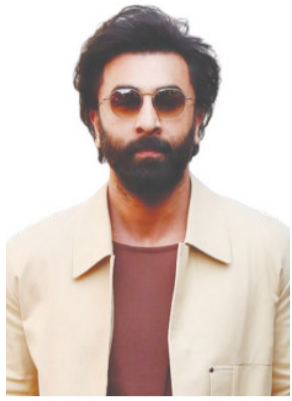


# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**UN chief slams 'landmine threat' days after US decision to supply Ukraine**



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## BRIEFLY

**Fake App Posing as Ruling Party likely a Scam**



JAMMU, Nov 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Monday announced that they have not launched any mobile application. In a post on X, JKNC wrote, "Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) would like to clarify that we have not launched any mobile application. Please be cautious about the app link currently circulating on social media. Do NOT download or install it, as it may compromise your data security and is most likely a scam. Stay safe and protect your personal information!"

**Police arrest woman with cannabis powder in Anantnag**

SRINAGAR, Nov 25 (Agencies): Police on Monday said that it has arrested a woman drug peddler along with cannabis powder in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district. The accused woman has been identified as Gulshana wife of Mohammad Yousuf Ganai a resident of Takiya Maksood Shah Bijbehara, and 8 Kg cannabis powdery substance were recovered from her possession. The seizure was made during a naka (checkpoint) operation conducted by the Police team in the area, police said.

Subsequently, a case has been registered under FIR No. 226/2024, U/S 8/20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at Police Station Bijbehara.

Investigation is ongoing, and further legal proceedings will follow, they added.

**Court reserves order on Er Rashid's case**

SRINAGAR, Nov 25 (Agencies): A court in Delhi has reserved its order regarding the case involving MP and AIP chief Sheikh Rashid or Engineer Rashid.

As per reports, the court will decide whether Er Rashid's case

## Lok Sabha adjourned till Nov 27 after opposition uproar

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): The Lok Sabha was adjourned without transacting any significant business on Monday amid uproar by opposition members on various issues.

As soon as the House reconvened at noon, opposition members were heard raising slogans about the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and demanding a probe into the allegations levelled against



a prominent businessman in a US court. BJP member Sandhya

Ray, who was in the chair, asked if the members were not keen to

allow proceedings in the House.

The chair then adjourned the proceedings till Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, the Lower House was adjourned till 12 noon after paying tribute to departed members, including two MPs who had won the parliamentary elections this year.

On Tuesday, Parliament will hold a special event in the

■ Turn to page 9

## IPL 2025 | Kulgam boy Rasikh Salam goes to RCB at Rs 6 Crore, Abdul Samad to LSG at 4.2 Crore



JAMMU, Nov 25 (Agencies): On the first day of auction for IPL 2025, two players from Jammu and Kashmir were purchased, with

Kulgam boy Rasikh Salam being sold to Royal Challengers Bangalore at whopping Rs 6 crore. Jammu tourism packages Jammu and

Kashmir real estate 14 players from Jammu and Kashmir are available for the 2025 IPL auction. Kulgam-born pacer Rasikh Salam was sold to Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for Rs 6 crore.

Rasikh, who had already played IPL for Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals, had registered for the 2025 IPL auction with a base price of

■ Turn to page 9

## Amid Parliament's winter session, JKPC chief demands statehood from Centre



SRINAGAR, Nov 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee

(JKPC) chief Tariq Hameed Karra Monday demanded the central government to honour

its promise by giving J-K its statehood back.

"Even before, during, and after the elections, we strongly demanded that our rights and guarantees, which were snatched away in 2019, must be restored. Statehood and constitutional guarantees were promised to us, but those promises have only become empty

■ Turn to page 9

## Protesters clash with Police during Anti-ropeway agitation in Katra

JAMMU, Nov 25 (Agencies): A march by shopkeepers and labourers against a proposed ropeway project along the trek route leading to the Vaishno Devi shrine took an ugly turn on Monday as some protesters clashed with police at the Katra base camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district. Police said the law



and order situation had escalated and talks were

being held to defuse the situation.

Officials said one policeman was injured after being manhandled by the protesters.

Amid slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", hundreds of protesters held a march and sit-in in Katra town, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the shrine atop Trikuta hill.

The protesters, ■ Turn to page 9

## 3 men die after Google Maps leads them to unfinished bridge in UP



SRINAGAR, Nov 25 (Agencies): Three people were killed after Google Maps led them to an under-construction bridge and their car plunged from the unfinished flyover into a river in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly district, police

said Saturday. The men were on their way from Gurugram to Bareilly where they were to attend a wedding, India Today reported. Relying on Google Maps to reach their destination, their GPS led

■ Turn to page 9

## India outplay Australia by 295 runs in Perth Test

PERTH, Nov 25 (Agencies): India recorded a dominant 295-run win in the first Test after dismissing Australia for 238 in their second innings on day four here on Monday.

With the thumping win, India lead the five-match series 1-0.

It did not take long for India to complete formalities after reducing Australia to 227 for eight at tea. Chasing 534, the hosts were all out shortly after the break.

Travis Head (89) and Mitchell Marsh (47) showed a fight in an otherwise underwhelming batting performance by the hosts. Alex Carey (36) was the last man to be dismissed.

Three wickets fell in the afternoon session after Mohammed Siraj reduced Australia to 104 for five at lunch.

India made a remarkable comeback after getting bowled out for 150 on the opening day as Australia were limited to 104 in response.

The second test begins in Adelaide from December 6.

Brief Scores: India: 150 & 487/6 declared in 134.3 overs

Australia: 104 and 238 all out in 58.4 overs (Travis Head 89, Mitchell Marsh 47; Jasprit Bumrah 3/42, Mohammed Siraj 3/51).

## After Snowfall, Cold intensifies as temperature plummeting in Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Nov 25 (Agencies): After snowfall on higher reaches, the cold intensified in Kashmir valley with the temperature plummeting as tourist destinations of Gulmarg and Pahalgam remain the coldest places on Monday, officials said.

The Meteorological Centre officials said, after experiencing the fresh snowfall a day ago, the minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday at the ski resort of Gulmarg at minus 2.4°C

■ Turn to page 9

### 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, Bantalab, Old National Highway Road Nagrota, Jammu.  
Contact for Kitty Parties, Birthday Parties and other parties  
Contact: 9086072548. Email: [gupshupjammu@gmail.com](mailto:gupshupjammu@gmail.com)


### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sanjay Kak** S/o Late Sh. Chaman Lal Kak R/o 9/1, Shaktinagar, Jammu, presently at Bratislava (Slovakia) on 18th of November, 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat at 10 AM on 26th November, 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Prana Kak - **Mother**  
Samta Kak - **Wife**  
**Brothers & Sister-in-laws**  
Rakesh Kak and Sarina Kak  
Anil Kak and Archana Gupta  
**Sisters & Brother-in-laws**  
Usha and Ravi Dhar  
Sunila and Virender Dhar  
Anita and Ashok Koul  
Nalin, Rohini, Sameer, Priyanka, Anmol, Ankur, Aashir, Archit, Savina, Harshit, Arnav, Ayush

**SAMAST KAK, OJHA & TICKU PARNAAR**  
MOB: 9419136997, 7298008130



**SH. SANJAY KAK**

### TENTH DAY / KRIYA

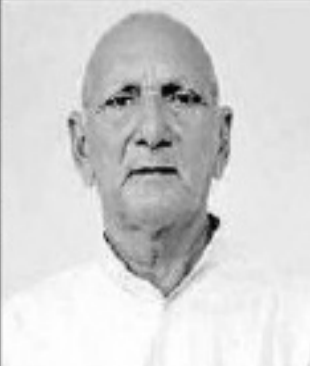
With profound sorrow, we would like to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Onkar Singh** S/o Lt. Sh. Bashi Ram Langeh who left heavenly abode on 14/11/2024.

**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 demise of our beloved **Smt. Savitri Devi** W/o Lt. Shri Uttam Chand H.No. 123 Panjirthi (Jmu).

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

**Kriya** will be performed on 26-11-2024 (Tuesday) at our residence.

**Uthala** will be performed on 27-11-2024 (Wednesday) from 3 to 4 pm at Swam Kart Sabha Opp. Satya Narayan Mandir Panjirthi.

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



**Smt. Savitri Devi**

### BHOG / ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow we deeply regret to inform the tragic demise of **Sardar Sukhchain Singh** S/o Late Lamberdar S. Bhola Singh R/o Village Ajote Teh Haveli Distt Poonch who left for heavenly abode on 19-11-2024.

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at 9:00 am on 26-11-2024 (Tuesday)

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at 9:00 am on 28-11-2024 (Thursday)

**Antim Ardass** will be performed at 12:30 pm on 28-11-2024 at our residence.

Followed by **Guru Ka Langar**

**Grief Stricken**  
Sd. Rajinder Kour (Wife)  
S. Parvinder Singh (JE Maintt JPDCCL) (Son)  
S. Amarpal Singh (Panchayat Account Assistant) (Son)

**ALL FAMILY MEMBERS**  
962200838, 9797567474



**Sardar Sukhchain Singh**

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **10th Day Kriya** of our beloved **Late Sh. Kapur Chand Thappa** S/o Late Jagat Ram R/o House No. 91, near Church Railway Road W.No. 5 Vijaypur, District Samba. **SATSANG** will be performed on Tuesday 26th November, 2024 at home Satsang time 12:00 to 1:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sarlo Rani Thappa - **Wife**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Late Dev Raj Thappa & Simto Thappa  
R. K. Thappa & Babita Devi Thappa  
D. K. Thappa & Soma Devi Thappa  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Asha Jangral & Jagdish Jangral  
Late Anita Thappa & Ishwar Dutt  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Puran Chand & Late Koshalya Devi

**CONTACT NO: 7889773304, 9419754645, 9622236011**

**Grand Children:** Rishav Thappa, Abhishek Thappa, Abhinash Thappa, Dheeraj Thappa, Eashan Thappa, Vikrant Thappa, Menik Jangral, Sakshi Thappa, Daksh Dutt



**Subedar Late Sh. Kapur Chand Thappa**

### BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

WE THE GRIEVED FAMILY OF THE DEPARTED NOBLE SOUL

**S. MANMOHAN SINGH** S/O LATE INDERJEET SINGH RESIDENT OF BARAMULLA PRESENTLY TIRLOKUPURA ROAD GOLE GUJRAL JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR SACHCHAND NIWAS AFTER A BRIEF ILLNESS ON 20 NOVEMBER 2024. THE GURMAT RELIGIOUS RITES IS SCHEDULED AS HERUNDER

**ARAMBH AKHAND PATH** 24-11-2024 AT 9AM  
**BHOG AKHAND PATH** 26-11-2024 AT 10AM  
FOLLOWED BY SHABAD KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDASS AT GURDWARA SINGH SABHA GOLE GUJRAL JAMMU FROM 10.30 AM TO 12.30 PM  
THEREAFTER GURU KA LANGAR AT 12.30 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
GURMEET KOUR - **WIFE**  
Bhawneet Kour - **DAUGHTER**  
Simren Kour - **DAUGHTER**  
Lakhvir Singh - **SON IN LAW**  
Rachbir Singh - **FATHER IN LAW**  
MR & MRS MANJEET SINGH - **BROTHER**  
MR & MRS DALJEET SINGH  
MR & MRS GURDEEP SINGH BAKSHI  
MR & MRS JOGINDER SINGH

**S. MANMOHAN SINGH**

MR & MRS DILBAGH SINGH  
MR & MRS MANJEET SINGH  
KULWANT KOUR - **SISTER**  
NAVNEET SINGH  
SAVNEET KOUR




### 10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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



**Ravi Ji Pandita**

### 10TH DAY

of **Late Smt. Neelam Kalgotra** W/o Sh. Balbir Raj Kalgotra on 26th of November, 2024 will be performed at our residence, Ward No.5, Near Govt. Hospital, Bishnah.

On behalf of our family, we express our deepest gratitude for the support and compassion shown during this time of loss. As we mark the **10TH DAY** of grief of **Smt. Neelam Kalgotra**, we find comfort in the cherished memories of our loved one and in the presence of those who have stood by us.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Hubband:** Sh. Balbir Raj Kalgotra  
**Mother-in-law and Father-in-law**  
Smt. Biso Devi and Sh. Hans Raj Kalgotra  
**Jethanis and Jethis**  
Smt. Asha Kalgotra and Sh. Jagdish Raj Kalgotra  
Smt. Santosh Kalgotra and Sh. Kuldeep Raj Kalgotra  
Smt. Sunita Kalgotra and Sh. Vijay Kumar Kalgotra  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Banshika Kalgotra and Maj. Vikas Chalotra  
Banshav Kalgotra (Son)  
Abhinandan Kalgotra (Nephew)  
**Mobile:** 9419117648, 80822916784, 9419187502, 7780908338  
**PROP. NEELAM PALACE, BISHNAH**  
**PROP. JK DOORS**



**LATE SMT. NEELAM KALGOTRA**  
DECEMBER 5, 1977 - NOVEMBER 17, 2024

### Obituary/Tenth Day Kriya

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

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

**Grief Stricken**  
Ameet Langer and Rekha Langer - **Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Namrita Raina & Ramesh Raina - **Daughter & Son-in-Law**  
Binu Tutu and Sudhir Ji Tutu - **Daughter & Son-in-Law**

**Grand Children:**  
Shivam Pithore, Priyanka Raina, Akshita, Pranav, Vidhita, Nishita, Shivin

**In Grief:** Koul's, Babu's, Tikoo's, Raina's, Tutu's, Sapru's  
**MOB:** 9818499998, 7006855151, 7011001815



**Sh. Jawahir Lal Langer**

### TENTH DAY/UTHALA

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

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

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

**Grief Stricken:**  
Rita Gandotra - **Wife**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Sumit Gandotra and Sarthi Gandotra  
**Daughter and Son in law**  
Sonia Pandoh and Tarun Pandoh  
Prebha Kohli - **Sister**  
**Brother and Bhabhi**  
Ramesh Gandotra and Shashi Gandotra  
Naresh Gandotra and Sunita Gandotra  
**Grand Children's:** Sahaj, Myra, Chickoo

**Contact No.**  
Sumit - 946906200,  
9419168080, 9419187733




**Sh. Rakesh Gandotra (Babbi)**

### 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

### BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

WE THE GRIEVED FAMILY OF THE DEPARTED NOBLE SOUL

**S. MANMOHAN SINGH** S/O LATE INDERJEET SINGH RESIDENT OF BARAMULLA PRESENTLY TIRLOKUPURA ROAD GOLE GUJRAL JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR SACHCHAND NIWAS AFTER A BRIEF ILLNESS ON 20 NOVEMBER 2024. THE GURMAT RELIGIOUS RITES IS SCHEDULED AS HERUNDER

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THEREAFTER THE GURU KA LANGARAT 12.30 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
GURMEET KOUR - **WIFE**  
Bhawneet Kour - **DAUGHTER**  
Simren Kour - **DAUGHTER**  
Lakhvir Singh - **SON IN LAW**  
Rachbir Singh - **FATHER IN LAW**  
MR & MRS DALJEET SINGH  
MR & MRS GURDEEP SINGH BAKSHI  
MR & MRS JOGINDER SINGH  
MR & MRS DILBAGH SINGH

**S. MANMOHAN SINGH**

KULWANT KOUR - **SISTER**  
MR & MRS MANJEET SINGH  
ER. NAVNEET SINGH  
ER. GUNDEEP SINGH  
ER. NISHA SINGH  
SAVNEET KOUR



### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

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

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

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

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

**Grief Stricken**  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
Ashok Sumbria & Auma Kumari  
Chander Kishore Basotra & Karuna Basotra  
Rajesh Pandey & Jyoti  
Harsh Vardhan & Rachna Pathania  
Dheeraj Saliada & Neelam Dogra  
**Mobile:** 9622230993



**SMT. SURAKSHA KUMARI**

### 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

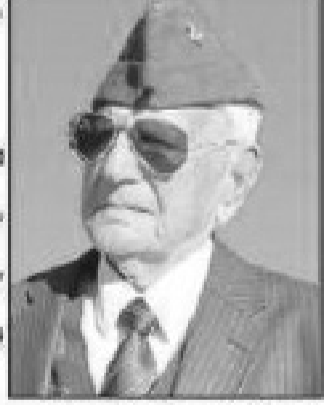
**THIRTEENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Tuesday 26 Nov 2024 @ 10 AM.

**RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on Wednesday 27 Nov 2024 at our residence, Mandi Sangwail @ 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 Bandral & Asstt. Comdt. Pramod Bandral - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

**Grand Children & Great Grand Children**

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



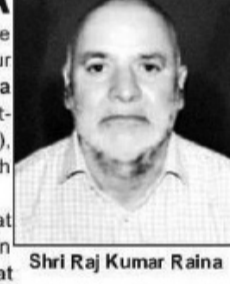
### 10TH DAY KRIYA

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

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Jammu on 28th November 2024 at 10.00 am.

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

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




**Shri Raj Kumar Raina**

### 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 Palam Vihar, Gurugram on 26th Nov' 24 (Tuesday) at 10 am.

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



**Shri Muna Ji Kaul**

### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Seema Jamwal (C.D.Hospital)** W/o Late Sh. Joginder Singh and D/o Late Smt. Shakuntala Devi & Sh. Kesri Singh Jamwal who left us for her heavenly abode on 17th November 2024.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 26th November 2024 (Tuesday) at Charni Himmatt Cremation Ghat at 10 AM.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 29th November 2024 (Friday) at our residence H.No. 16A sec 1B East Extn. Trikuta Nagar Jammu at 12 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Father-in-law and Mother-in-law**  
Sh. Tara Singh & Smt. Santosh Kumari  
Sh. Kesri Singh Jamwal (Father)  
**Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law**  
Sh. Parshotam Singh (Raju) & Smt. Indu Jamwal  
**Brother and Sister-in-law**  
Sh. Rajesh Jamwal and Smt. Anita Pawar  
**Sister and Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Sneha Lata & Dabir Singh  
Smt. Madhu & Shakil Jasrola  
**Children:** Yuvdev and Bhavya  
**Niece:** Palak and Danak

**Smt. Seema Jamwal (C.D.Hospital)**

**Contact No. 9419149268, 9419182422**  
Santosh Medical Hall, Trikuta Nagar Jammu



### TENTH DAY- KRIYA- RASAM PAGRI

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

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

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

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

**Smt Chanchala Devi**

**Grief Stricken:**  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
Anil Verma & Nisha Verma  
Rajnish Verma & Anil Verma  
Shashi Kapoor & Kavali Krishan Kapoor - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Sunita Verma & Lt. Arook Verma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Grand Son & Daughter**  
Rohan, Pranav, Muskan, Rishi  
**M/S CARE WELL CHEMIST**  
**LIFE AID MEDICATE**  
**LIFE CARE MEDICATE**

**MOB: 9419226056, 8803016203**



### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

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

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

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

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



**Sh. Rajesh Raina**

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# Chief Secretary inaugurates Heritage Exhibition at Abhinav Theatre Gallery

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo inaugurated a Heritage Exhibition at the Abhinav Theatre Gallery today. The event, organized by the Kala Kendra Society, Jammu, was held in connection with World Heritage Day, showcasing over 500 artifacts of significant historical and cultural value.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary, Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Secretary in the Culture Department, Deepaka K. Sharma; Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir



Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, Harvinder Kour; and Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra Society, Jammu.

The exhibition featured participation from renowned organizations, including Shahvat Art Gallery, Jammu, Himalayan Heritage Museum, Jammu, and Amar Santosh Museum and Art Gallery, Udhampur.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra Society, stated that the objective of the Heritage Exhibition is fostering a connection between the younger generation and the rich historical legacy of the region.

He further highlighted the exhibition was designed to provide a platform to private collectors dedicated to preserving heritage objects.

Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded the efforts of collectors and curators, including Suresh Abrol, Director of Shahvat Art Gallery, Jammu; Inder Singh, Director of Himalayan Heritage Museum;

and Anil Pada, representing Amar Santosh Museum and Art Gallery, Udhampur.

The exhibition's key attractions included, Rare exhibits from the Kashmir School of Paintings, Ancient copper utensils, Manuscripts inscribed on Birch Bark (Bhojpatra), The original text of

Rajatarangini, an ancient historical chronicle, Coins from the Kushan, Dogra, Sikh, and British periods.

The event was a resounding success, drawing attention to the region's rich cultural heritage and the invaluable contributions of private collectors in its preservation.



Ramayan Path begins at Shiv Temple, Railway Station

# Local Coaching Centers are crucial for our future: Dr. Var

## Top News Report

PULWAMA, Nov 25: In a significant move to provide accessible quality education to students in South Kashmir, Candid Educational Trust inaugurated Candid Classes in Pulwama.

The coaching center aims to prepare students for competitive exams like NEET, JEE, and other foundational courses for classes 10th, 11th, and 12th in the Medical, Non-Medical, and various other streams.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by the presence of prominent figures including Dr. G.N. Var, Chairman of the Coaching Centers Association (CCA) Kashmir, Sarfaraz Ahmad (JKAS Officer), Mir Nazir (Renowned Broadcaster and AIR Correspondent),



and Farooq Ahmad Mir, Director of Candid Classes Pulwama.

During the event, Dr. G.N. Var emphasized the importance of local coaching centers in shaping the future of students and the region. He highlighted that such initiatives not only make quality education accessible but also ease the financial burden on parents by reducing the costs associated with hostel

accommodations, boarding, and food. He also stressed the importance of adopting disciplined habits for personal and academic success, urging students to set examples in every field and utilize educational opportunities to their fullest potential.

Furthermore, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Chairman of Candid Educational Trust, announced the organization's commitment to inclu-

sive education by offering free coaching and study materials to 50 students from poor, orphaned, and BPL (Below Poverty Line) categories.

This initiative underscores the Trust's dedication to ensuring that education becomes a right for every student, regardless of their socio-economic status. Mir Nazir lauded the efforts of the Candid Educational Trust in supporting

underprivileged students and highlighted the role of local initiatives in uplifting the educational standards in Kashmir.

Sarfaraz Ahmad, JKAS Officer, also spoke at the event, advising students to focus on their studies and avoid distractions such as social media in order to excel academically.

Candid Classes Pulwama, located on Dalipora Main Road, marks a transformative chapter in South Kashmir's educational journey, providing students with the necessary tools and guidance to succeed in competitive exams and secure a brighter future.

The initiative is expected to have a lasting impact on the region's educational landscape by fostering a generation of well-prepared students ready to tackle future challenges.

# Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award 2024 to Honor Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust will confer the prestigious Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award 2024 upon Niranjani Peethadhiswar Shri Shri 1008 Acharya Mahamandaleswar Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj for his exceptional contributions to the promotion of Sanskrit and Indian culture.

The announcement was made by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust, during a press conference held at the Jammu Press Club.

The award ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 3 PM at the Majestic Grand Resort, Mishriwala, Jammu.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha will be the Chief Guest, Shri Shri 1008 Acharya Mahaman-

daleswar Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj WILL BE Presiding Officer and Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Jammu North Assembly Constituency and Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu are Special Guests.

Initiated in 2017, the Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award honors individuals who excel in promoting Sanskrit and preserving India's rich cultural heritage. This year's recipient, Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj, is celebrated for his invaluable contributions to the development of Sanskrit and his role as a spiritual leader.

Born on January 1, 1976, in Jamui, Bihar, Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji embraced spirituality early, dedicating his life to Vedic Sanatan Dharma. As Acharya Mahamandaleswar of Niranjani

Akhara, he leads one of India's largest Akharas, with over 1.9 million Naga Sadhus.

Swami Ji is renowned for his scholarship in Sanskrit, Hindi, and English and has authored books on Indian traditions and the Sanatan Dharma. His daily 14-hour Rudrabhishek rituals during monsoons and his vow of silence during Shravan inspire millions of devotees.

In 2013, he was appointed Mahamandaleswar of Agni Akhara at the Prayagraj Mahakumbh, a distinction achieved at the age of 38, reflecting his deep dedication to spiritual and cultural practices.

Mahant Rohit Shastri urged the youth to follow Swami Ji's example and contribute to preserving Sanskrit and Indian culture.

The event is expected to host a distinguished gathering of dignitaries, including trustees RK Chhibber, Ajay Sharma, Deepak Gupta, Jagdev Singh Chib, Naresh Raina, and others, who have been pivotal in organizing the ceremony.

This honor underscores the enduring importance of Sanskrit and Vedic traditions in shaping India's spiritual and cultural legacy.

# Dimple joins Safai Karamchari Dharna against JMC privatization, recruitment delays

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, staged a Dharna outside the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) office in Town Hall, Jammu, extending full support to the ongoing agitation by the Safai Karamchari Union. The indefinite protest, which begins on November 27, 2024, aims to oppose the privatization of JMC, demand permanent recruitment, and push for the notification of the long-pending list of 600 selected Safai Karamcharis, among other demands.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple called upon Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and cabinet ministers of the newly-formed J&K government to immediately fulfill the



five-year-old demands of JMC employees. He criticized the privatization efforts, alleging that it would lead to widespread unemployment among Safai Karamcharis and their future generations.

Dimple vehemently opposed the privatization of JMC services, highlighting its potential to

jeopardize the welfare of thousands of employees. He urged the government to prioritize the welfare of workers and strengthen the corporation instead of outsourcing its operations.

Dimple questioned the silence of Jammu's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and the 28

MLAs representing the region, criticizing their inaction on the issue. "This is a matter of the livelihood of thousands of families in Jammu, and yet the BJP leaders remain invisible," he remarked.

Prominent Congress leader and DDC Member Taranjeet Singh Tony

also joined the protest, voicing strong support for the demands of the Safai Karamchari Union. Tony condemned the government's apathy toward the workers and pledged solidarity with their cause.

Union leaders Rinku Gill, Shameem Bano, and Narinder Singh expressed gratitude to Sunil Dimple and other leaders for standing in solidarity with their movement. They reiterated their resolve to continue the protest until their demands, including recruitment finalizations and halting privatization, are met.

Dimple assured the agitating workers that he would escalate the matter to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and other cabinet ministers, promising to ensure a resolution to their longstanding grievances.

# MVM Jammu students bag first prize in Nukkad Natak



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: The Satyug Darshan Sangeet Kala Kendra recently hosted an Inter-District Music and Art Competition, which saw participation from talented young students from across various schools. Over 580 students from 27 schools participated in the competition, showcasing their talent.

The event aimed at promoting India's rich Classical Traditions. The event was held at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh auditorium, University campus Jammu and was attended by a large audience of music and art enthusiasts.

The competition was divided into various categories, including solo dance, solo song, Folk

and Devotional song, dance, Rangoli making. The participants showcased their skills and talents, and were judged by a panel of experts from the Satyug Darshan Sangeet Kala Kendra.

The winners were awarded trophies and medals. The team of ten students Aditi Nayak, Advika Arora, Ridhima, Chaavi Bhardwaj Kanav Verma, Adhayanveer Singh, Akarshit Dev Singh, Aradhya Sharma, Tawishi, Puneeta Bhardwaj, from Maharishi Vidya Mandir school won the first prize in the Nukkad natak category, Mehak Thakur bagged the second prize in the Solo song category.

The event was attended by Chief Guest Satish Sharma, cabinet minister, J&K Government,

Guest of Honour Sham Choudhary, former Minister, Vice President BJP and Dr. Atul Hans, director and Principal of IDRS school Jammu, who praised the students for their outstanding performances. "It's heartening to see such talented young minds from different schools and said, "The Satyug Darshan Sangeet Kala Kendra is doing a commendable job in promoting music and art among the youth.

The Satyug Darshan Sangeet Kala Kendra is a renowned institution dedicated to promoting Indian classical music and art. The institution offers training and education in various music and art forms, and hosts regular events and competitions to promote talent among the youth.

# Rajesh Gupta appeals CM to save Nagrota from past BJP's phlegmatic attitude

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) senior leader Rajesh Gupta on Monday in a statement, he lamented that development had come to a complete halt in



the Nagrota constituency and the issues related to basic amenities nowhere visible on ground due to which people in the area are suffering badly.

Gupta appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to give the special attention to look into the Nagrota constituency and the issues related to basic amenities nowhere visible on ground due to which people in the area

are suffering badly. Talking specifically about Nagrota Constituency, he said that past government is extended step motherly treatment to the area as it has faced the phlegmatic attitude of the helmsmen with population suffering on different accounts.

He said that Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah took special pain in the allround development of Nagrota Constituency during the NC regime but today the people are facing number of issues because of apathy of the past BJP proxy government.

Saying that BJP leadership is relied on divisive agenda to win elections but NC never believed in dividing people for electoral gains because it has undaunted faith in secularism and communal harmony at all levels.

Rajesh Gupta appealed to the central government to restore the statehood of J&K as it is necessary for delivering justice to the people.

# Shiv Sena pays tribute to martyrs, raising voices to fulfill their demands, return of POK to India



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit today paid tribute to the martyrs of the community on Mirpur Day and demanded to fulfill the demands of POJK displaced people and fulfill the promise of return of POK to India.

In the tribute program organized at the party's state central office, the party leaders and workers present, including state chief Manish Sahni, paid their emotional tribute to the Hindu-Sikhs who lost their lives in the massacre by Pakistani soldiers and tribesmen on November

25, 1947 and expressed full sympathy towards the displaced people.

Sahni said that despite more than seven decades having passed since their exodus, no central or state government has taken care of them and they have been deprived of their legitimate rights.

At the same time, the claims of return of POK have also remained confined to mere rhetoric.

Sahni has demanded from the Modi government at the center to release the remaining amount of financial assistance and rehabilitation package for the displaced people of POJK in the

ongoing winter session of Lok Sabha, unlock ten seats in their favor out of the seats reserved for POK in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly and fulfill the promise of return of POK to India.

Present on the occasion, Mirpur displaced leader and social activities Gugal Gupta paid tribute and demanded special package and reservation in jobs for the youth of POJK.

On this occasion Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Working President Jai Bharti, President Kanghar Raj Singh, Rohin Manwal, Mangu Ram and many others were present.

## EDITORIAL

RISE OF ALTERNATIVE  
MEDICINE

In recent years, alternative medicine has gained significant popularity across the globe. From acupuncture to herbal remedies and homeopathy, people are increasingly seeking treatments outside the scope of conventional medical practices. While many hail these alternatives as a beneficial way to complement or even replace traditional medicine, others view them with skepticism and caution. The question arises: Is the rise of alternative medicine a blessing or a curse? To answer this, we must examine the benefits and potential dangers that alternative therapies bring to individuals and healthcare systems.

One of the primary reasons alternative medicine has gained such traction is dissatisfaction with traditional healthcare. Conventional medical treatments, often focused on symptom management rather than addressing underlying causes, can leave patients frustrated, especially when they experience side effects from pharmaceuticals. Many turn to alternative medicine in search of a more holistic approach to health. Alternative therapies often emphasize natural healing, seeking to treat the root cause of ailments rather than just alleviating symptoms. Practices like acupuncture, chiropractic care, and yoga focus on balancing the body, mind, and spirit, which resonates with individuals seeking a more integrated approach to wellness.

Moreover, alternative medicine often appeals to individuals seeking personalized care. Many alternative practitioners spend more time with their patients, listening to their concerns and customizing treatments to their unique needs. This attention to the individual is a stark contrast to the often hurried, impersonal nature of many traditional healthcare interactions. For people who feel overlooked or misunderstood in conventional medical settings, the personal touch of alternative medicine can be a compelling reason to embrace it.

Alternative medicine offers various benefits that have been reported by practitioners and patients alike. For instance, herbal medicine is a central component of many traditional practices worldwide. Numerous herbs have demonstrated efficacy in treating ailments, with research supporting their benefits in areas such as pain management, stress reduction, and even cancer treatment. In some cases, herbs can provide a natural alternative to prescription drugs, reducing the risk of dependence or severe side effects.

Mind-body practices such as yoga, meditation, and Tai Chi have been shown to improve mental health, reduce stress, and enhance overall well-being. These practices, which emphasize relaxation, mindfulness, and physical movement, can be incredibly effective for individuals managing anxiety, depression, and chronic stress—conditions that are increasingly prevalent in today's fast-paced world. For patients with chronic conditions, such as arthritis or fibromyalgia, alternative therapies like acupuncture or chiropractic care may offer relief where conventional medicine has been less effective.

Furthermore, the integration of alternative medicine into mainstream healthcare, known as complementary and integrative medicine, has been gaining momentum. Research has demonstrated that certain alternative therapies can complement conventional treatments. For example, acupuncture has been used to manage the side effects of chemotherapy, while meditation can help manage pain for individuals with chronic conditions. The growing acceptance of these therapies within established healthcare systems suggests that they are not only popular but can be effective in improving patient outcomes when used alongside traditional treatments.

Despite its many potential benefits, the rise of alternative medicine is not without its risks. The most concerning issue is the lack of scientific evidence for many alternative therapies. While some practices, like acupuncture and herbal remedies, have been studied extensively and have shown promising results, many others remain unproven. The absence of rigorous scientific trials for certain treatments means that patients may be unknowingly exposed to ineffective or even harmful therapies.

One of the most significant dangers of alternative medicine is the potential for delay in seeking appropriate conventional medical care. Some patients may abandon proven treatments in favor of untested therapies, often to their detriment. For instance, there have been cases where individuals with serious illnesses, such as cancer, forgo chemotherapy in favor of alternative treatments, leading to worsened outcomes or even death. The rise of unregulated practitioners further exacerbates this problem. In some cases, patients may fall victim to fraudulent claims or unsafe practices that not only fail to treat their conditions but also pose direct harm to their health.

## Poisonous &amp; Deadly Air pollution in Delhi

By: Omkar Dattatray

The quality of air in national capital Delhi is worsening day by day due to industrial pollution and it has worsened further and has become poisonous and deadly because the farmers of neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana are busy in stubble burning / residual of their harvesting waste called in local dialect *parali*. It is the burning of *Parali* after the harvesting season which causes air pollution in Delhi and it affects the health of the people there. This air pollution on a large scale results in breathlessness, asthma and other respiratory problems to the people especially to the children, older people, sick, ailing and the weak. People of Delhi and all those who come to the national capital for various purposes and have to stay for some days are also affected by the air pollution. Worsening air pollution and its consequences on the people is very grave concern for the centre government, Delhi government and the people of Delhi. But it is very disturbing that the political parties without any exception are busy playing dirty politics on this serious issue related with the health and life of the people. The centre and state government of Delhi are blaming each other for the grim air pollution in the capital and they are busy in blame game. This blame game on this serious issue will hardly serve any purpose and it will not correct the worsening situation and therefore it is important that centre and state government of Delhi should work in unison to find the ways and means to come out of the worst air pollution mostly due to stubble burning in the neighboring states. The centre and state government of Delhi should talk with the authorities of Punjab and Haryana and impress them so that the practice of stubble burning is put to an end. The farmers should use some other way of disposing *parali* so that the air pollution will not result from it. The poisonous air pollution in and around

Delhi results from vehicular concentration and through vehicle plying and it is the biggest contributor to air pollution in Delhi and steps need to be taken to control and contain vehicular pollution. The odd, even days fixed for plying vehicles can contribute much towards containing vehicular pollution. Air pollution in Delhi has reached a concerning level of 400, which has the potential to significantly affect the overall quality of life for residents. Delhi's air quality is counted as the most hazardous and most polluted, which causes severe health issues. The detrimental air pollution in Delhi contributes to development of chronic heart conditions that necessitate treatment by cardiologists. Over the past week, there has been an alarming increase in the current Air Quality Index -AQI, reaching 400, while temperatures range has risen from 22 degree C to 26 degree. Consequently, the overall air quality and pollution levels in Delhi are severe, posing a significant threat to the health of its citizens. Delhi's pollution level is moving rapidly towards the worst. The current Delhi pollution level crossed from 300 to 400 AQI in just one week. Delhi has been facing severe air pollution for several years, with factors such as vehicle emissions, industrial pollution, and crop burning contributing to the problem. Not that government has not taken steps to control air pollution in Delhi, but more needs to be done to contain it. The government has taken various measures to combat air pollution in Delhi, including implementing the odd-even rule for vehicles, banning the use of firecrackers, and promoting the use of public transportation. However, individuals need to take personal measures as well, such as using air purifiers, wearing masks, and reducing carbon footprint. Regular monitoring of air pollution levels in Delhi is crucial to stay informed and take necessary precautions to protect our health. Delhi's air pollution is increasingly going towards a hazardous situation. The

city continuously faces a high rise in air pollution, where air quality is going downwards. During a conference, the Environment Minister of Delhi emphasized the criticality of the upcoming 15 to 20 days for the city, as it continues to witness an alarming range of 300 to 400, signifying the poorest air quality. This unfortunate milestone was surpassed by Delhi in the initial week of November 2023 and in 2024 November it has assumed dangerous proportions as the quality of air in and around Delhi has further worsened due to stubble burning in the nearby states of Punjab and Haryana. The air pollution level in Delhi primarily attributed to various sources of pollution such as garbage waste, transport gases, emissions from industries, dust etc. This has resulted in the PM2.5 levels reaching above 400 in November 2023, significantly impacting the Air Quality Index. Besides, the negligence and inconspicuous utilization of transportation and machinery have further contributed to the escalation of air pollution levels in Delhi. The consequences of Delhi's pollution level are causing significant environmental harm and posing health risks to the local citizens, leading to a gradual reduction in their life expectancy daily. Delhi's air pollution stems from various sources, specifically six major categories including industries, waste disposal, transport dust, domestic cooking, waste burning and diesel generator sets. Among these, waste burning and transport are the primary contributors to the Delhi's air pollution. Recent news and reports from 2021 highlight the staggering number of registered vehicles in Delhi, totalling 1.50 crores. This influx of vehicles necessitates proper maintenance and regular Pollution Under Control -PUC checks for individuals. As a consequence, Delhi's pollution level has reached alarming heights, largely due to the impact of transport and vehicles. Furthermore, the persistent practice of stubble burning in neighboring states of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh exacer-

ates Delhi's air pollution problem. The air quality index of Delhi in 2023 has witnessed a significant increase as a result of this ongoing issue. In the festival of Diwali and after it in the harvesting season, the pollution due to bursting of fire crackers in very large numbers in Delhi coupled with the stubble burning in the nearby states has aggravated the air quality index and thus it caused worst ever air pollution, threatening the lives of people in Delhi. The air pollution problem has become very grave and serious and the Delhi government as well has said that the air pollution has assumed alarming proportion and it has become a big health hazard for the people in and around Delhi. So there is need to take necessary steps to contain and control air pollution in Delhi. Only government cannot control alarming air pollution. The government, political parties, NGO's and the public at large should work in united way to control and contain air pollution in Delhi so that people of Delhi will feel some relief from the increasing air pollution and its effects. But it is very unfortunate that political parties are playing dirty politics over the issue of air pollution instead of cooperating with the powers in the most important task of controlling air pollution. Thus there is urgent and utmost need to contain and control alarming air pollution and for this there is need for cooperation between the centre government, Delhi government, political parties and above all the public so that air pollution is contained and controlled and the lives of Delhites are saved from many ailments arising from the poor air quality.

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

## Explore the Pros and Cons of taking a gap year for NEET (UG) preparation

By: Vijay GarG

For many students preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, NEET taking a gap year is a decision that comes with its fair share of debate. While some believe that a gap year can be a game-changer for success, others argue that it may not always be the best option. Let's explore the pros and cons of taking a gap year for NEET preparation.

India is not always straightforward. For many students, the dream of wearing a white coat often extends beyond the first attempt at the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Each year, thousands of aspiring doctors stand at a crucial crossroads—should they take a drop year and dedicate more time to preparation, or move forward and explore other career paths? This decision is far from easy. It's one that demands a careful weighing of multiple factors—academic performance, mental resilience, financial constraints, and personal goals. A drop year can be transformative for some, but not necessarily the right choice for everyone. So, how do students decide whether this extra year of preparation is the right path for them? Let's explore both sides.

**THE RISE OF THE DROP YEAR: A STRATEGIC MOVE OR UNNECESSARY DELAY?**

In recent years, taking a drop year has become a common strategy for many NEET aspirants. A drop year offers students the luxury of uninterrupted time without the pressures of school exams, homework, and routine classes. For many, it's an opportunity to regroup, reflect on mistakes, and fine-tune their preparation to crack the exam in the next attempt.

Without the distractions of regular academics, students can dedicate all their energy to mastering the NEET syllabus. This focused time allows them to:

1. Revise fundamental concepts deeply.
2. Identify and work on weak areas that may have been overlooked.
3. Develop exam-specific skills like problem-solving techniques and

time management.

4. Build mental stamina to handle the six-hour-long examination.

Students also get more time to practice with previous years' papers and attempt mock tests—essential steps often rushed during simultaneous school and NEET preparation. This structured approach helps them stay better aligned with the exam pattern, ensuring they are well-prepared for any challenges the exam throws their way.

**THE CHALLENGE: IS A DROP YEAR WORTH PRESSURE?**

While the advantages of a drop year are clear, it also comes with significant challenges—especially on the psychological front. The decision to pause academic progress for an entire year can feel overwhelming. Students are often burdened by the fear of failure and the pressure to ensure that the extra year of preparation is worthwhile.

Watching peers move ahead—starting college or pursuing other careers, leads to self-doubt and frustration. It takes mental discipline and emotional resilience to stay motivated throughout the drop year. Many students struggle to maintain momentum, especially as they face repeated study cycles with no immediate results to validate their efforts.

Additionally, family expectations and financial considerations play a crucial role in this decision. While some families are equipped to support another year of preparation, others may face financial constraints. Societal pressure, too, can weigh heavily on students, making them question whether taking a drop year is the right choice.

**HOW TO DECIDE: IS A DROP YEAR THE RIGHT CHOICE?**

The key to making an informed decision lies in a personal evaluation of each student's situation. Here are some factors to consider:

1. Performance Analysis: How close were you to the NEET cutoff in your previous attempt? If the margin was small, a drop year might be worthwhile to bridge the gap.
2. Identifying Areas of Improvement: Do you know where you went wrong? If some specific subjects or concepts need more work, additional time could help address them.

3. Self-Motivation and Discipline: Can you stay focused and self-driven for an entire year without school to structure your day? A drop year requires strict discipline and effective time management.

4. Family Support and Financial Feasibility: Does your family have the resources to support an extra year of preparation? It's essential to discuss the practicalities openly before committing to a drop year.

5. Mental Health and Well-being: A drop year is mentally demanding. Are you ready to handle the pressure of repeating the preparation process? You'll need to strike a balance between study and self-care to avoid burnout.

6. Backup Plans: What if things don't go as planned? Having a contingency plan as exploring other career options alongside NEET preparation can reduce anxiety and provide a sense of security.

**THE JOURNEY BEYOND BOOKS: NURTURING HOLISTIC WELL-BEING DURING A DROP YEAR**

Taking a drop year represents more than just an extended period of academic preparation, it's a comprehensive journey that demands attention to holistic well-being. While textbooks and practice tests form the core of preparation, success during this crucial year hinges on maintaining a delicate balance between mental and physical health.

Physical activity emerges as a cornerstone of this balanced approach. Regular exercise serves as both a stress reliever and a cognitive enhancer, helping students maintain mental clarity and emotional stability throughout their journey preparation. Equally important is the role of nutrition in sustaining the rigorous demands of focused study. Regular, nutritious meals combined with adequate hydration can significantly enhance study efficiency and maintain consistent energy levels throughout the day.

While academic focus remains paramount, the art of moderation in recreational activities proves essential for long-term sustainability. Complete abstinence from leisure activities often leads to burnout and diminished motivation. Instead, planned breaks for hobbies, entertainment, or social

interaction can refresh the mind and prevent the onset of study fatigue. These moments of respite, when approached with discipline, serve as rewards that help maintain motivation levels.

Perhaps the most crucial is the presence of a robust support system. The emotional challenges of a drop year can be substantial, making the role of family, friends, and mentors invaluable. These support networks provide emotional anchoring, practical guidance and motivation during moments of doubt. Regular interactions with mentors who can assess progress, provide constructive feedback, and adjust study strategies ensure that students remain on track toward their goals.

**THE BOTTOM LINE: TO DROP OR NOT TO DROP?**

Ultimately, the decision to take a drop year is a personal one. It's not a guaranteed formula for success nor a mandatory step toward cracking NEET. Some students thrive with an extra year of preparation, while others achieve their goals on the first attempt.

The key is to make an informed choice that reflects your strengths, challenges, and circumstances. A drop year can offer a second chance to realise your dream, but it's not the only way. Success in NEET requires a combination of knowledge, strategy, time management, and mental toughness—all of which can be developed with or without a drop year.

In the end, there's no "one-size-fits-all" approach to success. Whether you choose to take a drop year or not, the most important thing is to stay focused on your goal, trust your journey, and remember that there's no shame in following the path that works best for you.

*(Vijay GarG  
Retired principal  
Educational  
Columnist Street  
kour Chand MHR  
Malout Punjab  
-152107)*

## J&K Youth Congress joins Sansad Gherao protest against BJP on Adani Scam

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Members of the Jammu & Kashmir Youth Congress participated in the "Sansad Gherao" protest at Jantar Mantar, raising their voices against the BJP government over alleged complicity in the Adani scam. The protest, spearheaded by Indian Youth Congress National President Uday Bhanu Chib, drew participation from youth leaders across India, includ-

ing J&K Youth Congress State General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney and Sahil Singh Langeh. The protesters expressed outrage over recent allegations involving Adani, including claims of bribery and suppression of information from regulators in India and the U.S. They accused the BJP government of enabling crony capitalism and compromising the nation's economic and democratic integrity.

Addressing the protest, Anirudh Sawhney questioned the BJP's silence on the matter. "This is more than a financial scandal; it's a betrayal of the trust of the Indian people. The BJP government continues to shield Adani despite mounting evidence of corruption. We, the youth of India, are here to demand accountability. The country's wealth cannot be looted to benefit a few elites while millions struggle to make ends

meet. It's time the Modi government prioritized the people over billionaires." Sahil Singh Langeh, echoing these sentiments, underscored the role of young leaders in combating corruption. "The revelations of Adani's bribery and the BJP's complicity are appalling. Today, we, the youth, stand united to ensure transparency and justice. This protest is a warning to those in power: the youth will

not tolerate the erosion of India's democratic values and economy. We demand an independent investigation and immediate punitive action against the culprits." The Sansad Gherao protest represents growing discontent among the youth regarding perceived corporate favoritism and a call for systemic reforms to safeguard the nation's economic and democratic pillars.

## GGM Science College organizes rally for a tobacco-free society

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: GGM Science College, Jammu, under the aegis of its NSS Units, NCHORD Committee, and Department of Biotechnology, organized a rally advocating for a tobacco-free society.

The initiative was aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and inspiring the community to adopt a healthier, tobacco-free lifestyle.

The rally was flagged off by the esteemed Principal of the college, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, who emphasized the critical need to combat the growing menace of tobacco addiction. Speaking at the event, Dr. Gupta highlighted the role of educational institutions in fostering social responsibility among students and encouraged them to be ambassadors of change.

The rally witnessed active participation from faculty, NSS volunteers,

and students. Key figures who played a pivotal role in organizing the event included Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma, NSS Programme Officers, and Prof. Kiran Bala, Head of the Department of Biotechnology. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Rahul Kait stressed the importance of community engagement in achieving the goal of a tobacco-free society, while Prof. Kiran Bala encouraged students to lead by example and educate others about the ill effects of tobacco use.

The rally commenced from the Old Hall of the college and traversed through significant areas of the city, including Jewel Chowk, before returning to the campus. Participants held placards with impactful messages such as "Say No to Tobacco," "Choose Health Over Tobacco," and "A Smoke-Free Generation Begins With Us."

The event attracted attention from the local

community, with onlookers appreciating the college's proactive steps toward creating a healthier society. NSS volunteers also interacted with citizens along the route, distributing informative pamphlets and urging them to take a pledge against tobacco use.

In her concluding remarks, Dr. Neha Sharma commended the enthusiasm of the students and faculty, noting that such initiatives are crucial in driving societal change. She added, "A tobacco-free society is not just a dream but a necessity, and it begins with awareness and collective action."

GGM Science College remains committed to organizing such awareness programs that contribute positively to the well-being of society. This rally is one among many initiatives that the college undertakes to foster a sense of social responsibility among its students.

## GDC R S Pura organises lecture on stress, model making competition



Top News Report

R S PURA, Nov 25: Department of Botany, G.D.C. R.S. Pura organised a lecture and also a Model making competition on Monday under the guidance of Principal G.D.C. R. S Pura, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour.

The resource person of the session was Professor Sugandha Mahajan, Assistant Professor, in botany, PSPS, Government College for women, Gandhinagar. The session started with the introduction by Dr. Renu Sharma, Assistant Pro-

fessor in Botany. Welcome address was given by Dr. Rajinder Sharma, HOD Botany. Prof. Mahajan discussed about the type of stress among youths and the ways to overcome the stress. She inspired everyone to remain positive even in tough situations.

Respected faculty members along with members of Botany department were present in the session. Thereafter, Professor Sugandha Mahajan along with faculty of Botany Department evaluated the models which were being pre-

pared by students of Sem 5th and Sem 3rd. Beautiful scientific models pertaining to their curriculum were prepared by the students.

Awards were distributed to the students who stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Honorable Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour shared her views upon the management of stress and emphasized that such type of events should be organized on regular basis.

The formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Neeti Chibber, Associate Professor in Botany.

## GDC Ramban organised educational field trip to Chenab Valley farm

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Nov 25: Institutions innovation council (IIC) organised an educational field tour of students of GDC Ramban to Chenab Valley Farm (Zubair Ahmad Sohail Farm) at Chamalwas (Banihal) of District Ramban. The visit aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and its applications, fostering an understanding of innovative farming techniques, agri-business management and sustainability

practices. The tour was coordinated by Prof. Satish Kumar, HOD Zoology and Dr. Jawaid Sarver, convenor IIC, assisted by Dr. Shivali Gupta and Dr. Gazala Bashir under the supervision of Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the college.

The tour warmly welcomed by the host Mr. Zubair Ahmad Sohail, a prominent agri-entrepreneur at their farm. He gave an introduction to their journey, the challenges faced and the strategies adopted to

built a successful agricultural enterprise. He provided students a comprehensive understanding of modern farming techniques. Students observed the use of advanced farming equipments, water harvesting and organic farming methods. Detailed explanations were provided about crop rotation, their propagation and high yield crop varieties. The farm showcased its greenhouse unit, where high valued crops like vegetables and exotic fruits were cultivated.

Students learned about temperature regulation, soil quality maintenance and market demand for such produce.

A brief interactive session was also conducted in which students asked insightful questions regarding market trends and challenges in agriculture, government schemes, role of technology in enhancing farm productivity. Mr. Zubair further encouraged students to consider careers in agriculture, emphasizing its potential for innovation and growth.

The educational tour to the agricultural farm was invaluable experience for the students. It provided them with practical knowledge, inspired innovative thinking and emphasized the importance of agriculture in economic development.

The tour concluded with heartfelt gratitude extended by Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the college, who also accompanied the visiting students, to Zubair Ahmad Sohail (agri-entrepreneur) for his hospitality and sharing his expertise.

## Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebrated in far-flung area of Pachgam Nard Kund

Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 25: District Kulgam witnessed vibrant celebrations of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in collaboration with Jal Shakti Division Quazigund marked by enthusiastic participation from people of all walks of life, especially the tribal communities of the district today the event organized at Pachgam Nard Kund highlighted the government's commitment to uplift the tribal population through various welfare schemes and initiatives.

Prominent resource persons and district officers from diverse departments shed light on government schemes tailored for the welfare and development of tribals. Their presentations were aimed at creating awareness and encouraging active participation among the attendees.

A series of multicultural programs showcased

the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the district were also held. The celebrations also featured departmental stalls, where officials displayed products and informed the general public about various schemes and benefits available to them.

The District Project Manager JJM Aijaz Ahmad kept graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event saw immense audience participation, reflecting the strong community engagement and enthusiasm for tribal welfare and cultural preservation. The event was also attended by Coordinator (IEC) JJM Mohammad iqbal Zargar, Assistant Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rafiq Ahmad bhat, Kifayat Qayoom water quality Coordinator, Junior Engineer Jal Shakti Muzamil Tantry, ST leader Choudry Nazir and other officers.

## JKBS remembers Bollywood Actress Dancer Bimla Kashmiri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members tribute the reverence Bimla Kashmiri commanded in her era, recalling 'Back then, other female leads were simply referred to as heroines, but Bimla Kashmiri was the one and only one 'actress dancer' - a title she earned with her extraordinary talent and dedication.

JKBS' General Secretary R.L. Kaith while throwing light on her life and activities said that she was born as Gulabi Sargotra in a Batwal family at Bermean, a small village in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

She had four sisters and one brother. She spent her early life in the village. She challenged the regressive practice of child marriage when she was about to be mar-

ried off with a Nandan caste boy of Narwal Pain at the tender age of twelve. She, however, insisted that she would like to become a dancer.

After the untimely demise of her parents while she was in her teens, she was raised by her brother. After the partition of India, during October-November 1947 when a large number of people died in communal rioting, her family moved to Jammu and lived in a refugee camp.

One day she along with other fans went to Hotel Premier at Residency Road to see Indian film actors who were staying over there. During their audience with the actors, a railway contractor turned actor named Gopal was so enamoured by her fascinating look having some passing similarities to actress Meena Kumari that he with the permission of her family, took

her to Mumbai where she stayed with his family and was renamed as Bimla Kashmiri.

Bimla was very enthusiastic in learning dance, so she learnt classical kathak style of dancing and began performing in Mumbai's Shanmukhananda Auditorium and Nobility Hall at the age of nineteen. She had made a record by performing dance continuously for eight hours and very soon her name conjured up an image of an eminent Indian dancer.

Bimla also acted in many Hindi films in her career as actress, supporting actress and dancer. Some of her noted films were Fuji Lama (1952), CID (1956), Harishchandra Taramati (1963), Magic Carpet (1964) and Truck Driver (1970).

The then Prime Minister Morarji Desai had praised her dancing and acting.

## Upamanyu Chatterjee wins 7th JCB Prize for Literature

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Acclaimed author Upamanyu Chatterjee has been awarded the 2024 JCB Prize for Literature for his book Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life, published by Speaking Tiger Books. The announcement was made during a ceremony held at the JCB India Headquarters in Ballabgarh.

Chatterjee's novel earned the prestigious prize of Rs 25 lakh and the unique JCB Prize trophy, Mirror Melting, a sculpture by Delhi-based artist duo Thukral and Tagra.

The award was presented by Deepak Shetty, CEO & MD of JCB India, on behalf of Lord Bamford, Chairman of JCB. Congratulating Chatterjee, Shetty said, "The JCB Prize for Literature celebrates the Indianness of Indian literature, showcasing an eclectic



mix of works. We congratulate Upamanyu Chatterjee on his remarkable achievement."

Shetty also emphasized the vital role of translations in bringing regional Indian literature to a broader audience, noting their importance in preserving and promoting India's diverse literary heritage.

Mita Kapur, Literary Director of the JCB Prize for Literature, highlighted the significance of the award, stating, "This Prize is a tribute to the

diversity and richness of Indian storytelling. Each year, it honors writers and translators whose creativity and dedication leave a lasting impact." Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life explores profound themes with Chatterjee's signature wit and insight, adding to his illustrious literary career. The novel's win underscores the importance of narratives that challenge and engage readers, contributing to the evolving literary landscape of India.

## GDC Kathua celebrates Communal Harmony Week

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 25: NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Kathua celebrated Communal Harmony Week w.e.f 19th to 25th November, 2024 with great enthusiasm. The event aimed to fostering a sense of oneness in diversity and to promote peace, tolerance and unity among people of different religions, culture and backgrounds.

The one-week programme was conducted under the dynamic guidance of Principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir and supervised by NSS programme officers Dr. Kulbir Singh, Prof. Arvind Kumar and Dr. Pratima Sangra.

The primary objectives of the week-long celebrations were to spread

awareness about the importance of communal harmony, to encourage inter-faith dialogue and understanding, to highlight the strength of unity amidst diversity in our society and to raise significant funds to support victims of communal violence.

Various activities were conducted during the week-long celebrations. On 19th and 20th of November, a dedicated fundraising drive was organised to support victims of communal violence. The fund raised will be used for rehabilitation efforts, medical aid and educational support for affected families. On 23rd of November, a symposium and slogan writing competition was organised in the college on the theme "Communal

Harmony".

Students and NSS volunteers shared their insights and inspired attendees to contribute towards peace building efforts. Communal harmony week was culminated with a pledge taken ceremony by all the stakeholders and students of the college.

The Principal of the college appreciated the effort of NSS team for celebrating communal harmony week which served as a reminder of the strength and resilience of unity in diversity.

She highlighted the need for continuous efforts to build inclusive and harmonious society. The active participation and enthusiasm of all stakeholders underscored the commitment to uphold communal harmony as a cornerstone of our Nation's ethos.

## Reorientation Camp commences

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Nov 25: A Reorientation Camp has commenced at the Mini Stadium Hiranagar under the direction of S.S. Sambyal, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer of Kathua. The camp, aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of participants, is being conducted under the supervision of ZPEO Hiranagar, Jog Raj Sharma, and other key officials.

All personnel assigned to the Refresher Course

were present during the camp, ensuring that the program runs smoothly and effectively throughout the day.

As part of the camp activities, a friendly Kabaddi match was organized between two teams. This match not only served as a platform for participants to engage in a friendly competition but also provided an opportunity to discuss the rules and regulations of the game. The discussion helped participants better understand the intricacies of Kabaddi, furthering

their knowledge of the sport.

The primary objective of this initiative is to produce fair and impactful results that will benefit the players and contribute to their overall development. Through such camps, the department aims to provide high-quality training and guidance, thereby enhancing the performance and skills of athletes. This Reorientation Camp is part of a larger effort to ensure the betterment of players and to promote sportsmanship in the region.

## At IFFI, Guneet Monga highlighted the growing role of women in various aspects of filmmaking

Have will, shall change... The session 'Women in Film - India Chapter: A New Vision' at the 55th International Film Festival of India, Goa, had Oscar-winning director Guneet Monga Kapoor lead an enlightening discussion on gender parity in the film industry.

Guneet, who founded Sikhya Entertainment, the film production house with hits like Academy Award winning-film *The Elephant Whisperer*, *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *The Lunchbox* and *Masaan*, opened up on an honest note, "I have been a producer for the past 17-18 years and have many women working in my team. In my production company, we mindfully push women directors. Then there are these stats — less than five per cent of directors in India are women!"

Guneet came in touch with Women in Film (WIF) at Los Angeles, when she was there for *The Elephant Whisperer*. Established in 1973, this non-profit organisation advocates women working in the industry — both in front and behind the camera.

Guneet shared how she finally found an ally in WIF. "I was surprised to see them working for women directors, technicians,



pushing them for the prestigious awards, whereas we struggle to get one article out."

Once back home, she touched base with women in the industry and thus was born WIF India Chapter. Still in its infancy, it's an ambitious step. "In India we don't have the database, we don't know how many of us are there — 50,000 or 500,000. We are working towards building a structure."

Guneet Monga Kapoor, Tillotama Shome and Jyoti Deshpande were part of the 18th Edition Film Bazaar Knowledge Series 2024 for an enlightening panel discussion on Women in Film - India Chapter: A New Vision at the IFFI. They were joined in the discussion by Andria Wilson Mirza, director,

International Programs WIF LA, and Aparna Purohit, CEO Aamir Khan Productions. The session was moderated by Suchin Mehrotra.

Meanwhile, actress Tillotama Shome backed Guneet, while taking the conversation forward, "Data makes the invisible visible. Intention is important and I am excited about the possibilities that WIF India can lead to."

Jyoti Deshpande, with her 30 years plus work experience, shared how when she began people couldn't believe that a woman was at the helm of affairs, but things have changed. "As much as 60 per cent of our workforce comprises women and 60 per cent of leadership posts are with women. I have actively gone out and

sought out meritorious women, not because they are women but because they are amazingly good at what they do," shared Jyoti, President, Media and Entertainment. Reliance Industries Limited. She mentioned how men were equally part of this narrative. "I think it can be very daunting for men to be excluded from the conversation. It sounds like some sort of an activism. It's not activism. It's inclusion," added Jyoti.

She was proud of the work her studio had put out this year, including *Laapata Ladies* — a movie by the very talented Kiran Rao, which is currently doing its Oscar run.

On the other hand, *Stree 2* is also a woman's story, "It's headlined by a woman actor, which went on to become the highest grossing film of the year. In fact, the highest grossing film of all time, beating all the Khans! So, I think it's very important to talk about movies like *Stree 2* because there is this preconceived notion that if you make a movie with a heroine, it won't do business."

However, she admitted that equal pay was still a distant dream. "But have we set out on a very positive journey? I think yes."

## Karan Aujla: Definitely open to the idea of having more of my songs featured in Hindi cinema



He has belted out several chartbuster hits but for Karan Aujla, who agrees that his song "Tauba Tauba" from the film *Bad Newz* took his music game a notch higher, says he is now open to the idea of having more of his tracks featured in Hindi cinema.

With "Tauba Tauba", picturised on Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal, being a complete game changer for Karan, will he be crooning more for Hindi cinema now?

"While I can't disclose specific titles or films just yet, I'm definitely open to the idea of having more of my songs featured in Hindi cinema. I'm currently in discussions and considering various projects that could align with my style and vision," Karan told agency.

Talking about how Bollywood amps up a song by an independent artist, the singer, who hails from the Ghurala vil-

lage in the Ludhiana district of Punjab, said: "Bollywood connections can significantly amplify an independent artist's reach and recognition. It can introduce the artist to a wider audience and boost their popularity."

He stressed that it's important for artists to maintain their unique identity and style.

"Such collaborations can be a great stepping stone for independent artists to reach new heights. But I believe it's essential for artists to maintain their unique identity and style," he added.

Known for tracks such as "Softly", "Antidote", "Gangsta", "Mexico" and "Admirin' You", most of Karan's Punjabi singles are a hit.

"Punjabi music is all about energy, passion and cultural richness. The sense of community and celebration around Punjabi music is a significant factor in its popularity," he said.

The 27-year-old heartthrob is all set to perform in several cities in India for his "It Was All A Dream World Tour" commencing on December 7. The singer revealed that he feels excited and nervous before going on stage.

"I think about the energy in the crowd and the connection I hope to create. I remind myself of the hard work and passion that went into preparing for the show. In those final moments before going on stage, I thank God and my parents for their guidance from above."

The "It Was All A Dream World Tour" is presented and produced by Team Innovation and supported by Live Nation.

## Ranbir Kapoor announces Raj Kapoor Film Festival at IFFI 2024

Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor announced that a film festival showcasing restored movies of his grandfather, veteran filmmaker Raj Kapoor, will be held across the country to celebrate his birth centenary in December. Ranbir was in conversation with filmmaker Rahul Rawail at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa to honour Raj Kapoor, ahead of his 100th birth anniversary on December 14.

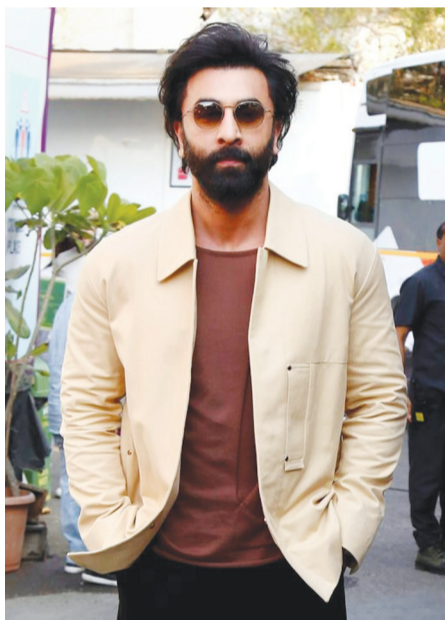
The National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), National Film Archives of India (NFAI), and Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) and his uncle Kunal Kapoor have started restoring 10 films of Raj Kapoor, the actor said.

"We are going to organise the Raj Kapoor Film Festival from December 13 to 15 all over India. We will show the restored version of his 10 films," Ranbir said to a jam-packed auditorium at the Kala Academy in Panaji.

"I hope you guys come as well. I remember the first time I met Alia, she asked me 'Who's Kishore Kumar?' It's just a circle of life, people are forgotten. It's important we remember our roots," he added.

The actor, who has often talked about his dream to make a biopic on his late grandfather, said he has discussed the potential project with his 'godfather' and filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

"I talk to a lot of people, including Sanjay Leela Bhansali, about how to make a biopic on Raj Kapoor. A biopic is not just something which highlights the success in a person's life, you truly have to portray someone's life honestly - the lows, struggles, relationship



dynamics.

"It's a very tough biopic to make. I don't know if my family would also agree for most of the things, to show this side of Raj Kapoor. But I think it would really make a great movie," he added.

Ranbir is also excited to reunite with Bhansali in "Love & War". The director gave him his first break as an actor in 2007's "Saawariya".

"I'm excited to work with Bhansali again. Even after 17 years, it still feels the same. I respect him so much, he hasn't changed at all. All he thinks about is his movies," he added.

The actor revealed that the first Raj Kapoor song he made his two-year-old daughter Raha listen to was "Kisi Ki Muskurahaton Pe Ho Nisaar" from 1959's "Anari".

## Actor Viraj Ghelani attributes his success to a combination of luck and hard work

Actor, stand-up comic and digital content creator Viraj Ghelani likes to keep his words simple, yet has the power to convey more than what is said. Viraj's tale of success began as the Guju boy of social media, garnering a following of over 1.2 million with his blend of comedy.

"I have never wanted to limit myself to a single form of entertainment. I've made it a goal to explore a new medium whenever possible. My aim is to challenge myself to explore every avenue of performing arts. I'm looking for roles that will push me and challenge my craft, rather than ones that confine me to a specific type. I want to avoid being stereotyped," he begins.

Following his rise as a social media sensation, Viraj got an opportunity to be a part of films like *Govinda Mera Naam* and the blockbuster *Jawaan*. He attributes his rise to a combination of hard work and luck. "I believe both play a role in success. How-



ever, relying solely on luck isn't the way to go, as it's beyond our control. Luck might give a push but it is hard work, dedication and consistency that will help one sustain the competition in any industry. While I let my stars do their part, I trust my efforts more," he says.

After a successful stand-up debut and films, Viraj made his first appearance at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in association with Warner Bros for the film *Furosia: A Mad Max Saga* in May 2024. "My career journey has been quite multi-dimensional so far and I aim to keep it

that way. I've explored various formats and am incredibly grateful for the love I've received along the way," he beams.

Following this, Viraj made a sensational regional debut with the Gujarati film *Jhamkudi*. The movie raked-in a record-breaking Rs 2.42 crore in the opening weekend, amassing over Rs 25 crore at the box-office and became the third highest-grossing Gujarati film ever!

He must have had his share of ups and downs amid all this? "What is life without ups and downs? I believe that both struggles and successes are integral to everyone's career. It's about the journey, not just the destination. So, I value each experience — whether it's a challenge or a triumph. I am also extremely grateful to have great family, friends and amazing fans, who stand by my side, no matter what, making every phase of my life beautiful," he says.

All set to take his stand-up act *That's So Viraj* international, with

shows in Dubai and Australia, Viraj is looking up to the future with much hope. What's so special about stand-up shows? "Stand-up acts provide artistes a unique platform to showcase their work in front of a live audience, leading to a more interactive experience. The immediate love and appreciation, after every performance, is incredibly motivating and inspires you to keep improving all the time," he shares.

Having put in the hard yards, any advice for the youngsters eyeing a career in the world of entertainment? "They should focus on honing their craft and improving themselves, as opportunities will eventually arrive. Complaining about the job's instability won't help in any way. I must have given at least 200 auditions before landing my first role. Competition has grown significantly, but thanks to social media everyone now has a platform to showcase their art," he says. Well, that sure is the case.

## Taylor Swift gets emotional as she receives minutes-long standing ovation at Toronto Eras Tour performance

It is an emotional moment for Taylor Swift as her Eras Tour coming to an end.

During her Toronto show, she received a minutes-long standing ovation after performing 'Champagne Problems' and this left her in tears on stage, reported People.

In a video shared by a fan social media, Swift can be heard telling her fans on stage, "Toronto, we're at the very end of this tour so you doing that, you have no idea how much it means to me and to my ... " "This tour ... I don't even know what I'm saying anymore. That was ... uh, I'm just having a bit of a moment so ..." Swift then paused, and wiped tears from her face as the audience clapped and cheered for her.

"It's not even the last show!" shared Swift, adding, "My band, my crew, all of my fellow performers, we have put so much of our lives into this. And you've put so much of your lives into being with us tonight and to giving us that moment that we will never forget." "We've loved our time in Toronto, it's been so amazing," Swift added.

"I love you guys. Thanks so much for that," she concluded.

"The 14-time Grammy winner performed an acoustic guitar mix of 'Sparks Fly' and 'Message in a Bottle,' followed by an acoustic piano mix of 'You're Losing Me' and 'How Did It End?'," according to People.

During her concert, Travis Kelce's father Ed was also spotted.

Earlier, during her performance at Toronto's Rogers Centre, she reflected on her six nominations for the 2025 Grammy Awards.

With one of the nominations being in the Album of the Year category for her work on 'The Tortured Poets Department' (TPD), an award she's won four times already, Swift became the first woman to receive seven nominations in that category.

"You guys did something so amazing over the course of the last few months," she told fans during her concert in a fan-captured video. "I just mean what you did with embracing The Tortured Poets Department, the album. It's truly blown



my mind because it's really emotional for me that this album, I wrote it during the Eras Tour." "I wrote that album,

made that album, all [while] trying to keep it a secret from you guys. And then [we] announced the album, and then we basically were, like, working really hard to secretly put together a new chapter in the Eras Tour of The Tortured Poets Department and we wanted to surprise you with it, and we did," she recalled.

After reflecting on the album's success on the charts, Swift shared, "And the most recent thing that you did, because everything that happens is a direct reflection of the passion that you show, is you guys got this album nominated for six Grammys," she said. "It's so unbelievable, so thank you," reported People.

Recently, the MTV Europe Music Awards took place in Manchester. Taylor Swift swept awards for Best Artist, Best US Act, and Best Live Act. She also won Best Video for "Fortnight" with Post Malone.

Swift will end the Eras Tour, which started in March 2023, with three final shows in Vancouver on December 6, 7 and 8, reported People.

## Bobby Deol wraps shooting for his next with Balakrishna



Bobby Deol has finished shooting for his next film featuring veteran actor Nandamuri Balakrishna. The teaser of the film *Daaku Maharaj* was recently released. The first look video of the film featured NBK, as he is popularly called, in a dacoit avatar, and hence the title, *Daaku Maharaj*.

"Witness the God of Masses like never before!! Presenting the one and only #NandamuriBalakrishna Garu as #DaakuMaharaj. Here's the much-awaited title teaser. Brace yourselves for the ultimate power-packed experience on Jan 12, 2025 in Cinemas Worldwide," the makers captioned the post. *Daaku Maharaj* will be out in theatres on January 12, 2025. Bobby Kolli directed the film. Meanwhile, Bobby recently came up with *Kanguva*.

## Those rejected by people trying to control Parliament: PM Modi

Addressing reporters ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, Modi said such handful of people did not succeed in their intentions.

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed the opposition, saying those who were rejected by people 80-90 times were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for their own political gains.

Addressing reporters ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, Modi said "They neither respect the spirit of democracy nor do they understand the importance of people's aspirations.

They have no responsibility towards them, they are unable to understand them and the result is that they never live up to the expectations of the people."

Speaking further, PM Modi said, "The voters of India are dedicated to democracy, their



dedication to the Constitution, their faith in the parliamentary working system, all of us sitting in the Parliament will have to live up to the sentiments of the people and this is the need of the hour."

"The only way to make up for it is that we should highlight various aspects of every subject in a very healthy manner

in the House, the coming generations will also get inspiration from it. I hope that this session will be very fruitful. I once again invite all the respected MPs to take this session forward with zeal and enthusiasm," the PM said.

Modi's remarks came days after the BJP-led coalition won the Maharashtra Assembly

elections by a landslide, bagging 235 seats and relegating the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi to a distant 49 seats in the 288-member House.

Noting that the Winter Session of Parliament is special for many reasons, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Parliament's winter session is special for many reasons, including the beginning of the 75th year of the Constitution's adoption. A handful of people rejected by the public are trying to control Parliament by creating disorder."

The Parliament session is beginning today (November 25, 2024) and will continue until December 20, subject to the government's agenda.

However, there will be no sittings on November 26 in observance of "Constitution Day".

## SC should take cognisance: Priyanka on Sambhal issue



NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): In the wake of violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday accused the Yogi Adityanath government of creating divisions while sitting in power and urged the Supreme Court to take cognisance of the matter and deliver justice.

Three people were killed and scores of others, including security and administration personnel, injured as protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque in Sambhal clashed with police on Sunday.

In a post in Hindi on X, Priyanka Gandhi said, "The attitude of the state government regarding the sudden dispute in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, is very unfortunate. The way the administration acted in haste in such a sensitive matter without listening to the other side, without taking both the parties into

confidence, shows that the government itself spoiled the atmosphere there."

The administration did not even consider it necessary to follow the necessary procedure and duty, the Congress general secretary said.

"Trying to spread discrimination, oppression and division while sitting in power is neither in the interest of the people nor in the interest of the country. The honourable Supreme Court should take cognisance of the matter and do justice," Priyanka Gandhi said.

"My appeal to the people of the state is to maintain peace in all circumstances," she asserted.

The district administration has imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders till November 30 following Sunday's violence.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Moradabad) Muni-raj told reporters on Monday that Naeem,

Bilal and Nauman — the three men who died in Sunday's violence — had been buried. All three were aged about 25.

Divisional Commissioner (Moradabad) Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said on Sunday, "Shots were fired by miscreants... the PRO of the superintendent of police suffered a gunshot to the leg, the circle officer was hit by pellets and 15 to 20 security personnel were injured in the violence."

A constable also suffered a serious head injury while the deputy collector fractured his leg, he had said.

Internet services were soon suspended in Sambhal tehsil for 24 hours and the district administration declared a holiday in all schools for Monday.

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the Adityanath administration was squarely responsible for killing innocents and only the BJP-RSS was guilty of "setting fire" to peace and harmony in Sambhal.

The opposition party had said the videos of direct firing on the protesters depicted the horrifying result of a "well-planned conspiracy" by Adityanath and the BJP-RSS.

## Man poisons twin daughters, kills himself after wife abandons them

BHADOHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): A man, distressed after his wife abandoned him, allegedly poisoned his 14-month-old twin daughters before ending his life in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh on Monday, police said.

The incident took place in the Ugapur area when Omprakash Yadav (27) allegedly mixed

poison in the milk that he fed his daughters, Aashi and Priyashi, Station House Officer (SHO) Ajit Kumar Srivastava said.

"Yadav had filed a missing person's report for his wife, Sangam Yadav, on November 21. She had left their home, leaving him alone to care for their daughters. This appears to have caused him severe mental distress," Srivastava said.

According to the SHO, Yadav first attempted to hang himself at home but later left the house around 7 am.

He was spotted 500 meters away near the Ganesh Chandra Laudar Inter College, but no one suspected anything, Srivastava added.

People who entered the college premises later discovered his body hanging from a tree

and informed his family, he said.

Upon visiting his home, they found the bodies of the twins, prompting them to alert the police, the officer said.

"Three bodies have been sent for a post-mortem and a forensic team has collected a sample of the milk for analysis. Further investigation is underway," Srivastava added.

## Himachal CM orders inquiry, assures strict action in harassment of Kashmiri Shawl sellers

HAMIRPUR, Nov 25 (Agencies): Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu has assured swift and decisive action against those involved in the communal harassment of two Kashmiri shawl sellers in Surjanpur Village, Hamirpur District.

The assurance followed an appeal from Nasir Khuehami, National Convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), who raised the issue with the CM's Principal Media Advisor, Naresh Chauhan.

The incident, captured in a viral video, shows the wife of a local Sarpanch intimidating the shawl sellers, coercing them to chant "Jai Shri Ram," and urging villagers to boycott their business based on their religion.

This act sparked outrage, with concerns about the potential impact on communal harmony in the state.

Khuehami condemned the behavior, emphasizing its harmful implications for social unity. "This behavior must not go unchecked. Social harmony and communal unity must be upheld at all costs," he said, urging immediate action to prevent similar incidents.

Responding to the appeal, Naresh Chauhan stated, "The Chief Minister will order an inquiry into the matter, and we will ensure strict action against those responsible. Incidents of harassment and intimidation of Kashmiris will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The safety of

Kashmiri students and laborers in Himachal Pradesh is our utmost priority."

Khuehami welcomed the assurance, highlighting the need for swift justice. "This is not just about justice for the victims; it is about preserving the social fabric of our country. Communal bigotry has no place in a progressive and inclusive society," he stated, urging the Himachal government to uphold its commitment to inclusivity.

The Himachal Pradesh government's decisive stance sends a strong message that communal harassment will not be tolerated, reaffirming its dedication to safeguarding social harmony and ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals in the state.

## RG Kar protests: SC orders SIT probe into custodial torture case, weekly reports before HC

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday ordered an SIT investigation into the alleged torture of a woman in police custody following her arrest over protests against the rape and murder of a doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Observing not everything could be transferred to the CBI, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan modified the Calcutta High Court order ordering a CBI probe and said senior IPS officers of the state need to be entrusted with the investigation.

The top court said the SIT, which will comprise officers, whose names were submitted by the state, shall submit its report on the progress of the investigation on weekly basis to the high



court.

The Calcutta High Court chief justice was directed to constitute a special bench before which the SIT would submit its report besides seeking further investigation.

On November 11, the top court stayed the October 8 order of the high court directing a CBI probe while asking the state government to submit a list of seven

court upheld a single-judge order directing a CBI probe into the allegations levelled by the woman.

The division bench said the order of the single judge to conduct an independent investigation could not be faulted and did not call for any interference.

Initially, two women petitioners, moved the single-judge bench alleging physical torture while in police custody. The court noted the report of a jail doctor who found signs of hematoma (a solid swelling of clotted blood within tissue) on the legs of one of them.

The complainants, Rebeka Khatun Molla and Rama Das, were arrested on September 7 and remained in the custody of Falta Police Station in the Diamond Harbour police district

till their judicial remand ordered by the Diamond Harbour court the next day, the high court noted.

The division bench further noted while the report of the medical officer of Diamond Harbour sub-correctional home states hematoma on both of Das' legs, the examining doctor of Diamond Harbour Medical College and Hospital recorded no external injury.

Considering the subsequent medical reports of the petitioner, the high court bench said it was of the prima facie view that the trauma occurred on her on September 7 in police custody.

It observed the discrepancies were serious and would warrant an independent agency to conduct the investigation.

## Beant Singh assassination convict Rajoana's mercy plea sensitive matter: Centre to SC

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that there was sensitivity involved in the matter related to the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.

A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai was hearing Rajoana's plea seeking directions to commute his death sentence to life term due to the "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition.

"There is a sensitivity involved. Some agencies will have to be consulted," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, who also appeared in the matter, said the issue was

being reviewed by the government.

He said since the issue was sensitive, some more inputs were required in the matter. The Bench said it would hear the plea after four weeks.

While hearing the petition on November 18, the apex court had put on hold its order asking President Droupadi Murmu's secretary to place before her the mercy petition of Rajoana for consideration.

After the order was passed in the morning on November 18, the solicitor general had urged the bench that it should not be given effect as there were "sensitivities" involved in the issue.

Mehta had told the top court that the file was with the home ministry and not the President.

On September 25, the top court sought responses from the Centre, the Punjab Govern-

ment and the administration of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on Rajoana's plea.

The then Punjab chief minister and 16 others were killed in a blast at the entrance of the civil secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. A special court sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007.

In his plea, Rajoana has sought the apex court's direction to the respondent authorities to commute his death sentence "due to inordinate delay" in its execution and in deciding the "mercy petition filed on his behalf".

The plea said consequential, a direction is issued for his release.

On May 3 last year, the apex court refused to commute his death sentence and said the competent authority could deal with his mercy plea.

In his fresh plea, Rajoana has said he has undergone a total sentence of about 28 years and eight months, of which 17 years have been served as a death row convict. He has said that in March 2012, a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution was preferred by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee seeking clemency on his behalf. The plea said over a year has elapsed since the top court had directed the competent authority, in due course of time, to deal with the mercy petition filed on his behalf and take further decision thereon.

It referred to an April last year order of the top court in a separate matter in which the court had directed all the states and appropriate authorities to decide the pending mercy petitions at the earliest and without any inordinate delay.

## Annual function celebrated in Government Excellent Senior Secondary School Gahlian

KANGRA, Nov 25 (Agencies): Annual prize distribution function was organized in Government Excellent Senior Secondary School Gahlian.

The chief guest of the function was SMC Pradhan Suman Devi. Along with this, the Pradhan, Deputy Pradhan, Panchayat representative and other dignitaries of the village of Gahlian Panchayat attended as guests and graced the program.

The function started with Saraswati Vandana. During this, Principal Gulshan Awasthi presented the annual report in front of all the guests and parents present.

He said that every possible effort is being made to provide education to the children studying in the school and from time to time participation in the field of sports and other activities is also ensured.

On this occasion, the school maga-

zine Smritika was also released. The stage was conducted by Navneet Walia and Veena Devi.

All the students were honoured with mementos and educational material as prizes, who were ranked first, second and third in the whole year's activities - annual examination results, sports field and all other programmes. The students performed on Pahari songs, patriotic songs, Punjabi-Haryanvi dance, Pahari Naati and the children of Primary School Gahlian also mesmerized the people present by presenting their presentations. Rajiv Dogra, Vikas Chaudhary, Bharti, Vinod Kumar, Ajay Koti, Pankaj Dhaloria, Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Shilpa, Rajni Shah, Radha Devi, Sonu Bala, Ranjana Devi, Manisha, Nimmo Devi, Meenakshi Devi, Hemlata, Sangeeta, Vikram and all the teachers contributed in making the programme a success.

## Trump 2.0 has Cabinet and executive branch of different positions and eclectic personalities

WASHINGTON, Nov 25 (Agencies): Donald Trump's personnel choices for his new Cabinet and White House reflect his signature positions on immigration and trade but also a range of viewpoints and backgrounds that raise questions about what ideological anchors might guide his Oval Office encore.

With a rapid assembly of his second administration — faster than his effort eight years ago — the former and incoming president has combined television personalities, former Democrats, a wrestling executive and traditional elected Republicans into a mix that makes clear his intentions to impose tariffs on imported goods and crack down on illegal immigration but leaves open a range of possibilities on other policy pursuits.

"The president has his two big priorities and doesn't feel as strongly about anything else — so it's going to be a real jump ball and zigzag," predicted Marc Short, chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence during Trump's 2017-21 term. "In the first administration, he surrounded himself with more conservative thinkers, and the results showed we were mostly rowing in the same direction. This is more eclectic."

Indeed, Secretary of State-designee Marco Rubio, the Florida senator who has pilloried authoritarian regimes around the world, is in line to serve as top diplomat to a president who praises autocratic leaders like Russia's Vladimir Putin and Hungary's Viktor Orban.

Republican Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer of Oregon has been tapped to sit at the Cabinet table as a pro-union labor secretary alongside multiple billionaires, former governors and others who oppose making it easier for workers to organise themselves.

The prospective treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, wants to cut deficits for a president who promised more tax cuts, better veterans services and no rollbacks of the largest federal outlays: Social Security, Medicare and national defense.

Abortion-rights supporter Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is Trump's choice to lead the Health and Human Services Department, which Trump's conservative Christian base has long targeted as an agency where the anti-abortion movement must wield more influence.

Former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich allowed that members of Trump's slate will not always



agree with the president and certainly not with one another. But he minimized the potential for irreconcilable differences: "A strong Cabinet, by definition, means you're going to have people with different opinions and different skills."

That kind of unpredictability is at the core of Trump's political identity. He is the erstwhile reality TV star who already upended Washington once and is returning to power with sweeping, sometimes contradictory promises that convinced voters, especially those in the working class, that he will do it all again.

"What Donald Trump has done is reorient political leadership and activism to a more entrepreneurial spirit," Gingrich said.

There's also plenty of room for conflict, given the breadth of Trump's 2024 campaign promises and his pattern of cycling through Cabinet members and national security personnel during his first term.

This time, Trump has pledged to impose tariffs on foreign goods, end illegal immigration and launch a mass deportation force, goose U.S. energy production and exact retribution on people who opposed — and prosecuted — him. He's added promises to cut taxes, raise wages, end wars in Israel and Ukraine, streamline government, protect Social Security and Medicare, help veterans and squelch cultural progressivism.

Trump alluded to some of those promises in recent weeks as he completed his proposed roster of federal department heads and named top White House staff members. But his announcements skimmed over any policy paradoxes or potential complications.

Bessent has crusaded as a deficit hawk, warning that the ballooning national debt, paired with higher interest rates, drives consumer inflation. But he also supports extending Trump's 2017 tax cuts that added to the overall debt and annual debt service payments to investors who buy Treasury notes.

A hedge-fund billionaire, Bessent built his wealth in world markets. Yet, gener-

ally speaking, he's endorsed Trump's tariffs. He rejects the idea that they feed inflation and instead frames tariffs as one-time price adjustments and leverage to achieve U.S. foreign policy and domestic economic aims.

Trump, for his part, declared that Bessent would "help me usher in a new Golden Age for the United States."

Chavez-DeRemer, Trump promised, "will achieve historic cooperation between Business and Labor that will restore the American Dream for Working Families."

Trump did not address the Oregon congresswoman's staunch support for the PRO-Act, a Democratic-backed measure that would make it easier for workers to unionize, among other provisions. That proposal passed the House when Democrats held a majority. But it's never had measurable Republican support in either chamber on Capitol Hill, and Trump has never made it part of his agenda.

When Trump named Kennedy as his pick for health secretary, he did not mention the former Democrat's support for abortion rights. Instead, Trump put the focus on Kennedy's intention to take on the U.S. agriculture, food processing and drug manufacturing sectors.

The vagaries of Trump's foreign policy stand out, as well. Trump's choice for national security adviser, Florida Rep. Mike Waltz, offered mixed messages Sunday when discussing the Russia-Ukraine war, which Trump claims never would have started had he been president, because he would have prevailed on Putin not to invade his neighboring country.

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Waltz repeated Trump's concerns over recent escalations, which include President Joe Biden approving sending antipersonnel mines to Ukrainian forces.

"We need to restore deterrence, restore peace and get ahead of this escalation ladder, rather than responding to it," Waltz said. But in the same interview, Waltz declared the mines necessary to help Ukraine "stop Russian

gains" and said he's working "hand in glove" with Biden's team during the transition.

Meanwhile, Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's pick for director of national intelligence, the top intelligence post in government, is an outspoken defender of Putin and Syrian President Bashar al Assad, a close ally of Russia and Iran.

Perhaps the biggest wildcards of Trump's governing constellation are budget-and-spending advisers Russell Vought, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. Vought led Trump's Office of Management and Budget in his first term and is in line for the same post again. Musk, the world's wealthiest man, and Ramaswamy, a mega-millionaire venture capitalist, are leading an outside advisory panel known as the "Department of Government Efficiency."

The latter effort is a quasi-official exercise to identify waste. It carries no statutory authority, but Trump can route Musk's and Ramaswamy's recommendations to official government pathways, including via Vought.

A leading author of Project 2025, the conservative movement's blueprint for a hard-right turn in U.S. government and society, Vought envisions OMB not just as an influential office to shape Trump's budget proposals for Congress but a power center of the executive branch, "powerful enough to override implementing agencies' bureaucracies."

As for how Trump might navigate differences across his administration, Gingrich pointed to Chavez-DeRemer.

"He might not agree with her on union issues, but he might not stop her from pushing it herself," Gingrich said of the PRO-Act. "And he will listen to anybody. If you convince him, he absolutely will spend presidential capital."

Short said other factors are more likely to influence Trump: personalities and, of course, loyalty.

Vought "brought him potential spending cuts" in the first administration, Short said, "that Trump wouldn't go along with." This time, Short continued, "maybe Elon and Vivek provide backup," giving Vought the imprimatur of two wealthy businessmen.

"He will always calculate who has been good to him," Short said. "You already see that: The unions got the labor secretary they wanted, and Putin and Assad got the DNI (intelligence chief) they wanted. ... This is not so much a team-of-rivals situation. I think it's going to look a lot like a reality TV show."

## UN chief slams 'landmine threat' days after US decision to supply Ukraine



(SIEM REAP, Nov 25 (Agencies): The UN Secretary-General on Monday slammed the "renewed threat" of anti-personnel landmines, days after the United States said it would supply the weapons to Ukrainian forces battling Russia's invasion.

In remarks sent to a conference in Cambodia to review progress on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, UN chief Antonio Guterres hailed the work of clearing and destroying landmines across the world.

"But the threat remains. This includes the renewed use of anti-personnel mines by some of the Parties to the Convention, as well as some Parties falling behind in their commitments to destroy these weapons," he said in the statement.

He called on the 164 signatories -- which

include Ukraine but not Russia or the United States -- to "meet their obligations and ensure compliance to the Convention".

Guterres' remarks were delivered by UN Under-Secretary General Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana.

Agency has contacted her office and a spokesman for Guterres to ask if the remarks were directed specifically at Ukraine.

The Ukrainian team at the conference did not respond to agency questions about the US landmine supplies.

Washington's announcement last week that it would send anti-personnel landmines to Kyiv was immediately criticised by human rights campaigners.

The outgoing US administration is aiming to give Ukraine an upper

hand before President-elect Donald Trump enters office.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the mines "very important" to halting Russian attacks.

The conference is being held in Cambodia, which was left one of the most heavily bombed and mined countries in the world after three decades of civil war from the 1960s.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet told the conference his country still needs to clear over 1,600 square kilometres (618 square miles) of contaminated land that is affecting the lives of more than one million people.

Around 20,000 people have been killed in Cambodia by landmines and unexploded ordnance since 1979, and twice as many have been injured.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) said on Wednesday that at least 5,757 people had been casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war across the world last year, 1,983 of whom were killed.

Civilians made up 84 percent of all recorded casualties, it said.

## Malaysian court orders return of luxury watches seized for being pro-LGBTQ

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 (Agencies): A Malaysian court ordered the government on Monday to return rainbow-coloured watches and accessories made by Swatch Group, opens new tab that were seized last year for designs celebrating LGBTQ rights, a prosecutor told agency.

Homosexuality is illegal in Muslim-majority Malaysia, and rights groups have warned of growing intolerance toward the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community in the Southeast Asian country.

In May 2023, Malaysia confiscated 172 rainbow-coloured watches from the Swiss watchmaker's 'Pride collection' from 16 outlets due to the presence of the acronym 'LGBTQ' on the timepieces. The government later prohibited any LGBTQ references on Swatch watches, boxes, wrappers, accessories or other items, saying such products may harm morality and public interest.

Swatch Group filed a lawsuit challenging the seizure, saying it was illegal and damaged its reputation.

On Monday, government prosecutor Mohammad Sallehuddin Md Ali said the Kuala Lumpur High Court had ruled the watches must be returned to Swatch Group within 14 days.

"No order (was given) as to costs," he said in a brief text message to agency.

A lawyer for Swatch Group declined to comment on the decision.

Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the government respected the court's decision and would wait for the full judgement to be released before deciding whether to challenge the verdict.

The watches are unlikely to be sold in Malaysia due to the government's prohibition order.

In July 2023, the government halted a music festival in Kuala Lumpur after the frontman of British pop rock band The 1975 kissed a male bandmate onstage.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who came into power two years ago on a progressive campaign, has said LGBTQ rights will not be recognised by his administration.

## Indian Americans in Silicon Valley hold solidarity rally for Hindus in Canada and Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Nov 25 (Agencies): Indian Americans in Silicon Valley held a solidarity rally for Hindus in Canada and Bangladesh over violence against them in these two countries.

Addressing a gathering of scores of Indian Americans at the Milpitas City Hall, prominent community leaders spoke out about the attacks on the Hindu minority urging US leaders to condemn the human rights violations and hold the Canadian and Bangladesh governments accountable to safeguard their Hindu minority populations.

The Bay Area is home to more than 200,000 Indian Americans. Participants at the rally expressed disappointment at the poor handling of the attack on Hindu devotees at the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton where Khalistanis attacked Hindu devotees, a media release said.

People in the rally were seen raising slogans "Stop khalistani terrorism, protect Canadian-Hin-



dus", "Stop Islamism terrorism, protect Bangladeshi-Hindus".

"We saw videos of the Khalistani terrorists invading the temple premises and beating up men, women and children. It was horrible to see Hindus who had gone to celebrate the Diwali festival being hounded by those goons," the release said.

"To make matters worse we saw that the police were already infiltrated with Khalistan supporters and were beating up Hindu devotees. Freedom of violence is being dressed up as freedom of expression in Canada.

We have lost all faith in the

Trudeau government in protecting the basic human rights of Canadian-Hindus," it said.

Dr Ramesh Japra from Americans for Hindus called out the attacks by Khalistanis on Hindus in Canada and by radical groups in Bangladesh.

"We are one world, one family, one future," he said.

Pushpita Prasad from the Coalition of Hindus in North America (CoHNA) raised concerns about her team in Canada being targeted and profiled by Sikhs for Justice which is a banned organisation in India but operates freely in the US and Canada.

## An average of 140 women and girls were killed by partner or relative per day in 2023, UN says

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 25 (Agencies): The deadliest place for women is at home and 140 women and girls on average were killed by an intimate partner or family member per day last year, two UN agencies reported Monday.

Globally, an intimate partner or family member was responsible for the deaths of approximately 51,100 women and girls during 2023, an increase from an estimated 48,800 victims in 2022, UN Women and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime said.

The report released on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women said the increase was largely the result of more data being avail-

able from countries and not more killings.

But the two agencies stressed that "Women and girls everywhere continue to be affected by this extreme form of gender-based violence and no region is excluded." And they said, "the home is the most dangerous place for women and girls."

The highest number of intimate partner and family killings was in Africa -- with an estimated 21,700 victims in 2023, the report said. Africa also had the highest number of victims relative to the size of its population -- 2.9 victims per 100,000 people.

There were also high rates last year in the Americas with 1.6 female victims per

100,000 and in Oceania with 1.5 per 100,000, it said. Rates were significantly lower in Asia at 0.8 victims per 100,000 and Europe at 0.6 per 100,000.

According to the report, the intentional killing of women in the private sphere in Europe and the Americas is largely by intimate partners.

By contrast, the vast majority of male homicides take place outside homes and families, it said.

"Even though men and boys account for the vast majority of homicide victims, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by lethal violence in the private sphere," the report said.

"An estimated 80% of all homicide victims in 2023 were men while 20% were women, but lethal violence within the family takes a much higher toll on women than men, with almost 60% of all women who were intentionally killed in 2023 being victims of intimate partner/family member homicide," it said.

The report said that despite efforts to prevent the killing of women and girls by countries, their killings "remain at alarmingly high levels."

"They are often the culmination of repeated episodes of gender-based violence, which means they are preventable through timely and effective interventions," the two agencies said.



# Sat should hold Kashmiri BJP Leaders accountable for electoral losses: Chandel

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Hindustani BJP senior leader Guruji Raju Chandel has called on BJP J&K State President Sat Sharma to identify and address the reasons behind the party's failure to secure any assembly seats in the Kashmir Valley during the recent elections. Chandel emphasized the need for accountability among BJP leaders working in the Valley, asserting that without addressing these issues, the BJP's dream of forming a government in J&K would remain unattainable.

Chandel highlighted the stark contrast between the BJP's historic electoral success in Jammu and its poor performance in Kashmir. He suggested a thorough review of the leadership in the Valley and proposed a strategy to replace ineffective senior leaders with young, patriotic faces. Chandel urged Sat Sharma to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowering youth by inducting fresh, dynamic leaders into key organizational roles. He recommended an IB inquiry to vet new candidates, ensuring their credibility before appointing them as district presidents



and state-level officials. He also proposed recognizing senior party loyalists like Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Sofi Yusuf of Kupwara, Dr. Ali Badgaon of Anantnag, P. N. Pandit,

and Abdul Rehman Kupwara. According to Chandel, these individuals have worked tirelessly for the BJP's cause and deserve prominent positions within the organization. Chandel criticized certain leaders in the Valley who, he alleged, prioritize personal benefits over party responsibilities. "These boastful leaders, who exploit government security and accommodations while neglecting party duties, have caused immense damage to the BJP's prospects in Kashmir," Chandel stated. He demanded that such individuals be stripped

of their privileges and government accommodations to alleviate the financial burden on the government and ensure party discipline. Chandel concluded by reiterating his call for organizational reforms in the BJP's Kashmir leadership. He urged Sat Sharma to take decisive action by bringing in new, committed faces who embody the party's vision and values. "Only through decisive change and the infusion of young talent can the BJP realize its mission of a strong presence in Kashmir and a unified J&K under Modi Ji's leadership."

# JKNC deputation meets SSP Kishtwar



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 25: A deputation from Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), led by Ajeet Bhagat, Senior Leader and Spokesperson for the Chenab Valley Zone, met with Javed Iqbal, the newly appointed Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kishtwar district. The meeting took place to welcome the SSP and discuss various issues, particularly concerning the youth of Kishtwar. Ajeet Bhagat and other members of the JKNC expressed their appreciation and extended a warm welcome to SSP Javed Iqbal, wishing

him success in his new role and for his upcoming achievements in the district. The meeting focused on key issues in Kishtwar, with special attention to the welfare of youth in the area. The delegation acknowledged the positive role played by the Kishtwar police in maintaining communal harmony, law and order, anti-drug initiatives, and improving police-public relations. Ajeet Bhagat commended the efforts of Kishtwar Police, noting their success in fostering communal harmony and addressing societal issues. He expressed confidence that the good

work would continue under the new leadership of SSP Javed Iqbal. SSP expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and emphasized his commitment to maintaining a positive relationship between the police and the public. He assured that the Kishtwar police would continue to work towards eliminating issues affecting the district and ensure a safe and harmonious environment for all. Prakash Singh, Youth National Conference Leader, Drabshala, Sachin Kumar, Sonu Kumar, Santokh Singh, Suresh Singh, Reven Kumar, Anmol Kumar, and others were present.

# DFSS raises concerns on manhandling of Yatries by fringe element



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: The number of yatries visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Katra has seen a remarkable increase, rising from 80 lakhs to an impressive 1.30 crores. This surge in the number of pilgrims highlights the urgent need for enhanced infrastructure to accommodate the growing demand and ensure a smooth pilgrimage experience. As the yatra grows, the need for services like Ponywala and Palkiwala has also surged. The shrine's management must plan for long-term growth, with a vision that looks ahead 30 years to meet the needs of an ever-increasing number of devotees. In addition to the increasing number of pilgrims, initiatives like the Gondola from Katra to Bhawan for the handicapped are being welcomed as great steps to ensure accessibility and ease for those with physical challenges. The development of the shrine will continue, and as part of this, there

are plans to start a flight service from Jammu to Mata Vaishno Devi in the coming days, providing easier access to the shrine. However, as pointed out by the party president, such developments cannot happen without the permission of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, as her blessings guide the growth of the shrine. Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DFSS) president Ashok Gupta also raised concerns regarding an incident where a group of Yatries from Gujarat were reportedly manhandled by fringe elements, which has led to negative publicity for the shrine. He emphasized that such actions should be thoroughly investigated, and the perpetrators should face appropriate punishment. Manhandling of yatries is particularly troubling, as it tarnishes the reputation of the shrine, which should always be a place of peace and devotion. Currently, 3,000 to 4,000 yatries travel to the shrine via helicopter daily, and with the upcoming Gondola ser-

vice expected to accommodate 7,000-8,000 people per day, the number of pilgrims visiting the shrine is only set to rise. The total daily yatra figures currently range between 45,000 to 50,000, with helicopter travelers making up just 8% of that total. Given the rise in the number of pilgrims, the development of infrastructure, services, and management systems will be essential to accommodate future growth. Gupta concluded by highlighting that no other shrine in the region faces the challenges of bandhs, strikes, and manhandling of Yatries like the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. Such actions are condemnable, and efforts to tarnish the shrine's reputation must be thwarted. At the rally, party members such as Abhishek, Bantu, Kalu, Prem, Vinay, Bikas, Vikky, Charan, Aman, Avineet, Kulwant, and Anmol were present to show their support for the shrine's development and to condemn such negative actions against the yatries.

# Director Agriculture visits SSTL to launch first Seed Samples Trials for Rabi Season

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, on Monday visited the State Seed Testing Laboratory (SSTL) to initiate the first seed sample trials for the Rabi 2024-25 season. The trials are being conducted in the Grow-out field adjoining the laboratory and involve a variety of crops, including Wheat HD3226, Gram GNG217, Pea AS10, Oats Kent, Barley Kalash, Knol Khol King of Market, Radish Mino Early, Berseem Muscavi, and Turnip Purple Top, among others. The primary objective of these grow-out tests is to enhance seed quality assurance and ensure genetic purity by allowing precise cross-analysis of seed samples in real field conditions. These trials will help verify the results of laboratory tests

by observing seed performance under natural environmental factors, paired with the seed testing laboratory. Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Arvinder Singh Reen stated that these grow-out tests would provide real-world performance data, simulating the diverse environmental challenges that seeds face in the field. This comprehensive approach will help ensure seed quality assurance, ultimately benefiting the farming community by providing access to the best quality seeds and improving overall agricultural production. Director Agriculture was accompanied by Sectoral Heads, Seed Analyst Gopal Krishna, SSA Sohnik Rani, JAEOPunamjit Kour, AEA Sanjay Razdan, and the staff of the State Seed Testing Laboratory (SSTL).

# Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra Celebrates 76th NCC Day



### Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Nov 25: PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra Bhadarwah celebrated on Sunday in collaboration with 10th J&K Battalion NCC Bhadarwah. The program was to demonstrate the National Cadet Corps' commitment to patriotism, discipline and community service. A release in this regard stated that the program commenced with the ceremonial hoisting of the NCC flag and the National Anthem that was followed by an energetic march-past by the cadets. "The vibrant event featured cultural performances, stirring patriotic songs and motivational speeches that reflected the NCC's guiding motto,

Unity and Discipline," release said. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul, Associate NCC Officer and Zonal Cultural & Counseling Incharge spoke on the occasion emphasizing the NCC's pivotal role in developing responsible, community-minded leaders. Dr. Nitin Singh Kotwal also addressed the gathering. In his speech, he lauding the cadets' enthusiasm and their dedication to national service. Prominent participants including Vijay Kumar, Neeraj Kotwal, Rahul Sharma and Puran Singh graced the occasion. "Beyond the ceremonial highlights, the celebration included a cleanliness campaign and a tree-watering drive underscoring the NCC's focus on

environmental conservation," release further said and added. "Initiatives such as One Cadet One Tree, Trees for Mothers, Aik Ped Maa Ke Naam and Aik Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam were spotlighted showcasing the NCC's integration of ecological responsibility into its activities." The event concluded on a high note with the distribution of certificates and an uplifting rendition of the NCC song, under the guidance of Dr. Koul and the Supervision of Principal Pardeep Singh Billawria. "The day's events left an enduring impact inspiring participants to embody the NCC's core values of discipline, unity and service in their everyday lives," it informed.

# Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar & Bakkarwals at Batsiyala

### Top News Report

REASI, Nov 25: The Indian Army recently organized a medical patrol at Batsiyala village in Reasi aiming to provide essential healthcare services to underserved communities. The patrol witnessed a significant turnout, with 55 villagers from Batsiyala and surrounding areas seeking consultations and treatment. Local Residents were offered comprehensive check-ups, distributed free medicines and provided guidance on preventive health measures. The initiative was well-received, with beneficiaries expressing gratitude for the Indian Army's support in ensuring access to healthcare. This effort reflects the Indian Army's commitment to community welfare and enhancing local residents well-being.

ful that the project, proposed to be completed in two years, would render them jobless. During Monday's protest, tension escalated when a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) vehicle attempted to pass through the town while the protesters were holding the dharna. Some protesters turned violent, hitting the vehicle and breaking its windshield, the officials said. The vehicle was moved back with police intervention, prompting clashes during which some protesters threw bricks at the cops, they added. Senior Superintendent of Police (Reasi) Paramvir Singh said, "The law and order situation has become challenging and we are trying to handle it. Officers are in talks with the protesters to resolve the issue." The protesters are demanding that the project be shut down or compensation for all those likely to be affected.

# Lok Sabha adjourned till Nov 27 after opposition uproar

Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to launch yearlong celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly. **IPL 2025 | Kulgam boy Rasikh Salam goes to RCB at Rs 6 Crore, Abdul Samad to LSG at 4.2 Crore**

Rs 30 lakh. Rasikh Salam Dar, who hails from Bhan Ashmuji area of Kulgam, will be part of IPL for the fourth time. Abdul Samad, a batting all rounder from Jammu, who was retained by Sunrisers Hyderabad for three consecutive years, has been purchased by Lucknow Super Giants at Rs 4.2 crore. Fate of other 12 player from J&K will decided today. They include Atif Mush-taq (bowler), Avinash Singh (bowler), Nasir Lone (all-rounder), Mujtaba Yousuf (bowler), Abid Mushtaq (all-rounder), Vivrant Sharma (all-rounder), Shubham Khajuria (batsman), MUSAIF AJAZ, Kunal Chibb (bowler), Yudhveer Singh (all-rounder) and Aquib Nabi (all-rounder).

# Amid Parliament's winter session, JKPC chief demands statehood from Centre

words," Karra said. He said, the central government's promises were only rhetoric. Gathered along with his party members, Karra said they had gathered in Srinagar to remind those in Delhi about the promises they made on the floor of the parliament. "Today, the winter session of parliament commences, and I want to remind PM Modi and HM Amit Shah of their promises," he said. Karra said, the country's apex court had also directed the Centre to restore the J-K's statehood, and New Delhi should respect the SC's decision.

# Protesters clash with Police during Anti-rope-way agitation in Katra

who had initially called a 72-hour strike, extended it by 24 hours late on Sunday. The strike called by shopkeepers and pony and palanquin owners began on November 22 after the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board announced plans to proceed with the Rs 250-crore ropeway project between Tarakote Marg and Sanji Chhat along the 12-kilometre route. The shopkeepers and labourers are fear-

# FROM PAGE 1

# 3 men die after Google Maps leads them to unfinished bridge in UP

them to the unfinished flyover. The car travelled on the bridge and fell into the Ramganga, a shallow river, from a height of 50 feet. On Sunday morning, their damaged car was spotted by locals with three men dead inside. Consequently, the locals informed the police who arrived at the spot and took the bodies for a post-mortem examination. "At 9:30 am today, a damaged car was

found on the river Ramganga. Police were informed and arrived at the spot. When the police arrived, they saw a Wagon R, which was possibly hired as a taxi, on the river. The car went to the incomplete bridge and fell into a river from there," police said. "The bodies were found and taken for post-mortem. The identities of two people, Amit and Vivek, were confirmed. More details on the identity of the third one are being worked on," police added. The family members of the victims blamed the concerned officials for the incident and questioned why the bridge was unfinished, and no barricades were installed at one end of the structure. They said that an FIR should be lodged against the construction department for alleged negligence.

# After Snowfall, Cold intensifies as temperature plummeting in Kashmir

on Monday against the minus 1.5°C the previous night. It was 0.5°C below normal for the valley of meadows in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Pahalam had a low of minus 2.3°C against the minus 1.7°C recorded the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the tourist destination of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday. The minimum temperature at Srinagar dropped and recorded at 4.0°C on Monday

against the 4.8°C a day ago and it was 3.9°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

With overcast sky in Srinagar and its adjoining areas, experiencing cold weather conditions even as the maximum temperature also witnessed marginal drop recorded at 13.7°C on Sunday which was 0.2°C below normal for the place. The maximum temperature also dropped in other stations of the Kashmir valley on the previous day by 0 to 6°C. Qazigund recorded a low of 5.0°C, Kupwara 1.2°C and the picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded at 2.8°C on Monday, the MeT office said. The weather is likely to remain generally dry till November 30 evening, the MeT Office said adding on December 1 another Western Disturbance (WD) is likely to hit and can cause light rain and light snow over the higher reaches and at the scattered to fairly widespread places. Thereafter the weather will generally remain dry till December 5, they said.

# Court reserves order on Er Rashid's case

would continue in the present court or shall be transferred to the MP or MLA court. Rashid was arrested in a case alleging his involvement in terror-funding. Rashid was released during the J-K assembly elections, where he saw his bail period being extended. However, Rashid saw himself walking to Delhi's Tihar jail back after his bail ended on October 28 this year.

## Lieutenant Governor reviews progress of Tawi Riverfront project

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday conducted the on-site inspection and reviewed the progress of Tawi Riverfront project.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officers and implementing agencies to accelerate the pace of work for completion of the prestigious project in a time-bound manner.

Interacting with the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said: "The work on the first phase of this flagship project under Jammu



Smart City is expected to be completed by the month of January, 2025. Tawi Riverfront project will expand the tourism

potential of Jammu. Many other projects and initiatives like Jambu Zoo, Light & Sound Show, Temple of Tirum-

ala Tirupati Devasthanams etc have already been completed to further increase the tourism potential of Jammu Division.

Around 5000-6000 people are visiting Suchetgarh and Tirumala Tirupati Temple every day. The number is increasing during weekend. Efforts are being made to create more such destinations in Jammu city and Jammu region with the assistance of the Government of India. I congratulate Jammu Smart City, it was a difficult project, I hope that the people of Jammu will enjoy the

Tawi Riverfront," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary; Jal Shakti Department; Dr Manddeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Manddeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department.

Yudhvir Sethi, Member of Legislative Assembly; Devansh Yadav, CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited and senior officials were also present.

## LG meets J&K Senior Men's Football Team for Santosh Trophy at Raj Bhawan



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday met the J&K Senior Men's Football Team participating in the ongoing 78th Senior National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy-2024, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the players and the coaching staff for their remarkable performances during the

group stage and extended his best wishes for the future matches.

He also commended the J&K Sports Council for organizing rigorous training camps and providing requisite facilities, technical guidance and support to the team for its Santosh Trophy campaign.

J&K Senior Men's Football Team competed in Group-A alongside Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh,

and Punjab and delivered commanding performances while remaining unbeaten in the group stage. The team has qualified for the final round and will now compete in Telangana from December 14, 2024.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Satpal Singh, Chief Coach, senior officials of J&K Sports Council and coaching staff of the team were also present.

## Sakeena Ito reviews preparations for Rashtriya Sarvekshan-2024

Directs Deputy Commissioners to ensure smooth, seamless conduct of this assessment across J&K

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 25: In order to review the preparations for smooth conduct of Rashtriya Sarvekshan-2024 (formerly National Achievement Survey), Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito on Monday chaired a meeting at Conference Hall of Directorate of School Education here.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Kashmir, Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Mir; Director SCERT J&K, Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas; senior officers of School Education Department and other concerned officers from various line departments. The Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed deliberations for ensuring smooth and fair conduct of Rashtriya Sarvekshan-2024 scheduled to be held on 4th December,



2024.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Sakeena Ito underlined the role of Rashtriya Sarvekshan in evaluating the performance and effectiveness of School Education at the system level and to provide an evaluation on students learning outcomes, offering valuable data to inform policy decisions and educational reforms.

She highlighted the significance of leveraging available resources optimally to ensure the success of this large-scale National assessment. She added that this assessment will serve as a critical tool for identifying gaps in education and guiding targeted improve-

ments.

The Minister underscored the critical nature of survey in assessing student competencies at key educational stages. She emphasized on the importance of coordinated efforts and meticulous planning to ensure seamless execution of the survey across J&K.

Sakeena Ito called upon all stakeholders, including Deputy Commissioners and the Education Department to work collaboratively in order to ensure the success and seamless conduct of Rashtriya Sarvekshan-2024. She also directed both Directors to launch awareness campaigns in their respective divisions to highlight the

survey's importance and garner community support.

She emphasized that the data collected from this large-scale survey will guide evidence-based policymaking to uplift the educational standards across Jammu and Kashmir. She also emphasized on the need for robust training and preparedness at the District level to ensure the survey's objectives are met effectively and ranking of J&K is improved at the national level.

The Minister also stressed on deployment of credible staff for conduct of this National Level assessment.

While reviewing the establishment of Resource Custody Centers in District headquarters, the Minister asked all the Deputy Commissioners to oversee the setup of these centers, ensuring the implementation of robust security measures, including round-the-clock CCTV surveillance. She also tasked the security agen-

cies to provide adequate security at these centers in order to maintain the integrity and transparency of the survey process.

Sakeena Ito also stressed on the importance of timely lifting, dispatch and delivery of survey materials to the designated centres. She urged the Education department, District Administrations and security agencies to work collaboratively and maintain real-time communication to address any unforeseen challenges in wake of ensuing weather conditions.

Pertinently, Rashtriya Sarvekshan-2024 is undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, to provide structured feedback on student learning levels at district, state and national levels. These inputs are used for policy planning and designing pedagogical interventions to improve quality and ensure equity in learning.

## Industries & Commerce Department Jammu hosts 5th Investor Meet



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: To further ease out the processes and to address the issues being faced by the investors of registered units, an interactive session was organised on Monday by Directorate of Industries and Commerce Department Jammu here in the Convention Centre.

It was the 5th investors meet in Jammu held to improve the Ease of Doing Business. The investors' meet was chaired by Dr. Arun Manhas, Director I&C Jammu and attended by the promoters of Industrial Establishments. The purpose of the meet was to look into the issues faced by the promoters who have been allotted lands and are in the various phases of project implementation in the different Industrial estates and in the private lands. The target was to strengthen ties between the Department of Industries and Commerce and the investor community.

At the outset, the Director I&C informed that this meet is in series of meets held to improve the Ease of doing Business and the target is to hand hold the investor and sort out the issues which they may be facing particularly inter departmental issues.

Dr Arun Manhas appreciated and thanked the investor community for making the Industrial scenario more vibrant and bringing more investment in J&K. He further highlighted that in Jammu Division the Rs 28400 crore of financial packages

under New Central Sector Scheme stands committed and thanked the investor community for showing enthusiasm and for bringing their projects in the UT of J&K.

During the meeting, Director Industries Jammu emphasized that the Government is committed to creating a favourable business environment that attracts both local and national investors. The discussions also focused on key sectors and industries that hold significant potential for economic development and job creation and the issues faced by the promoters while grounding the investment.

The attention was drawn to the policy framework for the interdepartmental coordination viz Jammu and Kashmir Single window (Industrial Investment and Business Facilitation) Act, 2018 which intends to provide the one stop solution to the issues faced by the promoters of the Industrial Establishments. Director I&C, Jammu emphasised that ease of doing business stands improved and the Department of Industries and Commerce is just a call away.

The discussions were centred on topics such as IDS-2017 pending cases, investment incentives, regulatory reforms, infrastructure and land development, and the promotion of research and development initiatives. The investors expressed their confidence in the Government's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment, which bolsters their

confidence in considering strategic investments. The investor community in one voice sought the extension of the registration date and enhancement of the Central package under the New Central sector Scheme. They demanded the enhancement of the budgetary outlay for the scheme.

Certain queries about the interpretation of the New Central sector Scheme 2021 were delivered by the team of the officials of Industries and Commerce Department on the spot.

Director Industries, Jammu assured the investors that their feedback and suggestions would be taken into serious consideration, aiming to address any barriers and enhance the ease of doing business. The ongoing efforts of the government aim to streamline processes, provide service delivery through the Single Window system, and foster a culture for skilled workforce.

Joint Directors (M&P) and Development Sonali Arun Gupta, Ashok Choudhary, Deputy Director Planning, Manisha Gupta, Chief Account Officer, Anudeep Kaur along with General Managers of Jammu, Kathua, Samba and other officers of the Industries and Commerce department participated in the meet. Pankaj Sasan, AD conducted proceedings of the session.

The industrialists and the investors appreciated the efforts made by the department of Industries and Commerce.

## Amrut-2.0: DC Kathua reviews progress of Water Supply Schemes in Lakhanpur, Parole MCs



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 25: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas on Monday chaired a meeting to review pace of progress on the ongoing Water Supply Schemes (WSS) under AMRUT 2.0 in twin Municipal areas of Lakhanpur and Parole.

XEN PHE Kathua Girdhari Lal Gupta, EO MC Lakhanpur and Parole Prithvi Raj Sangra, AEE PHE, Contractors and other concerned were also

present.

The DC was informed that the under AMRUT 2.0, One tubewell and Two Over Head Tanks (50,000 Gallon Capacity) will be constructed including replacement of old with new pipes. The Rs 3.96 Cr worth Water Supply Scheme once completed will provide Water Supply to seven municipal wards of Lakhanpur benefiting 4300 souls.

Similarly in MC Parole, Two Tubewells and Three Over Head Tanks (50,000

Gallon Capacity) will be constructed. The Water Supply Schemes worth Rs 10.98 Cr will cater drinking water needs of the population of over 13000 residents spread across 13 wards.

As informed by XEN PHE, setting up of new machinery and electric sub stations for commissioning these water supply schemes is also provisioned under the project.

The DC called upon the executing agency to strictly adhere to all the guidelines of the schemes, further emphasized quality and timely completion of works to ensure improved drinking water facilities to the people in the specified quality and quantity, envisaged under the scheme.

## Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 to take place on Nov 27

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 is scheduled to take place on 27th November 2024 at the Conference Hall, DC Office, Samba. This program, organized by the EPFO Jammu, will begin at 10:30 AM and aims to provide awareness and outreach to both workers and employers in the Samba district.

The P.F. Commissioner, Rizwan Uddin, RPFC-I, RO Jammu, will personally hear grievances related to social security issues, offering handholding support to those in need.

The program will focus on sensitizing the attendees about important EPFO provisions such as UAN Activation, the process of filing grievances through various platforms like EPFIGMS and CPGRAMS, as well as educating them on digital services and fraud prevention.

The objective is to ensure that stakeholders are informed about their rights, social security benefits, and how to effectively engage with EPFO's digital tools. Key themes will include Employee Pension Schemes, Online Claim Filing, and the Principal Employer Dashboard, among others.

The District Nodal Officers, Devinder Singh EO/AO and Harshit Pathak EO/AO, will address the gathering and provide guidance on various EPFO services.

The program also emphasizes the importance of social security benefits, urging employers to provide these benefits to all eligible employees from the first day of their employment. Additionally, handholding sessions will be conducted to guide employers about the PF provisions and modalities.

An important feature of the event will be the setup of a special Pension Help Desk to address any pension-related issues and grievances. This will allow attendees to have their pension queries\*\* resolved on the spot.

The UAN Activation process will be a key part of the program, with participants being guided through the straightforward steps to activate their UAN using Aadhaar-based OTP. Those attending will also be assisted with Aadhaar and Bank seeding, e-Nominations, and the filing of ECR (Electronic Challan cum Return)\*\*.

The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 initiative aims to enhance participation, raise awareness, address grievances, and promote information exchange between EPFO and its stakeholders. The program is designed to be an important platform for all those involved in the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regions to interact directly with EPFO officials and resolve any issues they might face concerning their social security rights.

For the Samba District, the event is scheduled on 27th November 2024, 10:30 AM onwards at Conference Hall, DC Office, Samba.

This event is part of a broader outreach to improve social security through programs such as the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, and the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes, 1976, which have been available to employees in the region since November 2019. EPFO Jammu welcomes any valuable suggestions during the program to further enhance its services.

## Valedictory function of 7-day NSS Camp held

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: The 7-day NSS camp organized by KC College of Education concluded with a poignant valedictory function at Old Age Home, Amphalla.

The event was a testament to the camp's theme of communal harmony and community services. The valedictory function began with a vibrant cultural program, anchored by NSS volunteer Vanshika and Komal. The program featured a series of performances, including songs, dances, and skits, promoting Communal Harmony and National Integration. NSS volunteer Ms. Akar-

shani delivered a warm welcome address, highlighting the camp's objectives and achievements. She emphasized the significance of communal harmony and community service in building a stronger, more compassionate society.

NSS Program Officer Priya Gupta expressed heartfelt gratitude to the participants, organizers, and the management of old age home for their support and cooperation. She acknowledged the efforts of the NSS volunteers in making the camp a success.

Dr Sanjay Tickoo, Principal KC College of Education appreciated the efforts of the NSS vol-

unteers, organizers, and participants.

"I am proud of the way our NSS volunteers have come together to make a positive impact in the community. Your selfless service and community engagement will not only benefit the community but also enrich your own lives.

"The 7-day NSS camp included various activities promoting communal harmony and community service, such as organizing an awareness rally, conducting a Nukkad Natak on global rights, hosting a guest lecture on My Bharat Portal, and visiting the Old Age Home and engaging in community services.

## Canteen services inaugurated at GDC Marh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Newly constructed canteen at GDC Marh was thrown open for the students and faculty member by College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The entire teaching and non-teaching staff of the college, students, college alumni, staff from Middle School Dhateryal and staff members of Zonal Education Office Marh participated in the inaugural ceremony.

Principal of the college delivered the introductory remarks wherein he informed the gathering regarding the long pending demand of the students for canteen facility. He thanked the Higher Education Department

for providing the required Funds.

The event commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting ceremony and mantra chanting led by the Principal and Kewal. In his address, Principal lauded the tireless efforts of the canteen committee comprising Prof. Intiaz Shahid, Prof. Madhvi Parasher, Dr. Ram Dayal, Prof. Surbhi Gupta and Mohd. Yaqoob.

He also highlighted the importance of this facility as a new addition to the student amenities offered in the college viz-a-viz NAAC preparedness.

The canteen was officially named "Duggar Rasoi" to reflect the cultural heritage of the region.

He wished that the can-

teen shall resort to food safety standards, hygiene and cleanliness in and around the premises as per guidelines required for running such food establishments.

The canteen has been equipped with separate kitched, CCTV, Cafeteria Tables and Chairs, WiFi, LED, separate borewell water facility, newspaper and magazine stand. The assurance is a testament to the college's commitment to provide safe and healthy experience.

The event concluded with a group photograph featuring the Principal, faculty members, IQAC and the canteen committee, outside the canteen symbolizing the collaborative effort behind the initiative.

## Selfless Jasprit Bumrah happy to step aside after 'captain' Rohit Sharma returns

**AUS vs IND: Jasprit Bumrah welcomed back 'captain' Rohit Sharma to the Indian setup after India's massive win by 295 runs at the Perth Stadium. Rohit had his first training session on Monday before the Adelaide Test.**

PERTH, Nov 25 (Agencies): Jasprit Bumrah became the first overseas captain to win a Test at the Optus Stadium in Perth after India beat Australia by 295 runs in the series opener. He is also one of the two Asian captains along with Anil Kumble to win a Test in Perth, also including the W.A.C.A. On the back of his impressive captaincy and bowling, India took a 1-0 lead in the series.

But despite the historic feat, Bumrah is happy to step aside and pass the baton to Rohit Sharma, who recently joined the Indian squad. The speedster was over the moon after tasting victory as Indian captain for the first time, but also respected 'captain' Rohit



taking over from the second Test onwards.

"Rohit Sharma is the captain of our side, I was just filling in. I am going to help in whatever capacity I can," Bumrah said in the post-match

press conference.

"When you get out on a low score, sometimes bowlers get desperate. The message was clear to stick to the plans. Very happy to get my first Test win as captain.

Even when I am not captain, I look to contribute as much as possible.

On Monday, November 25, Rohit had his first training session as he geared up for the upcoming Test, starting

December 6 at the Adelaide Oval. With Rohit's return, India's opening pair for the next Test remains to be seen.

Jasprit Bumrah raising the bar

From a personal viewpoint, Bumrah had a memorable outing after he picked up eight wickets to win the Player of the Match award. The speedster also took a five-wicket haul and helped India take a lead of 46 runs in the first innings after initially getting bowled out for 150 in their first innings.

Bumrah also took three wickets in the second innings, including the one of Travis Head, who scored 89 runs. He is also closing on becoming India's leading wicket-taker in Tests on Australian soil.

## IPL 2025 mega auction Day 2: Rules, accelerated phase, purse balance - all you need to know



NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): As nearly 500 players await their fate on Day 2 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 auction, some more twists and surprises are expected to be witnessed. The auction saw some big names like Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Arshdeep Singh, etc. earn their deserved value while Venkatesh Iyer produced a big surprise as he was bought for Rs. 23.75 crore by Kolkata Knight Riders. Though not in the same category, some other players are also likely to turn heads when their names come on the auction table.

The second day's auction will begin with the Set 13 which would bring up capped batters for auction. Following the batters, the all-rounders (AL2), wick-

etkeeper (WK2), fast bowlers (FA2) and spinners (SP2), will be up for grabs. Then, player number 117 to 577 will be brought to the table in an accelerated auction.

In comparison to Day 1, the second day will see about 5 times the player being brought on the auction table. Hence, the speed with which the auction gets underway would need to be much faster. There would also be an accelerated phase where franchises will be told to pick 25 players whom they want to be named in the auction. Subsequently, franchises could be asked to prepare another similar list if they are to bring back any player who went unsold or wasn't named in the auction list until then.

Some of the top names yet to be

brought into the auction include the likes of Faf du Plessis, Marco Jansen, Sam Curran, Deepak Chahar, Mustafizur Rahman, Krunal Pandya, Prithvi Shaw, Mukesh Kumar, Washington Sundar, etc.

How much money is left in the purses of each franchise?

Mumbai Indians: Rs. 26.1 crore.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Rs. 10.5 crore.

Chennai Super Kings: Rs. 15.6 crore.

Rajasthan Royals: Rs. 17.35 crore.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rs. 30.65 crore.

Delhi Capitals: Rs. 13.8 crore.

Gujarat Titans: Rs. 17.5 crore.

Lucknow Super Giants: Rs. 14.85 crore.

Punjab Kings: Rs. 22.5 crore.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Rs. 5.5 crore.

## Hawks Club's proud history of grooming hockey talent since 1966

RUPNAGAR, Nov 25 (Agencies): This is the time of year when hawks soar over the clear blue skies of Rupnagar, keenly observing every movement in their surroundings.

Down below, the Hawks Club ground teams with hundreds of budding hockey players, passionately honing their skills day in and day out.

It is the final day of the 32nd Dashmesh Hawks All India Hockey Festival. Defending champions BSF beat CRPF 5-4 in a tense shootout. Twelve top teams of the region — all united by the spirit of Guru Gobind Singh Ji — vied for the title.

The crowds enjoyed every bit of the game they love so dearly here. Throughout the tournament, music bands from Punjab Police and Haryana Homeguards kept them entertained with the mood oscillating from lilting to electrifying tunes.

Established in 1966 to promote hockey in Rupnagar and the surround-

ing areas, Hawks Club from the very beginning has known how to catch the imagination of the youth and channelise it into passion. Hockey is the be all and end all here.

Club members proudly say they are devoted to hockey only and no other activity is undertaken here. The fact that the club has Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-19 and senior teams shows that it is rooted to its tradition and has a wide talent pool.

Without fail every morning and evening, more than 100 budding players are seen going through the drills at the two grounds of the club.

Club's secretary Jasbir Singh Rai said, "More than 200 players have played at the national level. Reputed national teams such as Punjab Police, Northern Railways, Services, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum have our players. Among the internationals and Olympians, Baljit Singh Saini, Gurmail Singh, Gursewak Singh, Munish Kumar, Amarjit



Singh, Dharamvir Singh, Gurinder Singh and Gaganjit Singh have played in this tournament."

Dharamvir, who is now a Punjab Police DSP and played in the 2012 London Olympics, said, "This club has given me everything. I owe everything in my life to this club."

Then there is Harjit Singh, who led the junior team to the World Cup title in 2016.

Club's general secretary SS Saini reminisced, saying, "Initially to popularise hockey among the youngsters in the 1960s and 70s, the club hosted foreign teams from

Spain, Canada, Germany, Japan, Singapore and Pakistan from 1966 to 1972. We have always tried to catch them young; that is the essence of this club."

The present tournament was first played in 1972 at this ground. Back then, it was given an 'A' grade in domestic tournaments by the national federation.

Club members say this club is exclusive in the country that it has its own stadium, a six-a-side Astro turf ground, a gym, an administrative complex and other infrastructure.

Not very long ago, the club had its watershed moment when it won the

Punjab State Senior and Junior Hockey Championships in 2016. Almost everyone in Rupnagar remembers the year fondly.

Officials said the club members feel that now the tournament should be held on Astro turf rather than on grass. Presently, it is played in the old format of two halves as teams insist on playing this way.

Rupnagar Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain said, "It is a prestigious national-level tournament and promotes hockey in Punjab. The administration will take up the matter to install a full-fledged Astro turf here."

## Hockey great Ashok Kumar suffers heart attack; to undergo angioplasty

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (Agencies): Former India hockey player and son of legendary Major Dhyhan Chand, Ashok Kumar suffered a heart attack after being hospitalised here for discomfort in chest but is now stable and out of danger, sources in his family said on Monday.

The 74-year-old will undergo an angioplasty later on Monday.

"He (Ashok Kumar) felt discomfort in chest yesterday (Sunday) evening. He was then taken to Escorts Hospital where angiography was performed. The angiography results showed there were a few blockages. The doctors will implant stents today," family sources told agency.

"He is out of danger



and in a stable condition." The former inside-right player, who was known for his ball control, was a member of the Indian team that won the 1975 World Cup under Ajit Pal Singh. He was also a member of Indian team that won a bronze medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He became a recipient of the Arjuna Award in 1974 and, in 1975, scored the winning goal against Pakistan to

achieve India's only win in the World Cup.

Kumar was awarded the Hockey India Major Dhyhan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award earlier this year.

His other accomplishments include two more World Cup medals (bronze in 1971 Barcelona and silver in 1973 Amsterdam), besides three Asia Games silver medals (1970 Bangkok, 1974 Tehran and 1978 Bangkok).

## Sindhu, Lakshya eye titles at Syed Modi International

LUCKNOW, Nov 25 (Agencies): P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will aim to end their title droughts when they spearhead India's challenge at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday.

Fresh off a semifinal finish in their comeback tournament post the Paris Olympics, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the former world No. 1 doubles pair, enter as favourites in the men's doubles category.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, last clinched a title at the Singapore Open in 2022, while Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, won the Canada Open in 2023.

The 29-year-old Sindhu reached the final of the Malaysia Masters earlier this year but has struggled to find her peak form.

Lakshya, 23, showed promise with semifinal finishes at the All England Championship, French Open, and Paris Olympics, where he lost the bronze playoff from a strong position to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia.

Both shuttlers have endured mixed fortunes since their Olympic outings.

Lakshya faced early exits at the Arctic Open, Denmark Open, and Kumamoto Masters before recovering to an extent with a quarterfinal finish at the China Masters, avenging his Olympic loss to Lee in the pro-



cess. Lakshya starts his campaign here against a qualifier, hoping to reclaim his spot on the podium.

Sindhu, meanwhile, has battled inconsistency, with a shock first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland and subsequent defeats at the Denmark Open and Kumamoto Masters.

She opens her campaign against compatriot Anmol Kharb, a 17-year-old rising star who has impressed with titles at the Belgium and Poland International Challenge events this year.

The clash between the seasoned Sindhu and the prodigious Kharb promises to be an intriguing one, symbolising the generational shift in Indian badminton.

In men's singles, second seed Priyanshu Rajawat is a strong contender alongside Lakshya.

The 22-year-old from Dhar has shown promise on the international circuit, including a fighting performance at the China Masters.

Other Indian hopefuls include third seed Kiran George, 2023 World Junior Championships bronze-medallist Ayush Shetty, Odisha Masters winner Sathish Karunakaran, and national champion Chirag Sen.

The women's singles draw also looks competitive, with second seed Malvika Bansod aiming to better her runner-up finish in the 2022 edition.

Third seed Aakarshi Kashyap, sixth seed Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, and fifth seed Anupama Upadhyaya are among others eyeing glory.

Isharani Baruah, who has clinched titles at the Sri Lanka International, Dutch International, and India International, along with Devika Sihag, will also hope for a good outing. Unnati Hooda, a winner at the 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters, is another player to watch out for.

In women's doubles, the top-seeded duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, along with second seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly, are strong title contenders, with a potential all-Indian final on the cards.

## Yogesh Sawhney highlights road connectivity and education issues

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Former J&K Minister and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney held a meeting in Sandhi, Jammu East, to address pressing developmental challenges faced by the local community. The meeting brought together ex-Sarpanch Deen Mohd, Haider Hussain, Kaku Din, Khair Din, Manzoor Hussain, Haji Sadeeq Mohd, and other senior leaders to discuss issues that have long hindered the region's progress.

Sawhney emphasized that road connectivity and education should be the cornerstones of development efforts in Jammu East. The attendees pointed out the dire need for better roads



linking key areas such as Kamante to Kanayi Khaiteer, Sandhi to Bus Adda, and Dagair to Pandar Mohalla. These routes are essential for residents to access vital services and support

local economic activities. "Poor road connectivity has significantly impacted trade, commuting, and emergency services in the area. The deteriorating state of these roads is a serious issue

that demands immediate attention," said Sawhney. Education was another major concern raised during the meeting. Participants highlighted the lack of quality educational infrastructure,

inadequate staffing, and insufficient resources in local schools. They called for urgent measures to upgrade facilities and provide access to quality education for children in the area.

Sawhney assured the attendees of his commitment to addressing these issues and advocating for solutions with the authorities. "People in this region have suffered for far too long due to neglect. It's time for collective action to improve their quality of life," he said.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to work collaboratively toward the holistic development of Sandhi and neighboring areas, focusing on creating sustainable solutions for road connectivity and education challenges.

## Fyaz Mir appointed Senior Vice President EJAC Ramban

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, Nov 25: The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Ramban has officially announced the appointment of senior trade union leader Fyaz Ahmed Mir as the Senior Vice President of EJAC Ramban.

The decision was taken by District President Ch. Ashraf Hussain, in consultation with various employees' associations across the district.

Fyaz Ahmed Mir, a veteran trade union leader and respected academician, brings extensive experience and a strong

leadership record to his new role. His appointment is seen as a strategic move to strengthen EJAC's presence and address the emerging challenges faced by employees in the region.

In an official press release, Ch. Ashraf Hussain, along with J&K EJAC State President Wajahat Hussain Durani, General Secretary Sajad Ahmed Paray, Provincial President Kashmir Mohammed Amin Khan, and Provincial President Jammu Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, emphasized the significance of Mir's leadership in fortifying EJAC's

stance in Ramban.

"To strengthen EJAC's role in Ramban and enhance its capacity to address the challenges faced by teachers and other employees, we are proud to appoint Mr. Fyaz Ahmed Mir as Senior Vice President with immediate effect," the statement read.

This appointment reflects EJAC's dedication to supporting employees and adapting to their needs. Fyaz Ahmed Mir's vast experience and leadership qualities are expected to significantly contribute to achieving the forum's goals in the district.

## Govt Women Polytechnic deputed students for Industrial training at Race Automation Academy

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu under the supervision of Er. Suket Gupta, Principal, deputed the students of 5th semester E&C for Industrial training at Race Automation Academy, Jammu as the part of the curriculum. Er. Naresh Gupta, HOD, E&C accompanied the students and started the training program.

While speaking on the occasion, he thanked the staff and faculty of Race Automation for taking initiative to train the students of this Institution.

The Training program aims at enhancing the skills and practical knowledge about the latest trends in the field of Industrial Automation i.e. PLC and SCADA (both hardware and software) for the students of this Institution.

He exhorted upon the students to take keen interest in the training part and acquire the latest knowledge about the trends in the field of Industrial Automation.

## GDC Mahanpur organises Awareness Drive on Road Safety



### Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Nov 25: Road Safety Club and NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with the Police Department, Basohli organised an Awareness Drive on Monday. In today's world, road and transport has become an Integral part of every human being. Every year, road crashes result in loss of lakhs of lives and serious injuries to crores of people. The event was organised to raise awareness about Road Safety and Traffic Rules.

In India itself about eighty thousand people are killed in road crashes every year which is thirteen percent of the total fatality all over the world. In this connection, an Awareness Drive was organised in the College. The programme was organised by Dr. Jog-

binder Singh Soodan, Road Safety Club and Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS P.O. under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, the Principal of the College. The programme commenced with the Lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries.

The Resource Person and Guest of Honour on the occasion was Suresh Kumar Sharma, JKPS, SDPO Basohli. He gave an informative Power Point Presentation on the topic "Road Safety Measures and Traffic Rules and Violations".

In his Presentation, he not only explained in detail the traffic for pedestrians, drivers and motorcyclist but also highlighted the importance of three types of traffic signals i.e. mandatory, cautionary and informative. Moreover, he also eluci-

dated the consequences of traffic rules violation as well as penalties and fines of traffic rules violation in India.

A token of appreciation was presented to Suresh Kumar Sharma, SDPO Basohli. A Souvenir was also presented to Balbir Singh Thakur, Chowki Incharge Mahanpur for his presence.

The students as well as NSS Volunteers were enlightened by the fruitful and information presentation. More than 50 students attended the Lecture. Besides this, the faculty members who were present in the Awareness Drive were Nisha, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Baia, Dr. Yograj, Divya, Pooja, Anuradha, Shivani Panoch and Monika. The event was hosted by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia and the Formal Vote of Thanks was presented by Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan.

## Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies of GGM Science College organizes interactive session

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: The Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at GGM Science College, under the esteemed patronage of Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, hosted an interactive session on the theme "Gandhi's Views on Youth as Agents for Social Transformation." The event, guided by the dedicated efforts of the organizing team, including Dr. Shalini Sharma (Co-Convenor), Prof. Sunita Kumari, Prof. Mehnaz Bano, and Dr. Suresh Sharma, witnessed enthusiastic par-

ticipation from a large number of students.

The session provided a platform for students to explore and deliberate on Mahatma Gandhi's vision of youth as harbingers of change in society. Participants shared their insights and perspectives on how Gandhi's principles could inspire young minds to act as catalysts for social harmony and transformation.

While interacting with the participants, Principal of the College, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta emphasized the vital role of youth in fostering social harmony and building a peaceful society. He

urged students to channel their energy toward positive societal contributions and to strive for a harmonious coexistence.

Highlighting the importance of understanding and respecting diverse religions, Dr. Gupta encouraged students to avoid misinterpretations and to embrace the shared message of peace and unity inherent in all faiths.

Overall the event served as an inspiration for students to reflect on their role in promoting Gandhian values and to actively engage in making society more inclusive and harmonious.

## Ramayan Path begins at Shiv Temple, Railway Station

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 25: A seven-day Ramayan Path commenced today at the Shiv Temple, Shiv Market, near the Railway Station in Jammu. The spiritual event is being led by a revered spiritual guru and Katha Vachak from Vrindavan, with the discourses scheduled daily from 2 PM to 6 PM.

The inaugural Mahurat Pooja witnessed a large gathering of devotees who came to participate in the sacred ceremony, expressing their devotion and enthusiasm for

the event.

Prominent personalities who graced the occasion included Shiv Gupta, Rajinder Prasad Vaid, Krishan Kutty, Devinder Seth, Pratima Seth, Pandit Pardeep, and Shastri Om Parkash. The Ramayan Path aims to provide spiritual enrichment and inspire devotees with teachings from the epic.

The event is open to all, with daily sessions offering an opportunity for reflection, devotion, and connection to the timeless values of the Ramayan.

## District President NMOPS Shopian meets MLA Shopian, submits memorandum

### Top News Report

SHOPIAN, Nov 25: Zahoor Ahmed Malik, District President of the National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) Shopian, met with MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmed Kully and submitted a memorandum demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme.

The memorandum emphasized the need for restoring the old pension scheme, providing a secure future for employees. Malik urged the MLA to address employees' concerns and work towards finding a solution in the Assembly.

MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmed Kully assured Malik that he would raise the issue in the upcom-



ing assembly session, acknowledging its genuineness. Malik thanked the MLA for the positive assurance.

The NMOPS, under J&K UT President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh's leadership, is committed to addressing employees' concerns and promoting their interests.

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