

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Forest guard slips to death in Banihal

SRINAGAR, Dec 4 (Agencies): A forest guard slipped to death after falling from a hill-top in Sherbibi Wagan area of Banihal district on Tuesday late evening, officials said. The deceased as per reports was on duty when the incident occurred. He has been identified as Abdul Gaffar Sohil, resident of Wagan, Banihal. The body was later on shifted to Sub-District hospital Banihal for medico-legal formalities.

### Night temperature drops in Kashmir, Srinagar shivers at -2.0°C: MeT

SRINAGAR, Dec 4 (Agencies): The Kashmir Valley experienced a significant drop in night temperatures, with Srinagar shivering at a chilly minus 2.0°C on Wednesday, officials said. Tourist hotspots such as Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Konibal recorded even colder temperatures, reaching minus 4.8°C, minus 3.5°C, and minus 4.5°C, respectively, making them the coldest places in the region.

The cold wave tightened its grip, as Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of -2.0°C during the night between Tuesday and Wednesday. According to the Meteorological Centre, this was 0.8°C lower than the average for this time of year, which is typically -1.2°C. The tourist spot of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district remained the coldest place with minus 4.8°C against the minus 3.3°C recorded on the previous night, and this was 1.5°C below normal for the valley of shepherds during this period of the season.

The night temperature further plummeted in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg and was recorded at minus 3.5°C against minus 2.4°C recorded on Tuesday. This was 0.4°C below normal for the valley of meadows during this period. Qazigund recorded a low of 2.2°C against the 0.5°C the previous night, and this was 1.0°C below normal for the gateway to Kashmir

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## PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rajnath extend greetings on Navy Day, salute valiant personnel for unmatched courage

NEW DELHI, Dec 4 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday extended his greetings on the occasion of Indian Navy Day and saluted the valiant personnel of the Indian Navy for their unmatched courage and dedication. "On Navy Day, we salute the valiant personnel of the Indian Navy who protect our seas with unmatched courage and dedication. Their commitment ensures the safety, security and prosperity of our nation. We



also take great pride in India's rich maritime history," PM Modi posted on X. Extending greetings on this occasion, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that this is an occasion that com-

memorates the staggering combat prowess of our navy as well as honors the multidimensional role it plays by reinforcing our foreign relations through guarding the maritime routes and providing humanitarian support. Salutations to the immortal martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation." Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also extended his greetings and warm wishes to all Indian Navy personnel and their families. Highlighting the

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## Women constitute only around 6% of total strength of J&K Police: MoS Home

NEW DELHI, Dec 4 (Agencies): Women constitute only around 6% of the total strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and poor percentage is notwithstanding repeated thrust of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on ensuring 33% representation. This was disclosed by Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in response to a question about women personnel in police forces in the States and Union Territories in the Lok Sabha today, daily Excelsior



reported. As per the data on police organizations compiled by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs and shared by the Minister of State with the Members of Parlia-

ment in the Lok Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir Police is having only 4370 women personnel (Civil + District Armed Reserve + Armed + IRB). In the police force of Union Territory of Ladakh, the strength of women personnel is 777 as on January 1, 2023. As per the website of Jammu and Kashmir Police the total strength of the force is 83000 as such women constitute only around 6% of the total personnel in JKP. In response to a question about the steps

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## Fadnavis elected leader of Maharashtra BJP legislature party; Set to become CM

MUMBAI, Dec 4 (Agencies): Devendra Fadnavis was unanimously elected as the Maharashtra BJP legislature party leader at its meeting here on Wednesday, paving the way for his appointment as the chief minister. The swearing-in ceremony will be held in Mumbai on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Fadnavis' name was finalised for the top post at the BJP's core com-



mittee meet held here ahead of the legislature party meeting, sources said. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sudhir Mungantiwar said lead-

ers of the Mahayuti coalition will meet Governor C P Radhakrishnan at 3.30 pm on Wednesday to stake a claim to form government. Union minister Nirmla Sitharaman, former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani were present at the BJP legislature party meeting held at the Vidhan Bhawan in Mumbai. The BJP had appointed Sitharaman and Rupani as central observers for

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## Joint search operation starts in Surankote after suspected explosion



JAMMU, Dec 4 (Agencies): A joint search operation was launched

on Wednesday after a loud explosion-like sound was heard in

Jammu and Kashmir's Surankote town. Officials said a joint search operation was started after the sound was heard in Surankote town of Poonch district. "The explosion is suspected to have occurred close to an army installation in Surankote town," officials said adding that further details are awaited.

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## J&K Police's counter intelligence Kashmir Wing raids Central Jail in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 4: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of police on Wednesday carried out raids at the Central Jail here, officials said here.

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## INDIA Bloc MPs hold protest in Parliament complex over Adani Issue, Demand JPC probe



NEW DELHI, Dec 4 (Agencies): Leaders of several INDIA bloc par-

ties protested on the Parliament premises on Wednesday over the

Adani indictment issue and called for a joint parliamentary probe into the matter. MPs of the Congress, AAP, RJD, Shiv Sena (UBT), DMK and the Left parties, among others, raised slogans in favour of their demand and held a banner reading "Modi-Adani are one" at Parliament's Makar Dwar. The TMC kept away from the opposition protest. Leader of Opposition in

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## Man tries to shoot SAD leader Sukhbir badal outside Golden Temple, nabbed

AMRITSAR, Dec 4 (Agencies): A man opened fire at Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal while he was performing the duty of 'sewadar' outside the Golden Temple here on Wednesday but missed the target as he was overpowered by some bystanders.



The audacious attack was captured on cameras of mediapersons who had gathered outside the Sikh shrine to cover the second day of Badal's penance for

"mistakes" committed by the SAD government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017. Television footage showed the shooter slowly walking towards

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### 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	

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

**OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our revered and beloved father **Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo** fondly called Daddy Ji, Bada-Daddy, Baji, Jija-Sababhbh (originally Gurguri Mohalla Alkadas/Broadway Shivpora Srinagar, presently at Virar Mumbai) on 30th November, 2024 at 3.15 PM. The Cremation was performed on 02.12.2024 at 10 am at Cremation Ground Virar Mumbai.



**Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo**

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Bhayander Ghat Mumbai on Monday, 09.12.2024 at 09.00 am.

**Grief Stricken**  
Tickoo's, Pandita's, Kau's, Bhat's, Kashkari's, Mattoo's, Dhars, Babu's, Razdan's, Muju's

**Brothers and Bhabhis**  
Smt. Nirmala and Sh. Bushan Lal Tiku  
Smt. Sheela and Sh. M.K. Tiku

**Sons and Daughter in laws**  
Sh. Sanjay and Smt. Urmila Tickoo  
Sh. Kuldeep and Smt. Sunita Tickoo  
Sh. Virender Kaul (Son in law)

Smt. Jyoti and Sh. Sunil Kaul (Daughter and Son in law)  
Ankit, Diya, Rahul, Rishi, Ishan, Riya, Bhagesh, Rushil

Mob. No. 9810448886, 9892039377, 9818193778

**MOURNING FROM IN LAWS SIDE**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our brother in law **Shri Makhan Lal Kuchroo** husband of Smt. Shanta Zaroo (Kuchroo) R/o Lal Nagar, Charanpora, Srinagar & presently residing at 301, Abhinav Apartments, Vasundhra Enclave, Delhi - 110096 on 29-11-2024. May his soul attain Vaikuntha peacefully, Om Shanti.



**Shri Makhan Lal Kuchroo**

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Shri Chaman Lal Zaroo & Smt. Usha

Shri R.K. Zaroo & Smt. Purnima

Smt. Lalita Zaroo (Kaul)

Shri A.K. Tikoo & Smt. Basanti

Shri Kuldeep Kokroo & Smt. Rajni

Smt. Tarun Bhat & Smt. Rachna

C-705, Hindon Apartments, Vasundhra Enclave - Delhi - 110096

Tel. 9868116408, 9871488326

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Mrs Sunita Raina** W/o Mr. Rakesh Raina originally resident of Karan Nagar, Srinagar, Presently residing at Nagpur, on 28th Nov, 2024.



**Mrs Sunita Raina**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed in Nagpur at N2 Vasantika Apartment, Raj Nagar Chhaoni, Near Durga Mandir, Nagpur on 07th Dec 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**SAMAST RAINA PARIVAR**

+91 98382 06444, 9765568898

**MASVAR/VAHERVAR**

A year has gone by since your departure to heavens where as we continue to miss you with pain deep in our hearts and minds. Our household stands orphaned in your absence as your memories are too deep rooted in our thoughts never to forget. We always feel your presence within household to make us believe you are amongst us and gone nowhere. We pray to almighty God to bless your soul with his mercy wherever you may be. We also beseech you to guide us on the path of sincerity and humanitarianism in our day today undertakings. Hope you are happy and peaceful in the environs of celestial bliss of Almighty God.



**SMT. VEENA KOTWAL**

**MASVAR AND VAHERVAR** of our beloved **Smt. Veena Kotwal** is being performed at our residence on 04th and 05th of December 2024.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY :**

Surinder Kotwal (Husband)

Rajiv Kotwal (Son)

Sanjeev Kotwal (Son)

Diksha Pandita (DIL)

Wahisht Kotwal (Grandson)

**TENTH DAY RITUALS**

WE ALL COME TOGETHER ON 6TH DECEMBER 2024 TO PAVE THE PATH FOR THE HEAVENLY JOURNEY OF OUR BELOVED **DR. C.L. REVO**, WHO BROUGHT CHERISHED MOMENTS INTO OUR LIVES THROUGH HIS LOVE AND KINDNESS.



**DR. C.L. REVO**

**VENUE:**

**10TH DAY RITUALS - TAPKESHWAR MANDIR GHAT BIRPUR, DEHRADUN**

**RESIDENCE - 97/3-2 LANE 6, STREET 8, RAJINDER NAGAR- DEHRADUN**

**LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY-**

**REVO'S (+91 94101 48644)**

**HANDOO'S (+91 96541 70949)**

**OBITUARY AND RITUALS**

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Roopa Devi Shah** also fondly called Behengashi wife of Late Sh. O.N. Shah (originally from Bhan Mohalla, Habba Kadal and Moradabad), current residence in NOIDA on 30th November in NOIDA. This is to inform you that puja and final rituals will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 11:00 AM onwards at C-43, Sector 14 NOIDA.



**Roopa Devi Shah**

Also a prayer meet for on Saturday, December 7, 2024.

**IN GRIEF**

Meera Kaul Shah and Parmesh Shah

Vitasta Shah

Shyama Kaul

Veera Kaul Singh and Vishwajit Singh

Vatsala Singh and Vignesh Singh

**SHAH'S, KACHRUS, KAULS, RANGROOS, BHANS, TOSHKHANIS, SINGHS**

**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 MURADNAGAR 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 (REMINDER)**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Karmayogi mother **Smt. Kamla Wati** W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Dass originally R/o Bomai Sapore, A/P Flat No 5 Block 134 Lane 22 Jagti, who left for heavenly abode on 29/11/2024.



**Smt. Kamla Wati**

The **MOURNING** is held at community Hall near temple Lane No 23, Jagti Nagroba Jammu. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 8th December 2024, Sunday 10.00 am at Akhnoor Ghat, Jammu. The assembly will be held at Community Hall near temple Lane No 23, at 12 noon, Jagti Nagroba.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons and Daughter-in-laws**

Sh. Shuban Lal & Smt. Lalita Pandita

Lt. Chuni Lal & Smt. Reeta Pandita

Sh. Ramesh Kumar & Smt. Lovely Devi

Sh. Satish Kumar & Smt. Simple

Smt. Acha Sapoo & Sh. R.K. Sapoo (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Archana & Rohin Koul (Grand Daughter & Son-in-law)

Sh. Arun Pandita & Smt. Chetna Pandita (Grand son & Daughter-in-law)

**Maternal Grand Son & Daughter-in-laws**

Sh. Rakesh Sapoo & Smt. Archana Sapoo

Sh. Ishan Sapoo & Smt. Meenu Sapoo

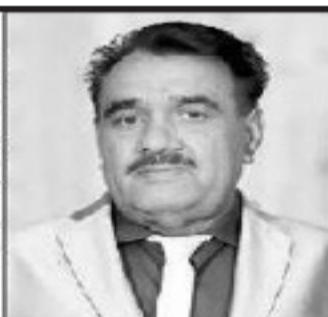
**Grand Children:** Mohit, Monica, Shubam, Shivalika, Sheen, Sawan

**Great Grand Children:** Aarna, Meesha, Kumar, Reshan

**Contact:** 7051978217, 94692 31236, 9872644258

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ajit Kumar Sharma** S/o Lt. Pt. Daya Ram R/o H.No. 674, Ashok Nagar, Sabwari, Jammu.



**Sh. Ajit Kumar Sharma**

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 5th December 2024 (Thursday) at Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh Ji Gurudwara, Ashok Nagar, Jammu, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, followed by langar.

**Kriya** will be performed on 6th December 2024 (FRIDAY) at our residence H.No. 674, Ashok Nagar, Sabwari, Jammu from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

**Grief Stricken:-**

**Smt. Kamlesh Sharma- Wife**

**Brothers & Sister-in-laws**

Lt. Sh. Harbans Lal Sharma & Smt. Shakuntala Sharma

Sh. Jagdish Chander Sharma & Smt. Nirmal Sharma

Sh. Satish Chander Sharma & Smt. Binla Sharma

Sh. Vishal Sharma & Smt. Kanika Gupta- **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sh. Rahul Sharma & Smt. Rama- **Son & Daughter-in-law**

**Grand Children:-** Suhani Sharma, Purvaang Sharma, Puneet Sharma, Himani Sharma, Sneha Sharma, Nitin Sharma, Mukul Anand Sharma

**Deeply Remembered By Sharma Family**

**Mob: 9797300975, 9622042718**

**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.



**BISHAN SINGH**

**KRIYA** will be held on 5-12-2024 (Thursday) at our residence H.No. 47, New Plot, Jammu.

**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 Nat-Basli 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, Hosa hall, Bengaluru.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 8th Dec, 2024 (Sunday) at Yediyuru Vodka Kendra 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 & Bhabhis**

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:** Preashi, Nevan, Riddhish

**Smast Zutshi Pariwar of Anantnag Bhat Pariwar of Sogam Koul Pariwar of Vessu & Pampore Bakshi & Razdan Pariwar of Ang. Mobile: 8377069002, 9682110219**

**TENTH DAY AND KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sudden and sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Abhinamny Gupta**, son of Late Sh. Wazir Chand Gupta, resident of H.No.71, JMC Main Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 27th November 2024.



**Sh. Abhinamny Gupta**

**"TENTH DAY"** will be held on Thursday, 5th December 2024, at 11:00 AM at Geeta Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, near Karan Hotel.

**"KRIYA"** will be performed on Sunday, 8th December 2024, at our residence.

**"GRIEF-STRICKEN"** :

Smt. Swam Kanta Gupta (Wife)

C.P. Gupta (Brother)

**"Sons and Daughters-in-law"**

Virendra Gupta & Sheetal Gupta

Narinder Gupta & Meenakshi Gupta

Yoginder Gupta & Nidhi Gupta

**"Grandchildren"** :

Rishiket, Udhav, Prema, Kanan, Soumil & Krishna

Contact: 7006234106, 9419188045, 9419125787

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Leela Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Jagdish Dutt Sharma R/o H.No. 13, W.No. 5, Upper Bazar Katra, Vaishno Devi. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 5th Dec 2024 on Thursday at 11:00 AM at Raghunath Mandir Katra.



**Smt Leela Sharma**

**KRIYA** will be performed on 6th Dec 2024 on Friday at 11:00 AM at Raghunath Mandir Katra. Mobile No: 7006750563

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sandeep Sharma & Pooja Sharma - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sangeeta Sharma & M.L. Raina - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Meenu Sharma & Rajesh Kumar - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

**All Samotra Family**

**UTHALA**

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again.

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Shiv Darshan Sawhney** S/o Late Sh. Nath Ram Sawhney R/o Jaba, Nowshera. **Uthala** will be performed on 05/12/2024 (Thursday) at Shiv Mandir Jaba, Nowshera at 3pm.



**Sh Shiv Darshan Sawhney**

**Grief Stricken**

Smt Budhwani Sawhney (Wife)

**Sons and Daughter in law**

Sh. Lucky Sawhney and Smt Manita Sawhney

Sh. Yogesh Sawhney and Smt Sonika Kohli

**Daughters and Sons in law**

Smt Nishu Bala and Sh. Manoj Kumar Vaid

Smt Bharti Devi and Vipin Verma

**Brothers and Sisters in law**

Sh. Subash Chander and Smt Swam Lata

Sh. Sham Sunder and Smt Dhanvanti Devi

Sh. Kulbushan Sawhney and Smt Shakuntla Devi

Sh. Rajinder Sawhney and Smt Saroj Bala

**Sisters and Brother in law**

Smt Kanta Devi

Smt Prabha Devi and Sh. Girdhari Lal Chandan

**ANTIM ARDAAS**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF **S. BALBIR SINGH** SO. PADAM KOUR AND LATE S. KULWANT SINGH KALA OF GURU NANAK BHAWAN (DEWAN SHAH) BARANULLA, WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 29 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, CHOWAHI ROAD PRIOR TO NOOR CASTLE, SECTOR 2 SANIK COLONY JAMMU :

**ARAMBH SHRI ANAND PATH SAMB** ON 01/12/24 WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

**PHOS SHRI ANAND PATH SAMB** ON 01/12/24 FRIDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

**VRTAN ANDANTIMARDAAS** FROM 10 AM TO 12:30 PM ON 01/12/24 FRIDAY AT GURUDWARA SINGH SABHA SANIK COLONY JAMMU.

## GCW Gandhi Nagar organizes seminar on "Navigating PCOS with Nutrition and self care"



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Government College for Women, Gandhinagar, successfully hosted a one-day seminar on Wednesday titled "The Hormonal Highway: Navigating PCOS with Nutrition and Self-Care." The seminar focused on raising awareness about Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), a common yet often overlooked health condition affecting 5-10% of women of childbearing age. The event aimed to educate participants about the importance of early diagnosis, lifestyle modifications, and holistic management of PCOS, and featured insights from distinguished experts in the fields of gynecology, holistic health, and

nutrition.

The seminar commenced with an inaugural address by the Principal, Dr. S.P. Sarswat, who emphasized the need to address PCOS as a significant health challenge for young women. The welcome address was presented by Dr. Neelima Gupta, who extended a warm greeting to all dignitaries, speakers, and participants. The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Anjali Bhat, Head of the Department of Home Science, whose leadership and efforts ensured the seminar's success.

Renowned speakers graced the seminar with their expertise and experience. Dr. Amita Gupta, an eminent gynecologist and former

Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology at GMCH Jammu, shared her vast knowledge on hormonal and reproductive challenges associated with PCOS. Currently a consultant at Suvidha Mother and Child Nursing Home, Dr. Gupta's expertise in high-risk pregnancies and infertility has earned her numerous accolades, including the prestigious FOGSI Achiever Award. Her insightful session focused on the medical aspects of PCOS and the importance of timely interventions.

Dr. Himani Bhutyal, a Medical Officer at AYUSH J&K and a master yoga trainer, brought a holistic perspective to managing PCOS. Known for her work in promoting health

and wellness through Ayurveda and yoga, she has led community programs and delivered lectures at schools and colleges. Her session highlighted the benefits of integrating yoga, Ayurveda, and mindfulness into daily life to combat PCOS symptoms effectively.

The seminar also featured Dr. Gurmeet Gujral, a clinical dietitian and certified weight management expert, who emphasized the role of balanced nutrition and lifestyle in managing PCOS. With numerous awards, including the Padma Vibhushan Dr. Nirmala Deshpande Award 2024, and recognition from various organizations, Dr. Gujral's session provided practical dietary guide-

lines and strategies for improving overall health and reducing long-term risks.

The event witnessed active participation of more than 700 first-semester students, faculty members, and invited guests. Nutritional refreshments were provided to students to emphasize the seminar's theme of self-care and well-being.

Principal Dr. S.P. Sarswat commended the Department of Home Science for organizing a seminar of great relevance and importance. He lauded the efforts of the team in fostering awareness about PCOS and empowering young women with practical knowledge to lead healthier lives. The seminar concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Vishav Deepika, who expressed gratitude to the speakers, participants, and organizers for their invaluable contributions to the success of the event.

## GGM Science College leads fight against drug abuse with Nasha Mukta Abhiyan Campaign



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: The NSS Units of Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu, in collaboration with the Brahma Kumaris Sanstha, NCORD Committee, Red Ribbon Club, and the Zoology Department, organized a mega "Nasha Mukta Abhiyan" campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of drug addiction.

The campaign, inaugurated by Principal Prof. Ramesh Kumar Gupta, brought together over 200 students, faculty, and collaborating organizations to address the growing menace of substance abuse. Prof. Gupta highlighted the critical role of educational institutions in fostering a drug-free society and called for collective efforts to protect youth from addiction.

The event featured a

motivational session by the Brahma Kumaris, emphasizing spiritual and mental strategies to combat addiction. A powerful video screening and discussions by the Zoology Department

and Red Ribbon Club provided scientific and public health perspectives on the issue, deeply resonating with the audience.

Students actively participated, sharing insights, raising questions, and taking a pledge to support the fight against drug abuse in their communities. The initiative underscored GGM Science College's commitment to shaping a socially aware and responsible generation.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**

Tender Notice No: - No: 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR- 251-2024-25-PTK-DRM-FZR (to be opened on date 24.12.2024) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below filled tenders and available on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) with closing date 24.12.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/verified bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Two Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
08.12.2024	10.12.2024	24.12.2024
S. No	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1	251-2024-25-PTK-DRM-FZR	Protection work of BR. NO. 232 by providing piles and retaining wall along PTK end abutment of UP line bridge in o/w Retrofitted Measures due to damage near Railway bridge no 232 over Chakki River (Jhatankat, Purpat) in JUC-PTK Section under ALEN-30/PTK.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
17,85,15,565.98	90 Days	06 Months

NOTE:- Contractors are advised to go through the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids. 3717/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Akhnoor residents hail Minister Satish Sharma's works

### Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 4: In the wake of the recent controversy surrounding the statements and actions of Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma, residents of Akhnoor and neighboring areas convened a press conference to express their unwavering support for the minister.

Prominent Sikh community leader, Sukhjeet Singh, lauded Minister Sharma's dedication and tireless efforts towards public welfare. "We are proud to have a young and hardworking minister like Satish Sharma in the new government led by Omar Abdullah," Singh remarked.

Highlighting Sharma's grassroots approach,



he emphasized that the minister has consistently remained proactive in addressing public grievances.

Singh expressed confidence that under Sharma's leadership, significant development projects, particularly in his departments, would materialize in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ritesh Gupta, described the recent protests and criticism

against the minister as attempts to undermine his commendable work. Gupta stated, "Minister Sharma's statements and initiatives are focused on enhancing governance and public services. I urge critics to support his reformist mission instead of derailing it."

Several other attendees echoed similar sentiments, praising Minister Sharma's work and

reaffirming their faith in his ability to address critical issues effectively. They cited his proactive problem-solving approach as a major reason for their continued support.

The press conference concluded with a strong message of solidarity, with participants calling for collective support for Minister Sharma's efforts to drive progress and development.

## Clean Toilet Campaign 2024 held at Ward No. 54



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), formally launched the much-anticipated "Clean Toilet Campaign (CTC) 2024" in a ceremony held at Ward No. 54, Sulabh Sochalaya, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The campaign aims to promote hygiene and cleanliness across public sanitation facilities in the city, reaffirming JMC's commitment to a cleaner and healthier urban environment.

The event was graced by the presence of the Worthy Commissioner, JMC Dr. Devansh

Yadav, Joint Commissioner, (H&S), Sh. Abdul Sattar, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, I/c IEC, Dr. Divya Sharma, CTO, JMC, Sh. Dharam Vir Singh, senior officials of the Corporation, Ward Councillors, and several community leaders. A significant turnout from local residents and representatives underlined the community's collective enthusiasm for the initiative.

On the occasion, the Commissioner also announced the Ward Level Swachhta Champions, individuals and community groups committed to adopting and maintaining public toilets in their respective wards. These champi-

ons will serve as pivotal stakeholders in regulating JMC's drive to enhance public hygiene, ensuring that the facilities remain clean, functional, and accessible to all.

To formalize their roles, a ceremonial signing of the Adoption Form for Public Toilet Monitoring also took place. This initiative seeks to strengthen public accountability and foster a sense of shared responsibility among residents for the upkeep of public sanitation facilities.

In his keynote address, Commissioner, JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav emphasized the public participation to make this campaign a success.

Kritika Khanna Parathletelete and Bronze medallist Asian Games was also nominated as a Swachhta Champion, she also volunteered to adopt one public toilet in Channi Himmat area for supervision and Sohan Lal, W.No. 23, Nai Basti, Vijay Gupta, and Rajinder Kakkar, W.No. 54, Trikuta Nagar, Tarun Kumar, W.No. 15 Indira Chowk, OP Sharma, W.No. 66, Lower Roop Nagar Muthi, Vishav Sharma, W.No. 70, Sainik colony, Shiv Kumar Sharma, W.No. 13, Resham Ghar Colony, Vishal Malhotra, W.No. 50 Channi Himmat, Sector-3, Varun Sharma, W.No. 20/21, Gandhi Nagar, Vinod Kumar W.No. 45 Digiana Pulli, Vivek Kumar, W.No. 47 Bahu Fort, Rahul Sharma, W.No. 10 Pacca Danga, NK Bali, W.No. 53 Sai Palace Trikuta Nagar all have taken pledge to adopt a public toilet, monitor its condition and provide necessary support for better maintenance to keep city clean.

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**DIRECTORATE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT JAMMU**  
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**EO No.09-DRD/Jof2024-25 dated:- 02-12-2024**

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, Directorate of Rural Development Department Jammu intends to hire two commercial/individual vehicles i.e (Mahindra Scorpio with A/C) not more than 03 years old as on 30-11-2024 from individual(s)/registered travel agencies/ registered company/organization for official purpose till 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 or till further orders whichever is earlier subject to the terms and conditions given below as under:

S. No	Name/make of the Vehicle	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Number of Vehicles required	Period	Tender receiving Authority
1	Providing of two (02) No. commercial/individual vehicles i.e (Mahindra Scorpio with A/Cs) not more than 03 years old as on 30-11-2024 on monthly charges basis without driver	500	7000/=	02	31 <sup>st</sup> of March 2025	Director Rural Development Department Jammu

**QUALIFICATION CRITERIA**

**Bidder must upload the following documents online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) for their eligibility for participation.**

- Scanned copy of receipt of tender document fee in shape of Treasury challan through treasury by crediting to (MH 0515-ORDP) Revenue favouring Director, Rural Development Department Jammu.
- Scanned Copy of PAN Card.
- Scanned copy of valid MV documents such as valid Registration Certificate, valid Insurance Certificate, Fitness Certificate, valid Contract Carriage Permit, Proof of up to date payment of token tax etc. of the vehicle.
- Scanned copy of Earnest money amounting of Rs 7000/= (Seven Thousand only) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Director, Rural Development Department, Jammu till the validity of the contract
- The vehicle should have HSRP (High Security Registration Plate).
- Affidavit by the bidder in the shape of undertaking with regard to acceptance of terms and conditions of EoI.
- Valid E-mail Id and Contact number.
- Proof of Address in the shape of any of the following:-  
**A) Copy of Aadhaar Card.**  
**B) Copy of Ration Card.**  
**C) Copy of Electricity Bill/ Landline/Telephone Bill, etc**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-12-2024 1800 hrs to 09-12-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Bids submission Start Date	02-12-2024 1800 hrs
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-12-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) In case of holiday on 10-12-2024, the bid shall be opened on next day	10-12-2024 at or after 1400 Hrs in the Directorate of Rural Development Department Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (Only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

**No: DRD/J/ Acctt/2024-2/33162**  
**Dated:- 30-11-2024**

**Sd/**  
**Director**  
**Rural Development Deptt.**  
**Jammu**

**DIP/J-7641/24**

## EDITORIAL

Educational Empowerment  
of Minorities

Education is the cornerstone of social and economic development, serving as a catalyst for empowerment and equality. For minority communities, access to quality education is crucial for overcoming socio-economic challenges and ensuring their participation in national progress. By equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, and confidence, education empowers minority groups to break free from cycles of poverty and marginalization, allowing them to claim their rightful place in society.

Despite its transformative potential, minorities often face numerous barriers to educational access. Economic disadvantages remain a significant hurdle, forcing many students to drop out early to support their families. Geographical disparities further compound this issue, as minority communities in remote or underdeveloped regions often lack access to schools, libraries, and other essential educational resources. Language barriers, coupled with cultural stigmas and traditional norms, particularly restrict the educational opportunities for minority women and girls. Moreover, implementation gaps in government policies often result in inadequate funding and ineffective execution of minority education programs.

To address these challenges, enhancing access to education is paramount. Governments must prioritize building schools in minority-dominated areas and provide free or subsidized education to economically disadvantaged families. Expanding digital infrastructure can also play a vital role in bridging educational gaps, especially in remote areas where traditional resources are scarce. By introducing bilingual education and integrating minority cultures into the curriculum, educational systems can foster inclusivity and respect for diversity.

Empowering minority women and girls is another critical aspect of educational advancement. Special initiatives should be implemented to ensure that girls from minority communities receive quality education in a safe and supportive environment. Awareness campaigns and community-led initiatives can also challenge cultural stigmas and emphasize the importance of education for all.

Policy interventions and financial support are necessary to create a level playing field. Affirmative action programs in higher education, coupled with targeted scholarship schemes, can help minorities pursue academic and professional goals. Allocating dedicated funds and partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to amplify efforts will also ensure that minority education programs achieve their intended outcomes.

In addition to formal education, skill development and vocational training are crucial for preparing minority students for employment. Establishing training centers and introducing programs aligned with market demands can equip them with the skills needed to thrive in today's economy. Technology, too, has a transformative role to play in education. Digital platforms, online tutoring, and free e-learning resources can provide minority students with access to world-class educational content, regardless of their location or financial status.

The impact of educational empowerment is profound. It uplifts minority communities economically, enabling individuals to access better job opportunities and improve their living standards. Social integration is another significant benefit, as educated individuals can navigate societal structures more effectively, challenging discrimination and promoting harmony. Political participation also increases, as education makes people more aware of their rights and responsibilities, allowing them to advocate for their communities. Importantly, education creates a generational ripple effect, ensuring that future generations benefit from the knowledge and opportunities gained.

Globally, many countries have implemented successful strategies to empower minorities through education. In India, government initiatives like Padho Pardesh, Post-Matric Scholarships, and the Maulana Azad National Fellowship aim to uplift minority students. The establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas has been instrumental in improving the education of minority girls. Reports like the Sachar Committee have also highlighted disparities, leading to targeted efforts to bridge the gaps.

In conclusion, educational empowerment of minorities is essential for building an equitable and inclusive society. By addressing systemic barriers and implementing effective strategies, governments and civil societies can ensure that education becomes a tool for transformation and equality. Empowering minorities through education is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic necessity for sustainable development and national progress.

## Supreme Court upheld Secularism &amp; Socialism

By: Omkar Dattatray

Supreme Court gave an important judgment of far-reaching significance when it disposed the public interest litigation asking for striking down the word secular and socialist from the preamble of the Indian constitution and the highest Court declined to strike down the important term secular from the constitution. It was in 1976 that in the rule of Congress Prime minister Indira Gandhi, the parliament had enacted 42nd amendment to the constitution of India and incorporated and added the words, secular, socialist & integrity to the preamble of the constitution thereby making Indian officially, formally, legally and constitutionally a secular country. However many political parties, thinkers and even some big number of the public did not like the addition of term secular to the preamble of the Indian constitution. Their argument and contention was and is that India is already a country which is scripturally ordained as the nation where Sava Dharm Sambav is the cardinal principle and doctrine of its cultural philosophy and it practices inter-faith harmony and mutual brotherhood and so there was and is no need to add the term secular to the preamble of the constitution. To tap it all the right wing party BJP which espouses Hindutva, RSS, VHP and its sister organizations were and are not in favor of term secular to have been added and introduced in the constitution. This word secular in the constitution and political lexicon of India is in fact a genuine eyesore to the Hindutva and right wing political party. But the hard fact and reality is that India being a secular country has got guarantee about secularism by the constitution. A Division Bench of the Supreme Court led by the chief Justice of India dismissed pleas challenging the inclusion of words 'socialistic' and 'secular' in the preamble of the constitution. Thus in a crucial verdict, the Supreme Court of India on November

25th upheld the inclusion of the words 'socialistic' and 'secular' in the preamble of the constitution through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976. A Bench comprising CJ of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar observed that the flaws in the petitioners arguments were manifest. Questioning the motives of the petitioners, the Court remarked, "The fact that the write petitions were filed in 2020, forty four years after the words 'socialistic' & 'secular' became integral to the preamble, makes the prayers particularly questionable. This stems from the fact that these terms have achieved widespread acceptance, with their meanings understood by 'we the people of India' without any semblance of doubt. The court emphasized that the 42nd Amendment had already undergone judicial scrutiny. For instance, in 1980, the Constitution Bench in Minevera Mills vs Union of India upheld these insertions, declaring them vital to the constitutions philosophy. In Keshvananda Bharati v. state of Kerala and S.R. Bommi vs Union of India court observed that secularism is a basic feature of the constitution. In fact Supreme Court on November 25 while dismissing the challenge to the insertion of the terms 'Secular' and 'Socialistic' in the Preamble, observed that the constitution's Preamble in its original form also reflected secular ethos even before the passing of the 42nd Amendment in 1976 which inserted these words. The important judgment was passed on a bench of petitions challenging the inclusion of the words 'socialistic' and 'secular' into the Preamble of the constitution in 1976 with retrospective effect. The Supreme Court in an order, upheld the inclusion of 'socialistic' and 'secular' in the Preamble of the constitution. The word 'secular' denotes a Republic that upholds equal respect for all religions. 'socialistic' represents a Republic dedicated to eliminating all forms of exploitation - whether social, political, or economic." a Bench of CJ of India Sanjiv Kumar Khanna and Justice

Sanjay Kumar interpreted. While considering the writ petitions challenging the insertion of 'socialistic' and 'secular' in the Preamble to the constitution by the constitution forty second amendment Act in 1976, the division Bench on of Sanjiv Khanna CJ, and Sanjay Kumar Justice, dismissed the petitions stating that there was no legitimate cause or justification for challenging this constitutional Amendment after nearly 44 years. The court further said that words 'Socialistic' and 'secular' have achieved widespread acceptance. Furthermore, the additions to the Preamble have not restricted or impeded legislations or policies pursued by the elected governments, provided such actions did not infringe upon fundamental and constitutional rights or the basic structure of the constitution. The challenge to the insertion of 'socialistic' and 'secular' to the Preamble was made on several grounds. It was contended that retrospectivity of the insertion in 1976, resulted in falsity as the constitution was adopted on 26-11-1949, the word 'secular' was deliberately eschewed by the constituent assembly, and the word 'socialist' fetters and restricts the economic policy choice vesting in the elected government, which represents the will of the people. It was further submitted that the 42nd amendment is unconstitutional as it was passed during the Emergency in 2-11-1976, after the normal tenure of the Lok Sabha that had ended on 18-3-1976, therefore, there was no will of the people to sanction the amendments. At the very outset, the court clarified that the instant petitions did not require detailed adjudication as the flaws and weaknesses in the arguments are obvious and manifest. It said article 368 of the constitution permits amendment of the constitution, the power to amend unquestionably rests with the parliament and this amending power extends to the Preamble. Amendments to the constitution can be challenged on various grounds, including violation of the basic struc-

ture of the constitution. The important order was based on a batch of petitions filed in 2020 challenging the validity of the inclusion of 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitution Amendment in 1976. The petitioners, who included BJP leader Subramanian Swamy argued that the insertions made with the retrospective effect, that is from date of the adoption of the Constitution by the constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949 amounted to a fraud on the constitution. Besides, they argued, the word 'secular' was deliberately eschewed by the Constituent Assembly and the word 'socialist' frittered the economic policy choice of the elected government, which represents the will of the people. The court further explained that the constitution was a "living document," and open to changes according to the needs of the time. The court said the Preamble's original tenets of equality of status and opportunity, fraternity, dignity and liberty reflect the secular ethos of the constitution. The court clarified that 'socialism' in the Indian context meant the commitment to function as a welfare state. Thus we can say that the top court upheld the secularism and socialism as enshrined in the constitution of India. The subject of inclusion of the terms 'secular' and 'socialist' has been settled and there is no confusion about it. Still if the parliamentarians find it necessary to delete the words 'secular' and 'socialist' for that the parliament has to once again make a constitutional amendment to the effect of erasing these two words from the Preamble of the constitution. But it is easier said than done. However there is no bar to make amendments to the constitution as per the demands of the time.

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

## Two Aspects of 'Artificial Intelligence' Technology

By: Vijay Garg

In the last 60-70 years, the way the blessings of science and the ease of technology have changed the outline of life, if you think about it, you will feel that can't a person do anything if he wants? Not only is everything possible, but at a pinch it can become like Aladdin's lamp, 'Jo Hukam Mere Aaka'. Alliance of man and machine: When people heard the voice of television and the speaking face for the first time in the fair held at Pragati Maidan in Delhi decades ago, their eyes and ears could not believe it. Had been. There was discussion on everyone's lips. The telephone was invented a long time ago but when it came into existence in the shape of a box and started talking anywhere in the world without any wire or connection, then I thought that 'this can also happen' and when the person talking - Even if we can see others, even if we are across seven seas, then it seems like a miracle. When the big box of computer reached homes and offices with all its pomp and show, it felt amazing. If it became easy to do anything because of this, then it had to be applauded. Now this small mobile phone Be it a large screen or a life-size TV. From sharing and sharing knowledge through screens to playing games and enjoying entertainment, it has started happening at the click of a button with fingers. The question

that comes out of the mouth is 'what else now'? The answer to this was also found and the world of Artificial Intelligence appeared before us. Wonder for what will happen next has now been replaced by curiosity and eagerness. It is enough to understand what and to what extent the human mind can think, and how anything can be transformed by putting it into practice. Is. When we talk about this new technology, nothing seems impossible for humans. He can make the machine dance on his instructions or can say that he can make it do whatever is going on in his mind. Here it has to be noted that the machine cannot do anything of its own free will. The command remains in the hands of the human being, just like the genie that comes out of the lamp has to do only as per the orders of the master. It is difficult to even imagine how much destruction this machine is capable of causing like a loose bull, if a mistake is made due to carelessness or misunderstanding. No. It is neither necessary nor easy for a common person to delve into the depths of Artificial Intelligence. It is enough to understand that now with its use, one can not only keep an eye on one's ledger accounts, ups and downs, fluctuations, ups and downs in the market, one can also make changes in it as per one's own convenience, right from the comfort of one's home. For those who do business and run industries and for whom

the blink of an eye means the difference of millions and crores, this technology is a boon. Similarly, professional people who are in the field of tax, advocacy, consultancy or film production. They can do the work of months in days and hours in minutes. There is no dearth of ability in our country, but at the same time there is a tremendous lack of people who can make people capable and increase efficiency. The result is that people learn after making mistakes and fall behind in the race. For example, when old data or data is entered or fed into the machine, the result that comes out of it will be garbage. Unfortunately, this same garbage is used by those who make policies for us and as a result And failure is bound to happen. From education, health facilities, unemployment, poverty alleviation to pollution control, environmental protection and population data, there is an atmosphere of tug-of-war in every field and blaming others. The people sitting at the top of power, be it politics or economic experts, who are entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out public welfare schemes, will not be capable and talented, no matter how much the world progresses, it is like fate to lag behind us. of profit and loss Comparison is necessary: In comparison to the advantages of Artificial Intelligence technology, the disadvantages are also no less, provided caution is not taken. Fake voice, same

face, gestures, posture and style of conversation can be copied exactly. The dangers of cybercrime have started, there is no need to break into the house for robbery and theft, all this can be done easily by misuse of this technology. Digital arrest, empty account without information, life's savings cleared in a moment, who is ours and who is someone else's Who else becomes a stranger and a stranger, anything can happen. It is important to understand that no matter how much someone pretends to be yours and asks for any information, you should always avoid it the first time. Then do a thorough investigation, ask the bank, share with friends and relatives and do or say anything only when you are sure that there is nothing wrong. Don't believe the possibility of being intimidated or threatened and arrested. Let us assume that the market of copying is hot and wisdom has to be used. There is no scope for getting carried away or forgetting, trying to see what is not visible. Do it. Doing just this is enough for a common man, otherwise the robbers are already setting their traps.

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

## CEC LAHDC Leh meets Union Minister Kiren Rijiju

Top News Report

LEH, Dec 4: The Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, accompanied by Executive Councillor Stanzin Chospel, met the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, at his office in Parliament.

During the meeting, the CEC submitted a memorandum to the Minister, requesting his support in bringing the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha to Ladakh during the upcoming summer months.



This move will surely be seen as a significant step towards promoting Ladakh's rich Buddhist heritage and strengthening its

cultural ties.

In addition to this, the CEC raised various issues pertaining to the minority communities in Ladakh. He expressed his deep gratitude to Kiren Rijiju for his ongoing support to the region and reiterated his hopes for continued collaboration in addressing the needs of the people.

The Minister assured that he would extend all possible support for the matters raised during the meeting, reinforcing his commitment to the development and welfare of Ladakh's diverse communities.

## Khatana condoles demise of former MLA Ch Payara Singh

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Dec 4: Raja Sabha MP and senior BJP leader Ghulam Ali Khatana expressed profound grief over the demise of former MLA Choudhary Payara Singh, who passed away on December 2. Singh, a stalwart leader from the erstwhile Gandhi Nagar assembly constituency, was the father of Vikram Randhawa, a senior BJP leader and MLA from Bahu assembly constituency. Paying homage to the late leader, MP Khatana highlighted Choudhary Payara Singh's invaluable contributions to society and politics. He described Singh as a leader who worked tirelessly for the welfare of

all sections of society, cutting across barriers of caste, creed, and religion. "Choudhary Payara Singh's passing is an irreparable loss to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. His unwavering dedication to public service and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life made him a beloved figure in the region," Khatana said.

The BJP leader extended his heartfelt condolences to Vikram Randhawa and the bereaved family, praying for strength during this difficult time. Singh's demise has left a void in the political and social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, with leaders across the spectrum recalling his legacy of service and commitment.

## J&K Teachers Forum Reasi holds virtual meeting

Top News Report

REASI, Dec 4: The District President J&K Teachers Forum Reasi, Rail Singh, successfully chaired a virtual meeting of the Executive members to discuss pressing issues affecting teachers in the region.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders to address concerns related to teacher promotions, transfers, and welfare schemes. The discussions were fruitful, and decisive actions were outlined to address the grievances of teachers.

The Forum reiterated its commitment to advocating for teachers' rights and ensuring their well-being. The meeting concluded with a resolve to work col-

lectively towards resolving the issues faced by teachers in Reasi district.

According to Forum District Spokesperson Anrez Singh Thakur, The District President Rail Singh directed all Executive members and zonal Presidents of District Reasi to hold meetings at the zonal level and address teacher issues and strengthen the organization at the ground level.

The meeting was attended by prominent members, including Vice President Arshad Hussain, Advisor Anchal Singh, President Female Wing Ganai Nazia Farooq, Vice President Female Wing Babli Devi, Publicity Secretary Jagdev Singh, Narotam Singh and Zonal President Arnas Parshotam Singh and many others.

## Sub Zero chill grips Kashmir valley, Jammu sees a dip, Ladakh freezes further

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 4: A biting cold wave gripped the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday, with minimum temperatures plunging well below freezing in several areas.

Ladakh continued to reel under intense cold, while Jammu witnessed a sharp dip in nighttime temperatures, marking the onset of the winter season.

As per the private weather forecaster,

Kashmir weather, Srinagar recorded a low of -2.0°C, signaling a frosty morning for the region's summer capital. Qazigund, at -2.2°C, and Pahalgam, dipping to a chilling -4.8°C, remained among the coldest inhabited places in the valley.

Pulwama, Shopian, and Larnoo shared a frosty low of -4.7°C. However, Zojila, an important mountain pass, reported an extreme -17.0°C, underscoring the harshness of winter at higher alti-

tudes.

Tourist hubs like Gulmarg (-3.5°C) and Sonamarg (-3.7°C) also experienced severe cold, adding to the allure of their snow-clad landscapes. The relatively milder Kokernag was the only location above freezing at 0.4°C.

In Jammu, the minimum temperature dipped to 8.4°C, making for brisk mornings. Banihal (3.2°C) and Baderwah (1.4°C) were among the coldest spots in the region. Padder in Kishtwar district, however,

stood out with a subzero temperature of -3.5°C, rivaling colder areas in the valley.

Katra, the base camp for Vaishno Devi pilgrims, reported a comfortable 10.0°C, while Kathua (8.3°C) and Samba (4.8°C) witnessed a marked chill in the plains.

Ladakh continued to be gripped by extreme cold as Leh recorded a bone-chilling -8.8°C. Kargil was not far behind at -7.9°C. Although Drass's data was unavailable, the

region, known as the "Second Coldest Inhabited Place on Earth," is expected to have dipped even further into freezing temperatures.

As temperatures plunge, residents and travelers in the region are bracing for harsher conditions in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the drop in temperatures is expected to boost winter tourism, with Gulmarg and Pahalgam emerging as hotspots for snow lovers.

## 32 lakh Valmiki community will neither be divided nor cut with BJP in Delhi: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: National Chairman of Rashtriya Valmiki Sena, Hinduwadi Sanatani BJP leader Raju Chandel, accusing the Aam Aadmi Kejriwal government of Delhi, said that they are misleading and luring the leaders of BJP Sanatani Valmiki community because 32 lakh Valmiki community which is staunch Sanatani Hindu, will neither be divided nor cut, is dedicated to BJP, some greedy leaders of Valmiki commu-

nity are trying to break in the vote bank by luring them with tickets and ministerial posts.

Chandel said that the largest population of Dalit community in Delhi is of Valmiki community only, some Jaichand mislead the top leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party and show our numbers to be less, we are true Sanatanis We are Hindus and are with BJP and will remain with it, in view of which our Bharatiya Janata Party should give about five tickets to the leaders of Valmiki community in Delhi Assembly. This largest population

is in these areas of Delhi such.

Trilokpuri has the largest population in which about 12 lakh people of Valmiki community live Kalyanpuri 2 lakh Seemapuri 1.5 lakh, Sultanpuri Mangolpuri 15 lakh, thus Najafgarh Bawana Rohini 3 lakh New Delhi Old Delhi Paharganj Karol Bagh Daryaganj 7 lakh people of Valmiki community live, such a large population of our Valmiki community which is of BJP dedicated Sanatani people, this vote bank has always been dedicated to Bharatiya Janata Party



and will remain so, in view of these ground reality figures, this time in Delhi Assembly elections, about five tickets of Valmiki community should be made for the Assembly.

Chandel demanded ticket for his district president Chandrapal Chandel from the reserved seat of North Eastern District and said that the second ticket should be given to the state leader of BJP Scheduled Caste Front, Rupesh from our Trilokpuri Assembly Mehra ji should be given the ticket and many such leaders of our

Valmiki community are included in the BJP senior leader Scheduled Caste Front from Kalyanpuri assembly seat and we have demanded to give tickets to the leaders of Valmiki community from other reserved seats as well.

Chandel has told the proud Prime Minister of our country Narendra Modi that you respect our Valmiki community which is a true Sanatani Hindu community and this time our Valmiki community should not be ignored in Delhi assembly regarding tickets.

## SMVDU alumnus Sub-Lieutenant Ritwik Mishra honored with prestigious CNS Gold Medal

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 4: Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly announces that Sub-Lieutenant Ritwik Mishra, a 2023 batch pass-out from the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE), has been awarded the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Gold Medal for his exceptional performance in the Naval Orientation Course.

This prestigious accolade was presented during the Passing

Out Parade held at the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala.

Sub-Lieutenant Mishra's journey from SMVDU to receiving this distinguished honor exemplifies his dedication, discipline, and pursuit of excellence.

The CNS Gold Medal is awarded to trainees who exhibit outstanding leadership, academic prowess, and unwavering commitment during their training.

Sub-Lieutenant Mishra's remarkable achievement brings



immense pride to his alma mater and serves as an inspiration for current and future students.

The Passing Out Parade, marking the culmination of rigorous training, was reviewed by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the

Naval Staff, who awarded medals to meritorious Midshipmen and Cadets.

The event witnessed proud parents and dignitaries celebrating the hard work and resilience of the trainees. Sub-Lieutenant Mishra's success reflects the high standards of education and values nurtured at SMVDU.

The university community extends its heartfelt congratulations to him and wishes him continued success in his naval career.

## JKBS members lay wreath at Sena Medal Hav Chuni Lal Sandhu's memorial

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 4: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) on Wednesday laid wreath at the memorial of their braveheart Hav Chuni Lal Sandhu in Village Tacharwan here today on his 18th martyrdom day.

JKBS' General Secretary R L Kaith said, "We are proud of Hav. Chuni Lal Sandhu and his achievements. He was the number 1 soldier of the Indian Army, who after eliminating three militants, was martyred in a militant flush



out operation in Kashmir's Pulwama Sector in December, 2007". Later on, he had Sena Medal (Posthumously) and under the orders of President of India, the mention of his name in a dispatch by the Chief of Army Staff, was published in the Gazette of India 2008 for display-

ing most conspicuous bravery, demonstrating battle field leadership and laying down his life.

It is very important to remember the sacrifices of the brave soldiers, who fought for the sovereignty of the nation and also laid down their lives for the country, said the JKBS members

who included Subedar Major Ram Paul Motan (Retd), Subedar Major Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd), Havildar Ghari Lal Lakhotra (Retd), Jagdish Raj Kaith, Puran Chand Sandhu, Surinder Kumar Sandhu, Subash Chander, Des Raj Motan and Ramesh Lal Kaith.

Hav Tashooq Ahmad and Hav Dev Dutt from 9 JAKLI were special invitees.

In the end, all present passed a resolution to urge the Government to name a school or road or building after the martyr.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
JAMMU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DIVISION NO.II, JAMMU

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**e-NIT No. JDA/II/2024-25/e-NIT/54 Dated 02/12/2024**

Executive Engineer JDA Division No.II for and on behalf of the Vice Chairperson, Jammu Development authority, Jammu e-tenders are invited on **Percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments, for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Stage tender for maintenance of various JDA asset under the jurisdiction of JDA Division No.II Jammu	JDA Division No.II	5.00	300	10000/- (2% of the advertised cost)	365 Days	23/12/2024 (1400 hrs)	A B C D CLASS

**Position of AAA :** Accorded vide No.SE/JDA/2024/1053-57 dated 19-11-2024  
**Technical Sanction :** Accorded vide No.JDA/II/TS/61 dated 24-11-2024.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-12-2024 1800 to 21-12-2024, 1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	02-12-2024 1800
4	Bid Submission End Date	21-12-2024 up to 1600 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	23-12-2024 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer JDA Division No.II
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must accompanied with copy of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt as per annexure -"A" favouring Vice Chairman, JDA Jammu uploading a copy of bank receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and bid security (EMD) will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged in favor of Executive Engineer JDA Division II, and relevant documents of **L1** be submitted to the **Executive Engineer JDA Division No.II, Nehru Market Ware House, Jammu** at the time of award of contract.

No.JDA/II/385-91  
Datcd:-02-12-2024

**DIP/J-3098-P/24**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
JDA Division No.II  
Jammu

## As Sachin Pilagonkar clocks over six decades of acting, he credits the tolerance level of audiences for his survival

Bade achhe lagte hain... perhaps there is only one Sachin, the famous cricketer that India loves more than this gifted actor. Cherubic child actor of 65 films, disarmingly charming hero of lilted love stories like Geet Gaata Chal, Balika Badhu as Sachin Pilagonkar has clocked over six decades in the film industry, he lets us into his journey. On how he has survived in the competitive industry for so long, he smiles, "The credit goes to the tolerance of audiences."

In a free-wheeling interview his sense of humour and affable manners strike us as much as his performances onscreen. Back in time directors may have felt 'he can only make audiences cry,' today his funny bone manifests not only in his directorial signatures but also crackling one-liners. Celebrating the success of his latest Marathi directorial Navra Maza Navsacha 2, sequel to his earlier superhit film of 2004, the actor-director producer shares sequels are no less no more challenging. But he adds, "Viewers are often ready to jump to conclusions and declare 'oh the first one was better.'"

While Marathi cinema is hailed all over the country and in this time and age when big ticket movies are flopping left, right and centre, his movie doing a theatrical run of over 50 days is no mean feat. But Sachin won't gloat or preach. Certainly, he has no piece of advice for Punjabi filmmakers, who he thinks are doing a very good job. You bet this Marathi has seen some Punjabi films. He listens



to Bulle Shah and Baba Farid too and swears by the beauty of Punjabi 'an inimitable language with unique flavour and expressions.'

The idiom of love, many may feel, has changed in Indian cinema. But the lead of emotive films like Ankhiyon Ke Jharkhon Se, brimming with pure and virtuous love, has a different take. He observes, "Love will always remain innocent. It is just the situation that changes. And, since filmmakers have to create something new each time, a new idea or story of looking at love crops up."

Indeed, he has also been a witness to days when audiences would give a standing ovation and make cinema halls come alive with their over-enthusiased responses. Today, much of the content is watched in the privacy of rooms, thanks to OTT.

He believes, "Change is the only constant. There is no point in harping over woh zamaana aisa tha..." Thus he is willing to learn as much from his lovely daughter Shriya Pilgaonkar, an OTT star in her own right.

With so many talented actors in the family, his wife Supriya Pilgaonkar too is a noted actress, we wonder if their house doubles up as an acting school. He replies, "No, more than acting we discuss food." Ahem, looks like his love for Punjab translates into their foodie traits too.

With food figuring high on his agenda, how has he managed to maintain himself? Well, for one it's his genes which he has inherited from his mother. Besides, he plays badminton regularly and eats everything, but in moderation.

In fact, it's his evergreen looks which ensured his transition

from a National Award winning child actor to a grown-up actor was seamless. Imagine his last film as a child actor in Bairag was in the same year as Balika Badhu. To those who think the otherwise heartwarming film was socially incorrect and glorified child marriage he maintains, "It was made in 1976 but was a period film set in 1930s when child brides were a norm." Today he won't advocate the regressive custom. Nor is he a votary of violence and abusive language with which web shows are currently heavily loaded. Sure he throws in a caveat, 'unless script strongly demands so.' Yes he has made an exception in City of Dreams where he turned a bad guy and in season three for the first time in his life abused in front of the camera. All praise for his director Nagesh Kukunoor for discovering this facet of his and that too sans any accoutrements, he admits to being 'a director's actor.'

The director in Sachin never interferes with other directors' vision for many reasons but also, "Since I am only being paid for acting."

Of course, it's not just his credo-line "the only way to be different is to be oneself" which makes him iconic but oodles of talent. Once an actor, always one, he has no intention of ever bidding adieu to arc-lights. Directing a Hindi entertainer is only one of his many dreams. "You can only quit if you have mastered it all..." six decades and still in learning mode. Now, you know the real secret behind the Sholay and Satta pe Satta actor's long, long innings.

## Rashmika Mandanna channels Srivalli vibes in stunning saree



Actress Rashmika Mandanna knows how to make a statement, and her latest appearance proves it yet again!

The actress recently turned heads as she stepped out in a saree that paid tribute to her iconic 'Pushpa' character, Srivalli. At the recent pre-release event of "Pushpa 2: The Rule" in Hyderabad, Mandanna stole the spotlight in a stunning purple saree. What made her outfit truly special was the word 'Srivalli' elegantly embroidered on it, paying homage to her iconic character.

Rashmika later took to

social media to share a boomerang video, showcasing the exquisite Srivalli-inspired design.

For the Mumbai promotions, the 'Animal' actress exuded elegance in a green luxe chiffon saree by Amit Aggarwal, paired with the designer's signature black corded Nucleus-embroidered blouse. The ensemble draws inspiration from Aggarwal's iconic Nucleus design, the designer's inaugural creation. Symbolising birth and genesis of time, it stands as a tribute to creation in its purest and most

elemental form.

Meanwhile, Rashmika is all set to reprise her role of Srivalli alongside Allu Arjun in Sukumar's forthcoming action drama. Also starring Fahadh Faasil, "Pushpa 2" is slated to hit theatres on December 5.

Ahead of the film's release, the Andhra Pradesh government has approved a ticket price hike for the film for 13 days. The government has permitted theatre owners to run five shows daily at the same ticket price from December 6 to December 17. Allu Arjun took to his X handle to express his gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for granting approval to their request.

He wrote, 'I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for approving the ticket hike. This progressive decision demonstrates your steadfast commitment to the growth and prosperity of the Telugu film industry. A special note of thanks to the Hon'ble @AndhraPradeshCM Shri @ncbn garu, for his vision and unwavering encouragement to the industry. I also express my sincere thanks to the Hon'ble @APDeputyCMOShri @PawanKalyan garu, for his invaluable support in empowering the film industry.'

## Ranbir Kapoor will do complete justice to Lord Rama's role, says Gurmeet Choudhary

Actor Gurmeet Choudhary, who gained the spotlight by playing Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's "Ramayan", has expressed his confidence in Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor's ability to excel in the same role in Nitesh Tiwari's "Ramayana" alongside Sai Pallavi.

Gurmeet said, "Ranbir is an exceptional actor who brings every role to life. Audiences loved me as Ram because they saw the essence of Ram in me. I am confident that Ranbir will also do complete justice to this role."

Gurmeet also reflected on playing the role in his early days.

"When I worked on Ramayan, I was just 23 years old. The show was produced by Ramanand Sagar, who also created the iconic "Ramayan" featuring Arun Govil sir. Before that, I was completely unknown to the audience and had never appeared on screen," Gurmeet said.

He added, "That's exactly what Ramanand Sagar believed in—when portraying a divine figure, the actor should have no prior public image or background, allowing viewers to con-



nect with the character devotionally."

Gurmeet was recently seen in "Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein: Season 2" for which he lost 10 kg for his look. To embody the intense and complex character, Gurmeet underwent rigorous preparation.

## Cinevestre announces the second edition of Cinevestre International Film Festival- Chandigarh

After a successful debut, Cinevestre International Film Festival (CIFF) is back along with a market rebranded as CinéV-CHD, which will take place on March 20-23 in Chandigarh.

Cinevestre is also thrilled to announce its partnership with the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA).

The inaugural edition of CIFF garnered significant attention and hosted prominent Indian film personalities, including Karan Johar, Boman Irani, Sudhir Mishra, Shekhar Kapur, and Richa Chadha. Building on this momentum, the second edition aims to provide an enhanced platform for creative collaborations and networking.

CinéV is a series of film markets that are designed to facilitate interactions between film professionals, investors, and distributors. These markets will serve as a hub for private investors and industry insiders to explore co-production opportunities, secure funding, and forge strategic alliances. CinéV-Chandigarh 2025 marks the first such market. Registra-



tions for CinéV-Chandigarh will open from January 14.

Cinevestre has partnered with IFFLA, the leading South Asian film festival based in Los Angeles. The partnership, CinéV-IFFLA, aligns the mission of both entities to support innovative storytelling and foster global collaborations.

The festival will host a series of insightful conversations and panel discussions. These sessions will delve into various aspects of filmmaking, including scriptwriting, directing, producing, and distribution. Renowned

industry experts will share their knowledge and experiences, providing valuable insights for aspiring filmmakers and industry professionals.

Founder and CEO, Cinevestre, Nina Lath says, "Unlike other sectors, film production often presents a challenge for private investors due to its intangible nature and relatively short shelf life. Yet, the passion for cinematic storytelling and potential for substantial returns makes it an enticing opportunity. With CinéV, our mission is to bridge this gap by connecting

pre-vetted projects with credible producers and investors, aiming for mutually beneficial outcomes for all involved. As we bring the second edition of our event to Chandigarh, we are excited about the growing momentum and are proud to collaborate with IFFLA, a festival that has earned the utmost respect in the Indian film industry."

IFFLA founder Christina Marouda adds, "The partnership with Cinevestre comes at the perfect time for IFFLA as it officially expands its 23rd year legacy and footprint into the development of South Asian focused content. We could not think of a better partner than Nina and her new venture to create an ecosystem of talented storytellers and attract the right investors for these curated projects. This filmmaker-investor curated track is a gap we're filling in with this endeavor. I'm excited for the IFFLA and Cinevestre teams to be joining hands, and cannot wait to see the results of such a unique and timely collaboration."

## Massey says social media post misinterpreted, not quitting acting

Many publications ran stories around the actor's Instagram post stating Massey had hung his boots much to the shock of fans and the film industry

'12th Fail' star Vikrant Massey said that his social media post about going on a hiatus from movies is only a temporary break to focus on family and health and it should not be misinterpreted as his retirement.

Many publications ran stories around the actor's Instagram post stating Massey had hung his boots much to the shock of fans and the film industry.

Now Massey has issued a clarification, saying he owes every-

thing to acting but needs some time away from the spotlight.

"My post has been misinterpreted. That I am quitting or retiring from acting. I want to take some time off to focus on my family and health. I would be back when the time feels right," the 37-year-old said in the statement.

"Acting is all I can do. And it has given me everything I have. My physical and mental health have taken a hit. I just want to take some



time off, want to better my craft. I feel a sense of monotony at the moment," he added.

His announcement came weeks after the release of his latest movie 'The Sabarmati Report'. It has earned Rs 36.64 crore (gross) at the box office since its release on November 15.

His Instagram post read: "The last few years and beyond have been phenomenal. I thank each and every one of you for your indelible

support. 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. 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)."

The same day Massey attended a special screening of the film in

New Delhi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other ministers at the Balyogi Auditorium in the Parliament Library Building.

At the screening, the actor told reporters that watching the film with the prime minister was the "highest point" in his career.

Massey was also asked to elaborate on his "break" announcement at the screening but he dodged the question.

## President Murmu offers prayers at Shree Jagannath Temple

PURI, Dec 4 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday walked about one kilometre on the Grand Road and then offered prayers in the 12th century Lord Jagannath Temple here.

As the President walked on the road like a common devotee, hundreds of people lined up on both sides of the road and greeted her.

The temple was closed for public for some time to facilitate the first citizen to have a smooth darshan of the sibling deities- Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath, in the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine.

The President was accompanied by her daughter Itishree



Murmu, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CM Pravati Parida, Puri MP Sambit Patra and others.

"I sought blessings of the Lord and prayed for the people of India and wished their wellbe-

ing," Murmu said after offering puja at the temple. She spent about 30 minutes inside the temple.

Upon her arrival at the temple, she was greeted by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administra-

tion. She knelt down before the sibling deities in the sanctum sanctorum in obeisance and offered aarti to the Lords, said Rajratan Mohapatra, the servitor who guided the President's darshan. The President also offered puja to Maa Bimala and Maha Laxmi inside the temple premises.

A flag was tied in her name atop the temple seeking blessings for the country, said the servitor.

Adequate security arrangement was made for the President's visit to the pilgrim town, police said, adding that Murmu later left to attend another programme in the town.

## Railways gives Rs 56,993 crore subsidy on tickets every year: Ashwini Vaishnaw



NEW DELHI, Dec 4 (Agencies): A total subsidy of Rs 56,993 crore is given every year by the Indian Railways to all categories of passengers, with a 46 per cent rebate on every ticket, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

Replying to multiple questions in the Lok Sabha on restoring discounts given to various categories of train

passengers, he said if the price of a ticket is Rs 100, then the railways charges just Rs 54 for it — a discount of 46 per cent.

"A total of Rs 56,993 crore subsidy is given every year by the Indian Railways to all classes of passengers," Vaishnaw said during the Question Hour.

Replying to another question on rapid train service, he said the railways has already started such a service — *Namo Bharat Rapid Rail* — between Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad and the satisfaction level of passengers is extremely high due to its superior service.

Officials said *Namo Bharat Rapid Rail* has improved intercity connectivity by covering the 359-kilometre distance between Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad in 5 hours and 45 minutes, with stops at several stations along the way.

## Three of family killed, two injured in car-truck collision on Gujarat highway

KHEDA, Dec 4 (Agencies): Three members of a family were killed and two others injured when their car jumped the road divider and collided with a container truck on a highway in Gujarat's Kheda district, police said on Wednesday.

The accident took place at around 10 pm on Tuesday on the Ahmedabad-Vadodra Expressway near Bilodra village when the family was returning to Surat after attending a wedding in Rajasthan, they said.

The car driver lost control over the

wheels after one of its tyres burst.

The car then jumped the divider, veered away to the wrong side of the road and collided with the truck coming from the opposite direction, an official from Nadiad rural police station said.

A 71-year-old woman and two men, all hailing from Surat, died on the spot.

A 14-year-old girl and another person were injured and rushed to a civic hospital in Nadiad city for treatment. The deceased have been identified as Dalpat Purohit (37), Dinesh Purohit (41) and Subetidevi (71), the police said.

## Ready to go alone to Sambhal with police but not allowed: Rahul Gandhi

GHAZIABAD (UP), Dec 4 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who was stopped at the Ghazipur border here on Wednesday, said he was ready to go alone to Sambhal with police but was not allowed.

The Rae Bareilly MP, his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior Congress leaders reached the Ghazipur border in the morning where heavy police force was deployed and barricades put up to stop them from entering Sambhal. Rahul Gandhi later left for Delhi.

"We are trying to go to Sambhal. Police is refusing, not allowing us. As the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, it is my right to go... I said that I am ready to go alone, I am ready to go with



the police but they did not accept that either," Rahul Gandhi said.

"Now they are saying that if we come back in a few days, they will let us go. This is actually against the right of the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha. I should be allowed to go," he told reporters.

Holding up a copy of the Constitution in his hands, Gandhi said the police's decision was against democracy.

"We want to go to Sambhal and see what

happened there. We want to meet the people but I am not being allowed my constitutional right. This is India where attempts are on to end the Constitution. But we will keep fighting," he added.

Wayanad MP Priyanka Vadra said, "What happened in Sambhal was wrong. Rahul ji is the leader of opposition. He has the constitutional right. He is different from other people. He cannot be stopped. He has the constitutional right to go

and meet the victims, he should be allowed." Curbs under Section 163 (power to issue an order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita* (BNSS), which were set to expire on Sunday, have now been extended till December 31 in Sambhal.

Sambhal District Magistrate Rajendra Pensia on Tuesday wrote a letter to the police commissioners of Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad and the superintendents of police of Amroha and Bulandshahr districts, urging them to stop Rahul Gandhi at the borders of their districts.

"We will not permit Rahul Gandhi to Samb-

hal as prohibitory orders have been issued by the administration there. Police will stop Gandhi at UP gate," Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra said.

He said ample police force has been deployed at the spot, he said. Tension had been brewing in Sambhal since November 19, when a Mughal-era mosque was surveyed on court orders following claims that a Harihar temple previously stood at the site.

Violence erupted during a second survey on November 24 as protesters gathered near Shahi Jama Masjid and clashed with security personnel. Four people were killed in the violence and many more were injured.

## 5.3-magnitude earthquake hits Telangana, Andhra Pradesh

HYDERABAD, Dec 4 (Agencies): An earthquake of 5.3-magnitude struck Mulugu in Telangana on Wednesday morning, the National Centre for Seismology said.

There were no immediate reports of any casualty or major damage to properties. The quake hit at 7.27 am. The tremors were felt at several places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Several residents of Warangal, near Mulugu, said they experienced an unusual jerk for a few seconds around 7.30 am. Ceiling fans began swinging and items

started falling off the cupboards. Mulugu is about 200 km from the state capital.

Retired scientist of National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) Purnachandra Rao told agency that quakes of more than five magnitude rarely hit Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. An earthquake of 5.7 magnitude was recorded at the temple town of Bhadrachalam in 1969 though smaller quakes have been reported, he recalled. Following the 5.3 earthquake on Wednesday, aftershocks are possible for a couple of days but there is no need to panic, he added.

## SC to consider modifying orders that barred HCs from hearing coal block allocation cases

NEW DELHI, Dec 4 (Agencies): The Supreme Court Wednesday said it would consider pleas seeking modification of its earlier orders that barred high courts from hearing appeals against trial court orders passed in cases related to alleged illegal coal block allocations.

The apex court passed two orders between 2014 and 2017 restricting the accused from approaching the high court and had directed that appeals against trial court proceedings in the coal scam cases could only be filed in the top court.

The intent behind the orders was to expedite trial processes by preventing delays and to stall the proceedings by the accused seeking relief in high courts.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was considering pleas that urged it to modify the orders saying the Delhi High Court, being the appellate court, be allowed to deal with the pleas arising out of trial court orders related to coal scam cases.

"Is this the stand of the CBI that everything should come to us?" the CJ asked senior advocate R S Cheema who is conducting trial in CBI cases as a special public prosecutor.

"We also want to have the benefit of Delhi High Court orders passed in these cases," the bench said.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for a litigant, said the high court cannot be restrained from hearing



appeals and the pleas seeking discharge in the cases.

Lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for NGO 'Common Cause', said the orders were passed to ensure that the trial does not get impeded by the accused by moving the high court against interlocutory orders passed by the trial court.

The bench said since the orders were passed by a three-judge bench, let it be listed before a bench of the same

strength in the week commencing January 15, 2025.

The top court in 2014 quashed 214 coal blocks allocated by the Centre between 1993 and 2010 after taking note of the PILs and ordered a trial by a special CBI judge.

The bench had directed that any prayer for a stay or to impede the investigation or the trial could only be made before the Supreme Court, effectively barring other courts from entertaining such pleas.

Another bench headed by Justice Abhay S Oka had earlier issued a notice to the Enforcement Directorate seeking clarification on whether the bar imposed by its earlier decision — restricting any prayer for a stay or impeding the progress of investigation/trial in Coal Block Allocation cases to the top court alone — also applies to complaints filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

It was submitted whether the bar outlined in earlier orders needed clarification, particularly whether it extends to cases under the PMLA linked to the coal block allocation scam.

The CBI filed 57 cases in the coal scam. Several consequential money laundering cases were also filed.

## Sitharaman Blames 'Congress-Led MVA Govt' For Delaying Bullet Train, Metro Car Shed Projects



MUMBAI, Dec 4 (Agencies): Union Finance Minister Nirama Sitharaman on Wednesday accused the past "Congress-led Government" of stalling the key infrastructure projects in Maharashtra including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train and Mumbai Metro car shed in Aarey Colony.

The previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government of the Congress, undivided Nationalist Congress Party and undivided Shiv Sena also created hurdles when the Union Government tried to resolve the issues plaguing Mumbai's suburban railway network, she claimed.

Sitharaman was speaking at a meeting of the state BJP legislature party where Devendra Fadnis was elected as its leader ahead of the swearing-in of the new BJP-led Government. Sitharaman, along with Vijay Rupani, was present as a central observer.

"Had the Congress-led Government not been in power in Maha-

ashtra during the MVA period, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train would have already commenced," she said.

Sitharaman also questioned the delay in the Aarey car shed construction, part of the Mumbai Metro project. The MVA Government had shifted its location after environmental groups opposed its construction in the leafy Aarey Colony area.

She called the results of the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls as "unprecedented and unexpected," attributing the BJP's success to voter dissatisfaction with the earlier "Congress-led MVA Government".

"The people were tired and concerned about the functioning of the Congress-led coalition. That is why they have given this clear mandate. We will remind people of the losses incurred during Congress rule," she said.

A "double-engine Government" (a BJP-led regime in a state working in tandem with the party-led Union Govern-

ment) under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership would fulfil the promises made during the campaign and take Maharashtra towards speedy development, Sitharaman said.

She referred to key central government initiatives for the state, such as the Rs 76,000 crore Vadnavan port project and recognition of Marathi as a classical language.

"Mumbai is the financial capital of the country and plays a pivotal role in economic progress, including the fintech sector. With our efforts, Maharashtra's leadership in this field will remain intact," she said.

The Finance Minister also outlined plans to boost agricultural infrastructure in north Maharashtra's Nashik region, with investments in new godowns and scientific packaging units for crops such as onion, garlic and grapes.

Projects like the Warkari corridor between Pune and the pilgrimage town of Pandharpur reflect how much Maharashtra and its culture mean to the Prime Minister, she said.

"Let's make Maharashtra a powerful state. Hum ek hai to safe hai (united we are safe)," she said to the newly-elected party MLAs.

## Mentally challenged woman staying in lavatory sent to shelter home in Maharashtra

LATUR, Dec 4 (Agencies): A 45-year-old mentally challenged woman living in a lavatory in Maharashtra's Latur district for the past two years has been sent to a shelter home in Buldhana, a representative of a local NGO said. Inda Shinde, a resi-

dent of Gural village in Nilanga tehsil, and her husband got separated 15 years back.

The woman had taken refuge in an outdoor lavatory in the village, which became her home.

She had been living with two daughters and

a son.

One of her daughters had got married without informing her, which deeply shocked Shinde and it was believed to have contributed to her mental health issues, said Rahul Patil Chakurkar, a member of the Religion to Respon-

sibility Foundation.

Her another daughter had also got married.

Shinde's son, who was also mentally unwell and had been staying with her, was taken to a shelter home six months ago by another NGO.

Since then, the woman was staying alone.

Local residents informed Chakurkar about her plight, prompting action.

The woman was sent to Divya Seva Sankalp, a shelter home in Buldhana district, where she will receive care and further treatment, Chakurkar added.

## South Korean President withdraws martial law after lawmakers defy him

*President Yoon Suk Yeol's shock bid to impose South Korea's first martial law in over four decades plunged the country into the deepest turmoil in its modern democratic history.*

SEOUL, Dec 4 (Agencies): South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol abandoned a short-lived attempt to impose martial law on Wednesday after lawmakers defied security forces to vote against his declaration and thousands of protesters took to the streets.

Yoon's shock bid to impose South Korea's first martial law in over four decades plunged the country into the deepest turmoil in its modern democratic history and caught its close allies around the world off guard.

The United States, which stations nearly 30,000 troops in South Korea to protect it from the nuclear-armed North, initially voiced deep concern at the declaration, then relief that martial law was over.

The dramatic developments also left the future of Yoon -- a conservative politician and former star public prosecutor who was elected president in 2022 -- in jeopardy.

South Korea's main opposition party -- whose lawmakers jumped fences and tussled with security forces so they could vote to overturn the law -- demanded that Yoon step down immediately over the attempted "insurrection".

The nation's largest umbrella labour union also called an "indefinite general strike" until Yoon resigned. And the leader of Yoon's own ruling party described the attempt as "tragic" while calling for those involved to be held accountable.

Yoon backed down after lawmakers voted to oppose the declaration, which he made late on Tuesday night citing the threat of North Korea and "anti-state forces".

"Just a moment ago, there was a demand from the Nation-



al Assembly to lift the state of emergency, and we have withdrawn the military that was deployed for martial law operations," Yoon said in a televised address around 4:30 am (1930 GMT Tuesday).

"We will accept the National Assembly's request and lift the martial law through the Cabinet meeting."

Yonhap news agency then reported that Yoon's cabinet had approved the motion to lift the order.

Senior aides working for Yoon offered Wednesday to resign en masse over the martial law declaration, Yonhap reported.

By the start of the working day, Yoon had yet to reappear publicly.

'Impeachment'

The U-turn prompted jubilation among protesters outside parliament who had braved freezing temperatures to keep vigil through the night in defiance of Yoon's martial law order.

Demonstrators who had been waving South Korean flags and chanting "Arrest Yoon Suk Yeol" outside the National Assembly erupted in cheers.

Lim Myeong-pan, 55, told agency that Yoon's decision to rescind martial law did not absolve him of wrongdoing.

"Yoon's act of imposing it in

the first place without legitimate cause is a serious crime in itself," Lim told agency.

"He has paved his own path to impeachment with this."

Defying security forces, 190 lawmakers managed to get into the assembly in the early hours of Wednesday and unanimously voted to oppose martial law.

Under the constitution, martial law must be lifted when a majority in parliament demands it.

'Anti-state' elements

Yoon had given a range of reasons to justify martial law -- South Korea's first in more than 40 years.

"To safeguard a liberal South Korea from the threats posed by North Korea's communist forces and to eliminate anti-state elements plundering people's freedom and happiness, I hereby declare emergency martial law," Yoon said in a televised address.

Yoon did not give details of the North's threats, but the South remains technically at war with nuclear-armed Pyongyang.

"Our National Assembly has become a haven for criminals, a den of legislative dictatorship that seeks to paralyse the judicial and administrative systems and overturn our liberal democratic order," Yoon said.

The president labelled the

main opposition Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-member parliament, "anti-state forces intent on overthrowing the regime".

Yoon and his People Power Party are also bitterly at odds with the opposition over next year's budget.

Opposition MPs last week approved a significantly downsized budget plan through a parliamentary committee.

The imposition of emergency martial law came after Yoon's approval rating dropped to 19 percent in the latest Gallup poll last week, with many expressing dissatisfaction over his handling of the economy and controversies involving his wife, Kim Keon Hee.

Concern, relief

Democratic South Korea is a major ally of the United States in Asia, but Washington said it was not given advance notice of Yoon's plan to impose martial law.

"We welcome President Yoon's statement that he would rescind the order declaring emergency martial law," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

"We continue to expect political disagreements to be resolved peacefully and in accordance with the rule of law."

China, a key ally of North Korea, urged its nationals in the South to stay calm and exercise caution, while Britain said it was "closely monitoring developments".

Vladimir Tikhonov, professor of Korea studies at the University of Oslo, said Yoon's move to impose martial law was "an attempt to wind history back".

"I don't think South Korea's civil society can recognise Yoon as a legitimate president any longer," he told agency.

## Philippines says China's coast guard fired water cannons and sideswiped its patrol vessel

MANILA, Dec 4 (Agencies): Chinese coast guard vessels backed by navy ships fired powerful water cannons and blocked and sideswiped a Philippine patrol vessel on Wednesday in renewed aggression at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, Philippine officials said.

Three Philippine coast guard and bureau of fisheries vessels were on routine patrol to protect Filipino fishermen at Scarborough Shoal when several Chinese coast guard and navy ships approached and staged "aggressive actions" after dawn, the Philippines coast guard said.

There was no immediate comment from Chinese officials. In the past, they have repeatedly cited claims of Chinese sovereignty in the contested offshore region and their determination to defend what they say is their territory despite a 2016 international arbitration decision that invalidated Beijing's historical claims.

The United States condemned China's "unlawful use of water cannons and dangerous maneuvers." U.S. Ambassador to Manila MaryKay Carlson said on the social media platform X that the Chinese maneuvers disrupted a Philippine maritime operation and "put lives at risk."

"We condemn these actions and stand with our like-minded friends, partners, allies in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific," Carlson said.

China's reported actions in the disputed waters came after a

respite of more than a month while back-to-back major storms prevented many Philippine fishing and commercial vessels from venturing into dangerously rough seas.

Despite the Chinese ships' "reckless" maneuvers, the Philippines coast guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource said they renewed their "commitment to protecting the rights and safety of our fishermen within our maritime jurisdiction."

"We will continue to be vigilant in safeguarding our national interests in the West Philippine Sea," the two Philippine law enforcement agencies said, using the Philippine name for the seas off the archipelago's western coast.

The Chinese maritime maneuvers "are not standard law enforcement actions," Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said, adding they "should be interpreted as unlawful aggression by international law violators."

China's sweeping claims cover virtually the entire waterway and overlap with the territorial waters, exclusive economic zones and high seas claims of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Indonesia has also had confrontations with the Chinese coast guard, which backs Beijing's fishing fleets.

On Wednesday, one of the Philippine vessels, BRP Datu Pagbuaya, was hit by high-pressure water fired from a Chinese coast guard ship with bow number 3302

which targeted its navigational antennas about 16 nautical miles (30 kilometers) south of Scarborough, Manila's coast guard said.

Shortly after, the Chinese coast guard ship "intentionally sideswiped the BRP Datu Pagbuaya on its starboard side" and then "launched a second water cannon attack on the same vessel," it said.

Philippine coast guard ship BRP Teresa Magbanua "faced blocking, shadowing and dangerous maneuvers" by two Chinese navy and coast guard ships, it said. Another Philippine coast guard ship, the BRP Cabra, "was subjected to reckless maneuvers" by a Chinese coast guard ship at a distance of about 300 yards (274 meters), Philippine coast guard officials said.

At a news conference Wednesday, Philippine coast guard and national security officials showed videos of the Chinese coast guard's use of water cannon and maneuvers close to the Philippine vessels.

The long-simmering territorial disputes are a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region. The U.S. lays no claims in the waters, which are a key global shipping route, but has declared that freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of the conflicts are in its core national interests.

The U.S. has warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, a treaty ally, if Filipino forces come under attack in the South China Sea.

## Activists file second impeachment complaint against embattled Philippine Vice President Duterte

MANILA, Dec 4 (Agencies): A group led by left-wing activists filed a second impeachment complaint against the Philippine vice president on Wednesday over her alleged misuse of government funds and demanded that she be permanently barred from holding public office.

The impeachment complaint filed by at least 74 activists, including human rights, labor and student leaders, before the House of Representatives reflects the extent of the political hostilities faced by Vice President Sara Duterte. She did not immediately comment on the new impeachment complaint or an earlier one filed Monday.

Duterte, a 46-year-old lawyer, is the daughter of also-controversial former President Rodrigo Duterte, who oversaw a bloody anti-drug crackdown while in office. The killing of thousands of suspects during the crackdown is being investigated by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

Her No. 1 political adversary has been President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whom she publicly threatened with death in a Nov. 23 online news conference.

Government investigators have launched a criminal investigation into her threat against

the president, his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives, a cousin and ally of Marcos. Duterte has tried to walk back her comments by saying they were not a direct death threat but rather an expression of concern for her own safety.

The complaint filed Wednesday accused the vice president of "betrayal of public trust over the illegal use and mishandling of 612.5 million pesos (\$10.3 million) in confidential funds," according to a statement by the complainants.

The impeachment complaint said that in addition to the alleged misuse of the confidential and intelligence funds, the vice president and her staff allegedly tried to cover up the irregularities by submitting fabricated reports, receipts and documents to the Commission on Audit and deliberately obstructing a congressional investigation.

It said that in December 2022, the vice president's office spent 125 million pesos (\$2 million) in 11 days during the Christmas holidays for suspicious expenditures, including renting "safe houses," paying for unspecified confidential information and financing rewards, which it said were not clearly explained by Duterte.

"Wasting the confi-

dential funds is a big betrayal of the people," said Liza Maza, a leading complainant from the Makabayan political coalition. "This is not just a simple technical violation but a systematic misuse and robbery of public funds."

"The impeachment is the antidote to impunity," said Renato Reyes of Bayan, another left-wing political coalition. "Citizens and taxpayers need to hold public officials accountable."

On Monday, a group of civil society activists, including Roman Catholic priests and pro-democracy activists, filed an initial impeachment case that contained about 24 alleged crimes and irregularities, including her death threats against Marcos and her alleged role in the extra-judicial killings of drug suspects under her father's crackdown. She was also accused of failing to stand up to Chinese aggression in the disputed South China Sea.

The impeachment complaints will be examined by the House of Representatives, which is dominated by allies of Marcos and his cousin and key backer, House Speaker Martin 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 ahead of the May 12 midterm elections.

The House has been investigating the alleged misuse of confidential and intelligence funds received by Duterte's offices as vice president and education secretary. She has since left the education post.

She has refused to respond to questions in detail in tense televised hearings. 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 the brief detention of her chief of staff, who was accused of hampering the congressional inquiry into the alleged misuse of funds.

The National Bureau of Investigation subpoenaed Duterte to face investigators on Dec. 11 about her threats against the president.

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.

## Bangladesh interim Govt has absolute obligation to protect its Hindu minority: US Congressman

WASHINGTON, Dec 4 (Agencies): An influential US lawmaker said the interim Bangladeshi Government has an absolute obligation to protect the minority Hindu community in the country after the fall of the democratically-elected Sheikh Hasina-led Government earlier this year.

Over the weekend, Hindus from Bangladesh organised a rally at the White House demanding release of Chinmaya Das and

protection for Hindus of Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh's interim Government has an absolute obligation to protect its Hindu minority and meaningfully address the protests of thousands of minority Hindus in outcry over the recent wave of attacks and harassment," Congressman Brad Sherman said in a statement.

"With the calls for an investigation from the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity

Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk for killings and other rights violations during the violent unrest leading up to and after the fall of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the current administration must demonstrate leadership in eliminating acts of violence against the Hindu community," Sherman said.

Utsav Chakrabarti, executive director of HinduAction called on

the outgoing Biden-Harris administration to take all possible measures to prevent further escalation of violence by radical Islamists against the Hindus in Bangladesh.

"Based on the feedback we are getting from #Bangladesh, Hindu monk and civil rights defender Chinmoy Krishna Brahmachari, who has been incarcerated by the interim Government, faces a serious threat to his life, in custody," he said.

## EU pushes back deforestation law by a year after outcry from global producers

BRUSSELS, Dec 4 (Agencies): The European Union agreed to delay by a year the introduction of new rules to ban the sale of products that lead to massive deforestation, caving in to demands from several producer nations from across the globe and domestic opposition within the 27-nation bloc.

Officials said Wednesday that the EU member states, the EU parliament and the executive Commission reached an agreement in principle following weeks of haggling whether the initial rules would have to be watered down even further than the simple delay by one year. Originally, it was supposed to kick in this month.

The deforestation law is aimed at preserving forests on a global scale by only allowing forest-related products that are sustainable and do not involve the degradation of forests. It applies to things like cocoa, coffee, soy, cattle, palm oil, rubber, wood and products made from them. Deforestation is the second-biggest source of carbon emissions after fossil fuels.

The lead negotiator among the different EU institutions, Christine Schneider, called the delay to implement nature protection rules "a victory," adding it would give foresters and farmers protection from "excessive bureaucracy."

Environmentalists immediately criticized the move.

"With our planet's forests destroyed further every day, we cannot afford delays to much-needed environmental protection laws like the EU's anti-deforestation legislation," said Giulia Bondi of the Global Witness group.

Officials from leading exporters of affected commodities -- including Brazil, Indonesia and the Ivory Coast -- fear the regulation could act as a trade barrier, hit small farmers and disrupt supply chains.

Under the deal, the rules are now scheduled to start Dec. 30, 2025, for large companies, and June 30, 2026, for small companies. The different EU institutions will still have to individually approve the deal but since they agreed on the measures, this is likely to be a formality.

In offering to delay the regulation by a year, the EU Commission has said it heeded the complaints of several global partners about their state of preparedness for the rules.

Some EU governments, including Austria and Germany, have also sought to water down the regulation or delay its introduction.

With the delay, some governments sought to add more measures that would weaken the original rules and allow for more exemptions. Even if that was not agreed to in the current deal, Schneider said that the commission had "committed itself to updating the Deforestation Law within a year."

Greenpeace has said that the extension would condemn the world's forests to another year of destruction. It noted a U.N. finding that an area of forest about the size of Portugal is cut down worldwide each year.

"Instead of rolling back its environmental agenda, the EU needs to keep its commitments and show leadership to tackle the climate emergency," said Bondi.



## Max Hospital Mohali completes 1,500 successful kidney transplants

### Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Dec 4: Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali today announced a landmark achievement of performing over 1,500 kidney transplants since its inception, becoming the first private healthcare facility in the region to offer such advanced transplant services. As one of the fastest-growing kidney transplant centers in North India, Max Hospital, Mohali performs more than 100 transplants annually, setting a high standard for quality care and innovation.

The Kidney Transplant Unit at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali has established itself as a leader in tackling complex and challenging cases. These include ABO-incompatible transplants (across different blood groups), pediatric transplants, second-time transplants, swap transplants, and robotic-assisted transplants. Recently, the team also achieved a rare medical feat by performing a third kidney transplant on a patient with two prior graft rejections.

Commenting on the landmark achievement, Dr Jagdish Sethi, Director, Kidney Transplant, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali stated "On behalf of our entire medical team, I am proud to share this significant milestone of completing 1,500 kidney transplants. This



achievement reflects not only our advanced medical capabilities but also the unwavering trust our patients place in us. Every successful transplant symbolises hope and a renewed lease on life for someone in need. Transplants remain the gold standard for patients with end-stage kidney failure, significantly improving quality of life, reducing dependency on dialysis, and lowering mortality rates."

Dr. Sethi also highlighted the hospital's diverse patient demographic and said, "We are privileged to serve patients from across the country and beyond. While a majority of our patients come from Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, we also cater to individuals from regions like Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar

Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Manipur, as well as international patients. This trust underscores our reputation and the impact of our care across borders," he added.

Kidney failure affects thousands of individuals annually in India, with an estimated 2,20,00 people requiring transplants each year. However, only a fraction of these needs are met due to a limited number of donors and specialised centers. Against this, currently, only about 7,500 kidney transplants are performed each year. Max Hospital, Mohali is stepping up to bridge this gap by initiating a cadaver donation program to increase the availability of donor organs and expand access to life-saving treatments. (National health records from World

Health Organization (WHO). Dr Vinay Sakhuja, Senior Director, Nephrology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali said, "The demand for kidney transplants far outweighs the supply of available organs. Through our upcoming cadaver donation program, we aim to address this shortage and give hope to patients who otherwise have limited options. Our commitment is to make advanced transplant care accessible to more individuals, improving their quality of life. Our team is dedicated to achieving exceptional outcomes for both recipients and donors. The success rates of kidney transplants at our hospital are at par with the global success of kidney transplants, with most patients leading healthy, fulfilling lives post-transplant. This is a testament to the skill, dedication, and innovative approach of our medical team."

Dr. Munish Chauhan, Associate Director - Nephrology, and Dr. Manish Singla, Senior Consultant - Department of Nephrology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali, have been instrumental in providing expert care to patients with chronic kidney diseases and advancing kidney transplant outcomes.

Their expertise strengthens the hospital's multidisciplinary approach to complex cases, ensuring exceptional care and recovery for patients.

## Team Lalitaditya calls on CS Atal Dooloo

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: The team of Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organisation and Kashmiri Pandit Premier League (KPPL) called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo in his office chambers, here on Wednesday.

The members apprised the Chief Secretary of the activities and achievements of the organisation with regard to promoting sportspersons and cultural artists in exile.

Vinay Koul, Rocky Pandita, Raman Raina, Ankur Bagati, Vishal Sharma and others were present.



Gen Secretary Vinay Koul of the KPPL said that the Organisation apart from holding a good number of cultural events since its inception, has the distinction of organising four editions of cricketing extravaganzas namely KPPL for four consecutive years.

Ankur Bagati briefed

the CS about the details of the upcoming tournament.

Ankur further said that Sports has been an important pillar of the nation-building process. It gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to the ideals of ancient culture and nurture the values for new generations.

## Govt Polytechnic Ramban organizes industrial visit to Shivalik Cement Factory Udhampur

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, Dec 4: Government Polytechnic Ramban, under the guidance of Principal Er. Vivek Mahajan, organized an industrial visit to Shivalik Cement Factory, Udhampur, sponsored by BIS Jammu. The visit was specifically designed for 3rd-semester Civil Engineering students.

The students, accompanied by Lecturer Hritam Swami and Head of the Department, Electronics and Communication, Er. Pawan Kumar, showed keen interest in the factory's operations. They

asked various questions regarding the manufacturing process, safety factors, and quality control measures.

Owner of the Cement Factory, Sumit provided insightful guidance, explaining the functioning of different stages in the cement plant. This visit proved to be highly beneficial for the Civil Engineering students, offering them hands-on experience and exposure to the latest technologies in the cement industry.

Government Polytechnic Ramban remains committed to providing its students with opportunities for experiential learning and industry exposure.

## Poster Making Competition held on World AIDS Day to raise awareness

### Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 4: Continuing the momentum of World AIDS Day 2024, Red Ribbon Club of the Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu organized Poster Making Competition to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS, its prevention, and the importance of reducing stigma.

The theme of the competition was "Take the Right Path" in line with the global call to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care.

Participants were encouraged to

create artwork that reflected the significance of education, awareness, and compassion in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Rajinder Singh, the Principal of the college, took a moment during the event to stress the need to dismantle the stigma that still exists around this topic.

He also extended his thanks to the committee members, underscoring how crucial events like this are for fostering ongoing discussions about HIV/AIDS. The event saw a remarkable display of talent, with submissions varying from symbolic imagery to striking mes-



sages of solidarity.

The judging panel, comprising Prof. Pawan Kumar Gupta (HOD, Commerce), Dr. Deepshika Sharma and Prof. Monika Mahajan (HOD, BCA) selected the winners based on creativity, relevance to the theme, and overall impact. Posters conveyed powerful messages about safe practices, the importance of regular testing, and the need for greater inclusivity in healthcare services.

In poster making competition, Bhumi Malwal B.Com Semester 1st secured first position, Gurmeet Singh B.Com Semester 1st stood

second while Neharika Sharma of B.Com Semester 1st secured third position.

The Red Ribbon Club of the college also organized reel making competition in which Taniya Sharma of M. Com Semester 3 secured first position, whereas second and third positions were secured by Manjot Singh of B.Com Semester 3 and Anish of B.Com Semester 1st.

The entire event was organized and managed by Red Ribbon Committee members Dr. Jagmeet Kaur (Convener), Dr. Deepak Pathania, Dr. Fayza, Dr. Madhu Bala, Prof. Binny, Dr. Roomi Rani and Ravi.

## FROM PAGE 1

## PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rajnath extend greetings on Navy Day, salute valiant personnel for unmatched courage

importance of Navy, Singh said that Indian Navy is an important pillar in the national security architecture and safeguarding India's Maritime Security.

"As the country celebrates the Navy Day today, I extend my greetings and warm wishes to all Indian Navy personnel and their families. The Indian Navy is an important pillar in the national security architecture, safeguarding India's Maritime Security. Our Navy plays a pivotal role in ensuring safe, secure and stable seas reaffirming our stature as the Preferred Security Partner and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region," Singh posted on X.

The Indian Navy celebrates December 4 as Navy Day every year to acknowledge the role of the Indian Navy and commemorate its achievements in 'Operation Trident' during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

## Women constitute only around 6% of total strength of J&K Police: MoS Home

taken by the Government to increase the representation of women in police forces particularly in leadership positions and whether any special recruitment drives have been launched to encourage women to join police forces, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs said, "police is a State subject falling in List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and it is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments to recruit more women police personnel".

Stating that Centre also issues advisories to the States/UTs for increasing number of women in the police forces, the Minister informed the Parliament that Ministry of Home Affairs issued advisories dated 22.04.2013, 21.05.2014, 12.05.2015, 21.06.2019, 22.06.2021, 13.04.2022, 27.04.2023 and 05.12.2023 to all the States/UT administrations to increase the representation of women police to 33% of

the total strength. "All the State Governments/UTs administrations have been requested to create additional posts of women constables/Sub-Inspectors by converting the vacant posts of constables/Sub-Inspectors", he said, adding "the aim is that each Police Station should have at least 3 women Sub-Inspectors and 10 women police constables so that a women help desk is manned round the clock".

Responding to another question, the Minister said, "police being a State subject, the details of recruitment of women police personnel in the States/UTs is not maintained centrally".

Meanwhile, as per the sources in Jammu and Kashmir Police, the number of women personnel will go up considerably in the coming years in the light of announcement of 15% reservation for women in the non-gazetted posts in the Jammu and Kashmir Police made by the Lieutenant Governor with the aim to further strengthen women empowerment in the Union Territory.

While making announcement on January 24, 2022, the Lieutenant Governor had stated that 15% reservation is just the beginning and the Government is determined and committed to increase it further in the future.

"The step of 15% reservation for women in JKP will give due representation to women in Police force and will ensure the availability of sufficient women personnel to engage exclusively in the matter of gender-based crimes. The move will lay the foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable society", the Lieutenant Governor had stated.

It is pertinent to mention here that despite several assurances before 2019, the matter of reservation for women in J&K Police was never addressed and the Lieutenant Governor's announcement paved the way for increasing the strength of women in Jammu and Kashmir Police.

## Fadnavis elected leader of Maharashtra BJP legislature party; Set to become CM

the meet.

The BJP achieved remarkable success in the November 20 Maharashtra elections, securing 132 out of the 288 assembly seats

in the state, marking its best performance in the state so far.

Together with its allies — the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde and Ait Pawar's NCP, the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition has a commanding majority of 230 seats.

On Tuesday, Fadnavis met caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at his official residence, 'Varsha,' here, the first in-person meeting since their discussions in Delhi last week for government formation.

While the hour-long meeting's details remain unclear, some political observers view it as an outreach effort by the BJP to placate an ally which is weighing its options, while others believe it served as a preliminary discussion regarding the swearing-in ceremony set for December 5.

Preparations were on in full swing for the swearing-in ceremony to be held on Thursday at the Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as well as nearly 2,000 VVIPs and 40,000 supporters.

Several Union ministers, and 19 chief ministers and deputy CMs of various states are also expected to attend the ceremony. BJP leader Prasad Lad has said the ceremony will be a "historic moment" for Maharashtra.

"The event will be telecast live across the state wherever LED screens are available," he said.

There are indications that the distribution of portfolios among the three allies might not be a smooth process.

Sena leaders on Monday said that as per the "convention" of alliance politics, their party should get the home portfolio if the CM post went to the BJP.

A Shiv Sena leader also said a broad consensus has emerged among top BJP leaders and other Mahauti allies to drop ministers facing serious allegations of corruption in the new government.

## Joint search operation starts in Surankote after suspected explosion

Terrorists have increased their activities during the last four months in the union territory in the aftermath of peaceful and people-participative Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections.

On their part, security forces, police and

the army have started aggressive operations against terrorists, their over-ground workers and sympathisers.

The majority of these terrorist attacks have been reported in the Jammu division, including districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Kishtwar, Reasi and Udhampur. Some of those dastardly attacks were carried out against unarmed innocent civilians.

## J&K Police's counter intelligence Kashmir Wing raids Central Jail in Srinagar

The CIK sleuths cordoned off the Central Jail in the Rainawari area of the city before daybreak and started searching the barracks, they said.

The raids come in the backdrop of clashes between two groups of inmates in September this year.

In 2018, authorities recovered mobile phones from the prisoners, prompting strengthening of the security measures inside the jail.

## INDIA Bloc MPs hold protest in Parliament complex over Adani Issue, Demand JPC probe

the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was not part of the protest. He left for the violence-hit Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh along with a Congress delegation in the morning.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat on Tuesday issued an advisory urging the MPs not to hold protests in front of Parliament gates, saying that such obstruction of movement could affect their safety and security.

The opposition MPs held a protest at the same spot on Tuesday.

The Congress and some other opposition have been demanding a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe following the indictment by US prosecutors of Adani Group chairperson Gautam Adani and other company officials on bribery and fraud charges.

The Congress has said that Adani's indictment in a US court on bribery and fraud charges "vindicates" its demand for a

JPC investigation into the various "scams" involving the billionaire industrialist's conglomerate.

Gandhi has sought Adani's immediate arrest.

The Adani Group has dismissed all allegations as "baseless".

## Man tries to shoot SAD leader Sukhbir Badal outside Golden Temple, nabbed

intervened and grabbed the attacker's hands. In the melee, a bullet hit the wall behind Badal, who escaped unhurt.

Police identified the shooter as Narain Singh, a resident of Dera Baba Nanak. After the attack, he was whisked away by security officials.

Badal is undergoing religious punishment announced by the Akal Takht.

Holding a spear in one hand and dressed in blue 'sewadar' uniform, the SAD leader sat at the entrance of the Golden Temple. A small board hung around his neck, acknowledging his "misdeeds".

SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema strongly condemned the attack on Badal.

## Night temperature drops in Kashmir, Srinagar shivers at -2.0°C: MeT

on Wednesday.

The minimum temperature also plunged to minus 1.2°C at Kupwara against the 1.8°C recorded a day ago, and it was still 0.5°C above normal for the frontier border district of the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday.

The picnic spot of Kokernag had a slight improvement in the night temperature and recorded at 0.4°C against the minus 0.2°C the previous night, and this was 1.0°C above normal for the place in south Kashmir.

The Met Office said the weather is likely to remain dry till December 7.

"A weak Western Disturbance (WD) may affect Jammu and Kashmir between December 8 and December 9 and can cause light rain and snowfall over the isolated higher reaches," it added.

"Overall nothing significant till December 14," the MeT office said.

## SKUAST-K starts one week long training program on fostering women's empowerment

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 4: Division of Silviculture and Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST-Kashmir kick started one-week long training Programme on "Fostering Women's (Schedule Tribe) Empowerment via Agroforestry Entrepreneurship: A Training Programme for Sustainable Livelihood" under MSME at Faculty of Forestry Benhama, Ganderbal.

Division of Silviculture and Agroforestry launched a week-long training program Entitled "Fostering Women's (Schedule Tribe) Empowerment via Agroforestry Entrepreneurship: A Training Programme for Sustainable Livelihood" at Benhama Watlar Ganderbal. This program is scheduled to run from November 4th Dec. to 10th Dec. 2024.

The inaugural event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. G.M. Bhat, who serves as the Professor and Head of Silviculture and Agroforestry. In his speech, Prof. Bhat emphasized the



importance of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset in young generation. It involves shifting from relying on others for employment to generating opportunities that benefit both individuals and society.

Dr. Megna Rashid, the Program Coordinator, provided an in-depth overview of the training program, underlining the importance of entrepreneurship initiatives in promoting self-sustaining livelihoods. She detailed the program's design, emphasizing its hands-

on approach to equipping participants with practical skills. She emphasized about the way's women can contribute to income generation from Agroforestry practices. By growing food at home, women contribute to cost savings and, in some cases, generate income by selling surplus produce that fosters economic independence and financial stability within households.

Dr. M. Maqbool Rather, Assistant Professor, Division of FBT also highlighted wom-

en's role in home gardening, contributing significantly to household food security, nutrition, and environmental sustainability. He emphasized on how Women often adopt eco-friendly methods like composting, crop rotation, promoting environmental conservation and sustainable gardening that enhances mental health and physical fitness through active engagement with nature.

The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. M. Maqbool Rather, Assistant Professor, Division of FBT. Finally, Dr. Megna Rashid, the coordinator, concluded by expressing heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. N.A. Ganie, Director of Planning and Monitoring Prof. H. R. Naik, and Dean of the Faculty of Forestry Prof. S. A. Gangoo for their invaluable support and guidance. She also extended her sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, New Delhi, for sponsoring the program.

## 'Make a regular policy for Lamberdars and Chowkidars'



### Top News Report

DODA, Dec 4: Jammu Kashmir Lamberdars and Chowkidars Union (JKLCU) unit Bhagwah holds its meet at Meeting Hall, Near Bus Stand Bhagwah to discuss various issues pertaining to them like burning issue to raise their monthly salaries in according to at least mentioned in Minimum Wages Act. and any Lamberdar or Chowkidar who retire at the age of 60 years provide monthly pension to them.

Chairman Mukesh Parihar (Ph No 8492866752) Jammu Kashmir Lamberdars and Chowkidars Union said that the Lamberdars and Chowkidars are living in pathetic condition. We get Rs 1501 only for Lamberdars and only Rs 1500 for Chowkidars per month by our government. As you are aware that under new guidelines any Lamberdar or

Chowkidar must know read and write and most of the newly recruited Lamberdars or Chowkidars are highly qualified. As the new technology were introduced in Revenue Department every small and big work goes online. Due to this improvement in Revenue Department our work becomes very difficult now. We falls under 36 Departments to whom we are answerable.

District Organiser Doda Anil Kumar said that our government should revoke SRO 412 Dated 29th September, 2017 and should make a regular policy for Lamberdars and Chowkidars and also appeal to the different district's Lamberdars and Chowkidars to join hands with us so that you can also be a part of our struggle".

District Deputy Secretary Bhagwah Puran Singh said that Lamberdari and Chowkidari

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

JKLCU has elected its tehsil committee which consists of Tehsil Chief Organizer: Basharat Ali Malik, Organizer: Jaswant Singh and Basharat Ali Khanji Tehsil Cashier: Suraj Parkash while Tehsil Media Advisor is Basharat Ali Malik.

Others who were present in meeting includes Rajinder Singh Lamberdar, Swami Raj Chowkidar, Nawaz Ahmed Chowkidar, Amir Singh Lamberdar, Pawan Singh Lamberdar, Jaswant Singh Lamberdar, Puran Singh Lamberdar, Basharat Ali Malik Lamberdar, Basharat Ali Chowkidar, Suraj Parkash Chowkidar, Piyare Lal Lamberdar, Riyaz Ahmed Chowkidar, Kewel Singh Lamberdar and Ranjeet Singh Chowkidar.

## Police recovers 50 Smartphones worth value over Rs 15 lakh



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: In a significant achievement, the Jammu Police, under a special Operation "Re-Connect," successfully recovered 50 lost smartphones, valued at over 15 lakh rupees, in the past six months. Recognizing the personal and emotional connection citizens have with their mobile devices, the Jammu South Police worked passionately to return these smartphones to their rightful owners.

The operation was carried out by the Tech/ESU team of Jammu Police, South Zone, comprising of PSI Dhanraj Singh, Ct Vishal Sharma, Ct Dharminder Choudhary, Ct Sheetal Koul, who worked dedicatedly and professionally to trace the missing smartphones.

The phones had been reported as lost across various police stations in South Zone, Jammu. The team under the command of the Ajay Sharma, SP City South, Jammu and

under the overall supervision of SSP Jammu-Joginder Singh, managed to successfully track and recover these devices from various parts of the country. The list of recovered smartphones is enclosed herewith.

After successful recovery, the phones were returned to their rightful owners on Wednesday. SP City South also advised the public to take extra care with their communication devices, as smartphones not only store valuable contacts but also contain sensitive personal information, such as photographs, emails, text messages, and financial details.

The owners of the recovered phones expressed their deep gratitude toward the Jammu Police for their efforts in retrieving their devices and protecting their private information. The operation has been widely appreciated for its impact on both public service and the safety of citizens' valuable property.

## Awareness and Education Programme on Drug-Addiction and Substance Abuse held at Bishnah

### Top News Report

BISHNAH, Dec 4: Nations Development Association (NDA), affiliated with My Bharat and NYKS under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, successfully organized an Awareness and Education Programme on Drug-Addiction and Substance Abuse at SIRAS School, Bishnah.

The program aimed to raise awareness and educate the youth about the harmful effects of drug addiction and substance abuse. The event was graced by esteemed guests including the Chief Guest, Former MLA Bishnah Ashwani Kumar Sharma, who emphasized the importance of youth empowerment and the role of education in combating substance abuse. Former MLA Bishnah Ashwani Kumar Sharma highlighted the need for more such initiatives to ensure the well-being of the younger generation.

Irshad Hussain Rather the Guest of Honour and SP Headquarters Jammu, also spoke at



the event. He stressed the critical role of law enforcement in curbing drug trafficking and the importance of awareness programs to help students understand the dangers of addiction. His address focused on the community's collective responsibility to address this growing issue.

Yogesh Jandial, Administrator of SIRAS School, commended the efforts of Sushil Singh Charak, Founder cum General Secretary of Nations Development Association (NDA), for his unwavering commitment to social work. He praised Charak's leadership in organizing such impactful programs and supporting the youth of the region.

Sushil Singh Charak, who led the event, expressed his dedica-

tion to social welfare and his belief in the power of education to bring about meaningful change. He highlighted the significance of engaging the youth in awareness campaigns and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

The program featured engaging talks, presentations, and interactive sessions aimed at educating the students on the dangers of drug addiction and substance abuse. It was a successful step toward fostering a drug-free environment in the region and promoting the well-being of young minds.

Inspector Sushil Choudhary SHO Bishnah, Ashu Kumar Member NDA, Shivam Jandial Dy. Administrator of SIRAS and SIRAS School Bishnah Staff were also present on the occasion.

## Awareness Lecture on Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions organized at GLDM GDC Hiranagar

### Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Dec 4: An awareness lecture under the "Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions" initiative was successfully organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of GLDM Government Degree College, Hiranagar. The program was spearheaded by NSS Program Officer, Prof. Shapia Shameem, with active participation from dedicated NSS volunteers.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of GLDM GDC Hiranagar, who served as the Chief Guest. In her address, Dr. Khanna emphasized the need to cultivate a healthy and tobacco-free environment within educational institutions. She lauded the NSS unit for their proactive role in spreading awareness among students about the harmful effects of tobacco.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Pawan Kumar, Senior Resident in the Department of Oncology at Gov-



ernment Medical College, Kathua, delivered an insightful and engaging lecture. He elaborated on the severe health risks associated with tobacco consumption, including its link to life-threatening diseases such as cancer. Dr. Kumar also highlighted the importance of youth adopting a tobacco-free lifestyle and becoming ambassadors of health within their communities.

The lecture concluded with an interactive session, where students actively participated by asking pertinent questions about the dangers of tobacco use and strategies to discourage its consumption among their peers.

Prof. Shapia Shameem, in her vote of thanks, expressed her gratitude

to Dr. Pragya Khanna, Dr. Pawan Kumar, and all the NSS volunteers for their significant contributions to the initiative. She reaffirmed the NSS unit's commitment to promoting social responsibility and health consciousness among students.

Other faculty members present at the event included Prof. Kawaljit, Prof. Ganga, Prof. Shivani, Prof. Balvinder Kour, Dr. Rajni, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Bhavana, Prof. Amit, Prof. Surinder, Dr. Aditi, Dr. Ritu, Dr. Inam Ul Haq, Dr. Nasir, and Dr. Zahid.

This program marked a significant step toward fostering a tobacco-free educational environment and emphasized the pivotal role of youth in leading positive societal change.

## Our Constitution is enshrined with values of liberty, equality & fraternity: Balbir

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Jammu and Kashmir BJP senior leader & former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, has said that the Constitution of India is a living document enriched with values of liberty, equality and fraternity.

He expressed these views while receiving a book titled "Constitution of India" in Hindi from Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra, Incharge Nanaji Deshmukh Library & Documentation Department.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that our Constitution is vital to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of this important document. Dr. Ambedkar's vision and leadership in framing the Indian Constitution has cemented its status as a guiding light of democracy, equality, and justice worldwide.

Balbir said that the

Constitution of India was adopted on November 26, 1949, and implemented on January 26, 1950. It is more than a legal framework, very carefully crafted by Dr. Ambedkar to enshrine the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity, creating a foundation for a pluralistic democracy. Recognizing India's diversity, he ensured that the Constitution accommodated varied languages, religions, and cultures, fostering unity in diversity.

Dr. Ambedkar's most remarkable contributions were his unwavering commitment to social justice. Through the inclusion of provisions aimed at eradicating untouchability, abolishing caste discrimination, and ensuring equal rights for all citizens, he sought to uplift historically marginalized communities. The reservation system, a pioneering measure introduced under his leadership, con-

tinues to provide opportunities for education and employment to underrepresented groups, he said.

Prof.(Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra, on this occasion, shared that Nanaji Deshmukh Library has a large number of books on different subjects and many scholars, educationists and intellectuals, often visit this library for compiling information related to lives, struggles, sacrifices of patriotic citizens. Those preparing for competitive exams and undertaking research works also find written material of their requirement from this library.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohtra further said that the library is further upgraded with new books of different subjects. He said that the library is equipped with hundred books on the Constitution of India in hindi language, which will surely help readers to have in depth information about the Constitution.

## Traffic Police Rural organizes awareness programme at GDC Qazigund

### Top News Report

QAZIGUND, Dec 4: Traffic Police Rural organized a one-day awareness programme at Government Degree College Qazigund. The event emphasized the importance of following traffic rules to ensure safety on the roads. Speakers stressed that parents must remind their children not to drive vehicles, including scooters, without a valid driving license, and highlighted the necessity of wearing helmets.

On the occasion, SSP Traffic Rural, Ravinder Pal, addressed the gathering and reaffirmed the commitment of the Traffic Police to protect lives. He urged the public to strictly adhere to traf-

fic rules to avoid accidents and save lives. SSP Ravinder Pal also emphasized the role of parents in monitoring their children's activities, especially when they go out with vehicles like scooters. He warned that traffic violators would be dealt with strictly.

DySP Traffic Rural, Mohammad Aslam, and faculty members from Government Degree College Qazigund were also present. The event was attended by a large number of students, who actively participated in the discussion.

The Traffic Police Rural continues its efforts to raise awareness and ensure a safer driving environment for all.

## SPPND GDC Samba inaugurates 10-Day Certificate Course on Hand Embroidery



### Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 4: The Department of Home Science at SPPND GDC, Samba, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), inaugurated a 10-day certificate course on Hand Embroidery (Aari Work) today. The course aims to equip students with practical skills in hand embroidery while fostering creativity and promoting traditional craftsmanship.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Prof. Twinkle Suri, who lauded the Department of Home Science for its efforts in organizing the skill-based program. In her address, she emphasized the importance of skill development as a means of empowering students and enhancing their career prospects. The IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Banpreet Kour, also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the role of

such initiatives in promoting quality education and holistic development among students.

The course will be running from 4th to 14th December 2024 and 42 students from semester 1st enrolled in this skill-based certificate course. The session was conducted by skilled trainers from Dogra Well-wisher Foundation Ms. Ritu Gupta and Mr. Arun Gupta specializing in Aari Work, providing students with expert guidance. The training will take place daily from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM.

Participants expressed enthusiasm for learning the intricate art of Aari Work, which holds both cultural and professional significance. The initiative reflects the college's commitment to nurturing creativity and equipping students with valuable skills for their future endeavours.

## Big test for India's batters against mighty Australia in three-match series

*For India, the experienced Smriti Mandhana will bear the responsibility of providing a solid start with the bat.*

BRISBANE, Dec 4 (Agencies): India will aim to address their batting inconsistency in the upcoming women's ODI series against the mighty Australia, starting here Thursday, aiming to finalise their combination ahead of the Women's World Cup next year. The Indian team heads Down Under after securing a 2-1 home ODI series win over New Zealand. However, it was fairly evident that India's batting was not in top shape. In a bid to rejig stuff the tourists have dropped out-of-form opener Shafali Verma from the squad. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side would know that it has a huge task cut out against Australia who have historically dominated them in 50-overs cricket.

Their record Down Under is dismal, with just four wins out of sixteen WODIs. In the last series in 2021, Australia defeated India 2-1 in the three-match contest.

The series will give skipper Kaur and coach Amol Majumdar a perfect opportunity to bolster their preparations for the ODI World Cup at home next year. On the other hand, Australia will be without regular skipper Alyssa Healy, who is nursing a knee injury. Additionally, the hosts have not played in this format for the past nine months and will be aiming to shake off the rust.

For India, the experienced Smriti Mandhana will bear the



responsibility of providing a solid start with the bat.

Apart from the two single digit scores, the flamboyant opener has been in fine form this year, scoring 448 runs at an impressive average of around 75 in her last six ODIs.

Kaur's form will be a significant concern for India, as the explosive batter has struggled with consistency this year. With much at stake, her captaincy and batting have come under scrutiny following India's early exit from the T20 World Cup.

Additionally, she will face increased pressure after failing to score in double figures in any of the three matches in the last ODI series against Australia.

The likes of Jemimah

Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma will also be keen to get big scores.

The Indian team will miss wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia, who suffered a wrist injury during the Women's Big Bash League.

Young Uma Chetry, who has been included in the team in her place, will want to make an impression in her debut ODI series.

Big-hitting wicketkeeper-batsman Richa Ghosh has returned to the team as have Harleen Deol, Titas Sadhu and Minnu Mani.

Deepti bowled at an economy rate of 3.6 against New Zealand and she would like to continue this performance. Radha Yadav

too had a good series against the Kiwis and would want to continue in the same vein.

Aggressive fast bowler Saima Thakor, who made her debut against New Zealand, will also be desperate to leave a mark with her performance.

Australia will be led by pace all-rounder Tahlia McGrath, who will be captaining the national side for the first time in a full series.

Batter Georgia Voll has been given her debut in place of Healy, while veteran Elise Perry will be eyeing the 4,000-run milestone in ODIs, as she is just 42 runs away.

The weather is expected to be hot and humid in Brisbane and there is also a possibility of light rain.

Squads: India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Priya Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Uma Chetry, Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Saima Thakor

Australia: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Match starts 8:50am IST.

## Changing positions no longer a mental challenge, can bat anywhere: Rahul



ADELAIDE, Dec 4 (Agencies): Senior India batter K L Rahul on Wednesday said that he has overcome the "mental challenge" of being a floater in the line-up, which has made him confident about doing well for the side at any position.

Rahul was superb in the first Test against Australia in Perth with scores of 26 and 77 while opening the innings in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, who was on a paternity break.

With Rohit walking back into the playing eleven for the day-night Test starting Friday, Rahul was asked the obvious question about his batting position.

"Anything (opening or middle order)," the 32-year-old batter told reporters ahead of India's training session here.

"I just want to be in the playing XI, which means wherever. You go there and bat and play for the team," said the batter with 3000 plus runs in 54 Tests.

Rahul started his Test career in Australia exactly a decade back as a middle-order batter, who later opened.

His batting slot in both the Test and ODI set-up was far from steady all these years and this affected him mentally.

"I have batted in many positions.

Earlier it was a bit of a challenge, not technically but mentally about how to play those first 20-25 balls," he opened up about his apprehensions.

"How early can I attack? How much do I need to be cautious? Those were things that were tricky early on.

"But now that I have played in Tests and ODIs all over the place, it has given me an idea of how I want to manage my innings," said the stylish stroke-maker, who has two hundreds in South Africa, one in Australia and a couple of more in England among his eight Test tons.

In his mind, he has simplified the process of Test batting.

"Whether I am batting top of the order or in the middle order. If I can manage the first 30-40 balls at start, everything then seems like regular batting, that's what I try to focus on," he explained.

Rahul revealed that he was told about the prospect of opening in Australia well in advance.

The 32-year-old then played the second game of the recent India A series against Australia A to get precious game time.

"I got told quite early as I missed out on the New Zealand (home) series, I didn't play the last two games, I was told to be ready that there might be a chance to open the batting.

"I got a lot of time to prepare and opening is something I have done a long time in my career. I just had to go back and bat a bit more and as I said, I have batted a lot at the top of the order to know, how to get my runs and what processes I need to follow," he said.

"I practised enough, I came here early to get some time in the middle. We played some practice games as well and it helped me in my preparation."

## Struggling Man City counting on fan support

MANCHESTER, Dec 4 (Agencies): Manchester City's supporters remember the highs of recent years and will get behind the team following a string of poor results, manager Pep Guardiola said on the eve of the Premier League visit of Nottingham Forest on Wednesday.

City, who have won six of the last seven Premier League titles, are without a win in seven games in all competitions and a fourth straight league defeat at Liverpool on Sunday saw them drop to fifth in the standings.

The club's sudden downturn in form has led to serious questions over their ability to challenge for silverware for the first time in years, but Guardiola said he was confident the fanbase had enough reason to remain faithful.

"We need them because the situation is what it is. They



have always been there and have this feeling," Guardiola told reporters ahead of the Forest game.

"They know what these guys have done in the last decade, there are many good moments we've lived together and we know we absolutely need the support. All of us, especially the players, are human beings and are willing to give everything to change the dynamic."

Defending champions City have 23 points from 13 matches, 11 adrift of leaders Liverpool but only two behind second-placed Arsenal and Chelsea in third.

Guardiola said his side could no longer entertain lofty aspirations of lifting the league title at the end of the season and would have to instead focus on adopting a step-by-step approach as they look to return to the top four.

"We cannot think about the results we've had in the past and to think about the big targets (the title) would be a big mistake," the Spaniard added. "We must try to beat a team that is close to us, to take advantage of them and to be close to the top four ... we will try to win games because that's what you have to try to do."

## Chess World Championship: Slipping through fingers

*Gukesh comes out attacking but squanders advantage to settle for draw in Game 7*

SINGAPORE, Dec 4 (Agencies): You can't win a fight if you don't throw a punch," former world chess champion Magnus Carlsen had remarked, slamming the contestants for the world chess title, Ding Liren and Gukesh D, for playing passively in the first six games.

Taking that to heart, both players showed their mettle in Game 7 today in Singapore, where Gukesh unleashed plenty of punches but faltered to win in the face of excellent defensive moves by the defending champion.

The result notwithstanding, it was an edge-of-the-seat thriller where Ding had just seven seconds to make a decisive move, and Gukesh had barely two seconds on the clock. The longest game of the championship so far, with 67 moves played over 5 hours and 20 minutes, received befitting applause from the audience of Grandmasters and sports journalists from all over the world.

Gukesh came across as better prepared in the opening, but Ding managed to find breathing space on the board whenever he was pushed to the corner. "Fighting for another day. I am



extremely lucky not to have been knocked down today," Ding said in the post-match conference, with his trademark smile that has won many hearts in the championship.

Gukesh opened with the Grunfeld Defence instead of 1.e4, which would have allowed Ding to respond with his strong weapon, the French Defence. Gukesh delivered the first punch on move 7 when he moved his rook to the d1 square. This move was a novelty and was played for the first time at this level in the 4,666 occurrences of the same position at the world level in chess.

Ding admitted later, "When I saw this move, I had just returned from a toilet break. It

was a shocker."

The FIDE analysis of the game said, "The champion Ding Liren dodged a bullet this afternoon. After a huge blunder on move forty, it looked like the challenger was about to make his claim to become the new FIDE World Champion. The champion defended accurately but at a huge time cost and with only a few moves to go, he was under acute time pressure. With only seven seconds left on his clock, Ding Liren blundered on the last move before the time control. Instead of 40...Ke5, he should have played 40...Nc8-b6, with a blockade and very good chances to draw."

A disappointed Gukesh tried to remain positive, saying, "It is

never pleasant to miss a winning position, but I am happy about the fact that I outplayed my opponent quite easily in the opening. I thought I should have been winning before and after the winning continuation. I missed some moves."

Gukesh set the tone for the second half of the championship when he said he was taking positives from the missed win too. "He also missed some chances earlier in the match, so it is fair that we are here — the second half will, of course, be crucial," he said.

The players are tied at 3.5 points each at the halfway stage of seven games. The first player to score 4 points out of the remaining seven games will win the match.

Meanwhile, Gukesh was spotted playing puzzle rush on a chess website before the match. "I always play puzzles before a key match. It warms up my mind," he said.

Ding, who was seen eating ice cream (a Chinese brand has named an ice cream after him) after the match, said he usually takes a hot shower before the game.

## Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Rohit puts in double shift during India's 4-hour net session

ADELAIDE, Dec 4 (Agencies): India skipper Rohit Sharma did a double shift in the nets with plenty of fans adding colour to the visitors' near four-hour net session at the Adelaide Oval here.

With strong indications of Rohit coming down the batting order to let the in-form pair of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul continue opening the Indian innings, the captain did show a lot of resolve while facing the pink Kookaburra.

During the session, the Indian team had four nets at the practice arena. In one such net, Jaiswal and Rahul took turns to bat while Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli were in the second net.

It was the third net where Rohit was clubbed with the inimitable Rishabh Pant while the final net was occupied by Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar.

If one goes by popular perception, this is India's batting line-up from No. 1 to 8 but then the Indian skipper came at least one hour



earlier along with Pant and other support staff. As is his wont, Rohit faced a lot of side-arm throwdowns from Nuwan Seneviratne along with usual stuff from the right-arm specialist Raghavendra and Dayanand Garani.

The skipper made a conscious effort to leave deliveries on length but whenever anything short was dug in, he would pull effortlessly.

For the Australia-based Indian fans, the open session was like kids being in a candy store considering their proximity to the nets.

The Bengal fast bowling duo of Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar (reserve pacer) looked impressive during the session. While Mukesh got his deliveries to move in the air creating some sort of a challenge for Virat Kohli, Akash did ask probing questions to Gill, who looked comfortable.

India's new pace sensation Harshit Rana also bowled briskly which must have impressed both Gautam Gambhir and bowling coach Morne Morkel.

## Gilchrist asks Australian batters to stay longer at crease against Bumrah



ADELAIDE, Dec 4 (Agencies): The legendary Adam Gilchrist has advised the beleaguered Australian batters to stay longer at the crease to nullify the threat posed by the Jasprit Bumrah-led Indian bowling attack in the pink-ball second Test. The swashbuckling

former keeper-batter also backed the out-of-sorts Marnus Labuschagne to regain form. After Bumrah scythed through the Australian batting line-up, taking eight wickets including a five-for in the first innings at Perth, Gilchrist advised the hosts to "weather the storm". Steve Smith and Labuschagne, the team's two batting mainstays, flopped in the series opener and that did not help Australia's cause. "Marnus had the onus to do that (stay at crease) and tried at good effect to nullify 50-odd deliveries. So, if you face an average of 50 deliveries every Test innings, you're probably going to be on the right side of the ledger more than you're on the wrong side of it," Gilchrist said. "He just couldn't find a way to score and maybe that's what (the Australians) as a collective will look to try and do. It will bring with it risk, for sure, but it is a risk for reward."

## All J&K 1947 POJK SIF condemns attack on Sukhbir Singh Badal

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: The All J&K 1947 POJK Sharnarhi Intellectual Forum convened an emergency meeting of its core committee under the leadership of its President, Adv. Amrik Singh, and General Secretary, Surjit Singh. The forum strongly condemned the recent attack on Sukhbir Singh Badal, former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab,

calling it an act of cowardice by anti-national elements and a direct violation of the verdict recently issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

Addressing the meeting, Adv. Amrik Singh described the attack as intolerable, particularly as Sukhbir Singh Badal, who is currently engaged in religious penance as per the Sikh tradition, was targeted while performing seva. Singh demanded a thorough CBI inquiry into the incident and

called for strict punishment for the culprits caught red-handed.

The forum criticized the Punjab State for the apparent security lapse and urged the Punjab Chief Minister to ensure Z-plus security for Sukhbir Singh Badal, given the clear threats to his life. They highlighted that Badal, being the son of a former Chief Minister and a former Deputy Chief Minister himself, as well as an ex-Member of Parliament,

is a high-profile figure requiring adequate protection.

Eyewitness reports suggested that the shooter had been spotted a day before the attack, but no action was taken, which the forum attributed to negligence by the Punjab security agencies.

The meeting was attended by prominent members, including Kuldeep Singh (Vice President), Paramjit Singh (Ex-Corporator), Sucha Singh (Corpora-

tor), Prof. K.D. Singh, Jagjit Singh, Manjit Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Romesh Gandhi, Jagdish Chand, Charanjit Singh, H.S. Sudan (Retd. Group Captain), Bhupinder Singh, Jasbir Singh, Bhajan Singh, and Prehlad Singh, among others.

The forum reiterated its demand for enhanced security measures and swift action to bring justice to the perpetrators of this heinous act.

## Abhinav Anand meets Minister Sakina Itoo, highlights development needs



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Abhinav Anand, President of the Traders Association Trikuta Nagar and Shastri Nagar Welfare Association (Pawan Chowk), as

well as an Executive Member of CCI Jammu, met with J&K Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo.

During the meeting, Anand submitted a memorandum outlining key developmental priorities to harness the region's full potential.

He emphasized the need for equitable growth and called on the government to extend ongoing initiatives to benefit all parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Minister Sakina Itoo acknowledged the concerns raised and assured Anand of the administration's commitment to fostering inclusive development while addressing the aspirations of the Jammu region.

## GDC Paloura organizes Slogan Writing Competition

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Red Ribbon Club of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Paloura organised a Slogan Writing Competition to observe World Aids Day under the guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the College.

Theme of the Slogan Writing Competition was "My Health, My Right!". All the participants as well as faculty of the college tied the iconic Red Ribbon symbol to raise the awareness and show support for HIV/AIDS patients.

The aim of the competition was to raise



awareness among the youth about the one of most tabooed diseases -HIV/AIDS. Students of all semesters enthusiastically participated in the competition.

The competition was organised by members of Red Ribbon Club of the college.

The competition was judged by Prof. Amit Bhalla, Prof. Vijay

Kumari and Dr. Shivani Sharma. In the competition first position was grabbed by Janshee, second position holder was Payal Chib and third position won by Manisha Devi. Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the organisers for organising such creative activities for students.

## Dimple leads protest against JMC, PWD, ERA

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a massive protest today alongside hundreds of traders against the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), PWD, ERA, the Smart City Project, and the Traffic Department. The protest highlighted the deteriorating traffic scenario, the issue of e-challans, and the poor condition of Jammu city roads.

Addressing the gathering, Dimple demanded the construction of an exclusive ring road and the launch of a metro train service connecting Amphalla Manda, Janipur High Court, Bantalab, and Akhnoor. He criticized the traffic system, alleging that the municipal corporation's damaged manholes,



overflowing sewerage systems, and broken covers on the main roads are causing accidents and making the roads unsafe. He called for immediate black-topping of roads and repair of all damaged infrastructure.

Dimple urged the government, particularly Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to prioritize

the construction of a four-way ring road from Amphalla Manda to Janipur High Court, Roop Nagar, Bantalab, and Akhnoor. He also demanded a flyover at Rehari Chungi and Jewel Chowk to address persistent traffic issues. He accused the Traffic Department of harassing citizens with e-challans through

photographs while neglecting their primary duty of managing traffic effectively.

Dimple alleged that JMC's actions, such as lifting traders' establishments and seizing goods worth lakhs, are not practical solutions to traffic problems. He criticized the lack of a proper traffic plan and claimed that VIP movements and checkpoints exacerbate traffic congestion, leaving commuters stranded for extended periods.

The protest was attended by prominent leaders, including Sat Sharma, Sachin Soi, Rupesh Bhat, Arjun Anand, Bunty Dogra, Vijay, Deepak, and others. Dimple warned of intensified agitation if the government fails to address the worsening traffic and road conditions in Jammu city.

## Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organizes Samoohik Path program

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organized a grand Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event was led by Sanjeev Sharma, Social Worker and Aayushmaan Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Co-ordinator Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti graced the occasion with his esteemed presence alongwith Pt. Mahesh Pandey from Ayodhya (U.P).

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras,

Prarthna "Hey Prabhu Ananad-data Gyan Humko Dijiye" and thereafter Samoohik Path of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large number of devotees participated alongwith family members.

Specially young generation also attended the event, adding to its significance.

After the path, the speakers highlighted the devotion of Lord Hanumanji, his incredible contribution towards society, and his selfless service to Lord Rama.

They emphasized how Hanumanji's exemplary deeds in difficult circumstances continue to



inspire society and remain relevant today.

After the completion of Shri Ram Stuti and the Samoohik Hanu-

man Chalisa, a Satsang session was held where devotees gained spiritual knowledge and inspiration from the Acharya Manoj Kumar

coming from Ayodhya. The gathering provided the attendees with an opportunity to engage deeply in worship, fostering inner peace and devotion to Lord Ramji and Hanumanji.

The National Coordinator of the Samiti Sunil Sharma informed that over the years, many initiatives have been launched by Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti to expand the knowledge of the sacred scripture- Bhagwat Gita which can infuse the feelings of love for humanity and God in every body.

For the last 10 years Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa

Samiti launched one more service towards society i.e. free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth (not book) in the society to spread the message of Lord Krishna on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji.

The event saw active participation from key figures such as Kewal Krishan Sharma Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aayushman Sharma, Rohit verma, Om parkash Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, S. S. Gupta, rahul yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema jamwal, Sonia Kumari, shalini devi, Sawitri Sharma whose active contributions were pivotal in making the event a grand success.

## Kushal, Sanjay appointed Co-Chairs of PHDCCI Jammu Region Chapter



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 4: Kushal Magotra, a prominent Hotelier and President of Hotel & Restaurant Association, Patnitop alongwith Sanjay Gupta, a renowned businessman of Jammu dealing with wood, real estate and other businesses, has been appointed as Co-Chairs of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu Region Chapter by Hemant Jain, President PHDCCI.

The announcement comes shortly after Rakesh Wazir assumed the role of Chair of PHDCCI Jammu Region. Magotra's expertise in hospitality and Gupta's extensive experience in different businesses are expected to provide a dynamic boost to PHDCCI's efforts in fostering economic growth and supporting businesses community in Jammu Region. Rakesh Wazir Chair of PHDCCI Jammu Region Chapter while speaking on the occasion, said that PHDCCI established in 1905, is one of India's oldest and most influential chambers of India representing industries across all sectors, and with a strong presence in Jammu, it plays a vital role in promoting entrepreneurship, trade, and tourism through advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and policy recommendations. He further said that with the coming of these new Co-Chairs, PHDCCI is set to focus on enhancing opportunities for Industries, Tourism, and Trade and addressing various challenges facing the region, with PHDCCI's commitment to driving sustainable development and economic progress.

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