underage driving by instilling responsible driving habits at home.

The Srinagar Traffic Police has stepped up enforcement measures over the last few days following the accident

The police has seized hundreds of vehicles including two-wheelers, for various violations, that also include underage driving.

So far this year, over 4500 accidents have taken place in J-K, resulting in around 700 deaths.

## MRI/CT SCAN installed in SVMM Charitable Hospital Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital (SVMM) in Ambphalla, Jammu, is hereby announced the forthcoming installation of two state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging machines that will significantly improve healthcare services in the region. The Magnetom Free Star 0.55 Tesla MRI Machine and the Siemens 96-Slice CT Scan Machine are set to become operational soon, marking a major step forward in providing high-quality diagnostic services at accessible prices.

This announcement was made during a press conference led by Dr. Subash Gupta, Chief Patron of the hospital, and attended by several esteemed members, including Amar Chand Gupta (Sr. Vice President), B.B. Gupta (General Secretary), B.S. Jamwal (Secretary), Mohan Singh Chouhan (Treasurer), Subash Gupta (Member), Dr. Sachin Gupta (Member),



Dr. Romesh Gupta (Administrator), and Iqbal Deep Singh (Manager).

Dr. Subash Gupta emphasized that the introduction of these advanced diagnostic tools will greatly enhance the hospital's ability to meet the growing healthcare needs of Jammu and its surrounding areas.

Alongside the upcoming MRI and CT scan machines, SVMM Charitable Hospital already offers a wide range of essential services, including Digital Radiography for accurate imaging, a fully computerized laboratory with a Hormonal Assay Machine, ECG services, and Ultrasonography with Color Doppler. Echo services for cardiovascular care

are also available, with TMT and Holter Monitoring facilities expected to be introduced soon.

The hospital provides comprehensive eye care with advanced technologies like C3R, Pentacam, OCT, YAG Laser, and Phaco, in addition to Laparoscopic Surgery, general surgery, and orthopedic surgery.

SVMM Charitable Hospital also offers specialized treatments such as Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) for venous system disorders, Dialysis, and critical care through its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for critically ill patients.

The oncology department provides Day Care

Chemotherapy, and the hospital is equipped with well-established departments in Gynecology, Physician Services, Dermatology, ENT, Pain Management, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, and Immunization, ensuring comprehensive care for patients. In addition, the hospital operates a Free Outpatient Department (OPD) Dispensary, which is dedicated to assisting underprivileged and indigent patients.

SVMM Charitable Hospital's commitment to providing high-quality healthcare is reflected in its affordable services. The hospital's CT and MRI scan rates are set at par with government medical college hospital rates, ensuring accessibility for all.

Moreover, the hospital's OPD consultation fee is just Rs. 10, demonstrating its mission to offer quality care at minimal cost. With a vision to provide better treatment at very affordable rates, SVMM Charitable Hospital aims to benefit the entire pop-

ulation of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that each step taken is for the noble cause of improving public health.

Looking ahead, SVMM Charitable Hospital has plans to further enhance its infrastructure and services.

Upcoming developments include the creation of a Cath Lab for advanced cardiac interventions, the establishment of a Pediatric ICU, and the modernization of Operating Theaters to modular standards. Additionally, the hospital plans to introduce PET Scan services for comprehensive diagnostic imaging, expand public parking facilities, and extend coverage for patients under Third Party Insurance Schemes to ensure broader financial accessibility.

With these initiatives, SVMM Charitable Hospital remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering high-quality, affordable healthcare to the people of Jammu and its surrounding regions

## 'Issue of illegal stone crushers, hotels, bars' Harsh Dev holds dharna outside Dy CM office inside Secretariat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Seeking immediate disbanding of the illegal stone crushers and Hot mix plants, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh Chairman JKNPP (India) and former Minister held a dharna inside civil secretariat in front of the office of the Dy Chief Minister alleging massive violations of norms and Environmental laws in granting permissions and repeated extensions to the said units during the BJP regime.

Submitting a memorandum to the Deputy Chief Minister after the protest dharna, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh said that several stone crushers and Hot mix plants especially in district Udhampur had been established by land mafia and other cartels in collusion with corrupt officers in blatant circumvention of laws, guidelines and requisite formalities thereby causing immense health hazards besides loot and plunder of natural resources by destroying the fauna and flora and pollution of water resources. In the mad race to make fast buck, the corrupt mafia had caused immense damage to environment, human lives with Air Quality Index having assumed alarming proportions.

Harsh Dev Singh pointed out that these illegal stone crushers operational in



district Udhampur included illicit stone crushers built near Birwan Bridge, Udhampur which got washed away due to massive digging and excavation in brazen violation of norms laid down by NGT, Mining deptt and Pollution Control Board. The said stone crusher was dis-banded for some time but again allowed to operate in view of the owner a dismissed employee of revenue deptt on charges of corruption being a filthy rich, affluent gentleman. Similarly, a stone crusher constructed at Bain Chenani on State land was earlier shut down for massive violations and illegal operation. But the ADC Udhampur had issued a fresh permission to the said defaulting operator without fulfilling the norms and obtaining the requisite NoCs for extraneous considerations in view of the delinquent being a filthy rich and affluent contractor capable of manoeuvring deals.

In the same way, Mr.

Singh pointed out that illegal stone crushers were installed in Sudh Mahadev, a holy place, in most populated area, courtesy the corruption plagued system during the erstwhile regime. Likewise, a stone crusher was allowed to operate in Chompal Nala adjacent to Patli Bridge and the nearby forests with none to take cognizance. A Hot mix plant was operationalized at Chuliyar village of Chenani by a filthy rich 'gentleman' in the most populated basti in brazen circumvention of norms with none to question the illegal operators in view of a well knit mafia operational in the system. Reminding the Dy Chief Minister of an earlier meeting with him, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh recalled that several irregularities and frauds in grant of permissions to the illegal operators had been brought to his notice but the much needed action was still elusive.

Mr. Singh further pointed out towards the illegal construction of a "Hotel-cum-Bar" on Samrolli-Chenani road by violating the norms and laws on the subject. He said that provision of Ribbon Development Act had been brazenly disregarded and thrown to winds while allowing the delinquents to encroach the PMGSY roads in Mada area of Chenani.

## JKUPSA President Showkat seeks Govt support to resolve long-standing education sector challenges

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 22: The JK Unaided Private School Association (JKUPSA) held a important meeting to discuss pressing issues facing the private education sector in J&K. The event, attended by numerous school and college owners from across the region, also saw MLA Khanshab Saif-ud-Din Bhat as chief guest and has felicitated for his commitment to the education sector.

The meeting began with opening remarks by JKUPSA Junior Vice President Mohammad Yousuf Manzar, who set the agenda for the discussions. Speaking on the occasion, he remarked "Today, we come together to address the challenges that private schools in J&K have been grappling with for a long time. We are honored to felicitate MLA Khanshab Saif-ud-Din Bhat, whose support and advocacy for the education sector inspire confidence. This gathering underscores the collective will to prioritize and uplift private education in



J&K."

MLA Saif-ud-Din Bhat actively engaged with the participants, attentively listening to their grievances and demands. He assured the stakeholders of his government's unwavering support, stating: "I deeply understand the challenges our education system has faced over the years. My government, led by Omar Abdullah Sahab and our Education Minister Miss Sakeena Ito, is committed to addressing these concerns with utmost priority. We recognize the critical role of private schools in shaping the future of our youth and will ensure that issues such as unnecessary NOCs, land Issues and

school fee regulations are discussed and resolved. Education is a topmost priority, and I assure you of my continued support in this noble endeavor." JKUPSA President Showkat Chowdhary highlighted the association's ongoing efforts to address long-standing issues. He stated that "I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all school owners and bearers of JK Unaided Private School Association for participating in this crucial meeting and felicitating MLA Khanshab Saif-ud-Din Bhat. We place our trust in the current government, led by Omar Abdullah Sahab and Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sahab, to resolve our

long-pending issues, including unnecessary NOCs, fee regulations, and land matters. Our sector has made significant investments in education, we seek dignity, respect and collaboration to move forward effectively."

The meeting saw active participation from key stakeholders, including Suhail Jan General Secretary JKUPSA, Syed Ashid Nadvi, Chairman of Al-Noor Model School; Sujat Qureshi from Aspire World School; Riyaz Gull of SSM Higher Secondary School; Imtiyaz from New Era Public School; Syed Riyaz Masood Shah of Kohsar Public School; Faisal from Little Angels High School; Nazir

Ahmad Wani, Chairman of New Banvent School. Representatives from Vibgyor Education Institute, Wisdom Public High School, Paramount High School, Allama Iqbal Institute, Mars School, New Wave Public High School, Gulistan-i-Atfal School, Vision School of Education, Akmal Public High School, Mehboob Public School, and Abdul Rashid of Child's Come were also in attendance. Additionally, college representatives included the General Secretary of the B.Ed. College Association, Altaf Bazaz from the Law College, representatives from Rizwan Memorial College, Bilal Ahmad, Chairman of G.A. Memorial College of Education, Dr. Iqbal Training College of Education, and the Chairman of Chenab Valley College of Education.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks extended to all participants for their contributions toward a meaningful dialogue on the challenges and opportunities in J&K's private education sector.

## Movement Kalki protest advocating for status of 'National Mother' for cows continues into its 33rd day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: The Movement Kalki protest advocating for the status of 'National Mother' for cows continues into its 33rd day in Jammu, marked by a Hawan Yajna led by Baba Khandeshwari Ji. The movement demands stringent laws to ensure cow protection, the establishment of a Sanatan Board and a Cow Protection Board, and a complete ban on cow slaughter with capital punishment for offenders. Baba Khandeshwari guiding the protest, emphasized the unwavering commitment to these demands, linking the pro-

tection of cows to societal values and world peace.

Karnal Chand, a board member, voiced concerns about the impact of cow trafficking, particularly on the Gujjar community, which is heavily reliant on dairy and cattle.

Vikram Mahajan reaffirmed the movement's dedication, stating the protest and rituals aim to align with world peace and justice for cows.

Monika Sharma, President of Sathi Social Service Club, stood firmly with the protesters, reiterating the demand for recognizing cows as 'National Mother' and advocating for stricter penalties for cow slaughter.

The protest saw participation from prominent activists, including Sanjeev Dubey, Sunita Kundaal, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Monika Sharma, and others, with broad community support.

The Movement Kalki stated that the protest will persist until their demands are met, urging the government to take immediate and decisive action to honor and protect cows.

The event highlighted the group's larger mission of upholding Sanatan Dharma principles and promoting global peace, while drawing attention to the urgency of their demands.

## Dimple raises alarm over alleged Adani Bribery Scam

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, expressed profound shock in a press statement over the alleged inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir in a US report on a Rs 22,000 crore bribery distribution, which also named other Indian states like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

Dimple strongly criticized the BJP and the administration under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, accusing them of being complicit in this alleged scam. He further alleged that business tycoon Gautam Adani played a central role in the bribery and demanded answers regarding the officers involved in these transactions.

Dimple questioned how such large-scale corruption could occur, particularly in projects related to power and infrastructure, under the watch of the



administration.

He raised concerns about the privatization of Jammu and Kashmir's power sector, asserting that poor families are burdened with prepaid smart meters.

Dimple claimed that contracts for sand mining, construction, and smart city projects in Jammu and Kashmir have been given to outsiders, allegedly involving bribery.

He linked the alleged scam to the region's rising unemployment rates, criticizing the lack of salaries for SPOs, daily wagers, and other workers.

Sunil Dimple demanded a high-level investigation by the NIA and CBI to expose those involved in the alleged bribery,

immediate action from LG Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to issue a white paper and reveal the details of the bribery allegations, a cabinet meeting to address the issue and punish the culprits, restoration of the Darbar Move and release of pending salaries for government employees, and support for the Katra Vaishno Devi ropeway agitation and intervention by the government to address trader concerns.

Dimple warned of launching a mass agitation if the demands are not met and if the bribery allegations are not thoroughly investigated. He criticized the central and state leadership for the current economic and administrative challenges in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple's statements come amid rising political tensions and calls for transparency in handling public resources and governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Demolition of shops of Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu highly condemnable: Tarigami

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 22: CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami has expressed serious concern over the demolition of shops run by Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Muthi area of Jammu.

The CPI(M) leader said that the shops, which had been in operation for nearly 30 years, were demolished by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) without prior notice to the occu-

pants. These migrants were compelled by the circumstances to leave the valley and had to work hard to earn their livelihood.

Tarigami urged the administration to provide relief and rehabilitation for the affected shop owners, ensuring their livelihood is not jeopardized. He appealed to the government to intervene and ensure that shops are reconstructed enabling the affected shop owners to earn their livelihood.

## J&K Senior Men's Football Team secures second win in Santosh Trophy

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: In a landmark achievement, the Jammu and Kashmir Senior Men's Football team clinched their second victory against Himachal Pradesh comfortably in the second match of the 78th Senior National Championship for Santosh Trophy 2024 Group A in Amritsar, Punjab. J&K led the group after winning 4-1 and earning 6

points from two matches.

Earlier, in first match J&K defeated Punjab, saw a decisive moment in the 50th minute when talented midfielder Adnan Ayub scored the winning goal.

The team is being led by J&K Sports Council coach and renowned former international footballer and national coach, Mehrajuddin Wadoo. He is supported by Chief Coach JKSC Satpal Singh Kala and other

officials, who have been instrumental in the team's preparation and success.

The J&K team, sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, underwent rigorous coaching camps in both Srinagar and Jammu before heading to the competition. These camps were organized under the direction of the Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, ensuring the players received top-notch training and

facilities.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Shri Satish Sharma, lauded the team's performance, congratulating them on their brilliant display and wishing them success in their upcoming matches. Similarly, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, praised the team's efforts and expressed confidence in their continued success in the tournament.

## CLUJ organises educational visit to Industrial Area Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Nov 22: The Department of Commerce, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu, successfully organized an educational industrial visit for the students of M.com to Vasak Industries Pvt Ltd and Rudra Flour Mill, Samba. The event was flagged off under the patronage of Prof. K S Chandrasekar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu in the presence of Ms. Ankur Mahajan, Registrar and Dr. Vishal Sharma, Dean, School of

Social Sciences.

The visit witnessed active participation from 45 students and faculty members, including Dr. Neetu Kumari (Coordinator), Dr. Rajneesh Kumar Karloopia, Dr. Parul Chhibber and Dr. Vaishali. The event provided an exceptional opportunity for students to gain valuable insights into the operations, supply chain management, production processes, and human resource practices of the industries.

During their visit, students gained knowledge covering a wide range of topics, offering a practi-

cal perspective on the strategic objectives, operational challenges and innovations. The professionals, Gurvinder Arora (Plant Manager of Vasak Industries Pvt. Ltd.) and Vishal Singh Charak (Owner of Rudra Flour Mill) guiding the tour addressed all student queries comprehensively, creating an engaging and educational experience. This exposure not only deepened the students' understanding of the industry but also inspired them to pursue academic excellence and explore future career opportunities.

## IPL 2025 to begin on March 14, window for next three seasons announced: Sources

*The Indian Premier League is all set to begin early next year. The BCCI has finalised a window between March and May for the next three seasons.*

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): The Indian cricket board (BCCI) has confirmed the dates for the next three seasons of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The 2025 season will commence on March 14 and conclude with the final on May 25. The 2026 season will run from March 15 to May 31, while the 2027 season is scheduled from March 14 to May 30, India Today has learnt.

The BCCI communicated the dates for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 seasons to the franchisees on Friday morning. This early announcement underscores the board's commitment to capitalising on the IPL's immense popularity. It also highlights IPL's pivotal position in the international cricket calendar and the priority it commands. Notably, this is a departure from the organisers' past practice of delaying the



release of schedules, offering a welcome change for stakeholders.

IPL WINDOW: 2025-2027  
IPL 2025: March 14 - May 25.  
IPL 2026: March 15 - May 31.  
IPL 2027: March 14 - May 30.  
Notably, all three finals fall on Sundays, allowing the IPL to

give maximum visibility for the marquee match of each season.

The clarity regarding the IPL's scheduling for the next three years is likely to delight franchise owners, who are set to convene for the mega auction in Jeddah on Sunday and Monday, November 24 and 25.

The clear definition of the window will also allow overseas players to prioritise their commitments and avoid last-minute withdrawals. The International Cricket Council has already been keen on not letting major bilateral series clash with the IPL.

The BCCI had plans to increase the number of matches in the IPL to ensure that it runs for 10 and half weeks and looking at the windows set aside, it looks imminent that the league's game count will increase.

The BCCI has also decided to include injury-prone England pacer Jofra Archer, Indian-born American pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and uncapped Mumbai-wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore in the two-day mega players' auction to be held in Jeddah from Sunday, news agency said.

## Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25: India all out for 150 in first Test against Australia



PERTH, Nov 22 (Agencies): India were all out for 150 at tea on the first day of the opening Test against Australia here.

India, who elected to bat, lost six wickets in the second session which had 24.4 overs. Debutant Nitish

Kumar Reddy top-scored with 41 off 59 balls. Rishabh Pant (37), Dhruv Jurel (11), Washington Sundar (4), another debutant Harshit Rana and captain Jasprit Bumrah (8) were the other five Indian batters to be dismissed in the post-

lunch session. For Australia, Josh Hazlewood (4/29), Mitchell Starc (2/14), Mitchell Marsh (2/12) and captain Pat Cummins (2/67) were the wicket-takers.

Earlier, opener Yas-hasvi Jaiswal and one-down Devdutt Padikkal failed to open accounts in their first Test outings in Australia while star batter Virat Kohli was dismissed for 5 after facing 12 balls.

The other opener, KL Rahul, got out to a controversial caught behind decision just before lunch after scoring 26 off 74 balls.

Brief Scores: India: 150 all out in 49.4 overs (KL Rahul 26, Rishabh Pant 37, Nitish Kumar Reddy 41; Josh Hazlewood 4/29).

## Bumrah can withstand Aussie pressure: Shastri

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): Former India captain and coach Ravi Shastri has backed Jasprit Bumrah to withstand pressure of leading the Indian team in the absence of incumbent Rohit Sharma. The Australian team is known to put pressure on the visiting captain with the hope that it may dent the confidence of the team. Shastri, who was coach when India won their second successive series Down Under, said Bumrah was capable of returning the favour.



"The Aussies prefer to attack the leadership. Whoever the captain is, they train their guns and their spotlights on the captain. If they can bring down the confidence of the captain, they feel that the confidence of the team comes down. The pressure will be on Bumrah. There's no question about that. Any captain coming here will feel the heat, and Bumrah will be the same. But he is a very mature cricketer. He is a competitive cricketer," Shastri said.

"Deep down, let us not forget, he is the best fast bowler in the world at the moment. So, the Aussies know what they are up against. They might want to come after him, but they know he will come after them as well. The important thing is,

if he is calm and gets support from his other bowlers, I think he will be fine. But there's no question the pressure is on him. What I want to see from the outside is that he doesn't over-try because of the pressure of being captain and just sticks to his strengths and bowls as if he is an individual player. It is easier said than done, but I think he is mature enough to do it," he added.

Even Cheteshwar Pujara backed Bumrah to fill in the void left by Rohit. "Bumrah is someone who is very smart. As a bowler, you need to know your strengths and strategies really, really well. Whenever he is running in, he is always looking to pick wickets. When you want to pick wickets as a bowler, you need to think about the game. You need to think about how you can get a batter out, what the

options are, and what plans you need to set to get the batter out. That is something which will help him as a captain," said Pujara whose dogged batting became the reason for India's back to back series wins in Australia.

"On the field, you need to know how many overs to bowl or when to rotate your bowlers. Bumrah understands that. He is also very supportive of all the players. He understands what is required of a particular player and won't put too much pressure on anyone. If someone isn't performing well, he will always be there to support them. The one thing I would say is that when he is captaining, he has to think for himself. There will be many inputs, but as captain, the final decision should always be his call," he added.

## The prince who could be king

*Gukesh gears up for world title shot against Ding*

CHANDIGARH, Nov 22 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster Gukesh D is gearing up for a real shot at the world title as he takes on reigning champion Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship, starting November 25 in Singapore. The players will lock horns in 14 classical games followed by tiebreaks. FIDE, the governing body of chess, promises faster and result-oriented games with new rules.

The young prodigy, just 18 years old, stands on the cusp of making history as the youngest player ever to compete for the world title, a record previously held by Magnus Carlsen, who won the title at 22.

Mentored by Viswanathan Anand, Gukesh's recent form and mindset have made him the favourite to win the match. In a recent press conference, Gukesh exuded confidence, stating, "I'm really looking forward to the title match." He made the right kind of statements showing his calmness. "I don't believe in predictions and favourites. I am focussed on the process and to enjoy the game," he said.

None other than five-time world champion Carlsen points out Gukesh's calmness as his strongest weapon. He described Gukesh as a "mystery", noting his incredible calculation abilities. "He has no nerves and superbly calm. He calculates non-stop. Many a times, he amazes me by what all he saw on the board," Carlsen said in a recent interview. He added a warning note, "Perhaps Gukesh is unaware what it means to be contesting for the world title."



Gukesh's confidence is backed by his outstanding performance at the Chess Olympiad, where he scored 9/10, leading India to the gold medal. His current rating of 2783 places him fifth in the world, a testament to his exceptional skills and rapid rise in the chess world.

In contrast, Ding, who admitted in a recent interview that he feels like the underdog going into this match, has had a challenging year. "Clearly, I will be the favourite to win the match. I hope I can become a totally different player and at least give him a fight to slow down his pace... to have some winning chances," said Ding.

He has been on a winless streak in his last 28 classical games, with seven losses and 21 draws, which has seen his rating drop below 2730, now ranking him 23rd in the world — the lowest for a reigning champion. Carlsen has expressed doubts about Ding's current form, stating that he may be "permanently broken" by his bad form.

Despite the recent struggles, Ding can draw inspiration from his 2-0 score against Gukesh in classical chess, with one draw. Additionally, Ding once had a 100-match undefeated streak in classical chess from August 2017 to November 2018, which

included 29 victories and 71 draws.

The battle between Gukesh and Ding is also seen as a generational showdown between Gukesh's youthful energy and innovative style and Ding's experience and strategic depth. Both players believe more in the Queen's Pawn openings with d4 and variants instead of the aggressive King's Pawn openings with e4 and variants. The Queen's Pawn openings lead more towards positional play.

Gukesh's journey began at the age of seven when he watched the epic world title match between Anand and Carlsen in Chennai. Inspired by that encounter, he embarked on his chess journey, becoming a Grandmaster by 12 and the youngest-ever winner of the Candidates tournament at 17.

Experts predict the contest would be between Gukesh's youthful dynamism versus Ding's seasoned strategy. Arjun Erigaisi, Gukesh's teammate, is rooting for his deep analytical skills and precision. On the other hand, Grandmaster and commentator Levon Aronian highlights Ding's difficult-to-break-down game, supported by his strategic acumen and experience.

Gukesh's victory will be a statement on India's rising influence

in chess. The world title owned by Anand was lost in 2013 when Carlsen won the crown. Can Gukesh bring it back?

Openings & Defence  
Gukesh D  
White: Reti Opening, King's Indian Attack, Queen's Gambit Declined

Black: Sicilian Nimzowich-Ros-solimo Attack, Sicilian Defence, Queen's Gambit Declined

Ding Liren  
White: Kings Indian Defence, Queen's Gambit, English Opening and Catalan Closed variation

Black: King's Pawn Game, Ruy Lopez, French Defence, Queen's Gambit Declined

New rules  
The prize fund is \$2.5 million, with a new incentive structure. Each player receives \$200,000 for every game they win. Previously, there was no bonus for the number of wins. The match winner received 60% of the prize fund. The runner-up received 40%, unless the contest was decided by tiebreaks.

In the classical games, players will have two hours for 40 moves and then 30 minutes for the rest of the game with a 30-second increment starting from move 41. Earlier, players would receive an additional 60 minutes at move 40 and 15 minutes at move 61. The tiebreak games will start with 15-minute rapid games with a 10-second increment (instead of the previous 25-minute with a 10-second increment). If needed, tiebreaks will progress to shorter rapid games and then to blitz.

## Missed a Ferrari by 23 runs: Virender Sehwag congratulates son Aaryavir for 297

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): Former India opener Virender Sehwag was thrilled after his son Aaryavir scored a daddy hundred in the Cooch Behar Trophy, a national four-day tournament for Under-19 cricketers. Aaryavir hit 51 boundaries and three sixes, scoring at a strike rate over 90 as he brought back memories of his father's explosive knocks on Thursday, November 21 while playing for Delhi against Meghalaya at the MCA Stadium in Shillong.

Virender Sehwag reminded his son of a 'Ferrari promise' in a cheeky congratulatory message shared on X,

formerly Twitter. Notably, Sehwag had, in 2015, promised to gift a Ferrari to his kids if they broke his Test record of 319 runs.

"Well played @aaryavirsehwag. Missed a Ferrari by 23 runs. But well done, keep the fire alive and may you score many more daddy hundreds and doubles and triples. Khel jato (Play on)," he wrote in his tweet on Friday.

Sehwag became the first Indian batter to score a triple century in Test cricket when he smashed 309 against Pakistan in Multan in 2004. Four years later, he broke his own record, scoring 319 against South Africa in Chennai.



Sehwag, known for his aggressive and entertaining batting style during his playing days, has been a constant source of support and encouragement for his son. Aaryavir Sehwag and fellow opener Arnav Bugga stitched a 180-run partnership for the opening wicket. Aaryavir carried on even after Arnav's wicket and stitched another mammoth partnership with

Dhanya Nakra -- 246, the highest of the Delhi innings.

Aaryavir was a boundary away from getting to 300, but he was dismissed by RS Rathor in the 107th over after which Delhi declared their innings at 623 for 5 declared. Delhi took a huge first-innings lead, thanks to the strong batting effort after their bowlers bowled Meghalaya out for 260.

## IPL Auction 2025: England's Jofra Archer, USA's Saurabh Netravalkar added to list

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (Agencies): The IPL 2025 mega auction, set to take place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on November 24-25, just got more exciting with the late inclusion of England fast bowler Jofra Archer, USA-based pacer Saurabh Netravalkar, and uncapped Mumbai wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore. Their addition brings the total number of players in the auction pool to 577, up from the original 574.

Archer's inclusion comes as a surprise, as his name was absent from the original shortlist shared with franchisees earlier this month. However, the IPL offi-

cially informed franchisees on Thursday of his addition. Archer, 29, will now be part of the fast bowlers' category (Set 6) and will come up for bidding on the first day of the auction.

Archer's return to action this year after a prolonged injury layoff has been a major highlight. He played in England's white-ball series against Pakistan, Australia, and West Indies, as well as the T20 World Cup, where his performances were closely monitored. Known for his pace and ability to deliver under pressure, Archer is expected to attract significant interest from franchisees looking for a world-class fast

bowler.

USA-based Indian pacer Saurabh Netravalkar is another notable addition to the auction. A former India U-19 player who later moved to the USA, Netravalkar has impressed with his performances on the international stage, including a standout outing against Pakistan in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers. His ability to bowl under pressure, exemplified by a superb Super Over performance against Pakistan, has caught the attention of cricket enthusiasts and franchisees alike. With 36 wickets in 36 T20Is and 88 wickets in 56 ODIs, the left-arm pacer brings

valuable experience. Netravalkar's journey from Mumbai to balancing cricket with a tech job at Oracle in the USA adds a unique dimension to his story. He could emerge as a bargain pick for franchisees seeking a dependable left-arm seamer.

Uncapped Mumbai wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore rounds out the trio of late additions. Tamore has been a consistent performer in domestic cricket, known for his solid batting technique and reliable glove-work. His entry provides franchisees with another option for a backup wicketkeeper, a critical role in the high-intensity IPL format.

## MLA Ramgarh, DDC Samba inaugurate New Panchayat Ghar in Ramnagar

### Top News Report

SAMBA, Nov 22: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Member of Legislative Assembly MLA Ramgarh, along with the Subash Bhagat DDC Samba, inaugurated the newly constructed Panchayat Ghar in Ramnagar Panchayat, Tehsil Samba.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by key officials, including the Narsingh Dayal Verma Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Samba, Saqib Sharif Khan BDO Samba, former Sarpanch, Panches, and several prominent social activists from the region.

This new Panchayat Ghar is a significant milestone in the development of the Ramnagar Panchayat and the broader Samba constitu-



ency, aiming to improve administrative efficiency and enhance local governance.

The facility will serve as a hub for community-driven initiatives and provide residents with a dedicated space for addressing their concerns and conducting various Panchay-

at-related activities.

Dr. Manyal, while speaking at the occasion, expressed his gratitude to the people of the region for their continuous support and cooperation. He emphasized the importance of strengthening Panchayat systems in empowering local com-

munities and ensuring the delivery of basic services to the grassroots level.

The MLA highlighted the critical role of Panchayats in facilitating socio-economic development and urged all members of the community to actively participate in the functioning of the Panchayat

to ensure transparent and effective governance.

He also extended his thanks to the officials and workers involved in the construction of the Panchayat Ghar for their dedication to public service.

The event was marked by a sense of unity and commitment to community welfare, with former Sarpanch, Panches, and social activists offering their full support for the successful implementation of future development initiatives in the area.

This inauguration is a part of the ongoing efforts by the government to decentralize power and provide improved facilities for local administration in the Ramgarh Assembly Constituency and the Samba district as a whole.

## GCOE students shine at Inter-College Powerlifting and Weightlifting Tournament

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: In a moment of pride for Government College of Education (GCOE), Canal Road, Jammu, two of its students clinched gold medals at the Inter-College Powerlifting and Weightlifting Tournament organized by the Cluster University of Jammu.

Anadika Thakur, a B.Ed. Semester 3 student, showcased exceptional strength and determination to secure the gold medal in the 57kg weight category in powerlifting. Similarly, Hetender Singh dem-



onstrated outstanding performance by clinching the gold medal in the 75kg weight category in weightlifting.

The Principal of GCOE, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, congratulated the Physi-

cal Director of the college, Prof. Ramandeep Kralia and students on their achievements and emphasized the importance of sports in building discipline, resilience, and physical well-being.

## GDC Paloura organises lecture on heritage awareness



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Department of History, GDC Paloura organised Lecture on Heritage Awareness.

The event was the part of GDC Paloura's ongoing week long programme to celebrate world heritage week. World Heritage week is celebrated every year during the last week of November.

The purpose of the programme was to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and protecting cultural and natural heritage and

save the monuments of our country.

Speaking on the occasion Harsh Bhardwaj and Simran Kotwal, students of Department of History, discussed about the local heritage sites of Jammu including Mubarak Mandi Complex, Dogra Art Museum and Sheikh Noor-ud din Noorani Museum.

They pointed out towards mix architectural styles including European style, Mughal style and Rajasthani style used in Mubarak Mandi Complex. Through a PPT Presen-

tation they discussed different palaces in the complex.

Talking about importance of Museums which help us in preserving our heritage Simran and Harsh shared information about artifacts preserved in Dogra Art Museum and Sheikh Noor-ud din Noorani Museum.

The whole programme was organised by Prof. Vishal Magotra (HOD History), Prof. Arun Sharma and Dr. Siraj ud Din under the guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal, GDC Paloura.

## Rich Harvest strikes gold at National Pencak Silat Championship



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Rich Harvest School (RHS) announced its outstanding achievement at the National Pencak Silat Championship, held in Srinagar from November 16 to 21, 2024.

Our talented athletes, Karan Kumar and Sujal Sharma, brought home an impressive haul of 3 gold medals, showcasing their exceptional skill and dedication to the sport.

Karan Kumar bagged 2 gold medals in the 12th Pre-teen Category and 2nd All India Category, while Sujal Sharma won 1 gold medal in the 2nd All India Category.

Anita Bhatia, Head of the Institute, congratulat-

ed the winners for their exceptional achievement. "We are thrilled with our athletes' performance and proud of their hard work and perseverance. This achievement demonstrates the exceptional talent and commitment of our students."

Bhatia also praised Coach Ajay Sharma for his passion, dedication, and expertise in guiding the athletes to success. "His tireless efforts have paid off, and we are grateful for his leadership."

The National Pencak Silat Championship attracted top athletes from across the country, making this achievement a testament to RHS' commitment to excellence in sports.

## PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar organizes Debate Competition on "Cyber Space: Boon or Curse"

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: Department of Computer Application Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, organized a thought-provoking debate competition on the topic "Cyberspace: Boon or Curse".

The event, held under the patronage of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Sarawat, aimed to engage students in a meaningful discussion on the pros and cons of cyberspace in modern life.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Arjun Kotwal, Head of the Department of Computer Application, who welcomed the participants, faculty members, jury, and students.

In his speech, Prof. Kotwal emphasized the dual nature of cyberspace, highlighting its revolutionary impact on communication alongside concerns about privacy violations and cybercrime.

Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Sarawat, the college Principal, lauded the organizing committee for hosting the event and encouraged

students to actively participate in such activities. He stressed the importance of awareness regarding cybercrime and responsible digital behaviour.

Fifteen students competed in the debate, presenting well-reasoned arguments for and against the topic. The first position was bagged by Kushboo Jamwal of Semester 1st,



second position by Mayuri Sharma of semester 3rd and third position by Ifat Jabin of semester 30.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic audience of 149 students, who listened attentively to the participants.

The jury for the event comprised Dr. Renu Anand (HoD, Mathematics), Dr. Rawan Kumar (Physics), and Dr. Vijender Kumar (HoD, Sanskrit). Faculty members

Prof. Surinder Singh Parihar (HoD, History), Prof. Yash Pal, Prof. Paramjit Singh (HoD, Economics), and Prof. Naresh Sharma also graced the occasion with their presence.

The program was expertly moderated by Anjali Choudhary and Palakdeep Kour, with technical support provided by Ranjan Dubey and Daljit

Singh. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Rohit Gupta, leaving participants and the audience inspired to think critically about the impact of cyberspace in their lives.

The whole event was organized by the faculty members of the department of Computer Application which includes Prof. Arjun Kotwal (HoD), Prof. Rohit Gupta, Prof. Paramjit Singh and Prof. Amjed Khan Bhatti.

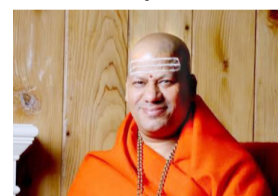
## "Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award" felicitations ceremony on Nov 27

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 22: The Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust has announced the upcoming "Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award" felicitations ceremony, scheduled for November 27, at 3 PM at Majestic Grand Resort, Mishriwala, Jammu. Presided over by Shri Shri 1008 Acharya Mahamandaleswar Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj, the event will honour Swami Kailashanand with the 2024 Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award for his immense contributions to Sanskrit and Indian culture.

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, will attend as the chief guest, with Sham Lal Sharma, MLA of Jammu North, as the special guest, and Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, as the guest of honour.

Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj, known for



his dedication to promoting Sanskrit and Sanatan Dharma, has played a key role in societal and cultural upliftment. His students hold significant roles in state and central governments. As the Acharya Mahamandaleswar of the Niranjani Akhara, he leads millions of disciples and has authored works on Indian traditions and Vedic teachings.

The trust has presented this award annually since 2017 to Sanskrit scholars, recognizing efforts in the preservation of Devbhasha Sanskrit. Mahant Rohit Shastri highlighted Swami Ji's dedication to promoting Sanskrit and urged the youth to emulate his example in preserving regional and national heritage.

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