

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Jennifer Lopez says Hollywood stereotypes made her feel she 'wasn't good enough'



NATIONAL | 7

Navy Chief confirms India tested 3,500-km range nuclear-capable missile

INTERNATIONAL | 8

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is in Ukraine for his first visit in 2 1/2 years



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BRIEFLY

Police arrests four drug peddlers in Srinagar; Contraband substances recovered

SRINAGAR, Dec 2 (Agencies): Police in Srinagar arrested four drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Police party of PS Ram Munshi Bagh intercepted three suspicious persons at a checkpoint established near CD Hospital Dalgate.

They have been identified as Yawar Bilal son of Bilal Ahmad Karni resident of Abi Buchwara, Maroof Bilal Kolu son of Bilal Ahmad Kolu resident of Indranagar, Srinagar and Shoib Hilal Lawaye son of Hilal Ahmad Lawaye resident of Drugjan, Dalgate. During search, 9.6 grams of Heroin was recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, at another checkpoint established at Sozeith Bund, a Police team arrested a drug peddler identified as Abid Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat resident of Sozeith Goripora.

During search, 430 grams of Charas and 750 grams of Bhang Powder concealed in a polythene bag was recovered from his possession.

Regarding the incidents, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been taken up.

J&K cautions those engaged in drug dealings that law would catch them up sooner than anticipated and every offender will face full force of law.

Road accident at Qazigund leaves 6 injured

SRINAGAR, Dec 2 (Agencies): At least six people were injured after the vehicles they were travelling in met with an accident at Mir Bazar area of Qazigund in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said on Monday.

An official said an accident took place between a Tavera vehicle (JK03D-7709) and an Alto car (JK09D-2698) at AI Stop, Mir Bazar, along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. ■ Turn to page 9

India's manufacturing sector growth falls to 11-Month low of 56.5 in Nov on price pressures

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a joint 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory orders, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 57.5 in October to 56.5 in November, signalling a softer improvement in the health of the sector. However, the pace of growth remained above its long-run average

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India recorded a 56.5 manufacturing PMI in November, down slightly from the prior month, but still firmly within expansionary territory," Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC said.

Bhandari further noted that strong broad-based international demand, evidenced by a four-month high in new export orders, fuelled the Indian manufacturing sector's continued growth. At the same time, however, the rate of output expansion



is decelerating due to intensifying price pressures.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, the latest government data released on Friday showed India's economic growth slowed to a near two-year low of 5.4 per cent in the

July-September quarter of this fiscal due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors as well as weak consumption.

According to the survey, the expansion in sales and output in the manufacturing sector during November was

largely supported by positive demand trends, though firms indicated that growth was somewhat restricted by competitive conditions and price pressures.

"Goods producers experienced a weaker, albeit still robust, upturn in new business intakes during November," the survey said, adding that growth was "stymied by fierce competition and price pressures".

On the price front, Indian goods producers increased their selling prices to the greatest extent since October 2013. Survey participants suggested that

additional outlays on freight, labour and materials had been shared with clients.

"Input prices for a variety of intermediate goods — including chemicals, cotton, leather, and rubber — rose in November, while output prices soared to an 11-year high as rising input, labour, and transportation costs were passed on to consumers," Bhandari said.

India's retail inflation soared to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October — above the RBI's tolerance band, mainly on account of

■ Turn to page 9

Truck driver arrested with 211 kilograms of poppy

JAMMU, Dec 2 (Agencies): Police have arrested a truck driver from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Monday for allegedly smuggling over 200 kilograms of poppy, officials said.

During a routine check, a police team intercepted a truck on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway at Jakhani and conducted a search, they said.

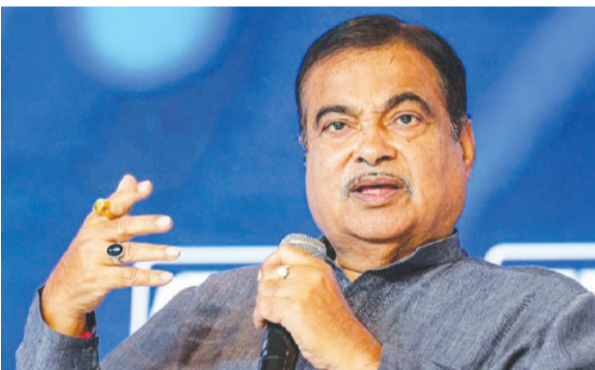
The search led to the recovery of 211 kilograms of poppy contained in eight bags, they added.

Politics a 'Sea of Unsatisfied Souls': Gadkari

NAGPUR, Dec 2 (Agencies): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said politics is a "sea of unsatisfied souls" where every person is sad and aspiring for a higher post than his current position.

Life is a game of compromises, compulsions, limitations and contradictions, Gadkari added while speaking at the launch of a book, titled '50 Golden Rules of Life', in Nagpur on Sunday.

Whether a person is in family, social, politi-



cal or corporate life, the life is full of challenges and problems and the person should understand the "art of living"

to face them, the senior BJP leader said.

The Minister recalled a programme he had attended in Rajasthan ■ Turn to page 9

26-year-old IPS officer, on his way to first posting, dies in road accident

HASSAN (Karnataka), Dec 2 (Agencies): An IPS officer died in an accident while he was on his way to take up his first posting in Hassan district, police said on Monday.

Harsh Bardhan, (26), was a 2023-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya



Pradesh, they said.

The accident took place on Sunday evening, when the tyre of the police vehicle he was travelling in allegedly burst near Kittane in Hassan taluk, following which the driver lost control and the vehicle hit a house and a tree on the roadside. ■ Turn to page 9

Western disturbance likely to bring rain, snowfall in J&K: MeT



SRINAGAR, Dec 2 (Agencies): Night temperatures in the Kashmir

Valley have improved but remain below freezing, ahead of an expect-

ed Western Disturbance (WD) that could bring snow and rain to Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The Meteorological (MeT) Department stated that a weak WD is likely to affect the region, potentially causing light rain and snow over higher reaches and scattered areas from late Monday evening to Tuesday morning. ■ Turn to page 9

Youth caught consuming drugs on GMC Baramulla premises

BARAMULLA, Dec 2 (Agencies): In a disturbing incident, a group of youths was caught by the private security wing of the Government Medical College (GMC) consuming drugs inside the premises of the medical college.

The incident occurred around noon on Monday after personnel from the private security wing of GMC Baramulla were



alerted to the situation. "A group of youths was caught consuming drugs on the spot," said a private security guard posted at the facility.

After being apprehended by the private security staff, one of the youths involved admitted to his addiction.

A senior official from GMC Baramulla informed Greater Kashmir that the local police ■ Turn to page 9

Gupshup

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

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

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

ANTIM ARDAAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED DAUGHTER **TAKHSHREEN KAUR** D/O CHATURVEER SINGH AND SMT RANBIR KAUR OF GURUDWARA COLONY HMT SRINAGAR AT PRESENT 23/4 MARBLE ENCLAVE TRIKUTA NAGAR EXTENSION, BEHIND ALLEN CARRIER INSTITUTE, JAMMU, WHO LEFT ON HEAVENLY ABODE ON 26/11/24.



TAKHSHREEN KAUR

TENTH DAY AND ANTIM ARDAAS WILL BE PERFORMED AS PER PROGRAM GIVEN BELOW **ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 2/12/24 MONDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE **BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 4/12/24 WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE. **KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAAS** 10 AM TO 12:30 PM ON 4/12/24 WEDNESDAY AT GURUDWARA BALA PRITAM, TRIKUTA NAGAR JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
S. SUMER SINGH RAINA AND SDNI BALBIR KAUR (GRANDPARENTS)
HARVINDER SINGH AND DALBIR KAUR (CHACHU AND CHACHUJI)
JATINDER SINGH AND ROMINDER KAUR (FUFAD AND BUJJI)
HARMEEK SINGH AND RAMNEET KAUR (MAMA AND MAMUJI)
RAWINDER SINGH AND SUKHEET KAUR (MAMA AND MAMUJI)
TEJ BAHADUR SINGH AND SUPINDER KAUR (MASAD AND MASUJI)

MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our dearest **Smt. Kamla Wati** W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Dass at Jagti Nagrota on 29 Nov, 2024.



Smt. Kamla Wati

The **MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE** is being held at Flat No 19 & 20, Block No 136 Lane No 22, Jagti Nagrota Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. & Sh. Kiran Ji Kaw
Smt. & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Kaw
Smt. & Sh. Tej Krishan Kaw
Smt. & Sh. Sanjay Kaw

SAMAST KAW PARIWAR, HANDWARA

Contact: 6005396439, 9419258192

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved mother **Smt. Jai Kishori Karihaloo (Tathi ji)** Originally resident of 104-Karanagar Nagar, Kak Sarai, Srinagar, Kashmir and at present H. No.-61, Lane No.-1, Sector-1 Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, has left for her heavenly abode on 30th of November 2024.



Smt. Jai Kishori Karihaloo (Tathi ji)

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Shama & Ashok Kumar Koul (Daughter & Son in Law)
Ranjna & K L Oberoi (Daughter & Son in Law)
Anjira & Sanjay Karibabo (Daughter in law and Son)
Nitisha & Rajat Raina
(Granddaughter in law & Grandson)

Sultans, Kakroos, Dudhas, Rawals

ALL NEARS AND DEARS.

PHONE: 9419130166, 7006488481

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Roopawati (Oma Jigri)** W/o Late Sh Janki Nath Koul. Original resident of Chandapura Habba Kadal Sgr Presently at H.No 107-108 Adarsh Vihar Sainik Colony Jammu Near Jodhamal Public School.



Smt Roopawati (Oma Jigri)

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4th Dec Wednesday.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Nancy and Sh RL Koul (DIL and Son)
Smt Nirmala and Sh PL Koul (DIL and Son)
Smt Vijay and Sh M K Raina (Daughter and SIL)
Grand Sons and DILS
Grand Daughter and SIL
Grand Children's

CONTACT NUMBER : 9419079589

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Jawahar Lal Kaul (Bada Papa)** originally from R N Mandir Habba Kadal Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on 25/11/2024 at Sainik Colony Sec 49, Faridabad. **Tenth Day** will be held on 03/12/2024 at Faridabad Delhi.



Sh Jawahar Lal Kaul (Bada Papa)

GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILIES

Smt Ratna Kaul (Babi)
W/o Lt Sh Shiban Krishen Kaul
R/o H No. 89, Sec 1, Laxmi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu

ALL KAUL'S, MALLA'S, DHAR'S, PUTTU'S
(M) 9018122183, 9622049222

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Handoo** W/o Lt. Shri Vishwanath Handoo, original resident of 11, Dilooz Colony, Srinagar presently residing at Najafgarh, New Delhi.



SMT. KRISHNA HANDOO

10th Day Kriya shall take place on 4th December 2024 at Muradnagar Ghat (Chhota Haridwar) Uttar Pradesh at 8:30 AM and we will assemble at our residence 22, Shanti Vihar, Deenpur, Najafgarh at 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Son & Daughter-in-law
Jai Krishan Handoo & Anjali Handoo
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Ramesh Bachoo & Sushma Bachoo
Vinod Kanna & Girja Kanna
All Grandchildren
Handoo & Ganjoo Parivar

9911107617, 9711107617, 9311107617

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. BITI PYARI DHAR (TATHI)** RESIDENT OF 31 B, MANSAROVAR APARTMENTS, SECTOR 61, NOIDA ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2024



SMT. BITI PYARI DHAR (TATHI)

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 6TH DECEMBER 2024 AT MURAD-NAGAR GHAT NEAR MODINAGAR AT 8:00 AM
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
T K DHAR -HUSBAND (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
ANIL DHAR AND ARCHANA DHAR (GRAND DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)
AKANKSHA DHAR AND VIKAS SARMIAL AANCHAL DHAR (GRAND DAUGHTER)
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
SAMAST DHAR, BHAT PARIVAR

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and anguish we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Aular Krishan Hangloo** S/o Late Kamawati and Late Shiv Ji Hangloo, erstwhile resident of Hangalgund, Kokernag at present House No. 46, Lane No. 2, Block-A, Roopnagar Enclave, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 25.11.2024.

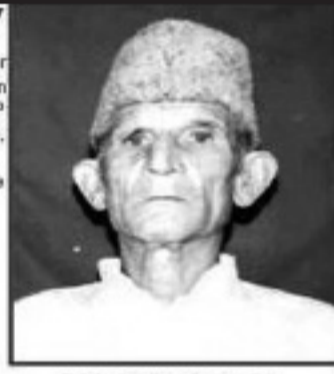


Sh. Aular Krishan Hangloo

The **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education at 9:30 AM on 03-12-2024.
Grief Stricken:
Smt. Jaya Hangloo (Wife)
Smt. Veena Ji & Sh. TN Hangloo (Bhabi & Brother)
(Daughter-in-law & Son)
Sunita & Sunil Hangloo
8899309131; 9891115391
(Daughter-in-law & Son)
Achalika & Sanjay Hangloo
9419219591; 9419144824
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Anila & Anil Bhat
9911221694; 9911225033
Samast Hangloo Parivar
Grand Children: Urvi, Sanyam, Shraavan, Sushain & Soham

10TH DAY/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Piary Lal Pandita** S/o Lt. Kalash Ram Pandita originally resident of Nawama (Handwara) Kashmir, A/P Block 90-Lane No.7, Flat No.17, Jagti Township Nagrota, Jammu, expired on 25 Nov. 2024.



SH. PIARY LAL PANDITA

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 4th Dec. 2024 at 9 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sheelawati - Wife
Smt. Roopawati W/o Lt. Prithvi Nath - Babi
Mrs. & Mr. Sat Lal Pandita - Brother & Bhabhi
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Mrs. & Mr. Rajinder K. Pandita
Mrs. & Mr. Shadi Lal Pandita
Daughter-in-law
Mrs. Manju Pandita W/o Lt. Veer Jee Pandita
Girja Bhat W/o Raj Kumar Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs. Rajni Pandita W/o Lt. Sansol Nath - Daughter
Grand Children
Ph.No: 9419660299, 9858143772

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bishan Singh** S/o Late Sh. Hakam Singh. **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 2-12-2024 (Monday) at 12:00 PM at our residence H.No. 47, New Plot, Jammu. **KRIYA** will be held on 5-12-2024 (Thursday) at our residence H.No. 47, New Plot, Jammu.



BISHAN SINGH

GRIEF STRICKEN

Veena - Wife
Riya- Daughter
Vivek Singh -Son
Brothers & Bhabhi
Jyoti & Pardeep Singh
Reena & Ashok Singh
Mob: 7889498199, 9419204055

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Moti Lal Zutshi (PNB)** S/o Late Smt. Somawati Zutshi & Late Sh. Prem Nath Zutshi originally resident of Na-Basti Anantnag/ Ishwar Nagar Udhaywala, Jammu A/P Bengaluru on 29th Nov, 2024 (Friday).



MOTI LAL ZUTSHI (PNB)

The **Mourning** will be held at A-1002 Godrej Aquas, Hoas halli, Bengaluru.
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 8th Dec, 2024 (Sunday) at Yedyuru Vadka Kerda Jayanagar Bengaluru at 1 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Bimla Bhat / Geeta Zutshi - Wife
Daughter & Son-in-law
Preeti Zutshi/ Bakshi & Ashish Bakshi
Son & Daughter-in-law
Robin Zutshi & Kritika Razdan/ Zutshi
Sisters: Sheela Ji Saraf, Santosh Bhat
Brothers & Bhabis
C.L. Zutshi & Kundan Zutshi
Shiban Ji Zutshi & Jeeta Zutshi
Kashmiri Lal Zutshi & Seema Zutshi
M.K. Zutshi & Bita Zutshi
S.K. Zutshi & Sanjana Zutshi
Grand Children: Preshi, Nevan, Riddhish

Smast Zutshi Parivar of Anantnag Bhat Parivar of Sagam Koul Parivar of Vessu & Pampore Bakshi & Razdan Parivar of Ang. Mobile: 8377069002, 9662110219

TENTH DAY

With Profound Grief and Sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late. GIAN CHAND DIGRA** S/o Late. Makua Ram Ro Chack Bakhan, Tehsil Ramgarh,amba left for heavenly abode on 24/11/2024.



Late. GIAN CHAND DIGRA

TENTH DAY will be performed on Tuesday 03/12/2024 at Our Residence CHACK BAKHAN at (Guru Ravidas Mandir) Sarang at 12:30 pm

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Bishara Devi (Wife)
(Sons & Daughters in Law)
Sh. Vijay Kumar & Smt. Ghara Devi
Sh. Krishna Chand & Smt. Nisha Devi
Sh. Pinka Kumar & Smt. Monica Yadav
(Daughter & Son in Law)
Smt. Pinki Devi & Sh. Moti Lal
Grand Children
Shivang, Davang, Arun, Varun, Idika
Mob:- 9419 275538, 9797424526, 9419213595, 9622236470

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With deep sorrow and grief, it is to inform you that **Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul** left for his heavenly abode on 24th Nov. 2024. He was originally from Bana Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar and presently residing at F-606, Antarksh Golf View 1, Sector -78, Noida.



Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at 8:30am on Tuesday, 3rd December 2024 at Chhota Haridwar, Murad Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
Ph. No.: 8123465312, 9741113103, 9008955440
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Vasanti Koul (Wife)
Seema and Sanjay Munshi (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Princy and Rohit Choudhary (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Santosh and P.K. Koul (Sister and Brother-in-Law)
A.K. Raina - Husband of Lt. Jyoti Raina (Brother-in-Law)
Girja and H.L. Bakshi (Sister and Brother-in-Law)
Vandana and Vinod Khar (Niece-in-Law and Nephew)
Aryan and Naya (Grandchildren)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mummy, Shrimati Uma Pandita** W/o Late Sh Prithvi Nath Pandita of Batapora Sopore J&K, who left for heavenly abode on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Gwalior.



Smt Uma Pandita

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 9 am.

Venue: Utlia Canal Near Utlia Police Station Behat Road, Gwalior.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Deep Nath Pandita (Brother-in-law) 086 104 07741
Sh. Pram Nath Pandita and Smt. Rami Pandita (Son & Daughter-in-law)
094191 05543, +91 70424 85077
Sheela Pandita Bhat W/o Late Sh. Bhushan Lal Bhat (Daughter) +91 94 103 15442
Chandra Kanta & Prof. (Dr) Ashok K. Nortico (Daughter and Son-in-law) 94 159 88743, 94 129 07360
Veena Pandita Koul & Shadi Lal Koul (Daughter & Son-in-law) 094191 13231, 094191 90008
Sudhina Sharma & Nav Ratan Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-law) +91 9617 76520, 9359 12805
Vijay Ashan Pandita & Harsha Pandita (Nephew and his Wife)
091 94235 54015, +91 94240 09442

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Dayal Singh Wazir (Ex. General Secretary DGPC Jammu, S/O. Late S. Darshan Singh, R/O. Bandurakh, Jammu, on 24-11-2024.**



S. DAYAL SINGH WAZIR

Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib will be performed on 01-12-2024 at 10:00 AM at their Residence.
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib will be performed on 03-12-2024 at 10:30 AM at their Residence.

ANTIM ARDAS will be performed at **Gurdwara Sahib Digiana Ashram, Jammu, on 03-12-2024 from 02:30 PM to 04:30 PM.**

Grief Stricken:-

Sdn. Agya Kour (wife)
Dr. Kamaljeet Singh & Manpreet Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Dr. Jasdeep Singh & Sayali Singh (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Dr. Amanpreet Kour & S. Indrepreet Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law)

ANTIM ARDAAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF **S. BALBIR SINGH** S/O. ROOPAM KOUR AND LATE S. KULWANT SINGH KALA OF GURU NANAK BHAWAN (DEWAN BAGH) BARAMULLA, WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 28 NOV 2024.



S. BALBIR SINGH

ANTIM ARDAAS WILL BE PERFORMED AS PER THE PROGRAM GIVEN BELOW AT OUR RESIDENCE - FLAT NO. 313, PRETTY DAY APARTMENTS, CHOWDHRI ROAD PRIOR TO NOOR CASTLE, SECTOR D SAINIK COLONY JAMMU : **ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 4/12/24 WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE. **BHOG SHRI AKHAND PRTH SAHIB** ON 8/12/24 FRIDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE. **KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAAS** FROM 10 AM TO 12:30 PM ON 6/12/24 FRIDAY AT GURUDWARA SINGH SABA SAINIK COLONY JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

SON: PADAM KOUR (MOTHER)
NAWDEEP SINGH KALA AND NAWDEEK KOUR (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
JAI SHREEN KOUR (DAUGHTER)
INDERJEET KOUR (SISTER)
RANJEET KOUR & MANJEET SINGH (SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW)
NEPHEWS : MET. PAL SINGH, INEET PAL SINGH, AMARJEET SINGH, KANWALJEET SINGH, ABHY JEET SINGH
MOB.: 7888 551971, +91700244745

10th DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sudesh Tuli** W/o Shri Ved Parkash Tuli on 22 November 2024.



Smt. Sudesh Tuli

10TH DAY will be performed at our residence House No 10 , Sector 2, lower Roop Nagar, Jammu on Sunday 1 December, 2024 at 11 AM

Uthala will be performed on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at Aap Shambhu Mandir, Roop Nagar, Jammu from 3 to 4 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons and Daughters-in-law
Rajeev Tuli and Neetu Tuli
Dr. Sanjeev Tuli and Bindu Tuli
Grand Daughter and Grand Son
Pranjal, Anandita, Rudraksh and Anish
Contact No 9818109788, 9818366883

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Roopawati (Oma Jigri)** W/o Late Sh Janki Nath Koul. Original resident of Chandapura Habba Kadal Sgr Presently at H.No 107-108 Adarsh Vihar Sainik Colony Jammu Near Jodhamal Public School who attained moksha on 25th of Nov 2024.



SMT ROOPAWATI (OMA JIGRI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4-12-2024 (Wednesday) at Akhroor Ghat.

ASSEMBLY shall be held at Muthi Ghat at 10:30 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Nancy and Sh RL Koul (DIL and Son)
Smt Nirmala and Sh PL Koul (DIL and Son)
Smt Vijay and Sh M K Raina (Daughter and SIL)
Grand Sons and DILS
Grand Daughter and SIL
Grand Children's
CONTACT NUMBER : 9419079589, 7006535550

BARKHI

"Though you are no longer with us, the lessons you taught us continue to shape our lives." One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode, but your loving memories and integrity will continue to guide and inspire us always.



Sh. Ram Rattan Gupta (Retd. Headmaster)

BARKHI of our beloved **Sh. Ram Rattan Gupta (Retd. Headmaster)** will be performed on 3rd December, 2024 (Tuesday) at our residence 17/31, Salain Talab, Uthampur at 10 AM.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:
Smt. Nimal Gupta (Wife)
Sh. Ramon Gupta & Smt. Poonam (Son & Daughter in law)
Smt. Rachna & Sh. Manoj Gupta (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt. Reetu & Sh. Sandeep Gupta (Daughter & Son in law)
Grand Children: Ulkarsh, Aditya, Janvi, Manvi, Vansh, Monishka, Anushka, Adhish

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DFSS protests against atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: The Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by their president, Mr. Ashok Gupta, staged a massive protest in Jammu City against the increasing atrocities on minority Hindus in Bangladesh. The protest included the symbolic burning of an effigy of Muhammad Yunus, condemning the ongoing violence and oppression.

Since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5, Bangladesh has witnessed over 200 attacks on Hindus across 50 districts. Hindus, constituting just 8% of the 170 million population, have faced severe persecution, including violent attacks on homes, temples, and properties.

Prominent Hindu spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das was arrested at Dhaka Interna-



tional Airport on sedition charges, further escalating tensions. Following his arrest, clashes erupted, leading to the death of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif, mistaken for a Hindu by an Islamist mob. His death sparked widespread violence, with mobs targeting Hindu-populated areas in Chittagong such as Patharghata Mathar Potti, Andarkilla, and Hazari Goli.

Gupta condemned these brutal attacks, stating that the Bangladeshi government must ensure the safety and dignity of its Hindu minority. He criticized the silence of international and local opposition groups on this humanitarian crisis and suggested that India use its economic leverage to pressure Bangladesh.

India should halt trade, par-

ticularly exports of cotton and essential commodities like medicines and onions, to send a strong message to Bangladesh's administration.

Merely issuing statements will not suffice; concrete actions are necessary to compel Muhammad Yunus's government to act against the violence.

Bangladeshi Hindus deserve to live with security in their homeland and must be protected by their government.

Gupta stressed that India's diplomatic and economic interventions could play a critical role in safeguarding Hindus in Bangladesh and urged New Delhi to adopt a firm stance.

The protest saw participation from many party members, including Abhishek, Bantu, Ganesh, Raju, Kalu, Prem, Naresh, Gautam, Arun, Shiva, and others.

MP Khatana assures support to JKPSI aspirants on age limit concerns



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: A deputation of Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector (JKPSI) aspirants met senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana at his Jammu residence on Sunday.

The aspirants sought the MP's intervention in securing age relaxation for candidates appear-

ing in the recruitment process.

The deputation highlighted their grievances, emphasizing how several candidates have been adversely affected due to age restrictions, which they believe are unjust in the context of delays and uncertainties in the recruitment cycle.

They pointed out that aspirants who have aged out during the pro-

longed recruitment processes should be given a one-time relaxation to ensure fairness.

The aspirants expressed hope that their plea would be addressed, given the importance of providing opportunities to deserving candidates in a region with unique challenges.

Responding to their concerns, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana assured the deputation of his full support and said he would take up the matter with the relevant authorities at both the Union and the UT levels.

He emphasized the need for transparent and fair recruitment processes that accommodate genuine concerns.

Pawan Sharma raises concerns over daily wagers, unemployment



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 2: Pawan Sharma, Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), emphasized on the pressing issues, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by daily wagers across various departments and the rising unemployment among youth throughout the Union Territory. He reminded the current government of its election promises, including the recruitment of one lakh youth and the regularization of

daily wagers. Sharma addressed these concerns during a party meeting at Udhampur.

Expressing concern over the unfulfilled commitments, Sharma issued a stern warning to the government. "If the government fails to deliver justice to daily wagers and unemployed youth, it would be better for them to resign immediately," he emphasized, underscoring the urgency of addressing these critical issues.

Sharma carried out an in-depth review of the

ongoing membership drive in District Udhampur. While addressing party workers at the BJP District Headquarters, Sharma praised their dedication and urged them to intensify efforts to reach every household in the district to expand the party's membership base.

The meeting concluded with Sharma urging party workers to remain vigilant and committed to addressing public grievances, while continuing to establish the party's presence across Udhampur.

IMFA, JU organizes Canvas Painting Competition on World AIDS Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: The Department of Fine Arts, Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Jammu, organized a Canvas Painting Competition in observance of World AIDS Day.

The event was designed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote solidarity with those affected by the virus. The themes of the competition were centered around important aspects of HIV/AIDS education, with the topics being "Take The Right Path," "How Does HIV Spread," and "How Does HIV Not Spread." A total of 60 students participated, with 20 students focusing on each of the three topics.

World AIDS Day is globally recognized to honor those lost to HIV/



AIDS and to spread awareness about the virus.

The theme for 2024, "Advancing Equality for All," highlights the need for equitable healthcare access and the elimination of stigma and discrimination faced by vulnerable populations. Students in the competition expressed these concepts through their paintings, using art as

a tool to visually communicate the importance of these issues. Their works depicted the need for change in public perception and a greater understanding of HIV transmission and prevention.

In addition to the competition, the Institute of Music & Fine Arts hosted various health campaigns and exhibitions at Circuit House,

Jammu. These initiatives were part of a larger effort to work towards a world free of HIV/AIDS. The event culminated with the prize distribution ceremony, where Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal of IMFA, presented prizes to the winners of the competition. Sh. Rakesh Sharma, HOD of Fine Arts, and Dr. Amarjeet Singh were

also present during the ceremony.

Take the Right Path: Sachan Dev, 1st, Divya Rathore, 2nd and Madhu Chowdhary, 3rd.

How Does HIV Spread: Urvashi Sharma, 1st, Janvi, 2nd and Tanu Rajput, 3rd.

How Does HIV Not Spread: Bharti Verma, 1st, Arun, 2nd and Ramanpreet Kour, 3rd.

During the event, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department, J&K, presented a memento to Rakesh Sharma in recognition of his contributions.

The event served as an important platform to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, engage students in meaningful discussions, and highlight the role of art in promoting social change.

People inspired by transformative policies of PM Modi: Sat Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: Like other parts of the country, people from different sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir too, are joining BJP in large numbers almost on daily basis and the graph of the party is going up with each passing day.

Sat Sharma, president, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this while welcoming hundreds of people into the party fold, in a programme held at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. BJP Professional Cell Convenor, Satish Sharma, had organized the joining programme.

Sat Sharma said that it is the BJP and the government at the center under PM Narendra Modi, which has



displayed strong will to bring peace in Jammu and Kashmir, besides ensuring welfare of masses and flooding the UT with numerous prestigious projects of infrastructure development, including different means of connectivity, health and educational institutions which has put the UT on the path of progress and prosperity.

"Modi government's principles and firm commitment to the idea of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', has con-

vinced people of every region, faith and section that first time justice to all and appeasement to none is reflected in the programmes and policies of any regime.

Another reason of people joining BJP is that they are also inspired by the transformative policies and decisive leadership of the Prime Minister and express their belief in the party's ability to foster a strong and prosperous India. They are also appreciating landmark initiatives

such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Make in India, Ayushman Bharat, and the government's proactive measures to empower women, farmers, and marginalized communities, said Sat Sharma.

Sat Sharma further said that the BJP has consistently worked to expand its outreach and connect with diverse communities across the nation. With its nation first approach and policies that address grassroots challenges, the party continues to

attract individuals who share its vision of a self-reliant, progressive India.

Ved Sharma, Co-Incharge, J&K BJP All Cells, Tariq Keen, Secretary BJP, Balbir Ram Rattan, senior leader & former VC and Satish Sharma, also welcomed the new entrants.

Prominent among those who joined BJP included Balwant Singh, retired Principal, Sunil Sharma, General Secretary, Jammu Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association, Jasbeer Singh, retired DFO, Bhagwan Dass, Ex Sarpanch, Surinder Singh, retired Police Officer, Raghveer Singh, retired Police Officer, Surinder Bakshi, singer & artist, Baldev Singh, retired Forest officer, Sushma Rani, president, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Samba.

Ch Piara Singh, Former MLA and father of BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa, Passes Away

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: Ch Piara Singh, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and the father of BJP MLA from Bahu, Vikram Randhawa, passed away on Monday afternoon. He was a



respected figure in the region and known for his contribution to local

politics. His passing has left the community in mourning. Family members, friends, and political colleagues have expressed their condolences, remembering him as a dedicated public servant and a pillar of strength for his family.

J&K Tourism, Zap Events to host "The Great Hip-Hop Show"



Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 2: Zap Events, in collaboration with J&K Tourism, is excited to announce "The Great Hip-Hop Show", an electrifying celebration of talent that will take place at the Spiritual Growth Center in Katra.

The press conference scheduled today provided an overview of this high-energy event, which will feature performances in four thrill-

ing categories: Dance Junior, Dance Senior, Rap, and Singing.

The event will showcase the best up-and-coming performers from across the country, offering them a platform to demonstrate their creativity and skills.

The Spiritual Growth Center will be the venue for this unique experience, which is expected to draw attendees of all ages. It promises to be an immersive celebration of music, dance, and the vibrant culture

of hip-hop. The event will not only provide an exciting opportunity for fans to enjoy live performances but will also include special guest appearances, creating an unforgettable experience for all.

The event will be fully accessible to individuals with special needs, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the performances and festivities.

The event is more than just a competition; it's a celebration of young talent, creativity, and cultural expression. Through this collaboration with J&K Tourism, the show aims to put Jammu & Kashmir on the map as a hub for cultural events and artistic talent.

GDC Nagrota celebrates World AIDS Day 2024

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Dec 2: Red Ribbon Club of GDC Nagrota celebrated World AIDS Day 2024.

Various activities were organized throughout the week to spread awareness among the students about HIV/AIDS. Poster Making and Rangoli Making Competition were organized on the theme 'take the Right path'.

1st December is observed as World AIDS Day every year with the objective of inculcating among general masses the gravity of the problem and various preventive measures needed to be adopted by the responsible citizens.

Students enthusiastically participated in the competitions and came out with beautiful creations. Week long programs culminated with the formation of the Human Chain to show

solidarity against this pressing health issue of HIV/AIDS. Principal of the College Prof. Anjali Mahajan appreciated the efforts of the students and also spoke about role of youth in spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS in the community.

Red Ribbon Club includes Prof. Ritu Dewan, Prof. Aanchal Sharma, Dr. Radha Rani and PROF. Jaspal Singh.

EDITORIAL

Technology Impact
on Education

In recent years, technology has profoundly impacted every aspect of our lives, and education is no exception. With the advent of digital tools and the internet, education has become more accessible, personalized, and interactive. Technology in education is not just a passing trend; it is a transformation that promises to shape the future of learning for generations to come. In this context, the application of technology in education brings numerous benefits and challenges that deserve exploration.

One of the most significant contributions of technology to education is accessibility. Traditional learning methods, particularly in remote areas, often faced logistical and resource-related challenges. However, the integration of technology has helped bridge these gaps. For instance, online learning platforms, such as Coursera, edX, and Khan Academy, have democratized access to high-quality education by offering courses from some of the world's best institutions, often for free or at a fraction of the cost of traditional education. In regions like Jammu & Kashmir, where educational infrastructure can sometimes be limited due to geographical and socio-political factors, technology offers a solution that allows students to access global resources without leaving their homes.

The widespread use of smartphones, laptops, and tablets has further enhanced accessibility. Students no longer need to be in a physical classroom to access lectures or course materials. Virtual classrooms, video conferencing tools, and online assessment platforms enable students to attend classes, submit assignments, and engage with their peers from any location. This flexibility is particularly valuable for students who may have health issues, family responsibilities, or those in areas where traditional schooling options are scarce.

In addition to accessibility, technology also fosters personalized learning experiences. Traditional education methods often take a one-size-fits-all approach, but digital tools allow for a more customized learning journey. Adaptive learning technologies, such as AI-powered platforms, can track a student's progress and provide tailored lessons, quizzes, and learning paths based on their individual needs. For example, platforms like Duolingo use AI to adapt language learning lessons according to the user's proficiency level, helping them learn at their own pace. This personalized approach not only improves engagement but also ensures that students get the support they need to succeed.

Moreover, technology enhances the interactivity of learning. With the use of multimedia tools—such as videos, podcasts, animations, and simulations—educators can present information in more dynamic and engaging ways. Students are no longer confined to passive learning; they can actively interact with the content. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) have taken this interactivity to the next level. For example, in subjects like history, students can take virtual tours of ancient civilizations or explore geographical landscapes, providing them with an immersive experience that books and traditional lectures cannot offer. This hands-on learning experience is proven to improve comprehension and retention of knowledge.

Technology also enables collaborative learning. Social media platforms, forums, and collaborative tools like Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams allow students to work together on projects, discuss ideas, and share resources, irrespective of their physical locations. This promotes peer learning and teamwork, essential skills in today's interconnected world. Teachers, too, can benefit from collaboration through professional learning networks, where they can exchange ideas, teaching strategies, and resources, improving the overall quality of education.

Despite its many advantages, the integration of technology into education does not come without challenges. One of the primary concerns is the digital divide—the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. In many parts of the world, including rural regions of India, there are significant disparities in access to the internet, smartphones, and laptops. This inequality can lead to a situation where only a select group of students benefit from the advantages of technology, leaving others further behind. Governments, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations must work together to address this issue by investing in digital infrastructure and providing affordable access to devices and the internet.

Another challenge is the over-reliance on technology, which can lead to a decrease in face-to-face interactions. While technology can enhance learning, it cannot replace the human element in education. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding, motivating, and mentoring students. Excessive screen time can also have negative effects on students' physical and mental health, such as eye strain, poor posture, and increased stress. Balancing the use of technology with traditional methods of teaching is essential to ensure a holistic learning experience.

Finally, there are concerns about the privacy and security of student data. With the increased use of online platforms, students' personal information is often stored digitally, making it vulnerable to cyberattacks. Educational institutions need to implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect students' privacy and ensure the safe use of online platforms.

Ties with Dhaka: Domestic politics & diplomacy clash

By: K.C. Singh

Since Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee her country and seek refuge in India on August 5, after escalating student-led protests, India-Bangladesh relations have frayed. Seeing Sheikh Hasina as a bulwark against Islamist forces, New Delhi kept backing her unquestionably, despite her rising authoritarianism. Endorsing of close allies, while disregarding their domestic politics, has a long history.

The United States often held its nose to back despicable authoritarian governments for geopolitical advantage. One US President justified it on the grounds that the ruler was, after all, "our son of a bitch". The US has as a consequence suffered occasionally. The 1979 ouster of the Shah of Iran by Islamist forces led by Ayatollah Khomeini, then exiled in France, is a prime example. It upended the "twin pillars" American policy, using Iran and Saudi Arabia to stabilise the Gulf, after the British exit in 1971. The US is still wrestling to achieve that.

Perhaps the Indian government got blindsided by its domestic majoritarian bias, which aligned with a Muslim majority nation battling Islamist elements. The irony of supporting secularism in the neighbourhood while ignoring it at home was missed. The US had been warning Bangladesh about democratic regression, sanctioning its elite police unit in 2021 and a former Army chief in 2024. India saw it as unnecessary meddling in a nation that it felt was on the right track.

Sheikh Hasina ruled for 20 of the past 28 years, including being in power continuously since 2009. During 2000-16, Bangladesh became a model of economic growth. The population in extreme poverty fell by two-thirds. Many indices topped India's, includ-

ing per capita at market prices. Sheikh Hasina also managed to defang the Jamaat-e-Islami, which opposed the nation's independence and collaborated with the Pakistani military. It was banned after independence in 1971, when Sheikh Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formed the first government. The citizenship of its leader Ghulam Azam was cancelled and he fled abroad. After the assassination of Mujib in 1975, the Jamaat resumed activities. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of an assassinated former Army chief and President, aligned with the Jamaat.

This combination is now back in the reckoning with the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus unshackling the BNP and Jamaat leaders. Immediately after Sheikh Hasina's self-exile in India, her party Awami League's senior members and cadres were attacked and arrested, with nearly 1,000 dying. A three-member International Crimes Tribunal is now prosecuting those allegedly involved in killings of protesters, especially students. Amongst those arrested are 11 ministers, one judge and a senior bureaucrat. December 17 is the new deadline for the tribunal's award, which has issued warrants for Sheikh Hasina and 45 others on October 17. In fact, the tribunal explained the delay due to making the verdict compatible with the extradition treaty between India and Bangladesh. An extradition request may become a new bilateral dispute. Therefore, the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, formerly belonging to Iskcon, on a sedition charge reflects popular anti-India sentiment, now metamorphosing into anti-Hinduism. The Indian government asking the Bangladesh government to protect minorities sits poorly alongside slogans in Maharashtra electioneering of "Katengay to Batengay". Prime Minister Narendra Modi correctly modified

it but without condemning it. More Hindu priests have been arrested subsequently. Bangladesh has an estimated 10,000 Indian citizens, besides 14 million Hindus. Unlike in western India, where Punjabi Muslims abandoned their language and culture to dominate Pakistan, Bengali Muslims remained attached to their language and culture. The Awami League drew support from this vast majority. But in recent years, as Bangladesh's economic miracle faltered and Sheikh Hasina's authoritarianism worsened, the popular sentiment swung against her secular coalition. There are reports of Pakistan becoming more active, but China is best positioned after the exit of India-friendly Sheikh Hasina. While China is Bangladesh's largest trading partner, in South Asia India takes that credit. Over the last eight years, India extended four lines of credit, totalling \$8 billion. On March 18, 2023, the Prime Ministers of both countries inaugurated remotely the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, carrying high-speed diesel. On November 1, 2023, two rail connectivity projects and the Maitree Super Thermal Plant were also inaugurated. Five pre-1965 rail links were rehabilitated. Bangladesh is importing 1160 MW of power from India. Invited to the India-hosted G-20 summit in September 2023, Sheikh Hasina signed three memoranda of understanding on agricultural research, digital payments and cultural exchanges. Thus, the Indian strategy to help Sheikh Hasina's rule was to bolster Bangladesh economically and increase connectivity, power and military links. Internationally, Bangladesh is arguing that its government protects Hindus. Their permanent representative in Geneva, speaking at the 17th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, said: "The entire society of Bangladesh came forward to protect its minorities following our long tradition of communal harmony". The

security of every citizen remains, he added, "the cornerstone of the interim government of Bangladesh". However, following the death of a Muslim lawyer, in protests when bail was denied to Chinmoy by a Chittagong court, 31 Hindus have been named as suspects. If an interim government led by a pro-West Nobel laureate is unable to control the increasing communal polarisation, the situation under a likely BNP-Jamaat government may be worse. The United States still has leverage as Bangladesh needs the \$4.7 billion IMF bailout. The European Union can also lobby as it is Bangladesh's largest export destination. In addition, the tariff concessions offered by them end in 2029. Japan remains the biggest donor to a now beleaguered nation. Naturally everyone awaits the Donald Trump presidency to see what role, if any, the US plays to guide Bangladesh back to responsible and democratic governance. The BJP's own increasingly majoritarian and authoritarian regime is ill equipped to preach moderation, human rights and democracy in a nation that sees it as complicit in the Sheikh Hasina-created mess. A student leader from the protests reflects the dangerous polarisation, saying that Iskcon is an extremist organisation working with India to "plot against us". With the youth having turned against the ousted Awami League regime, India too faces their wrath. This writer has long maintained that foreign and domestic policies cannot be in separate silos. Their conflict last affected India's relations with the Maldives. Rudyard Kipling wrote that "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet". So far, the BJP has managed to keep diplomacy and domestic politics distinct. It seems the "twain" has again overlapped in Bangladesh, another South Asian nation.

Women empowerment in the digital age

By: Vijay Garg

In today's digital age, improving women's access to the Internet is essential not only for their individual empowerment but also for overall social and economic development. Digital technology can provide women with new opportunities for education, healthcare, and financial independence, helping to reduce gender inequality in society. Although the Government of India has taken important steps to increase digital access through the Digital India initiative, it is not possible to ensure it is necessary that in these efforts, the weaknesses and security related problems of women should also be addressed. The 'digital divide' has emerged as a major problem in India, especially in the context of women and girls. According to data for 2022 and 2023 from the 'Global System for Mobile Communications Association' and 'Oxfam', it is clear that women's access to the internet needs improvement. For example, the gender gap in mobile ownership is expected to decline by 11 percent in 2022, but women are still at a disadvantage in mobile internet usage. The share remains stable at 130.1 per cent, widening the gender gap to 40 per cent. Moreover, mobile internet awareness among women is less than 60 percent. This shows that major challenges still remain for women to fully integrate into the digital world. 'Digital for women': The challenges of engagement are not just technical, but also social and mental health. Women face cyber abuse, online harassment and mental health problems, especially when they use social

media platforms. Uses. This negatively impacts not only their personal security but also their digital engagement. Improving access to the internet, mobile phone access and financial services in India is important, but it is also important that these reforms are implemented with a gender equality perspective. There is a stark difference in Internet usage between women and men in rural areas, where men are twice as likely as women to use the Internet. As a result, digital opportunities for women barriers to access arise, compromising their economic opportunities. Lack of digital literacy and the complexities of mobile internet use further widen this gap. The 'Digital India' initiative launched by the Government of India has made significant efforts to increase digital access, but women-centric issues have been completely ignored in this initiative. According to Gurumurthy and Chami (2018), no clear gender-disaggregated training goals were mentioned in the Digital India program document, which expresses the inability to include women inclusively in the digital world. Furthermore, the initiative also fails to recognize that increasing the rate of Internet usage by women requires digital literacy and skills opportunities. Inclusive development of digital technologies can provide opportunities for all sections of society to overcome barriers to economic opportunity, education and mobility. Digital technologies can create new jobs, facilitate access to digital financial services and facilitate the growth of digital businesses. Can encourage S. Additionally, digital technology can also help improve

public service delivery and promote greater citizen participation. Internet usage in India has grown rapidly, but despite this progress, the digital divide is still a major challenge. According to the National Family Health Survey-5, only 33 percent of women in India have used the Internet, while 57 percent of men have used it. Smartphone data further highlights this disparity. National According to the sample survey 2020-21, only 26 percent of women in rural India own a smart phone, while 49 percent of men use smart phones. Inequality is deeper in rural areas. According to the National Sample Survey, in rural India men are almost twice as likely as women to use the Internet. There is no state or union territory in India as a whole where women have used the Internet more than men. Straight line of digital connectivity of women This also impacts their financial empowerment. 'Digital banking' and 'mobile money transactions' have made financial transactions more convenient and flexible for women. According to the 'Internet and Mobile Association of India's 2022 report', improvement in digital literacy and connectivity could increase India's GDP by 100 billion dollars by 2025. Women will benefit most from this potential growth, as digital platforms provide them with new opportunities for skill development, employment and entrepreneurship. in digital skills The number of trained women is increasing at the rate of about 2.5 percent every year. With this, not only are women participating in 'startups', but they are also promoting technological innovation by taking leadership roles. Under the

Digital India programme, rural women are being empowered through digitalisation. This has helped them expand their small businesses on online platforms and become financially independent. According to reports, women who have access earn approximately 140 percent more income. Are. Eliminating the 'digital divide' should be a priority in efforts to increase Internet consumption; these efforts should also consider the problems women and girls face due to the Internet. The Government of India has made a clear commitment to expand digital reach and infrastructure across India through its 'Digital India' programme, with this reach being accelerated by industry giants such as Google, Facebook and Amazon. Data provided by National Family Health Survey in provide important information in terms of our progress on the issues, but it is also important to check that the approaches adopted do not reinforce patriarchal norms and structures that increase inequalities. Programs like 'Digital India' aim to eliminate the 'digital divide', but there is a need to ensure that women can fully benefit from the opportunities. Digital literacy, cyber security and mental health protection to promote digital empowerment for women These measures should be promoted so that they can use the Internet safely and securely.

(Vijay Garg Retired
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GDC Mahanpur organizes rally to commemorate National Pollution Control Day

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Dec 2: Department of Environmental Sciences, Government Degree College (GDC) Mahanpur, in collaboration with the Civil Administration, organized a rally to commemorate National Pollution Control Day under the theme "Clean Air, Green Earth: a step towards sustainable living".

The rally witnessed active participation from middle and higher secondary schools. The program was organized by Dr. Nishu, HOD Environmental Sciences under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, the Principal of the College.

The rally was flagged off by the Chief Guest,



Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Basohli, accompanied by Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of GDC Mahanpur.

Other dignitaries present included the Tehsildar, Block Development Officer (BDO), Naib Tehsildar and Chowki Officer.

The event concluded with a gathering where key speakers, including the Chief Guest, Anil

Kumar Thakur, Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Basohli, Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, the Principal of GDC Mahanpur and Dr. Nishu (HOD Environmental Science) deliberated upon various Environmental aspects and measures to prevent pollution and suggested to have a common platform for discussion among the regulators, waste generators to understand the need to take preventive

measures by one and all to save the planet.

The rally aimed to raise awareness about the importance of pollution control and promote eco-friendly practices among the local community. Staff members and Students of GDC Mahanpur, Middle and Higher Secondary schools Mahanpur, participated in the rally, which helped to spread awareness among local people and shopkeep-

ers. Near about 100 students were present in the rally.

Moreover, the faculty members who were part of the event were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Nisha Bhagat, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Bhat, Dr. Yog Raj, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Suhail Ahmad Dar, Namita Trogia and Divya Rajput along with Non-Teaching staff were Romesh, Mango Ram, Kuldeep, Anuradha, Surinder, Sunny, Shibu Din and Anuradha.

The event was a huge success, with enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. The rally highlighted the need for collective action to combat pollution and promote sustainable development.

United Public Academy Barshalla celebrates Annual Day

Top News Report

DODA, Dec 2: United Public Academy, Barshalla, celebrated its Annual Day with great enthusiasm and splendor on December 1, 2024.

The event witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities, including Smt. Pooja Devi, former Sarpanch of Panchayat Barshalla, as the Chief Guest. Pinku, a renowned social activist and National Youth Awardee, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Retired Captain Om Parkash, Des Raj Ji,

and Anoop Kumar were the Special Guests for the event.

The celebration began with a warm welcome by the Principal Shiv Kumar, who set the tone for the event with an inspiring speech.

The stage was skillfully managed by Harshika Sharma, a talented student from Class 5, who served as the Stage Secretary.

In their addresses, the Guest of Honour, Pinku, and Special Guest, Retired Captain Om Parkash shared insightful words, encouraging the students to strive for excellence and contrib-

ute positively to society.

The highlight of the day was the vibrant cultural performances by the students, whose captivating dances left the audience spellbound.

Prizes and awards were distributed to participants by the Guests and the Principal, recognizing the students' hard work and talent.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the Principal, who expressed gratitude to the guests, parents, students, and staff for making the Annual Day a grand success.

RRC of GDC R S Pura organizes symposium on AIDS awareness

Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 2: The Red Ribbon Club of GDC R. S. Pura on Monday organized a Symposium World AIDS Day with the theme 'Take the rights paths' to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of prevention. Seven student speakers participated in the event and highlighted the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and breaking the stigma.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College. In her address, she encouraged the students to act as agents of change by



spreading awareness in the society.

The convener of the committee, Prof. Geetika Goswami commended the speakers for their efforts in creating awareness on the disease. She emphasized the need for proactive measures including safe practices, early testing to prevent the spread of the disease.

The other prominent members who were presented in the event were Dr. Sudesh Kumar,

Dr. Akriti Parihar, Prof. Jai Mala Thakur, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Avneet Kour, Dr. Hidayat and Hilal.

The session was interactive with thought-provoking discussions.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Prof. Rajinder Singh who expressed gratitude to the Principal, Convener, Committee members and participants for their active contribution to the event.

Dr. Manyal starts development projects in Nathwal, Katli



Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 2: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal MLA Ramgarh, and Ramesh Chander, DDC Samba, Kick-starts two significant development projects aimed at enhancing the infrastructure and health services in the region.

The first project, a Health and Wellness Center, Rooms was inaugurated at Village Nathwal. This initiative is set to improve the overall healthcare facilities for the residents of Nathwal and surrounding areas, providing them with better access to medical services and promoting overall well-

being.

The second project, a Tile Laying Work, was launched near the Sehdev Data Devsthan in Village Katli. The work, funded under the CD & Panchayat scheme, will enhance the appearance and accessibility of the area. The estimated cost of the tile laying work is INR 4.50 lacs.

Additionally, a Culvert/Path Construction project from the residence of Balbir Singh to onwards in Ward No. 5 was also inaugurated. This work, undertaken under the PRI (Capex) scheme, is aimed at improving transportation facilities in the locality.

The estimated cost of this project is Rs 3 lakh.

The local residents and community members expressed their gratitude towards the leaders for their continuous efforts in improving the living standards in the region. The initiatives are expected to bring significant improvements in both healthcare and infrastructure, benefiting the public at large.

MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and DDC Ramesh Chander reaffirmed their commitment to the region's development and promised to continue working for the betterment of the community.

GDC Paloura organizes poster making competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: Students of Govt Degree college Paloura initiated a series of activities to observe World Aids Day under the guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college. Students sketched colorful posters on the theme, "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!"

The poster making competition was judged by Prof. Amit Bhalla, Dr. Rabia and Prof. Vikram Jamwal.

The first position was grabbed by Vishali Manhas, second position holder was Kamaljeet Kour and third position won by Surpreet kour.

The whole activity was organised by Members of Red Ribbon Club of the college. Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the club members as well as encouraged the students to participate in these activities.

GDC Bishnah observes World AIDS Day

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Dec 2: To mark World AIDS Day, the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Bishnah organized an engaging and impactful event focused on spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS.

The event was held on Monday at the college campus, featuring poster-making and rangoli-making activities, where students participated actively to showcase their creativity while promoting crucial information about HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and solidarity.

Under the leadership of NSS Coordinator Dr. Geeta Lakhotra and Red Ribbon Club Coordinator Dr. Ashma Gupta, the event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of safe practices, the fight against stigma, and the role of compassion in combating the epidemic.

The activities provided a platform for students to express their understanding of the global health issue through vibrant posters and intricate rangolis, designed

to capture attention and provoke thought on this important day.

The students' posters highlighted themes such as awareness, prevention, and care for those living with HIV/AIDS, while the rangoli designs emphasized the significance of community, unity, and empathy in the fight against the disease.

Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, NSS Coordinator, said, "The NSS unit is proud to be part of this important initiative that empowers our students to use their creative talents for social good. World AIDS Day serves as a reminder that through awareness, education, and support, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by HIV/AIDS."

The whole program was conducted under the aegis of Principal of the College, Dr. Shallu samyal.

The event was a resounding success, drawing participation from a diverse group of students and faculty, all united in the common goal of raising awareness and contributing to the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

GDC R S Pura organizes screening of short film "Anti Ragging"



Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 2: To aware the students about the repercussions of ragging, the Anti ragging committee in collaboration with NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) R S Pura organized screening of a short film "Anti ragging" under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and supervision of NSS PO Dr. Chanchal Angral.

The session started with the welcome note by Prof. Harpreet Kour. The short film focused on severe physical, psychological, academic, social and interpersonal consequences of ragging on students.

The Principal addressed how ragging has its devastating effects on individuals and emphasized the importance of an anti-ragging campaign in a college premise. Preventing ragging isn't just about policy enforcement; it's about changing attitudes.

A college should be a safe space for students to learn, grow, and express themselves. Ragging undermines this environment by fostering fear, insecurity, and exclusion.

The NSS PO, Dr. Chanchal Angral stated that anti-ragging campaign helps promote inclusivity, where all students—regardless of their year of study—feel respected. They play

a pivotal role in shaping campus culture, preventing harm, and fostering personal and academic growth for all students.

Through education, awareness, and collective responsibility, such campaigns help ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive in a secure and inclusive space. The prominent faculty members present were Prof. Shifali Abrol, Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Hari Singh, Prof. Rajinder Singh, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour. The session was concluded with a formal vote of thanks given by Dr. Sanjeev Upadhyay.

KC College of Education observes World AIDS Day with 'Poster Making Activity'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: KC College of Education observed World AIDS Day by organizing a poster making activity on the theme "Take the Right Path: My Health, My Right!" The event aimed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote the importance of health and well-being.

The poster making activity saw enthusiastic partici-



patation from students, who showcased their creativity and talent through thought-provoking posters. The posters highlighted various aspects of HIV/AIDS, including prevention, treat-

ment, and the importance of human rights.

The event was organized under the guidance of Priya Gupta, NSS Programme Officer, K.C. College of Education. "We aim to educate our students about the importance of health and well-being, and encourage them to take an active role in promoting awareness about HIV/AIDS," said Mrs. Gupta.

Dr. Sanjay Tickoo, Principal of the college appreciated the students for their active participation and creative efforts in the poster making activity.

"I am proud of our students for their enthusiasm and dedication to promot-

JKTF to support NMOPS for restoration of old pension scheme



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 2: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) held an Executive Council meeting in Srinagar, chaired by Mohd Amin Khan, the Forum's Chairman and National Vice President of the All India Secondary Teachers' Federation (AISTF). In his address, the Chairman highlighted the organization's achievements and ongoing efforts.

Key issues discussed included the promotion

of Masters and Headmasters, improving the transfer policy for Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers, addressing concerns of Grade 3 teachers, the speedy release of GP funds, timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs), and filling vacant teaching and administrative posts.

The Forum resolved to support the National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) under its State President, Mohd Ashraf

Sheikh, to restore the old pension scheme.

The efforts of UT President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh in strengthening the Forum in Jammu Division were also commended.

District presidents from Kashmir Division were directed to finalize and submit district and zonal body lists to the General Secretary. It was decided that organizational policies and core issues would only be discussed with the Chairman's consent, and non-seriousness from portfolio holders would lead to disciplinary action as per the Forum's constitution.

The meeting reaffirmed JKTF's commitment to addressing teachers' concerns and strengthening the organization's framework.

Nikhil Advani's latest web-series 'Freedom at Midnight' might have opened to mixed reviews, but has an IMDb rating of 8.4/10

National Award-winning director Nikhil Advani's latest web-series 'Freedom at Midnight' might have opened to mixed reviews, but has an IMDb rating of 8.4/10. To those having issues with his historical saga, his tongue-in-cheek riposte is, "I am waiting to watch what they make and show what I have not shown... I read everybody's reviews and am often heartbroken and wonder where I went wrong."

Creator of 'Rocket Boys', 'The Empire' and 'Mumbai Diaries', one of the biggest challenges of recreating history for Advani was "to get it right". A history buff, he jokes how he spent most of the money he hoped to make through 'Freedom at Midnight' on books recommended by William Dalrymple and Anita Anand. Their podcast 'Empire' is often his go-to referral point. He adds, "There are far too many experts on Independence and Partition. Hence, the source material had to be correct."

Many feel the book by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins, on which the series is based, reads like a screenplay, a fact which served him tantalisingly well. Since his journey began with Kundan Shah, Sudhir Mishra, Saeed Akhtar Mirza and later coincided with the masters of mainstream like Karan Johar and Aditya Chopra, Advani's sensibilities were bound to be an amalgamation. He elaborates, "My voice tends to be closer to the Kundans, Sudhirs and Saeeds, but the treatment is more mainstream, highly dramatic." Precisely why, for the dialogues in 'Freedom at Midnight', he wanted the signature Salim-Javed touch — which his dialogue writer Divy Nidhi Sharma delivered on point.



After 'Rocket Boys', the creator in Advani realised, "Unlike Hansal Mehta's 'Scam 1992', the punches of dialogues were missing in our story of Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai, which, perhaps, stopped the show from being elevated to the level (of popularity) it could have attained." Today, he is happy as viewer after viewer is mauling dialogues from 'Freedom at Midnight', and even he quotes one of his favourites, uttered by Mohammad Ali Jinnah, "Yeh neta apne log dhoond lega..."

On the criticism that the blame of Partition is laid at Jinnah's feet and the British are given a clean chit, he reasons, "It is my humble submission, wait for the second season. Then, perhaps, we can revisit this question."

Part two of the series packs many more turns. We will see Lord Mountbatten being lauded as the architect of India's Independence, ready to pack his bags and leave India, while Cyril Radcliffe is told that instead of 13 months, he has just five weeks to draw the line between two nations. Then, there would be the princes and Kashmir. As he puts it, "If season one was like a ticking time bomb, part two will bring you face-to-face with the repercussions of the decisions made."

Whether the series will provide a healing touch to the horrors of Partition is met with a counter-question, "Have the wounds of Partition healed? If the answer is both yes and no, so is mine." There is, however, no ambiguity about what he has chosen to recount. His idea was to transport the viewers to those rooms where all heated discussions were taking place, and the leaders didn't have the luxury of hindsight and were taking decisions in real time. He avers, "They had no idea Jinnah was dying; if they had, perhaps, things would have been different. I could be giving this interview from Karachi, an undivided India."

While he stands by all his editorial choices made in conjunction with his writing team as well as SonyLiv head Danish Khan, we wonder if making a series on a period far removed from the current dispensation puts additional pressure. His reply is cryptic, "I am telling the story of 1947, not 2024. If you are drawing any comparisons with India today, all I can say is that one thing that has not changed is the politics of this country." Advani's approach certainly undergoes a shift depending upon whether he is making a movie or a web show, since one is a sprint and

the other a marathon.

For the director of successful movies like 'Kal Ho Na Ho' and 'Baatla House', OTT spells liberation from trying to figure out which formula works at the box office. He loves OTT. We will see him steer yet another historical saga on revolutionaries of the freedom movement. He shares, "Freedom fighters like Lala Hardayal, Kartar Singh Sarabha and more will figure prominently. After all, two states, Bengal and Punjab, played a stellar role."

Punjabis are special to him. He simply loves Mahabir Bhullar, who plays Master Tara Singh in 'Freedom at Midnight'. "I would cast him in every project of mine." As for his casting choices, which included rather young actors playing stalwarts, he smiles, "I could not have made Akshay Kumar play Gandhi." Seriously, he didn't want actors to play these tall leaders in his series and murderers in another and thus the pool became much smaller. But, in the end, he lauds his actors who researched voice, body language and underwent workshops for a year and a half. Net result, they emerged exactly as he wanted them.

Advani is in no quandary, "I don't stand in a disputable space. Season one begins with Gandhiji saying batwara over my dead body and part two closes with him making the ultimate sacrifice.... Many thought that Partition will quell violence, except for one man, Gandhiji, who paid with his life for standing by his ideology. I am chasing that story."

As Rudyard Kipling said, "If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten." Advani creates an unforgettable one.

Jennifer Lopez says Hollywood stereotypes made her feel she 'wasn't good enough'



Jennifer Lopez has opened up about her initial years in Hollywood and how she used her self-belief to fight any doubts that crept in about her ability. The actor-singer, who has now spent over two decades in the industry, opened up about her challenges as a Latina actress in the film industry.

Jennifer Lopez on battling stereotypes

Appearing on Variety's Awards Circuit podcast, JLo opened up about her early days in the film industry and how the change in Hollywood - regarding stereotypes and diversity - can be

slow but still positive.

"I heard someone say that positive change is slow -- and it is -- but as long as we're moving in the right direction, that's what matters," she said, adding, "When I started, there weren't a lot of roles for Latinas. I was auditioning for parts with accents and stereotypes. I kept thinking, 'Why can't I just play a romantic lead? Why can't I be the girl next door?' That belief - that conviction that I belonged -- was what helped me break those moulds."

The actor, who started with roles in blockbusters like Anaconda

before making a name for herself in romantic comedies, added that her journey wasn't full of roses. Due to her upbringing in the Bronx as the daughter of Puerto Rican parents, Lopez admitted that she went through imposter syndrome in the initial years of her career.

"Imposter syndrome is real, especially when you come from neighbourhoods like I did," she added. "But I've learned that it's about what you tell yourself. You have to redirect that inner voice. Whenever the doubts creep in -- 'I don't belong here, I'm not good enough' -- you need to replace them with, 'No, I've worked hard. I do belong here.' It's a mindset that transforms everything."

Jennifer Lopez's upcoming film

The actor will be next seen in a biographical sports drama film titled Unstoppable. She will be playing the role of Judy Robles, the mother of NCAA wrestling champion Anthony Robles.

The film is based on the real-life story of Anthony Robles, a one-legged wrestler who defied all odds to become a champion. Directed by debutant Villy Goldenberg, the film stars Jharrel Jerome in the lead role. The film is produced by Jennifer's estranged husband, Ben Affleck. The two began work on the project before they filed for divorce in August this year. Unstoppable will be released on January 16 on Amazon Prime Video.

Vikrant Massey announces break from films, says 'time to recalibrate, go back home'

Actor Vikrant Massey on Monday said it was time for him "recalibrate", hinting at a temporary break from films "until time deems right" for his comeback.

His announcement weeks after the release of his latest movie "The Sabar-mati Report", which hit the screens on November 15.

According to production house Balaji Motion Pictures, the film has grossed Rs 33 crore at the box office.

Massey, who recently garnered success and acclaim with 2023's "12th Fail" and the recent Netflix movie "Sector 26", thanked fans for their "phenomenal" support in the last few years.

"I thank each and every one of you for your indelible support," the 37-year-old wrote on Instagram.

"But as I move forward, I realise it's time to recalibrate and go back home. As a Husband, Father & a Son. And also as an Actor," he added.

Massey welcomed his first child, son Vardaan, with actor-wife Sheetal Thakur in February.

The actor said he has one more release lined up for 2025.



"So coming 2025, we would meet each other for one last time. Until time deems right. Last 2 movies and many a years of memories. Thank you again. For everything and everything in between. Forever indebted! (sic) he wrote.

Meghan Trainor reveals she can't smile anymore after 'too much' Botox

Meghan Trainor has revealed that she cannot smile anymore after too much Botox. "I got too much Botox and I need help!" the singer said during a recent episode of her 'Workin' on It' podcast alongside her husband Daryl Sabara, and brother Ryan Trainor.

"I messed up! I've had Botox a handful of times ... just on my forehead," Trainor said, claiming that she decided to experiment on another part of her face.

The 30-year-old admitted that someone encouraged her to get a "lip flip" to make her upper lip look fuller. "Someone convinced me with my little lips ... that you could have a beautiful flip on your upper lip and I could have one for the first time in my whole 30



years of living. It was not true," she said.

"Also, I cannot smile anymore," Trainor added. "Look, this is as big as I can smile. ... Everywhere I go I cannot smile. My face hurts to smile, to even try."

Trainor then went on to show a picture of herself holding a dog at a shelter, and said, "I'm a happy person here. I'm holding a puppy. I don't look happy. I look like I smelled someone's fart."

"I have wanted this my whole life"

The 'Mother' singer also revealed during that episode that she will get a boob job done after breastfeeding her and Sabara's one-year-old son, Barry. "My mommy boobies were full of milk and now they're empty

and then they're full of milk and now they're empty. They got big, they got small, they got big, they got small," she said.

"I've lost some weight and I have ... saggy sacks as boobs," Trainor added.

Trainor also explained how preparations for her upcoming performances have made her want to go under the knife. "What's really difficult is when I'm trying on all these amazing outfits for tour and for shows coming up, I have to wear the most supportive bras and it could ruin the outfit," she said.

She added, "I've always joked and said for years like, 'I can't wait till I can get a boob job!' I have wanted this my whole life."

When Julia Roberts refused a potential mini-sequel of Notting Hill

Notting Hill screenwriter Richard Curtis recently revealed that a potential mini-sequel to the film was rejected by actress Julia Roberts after she read the proposed plot. Curtis shared that Roberts refused to participate in the project upon discovering that the sequel would depict her character, Anna Scott, divorcing Hugh Grant's William Thacker.

Notting Hill is a 1999 romantic comedy film directed by Roger Michell. The story follows the blossoming romance between a British bookseller (Hugh Grant) and a famous American actress (Julia Roberts), who unexpectedly visits his bookstore in London's Notting



Hill district. The film concluded with a happy ending, as the couple married.

Curtis admitted, "A mini-Notting Hill reunion had been discussed. I tried doing one with Notting Hill, where they were going to get divorced, and Julia [Roberts] thought that was a very poor idea."

Hugh Grant, reflecting on his role in Notting Hill, shared his own perspective on the character, describing him as 'despicable'.

Julia Roberts, in addition to her role in Notting Hill, is celebrated for her work in films like Erin Brockovich, My Best Friend's Wedding, Pretty Woman, Ocean's Twelve, and others.

Here's what Aishwarya Rai is focusing on amid separation rumours with Abhishek

Aishwarya Rai is back to fulfilling her professional commitments amidst separation rumours with her husband, Abhishek Bachchan.

After attending the Global Women's Forum in Dubai, the actress was recently spotted returning to Mumbai. Aishwarya has dived straight back into work, and a new picture from the set has captured fans' attention. Celebrity makeup artist Adrian Jacobs shared a selfie with Aishwarya on his Instagram story and captioned the post, "A lovely day at work @aishwaryarabachchan_arb."

In the image, the actress is seen smiling as she poses with her



makeup artist. Her makeup game looked on point with bold black eyeliner, glossy pink lips, and a dewy finish. Rumours surrounding Aishwarya and Abhishek's marriage have been gaining momentum for some time. The couple has frequently been the subject of divorce speculations, with interest spiking after their separate appearances at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding earlier this year.

Most recently, their divorce rumours made headlines after Rai's name at an event was displayed without the 'Bachchan' on a screen at an event in Dubai.

Efforts should be made to make tax collection less intrusive: President Murmu

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said efforts should be made to make tax collection less intrusive and underlined the need for greater use of technology in the process.

Addressing trainee officers of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes), who called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, the President said the responsibility of bringing new ideas and solutions in the field of tax administration lies with the young officers.

Taxation is not only a means of increasing the country's revenue but is also important for social, economic and political development. The tax



paid by the citizens of the country is used for the development of the country and its people, Murmu said.

She told the trainee officers that if they do their work with dedication and devotion, then they will be able to make a great contribution to the development of the country, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"In this new and

dynamic era, efforts should be made to make less intrusive and more use of technology in tax collection," the statement quoted Murmu as saying.

The IRS (Customs and Indirect Taxes) connects "our economy through a uniform tax system and shared administrative values", she said.

This service promotes uniformity in the tax administration of the

country, she said.

The IRS (Customs and Indirect Taxes) enables the country to utilise resources for economic development and building of infrastructure, running socio-economic schemes, providing education and health services, etc. This underlines the important role of IRS officers in nation-building, she added.

The President told the trainee officers that to

fulfil their role as administrators, they need to develop systems and processes that are transparent and ensure accountability.

IRS officers are a very important link between the government of India, business and tax administrations of various states, she said.

In the changing socio-economic scenario across the world, Murmu said, the agenda of national interest is determined largely by international economic cooperation.

IRS officers are the guardians of the country's economic boundaries and would always have to work with honesty and dedication, she said.

PM Modi greets Nadda on birthday, lauds remarkable contributions to BJP

Nadda has been heading the saffron party since 2020



NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday greeted BJP president and Union minister J P Nadda on his 64th birthday, lauding his "remarkable contributions" to the party.

In a post on X, Modi said, "I have known Nadda Ji for years and have witnessed his remarkable contributions to our party. He has carried out every organisational, legislative and executive responsibility with

utmost diligence. He is at the forefront of efforts to ensure a healthier India."

Several other BJP leaders wished the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha who has been heading the ruling party since 2020.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Nadda's simplicity, humility and tenacity are remarkable.

"He has been instrumental in scripting several success stories for the party. Nadda ji is also making commendable efforts in strengthening India's health sector," Singh added.

Telangana woman constable killed by brother, cops hint at honour killing

HYDERABAD., Dec 2 (Agencies): A woman police constable was brutally murdered by her brother in a suspected case of honour killing near Telangana's Raipole village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal, Ranga Reddy district, on Monday.

The victim, Nagamani, was working at the Hayathnagar police station and had married Srikanth, a man from another caste, a fortnight ago. Her family had reportedly opposed the intercaste marriage.

The attack occurred while Nagamani was riding her scooter from Raipole to Manneveda. According to police, Paramesh, her brother, deliberately rammed her scooter with his car. When she fell, he attacked her with a machete, leaving her in a pool of blood. Nagamani died on the spot due to grievous injuries.

Upon receiving information, police rushed to the scene and confirmed Nagamani's death. "We suspect that her brother was enraged by her love marriage and killed her in an act of honour killing," a senior officer said.



Nagamani, 2020 batch police constable, had reportedly gone against her family's wishes by marrying Srikanth, which led to tensions within the family.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to apprehend the accused, who fled the scene after the attack. Police are also looking into other angles, including any property disputes.

Navy Chief confirms India tested 3,500-km range nuclear-capable missile

With the K-4 missile test, India became part of a small group of countries that can fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea.

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi today confirmed that India has tested the 3,500-km range nuclear-capable missile from a ballistic missile submarine believed to be the recently commissioned INS Arighaat. Speaking to the media ahead of Navy Day, he, however, said more data was awaited on the trajectory of the missile.

The K-4 missile was reportedly tested from submarine INS Arighaat - which was commissioned into the Indian Navy on August 29 - off the coast of Visakhapatnam on November 27.

According to reports, it was the first test of the



submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine.

With the K-4 missile test, India also became part of a small group of countries that can fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea.

India has significantly enhanced its overall military capabilities and test-fired a range of missiles with varying ranges in the past few years. Admiral Tripathi also

said the government's approval for two SSNs (nuclear-powered attack submarines) indicated its "faith" in the country's indigenous capabilities to build such boats.

Fast attack submarines are used to target enemy ships and submarines and may launch cruise missiles against land and sea targets. These are different from SSBMs such as the INS Arighaat, which have a

primary role of launching nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

Admiral Tripathi said 62 ships and a submarine are currently under construction within the country as part of efforts to boost its naval power. A large number of platforms are waiting for induction in the next one year and at least one ship will be inducted into the Navy, he said.

"We have redoubled efforts to include niche technologies into the force," the Navy Chief said.

He also said the procurement of Rafale-M (naval variant) and the Scorpene submarines is likely to be finalised next month. Last year, the defence ministry approved the purchase

of the Rafale-M jets from France, primarily for deployment on board the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

Admiral Tripathi also said they have kept a "close watch" on the activities of extra-regional forces operating in the Indian Ocean region, including the Chinese Navy.

"Whether it is their warships or their research vessels, we know who is doing what, where and how," he said.

He also said they were aware of the "surprising growth" of the Pakistan Navy, which aims to become a 50-ship Navy. "They have chosen weapons over the welfare of their people," he said.

Mamata Banerjee wants UN force in Bangladesh, says PM Modi must intervene

KOLKATA, Dec 2 (Agencies): Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday called for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be deployed in Bangladesh and demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal intervention to secure the safety of religious minorities in the violence-hit neighbouring nation.

Ms Banerjee's demands come amid reports that at least three Hindu priests - from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness - have been arrested in civil unrest that has roiled Bangladesh since August, when a student-led rebellion forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stand down and the Army took over, before an interim government was installed.

"We have families... properties... and loved ones in Bangladesh. We accept whatever stance the Government of India takes on this...but we condemn atrocities on religious grounds anywhere in the world and appeal to the union government, and the Prime Minister, to intervene," she said.

Addressing the Bengal Assembly, Ms Banerjee said she had spoken to the chief of the ISKCON's Kolkata unit

to extend her sympathies and support, and stressed, "If Indians are attacked in Bangladesh, then we cannot tolerate it. We can bring back our people... Government of India can take this matter up with the United Nations... so a peacekeeping force can be sent."

She also said she was not seeking to interfere with the internal affairs of another country, but pointed out that when Bangladeshi fishermen had mistakenly entered Indian waters, or when a Bangladeshi trawler had capsized, her government had "rescued them and treated them (well)".

Mr Modi last week met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss this issue, after which the latter called on Bangladesh's temporary government to protect religious minorities. The Indian government also expressed serious concern over a surge of extremist rhetoric and increasing incidents of violence against Hindus, as well as attacks on temples, in that country.

After his meeting with the Prime Minister Mr Jaishankar also briefed Parliament, saying the Indian government had taken a serious view of the violence against minorities in Bangladesh.



"Primary responsibility for protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh," he said, adding the Indian High Commission in Dhaka is monitoring the situation related to minorities there "closely".

The Yunus government has reaffirmed "in the strongest terms" that every Bangladeshi, regardless of their religious identity, has the "right to establish, maintain or perform government respective religious rituals and practices or express views without hindrance."

Two ISKCON priests were arrested by Bangladesh Saturday, according to the religious group's Kolkata unit spokesperson Radharam Das. This, he claimed, was in addition to the arrest of two devotees and a third, the secretary of one of the arrested priests, going missing.

The ISKCON row kicked off with the arrest

of Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari last week.

A former member, he was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, denied bail, and sent to jail on charges of sedition. His arrest, the interim Bangladesh government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohd. Yunus, has been "misconstrued", Dhaka has said.

The arrest of Das and another Hindu priest, the leader of the Sammilita Sanatani Jote, triggered protests across Bangladesh, including in Dhaka and the port city of Chattogram. The protesters have been demanding stronger legal protection and a ministry dedicated to minority affairs.

Historically, Hindus made up around 22 per cent of Bangladesh's population during the 1971 Liberation War. But there has been a significant decline in recent decades, with the Hindu community now comprising only around eight per cent of the total population.

SC asks Protesting farmer leaders not to cause inconvenience to people

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday asked Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point to press for the acceptance of farmers' demands, to persuade the protesting farmers not to obstruct highways and cause inconvenience to people.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan disposed of a habeas corpus petition filed on behalf of Dallewal, who was removed from the Khanauri protest site on the Punjab-Haryana border on November 26.

"We have seen that he has been released and he even persuaded a fellow protestor to end his fast-unto-death protest on Saturday," the bench said, adding that the issue raised by the farmers has been noted by the court and is considered in a pending matter.

"In a democratic setup, you can engage in peaceful protests but do not cause inconvenience

to people. You all know that the Khanauri border is a lifeline for Punjab. We are not commenting on whether the protest is right or wrong," the bench told advocate Guninder Kaur Gill, appearing on behalf of Dallewal.

Justice Kant said that Dallewal could persuade the protestors to organise peaceful protests under the law and without causing any inconvenience to people.

The bench said that at this stage, it was not entertaining Dallewal's petition but he could approach later.

Hours before beginning his fast-unto-death on November 26, Dallewal was allegedly forcibly removed from the Khanauri border and taken to a hospital in Ludhiana. He was discharged on Friday evening.

The plea was moved in the apex court on November 29 challenging his alleged illegal detention by the Punjab Police.

On November 30, a day after

he was released, Dallewal joined the fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point to press for the acceptance of the farmers' demands.

Farmers have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces.

The protesters have accused the Centre of not taking steps to address their demands, claiming that it has not held any talks with them on their issues since February 18.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and compensation to the families of farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

SUV driven by drunk man jumps divider, knocks down scooter killing two persons in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, Dec 2 (Agencies): Two persons died after a speeding Hyundai Creta jumped the divider and crashed into a scooter in the next lane in Ahmedabad on Sunday night.

The scooter riders who died in the accident have been identified as Amit Rathore (26) and Vishal Rathore (27). The SUV driver Gopal



Patel has been booked for drunk driving and arrested in connection with the case.

The accident took place on Naroda-Dehgam road. Road users thrashed

the SUV driver and handed him over to the police.

The NDTV quoting Ahmedabad rural police chief Om Prakash Jat said Gopal Patel was drunk at the time of the accident. "Police have arrested the accused. A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder has been registered," he said.

Gaza, Ukraine wars, regional tensions boosting arms sales: Report

STOCKHOLM, Dec 2 (Agencies): Sales by major arms makers were boosted last year by wars in Ukraine and Gaza and tensions in Asia, with marked increases for manufacturers based in Russia and the Middle East, a report said Monday.

Sales of arms and military services by the world's 100 largest arms companies totalled \$632 billion in 2023, up 4.2 percent, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Revenues had dipped in 2022 as global weapons makers struggled to meet the increase in demand, but many of them managed to increase production last year, the authors of the report noted.

In a sign of this surge in demand, all 100 companies tracked achieved sales in excess of \$1 billion last year for the first time.

"There was a marked rise in arms revenues in 2023, and this is likely to continue in 2024," Lorenzo Scarazzato, a researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production, said in a statement.

Sales from the world's top 100 arms companies "still did not fully reflect the scale of demand, and many companies have launched recruitment drives, suggesting they are optimistic about future sales," Scarazzato added.



Smaller producers have been more effective in meeting the demand linked to the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, growing tensions in East Asia and rearmament programmes in other regions, the institute said.

"A lot of them specialise in either a component of something or build systems that require one set of supply chains," allowing them to react more quickly, Nan Tian, Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme, told agency.

Among the leading producers, US companies recorded a 2.5 percent increase in their sales last year and still account for half the world's arms revenues, with 41 US weapons producers in the world's top 100.

Lockheed Martin and RTX (formerly Raytheon Technologies), the world's two largest arms makers, on the other hand, reported a fall in revenue of 1.6 percent and 1.3

percent respectively.

Such behemoths "often depend on complex, multi-tiered supply chains, which made them vulnerable to lingering supply chain challenges in 2023," Tian said.

Russia's Rostec surges in Europe, home to 27 of the top 100, arms makers on average saw an increase of just 0.2 percent.

But European groups manufacturing complex weapons systems were still in the process of honouring old contracts last year, so the revenues do not reflect the influx of orders since then.

"At the same time, a number of other European producers saw their arms revenues grow substantially, driven by demand linked to the war in Ukraine, particularly for ammunition, artillery and air defence and land systems," SIPRI noted.

The figures for Russia, though incomplete, give a

clear signal of an economy increasingly geared toward war.

Sales by the two Russian groups in the ranking rose by 40 percent, mainly thanks to a 49 percent increase in sales for state-owned conglomerate Rostec, according to the report.

Manufacturers in the Middle East were buoyed by the war in Ukraine and by the first months of the Israeli offensive in Gaza after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack -- and saw on average an 18 percent lift in sales.

The three Israeli manufacturers in the ranking posted record sales of \$13.6 billion, up 15 percent from the year before, while the three groups based in Turkey, such as drone producer Baykar, saw their sales jump by 24 percent -- boosted by Ukraine and Turkey's investments in its defence.

In Asia, the trend toward rearmament was particularly evident in the growth in sales by the four South Korean manufacturers, with revenues rising 39 percent on average, and five Japanese firms that saw an average increase of 35 percent.

The nine Chinese producers meanwhile saw revenue increase by only 0.7 percent "amid a slowing economy," but their sales still totalled \$103 billion.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is in Ukraine for his first visit in 2 1/2 years



KYIV, Dec 2 (Agencies): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Ukraine for the first time in more than 2 1/2 years Monday, just weeks after he was criticized by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for having a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

That call came at a time of widespread speculation about what the new administration of President-elect Donald Trump will mean for Ukraine as the incoming president has promised to end the conflict. In a major shift, Zelenskyy signalled Friday that an offer of NATO membership to territory under Kyiv's control could end "the hot stage of the war" in Ukraine.

Scholz's visit comes ahead of an early German election expected in February. As the campaign gets under way, Scholz has pointed to Germany's status as Ukraine's second-biggest weapons supplier while also highlighting his "prudence" in working to prevent the war escalating and refusing to deliver Taurus long-range cruise missiles.

Scholz has been cautious about talk of fast-tracking NATO membership for Ukraine. In recent months, he has emphasized the importance of finding a path to peace, while stressing that it

must not be chosen over Ukraine's head.

Scholz said that in his meeting with Zelenskyy he will announce further military deliveries this month totaling 650 million euros.

"I would like to make clear here on the ground that Germany will remain Ukraine's strongest supporter in Europe," he said.

Despite that, Scholz was criticized by Zelenskyy in November for speaking to Putin in what appeared to be the first conversation with the sitting leader of a major Western power in nearly two years. In that call, Scholz urged Putin to be open to negotiations with Ukraine but the Russian leader said any peace deal should acknowledge Russia's territorial gains and security demands, including that Kyiv renounce joining NATO.

Zelenskyy suggested the call to Putin risked opening "a Pandora's box" and would only serve to make Russia less isolated. He traveled to Berlin in October to meet Scholz to drum up support for his "victory plan" to end the war in Ukraine on a tour of European capitals.

The plan included a suggestion that Ukraine receive a formal invitation to join NATO and a request that Kyiv be given permission to use long-range Western missiles to strike at military targets inside Russia.

Western nations granted permission for Kyiv to carry out long-range strikes with their weapons in November. Following the decision, Putin said Russia launched a strike on Ukraine with an unstoppable intermediate range ballistic missile dubbed the Oreshnik. It marked the first time that such a missile was used in the war or in any other conflict.

Impeachment complaint filed against Philippine Vice President Duterte after she threatened president

MANILA, Dec 2 (Agencies): An impeachment complaint was filed Monday against Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte, who is facing a legal storm over a death threat she made against the president, the alleged misuse of government funds by her office and other criminal accusations.

The impeachment bid filed by several prominent opponents and activists in the House of Representatives accuses Duterte of violating the country's Constitution, massive corruption and other "high crimes," including the death threats she made against the president, his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives.

The vice president's threats showed the "extent of respondent's mental incapacity, her depravity and lack of mental fitness to continue holding the high office of vice president of the Philippines," said a copy of the complaint seen by The Associated Press. "The same constitute not only betrayal of public trust but also a high crime which would warrant her immediate impeachment from office."

Duterte, a 46-year-old lawyer, was also accused in the complaint of having unexplained wealth and of allowing extra-judicial killings of drug suspects begun by her father, a former mayor of southern Davao City, when she held that position in the past.

The vice president's legal troubles have unfolded with the backdrop of her increasingly bitter political feud with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his allies. She said in online news conference on Nov. 23 that she has contracted an assassin to kill Marcos, his wife and Speaker Martin Romualdez if she were killed, a threat she warned was not a joke.

She later said she was not threatening him but was expressing concern for her own safety.

The impeachment complaint will be scrutinized by the Philippine Congress, which is dominated by allies of Marcos and his cousin and key backer, Romualdez, who also has been politically at odds with the vice president.

The process could take weeks or months. Congress is to start its Christmas recess on Dec. 20 and resume on Jan. 13. Many legislators will then start campaigning for reelection before May 12 midterm elections.

The House has been investigating the alleged misuse of 612.5 million pesos (\$10.3 million) of confidential and intelligence funds received by Duterte's offices as vice president and educa-



tion secretary. She has since left the education post.

She has refused to respond to questions in detail in tense televised hearings. Duterte also vehemently protested when her chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, was ordered temporarily detained for allegedly hampering the inquiry. Lopez has been released from hospital detention.

Philippine police have filed criminal complaints against Duterte and her security staff for allegedly assaulting authorities and disobeying orders in an altercation in Congress over Lopez's detention.

Duterte has accused Marcos, his wife and Romualdez of corruption, weak leadership and attempting to muzzle her because of speculation she may seek the presidency in 2028.

The National Bureau of Investigation subpoenaed Duterte to face investigators about her threats against them.

The police, military and the national security adviser immediately boosted the security of the Marcoses after the threats.

The president has said an impeachment of Duterte would waste time while the country faces other challenges, but her opponents have said they will proceed to foster accountability and the rule of law.

Marcos and Duterte won landslide victories as running mates in the 2022 election but have since fallen out over key differences. The two offices are elected separately in the Philippines, which has resulted in rivals occupying the country's top political posts.

Marcos and Duterte differ on their approaches to China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and their views on the deadly anti-drug crackdown conducted by Duterte's father, Rodrigo Duterte, who was the previous president in addition to ex-mayor of Davao.

The brutal crackdown left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead in killings mostly by police that are being investigated by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

Astronomers pinpoint origin of mysterious repeating radio bursts from space

PERTH, Dec 2 (Agencies): Slowly repeating bursts of intense radio waves from space have puzzled astronomers since they were discovered in 2022.

In new research, we have for the first time tracked one of these pulsating signals back to its source: a common kind of lightweight star called a red dwarf, likely in a binary orbit with a white dwarf, the core of another star that exploded long ago.

A slowly pulsing mystery

In 2022, our team made an amazing discovery: periodic radio pulsations that repeated every 18 minutes, emanating from space. The pulses outshone everything nearby, flashed brilliantly for three months, then disappeared.

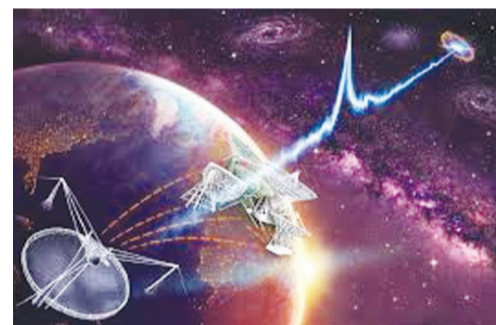
We know some repeating radio signals come from a kind of neutron star called a radio pulsar, which spins rapidly (typically once a second or faster), beaming out radio waves like a lighthouse. The trouble is, our current theories say a pulsar spinning only once every 18 minutes should not produce radio waves.

So we thought our 2022 discovery could point to new and exciting physics -- or help explain exactly how pulsars emit radiation, which despite 50 years of research is still not understood very well.

More slowly blinking radio sources have been discovered since then. There are now about ten known "long-period radio transients".

However, just finding more hasn't been enough to solve the mystery. Searching the outskirts of the galaxy Until now, every one of these sources has been found deep in the heart of the Milky Way.

This makes it very hard to figure out what kind of star or object produces the radio waves, because there are thousands of stars



in a small area. Any one of them could be responsible for the signal, or none of them.

So, we started a campaign to scan the skies with the Murchison Widefield Array radio telescope in Western Australia, which can observe 1,000 square degrees of the sky every minute. An undergraduate student at Curtin University, Csanad Horvath, processed data covering half of the sky, looking for these elusive signals in more sparsely populated regions of the Milky Way.

And sure enough, we found a new source! Dubbed GLEAM-X J0704-37, it produces minute-long pulses of radio waves, just like other long-period radio transients. However, these pulses repeat only once every 2.9 hours, making it the slowest long-period radio transient found so far.

Where are the radio waves coming from? We performed follow-up observations with the MeerKAT telescope in South Africa, the most sensitive radio telescope in the southern hemisphere. These pinpointed the location of the radio waves precisely: they were coming from a red dwarf star. These stars are incredibly common, making up 70% of the stars in the Milky Way, but they are so faint that not a single one is visible to the naked eye.

Combining historical observations from the Murchison Widefield Array and new

MeerKAT monitoring data, we found that the pulses arrive a little earlier and a little later in a repeating pattern. This probably indicates that the radio emitter isn't the red dwarf itself, but rather an unseen object in a binary orbit with it.

Based on previous studies of the evolution of stars, we think this invisible radio emitter is most likely to be a white dwarf, which is the final endpoint of small to medium-sized stars like our own Sun. If it were a neutron star or a black hole, the explosion that created it would have been so large it should have disrupted the orbit.

It takes two to tango So how do a red dwarf and a white dwarf generate a radio signal?

The red dwarf probably produces a stellar wind of charged particles, just like our Sun does. When the wind hits the white dwarf's magnetic field, it would be accelerated, producing radio waves.

This could be similar to how the Sun's stellar wind interacts with Earth's magnetic field to produce beautiful aurora, and also low-frequency radio waves.

We already know of a few systems like this, such as AR Scorpii, where variations in the brightness of the red dwarf imply that the companion white dwarf is hitting it with a powerful beam of radio waves every two minutes. None of these systems are as bright or as slow as the long-period radio transients, but maybe as we find more examples, we will work out a unifying physical model that explains all of them.

On the other hand, there may be many different kinds of system that can produce long-period radio pulsations.

Either way, we've learned the power of expecting the unexpected -- and we'll keep scanning the skies to solve this cosmic mystery.

Toy bomb kills three children in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Dec 2 (Agencies): At least three children, including two brothers, were killed on Monday when a toy bomb exploded in Pakistan's restive northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The tragic incident happened in the Jani Khel area of Bannu's Wazir subdivision.

Local sources report that the children were on their way home from the madrassa when the mortar shell explosion took place and claimed



the lives of three students, including two brothers. The mortar shell was

lying in an abandoned area.

The children, mistaking it for a toy, picked it up leading to a powerful explosion.

Dozens of children, mostly in northwest Pakistan, have lost their lives in the past when playing with toys that turned out to be explosive devices.

Toy bombs were air-dropped in neighbouring Afghanistan by Soviet forces during the 1980s as weapons against those who opposed

their invasion.

South Waziristan is also one of the seven semi-autonomous tribal areas, where the Army has for more than a decade been battling militants linked to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

The Army launched an operation in June 2014 in neighbouring North Waziristan to wipe out militant bases in the tribal areas and end an insurgency that has cost thousands of civilian lives.

'Treat Muslims as Equals', Farooq Abdullah urges Centre to stop acts that spark communal tension



SRINAGAR, Dec 2 (Agencies): National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Monday said the Centre should put a stop to activities that can spark communal tension in the country, and treat Muslims as equals.

"There is a need to stop (incidents like Sambhal). I will tell the government of India to stop (such acts) because they cannot throw the Muslims (of India) into the sea. Where will they throw 24 crore Muslims? Treat Muslims as equals, that is what our Constitution stands for. If they fiddle with the Constitution, how will India survive," Abdullah asked while speaking to reporters here.

The National Conference (NC) president, who recently performed Umrah (minor Hajj pilgrimage) along with his son and chief minister Omar Abdullah and several of his colleagues, said no one was against the return of Kashmiri

Pandits to the Valley.

"Who is stopping Kashmiri Pandits from coming back? Every political party has said they should return. It is their decision when they want to return. Our hearts are open for them. Even when I was the chief minister, when the situation was bad, we tried to bring them back," he said.

On demands seeking review of the reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said the government should review the same.

"We will tell the government to review it. Reservation is for the underprivileged sections so that they can come up as equals," he said.

The NC government has formed a Cabinet sub-committee to look into the demands for rationalisation of reservations, which have gone up to 70 per cent in the Union Territory.

On Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha last week firing two gov-

ernment employees for their alleged terror links, Abdullah said the government "will keep an eye on everything and go into why the two employees were terminated".

The veteran politician also welcomed the Israel-Lebanon 'ceasefire', but called for an end to attacks on Gaza, Syria and Iran as well.

"It (ceasefire) is a very good step, but it is necessary to stop attacks jointly being carried out by Israel and America — in Gaza, Syria and Iran, which are continuing even today. This is dangerous. They should immediately resort to ceasefire.

"You must have watched the debates in the (UN) Security Council. If there is a purpose for (the existence of) Security Council, it should work on the directions given to Israel. They should enforce a ceasefire and allow humanitarian aid," Abdullah said.

On his recent religious pilgrimage, Abdullah said he not only prayed for Kashmir, but for the entire Muslim world.

"The problems we are facing today, may Allah deliver us from these. May Allah guide us to the right path. I prayed that we stay away from evil and for the end of religious hatred that has spread in our country. I prayed for unity and harmony," he said.

CoinSwitch shares Bitcoin Whitepaper in 10 Indian regional languages to promote crypto awareness and understanding

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: CoinSwitch, India's largest crypto trading platform, is democratizing crypto knowledge by translating the seminal Bitcoin (BTC) Whitepaper into 10 regional languages.

This initiative aims to empower millions by bringing the foundational principles of Bitcoin closer to people in their native tongues.

Bitcoin has been on a record-breaking streak, recently reaching its all-time high of approximately \$99,500. With the U.S. adopting a pro-crypto stance and a surge in institutional investments following ETF approvals, renewed optimism is driving the crypto market. Ignoring this opportunity could mean missing out on capitalizing on the growing asset class. However, financial decisions should always be backed by thorough knowledge and careful research.

Speaking about the initiative, Balaji Srihari, Business Head, CoinSwitch said "The Bitcoin Whitepaper is the foundation of the crypto revolution. By making it available in regional languages, we aim to increase awareness, empower users with knowledge, and dispel misconceptions surrounding crypto. This initiative is part

of our ongoing effort to build a crypto-ready India, where language is no longer a barrier to broader adoption."

This initiative aims to empower individuals to make informed decisions, rather than follow market trends blindly. A 2021 UNESCO report found that people are 25-50% more likely to retain information when presented in their native language. CoinSwitch leverages this insight to deliver crypto knowledge in a way that resonates more deeply and reaches a wider audience.

The Whitepaper titled 'Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System', authored by the pseudonymous Satoshi Nakamoto in 2008, serves as the blueprint for the world's first crypto. By translating this pioneering document into widely spoken Indian languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati, Urdu, Kannada, Odia and Malayalam, CoinSwitch seeks to bridge the knowledge gap and foster a deeper understanding of crypto across diverse communities.

The whitepapers are available to download on the CoinSwitch website, ensuring easy access for anyone interested in understanding the origins and workings of Bitcoin.

GDC Thannamandi observes World AIDS Day

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Dec 2: Red Ribbon Club of GDC Thannamandi in collaboration with the NCC and NSS Unit of the college organised a program on Monday, 2nd of Dec. 2024 to observe the World AIDS Day on the theme "TAKE THE RIGHTS PATH".

The program was presided over by Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed. In his presidential address, he discussed in detail about the basics of immune deficiency and how CD4 Cells affected by the HIV Virus. In his comprehensive discussion he also suggested measures on how to stay away from this dreaded disease.

Dr. Farooq Ahmed discussed the significance of the day and showed how people around the world unite to express support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. How the world can end AIDS, with communities leading the way.

On this occasion Dr. Ghulam Ahmed (Medical officer) was the chief guest who delivered a special lecture on AIDS, its occurrence, causes, as well as preventive measure to control it.

Dr. Ghulam in his lecture discussed in detail with the audience about the general causes of AIDS and how can one prevent oneself from it.

His lecture was very informative and highly appreciated by the audience. An interactive question answer session was also held in which

students and staff of the college raised queries about AIDS and cleared some doubts and misconceptions about the disease.

On the other side as a part of the program, a poster making competitions was also organized on the theme 'Take The Rights Path'. In the poster making competition a number of students participated and made beautiful posters exhibiting various aspects of the theme via a vis AIDS control.

Laiba Fatima and Noor Fatima got first position, Zehra Fatima stood 2nd and Zia got 3rd position respectively in the poster making competition.

The students were awarded with mementoes and participation certificates. The Judges during the event were Prof. Altaf Hussain HOD Education, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat HOD Geography and Dr. Athar Aziz Raina HOD Mathematics. In the symposium nine students participated in which Zia secured first position, 2nd and 3rd position secured by Liaba Fatima and Ateeqa Fatima respectively.

In this session Dr. Nazir ul Islam, Prof. Fatima Parveen and Dr. Athar Aziz Raina played the role of judges, all the participants were awarded by appreciation certificates.

Dr. Shiraz Ahmed Nodal Officer Red Ribbon Club also spoke on the occasion.

He presented the statistical data regarding AIDS and highlighted on how this disease is

consuming the world with the passage of time.

The talk was quite impressive and comprehensive. He stressed upon the audience to KNOW AIDS for NO AIDS. During the culmination of the program, a human chain was formed by students of the college to show solidarity with the people who were infected by HIV or have suffered due to AIDS.

Laiba Fatima and Ateeqa Fatima student of 1st semester of the college conducted the proceedings of the program under the guidance of Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, HOD Zoology and Nodal Officer Red Ribbon Club of the college.

The programme was conducted in collaboration with NSS and NCC wing of the college. A memento and live plant was presented to chief guest Dr. Ghulam Ahmed as a token of gratitude.

Prof. Fatima Parveen presented the formal vote of thanks.

Others present during the event were Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Prof. Abdul Haq Naimi, Dr. Nazir ul Islam, Prof. Junaid Ahmed, Dr. Gohar Iqbal, Prof. Rummy Dar, Dr. Athar Aziz Raina, Prof. Rizwana Kouser, Dr. Nagina Kouser, Dr. Arshaq Ahmed, Dr. Sajid Ali, Anuj Bali, Rakesh Puri, Dr. Showket Ahmed Dar, Dr. Ateeq, Dr. Shakoor and Dr. Zubair Ahmed. At the end of the programme refreshment was served to all participants.

Dimple criticizes BJP over delays in J&K Statehood restoration, calls for united action

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: Addressing a press conference at the Press Club, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, strongly criticized BJP leaders and National General Secretary Tarun Chug for claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not committed to a timeline for restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. Dimple expressed frustration over the BJP's reluctance to restore statehood and pledged to

call an all-party meeting in Jammu to strategize for the early restoration of statehood, special status, and Articles 370 and 35-A.

Dimple accused the BJP of acting unconstitutionally and defying Supreme Court directives by delaying the restoration of J&K's statehood. He pointed out that despite the Prime Minister and Home Minister's assurances, there has been no significant progress on this matter post-Parliament elections.



Dimple urged parties like the NC, Congress, PDP, Apni Party, PC, and other regional groups to unite on a common platform to preserve Jammu and Kashmir's identity, culture, history, and demography. He

appealed to leaders, including Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, to incorporate the implementation of Articles 370 and 35-A, the Instrument of Accession conditions by Maharaja Hari Singh, and the unification of Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan into their resolutions.

Demanding immediate elections for five Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, Dimple emphasized the need for representatives in Parliament to advocate for the state's

special status and constitutional rights. He reiterated his stance of non-compromise on Articles 370 and 35-A, urging the Prime Minister to announce the restoration of statehood in the ongoing Parliamentary session.

Dimple also called for the revival of the state subject system and the cancellation of domicile laws introduced after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. He demanded early elections for municipal corporations, panchay-

ats, and local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, along with the nomination of five MLAs in the Legislative Assembly to ensure democratic representation.

Dimple urged the Prime Minister to address issues of communal harmony and brotherhood, particularly concerning recent developments in Bangladesh, and avoid fostering division through politics in India. Mission Statehood, he asserted, will continue its fight for Jammu and Kashmir's rights and constitutional safeguards.

FROM PAGE 1

India's manufacturing sector growth falls to 11-Month low of 56.5 in Nov on price pressures

rising food prices. It was 5.49 per cent in September.

The RBI, which is mandated by the government to contain inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent) has projected retail inflation to be 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Although price pressures curbed domestic sales to a certain extent, the growth of new export orders gained momentum.

"The rate of expansion in international demand was the best seen for four months, with panellists reporting gains from Bangladesh, mainland China, Colombia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Nepal, the UK and the US," the survey said.

With demand conditions remaining favourable, Indian manufacturers continued to scale up production. Accordingly, for the ninth month in a row, factory employment in India increased during November.

Going ahead, business optimism has increased by predictions that marketing efforts and new product releases will bear fruit. Recent capacity expansion efforts and forecasts of demand strength also underpinned upbeat forecasts for output in 2025.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI was compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

Politics a 'Sea of Unsatisfied Souls': Gadkari

where he said, "Politics is sea of unsatisfied souls, where every person is sad... the one who becomes corporator is sad because he did not get the chance to become MLA, and an MLA is sad because he could not get a ministerial berth."

"The one who becomes a minister is sad because he could not get a good ministerial department and could not become Chief Minister, and Chief Minister is in tension because he does not know when the high command will ask him to leave," the BJP leader said. The problems in life pose a big challenge and facing them and moving forward is the "art of living", he said.

Gadkari said he remembers in his political life a quote from former US President Richard Nixon autobiography which says 'A man is not finished when he is defeated. He is finished when he quits'.

The Union Minister emphasised on good human values and "sanskar" for a happy life.

He also highlighted the importance of "person, party and party philosophy" while sharing his golden rules to live life and be successful.

26-year-old IPS officer, on his way to first posting, dies in road

accident

police said.

According to police, Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to report on duty as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipur, police said.

Bardhan sustained severe head injuries and died in the hospital during the course of treatment, while the driver, Manjegowda, suffered minor injuries, a senior police officer said.

The IPS officer had recently completed his four-week training at the Karnataka Police Academy in Mysuru, police said, adding his father is a sub-divisional magistrate.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah offered condolences to the officer's family.

"Saddened to hear about the death of probationary IPS officer Harsh Bardhan in a horrific accident near Kittane border of Hassan-Mysuru Highway. It is very sad that such an accident happened while he was on his way to take charge as an IPS officer. This should not have happened when years of hard work were paying off," he said in a post on 'X'.

"I pray to God that Harsh Bardhan's soul rests in peace. My condolences to the family of the deceased," he added.

Western disturbance likely to bring rain, snowfall in J&K: MeT

Dry weather is expected to prevail afterward until December 7, they said.

On December 8 there is a possibility of another wet spell with the possibility of light rain and light snow over the higher reaches and at isolated places, the MeT office said. The weather will remain dry hereafter till December 12.

The Kashmir Valley continued to shiver even as the day and night temperatures slightly improved but stayed below normal at most places, with the tourist destinations of Gulmarg emerging as the coldest place at minus 2.9°C and Pahalgam at 2.3°C on Monday.

The minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday in Srinagar improved and settled at minus 0.8°C against the minus 1.3°C the previous night. This was 0.4°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

Srinagar's iconic Dal Lake and other parts were also engulfed with the fog, disrupting normal activities.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 1.4°C against minus 1.8°C a day ago, and this was 0.2°C below normal for the gateway of Kashmir in south Kashmir.

The minimum temperature at Pahalgam dipped to minus 2.3°C against the minus 0.3°C on Sunday. This was still 1.0°C above normal for the famous tourist destination in south Kashmir.

The ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district emerged as the coldest place, with the mercury settling at minus 2.9°C on Monday against the minus 2.6°C recorded the previous night. This was still 0.2°C above normal for the

valley of meadows during this period of the season.

Kokernag recorded a low of 0.2°C against the 0.4°C recorded the previous day, and it was 0.8°C above normal for the picnic spot of South Kashmir.

The night temperature at the frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara dipped by a notch and settled at minus 0.6°C on Monday against the minus 0.5°C a day ago, and this was 1.1°C above normal for the border area during this period of the season, the MeT office.

Youth caught consuming drugs on GMC Baramulla premises

would be notified about the incident before any further action is taken.

"We have to inform the local police about the incident, and further action will be initiated accordingly," the official said.

Road accident at Qazigund leaves 6 injured

He said six people sustained injuries while police rushed to the spot immediately after the accident took place.

"All the injured have been shifted to GMC hospital in Anantnag," he added.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

GDC Chatroo observes World AIDS Day

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 2: Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo in collaboration with JK AIDS Control Society, Department of Health and Medical Education (JK Govt.) observed World AIDS Day with a series of awareness-driven events aimed at educating students and the community about the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS.

The program commenced with an insightful lecture delivered by Prof. Athar Hussain, Head, Department of Zoology, who provided a comprehensive overview of the causes, prevention, and social implications of AIDS. His address emphasized the importance of breaking stereotypes and fostering a supportive environment for those living with HIV.

Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar highlighted key points regarding the necessity of AIDS awareness. He urged students and faculty to become



ambassadors of change, spreading accurate information and combating stigma associated with the disease.

To engage students creatively, the college organized a

Poster Making Competition, in which about ten students participated actively, where students depicted themes related to AIDS awareness and prevention.

The competition was judged by Prof. Sunil Kumar, Head Department of English and Prof. Ram Krishan, Head Department of Political Science, GDC Chatroo. The first prize was secured by Meenakshi Devi, Second prize by Vishal Thakur and Third Prize by Asif Naik, of semester first.

In addition, a Walkathon was organized, which started from the GDC Chatroo campus and culminated at the Ayushman Centre, Udil Gojran. Faculty members including Dr. Athar Hussain, Dr. Tariq Hussain, Dr. Vikram Rathore, Prof. Sunil Kumar & Prof. Ram Krishan and students enthusiastically participated, carrying banners and slogans advocating for HIV/AIDS awareness.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Vikram Rathore, Convenor Red Ribbon. Dr. Vikram Rathore expressed gratitude to the faculty members for their support and applauded the students for their active participation in making the event a success.

KVK-Ramban holds sensitization on agriculture related pollution

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Dec 2: On the occasion of National Pollution Control Day, KVK-Ramban held a sensitization programme on agriculture related pollution. The programme aimed at generating awareness and sensitization of students on agriculture related pollution was attended by thirty high school students. Speaking about the day Dr. Parveen Kumar SMS (Ag. Extension) at KVK-Ramban told that every year December 02 commemorates with the loss of precious lives due to accidental leakage of the deadly Methyl Isocyanate gas from Union Carbide factory in Bhopal (MP) on the intervening night of Dec. 02 and 03 in 1984. Dec. 02 is therefore celebrated every year as National Pollution Control Day. Highlighting the menace of pollution, Dr. Parveen Kumar told that from the past few decades pollution from agriculture has been threatening all of us and has become a cause of concern for all. Various farming practices and products as well as byproducts of farming result in contamination or degradation of the environment and surrounding ecosystems.

The different sources of agriculture

pollution include GHG emissions mostly in the form of Methane and Nitrous oxide. Burning of crop residues as has been noticed in several states of north India is also a major source of air pollution.

Different types of chemical insecticides, pesticides and herbicides are applied to agricultural land to control insects, pests and unwanted plants that disrupt crop production by competing with main crop for nutrients and other resources. These persist and accumulate in soils and contaminate the soil thereby altering various soil microbial processes.

The pollution emerging from this sector has put a question mark on the very sustainability of this sector. There is thus an urgent need to practice and propagate technologies which are eco friendly.

At the same time onus also lies on all of us to not to go for practices which pollute the environment and threaten our planet.

KVK-Ramban has been conducting various programmes under the leadership of HVC Prof. B. N. Tripathi and Prof. Amrith Vaid Director Extension, told Dr. Raj Kumar, Nodal Officer of the center.

MC Ramban concludes 15-day 'SVANidhi Bhi, Swabhiman Bhi' Campaign

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Dec 2: The Municipal Council (MC) Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, successfully organized a 15-day Pakhwada campaign titled 'SVANidhi Bhi, Swabhiman Bhi' across the town from November 18 to December 02, 2024. The campaign aimed to accelerate progress in key areas, including loan disbursement, SVANidhi se Samridhi, and digital adoption, ensuring broader coverage of the PM-SVANidhi scheme.

A culmination function held at the Community Hall Ramban marked the conclusion of this initiative. Chief Executive Officer Sudarshan Jamwal, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Dr Virender Trisal, and BMO Ukhral Dr. Mohd Iqbal sensitized vendors and other participants about various schemes integrated into the 'SVANidhi Bhi, Swabhiman Bhi' cam-



aign.

They said that this campaign was conducted by the administration to empower street vendors and ensure their financial inclusion and dignity through comprehensive support and awareness initiatives. Social profiling of 59 vendors have been done till date, they added.

Participants were provided detailed information and guidance on availing benefits from multiple schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, One

Nation One Ration Card, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana and Registration under BOCW

Representatives from various banks also guided participants on regulating financial assistance under the PM-SVANidhi scheme. On-the-spot registrations for these schemes were facilitated by the respective departments.

In addition, registration cards issued by the Municipal Council Ramban were distributed among eligible vendors during the event.

Kishtwar saffron growers face huge losses, seek compensation

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 2: Senior National Conference leader and spokesperson for Chenab Valley, Ajeet Bhagat, raised concerns about the plight of saffron farmers in the Halqa Pochhal area of Kishtwar District. This region is renowned worldwide for its unique variety of saffron. However, insufficient rainfall this year has severely impacted the yield, leaving farmers with substantial economic losses.

In a press statement,



Bhagat called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to provide urgent financial compensation to the affected farmers. He highlighted that, like other crops, saffron cultivation has experienced low yields, leaving the

farming community struggling to make ends meet. Bhagat criticized the Agriculture Department and the Saffron Development Department Kishtwar for their lack of proactive measures to support farmers, describing their negligence as "criminal," especially in a region where agriculture is the backbone of daily livelihood.

Bhagat also drew attention to the struggles of farmers burdened with loans under the Kisan Credit

Card (KCC) scheme, demanding loan waivers or reduced interest rates. He further criticized the failure of the Agriculture and Saffron Development Departments to set a standard market rate for saffron, a step he deemed crucial for ensuring fair returns for growers.

The neglect has discouraged many farmers, threatening the continuation of saffron cultivation in this only saffron-producing area of the Chenab Valley. Bhagat urged the gov-

ernment to prioritize measures to stabilize the industry, such as fixing market rates and improving farming facilities, to restore farmers' confidence and prevent the decline of this traditional and economically vital crop.

Expressing hope for justice for the farmers, Bhagat emphasized the critical role of saffron cultivation in the region and called for immediate action to safeguard their livelihoods and preserve the heritage of saffron farming in Kishtwar.

Poster Making Competition on World AIDS Day organised in GDC Ramkote

Top News Report

RAMKOTE, Dec 2: The Red Ribbon Club GDC Ramkote in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society organised a Poster Making Competition on Monday to mark the occasion of World AIDS Day 2024.

The theme of the competition was "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!".

The students of BA Semester 1st participated in the competition and expressed their views on HIV/AIDS by making posters.

Students came up with amazing creativity

aimed at raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

They highlighted the causes and prevention of this disease through posters and also gave a message to stop all kinds of prejudices associated with AIDS so that a patient suffering from this disease should not feel outcast

but should be considered as a respectable member of the society.

A total of 10 students participated in the competition organised by Prof Anu Sharma, Coordinator of the Red Ribbon Club, under the overall guidance of Prof. Ramneek Kaur, Principal of the college.

The competition was adjudged by Prof. Pankaj Nandan and Prof Vasundra Raje, faculty from the college.

Neha Devi achieved first position, Kajal Devi got second position and Janvi Devi received third position in the competition.

District Health Society observes World AIDS Day at GMC Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Dec 2: The District Health Society Doda, in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, & J&K State AIDS Control Society marked World AIDS Day 2024 with a meaningful program aimed at spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS. The event, held at GMC Doda, saw participation from students, faculty, and healthcare professionals.

Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Principal GMC Doda; Dr. Om Kumar, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Doda, District Information Officer Doda Mr Nasir Khan; Heads of Departments from GMC Doda, BMO Ghat; MBBS students; and nursing students from both government and private institutions were present for the occasion. The program featured a symposium and a poster-making competition, showcasing the creativity and understanding of MBBS and nursing students on the theme of HIV/AIDS. Participants emphasized the importance of awareness, prevention, and breaking the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS through engaging speeches and artistic posters.

Faizan A Tramboos efficiently served as the stage secretary, ensuring the smooth coordination of the event. Faculty members from the Department of Microbiology Dr Safia Khan and the Department of Community Medicine delivered insightful lectures, highlighting advancements in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and the role of society in combating the epidemic. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes and certificates to the competition winners. Dr. Om Kumar, CMO Doda, and Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Principal GMC Doda, addressed the gathering, urging collective efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS and commending the students and faculty for their enthusiastic participation. The observance of World AIDS Day at GMC Doda was a reminder of the shared responsibility to fight HIV/AIDS and an example of the district's commitment to fostering awareness and support for the cause.

Army sets up thin client-based computer lab at GHS Kanehri

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 2: The Chenab Gunners of the Indian Army's Crossed Sword Division have successfully installed a Thin Client-based Computer Lab at Govt High School, Kanehri, located in the Chowki Choura zone. This significant development aims to provide students in the remote area with access to modern computer-based education, enhancing their learning opportunities and bridging the digital divide.

The initiative, which is part of the Indian Army's Sadbhavna (Goodwill) program, underscores the Army's commitment to improving educational standards in underserved regions. With rapid technological advancements, computer literacy has become a crucial skill for students to thrive in today's fast-paced world. The newly inaugurated lab will play a pivotal role in offering quality education in computer and empowering the future generation in Kanehri and surrounding villages.

Prior to the installation of the computer lab, the school lacked any computer facilities, making it difficult for students to gain exposure to modern educational tools. The introduction of the computer lab has already brought a sense of joy and excitement among the students and teaching staff. The facility is expected to significantly enhance the educational experience and foster

greater interest in learning.

The inauguration ceremony, held on Monday, was graced by dignitaries from civil administration including SDM, Chowki Choura. The event was also attended by teaching staff and members of the Village Education Committee. The ceremony was formally inaugurated by Chenab Gunners Brigade of Crossed Sword Division in presence of SDM Chowki Choura, who cut the ribbon to mark the occasion. The Headmaster of the school delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Indian Army for their generous contribution towards the school's development. A tea gathering followed the ceremony, allowing the attendees to interact and share their appreciation for the initiative.

This installation reflects the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to support the educational development of communities in remote areas. The Army's role in fostering goodwill and strengthening relationships with local populations continues to be a cornerstone of its outreach efforts, with a particular focus on improving the quality of life for students in rural and far-flung areas.

With the increasing role of technology in education and daily life, the Indian Army remains committed to providing the necessary tools and resources to ensure that the next generation is well-prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Sculptor Ganesh showcases talent at "Beyond Limits – 2024" National Art Exhibition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: Renowned sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma, an internationally acclaimed artist from Jammu and Kashmir, has showcased his exceptional talent at the prestigious "Beyond Limits – 2024" National Art Exhibition.

Organized by the Family of Disabled (FOD), an NGO dedicated to empowering people with disabilities since 1992, the annual exhibition coincides with World Disabled Day on December 3.

This event celebrates the resilience and creativity of artists with disabilities, providing them with a platform to share their extraordinary stories through art.

The exhibition, held at the Arpana Art Gallery, Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, New Delhi, was inaugurated on November 30, 2024, by Sunil Anand, Managing Director and CEO of Hospi-

medica Group of Companies.

The event also featured MBL Bhargava, Trustee of LetzDream Foundation, as Guest of Honor, and Ms. Ajeet Cour, Chairperson of the Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, in attendance.

Showcasing works by 87 talented artists with disabilities from across India, the exhibition highlights breathtaking paintings and captivating sculptures that go beyond physical limitations, symbolizing creativity and triumph.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma stands out as the only sculptor from Jammu and Kashmir to participate in this significant national exhibition.

With a career spanning over 45 years, Sharma has been a dedicated ambassador of his region's art and culture, bringing accolades to his state through his participation in numerous state, national, and international exhibitions.

Over the years, he has earned several prestigious awards and honors and has organized 25 solo art shows in India and abroad, further solidifying his legacy as a cultural icon.

The "Beyond Limits – 2024" exhibition, which runs until December 9, 2024, offers an inspiring glimpse into the determination and skill of artists who redefine possibilities through their art, proving that creativity knows no boundaries.

India's road to WTC Final: What is the updated scenario ahead of Adelaide Test?

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): India spiced up the race for the World Test Championship Final with a resounding victory in the first Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. What seemed like a distant dream after their crushing 0-3 home series loss against New Zealand, is once again back in India's grasp.

There might still be a long way to go, but India can realistically make it to the final of the ICC tournament - which will be their third in a row. Here's are the updated qualification scenarios for the World Test Championship Final race - as South Africa, Sri Lanka, India and Australia vie for the final two spots in the tournament.

India's Potential Path to the WTC Final

India's chances of qualifying for the WTC Final are very much in their hands, with several potential outcomes based on their performance in the upcoming series against Australia.

India win 5-0, 4-0, or 3-0 vs Australia: If India manage to



win the series by any of these margins, they will directly qualify for the WTC Final. A dominant performance would all but seal their spot, making them the first team to qualify.

India win 3-1 vs Australia: If India clinch the series 3-1, they will also qualify for the final, but with one condition. South Africa must not beat Sri Lanka in the second Test. If South Africa wins that series, India's qualification could be in jeopardy.

India win 3-2 vs Australia: A 3-2 win for India will still keep them in the running for the final,

but the scenario becomes more complex. For India to qualify, Sri Lanka must win at least one Test against South Africa and then draw at least one game against Australia. This combination of results would ensure India's spot in the final.

India draw the series 2-2: A drawn series will also keep India's hopes alive, but several results must go in their favour. South Africa must beat Sri Lanka 2-0, and Sri Lanka must win at least 1 Test against Australia (in their upcoming home series). Additionally, Sri Lanka

must not lose the series 0-2 to Australia, ensuring a narrow path to qualification for India.

What This Means for the Teams Involved?

The Adelaide Test, therefore, holds huge significance for both India and Australia. For India, their qualification scenario is heavily influenced by the results of Sri Lanka and South Africa's Test series. For Australia, their hopes remain strong, and they will look to keep up their pressure on India, knowing that every point counts.

In the context of the WTC race, other teams like South Africa and Sri Lanka are also playing pivotal roles. Sri Lanka, in particular, will need to secure key wins against South Africa and Australia to help India's qualification chances.

The Adelaide Test could very well be a turning point in this fascinating WTC cycle, with India needing to maximise their points to secure a direct route to the final, while Australia will be aiming to strengthen their position.

IPL auction fame Vaibhav Suryavanshi scores 23 in U19 Asia Cup vs Japan



NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Agencies): Vaibhav Suryavanshi showcased his batting prowess in the ACC U-19 Asia Cup match vs Japan. After a quiet outing in the previous match vs Pakistan u-19 team, Suryavanshi gave glimpses of what he is capable of. After becoming the youngest player to be sold in IPL auction, all eyes have been on the 13-year-old and his performances. Suryavanshi scored 23 runs during the India U19 vs Japan U19 match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the UAE. However, his performance cannot just be judged by the scorecard, but by the shots which the teenager played.

While opening the batting for India U19, the left-hander played some glori-

ous drives and pull shots. His run-a-ball 23 included three fours and a six as Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre provided India U19 with an aggressive start. Suryavanshi's opening partner Mhatre scored a quick-fire 29-ball 54 which included six fours and four maximums. India U19 boys capitalised on the start as all top-order batters fired with the bat vs Japan.

However, he didn't have a memorable outing in his first appearance on the pitch after securing an IPL contract, getting dismissed for just 1 (9) against Pakistan during the Under 19 Asia Cup game in Dubai. The 13-year-old was dismissed for just 1 (9) by Ali Raza as he looked restless at the crease.

Suryavanshi's recent blitz Notably, Suryavanshi scripted history as he was bought for a whopping Rs 1.10 crore by Rajasthan Royals after an intense bidding war with Delhi Capitals. He recently hit the fastest hundred by an Indian in Under-19 Tests, achieving the milestone against the Australia Under-19 team at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai in October. The right-handed batter reached the magical three-figure mark in just 58 balls in his maiden red-ball match for the India

In Stats: Jayden Seales' spell vs Bangladesh puts him in elite record books

KINGSTOWN, Dec 2 (Agencies): West Indies pacer Jayden Seales delivered an extraordinary bowling performance in the first Test against Bangladesh in Kingstown, etching his name in Test cricket history with one of the most economical spells ever recorded.

Seales bowled 15.5 overs, including 10 maidens, conceding just five runs while claiming four crucial wickets. His economy rate of 0.30 is now the second-best in Test cricket history.

Seales's spell was pivotal in dismantling Bangladesh's batting lineup, limiting them to a first-innings total of just 164 runs.

His relentless line and length left the batters struggling to find scoring opportunities. The West Indies capitalised on his



brilliance, reaching 70/1 at stumps on Day 2, trailing by only 94 runs and firmly in control of the match.

Seales now ranks second on the all-time list for the best bowling economy rates in Test cricket, behind only India's Kapil Dev. Seales's iconic spell of 32 overs with 27 maidens conceded just five runs at an economy

of 0.15 against England in 1964. Seales joins an elite group that includes other notable bowlers such as India's Umesh Yadav and Australia's Nathan Lyon.

This historic spell not only showcased Seales's potential but also provided the West Indies with a commanding start to the series, demonstrating their intent to dominate.

Rohit Sharma-led Team India depart from Canberra for Adelaide Test vs Australia

CANBERRA, Dec 2 (Agencies): After taking part in the two-day warm-up match against Prime Minister's XI, Rohit Sharma-led Team India on Monday departed from Canberra for the Adelaide Test, which will be starting from December 6. Earlier on Sunday in the warm-up match, a four-wicket haul by pacer Harshit Rana, along with commanding knocks from Shubman Gill, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Yashasvi Jaiswal, helped India secure a five-wicket win against Australia's Prime Ministers' XI at Canberra's Manuka Oval. While leaving, skipper Rohit and star India pacer Mohammed Siraj were seen taking selfies with the fans who were waiting outside the team hotel in Canberra.

Top batter Shubman Gill and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar were



also captured leaving the team hotel for Adelaide along with other players.

In the first Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India staged a stunning comeback from a series whitewash against New Zealand at home, defeating Australia by 295 runs in Perth despite being bowled out for a mere 150 runs in their first innings.

In the first Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India won the

toss and opted to bat first. However, they were dismissed for just 150 runs, with Nitish Kumar Reddy (41 off 59 balls, six fours and a six) and Rishabh Pant (37 off 78 balls, three fours and a six) playing crucial knocks and adding a vital 48-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

Josh Hazlewood (4/29) was the stand-out bowler for Australia, with Pat Cummins, Mitchell Marsh, and Mitchell Starc claiming

two wickets each. Australia's reply was even worse, as they were reduced to 79/9 before Mitchell Starc (26) and Alex Carey (21) took the total to 104, giving India a slender lead of 46 runs.

Jasprit Bumrah starred for India with figures of 5/30 in 18 overs, while debutant Harshit Rana impressed with 3/48.

In their second innings, India amassed a massive lead. KL Rahul (77 off 176 balls, five fours) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (161 off 297 balls, 15 fours and three sixes) put up a 201-run opening partnership. Despite losing quick wickets, an unbeaten 100 by Virat Kohli (143 balls, eight fours and two sixes), supported by Washington Sundar (29 off 94 balls, one six) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (38* off 27 balls, three fours and two sixes),

propelled India to 487/6 declared, setting Australia a daunting target of 534 runs.

Nathan Lyon (2/96) was the best bowler for Australia, with Cummins, Starc, and Hazlewood taking one wicket each.

At stumps on Day 3, Australia were 12/3, with Bumrah taking two wickets and Mohammed Siraj one. On Day 4, despite valiant efforts from Travis Head (89 off 101 balls, eight fours) and Mitchell Marsh (47 off 67 balls, three fours and two sixes), Australia were bowled out for 238, giving India a resounding 295-run victory.

Bumrah (3/42) and Siraj (3/51) led the bowling in the second innings, while Washington Sundar took two wickets, and Nitish Kumar Reddy and Harshit Rana picked one each.

Syed Modi International: Home comforts

Dominant Sindhu, Lakshya clinch singles titles | Treesa & Gayatri shine in doubles

LUCKNOW, Dec 2 (Agencies): Top-seeded Indians PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen showcased their class and dominance to clinch the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympics medalist, ended her long title drought by outplaying China's world No. 119 Wu Luo Yu 21-14 21-16 to lift the trophy for the third time, having previously triumphed in 2017 and 2022.

Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze medalist, was also at his dominant best as he demolished Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-6 21-7 in the title clash, displaying complete command over the match.

Sindhu's victory marks her return to the top of the podium after over two years, with her last title win coming at the Singapore Open in July 2022. The world No. 18 also reached the finals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 earlier this year.

Lakshya's win comes as a balm after a disappointing loss in the bronze-medal playoff at the Paris Olympics. The victory will undoubtedly boost his confidence ahead of the new season.

Indian badminton had more to celebrate on the day as the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand clinched its maiden Super 300 title with a convincing 21-18 21-11 win over China's Bao Li Jing and Li Qian.

The result made Treesa and Gayatri



the first Indian women's doubles team to win the title at this tournament. The Commonwealth Games bronze medalists, who had finished runners-up in 2022, went one step further this year with their solid performance.

In the men's doubles final, Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K put up a valiant fight before going down 14-21 21-19 17-21 to China's Huang Di and Liu Yang in a marathon 71-minute clash.

Meanwhile, in the mixed doubles final, fifth seeds Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv

Kapila started strong but couldn't sustain their momentum, losing 21-18 14-21 8-21 to Thailand's sixth-seeded pair of Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran.

Definitely going to play for next couple of years: Sindhu

After her victory, Sindhu said she is "definitely" going to play for the next couple of years even as the 2028 Los Angeles Games remain at the back of her mind.

The 29-year-old former world champion, in the final stretch of her career,

emphasised the need to stay injury-free.

"This (win) will definitely give me a lot of confidence. Being 29 is an advantage in many ways because I have a lot of experience. Being smart and experienced is key, and I'm definitely going to play for the next couple of years," Sindhu said.

"My main goal is to stay injury-free, which is very, very important. Los Angeles (Olympics) is still too far away. I will definitely play, but the main thing is staying injury-free and enjoying the sport. If I stay fit, then why not?" she added.

Sindhu said she will need to be "smarter" in picking the tournaments she will participate in next season.

"I'm very happy that I'm finishing off with a win. Now it's time to just go back, relax, and start again from January. I hope this is a comeback, and I'm looking forward to many more victories," she added.

"I'll be playing the upcoming tournaments in Malaysia, India, Indonesia, and Thailand. Obviously, we'll have to pick and choose tournaments because I'll have to be smart enough to decide what to play and what not. I need to be much smarter in terms of that," she added.

Sindhu said that she was relieved to end her title drought. "Sometimes I was really close yet so far away. I had good matches in the past, but they didn't turn into wins. I came back, fought harder, and it was important for me to get this win. Yes, I am relieved. I mean, it's the end of the year, and finishing off with a win makes me really grateful," she said.

Mohammed Shami to join team India for Border-Gavaskar Trophy? Report reveals BCCI's latest move

RAJKOT, Dec 2 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) continues to put a close look on the fitness of Mohammed Shami, who has made a comeback to competitive cricket after a long-standing injury. The right-arm pacer was not named for India's ongoing tour of Australia due to his injury before he recovered and became available for Bengal to play a Ranji Trophy game. Shami continues to play for the state side, now in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy - a domestic T20 tournament.

The BCCI is keen to include Shami for India's ongoing five-match Test series against Australia, but a lot depends on the fitness of the pacer. As per a report in Cricbuzz, a team from the BCCI Sports Science department and a national selector are currently camping in Rajkot to closely monitor the fast bowler. The BCCI will consider about including Shami in India's Test squad only after he gets a clearance from the Sports Science Department, the report added.

On the game front, Shami set up Bengal's comfortable win against Meghalaya with a mealy spell in their Group A contest in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy in Rajkot on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Naman Dhir returned excellent figures of 5/19 to fashion Punjab's narrow seven-run win against Hyderabad in Group A, while Jharkhand recorded a thrilling one-wicket victory against Haryana in which Harshal Patel (2/16) and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/13) shone with the ball.

Shami continued to take giant strides in his comeback trail as he produced a sharp spell of 4-0-16-0 to help Bengal restrict Meghalaya to a modest 127 for six. Bengal won by six wickets and 49 balls to spare at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.

Arien Sangma (37) and Larry Sangma (38) staged a recovery for Meghalaya with the bat.

In reply, Bengal stuttered when three of their batters got out for ducks but Abhishek Porel's 31-ball 61, with nine fours and two sixes, combined with Wriddick Chatterjee's 25 not out, took them past the target.

US Doctor Sewa Mortan honours TV Artist Rahul Motan, Musician Vicky Kaith, Journalist Sansar Singh, others



Top News Report

ARNIA, Dec 2: In a brief function held at Rangpur Trewa here on Monday, US Doctor Sewa Mortan honoured TV Artist Rahul Motan, Musician Vicky Kaith, Photographer Nishan Singh, RTI India News Editor-in-Chief Sansar Singh, Journalist

Tejinder Pal Singh and social activist Jagdish Raj Kaith for various reasons.

Dr Mortan said to honorees, "The struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose".

Dr Mortan wished for their successful future.

Prominent among those who witnessed

the event included R.L.Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Sukhwinder Kaur, Dr Goldy Mortan, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd), Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa (Retd), Havildar Des Raj Kaith (Retd), Sat Paul Sargotra, Veerpan Motan, Gourav Nandan and Mukesh Nandan.

LFO-BHF organises menstrual hygiene awareness programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) conducted Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads) at Sainik Co-operative Public High School, Tikri, Udhampur under the guidance of Vivek Parihar (Director & CEO) of the NGO and Vandana Kohli, the Principal incharge of the school.

The event aimed to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene practices among young girls.

Stuti Abrol, the keynote speaker & the Domain Incharge, led

an informative session on proper hygiene practices, addressing common myths and encouraging open discussions to remove the stigma associated with menstruation.

As part of the initiative, the NGO distributed 2000 sanitary and aware 200+ young minds, about promoting accessibility to essential hygiene products.

Speaking on the occasion, Vandana Kohli, the Principal incharge of the school said, "The event was a significant step towards improving menstrual health and education in the community, empowering girls

with the knowledge and resources they need for better health and well-being."

As we know menstrual Taboo is the major evil in the society and it's our prime focus to remove this taboo from society and let the female to live their life with dignity & our prime focus is to make a society where their is easy accessibility of sanitary to each and every female said Vivek Parihar (Director LFO-BHF).

The programme also saw the presence of notable members including Kashish Katoch, Kangan, Manvi Mehra and many more.

NMC asks CM to release pending installments of 3% DA

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) president, Subash Shastri has appealed to Chief Minister to release the pending installments of 3% DA due from July this year in favour of J&K Government employees and pensioners as the same has been released by the Central as well as several State Governments including Ladakh to their employees and pensioners.

Shastri told reporters here today that DA is part of salary and routine financial matter and as such there should be no hitch in releasing it. "The Government should release this at the earliest so that the employees and pensioners would have a sigh of relief from the rising prices of essential commodities," he maintained adding that DA should be exempted from the ambit of Income Tax as it is linked with price index.

Shastri urged upon PM Modi to appoint chairman and other members of the 8th Pay Commission and take a decision in this regard at the earliest and start discussion with rep-

resentatives of both Central and State Government employees and pensioners as appointment of 8th Pay Commission will end confusion and uncertainty among employees and pensioners on this issue once for all.

He also demanded separate wage head for regularly disbursement of monthly salary to daily rated workers till their regularization, enhancement of their wages to Rs. 600 per day, regularization of their services, clearance of all pending GP fund cases and gratuity, setting up of Labour Welfare Board, implementation of all Central Laws in J&K besides granting Medical Allowance of Rs. 1000 per month to pensioners at par with their counterparts in Central Government.

Immediate implementation of CAT direction of pay anomalies of clerical staff" Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Ram Singh, Raman Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Sukhdev Singh, Darshan Baba, Chaman Lal, Vinod kumar, Anil Gupta, Birbal Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

"Endgame for Terror"

New deployments signal final blow to terrorism in J&K: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: The BJP led union government is leaving no stone unturned in its mission to eradicate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

With a steadfast commitment to restoring peace, prosperity, and self-reliance in the region, the deployment of elite National Security Guard (NSG) commandos has been supplemented by two new battalions of the Border Security Force (BSF), comprising over 2,000 personnel.

These forces will strengthen border defenses, combat infiltration, and suppress terrorist activities in the Jammu region.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri hailed the government's decisive action, emphasizing its zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism and its supporters. "This BJP-led government is committed to maintaining the sovereignty of our nation and ensuring peace for the people of J&K," he said.

"Gone are the days when anti-national elements operated with impunity. We are determined to build an atmosphere conducive to development and nation-building."

The fresh BSF deployment will act as a "second line of defense" behind existing border forces, covering vulnerable areas in Jammu and its surrounding regions. Security officials revealed that multiple points equipped with 24/7 CCTV surveillance have been established along the International Border (IB) with Pakistan to curb infiltration, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking.

This strategic move will plug gaps in areas like Samba and other sensitive locations along the Jammu-Punjab boundary.

Raman Suri further highlighted the ongoing crackdown on "white-

collared terrorist sympathizers" embedded in government departments, businesses, and NGOs. "This government is committed to cleansing the system of anti-national elements operating under various disguises," he said.

"Such individuals misguide our youth and alienate communities, but their days are numbered."

Recent firing of employees from the jobs is indicative enough for anti-nationals to mend their ways or else face elimination.

The enhanced security grid comes after a spate of terrorist attacks in 2024 across districts like Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, and Kathua, which resulted in over 40 deaths, including 18 security personnel. Despite these challenges, security forces have neutralized several terrorists this year, reaffirming the government's resolve to ensure law and order in J&K.

The NSG commandos, along with advanced intelligence operations, are actively working to identify and neutralize threats, including cross-border tunnels and terror networks in dense forests and mountainous terrains. Officials noted that this integrated approach would not only prevent attacks but also secure the livelihoods of civilians in the region.

Raman Suri asserted, "The deployment of NSG and additional BSF forces reflects the Centre's commitment to safeguarding every citizen of J&K. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government is resolute in ensuring that peace and prosperity become a reality for all in the Union Territory."

With these measures, the Centre aims to usher in a new era of stability and development for Jammu and Kashmir, creating opportunities for growth and strengthening the fabric of the nation.

Department of Educational Studies, CUJ organizes Lecture on 'Benefits of Joining NCC'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 2: The Department of Educational Studies at Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized an informative Lecture titled "Incentives of Joining NCC". The event, held at the Malviya Shiksha Bhavan, was aimed at the students of B.A. B.Ed. Integrated Programme.

The session began with the introductory remarks by Arvind, the Teacher Coordinator for the event. The resource person was welcomed by Prof. Asit Mantry HoD, Department of Educational Studies. In his welcome address, Prof. Mantry reflected that the Department of Educational Studies keeps organising such events for the benefit of students to enrich their competencies. He fur-

ther presented a token of appreciation to the distinguished guest.

Lt. (Dr.) Pankaj Mehta ANO and Senior Faculty, Department of Environmental Science, Central University of Jammu was the keynote speaker for the event. His presentation focused on the significant role of NCC in the all round development of students.

He highlighted that NCC helps in building a sense of Duty, commitment, dedication, discipline, and moral values in the students so that they become able leaders and useful citizens. He further elaborated on how NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities, with a distinct emphasis on Social services and adventure training. Some past achievements were also

highlighted during the lecture session which acted as a motivation to the young aspiring cadets. The insights shared by the esteemed guest had truly enlightened the participants to render their journey towards progress and excellence.

The session was highly interactive, allowing for meaningful engagement between the speaker and students. The success of this session underscores the department's dedication to advancing students towards building exemplary skills for their bright future.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Arushi, where she expressed her gratitude towards the resource person for enlightening the students with their valuable experience and insights.

JKBS remembers UK Professor Amar Singh Kaith



Top News Report

ARNIA, Dec 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members today tributed their Professor Amar Singh Kaith, a dear friend to many students and

teachers at London.

His niece Sukhwinder Kaur in her tribute said, Professor Amar Singh Kaith after completing his education in music from India's Punjab, went to London where he served as a Profes-

sor of Music and established a music academy that produced a large number of musicians.

Though Professor Amar is not physically among us today but his spirit flourishes through his music and his students, Dr Goldy Mortan said.

Among others who paid tributes to Professor Amar were JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith, US Dr Sewa Mortan, Hans Raj Loria, Sub. (Retd) Baldev Chand Sandhu, Sub. Insp. (Retd) Darshan Kumar Bassa, Hav. (Retd) Des Raj Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Gourav Nandan and Mukesh Nandan.

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