

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Girish Malik's film Band of Maharajas enters the race for Oscars**



NATIONAL | 7

**Akhilesh slams Centre over reports of GST hike on several items**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Taiwanese President Lai says Taiwan and US territory Guam should defend freedom in region**



e-paper: [www.topnewsjk.in](http://www.topnewsjk.in)

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-335 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Police seize two vehicles acquired by illegal narcotic trade in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police have seized two vehicles of a drug peddler allegedly acquired through proceeds of illegal narcotic trade in Srinagar.

Srinagar Police on Thursday said that it has seized two vehicles Corolla and BMW in case FIR No. 36/2024 u/s 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Chanapora from the accused person identified as Mudasir Ahmad Wani, a resident of Stadium Colony, Chanapora.

"The seizure of vehicles acquired by illegal means through narcotics trafficking has been made under the provisions of the 68 NDPS Act," police said. "J&K Police reiterates its commitment in eradicating the drug menace and dismantling the infrastructure supporting narcotics trafficking," police added.

### At minus 2.1°C, Srinagar records season's coldest night

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded the season's lowest temperature again at minus 2.1 degree Celsius while Shopian in South Kashmir, was the coldest place at minus 5.5 degree Celsius.

The Meteorological department has shared the details of minimum temperature, revealing that Srinagar has recorded a low of minus of 2.1 degree Celsius, which is the season's lowest.

Similar temperature was recorded in J&K Kashmir summer capital on November 28.

Furthermore, Shopian was the coldest place in Kashmir where the mercury settled at minus 5.5 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination recorded a low of minus 5.3 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort recorded a low of minus 3.6 degree Celsius.

Also, Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.7 degree Celsius while Kupwara in

Turn to page 9

## INDIA Bloc MPs protest over Adani issue in parliament, wear jackets reading 'Modi Adani Ek Hai'

NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): In an unusual protest, leaders of several INDIA bloc parties wore black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai" on them and raised slogans on the Parliament premises to demand a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who put the sticker on his trademark white T-shirt, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi



cannot get an investigation done against

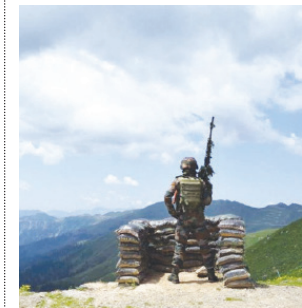
Turn to page 9

## Allow J-K's elected govt to function independently: NC's Hasnain Masoodi asks centre

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) senior leader and MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi today called upon the Government of India to respect the public mandate in Jammu and Kashmir and uphold

Turn to page 9

## Army soldiers open fire after observing suspicious movement near LoC in Poonch



JAMMU, Dec 5 (Agencies): An Army ambush party opened fire after observing suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir,

officials said on Thursday. The troops on ambush duty along the possible infiltration routes picked up suspicious movement near Bagyaldera village late on Wednesday night and fired a few rounds. Simultaneously, the cordon around the suspected location was strengthened, the officials said.

There were no casualties in the Army firing, they said.

According to the officials, a search

Turn to page 9

## Dr Farooq, Omar, others pay respect to JKNC founder on his 119th birth anniversary



SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah, vice president Omar Abdullah (who is also chief minister J&K), and others on Thursday paid respect to party founder

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 119th birth anniversary. The leaders visited the grave of JKNC founder at Hazratbal, Srinagar and offered Fateha Khawani there.

Besides, thousands of

party workers attended the event and offered prayers to their leader.

Reports said that NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah, vice president Omar Abdullah and other senior leaders visited the Qaid Mazar in Hazratbal where they offered Fateha Khawani.

Omar Abdullah's sons Zahir and Zamir were also seen at the grave, offering Fateha Khawani to their grandfather Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Senior party leaders and activists shed

Turn to page 9

## CM Omar Abdullah's sons pay respect at Sheikh Abdullah's mausoleum, offer fatiha khawani

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): The political legacy of the Abdullah family resonated today as Zahir and Zamir, sons of chief minister Omar Abdullah, made a rare public appearance at the mausoleum of National Conference founder and patriarch Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah at Hazratbal, Srinagar.

The young Abdullahs offered fateha prayers



in honor of their grandfather, a towering figure in Kashmir's political history.

The event, steeped in reverence, is expected to witness further participation from senior

Abdullah family members. Omar Abdullah and Dr. Farooq Abdullah are slated to arrive at 11 am to address the gathering. Their presence will likely add a significant political and emotional dimension to the occasion, which draws National Conference supporters and admirers annually.

The mausoleum,

Turn to page 9

## Minister Sakina Itoo warns of strict action against schools demanding capitation fee

SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir education minister, Sakina Itoo Thursday said that government will take strict action against private schools that are violating government norms.

"Whosoever is facing the issue of admission and capitation charges from private schools must approach the concerned authorities with a proper proof and government will ensure accountability and action against the institute,"



she said. Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Itoo, said they reversed the academic session and want a new academic session to commence soon so that winter vacation

will be announced at an earliest.

She said that if any private school is violating government norms with regard to regulation of fee, strict action will be taken against the institution.

## Sher-e-Kashmir freed us from tyranny: Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani



SRINAGAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): Advisor to the chief minister J&K, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Thursday highlighted the significant contributions of Sher-e-Kashmir in liberating the people of Jammu and Kashmir from oppressive rule and

setting the foundation for progress and development.

Speaking at a commemorative event, Wani stated, "It is our collective responsibility to remember those who shaped our history and gave us the strength

to speak and achieve milestones. Sher-e-Kashmir's efforts stand out, as he played a pivotal role in granting us freedom and dignity."

He further noted the challenges faced by the region during the era of autocracy, describing it as a time marked by widespread hardship and tyranny. "Sheikh Kashmir's leadership helped us break free from that oppression. His contributions will remain an integral part of our history," he said.

The Advisor prayed for Sher-e-Kashmir, saying,

Turn to page 9

### Gupshup

Restaurant & Homestay / Guest House

Air-Conditioner Rooms with attach Bathroom

Location like Dalhousie

<b>Room No: 1</b>	<b>RESTAURANT</b>
<b>Room No: 2</b>	
<b>Room No: 3</b>	
<b>Room No: 4</b>	

Situated at Ban, Bantalaab, Old National Highway Road Nagrota, Jammu.

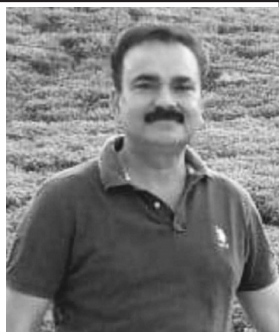
Contact for Kitty Parties, Birthday Parties and other parties

Contact: 9086072548. Email: [gupshupjammu@gmail.com](mailto:gupshupjammu@gmail.com)



**Fifth Day**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of Ashok Padha H/O Smt.Kusum Lata R/O Channi Himat, fifth day will be held on 06.12.2024, the Friday at our residence 130/B Sainik Colony, Jammu at 10 AM.



Ashok Padha

Brother in Law & Sister in law  
Gobind Mehta & Neelam Mehta

**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-Sahab (originally Gurguri Mohalla Alkadal/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, Dhar's, Babu's, Razdan's, Mujju's  
**Brothers and Bhabhis**  
Smt. Nirmala and Sh. Bushan Lal Tikku  
Smt. Sheela and Sh. M.K Tikku  
**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**

**UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Madan Mohan Nanda** S/o Late Sh. B.D.Nanda, previously residing in Gandhinagar, Jammu, on 3rd December at Zirakpur, Mohali.



Sh. Madan Mohan Nanda

**Uthala/Rasam Pagri** will be performed on 06-12-2024 (Friday) at Nabha Saheb Gurudwara, Zirakpur from 2.30 PM to 4.0 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Smt Kailash Nanda (Wife)  
(Daughter-in-law and Son)  
Mrs Neeru and Munish Nanda  
(Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt Mitali Sawhney and Vinod Sawhney  
Mr Rakesh Nanda (Son)  
Joy Nanda, Juhl Nanda, Abhay Nanda, Vaibhav Sawhney, Vidita and Karan Jetley( Grandchildren)  
**Phone No. 9797424076, 9990399807**

**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**

**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Bachno Rani** W/o Girdhari Lal R/o Ashok Nagar, Satwari, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 27 Nov. 2024.



Smt. Bachno Rani

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 06 Dec. 2024 (Friday) at 12 Noon at Gurudwara Guru Teg Bahadur Singh Ji Ashok Nagar, Satwari, Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Master Sh. Saudagar Mal Meenia & Smt. Bimla Devi - Jeth & Jethani  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Kailash Kumar & Smt. Anju Bala  
Parkshit Meenia & Myra Meenia - Grand Children  
**Mob.: 9906066456, 9419109245**

**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)**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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



SMT. BITI PYARI DHAR (TATHI)

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

**TENTH DAY KRIYA (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 Sopore, A/P Flat No 5 Block 134 Lane 22 Jagti, who left for heavenly abode on 29/11/2024.

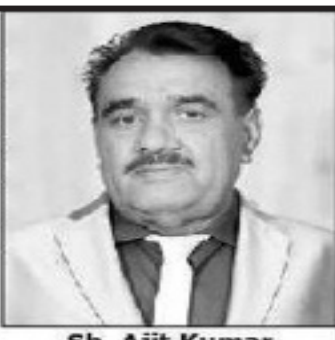


Smt. Kamla Wati

The **MOURNING** is held at community Hall near temple Lane No 23, Jagti Nagrota 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 Nagrota.  
**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:** Aanya, Meesha, Kunwar, 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, Satwari, 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, Satwari, 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 Bimla 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**

**FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved (Brother-in-law) **Sh. Madan Lal Gupta** (Retired Agriculture Officer) S/o Late Sh. Wadawa Mal Gupta R/o Akhnoor.



SH. MADAN LAL GUPTA

**Fifth Day** will be performed on 8th of December from 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM at Trikuta Nagar Sector-3, Shiv Mandir, Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Brother**  
Smt. Kamlesh Gupta and Sh. Om Parkash Gupta  
**Bhabhi Ji**  
Smt. Sanjosh Gupta and Dr. Ved Parkash Gupta  
Their families Smt. Veena Gupta & Narain Gupta, Retired CPO

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Moti Lal Zutshi (PNB)** S/o Late Smt. Somewati Zutshi & Late Sh. Prem Nath Zutshi originally resident of Net-Basuli Anantnag/ Ishwar Nagar Udhasywalla, 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 Vedka 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:** Praashi, Nevan, Riddhish  
**Smast Zutshi Pariwar of Anantnag Bhat Pariwar of Sogam Koul Pariwar of Vessu & Pampore Bakshi & Razdan Pariwar of Ang. Mobile: 8377069002, 9682110219**

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Omashori Dass** W/o Late Maheshwar Nath Dass originally from Bomai, Sopore (Kashmir) on 02-12-2024 presently residing at H.No. 111, Lane 4/C, Anand Nagar Bohri, Jammu-180002 (behind Baldev Hardware).



Smt Omashori Dass

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 10-12-2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly at our residence at 12.00 Noon.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Smt Vijay & Sh Rattan Lal Dass -**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Smt Nirmala & Sh Kuldeep Kr Dass -**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Smt Pamy & Sh Sunit Kr. Dass -**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Smt Dulari & Sh Omkar Nath Pandita -**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Sh Rajinder Pandita -**Son-in-law**  
& **Samast Dass & Pandita Parivaar**

**TENTH DAY AND KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sudden and sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Abhimanyu 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. Abhimanyu 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:**  
**7066234106, 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.



Smt Leela Sharma

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 5th Dec 2024 on Thursday at 11:00 AM at Raghunath Mandir Katra.  
**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**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **S. Avtar Singh (Kaka)** S/o Lt. S. Gurbaksh Singh R/o Najibhat, Baramulla presently residing at 340/1 Channi Himmat, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 29th Nov, 2024.



S. Avtar Singh (Kaka)

**ANTIM ARDAS** will be performed as per given program:-  
**AARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB:** 08th December (Friday) 9 AM at our residence  
**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB:** 08th December (Sunday) 9 AM at our residence  
**KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS:** 08th December (Sunday) 10 AM - 12:30 PM at Gurudwara Channi Himmat, Jammu  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Sdn. Narindpal Kour - Wife  
**Sons & Daughter-in-Law**  
Supinder Kour & Tejpal Singh (Mob: 9419112194)  
Pavinder Kour & Dr. Rabinder Singh (Robin) (Mob: 9469122222)  
**Daughter & Son-in-Law:**  
Sumaet Kour & Amarjeet Singh

**ANTIM ARDAAS**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU OF THE SAD DEMISE OF **S. BALBIR SINGH** SO PADM KOUR AND LATE S. KULWANT SINGH KALA OF GURU NANAK BHAWAN (DEWAN BHAI) BARAMULLA, 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, CHOWAHJI ROAD PRIOR TO NOOR CASTLE, SECTOR D SAINIK COLONY JAMMU :  
**AARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 4/12/24 WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.  
**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 01/12/24 FRIDAY 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.  
**KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAAS** FROM 10 AM TO 12:30 PM ON 02/12/24 FRIDAY AT GURUDWARA SINGH SABHA SAINIK COLONY JAMMU.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Sdn. PADM KOUR (MOTHER)  
NAVDEEP SINGH KALA AND NAVDEEP KOUR (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)  
JAI SHREEN KOUR (DAUGHTER)  
INDERJEET KOUR (SISTER)  
RANJEET KOUR & MANJEET SINGH (SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW)  
**NEPHEWS:** MEET PAL SINGH, NEEET PAL SINGH, AMARJEET SINGH, KANYAL JEET SINGH, ASHVI JEET SINGH  
**MOB: 7885591971, +91709244745**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, it is to inform the demise of **Mr Vinod Raina** S/o Late Smt. Mohini & Late Shri B L Raina R/o 15/11 Railway Road Nanak Nagar Jammu at present in Flat N 8 - 504, Royal Nest Apartments, Techzone 4, Noida Extension U P attained moksha on 02/12/2024.



Mr Vinod Raina

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed on 11/12/2024 at Choti Ganga Nehar, Murad Nagar Ghat at 9am. Assembly will be held at Royal Nest Apartments.  
**Grief stricken-**  
(Brother & Sister in law  
Chand Raina & Purima  
(Son & Daughter in law)  
Vimash & Sugam  
Vaibhav Raina (Son )  
Rita Rajinder Kaul (Sister)  
Sunita Kaw & BL Kaw (Sister & Brother in law )  
**Mobile No-9419195904,9768672678,9055013893**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Raina** R/o Mattan, Anantnag, A/P Flat No 08, Block no 147, lane No 23, Jagati Colony, Nagrota Jammu.



Sh. Roshan Lal Raina

**MOURNING** will be observed at community hall lane No 19/20 Back side.  
**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 11.12.24 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30am.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Asha ji (Wife)  
Phoola ji (Babhi)  
**Younger Brother & Babhi)**  
Smt & Shri Roop Krishna Raina  
Sh. Shrawan Kumar Raina & Smt. Karun Raina (Son & Daughter in Law)  
Smt & Shri Rakesh Mussa (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Smt & Shri Sandeep Tickoo (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Smt & Shri Dalip Pandita (Daughter & Son in Law)  
**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**  
Raina's, Pandita's, Bhat's  
**Contact number 7780952378, 9797617215, 9419146199**

**OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Piaray Lal Koul (Bobu Ji)** S/o Late Shamboo Nath Koul erstwhile resident of Babugund Handwara at present Flat No. 102, Shivganga Apartment second Vipan Garden New Delhi on 2nd December, 2024.



Sh. Piaray Lal Koul (Bobu Ji)

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 11th December Wednesday at Gauri Shanker Mandir New Palm Vihar, Block T Sector 109, Gurgaon at 8.00 am. Assembly will be held at Vipan Garden residence at 12:00 Noon.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. B.N. Koul - Brother  
Smt. Asha Koul W/o Late Sh. D.K. Koul - Sister-in-law  
T.K. Koul & Gudi Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
K.K. Koul & Shreela Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
C.J. Koul and Asha Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
S.K. Koul and Sunita Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
R.K. Koul and Veera Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
J.K. Koul and Sushma Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sarla Rawal & T.K. Rawal - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Sh. C.L. Raina - Brother-in-law  
Dr. J.L. Raina - Nephew  
Smt. Lila Gango - Sister  
**Grand Children and Great Grand Children**  
**Ph. No.: 7780991497, 8800186309**

**DISCLAIMER**

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



## Painting Competition held on day 4 of World AIDS Day Observance at Govt SPMR College of Commerce

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: On the fourth day of World AIDS Day 2024 observance, the Red Ribbon Club at Government SPMR College of Commerce organised a painting competition under the theme "Take the Right Step."

The event was part of a series of activities scheduled throughout the World AIDS Day week, aiming to foster dialogue, raise awareness, and encourage global action towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.



by 2030.

The competition aimed to inspire the youth to reflect on the global impact of HIV/AIDS and a special focus was placed on how "taking the right step" translates into making positive deci-

sions for one's health, supporting others, and advocating for an inclusive, supportive society.

Principal of the college, Dr. Rajinder Singh, interacted with the participants and encouraged them to initiate

proactive steps to sensitize the vulnerable section of the society which will be the foundation for creation of healthy and wholesome society.

Prof. Pawan Kumar Gupta, HoD Commerce, deliberated with the students and motivated them to disseminate the concept of event among the masses. He further led emphasis that we must show empathy for those who are infected with the disease.

The Painting Competition was adjudged by Prof.

Pawan Kumar, Prof. Ashu Manhas and Dr. Chetna Gupta. Pragati Kohli of BBA Sem 1st bagged first prize in the competition whereas Akshita Sher of BBA sem 1st and Akhlesh Singh of BBA sem 1st secured second and third position respectively.

The entire event was organised 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 Kumar.

## Shiv Sena demands to declare Jammu as permanent capital, allocate separate budget for tourist places

### Warning of launching agitation at district level



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded to declare Jammu as the permanent capital of J&K and to bring tourist places of Jammu division on tourism map, allocate separate budget for development.

An awareness program was organized in the party's state central office regarding the above demands. On this occasion, state chief Manish Sahni said in his address that despite being larger than Kashmir in terms of area and population, the Jammu division has not been given justice in terms of assembly and Lok Sabha seats. This

is the main reason that in the 77 years of history of merger with India, no Hindu has been able to become the Chief Minister till date.

BJP, which has been making political gains on the above issues, also did nothing during its rule. Sahni said that the development of road and rail routes has caused a lot of damage to the trade and economy of Jammu. By declaring Jammu as the permanent capital, the economy will get a boost, the allegations of discriminatory attitude towards Jammu will come to an end and the impact of weather and terrorist activities on administrative work can be avoided. Along with this, a

demand was made to allocate a separate budget for the development of tourist places of Jammu division and to give a place on the tourism map. Sahni said that the promise of development by identifying 38 tourist places of the Jammu division in 2021 is still incomplete.

Sahni has warned of agitation at the district level if there will be no positive signal from the government and has appealed to the general public to support the campaign. On this occasion President women wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Working President Jai Bharti, Secretary Geeta Lakhotra, Dimple and Niitin were present.

## AIR, Regional News Unit Jammu@54 Looking Back and Ahead

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: The Regional News Unit (RNU) of Akashvani Jammu has completed over five decades of public service of newscasts and is celebrating its 54th Foundation Day on December 6 this year after rendering more than half-century service of news casting in Dogri and later in Gojri languages as well for the accurate news and analysis to mould informed public in the largest democracy of India.

The Dogri News-section was set up in Radio Station, Jammu, on December 6, 1971 during the troubled time of Indo-Pak conflict. This Regional News Unit has gained immense popularity among the people, not only in the sensitive Jammu and Kashmir but even across the borders in PoJK and even in Pakistan too. It is one of 47 RNUs-networks in various regional languages all over this largest democracy across the country. It may be mentioned that presently three regional and two national news bulletins in Dogri as also two Gojri-newscasts are put out at optimal timings in the morning, afternoon and evening every day with maximum listenership.

A well-attended function is being organised on the Foundation Day, present Regional Head, RNU, Akashvani Jammu, N. Gulshan Raina informed that selected deserving newscasters and others allied at various levels are being honoured with certificates of merit and mementoes for their distinguished contribution. Mr. Raina highlighted the proud record of modernization and success story transmitting the regional news in Dogri/Gojri from News Room of Jammu and Kashmir's first Radio Station at Jammu and recalled a "Public Broadcaster's service" as well as contribution in the public awakening and deepening roots of democracy and ensure their participation in the development process. It was pointed out that numerous modern techniques and technology with deployment of trained and expert staff is having positive output. There are many innovative initiatives taken for upgrading broadcasting of news and views.

To start with, on December 6, 1971, two news bulletins in Dogri were aired to inform and educate the general masses about the true factual developmental works, democratic process, infuse public confidence and also counter poisonous propaganda from across our borders. While, the first Dogri newscast went on air in December 1971, another local language, Gojri was also introduced during 1980, which is now

along with Dogri news-bulletins is steadily growing in popularity among the largest segments of our population with the passing time.

An eminent writer, Jagan Nath Thakur alias Thakur Poonchi was the founding editor of Dogri News Unit, who single-handedly worked by putting in his best and was followed and headed, among others, by noted figures like D. Kiran 'Kashmiri', Ajit Singh, Ashok, Handoo, Mohammad Yussuf Ganai, M.K. Wangoo, Balwant Singh, Vijay Saqi, Sanjeet Khajuria, Neha Jalali, R. K. Raina and the present incumbent is N. Gulshan Raina.

The noted newscasters with RNU included Lajja Manhas, Narendra Bhasin, Joginderpal 'Chhatrapal', Dr. Veena Gupta, Vijay Sharma, Chanchal Bhasins, Bhanu Pratap, Sudershan Prassar, Raman Kesar, Vijay Verma, Kuldeep Singh Jandrahiya, Nirmal Vinod, Jagmohan Sharma, Vijay Bajaj, Shruti Khajuria, and many others. Over the years, these bulletins have created wide-spread awareness among the general public. The basic objective of these newscasts has been to put out all objective local news and analysis.

Radio still remains a highly trusted and popular medium of news, entertainment, and cultural activities.

Presently, RNU, Jammu runs daily seven news bulletins in regional Dogri and Gojri languages, along with a variety of chat shows, interviews, national campaigns, and special programs on important regional events and festivals, captivating programs that play a pivotal role in public information and also act in promotion of Dogri and sister languages, as well as projecting our distinct cultural heritage and winning public trust. The RNU family comprises of regional head, a number of contractual and casual staff, a strong network of Dogri and Gojri News Readers cum Translators (NRT's) and district correspondents in all 10 districts of Jammu division.

Previously, work in the Dogri news section was manual with very limited staff and limited infrastructure, but gradually it has made rapid strides with facilities like the use of computers, internet, voice-castings, on-the-spot reporting, and crucial role in the past during Panchayat, Local Bodies elections, or recent Parliamentary as well as J&K UTs General Assembly elections for maximum public debates as well as ensuring higher voting percentage, which is the gist of the democracy and maximum public participation in cherished democratic set-up.

## NSF pays tribute to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: In a remarkable tribute to the legacy of Jenab Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, fondly known as Sher-e-Kashmir, the National Secular Forum (NSF) organized a memorial cricket match at the Jammu University grounds. The event marked the birth anniversary of the legendary leader and was the first in a series of year-long cricket matches planned to promote his vision and pro-public policies.

Under the supervision of Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary of NSF, the initiative aims to engage the youth in meaningful activities while spreading awareness about Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's contributions. Teams from across the Jammu region will participate in monthly matches, culminating in a grand finale after a year. This ambitious series reflects NSF's commitment to fostering community spirit and

educating the youth about the values espoused by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

The inaugural match of the series witnessed a thrilling contest between Press Club XI and Jammu Raiders, ending in an exciting tie. Batting first, Jammu Raiders posted a formidable total of 230 runs for the loss of five wickets. Kamil Mughal's composed 56 and Abhay Tandon's explosive 55 formed the backbone of the innings. Ajitesh was the pick of the bowlers for Press Club XI, claiming three crucial wickets, while Naveen Kaul chipped in with two.

In response, Press Club XI's innings matched the target run for run, finishing at 230 to result in a rare tie. Naveen Kaul's blistering 61 off 38 balls, complemented by Tej Jamwal's quick 44 off 23, ensured a nail-biting finish. From Jammu Raiders, Vikshay Vashist impressed with two wickets. Naveen Kaul's exceptional all-round per-

formance earned him the Man of the Match title.

The event was graced by the presence of Ankush Abrol, Ex-BCCI Member and Provincial Joint Secretary of JKNC, who served as the chief guest. Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary of JKNC, presided over the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Ankush Abrol commended NSF for its innovative approach to youth engagement and its efforts to perpetuate Sher-e-Kashmir's enduring legacy. "Organizing such events is a brilliant initiative to keep the younger generation informed about Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's vision for a progressive society," he remarked.

Dr. Vikas Sharma echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the importance of sports in fostering unity and awareness. "These activities not only nurture talent but also create a platform to honor our historical figures and their invaluable contributions to the region," he stated.

The NSF's initiative has been widely appreciated for its dual objective of promoting sportsmanship and cultural education. As the year-long cricket series unfolds, it promises to be a fitting homage to Sheikh Abdullah's legacy, blending the spirit of competition with the dissemination of his visionary ideals.

## Sham Lal lays foundation stone for Rs 377.90 Lakh Tubewell Project in Raipur Domana



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: In a significant move towards improving water infrastructure and fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Jammu North and former Minister, on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a tubewell project in Kot, Raipur Domana.

The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 377.90 lakh, aims to ensure a sustainable and reliable water supply for the residents of the region.

Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal Sharma stated, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to ensuring safe drinking water for every household.

This project is a significant step towards achieving that promise, and it reflects our unwavering dedication to public welfare.

He also directed the officials to ensure the proper laying of new pipelines and the maintenance of existing water projects to guarantee a hassle-free

and uninterrupted water supply, even from the current infrastructure.

Sham Lal further emphasized the broader development agenda for Jammu North, highlighting ongoing efforts to enrich the lives of its people.

"From addressing water scarcity to improving infrastructure, our focus remains on fostering a better livelihood for every resident and building a thriving constituency for the future," he added.

The event also served as a platform to bring together local stakeholders and administrative officials to ensure the seamless execution of the project.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included District Development Council (DDC) Jammu Chairman Shri Bharat Bhushan, SDM Jammu North Nitish Rajora, BDO Bhalwal Khalil Ahmed, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Rocky Mahajan, Mandal President Rakesh Singh, former Sarpanch Kot Kala Khan, and Former Sarpanch Bhalwal Rajdev Singh, among others.

## JK Teachers Forum constitutes Zonal Body in Mahore

### Top News Report

MAHORE, Dec 5: The teaching community of Mahore has established its zonal body under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), led by Chairman M. Amin Khan and UT President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh.

According to a press release issued by District President Teachers Forum Reasi, Rail Singh, the newly constituted zonal body will be headed by Niranjan Dev Singh as Zonal President, Surinder Singh as Vice President, and Vipan Singh as General Secretary.

The JKTF has earned the trust of the teaching community for its tireless efforts in addressing the legitimate issues of teachers and students. As an affiliate of the All India Teachers Federation, the JKTF is com-

mitted to working for the betterment of education in Jammu and Kashmir. The newly constituted zonal body will be felicitated in the coming days through a grand function at the zonal headquarters.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
Open e-Tender				
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const/Northern Railway Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Two-Packet System for the following work:				
S. No.	Name of work	Approx Cost/ Earnest Money	Similar nature of work/period of completion	Cost of tender document (Nil in case of e-tender)
1	Extension of DEMU car Shed from 12 car rakes to 16 car rakes at Budgam (J&K).	₹ 18,58,68,168/- ₹ 10,79,400/-	Any Civil Engineering work which includes fabrication and erection of Steel Structure / 18 Months	Nil
2	Last date & time of upload of tender			
3	Date of opening of tender			
4	Validity of offer			
5	Availability of tender document on railway website for submission of offer			
The E-Tender Notice/Tender Document will be available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from the date of uploading of tender documents.				
Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/C/JAT/BDGM/12-16 Dated: 04.12.2024				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3731/24				

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No.43of 2024-2025 Dated. 12-12-2024

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	upgradation / renovation of conference room at basement SSH Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	10.69	600	2% of Advertised Cost	45 Days	12-12-2024 (12.00Pm)	"A" Class

**Position of AAA: Accorded**  
**Position of TS: Sanctioned**

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 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 to 11-12-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-12-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-12-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-11-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu at the time of allotment.

No :- EE/R&B/BN/  
Dated:- DIP/J-7707/24

(Er. Sandeep Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Bakshi Nagar Jammu



## EDITORIAL

SUGAMYA  
BHARAT

The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, also known as the Accessible India Campaign, is a pioneering initiative launched by the Government of India on December 3, 2015, to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities (PwDs). The campaign aims to enhance accessibility across infrastructure, transportation, and digital platforms, ensuring that PwDs can lead independent and dignified lives. It aligns with India's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. This initiative underscores the government's resolve to build an inclusive society where accessibility is a fundamental right for all citizens.

The campaign focuses on three core areas: built environment accessibility, transportation accessibility, and information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility. Under the built environment component, the government prioritizes retrofitting government buildings and public spaces with ramps, elevators, tactile pathways, and barrier-free entrances. For transportation, measures include making buses, railways, and airports accessible by providing wheelchair-friendly facilities, Braille signage, and auditory announcements. In the digital domain, the campaign ensures that government websites and applications adhere to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), making them compatible with screen readers and accessible to individuals with visual and auditory impairments.

One of the campaign's standout features is its emphasis on awareness. Outreach programs, training sessions, and workshops are conducted to sensitize stakeholders, including policymakers, urban planners, and the general public, about the importance of accessibility. These efforts aim to build a shared understanding of the challenges faced by PwDs and the solutions that can transform their experiences.

Over the years, the campaign has made significant progress. Several government buildings have been audited and modified to meet accessibility standards, particularly in urban areas. Airports in major cities now feature ramps, accessible toilets, and Braille instructions for visually impaired passengers. Additionally, more than 700 railway stations have implemented features like tactile flooring, reserved seating for PwDs, and ramps for easy access. In the digital space, over 900 government websites have been revamped to ensure accessibility, allowing PwDs to access critical online services without difficulty.

The campaign has also made strides in ensuring accessible elections. The Election Commission of India introduced measures such as Braille-enabled Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), wheelchair assistance at polling booths, and designated queues for PwDs. These efforts have allowed a larger number of disabled citizens to participate in the democratic process.

However, the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is not without challenges. Implementation gaps persist, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, where infrastructure remains largely inaccessible. Awareness about accessibility among stakeholders in construction, transportation, and public services is often lacking, leading to incomplete or poorly executed projects. Financial constraints also pose a significant hurdle, as retrofitting existing infrastructure and building new accessible facilities require substantial investments. Moreover, the absence of a centralized system for monitoring and evaluating progress hampers the campaign's effectiveness.

To address these challenges, the government must expand the campaign's scope to include private buildings, workplaces, educational institutions, and recreational spaces. Leveraging advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance accessibility in public spaces and digital platforms. Training programs for architects, urban planners, and policymakers should emphasize inclusive design and the importance of accessibility standards. Collaboration with private sector organizations and NGOs can also amplify the campaign's resources, reach, and impact.

Looking ahead, the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan has the potential to transform India into a truly inclusive nation. By creating a society where accessibility is prioritized, the campaign not only uplifts the lives of persons with disabilities but also fosters a culture of inclusivity that benefits all citizens. While much work remains, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for achieving universal accessibility. The collective effort of the government, private sector, and civil society can ensure the success of this mission, making the dream of a barrier-free India a reality.

## Hindutva Tsunami swept Maharashtra Polls

By: Omkar Dattatray

In the recently concluded assembly elections in Maharashtra, saffron surge and Hindutva swept across the state. It can be said that Hindutva Tsunami was in full swing in the state polls. It is after the BJP won a landslide victory in the earlier assembly polls in Haryana dismantling the projections and predictions of the exit polls which showed that Congress will win the polls but it turned wrong and Hindutva plank and political ideology had the say and it worked wonders and gave Mahavuti a comfortable win and defeated MVA and dashed its hopes of coming to power to the ground. After the Maharashtra assembly polls, Mahayuti alliance is set to form the government in the state after the Hindutva surge prompted by the Hindu religious orators, thinkers and saints who all worked overtime to give the BJP led Mahayuti a historic win. There was saffron surge that means that there was a Hindutva Tsunami everywhere in the Maharashtra where Mumbai is called as the business capital of India. During the Modi wave that swept across India in 2014, the BJP won 122 seats in the November 2014 assembly elections in Maharashtra. In 2019 assembly elections, it won 105 seats. This election marks the third time the BJP has won over 100 seats in an assembly election in Maharashtra. This time more than 9.5% new voters have been added to the electoral voters list compared to 2024 Lok Sabha polls. This led to an increase in about 50.6 percent in total votes polled for this assembly election. That has tilted the balance hugely in favour of the BJP, because the party worked hard for registration of these voters and concentrated on bringing out these new voters out during the just concluded assembly polls. The Mahayuti alliance is set to form the next and new government in Maharashtra as BJP leader approved the name of Davendra Fadnavis for the new chief minister with the consensus of all even the former chief minister Shinde after its astonishing triumph in the state assembly

elections. BJP won more than 132 out of the 149 seats it contested this election. The Mahayuti alliance government will take oath of office and secrecy in few days and in all probability the government will be in place on December 5, 2024. During the Modi wave that swept across India in 2014, the BJP won 122 seats in the November 2014 assembly polls in Maharashtra, in 2019 assembly elections, it won 105 seats this election marks the third time BJP has won more than 100 seats in an assembly election in Maharashtra. There was some lethargy on the part in the parliament elections. That is why we had to suffer some losses at that time. Even then, there was only a one to two percent difference between the MVA and NDA's vote share. The other factor that proved decisive is the way how the congress behavior became so rude after winning just 99 Lok Sabha seats. Their behavior became very arrogant and derogatory. That exposed the real face of congress. There is no doubt the BJP's best performance over many decades in the Maharashtra elections, in the last 50 years nobody got such a huge mandate. Even in the 2019 assembly polls when BJP and Shiv Sena undivided fought together, BJP did not have such a huge majority. BJP had a working majority. This is a historic mandate. A Hindutva tsunami has swept Maharashtra polls. The pertinent question is why such a huge mandate to the BJP. There were three factors at work which gave such a triumph to BJP. The appeal of Hindutva was the most dominating and contributory factor and it was the Hindutva card played by BJP's UP chief minister Yogi and his narrative of Bategay tuo Katangay and his emphasis on Hindu appeal which impacted the voters and worked wonder and it resulted into big win for the BJP. Modi's Aek Rahu tou Safe Rahai. Safe Rahu slogan and narrative has its effect on the voters mind and it translated into votes for the saffron party. The anger against the corruption of the previous MVA government and BJP's organizational efforts played its part in gaining votes for the BJP this time as well. The common people have

economical and material aspirations. The MVA government failed to fulfill these aspirations and its debacle and win for the right wing Hindutva party-BJP. The RSS and other BJP-allied organizations helped the BJP a lot. After the Lok Sabha's below satisfactory electoral performance, RSS and its sister organizations worked hard and overnight to increase and consolidate Hindu votes and it helped BJP to win a spectacular mandate in Maharashtra assembly elections. RSS has started its centenary year celebrations. In this year, where RSS was founded in Maharashtra 100 years ago, in Nagpur, we have an RSS-inspired government in Maharashtra. Both the Shiv Sena [Eknath Shinde] and NCP-Ajit Pawar were with BJP and people have also voted in their favor heavily. And this coupled with Hindutva appeal and Hindu card as well as narrative resulted in the resounding victory for the BJP this time and trouncing of negative narrative led by leaders like Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar. Their rejection because of Hindutva surge and some other factors resulted into resounding victory for the BJP and hence Mahayuti an alliance formed by BJP with Ajit Pawar's NCP and Shinde's Shiv Sena. The BJP has swept almost all the five regions in Maharashtra—Konkan, Mumbai, North Maharashtra, Western Maharashtra, which is considered a citadel of the NCP and congress, the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, from where the BJP had faced defeat in Lok Sabha elections in 2024 a few months ago. In fact Hindutva forces turned the tables in favor of NDA in Maharashtra. November 23, 2024 has become an inner transformation day for the Hindu community, as the BJP and allies triumphed Maharashtra with a landslide victory in what appeared to be an untenable situation. Hindu awakening had defined the narrative not only for this election, but also for future elections and how political parties can work for development while keeping Sanatan doctrines and values in mind. What led to the remarkable success/win of the BJP and its allies in the Maharashtra assembly polls needs to be mentioned?

Much damage has been done to the very India's idea and the deep state and at the instance of the international forces, Congress, INDIA, Leftists worked together and set a narrative against Hindutva and BJP. But at final analysis the RSS, its sister organizations worked hard to forge some sort of unity in the Hindu society which had been divided due to the pseudo secular parties of Congress, left and now INDIA bloc. However the Hindutva succeeded in the landslide and more than comfortable win in the prevailing circumstances and all this led to the historic win of the BJP and defeat of MVA the alliance of congress, NCP Ajit Pawar faction and Shiv Sena Shinde faction. The Hindu saints, seers, Dharam Gurus, thinkers and Kathavchaks with the full support of RSS, VHP, Durga Vahani and other Hindutva organizations were successful in defeating the anti-Hindutva and anti-BJP narrative and all this led to the resounding victory of BJP/Mahayuti the alliance of the BJP in the Maharashtra polls. The Hindu religious thinkers and saints were successful in making Hindus aware about the growing trend of love jihad, vote jihad, Waqf board, Sharia law, Madrasa hateful education, conversions of Hindus, foreign funding and dangers of all these. All this narrative created by the Hindu saints and orators resulted in the Hindutva surge in Maharashtra polls. Hindus realized the value of unity among various sects and castes as Hindu cutting caste discrimination rallied behind BJP which led to the victory of Hindutva forces and to be specific led to the surge of Hindutva in Assembly polls of Maharashtra. The vote percentage this time increased compared to 2019 and the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls. It tilted the balance of votes in favor of Hindutva and BJP. Coupled with Hindutva, the development slogan and narrative of Modi and BJP led to the comfortable win of the BJP in current assembly polls.

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

## Steps to self-reliance in Medicine

By: Vijay Garg

The Central Government has taken several initiatives in the last decade to promote indigenization and achieve self-reliance in the economic sector. India's reputation in the world has improved due to these efforts. After the success of Chandrayaan 3, the Central Government has now assigned a new 'task' to Indian scientists in the health sector. With this, India can succeed in making a leap in the field of medicine. This is a scheme which has to be completed as a challenge for the first time in independent India. This type of scheme has never been implemented by any country in the world before. That means, the diseases for which no one has been able to find cure will be found by Indian scientists. For this, Sirc has also set the first challenge target in the world, the responsibility of which has been handed over to the Indian Center for Medical Research (ICMR) located in New Delhi. This will build the country's reputation in the medical field in the world as a new India and it will be able to move ahead along with America, Peru, Britain, Russia, China, France, Japan and Germany. Developed countries which have surprising results have been achieved through new and original research in this field, all the necessary facilities have been provided to the scientists there. India is also moving forward on the same path. Our scientific talent, which used to go abroad due to money, facilities and liberalisation, will now prove its unique talent by staying in India, because the central government is providing everything to the research scientists, due to which important achievements can be made in the medical field. Can happen. To complete this new

scheme of the government, the medical institutions of the country have to work together. A few days ago, the Central Government has also issued a letter, in which it has been said that inspired by Chandrayaan 3, which landed on the South Pole of the Moon, India is going to take such an initiative in the field of medicine for the first time in the world, which will give its scientists new knowledge. And you will get a chance to work on out-of-the-box ideas. It is noteworthy that the scientists in the country had devoted their entire research power to preparing Covid 19 vaccines during Corona. The central government had prepared three types of vaccines, which were available in many countries of the world. Were sent as cooperation. This brought praise to India in the world. Central government to find medicines and treatments through research. In view of this, funds are being provided by the Central Government for research for the treatment of new diseases that may occur in the advancing age. It is certain that with this, India will be able to stand in the queue of being among the developed countries in the medical field. If our medical scientists find better treatment for new diseases that may occur in the future, then India will become an important medical researcher in the world. Will be recognized as. The Central Government has decided to prepare scientists for the treatment of the most complex diseases through ICMR. This will motivate them to treat complex diseases. The objective of this initiative is to promote innovative future preparedness, new knowledge creation and discovery. This will provide better medicines and new vaccines. People will be able to get treatment easily. According to ICMR,

after collecting all the proposals in the next few weeks, the committee will evaluate them and then make a final decision. There will be research on these proposals, which will have to be completed in a maximum of three years. This initiative can include all government medical colleges, all top medical institutions of the country along with all AIIMS in Delhi, all ICMR institutes as well as researchers from institutes registered with UGC, AICTE and NMC. From this perspective, serious initiatives have been taken in the medical field after independence through the country's largest medical institutions and educational institutions and organizations. In the field of medicine, India provides better treatment to every citizen. There is still a long way behind in providing facilities. In such a situation, this initiative of the Central Government is welcome in view of the treatment of incurable and seemingly impossible diseases. But the question is whether the government has been able to provide better treatment for diseases like cancer, paralysis, diabetes, heart attack and asthma, especially to the common man in villages. At this time, the policies of the Center are providing proper facilities to everyone through better schemes. It is to be provided. The objective is to achieve those heights of success by increasing self-reliance in every field., which is considered almost impossible for developing countries. The policy of conducting new research in the medical field and obtaining better results and giving them for the use of humanity is definitely a part of India's policy of public welfare. Out of the seven rare diseases in India, only five percent are curable. Presently the situation in the country is such that one out of twenty people is

suffering from some disease or the other and is not being treated properly. According to ICMR, 7 crore in the country and 35 out of 35 in the world. Crores of people suffer from rare diseases. In India, people are suffering from many such diseases, by seeing whose symptoms the doctors would be able to understand what the disease is. For example, 'Acanthamoeba keratitis' is a disease due to which a person becomes blind. Its proper treatment is not available in India. Similarly, 'Creutzfeldt-Jakob' is an incurable disease, which can lead to fatal brain attack. There are thousands of similar diseases based on the symptoms, for which there is a need to find cheap, easy and effective treatment. The central government should incurable diseases. And first look at the treatment of rare diseases, which still need a lot of research. At present only 63 diseases have been included under the National Policy for Chronic Diseases on the recommendation of the Central Technical Committee (CTCRD). In this, financial assistance up to Rs 50 lakh is given per patient. The number of medical treatment centers in India is far less than what is needed. The situation is worse in villages. Therefore, proper attention is needed on this side. Similarly, the number of doctors is very less as per the population. In villages, only one doctor is available for every lakh population. Therefore, now new treatments for future diseases will have to be discovered. At the same time, there is a need to think about providing easy and appropriate treatment to all the currently incurable, rare and very serious diseases.

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



## VC CLUJ, Prof. K S Chandrasekar visits GGM Science College

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: In a landmark event symbolizing academic growth and collaboration, Prof. K S Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), made his first official visit to Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu, today.

Accompanying him were Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, and Dr. Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs of CLUJ. This visit underscores the university's commitment to fostering excellence in education and strengthening ties with its constituent colleges.

Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, extended a welcome to the Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries.



He presented a detailed account of the college's illustrious history, heritage status, and academic offerings, including undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

He emphasized the college's achievements across academics, sports, and literary activities, showcasing its dedication to holistic student development.

Dr. Parshotam Thakur,

the college's IQAC Convener, shared a comprehensive overview of departmental activities, ongoing infrastructure enhancements, and the remarkable achievements of students in various domains.

He also outlined the diversity of subjects taught at the college, reflecting its commitment to multidisciplinary education.

In his presidential

address, Prof. K S Chandrasekar lauded GGM Science College's efforts in advancing academic standards and infrastructure under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Kumar Gupta.

He assured the college of the university's full support in transforming CLUJ and its constituent colleges into centers of academic excellence. The Vice Chancellor encouraged faculty

members to actively engage in research projects and explore collaborations with reputed national and international institutions.

He proposed initiatives to empower college teachers as research guides and co-guides and emphasized strengthening research infrastructure across CLUJ and its constituent colleges. During his visit, Prof. Chandrasekar toured the campus, reviewing ongoing development projects and infrastructure improvements. His visit concluded with a message of hope and determination to elevate CLUJ's academic landscape to new heights.

The event proceedings were skillfully anchored by Prof. Yasmeeen Mughal, whose eloquent narration added a poetic charm to the occasion.

## Awareness programme on HIV/AIDS organised by Bhaskar Degree College



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 5: Red Ribbon Club of Bhaskar Degree College Udhampur organised an awareness guest lecture on the occasion of World AIDS Day on the topic "Symptoms and Protection of HIV/AIDS", under the guidance of Principal of the college Dr. S.K. Magotra.

The programme inaugurated by lighting of lamp by the esteemed resource persons Dr. Amir Maqbool, Dr. Tajamul and Ajay, Lab Technician from Government Medical College, Udhampur, Principal and Vice-Principal of the college.

The event was followed by the formal welcome address of Principal of the college.

The guests witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 100 students.

Speaking on the occasion, the resource persons commended the organisers for their efforts in creating awareness on the menace of AIDS.

Speaking on the occasion, the speakers focused upon the advances in HIV treatment and remarkable prevention and the biggest challenge that remains ensuring equal access to healthcare and breaking the stigma that prevents many from seeking care.

The eminent speakers Dr. Tajamul also emphasised on the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and breaking the stigma and to work

towards eradicating HIV/AIDS by ensuring equitable healthcare access for all.

A poster-making competition was also organised on the topic "Symptoms and Protection of HIV/AIDS" among students in the college premises, where around 20 students participated. 1st prize was grabbed by the student of 1st semester Naresh Singh, 2nd by Aarushi Kalra and 3rd by Tarishika of 1st semester. All the participants were awarded with the certificate of appreciation.

The proceedings of the event were managed by convener of the Red Ribbon Club Asstt. Prof Vivek Parihar and concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Asstt. Prof Pardeep Kumar.

## Red Ribbon Club of GDC Ramgarh organizes wall painting competition to celebrate World AIDS Day



### Top News Report

RAMGARH, Dec 5: To raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote health education, the Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a wall painting competition on the occasion of World AIDS Day under guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the college.

The competition, held in the college premises, saw enthusiastic participation from students who expressed their creativity through

vibrant and thought-provoking wall art.

The students used their artistic skills to portray powerful messages about HIV prevention, stigma reduction, and the importance of safe practices.

The first prize was awarded to Group III, consisting of Radhna and Radhika. Group IV featuring Pranav and Malika secured the second prize and the third prize was given to Group I, represented by Uzwal and Sukhwinder. A consolation prize was awarded to Group II, including Vikramjeet

Singh and Meyank.

The event was guided by Prof. Sandeep Kumari, convener of Red Ribbon Club and Dr. Sanobar, who provided valuable direction and support to the students throughout the activity.

All the faculty members of the college also attended the event and appreciated the students' efforts in spreading awareness on such an important issue.

Principal of College appreciated the efforts of the Red Ribbon Club in organizing the event and emphasized the importance of youth involvement in spreading awareness on such critical health issues.

The event also included discussions about the global fight against HIV/AIDS, and participants were encouraged to take proactive steps in reducing the stigma associated with the disease.

## GDC Neeli Nallah organizes multifarious activities in observance of World AIDS Day



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 5: Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur with IQAC, organized multifarious activities in connection to the observance of World AIDS Day in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society in which a rally was conducted from the college premises, a Poster making competition, reels making competition was organized under the theme "Take the Right Paths".

The whole program aimed to educate students about the causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The event was conducted under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the college.

A rally was organized by the students from the college premises raising the slogans "Fight the Virus, Not the People"

and "Prevention is Better than Cure".

The rally started from the college premises and went to nearby villages spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS and fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with this infection. While addressing the rally, the Principal praised the students for their active participation.

She also focused on the importance of education and awareness campaigns to control the spread of misinformation and reduce the stigma surrounding the disease.

She further stressed that the purpose of the rally was to create awareness among the local community and stakeholders about this deadly disease. Next Day, a poster making competition was also organized in which students depicted their ideas through their posters.

Madiha Mir of Semester 3rd, Palak of Semester 3rd and Dikshant of Semester 1st secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. A reel making competition was also organized in which different students participated.

In reels making competition, Sunaina Rajput of Semester 1st, Simran of Semester 1st and Rinkey Verma of Semester 3rd secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. In the end, the Principal appreciated the efforts of the participants and congratulated the convener of the program for conducting such events.

The different activities were convened and organized by Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, Convener of Red Ribbon Club. Others present in the Week-long program were Prof. Rekha Sharma, Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Zahoor Mir, Dr. Mubaniq, Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal.

## Dy CM visits Kishtwar accident victims at GMC Jammu Asks for providing best medical treatment

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chaudhary, on Thursday visited Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital here to enquire about the health of persons injured in Kishtwar road accident.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister enquired about the condition of the injured. He directed the hospital authorities to provide them the best possible treatment.

He also interacted with the injured persons and assured them best possible medical care would be provided to them. DDC Chairperson Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur, accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister.

## E-Service Book launched by CISF, new era in Pension and Service Management

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 5: As a part of the Government of India's "National Digital India" initiative, CISF has announced the launch of its E-Service Book portal which will be accessible to all Force members.

The new initiative is designed to streamline and expedite the pension processing system for its retiring personnel to ensure that they get all pensionary benefits on date of retirement itself, Commandant CISF Unit DHEP Dulhasti Kishtwar said in a statement here today.

As of now the physical transfer of Service Book delays payment of retirement dues by several months, he said.

It will also benefit its serving personnel by providing them online access to their service book and ensure its updation, the Commandant said.

The new digital framework will eliminate the need for physical transfer of service book. One of the key features of the E-Service Book is its real-time tracking capability, he said. Stakeholders can now monitor the status of pension files in real-time, ensuring transparency and accountability, he said adding this eliminates the need for constant follow-ups and provides timely updates to all concerned parties.

This will directly benefit nearly 2400 personnel who retire every year. The current system, involves physical transfer of service books between multiple offices, often leading to delays and errors. This is particularly problematic for units located in remote areas, as the process becomes more

time-consuming and prone to mistakes.

To address these issues and ensure timely pension disbursement, designing of an online portal was conceived after incorporating the inputs from Pr. CCA (Home), MHA and PAO/RAPOs before giving it a final shape, he said.

Another major benefit of the E-Service Book is that it serves as a collaborative platform. All stakeholders, including parent unit, higher administrative formations and RPAO/PAO can now collaborate seamlessly on a single platform. This fosters efficient communication, prompt resolution of queries and timely updation of service data, he said.

In addition to streamlining the pension process, the E-Service Book empowers in-service personnel by providing them with online access to their service books. This enables them to monitor their service records, identify any discrepancies, and initiate timely corrective action. By ensuring accuracy and completeness of service records, the E-Service Book helps in-service personnel plan their career progression and retirement benefits effectively. It will enhance transparency in the organization, he said.

Overall, the CISF's E-Service Book is a major step towards modernizing the pension processing system and enhancing the service experience for CISF personnel.

By providing a more efficient, transparent, and convenient service, CISF aims to set new benchmarks in service delivery.

## Department of Botany organizes tree talk in GDC RS Pura



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Department of Botany GDC RS Pura under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour organizes tree talk for celebration of World Soil Day on Thursday.

On the occasion, veteran forest officer O.P Sharma Vidyarthi was invited to educate the younger generation about the value of nature and natural resources.

Dr. Rajinder Sharma, Head of the Department of Botany, introduced the speaker. Speaker sensitized the students

about the importance of healthy soil and sustainable management of soil resources and he also interacted with the students about the plants grown in surroundings and the commonly used plants in herbal medicines, ethnic cuisines etc.

A large number of students along with the faculty members Dr. Neeru Sawhney, Prof. Anju Kumari, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Prof. Vijeta Annand, Prof. Geetika Goswami, Prof. Sankait Gupta and Prof. Shelly

Kalsi participated in the talk with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour appreciated tree talk and emphasized that such events should be regularly organized to enhance the knowledge of the students about their nature and its conservation.

Dr. Neeti Chhibber presented vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to Principal, Speaker, HOD Botany, faculty members and all the students for their active participation.

## Bhagat appeals Govt to provide Rs 50 Lakh compensation for accident victims of Pakal Dam

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 5: Senior National Conference leader and spokesperson for the Chenab Valley Zone, Ajeet Bhagat, has expressed deep sorrow and concern over a tragic road accident near the Pakal Dam side of the Dang Doro Hydroelectric Power Project in Kishtwar District. Bhagat strongly emphasized the urgent need for a thorough investigation into the incident, citing the importance of accountability and safety in such high-risk zones.

Highlighting the state of the region's infrastructure, Bhagat criticized the administration for its failure to address the dilapidated conditions of roads in the Chenab Valley Zone, which continue to claim innocent lives.

"Despite the government's commitment to building a digital and modern country, no tangible improvements have

been made in Kishtwar District. Families are left devastated, with children and dependents forced into orphanhood due to preventable accidents," he lamented.

Bhagat made an emotional appeal to the Jammu and Kashmir Government to extend immediate relief to the affected families. He urged the administration to provide Rs 50 lakh compensation to each bereaved family and ensure that a government job is offered to at least one member of every household impacted by the accident. In addition, he called for comprehensive action to repair and maintain roads across the district to prevent further tragedies.

The Senior National Conference leader reiterated that such negligence is unacceptable and that the people of Kishtwar deserve better infrastructure and a proactive administration to ensure their safety and well-being.



## Sudhir Mishra, whose web series Tanaav 2 will stream this Friday, finds the process of adapting a story and telling it his own way rewarding

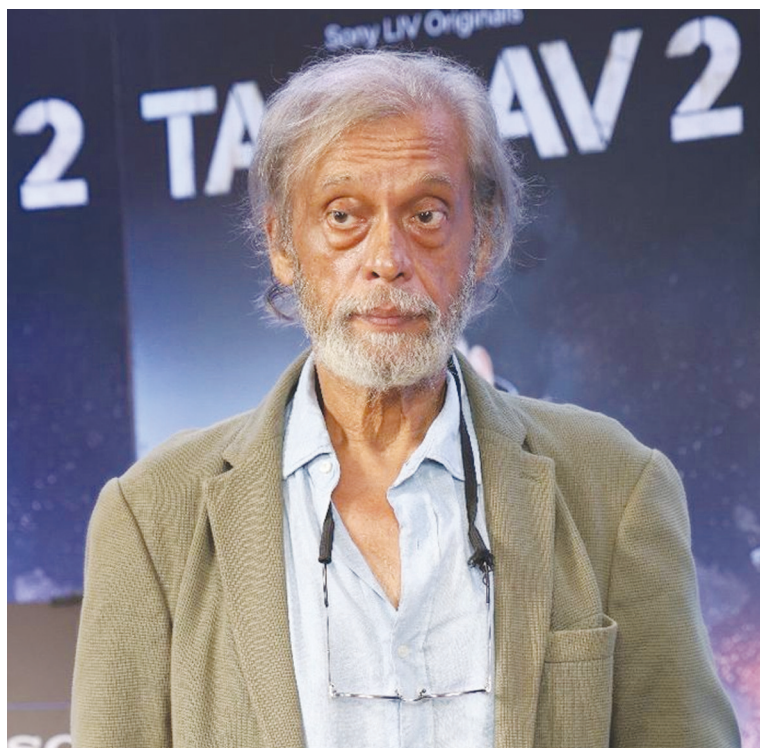
If film industry is a 'gaon', filmmaker Sudhir Mishra considers himself to be its 'chacha'. "Everyone knows me, not necessarily likes me," he chuckles.

Joyous, honest, and spirited, Mishra admits of throwing tantrums often, that are well tolerated by his friends and co-workers. "These days Applause Entertainment head Sameer Nair is at the receiving end," says the director of Tanaav as he opens up about its second season.

Each project for Mishra is like a roller-coaster ride. "It's a fun party. There is joy, excitement, fulfilment, tension, problems, and at times increased blood pressure – but all of it worth it!"

He is happy about how Tanaav was received by audiences. When Mishra went back to Kashmir to shoot the second season, people who had watched the first season were happy about it. "Generally it doesn't happen this way. People say portrayal theek nahi tha, but when we went back to Kashmir to shoot, people seemed to have loved it, and that's a win," he says.

Tanaav is a remake of the Israeli TV series Fauda. Mishra believes remakes are great as long as someone has something to say. "In the original series, it's the conflict between two countries, here we have set it in Kashmir. One has to bring in their life, customs, shadi, tyohar,



gami, and rituals associated with it, and narrate the story through it all. It's an amazing process, to adapt a story and tell it your own way," he says. Now that Season 1 was received well, Mishra has doubled the efforts to present it in an interesting way.

Mishra believes everything, anyway, is retelling of something or the other. "Kehte hain ki Ghalib ka hai andaaz-e-bayaan aur". The way Ghalib says things is different, not that he has a different subject. So is it with re-makes."

In Manav Kaul, he has found the right match for his lead character Kabir Farooqui. "The character of Kabir is a complex one. He is in the midst of a number of things – Kashmir, his wife, developing love interest... We needed an actor who is robust, who takes himself seriously and can laugh at himself too. He also needed the ability to lead the unit. Manav has all these qualities and he has been fantastic in Tanaav."

Having moved to Mumbai

three decades back, Mishra loves being part of the industry. Ask him of his favourite filmmaker, he rattles off a long list – right from Jallikattu director Lijo Jose Pellissery to veterans like Hansal Mehta to younger filmmakers as Avinash Arun. "These are the times of women director – Reema (Kagti), Kiran (Rao) Payal (Kapadia) - all are doing great work.

Mishra is open to criticism. He can take constructive criticism from those whom he respects. But critics with little knowledge, who would attack his films for an agenda, he can't be bothered. "We filmmakers like to connect with people, old or young, through our stories. If you watch my films with affection and criticise, I would like to learn from you." Pretty active on X, he implores people to watch his works and engage with him.

A frequent visitor to Chandigarh, he loves the city and its 'dilchasp log' and ever ready to visit it, but for now he wants people to watch Tanaav 2 and share their feedback with him.

Among his upcoming projects there is another series, titled Summer of 77, and three films. "I want to connect with the young boy who directed Dharavi and Is Raat Ki Subah Nahin," he smiles.

Tanaav 2 streams on SonyLiv from December 6.

## Girish Malik's film Band of Maharajas enters the race for Oscars



In a significant achievement for Indian cinema, Band of Maharajas, a musical film directed by Girish Malik, has been declared eligible for the Oscars in two prestigious categories.

The film's powerful song Ishq Walla Daku and its captivating original score, composed by the renowned maestro Bickram Ghosh, are now contenders for nominations in the Best Original Song and Best

Original Score categories.

This achievement highlights the remarkable collaboration between Girish Malik and Bickram Ghosh, who previously earned Oscar recognition for their acclaimed 2014 film Jal. Their latest partnership breaks new ground, captivating audiences globally.

In a statement, Director Girish Malik shared, "We are overjoyed that

Band of Maharajas is now in the race for the contention for nomination at Oscars. This film is not just a story; it is a heartfelt tribute to the power of music to transcend borders and bring people together." Bickram added, "Band of Maharajas is a labour of love, and we are grateful for the support and appreciation it has received so far."

Band of Maharajas tells the inspiring and heartfelt story of three young musicians from a small border village in Punjab. Driven by their passion for music, they bravely cross into Pakistan, a country where music is often met with resistance from radical forces. The film chronicles their journey of resilience, bravery, and the unifying power of art.

After Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies was chosen as India's official entry for the 2025 Oscars, Iman Chakraborty's song Iti Maa and Bickram Ghosh's Ishq Walla Daku are now being considered for the Best Original Song category.

## Woman dies, son injured as crowds throng theatre for 'Pushpa 2' screening in Hyderabad

A woman died and her son was hospitalised due to asphyxiation as crowds 'jostled' at a film theatre here during the premiere show of actor Allu Arjun's "Pushpa 2: The Rule", police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday night when a large number of fans thronged the cinema hall to have a glimpse of the actor, they said.

There were no arrangements by the theatre management or prior information about the arrival of the actor and other members of the film, police said.

A heavy crowd rushed ahead and the woman and her son, who were trying to enter inside the



theatre, suffocated and fell unconscious apparently after being pushed by the crowd, police said, based on preliminary investigation.

A police official pointed out that the theatre was small, and it could not accommodate such a massive crowd.

Police personnel conducted cardiopulmonary resuscitation

on the woman and her son, and shifted them to a hospital where the woman died and her son is undergoing treatment, a senior police official said.

To control the situation, police used mild force to disperse the surging crowd.

A case has been booked in connection with the incident.

## Rekha and Bachchan's iconic chemistry from 'Muqaddar Ka Sikandar' recreated

Veteran actress Rekha recently took fans on a nostalgic journey by recreating the magic of her classic "Muqaddar Ka Sikandar" song.

Sharing the stage with comedian Krushna Abhishek, who stepped into Amitabh Bachchan's role, Rekha brought the timeless chemistry from the film back to life on 'The Great Indian Kapil Show'.

Netflix unveiled a promo for the upcoming episode on social media, showcasing Krushna channeling Amitabh's iconic look from "Muqaddar Ka Sikandar" as he joined Rekha to recreate the magic of 'Salam-E-Ishq'.

The duo grooved on the song, with Rekha showcasing her graceful moves.



The makers shared the promo on their Instagram account with the caption,

"Dil bechain hai Rekha ji ko dekhne ke liye. Watch the queen AKA Rekha ji in the new episode of #TheGreatIndianKapilShow, iss Funnyvaar, 8 pm, only on Netflix."

In the same promo, Kapil shared a memorable experience of being a contestant on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' and interacting with Amitabh. Kapil reminisced, "While we were playing KBC with Bachchan sahab, my mother was seated

in the front row."

He then mimicked Amitabh, adding, "He asked her, 'Devi ji, kya kha ke paida kiya (What did you eat before giving birth to him)?'. Before Kapil could continue, Rekha interrupted, revealing his mother's reply: 'Daal-roti.'"

Kapil confirmed this was indeed what she had said. Rekha smiled and added, "Mujhse puchiye na, ek ek dialogue yaad hai (Ask me, I remember each and every line of dialogue)."

Rekha and Amitabh Bachchan shared screen space in nine films during the 1970s and 1980s.

During this time, rumours about their alleged affair circulated, even though Amitabh was married to Jaya Bachchan. It is said that their relationship ended in the early 1980s.

The trio later appeared together in Yash Chopra's 'Silsila', a film that was regarded as the "casting coup of the century" due to the unique pairing of the three stars.

## After Vikrant Massey's much talked-about break from acting, here's look at actors who quit the industry at the peak of their career

The entertainment industry has often seen talented actors making surprising career choices, and that include sometimes opting out of the limelight at the peak of popularity.

The recent example is the talented actor Vikrant Massey, known for his stellar performances in films like 12th Fail and The Sabarmati Report, who stunned the industry and his fans by announcing a long break from his acting career at the age of 37 to focus on his family and health.

Here's a look at actors who called it quits when they were in the peak of their careers.

To serve humanity  
Sana Khan  
The former Bigg Boss contestant and actress, known for her role in Salman Khan's Jai



Ho, made headlines when she announced her decision to quit the entertainment industry as she wanted to "serve humanity and follow the order of her Creator." On November 21, 2020, Sana married a Muslim cleric Mufti Anas Sayed.

Faith over career  
Zaira Wasim  
The young and talented actress, who shot to fame with her per-

formances in Dangal and Secret Superstar, announced her retirement from acting in 2019. She believed that her acting career was in conflict with her faith. Her last release was Shonali Bose's The Sky Is Pink.

Bidding goodbye  
Imran Khan  
Aamir Khan's nephew Imran Khan made a promising debut with

Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na in 2008. However, he delivered a string of flops, before bouncing back with I Hate Luv Storys in 2010 and Delhi Belly in 2011. He took retirement from acting after starring in Nikkhil Advani's Katti Batti in 2015.

Family comes first  
Ayesha Takia  
After delivering notable performances in films

like Wanted, Ayesha Takia decided to step away from the industry post-marriage. Ayesha made her debut with the action thriller Taarzan: The Wonder Car for which she won the Filmfare Best Debut Award and IIFA Award Star Debut of the Year Female.

For love only  
Gayatri Joshi  
Renowned for her role

in Swades, Gayatri Joshi left the industry after her debut to marry businessman Vikas Oberoi. Before entering Bollywood, she won the title of Femina Miss India International in the year 2000 and represented India at Miss International 2000.

Domestic bliss  
Asin  
Asin Thottumkal, who worked in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi films. She made her Bollywood debut with AR Murugadoss' Ghajini, starring Aamir Khan. She also starred in hit films like Ready, Housefull 2 and Bol Bachchan. The actress retired from acting after marrying entrepreneur Rahul Sharma. Her last film was All Is Well in 2015.

## 'All We Imagine as Light' named best international film by New York Film Critics

Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light' continued its award winning spree by being named the best international film by New York Film Critics Circle just days after the movie won in the same category at the Gotham Awards.

This is the third international recognition for the Malayalam-Hindi film in just a week as it won the Jury Grand Prize at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) 2024 before her wins at the two major New York-set awards. The movie, Kapadia's feature debut, became the first Indian film to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival. Though it was not picked up by the selection committee in India to represent the country in the Oscars category, many are pinning their hope for the movie to garner recognition at the 2025 Academy Awards in general categories.

'All We Imagine as Light' is being distributed in the US by Janus Films and Sideshow. Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media released the film across India. Starring Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha and Chhaya Kadam, Kapadia's film explores love, longing and loneliness in the bustling city of Mumbai through three women, two Malayali nurses, Prabha and Anu, and their friend Parvati.

Prabha's life is thrown in disarray when she receives a rice cooker from her husband who is in Germany. Anu is struggling to find a private spot in the city to be with her boyfriend. Prabha's best friend Parvati, a widow, is being forced out of her home by property developers. Kiran Rao and Aamir Khan production's 'Laapataa Ladies' (Lost Ladies), will represent India at the Oscars. At NYFCC, 'The Brutalist' was named the best picture and its star Adrien Brody the best actor. Best director award went to RaMell Ross for 'Nichel Boys' and best screenplay trophy was given to Sean Baker for 'Anora'.



## Prez Murmu calls on scientists to deal with agriculture sector challenges

BHUBANESWAR, Dec 5 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday called on agriculture scientists to develop and disseminate technologies in a timely manner to deal with natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change and excessive exploitation of resources.

The President made the remarks while addressing the gathering at the 40th convocation of Odisha University of Agricultural and Technology (OUAT) here.

She also urged the agriculture scientists to come up with ideas to protect soil, water and environment from the adverse impact of climate change.

"Agriculture is facing new challenges such as natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change, decreasing per capita farm size, and excessive exploitation of natural resources. To deal with these chal-



lenges, our scientists will have to develop and disseminate technologies timely. We have to emphasise on environmental protection, soil health protection, water and soil conservation, and better use of natural resources," Murmu said.

She noted that climate change-related issues such as rising temperatures and increase in greenhouse gases

are affecting agricultural production in the country.

"Agricultural scientists have an important responsibility to deal with all such issues," she said, adding, excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides has also emerged as new challenges for the sector.

"Their (fertiliser and pesticide) effect on soil, water and the environment are a matter

of concern for all. Young scientists would find solutions to solve these problems," the President said.

She, however, expressed satisfaction that over the past decade, India has achieved extraordinary success in agricultural production and exporting farm goods to other countries.

"This has been possible due to the guidance of our agricultural scientists and the tireless hard work of our farmers," Murmu said.

Murmu said India's economy can be strengthened by the development of agriculture, fishery production and livestock.

The President also urged the students to contribute to the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047 through their innovative ideas and dedicated actions.

## "Voted in favour of 10, abstained from 3 Gaza resolutions": S Jaishankar



NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, speaking in Parliament today, reaffirmed India's long-standing support for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict by calling for the establishment of a "sovereign, independent, and viable Palestinian state" alongside Israel.

Mr Jaishankar, responding to a claim during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha on India allegedly abstaining from all United Nations resolutions on Gaza, said that since the onset of the Israel-Hamas conflict on October 7 last year, 13 resolutions concerning Palestine have been presented in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

"Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas conflict, 13 resolutions concerning Palestine

were brought in UNGA out of which India voted in favour of 10 resolutions and abstained from three resolutions," Mr Jaishankar said.

India has provided significant humanitarian assistance to Palestine during the ongoing crisis. Since the conflict began, the Centre has delivered approximately 70 metric tonnes of aid, including 16.5 metric tonnes of medicines and medical supplies in two tranches. Additionally, \$5 million was disbursed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in 2024, matching a similar contribution made in 2023.

"India's policy towards Palestine has been long-standing and we have always supported a negotiated two-State solution, towards the establishment of a sovereign, independent

and viable State of Palestine within secure and recognised borders, living side by side in peace with Israel," Mr Jaishankar said.

Recent shipments in October and November 2024 included 65 tonnes of medical supplies sent to UNRWA and the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said that India has undertaken extensive diplomatic engagements to promote peace in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr Jaishankar have communicated with leaders across the region and beyond, including high-level discussions with Israeli and Palestinian counterparts.

On September 22, PM Modi met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during the Summit of the Future in New York, reiterating calls for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and renewed diplomatic talks.

India has also advocated for its position in international forums, including the United Nations, BRICS, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Voice of Global South.

## Action taken against 4 contractors for deficiencies in Delhi-Mumbai Expressway: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): Four contractors have been held responsible for deficiencies detected in the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and strict action will be taken against them, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday.

After taking note of the matter, experts from IIT Kharagpur and Gandhinagar inspected the

expressway and found deficiencies in its construction.

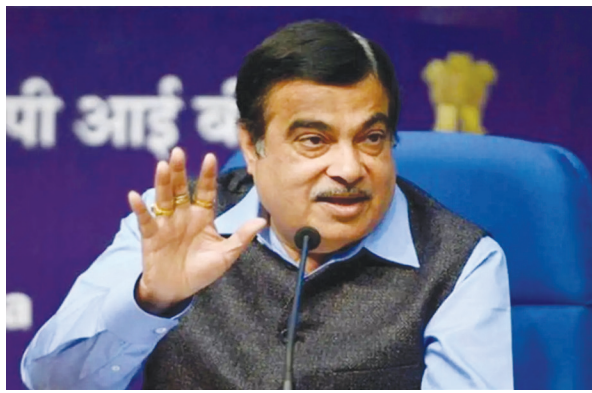
"We have issued notices to four contractors and will blacklist them. Strict action will be taken. Action will also be taken against concerned officials," the transport minister said during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha.

"After noting deficiencies, we had roped in experts from IIT Kharag-

pur and IIT Gandhinagar. Initial findings of the report show there are deficiencies in the construction," Gadkari said.

He said the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is the country's longest such road and was constructed in the shortest time.

"The expressway was constructed at a cost of Rs 1 lakh crore. It has reduced the dis-



tance between Delhi and Mumbai by 200 km. The travel time between

the two cities has now reduced to 12 hours," he said.

## Yogi Adityanath draws Sambhal-Ayodhya-Bangladesh parallel amid mosque row

AYODHYA, Dec 5 (Agencies): Amid the political storm over the violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today drew a parallel between the western UP town, Ayodhya and Bangladesh, saying that people creating social divisions are everywhere.

Addressing a gathering at Ramayan Mela in Ayodhya, Mr Adityanath said Lord Ram had united the society. "If we had foiled conspiracies to divide society, this country would have never been colonised. Our places of worship would not have been desecrated... but those creating divisions among us were successful, their genes continue to this day, they are people who create divisions in the name of

caste and destroy social unity," he said in a veiled swipe at the Opposition parties who have been demanding a caste Census.

Referring to the situation in neighbouring Bangladesh, where Hindu minorities have been targeted after the regime change earlier this year, the Chief Minister said, "What a general of Babar did in Ayodhya, what was done in Sambhal and what is happening in Bangladesh today have the same nature and DNA. There are divisive elements here too. They are preparing to divide and then cut you. These divisive people have properties in many countries. They will flee if there is a problem, others will die," he said.

The Chief Minister was referring to the razing of



temples during Muslim rule, a matter that has come back under the spotlight after the violence during the survey of a mosque in Sambhal. A local court had ordered the survey after some petitions claimed that Shahi Jama Masjid was built on the side of a Hindu temple. Violence during the survey left four people dead and

pushed the town to the edge.

The Opposition Samajwadi Party has accused the local administration and the BJP government of orchestrating the violence. Sambhal Police have named local Samajwadi Party MP Zia Ur Rahman Barq in its FIR, accusing him of provoking people. Over the past several days,

the Sambhal row has repeatedly come up in Parliament. Yesterday, police stopped Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi from visiting the town, citing sensitive law and order situation. Earlier, a group of Samajwadi Party MPs was stopped from going there.

In his address today, Mr Adityanath attacked the main Opposition Samajwadi Party and said it talks about socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia, but don't follow his ideals. "Dr Lohia was considered a symbol of ideals in politics. He had said a true socialist is not weak towards material wealth or his/her children. The socialists today are dynasts. They are fish out of the water without the support of goons and criminals," he said.

## Justice Manmohan sworn in as Supreme Court judge

NEW DELHI, Dec 5 (Agencies): Delhi High court Chief Justice Manmohan was on Thursday sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court, taking its strength to 33 judges against the sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna administered the oath of office to Justice Manmohan at a brief ceremony in Court No. 1 of the Supreme Court at 10.30 am.

On his first day in the Supreme court, Justice Manmohan will be sitting with CJI Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar in a three-judge Bench in Court No. 1.

The Central Government had on Tuesday notified Justice Manmohan's appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

The five-judge Supreme Court Collegium led by CJI Sanjiv Khanna had on November 28 unanimously recommended Justice Manmohan's elevation



to the top court. The other four judges in the Collegium were Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Abhay S Oka.

He was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 13th March 2008 and was made permanent on December 17, 2009. He has been functioning as the Chief Justice of that High Court since 29th September 2024. Justice Manmohan stands at serial no. 2 in the combined all-India seniority of High Court Judges and he is the senior-most Judge in the High Court of Delhi. While recommending

his name, the Collegium has taken into consideration the fact that, at present, the Bench of Supreme Court is represented by only one Judge from the High Court of Delhi.

Born on December 17, 1962, he obtained an LL.B. degree from Delhi's Campus Law Centre of the Delhi university in 1987 and got enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi the same year. He practised law before the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court and was designated as a 'Senior Advocate' by the Delhi High Court in 2003.

## Man enters set of Salman Khan's upcoming film, threatens his bodyguard

MUMBAI, Dec 5 (Agencies): A man was detained after he entered the set of Bollywood actor Salman Khan's upcoming film here and threatened his bodyguard using the name of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, police said on Thursday.

Khan was not present on the set in Shivaji Park area on Wednesday when the incident took place, an official said.

The accused, against whom a non-cognisable or 'NC' complaint was registered, is a junior artist working in the film industry, he said.

As he walked onto the set, a bodyguard stopped him and asked what was he doing there, said the police official.

They had an argument, and the accused threatened him using Bishnoi's name, as per the complaint.

Shivaji Park police took the man in custody and registered an NC case for alleged criminal intimidation under section 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

As per preliminary probe, the accused and the bodyguard knew each other and they had some dispute, the official said.

In a non-cognisable case, police can not register a First Information Report or arrest any person unless instructed by a court.

Salman Khan, 58, has received multiple threats from the Bishnoi gang in the past. Two members of the gang allegedly opened fire outside his residence here in April this year. Later, Panvel police also claimed to have uncovered a plot to attack Khan.

## Akhilesh slams Centre over reports of GST hike on several items

LUCKNOW, Dec 5 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday attacked the BJP Government at the Centre on reports that the GST on several items might be hiked, saying the BJP plans to "increase corruption" instead of increasing revenue.

In a post on X, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said, "BJP was saying 'one country, one tax' but this statement of theirs also turned out to be a 'jumlaai jhoot' (rhetoric) because now they are bringing new slabs of tax."

"When there is 'one tax, many slabs' then the slogan of 'one tax' has proved to be a lie in the true sense. Actually, there is a big game behind increasing the tax rates. This is the BJP's plan to increase corruption instead of increasing revenue to do 'vasuli' (extort money) from shopkeepers and businessmen



through the officials by exerting more pressure on them," he charged.

His remarks come after reports that the GoM on GST rate rationalisation has suggested tax rate on sin goods like aerated

beverages, cigarettes, tobacco and related products will be hiked to 35 per cent, from the current 28 per cent.

However, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes on Tuesday said the GoM on GST rate rationalisation is yet to submit its recommendations to the GST Council, which is the final decision making body in fixation of tax rates.

Yadav said the rule of the world is that the higher the tax rate, the more tax is evaded. "When the more tax is evaded, the more the corrupt ruling party earns," he said.

In the BJP government, backdoor ways are first prepared to evade tax and collect it, after that any new tax planning comes out from the front door, he charged.

In the end, the burden of paying every tax falls on the public, that is why it is the public which is crushed in the mill of tax, it is the public which is hit, he said.



## Sheikh Hasina mounts stinging attack on Muhammad Yunus over Bangladesh 'genocide'

*Hasina claimed that there were plans to kill her and her sister Sheikh Rehana just like their father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975.*

DHAKA, Dec 5 (Agencies): Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has mounted a stinging attack on the country's interim leader Muhammad Yunus over alleged persecution of minorities.

In a virtual address at an event in New York, Hasina accused Yunus of perpetrating "genocide" and failing to protect minorities including Hindus. She also claimed that there were plans to assassinate her and her sister Sheikh Rehana just like their father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975.

It was Hasina's first public address after taking shelter in India following her resignation in August in the face of massive anti-government protests, though she had commented on



the overall situation in Bangladesh.

"The armed protestors were directed towards Ganabhaban. If the security guards opened fire, many lives would have been lost. It was a matter of 25-30 minutes, and I was forced to leave. I told them [guards] not to fire no matter what hap-

pened," she said referring to the storming of her official residence in Dhaka on August 5.

"Today, I am being accused of genocide. In reality, Yunus has been involved in genocide in a meticulously designed manner. The masterminds — the student coordinators and Yunus — are behind this genocide," she

said at the event. Hasina said the current ruling dispensation in Dhaka failed to protect the minorities.

"Hindus, Buddhists, Christians — no one has been spared. Eleven churches have been razed, temples and Buddhist shrines have been broken. When the Hindus protested, the Iskon leader was arrested," she said in an oblique reference to the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das.

"What is this persecution of minorities for? Why are they being ruthlessly persecuted and attacked?" she said.

"People no longer have the right to justice... I never even got the time to resign," she said speaking in Bengali.

Hasina said she left Bangladesh in August with an aim to stop the violence, but that did not happen.

## Philippine police checking reports that a kidnapped American has died after being shot



MANILA, Dec 5 (Agencies): Philippine police officials said Thursday they are checking reports that a kidnapped American died after being shot twice while resisting his Oct. 17 abduction by gunmen in the country's south.

Elliot Onil Eastman, 26, from Vermont, was shot twice with an M16 rifle while trying to fight off his four kidnapers, who posed as police officers, in the coastal town of Sibuco in Zamboanga del Norte province, police said.

The kidnapers dragged him to a motorboat and sped off, according to earlier police reports.

A massive search for Eastman and his abductors led to the arrest of a number of suspects, but he has not been found. Three suspects were killed in a gunbattle with police in the south last month.

Regional police spokesperson Lt. Col. Ramoncelio Sawan said investigators received information from a relative of one of the suspects that Eastman died due to gunshot wounds in the thigh and abdomen while being taken away by his abductors.

The kidnapers decid-

ed to throw his body into

the sea after he died, the relative said. The information about Eastman's death was later corroborated by a key suspect in the kidnapping who was arrested recently, and his sworn statement has been submitted to government prosecutors, Sawan said.

Criminal complaints of kidnapping have been filed against several suspects, he said.

"We are constrained to believe that he has died. All of the information that we have points to that," Sawan said. But he added that without the victim's body, "we're still leaving a little bit of hope that it may not be the case" and police would continue their investigation.

Philippine police have informed Eastman's Filipino wife and the U.S. Embassy in Manila about his reported death, Sawan said.

The embassy said it's aware of the police report and is coordinating with Philippine authorities, but did not comment further due to privacy considerations.

Eastman traveled out of the Philippines and returned to Sibuco to attend his wife's graduation when he was kid-

napped. He had been posting Facebook videos of his life in Sibuco, a poor, remote coastal town, where the suspects spotted him, police earlier said.

They said the suspects appeared to be common criminals who did not belong to any Muslim rebel groups which have been accused of ransom kidnappings in the past.

Security problems have long hounded the southern Philippines, the homeland of a Muslim minority in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

The southern third of the Philippines has bountiful resources but has long been hamstrung by poverty, insurgencies and outlaws.

A 2014 peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest of several Muslim separatist groups, has considerably eased widespread fighting in the south. Relentless military offensives have weakened smaller armed groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, reducing kidnappings, bombings and other violence.

The Abu Sayyaf has targeted Americans and other Western tourists and missionaries, most of whom were freed after ransoms were paid. A few were killed, including American Guillermo Sobero, who was beheaded on the southern island of Basilan, and a U.S. missionary, Martin Burnham, who was killed while Philippine army forces were trying to rescue him and his wife, Gracia Burnham, in 2002 in a rainforest near Sibuco.

## Taiwanese President Lai says Taiwan and US territory Guam should defend freedom in region

TAIPEI, Dec 5 (Agencies): Taiwan and Guam should work together to defend freedom and democracy in the region, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said Thursday on a visit to the American territory.

Guam was Lai's second U.S. stop during an ongoing tour of the Pacific Islands, following a visit to Hawaii last weekend. China's government claims Taiwan as its territory and says the self-governing island must come under its control at some point in the future.

Lai, speaking to Guam's legislature, emphasized the shared values and strategic importance of Taiwan and Guam in the Indo-

Pacific region.

"Let us together become the crucial force in defending freedom, democracy in the first island chain," he said, referring to a string of islands off the Asian continent that includes Japan, Taiwan and part of the Philippines.

China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, opposes any official interaction between the island's government and the United States.

The U.S. is the main overseas supplier of arms for Taiwan's defense, and has naval and air force bases on Guam.

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry announced sanctions on Thursday

on 13 American companies and six executives in response to recently announced weapons sales to Taiwan. The executives include the president and vice president of Raytheon's Naval Power strategic business unit.

The sanctions include a ban on entering China, including Hong Kong and Macao.

Earlier this week, the ministry said it "strongly condemned" U.S. support for Lai's visit to Hawaii and had lodged a complaint with the United States.

A resolution from Guam's legislature welcomed Lai and expressed appreciation for Taiwan's "significant contributions to Guam's



economy and community," Speaker Therese Terlaje said.

Lai called for deeper cooperation with Guam, highlighting aquaculture, hydroponic agriculture, construction projects and alternative energy as potential areas of partnership.

Lai arrived in Guam on Wednesday night after visits to the Marshall

Islands and Tuvalu.

He was scheduled to fly to Palau, the final stop on his trip.

The three Pacific Island countries are among 12 governments that recognize Taiwan diplomatically.

The rest of the world, including the United States, has official ties with the Chinese government in Beijing.

## Experts believe study of 700-year-old handwriting unveils leading Byzantine painter's true identity

THESSALONIKI, Dec 5 (Agencies): Crime-solving techniques applied to a medieval illuminated manuscript in Paris may have solved a centuries-old puzzle — the true identity of a leading Byzantine painter who injected humanity into the rigid sanctity of Orthodox religious art.

A contemporary of Giotto, considered the father of Western painting, the artist conventionally known as Manuel Panselinos was equally influential in a totally different tradition that's largely overlooked in the West.

But nothing is known of his life, and scholars now believe Panselinos was just a nickname that eventually supplanted the real name of the man for whom it was coined — likely Ioannis Astrapas, from the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki.

The art of Byzantium, that decorates churches across Greece, Serbia and other Orthodox countries, stands out for the stark formalism of its elongated, glowering saints, quasi-cubist mountains and doe-eyed Madonnas.

Work attributed to Panselinos, from the late 13th and early 14th centuries, is considered the finest produced in an empire that straddled

Europe and Asia and endured from the fall of Rome until the capture of the imperial capital Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

Art historians had long suspected that the name — Greek for "full moon" — could have originated as a nickname for some member of the so-called Macedonian School of painting, based in Thessaloniki.

Recent research by a Greek monk and linguistics scholar linked "Panselinos" with Macedonian School painter Astrapas. Now court handwriting expert Christina Sotirakoglou has matched lettering on a manuscript tentatively attributed to Astrapas with characters on a church painting in northern Greece, long seen as Panselinos' best work.

Father Cosmas Simonopetritis, a former senior administrator in Mount Athos, the semi-autonomous monastic community where the Protato church stands, says Sotirakoglou's and his own research "clearly prove" Panselinos' real identity.

"Panselinos was a real person, and (the name) was just the nickname by which Ioannis Astrapas became known," he told The Associated Press.

Constantinos Vafiadis,

a professor of Byzantine art in Athens who was not involved in the studies, said he found merit in the nickname theory and Astrapas link, even though it appeared more than one painter had undertaken the Protato project.

"I agree with attributing part of the paintings to Ioannis Astrapas," he said. "But again there remains much ground for future research into that person, because other Mount Athos monuments from the same period have not yet been sufficiently published."

"Panselinos" — a role model for generations of painters — and his contemporaries are associated with a renaissance of kinds in Orthodox art that revived forms and techniques inherited from antiquity. Facial expressions acquired a deeper humanity, and greater attention was paid to proportion and depth of field in composition.

Father Cosmas said Astrapas was an "extremely gifted painter ... with vast knowledge who harmonically combined the ancient, classical world with Orthodox Byzantine spirituality."

"And that ... makes his work unique worldwide," he added.

Artists' signatures

were not common at the time, although some survive from members of the Astrapas family. There are none by "Panselinos."

The trail started with earlier research linking Astrapas with the artist and scholar who wrote and illustrated Marcan Codex GR 516, an early 14th century Greek handwritten text treating subjects from astronomy to music theory. Among the painted illustrations was a full moon.

"For me ... that was the main proof," Father Cosmas said.

With a name found for the hand that produced the manuscript, the next step was to check its style against writing on the Protato painting, traditionally linked with "Panselinos."

"Mrs Sotirakoglou, who is a handwriting expert, filled in that blank," Father Cosmas said.

There was one problem: Women have for more than 1,000 years been banned from entering Mount Athos.

"I was forced to study the Protato paintings based on photographs," Sotirakoglou, who works as a court consultant on identifying or authenticating handwriting in criminal cases, told the agency.

"(The work) was very

difficult, because the writing on the wall paintings is in capital letters, and the painters subdued their personal handwriting to conform" with the traditional format, she said — rather like anonymous letter-writers' attempts to disguise their true style. "The Marcan codex is written in very small lower-case letters."

The first clue came from the Greek letter Phi, the English F.

"It's a Phi that stands out, and is similar" in both the manuscript and the Protato painting, she said. "Matches also followed with other letters, T, with its proportions, which is bigger, covering the other letters and is topped with a curve, the proportions of the K."

"But when the Phi was revealed, the code of the writing was broken and the job became much easier," she added.

Father Cosmas said that during his administrative duties on Mount Athos he attended services at the Protato church on a daily basis.

"That's where my desire was born ... to explore the mystery around the name and the identity of Panselinos," he said, adding that he thinks the artist "has now acquired his true identity."

## Chinese online retailer Temu suspended in Vietnam

HANOI, Dec 5 (Agencies): Vietnam has suspended the operations of Chinese online retailer Temu after it failed to meet a government deadline to register the company by the end of November.

It is unclear if Temu, a unit of Chinese e-commerce giant Pinduoduo, will be allowed to resume its business once it registers. The suspension comes after the ministry had raised concerns about the authenticity of Temu's extremely cheap products and their impact on Vietnamese manufacturers.

Temu said Thursday it was working with the Vietnam E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to register its e-commerce services and had submitted required documents.

Temu began selling goods in Vietnam in October with aggressive discounts and free shipping.

The government had warned the company that its app and website would be blocked if it did not register before an end-of-November deadline, official Vietnam News Agency cited the Ministry of Industry and Trade as saying.

On Thursday, Vietnamese language options were removed from Temu's website.

A notification on the site said that Temu was working "with the Vietnam E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to register its provision of e-commerce services in Vietnam."

Temu is being investigated in Europe over suspicions it was failing to prevent

## Rescuers search for 13 workers missing after a railroad construction site collapses in south China



BEIJING, Dec 5 (Agencies): Rescuers in southern China were searching Thursday for 13 workers missing after a railroad construction site caved in in the business center of Shenzhen.

An emergency management bureau's

statement said the collapse occurred at about 11 p.m. Wednesday at a construction site on a section of the Shenzhen-Jiangmen Railway in Bao'an district. The line will link Shenzhen, a tech hub, and Jiangmen, both cities in Guangdong prov-

ince neighboring Hong Kong.

Residents living nearby have been evacuated. An investigation into the cause was underway.

State broadcaster CCTV reported some roads were closed during the operation.

China has seen collapses of a highway and a bridge that killed dozens of people earlier this year. The collapses have raised questions about the safety of China's road and bridge infrastructure, which was built rapidly in recent decades.



## CM pays tributes to Sheikh Mohd Abdullah on his 119th birth anniversary

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 5: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday visited Naseembagh, Hazratbal, to pay tributes to the founder of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former J&K Chief Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, on his 119th birth anniversary.

Popularly known as Sher-e-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah is remembered for his visionary leadership and his enduring contributions to Jammu and Kashmir.

He was the father of NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the grand-



father of the party's Working President and current Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

In a solemn ceremony held at Naseembagh, the Chief Minister, accompanied by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and other senior party leaders, paid floral tributes at Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's mausoleum.

They also offered Fateha (special prayers) at his grave to honor his legacy and reaffirm their commitment to the ideals he stood for.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reflected on Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's enduring impact on Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "Sher-

e-Kashmir's vision continues to inspire us to work tirelessly for the betterment of our people. Today, we remember his sacrifices and reaffirm our dedication to his ideals of justice, equality, and communal harmony."

Dr. Farooq Abdullah also expressed his deep respect for his father's contributions, calling him "a guiding light whose principles will always lead us forward."

The commemoration programme was attended by senior party leaders, workers, and supporters who gathered to commemorate the life and legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, a towering figure in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

## GCW Gandhi Nagar organizes Aari Work Workshop in collaboration with Dogre Well Wisher Foundation



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: The Department of Home Science, Government College for Women, Gandhinagar, Jammu, in collaboration with the Dogre Well Wisher Foundation (NPO) registered under the Centre, successfully organized a one-day workshop on the traditional art of Aari work.

This initiative was aimed to preserve this exquisite embroidery technique while empowering local artisans and fostering skill development.

The workshop featured skilled artisans Ritu Gupta, a renowned artist registered with the Handicrafts of J&K under the Ministry

of Textiles, and Arun Gupta, an expert in the craft from Jammu.

They shared their extensive knowledge and demonstrated intricate techniques of Aari work, enabling participants to gain hands-on experience. The event saw enthusiastic participation from 84 students of Semester 1 and faculty members of the Home Science Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the college, Dr. S.P. Sarswat, appreciated the department's efforts in organizing the workshop and emphasized the importance of skill development in today's competitive era. "Acquiring practical skills is essential in bridging the gap between traditional

art forms and modern demands. Such initiatives not only preserve our cultural heritage but also open new avenues for students and artisans alike," he remarked.

The workshop was conducted under the leadership of Dr. Anjali Bhat, Head of the Department of Home Science. Faculty members including Dr. Neelima Gupta, Prof. Vishva Deepika, and Dr. Arpana were present and actively supported the event.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the enriching experience, which not only enhanced their understanding of Aari embroidery but also inspired them to explore its application in contemporary fashion and home decor.

## Govt establishes CM's public services and outreach office

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 5: Jammu and Kashmir government has announced the establishment of the 'Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office' within the Chief Minister's Secretariat to ensure efficient grievance redressal and enhanced public service delivery through direct citizen engagement.

According to a government order issued on December 5, the office will initially function with two specialized wings at the central level, each led by

an officer of the rank of Special Secretary/Additional Secretary.

According to the order, Grievance Redressal Wing (Raabit): This wing will focus on the prompt resolution of grievances and oversee the performance of regional and district offices in addressing public concerns.

Public Outreach & Evaluation-cum-Feedback Wing: This division will engage with citizens through outreach programs, monitor the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), collect feedback on governance and

service delivery, and recommend improvements based on evaluations of government initiatives.

"To enhance accessibility and responsiveness, the office will utilize an integrated online grievance portal linked to the existing Samadhan Portal, enabling citizens to register, track, and resolve grievances. The Information Technology Department has been directed to implement this integration within 15 days," the order reads.

"Additionally, the office will adopt a hybrid communica-

tion approach, employing both online methods such as social media, helplines, and grievance portals, alongside offline methods including public interactions and district-level meetings. The Chief Minister's Secretariat will finalize the staffing and other operational modalities of the new office. This initiative aims to improve governance and strengthen the bond between the administration and citizens by addressing grievances effectively and incorporating feedback into policymaking and service delivery," the order added.

## Cambridge International School celebrates Annual Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Cambridge International School held its much anticipated Annual Day Celebration, Magnum Opus 4.0, showcasing a vibrant array of performances and achievements.

The event, a reflection of the school's commitment to holistic education, was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including the Chief Guest, Sh. Sham Lal Sharma (MLA), Jammu North Vice President BJP JKUT, Ex-Cabinet Minister J&K Govt., Guest of Honour, Thakur Sher Singh (Additional District Development Commissioner) and Special Guest, Sh. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal (Social Activist).

The program commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The Chairman, Er.

Vidhi S. Singh Jamwal and Vice Chairman, Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal graced the occasion.

Managing Director, Er. Renu Bangroo delivered the Welcome Address, expressing her gratitude to all attendees and highlighting the school's vision of fostering academic excellence and cultural values.

The event unfolded with mesmerizing musical performances by the school choir and a solo performance, which captivated the audience.

The highlight of the cultural section included the enchanting Durga Stuti, a display of traditional devotion, followed by a delightful Yoga demonstration and dances performed by students from Nursery to Grade II.

A notable theatrical addition was 'The Lion King' act and dance, which transported the audience into the enchanting world of the



Savanna.

The heartwarming Mother-Son and Father-Daughter dance duos brought an emotional touch to the evening, celebrating family bonds.

Another highlight was the gripping performance of the Vikramaditya Play, which left the audience spellbound with its storytelling and dramatic excellence.

The School Report, presented by the Principal, Pooja Chib, provided a glimpse into the school's remarkable achievements in

academics, sports and extracurricular activities over the past year. Prize distribution and a special felicitation ceremony, honored students, Teachers, Director and Choreographers for their exceptional contributions.

The Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest appreciated the management for providing a platform to hone their skills and congratulated the staff members for preparing their students so effectively.

The event concluded with the heartfelt vote of

thanks by Vice Principal, Rajni Malhotra where she expressed her gratitude to all Teaching and Non-Teaching staff members for their support and cooperation to make Magnum Opus 4.0, a grand success.

A grand finale BTS performance and the rendition of the National Anthem and School Song marked a fitting end to the celebrations.

Cambridge International School's Annual Day was a testament to the institution's dedication to nurturing talent, promoting cultural heritage and fostering excellence among its students.

## SKJAVS Trust expresses gratitude for making "Kailakh Sanskrit Rattan Puraskar" ceremony success

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: The President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan (SKJAVS) Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri, expressed gratitude to Sanskrit enthusiasts and participants for making the "Kailakh Sanskrit Rattan Puraskar" ceremony a success. He conveyed this during a press conference held at the Jammu.

Shastri stated that, for the first time in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, such a grand Sanskrit event took place, which is now being discussed on a global level.

Notably, the Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award for the year 2024 was



recently conferred upon Shri Shri 1008 Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj.

Shastri emphasized that the primary objective of the Trust is to promote the divine language Sanskrit in the region. He appealed to the youth to actively contribute to the pres-

ervation and propagation of Sanskrit, thereby strengthening the cultural heritage of the region and the nation.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Trustees of the Trust, including R.K. Chhibber, Pramod Sharma, Dr. Vishva Gupta, Anil Gupta, and several other distinguished citizens.

## FROM PAGE 1

## INDIA Bloc MPs protest over Adani issue in parliament, wear jackets reading 'Modi Adani Ek Hai'

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani as it would amount to getting a probe done against himself.

Congress MPs including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and lawmakers of several other opposition parties like RJD and the Left participated in the protest.

Both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi demanded that a discussion on the indictment of Adani in a US court on charges of bribery and fraud must take place in Parliament and Prime Minister Narendra Modi must speak in the House on the issue.

The protest took place in front of the steps of Parliament's Makar Dwar and not on the steps leading to it as a Lok Sabha Secretariat advisory and Speaker Om Birla had flagged the issue.

A little later, the protesting MPs lined up in front of the Samvidhan Sadan and raised slogans against Modi and Adani there.

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 had held a protest on the steps of Makar Dwar on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The TMC has stayed away from the pro-

tests against Adani.

The Congress and some other opposition parties have been demanding a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe following the indictment of Adani and other company officials in a US court.

The Congress has said that Adani's indictment "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".

## Allow J-K's elected govt to function independently: NC's Hasnain Masoodi asks centre

democratic values.

Talking to reporters according to news agency KINS, Masoodi called the need for the central government to recognize the aspirations of the people and allow the democratically-elected government in the region to function independently.

Masoodi referred to December 5 as a significant day, underscoring its connection to identity and self-respect. He stated, "This day holds importance for us, and the way to respect it is by honoring the sentiments of the people."

He further criticized the government's fail-

ure to adhere to its business rules, questioning the prolonged delays in decision-making.

Highlighting the importance of historical days like July 13 and September 8, Masoodi expressed hope that the government would respect public sentiment associated with such dates in the future. "The government must take meaningful steps to honor these days. Respecting public sentiment should translate into concrete actions," he said.

Masoodi also raised concerns about recent surveys and policies, alleging that they violate the 1991 Religious Places Act and create divisions among communities. He described these measures as attempts to "cultivate hatred" and urged the public to reject divisive tactics. "This new method is designed to divide the people, and we must not allow it. It is not acceptable in any form," he asserted.

The NC leader appealed to the central government to focus on unity and respect for democratic institutions, emphasizing that an independent, functional government in Jammu and Kashmir is in the best interest of both the people and the country.

## Army soldiers open fire after observing suspicious movement near LoC in Poonch

operation was launched at first light on Thursday and it was underway when last reports were received.

## Dr Farooq, Omar, others pay respect to JKNC founder on his 119th birth anniversary

light on the contributions of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah towards people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in terms of education, health, and land reforms.

## CM Omar Abdullah's sons pay respect at Sheikh Abdullah's mausoleum, offer fatiha khawani

located near the picturesque Dal Lake, holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Kashmir as it houses the resting place of Sheikh Abdullah, affectionately known as the "Sher-e-Kashmir." Today's gathering not only reflects on his contributions but also underscores the continued influence of the Abdullah family in Kashmir's socio-political landscape.

As the crowd awaits the arrival of Omar and Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the mood is a mix of nostalgia and anticipation, honoring a legacy while looking toward the future of the National Conference and its role in Kashmir's evolving narrative.

## Sher-e-Kashmir freed

## us from tyranny: Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani

"May Allah grant him a place in Jannah and elevate his status further."

During the event, Wani also mentioned the reinstatement of a canceled ceremony and assured that efforts are being made to organize grander celebrations in the future. "By the next significant milestone, we aim to ensure full-fledged observance of these important traditions," he added.

"The Council of Ministers has formally submitted a proposal to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reinstate December 5 as a public holiday in commemoration of the late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's anniversary," Wani said and hoped that the holiday will be restored in time for next year.

He said we are optimistic that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will once again observe this significant day with full dignity and honour.

## At minus 2.1 C, Srinagar records season's coldest night

north Kashmir recorded minus 2.5 degree Celsius. Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.4 degree Celsius.

Pertinently, there is no forecast of any significant weather conditions till December 15 while the dry weather is expected till December 7.



## SBI RSETI Ramban concludes Women's Tailor Entrepreneurship Development Program

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Dec 5 : The State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI), Ramban, successfully concluded its Entrepreneurship Development Program for Women's Tailors today. The 33 trainees who participated in the program showcased their enthusiasm and commitment to acquiring new skills, aimed at empowering them for self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

During the training program different skills were learned by the trainees, i.e. Entrepreneurship Competencies, Effective Communication Skills, Marketing Management, Problem Solving Time Management, Banking, Government Schemes, Behavioral



Game, Introduction of Dress Designing Basic of stitching & measurement, Saree skills, verticals of frill theory, paper cutting & practical, Nighties, Night Suits, Night Gowns, Fancy Nighties theory & practical, School Uniforms for girls blouse & skirts theory & practical, Baby Frock, Saree Zigzag, Chudidar, Punjabi, Patiyala, Arabic, Rajasthani Pushup,

Anarkali Top, Apple Cut Top, Sahraw theory & practical and Basics of Sewing Machine Repairs etc.

The closing ceremony was graced by Chief Guest, Lead District Manager (LDM) Ramban, Khursheed Ahmed Malik, along with Director SBI RSETI Ramban, Harvinder Singh. Speaking at the event, Malik emphasized the impor-

potential and contribute meaningfully to their families and society," he stated.

Senior Faculty, Amrik Singh Raju, concluded the program with a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the efforts of the trainees, trainers, and all those who contributed to the success of the program. Trainee Saim Bano shared her experience during the event, highlighting how the training program equipped her with essential tailoring and business skills. She expressed gratitude towards SBI RSETI Ramban for fostering an environment of growth and learning. This initiative underscores SBI RSETI Ramban's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and empowering women through practical, skill-based training.

## Kastigarh Hills clinches Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan Ziani Premium League Trophy



Top News Report

DODA, Dec 5: In an electrifying finale held at Ziani, the Kastigarh Hills cricket team emerged victorious against Ziani Eleven to claim the prestigious Ziani Premium League Trophy.

The tournament was organized by the Navodaya Express Helping Charitable Trust and other NGOs under the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, promoting a drug-free India through the power of sports.

The Chief Guest, Tehsildar Kastigarh Pushpak Saroop (JKAS), and Guest of Honour Dr. Masood Iqbal Zargar, commended both teams for their spirited performances and applauded the organizers for combining sports with a vital social cause. The dignitaries empha-

sized the importance of sports in fostering unity, discipline, and a healthy, drug-free society.

Special guests, including Mirza Mohd Aslam Beigh and BJP Mandal Pardhan Kashmir Singh, congratulated the winners and runners-up for their exceptional dedication and effort. They also lauded the NGOs for their continued efforts in promoting sports and spreading awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. The event was a celebration of sportsmanship and social responsibility, reinforcing the message that a united community can work together toward a brighter, addiction-free future. Congratulations to Kastigarh Hills for their remarkable victory and to all participants for making the league a grand success.

## Red Ribbon of GDC Samba observes AIDS Day

Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 5: The Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with the Department of Zoology, conducted series of events as a part of week-long AIDS awareness initiative. The event featured Symposium on HIV/AIDS and society and Face Painting competition where students actively participated. The programme endeavored to generate awareness regarding prevention of HIV/AIDS and to reduce stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS in the society. The day's proceedings began with a symposium on HIV/AIDS and society where speakers emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, healthcare access and the collective responsibility of society in supporting affected individuals. In face painting competition, the artistic expressions highlighting the need for awareness,



prevention and compassion in combating the global epidemic were displayed. A human chain was also formed to champion the concept of unity, solidarity and shared responsibility in the fight against the disease.

Principal, Prof (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, encouraged the students to play a pivotal role in creating an inclusive and informed society in addressing the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS. She motivated them to become advocates for awareness, empathy, and responsible health practices.

Both competitions were judged by a panel

of jury members namely Assoc. Professor Sarabpreet Kour, Department of English, Assoc. Professor Dr. Joginder Singh, Department of Dogri and Asst. Professor Dr. Javed Ahmed Mughal, Department of Urdu. Prachi, Shivam and Mansi secured 1st, 2nd, 3rd position and Shania secured Certificate of Merit in symposium competition and Ritika, Shivangi and Jyoti secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position in face painting competition respectively.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Sushma Sharma, HOD, Convener, Red Ribbon club.

## District Sainik Welfare Officer calls on DC Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 5: A delegation led by District Sainik Welfare Officer Doda/Kishtwar, Wing Commander Tirath Singh (Retd), along with senior Ex-Servicemen Captain Shiv Kumar and Captain Lachhman Dass, Vrc met Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, on Thursday to discuss the issues and concerns of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the district.

During the meeting, the delegation raised the pressing demand for the establishment of



the Zila Sainik Welfare Office and an Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) facility in Kishtwar.

The proposed ECHS facility is aimed at providing comprehensive medical care, including cashless treatment in

pannelled hospitals, to Ex-Servicemen and their dependents.

The delegation urged for enhanced implementation of welfare measures for ESM and sought the Deputy Commissioner's support for the smooth execution of

the latest welfare policies.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the delegation of every possible assistance to address their concerns. He acknowledged the importance of the proposed Zila Sainik Board and ECHS Complex and expressed a commitment to take necessary measures for the prompt kick start of construction work.

In addition to the discussion, the delegation handed over Flag Day materials to the Deputy Commissioner and emphasized the significance of observing

Armed Forces Flag Day, celebrated annually on December 7.

The day holds great importance as it honors the sacrifices of armed forces personnel, raises awareness about their welfare, and generates funds for the well-being of Ex-Servicemen, war widows, and their dependents.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties expressing mutual dedication to enhancing the welfare of Ex-Servicemen and addressing their needs in the district.

## World Soil Day 2024 celebrated at Krishi Bhawan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, celebrated World Soil Day 2024 with great enthusiasm at the Conference Hall of Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo.

The program was graced by Director Agriculture, Jammu, Arvin Singh Reen, who, in his inaugural address, highlighted the theme of World Soil Day 2024 "Measure, Monitor and

Manage" significance of healthy soils as the foundation for a robust agricultural system. He stressed the importance of adopting modern soil health management practices to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability and food security.

He reiterated the department's commitment to empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge required for sustainable soil management and

urged everyone to take proactive steps toward protecting this invaluable resource.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension and SLUB Jammu, Satish Sharma, in his keynote address, emphasized the need for raising awareness among farmers about soil health management techniques. He also shared insights on the implementation of government schemes aimed at enhancing soil fertility

and youth as entrepreneurs.

The event witnessed active participation from a diverse group of stakeholders, including Divisional Soil Survey Officer, Jammu; Agriculture Chemist, Jammu; sectoral heads from various departments, and, most importantly, farmers, who are the primary custodians of soil health and concerned literature was also distributed on the occasion.

Divisional Soil Survey Officer, Jammu Suresh Kumar Khajuria gave a detailed presentation on capacity building programmes for farmers being executed in all the 10 districts of Jammu Division by Divisional Soil Survey Scheme, Jammu.

Technical sessions

were conducted by Agriculture Chemist Aman Jyoti Sharma, ASSO Dr Aadi Rashid, Agriculture Soil Chemist Dr Neeraj Rajwal where experts discussed topics such as soil testing, the use of organic inputs, balanced fertilization, and sustainable agricultural practices.

The interactive sessions allowed farmers to voice their concerns and share their on-ground experiences regarding soil health management.

Rajeev Katoch, Programme Officer from Office of the Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Jammu, conducted the proceedings of the programme. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Neetu Gurmeet Singh.

## Chhau, Yoga Training inspires young minds at Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Pathshala



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Pathshala, a recently established center dedicated to cultural and spiritual education for young children, successfully concluded a one-week workshop on Chhau and Yoga.

Designed for young learners, the workshop offered an engaging introduction to these ancient practices, combining fun and discipline under the Gurukul model.

The training was led by Bhumikeshwar Singh, an internationally acclaimed expert in Classical Indian Drama, and Rudri Singh, a renowned Chhau exponent and yoga instructor.

With their guidance, children learned the foundational techniques of Chhau, an energetic art rooted in mythology, and gained early exposure to yoga, which fostered physical fitness, balance, and mindfulness.

Speaking about the Pathshala's vision, the Receiver of Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, Suresh Kumar Sharma said, "This Ved Pathshala is a humble step toward inculcating cultural

values in young minds.

By exposing children to traditional art forms like Chhau and yoga at an early age, we are laying the groundwork for their holistic development and a deeper connection to their heritage."

Although still in its early phase, the Pathshala has become a nurturing space for children, offering a curriculum that includes Vedic chanting, storytelling from epics, and basic Sanskrit, alongside activities like Chhau and yoga. This holistic approach ensures a well-rounded development for its young learners.

The workshop was further graced by the presence of eminent personalities, including Deepak Kumar, a renowned theatre director, Ashutosh Sharma, Pankaj Pradhan, Raj Kumar Behrupia, Ashish Sharma, and Shivan Gupta, who applauded the initiative and encouraged the young participants.

The workshop concluded with a vibrant showcase of the children's progress. Their confident performances of Chhau routines and yoga postures captivated the audience.

The event highlighted the Pathshala's commitment to reviving traditional practices and shaping the next generation through cultural preservation.

Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Pathshala continues to stand out as a beacon of cultural preservation and education, making a lasting impression on the region's efforts to keep ancient traditions alive.

## IGNOU opens online portal for re-registration for January 2025 session

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has started the process of online portal for re-registration for January 2025 academic session. The re-registration is meant for already registered/enrolled learners who are eligible to register for next year or semester.

To enroll in the next year or semester, learners need to fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration January 2025 form by the submission deadline which has been fixed for 31st January, 2025. The students who did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can still apply for re-registration for January 2025, provided the minimum programme duration is achieved

and programme validity has not expired.

The learners can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2025 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in). The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online->Re-registration" on IGNOU website home page. In case any learner has forgotten his/her User ID or password or has changed the registered mobile number at later stages and is not able to log in to re-register, he/she must approach the Regional Centre or drop a mail on [rcjammu@ignou.ac.in](mailto:rcjammu@ignou.ac.in) with the request to reset the password.

In case online payment made by any learner does not get updated, do not make the second payment immediately. Learners must

wait for a day, check the payment status and then decide further course of action. Learners are advised not to wait for the last date for submission of re-registration form since the servers get heavily overloaded towards the last date of online submission due to huge rush. "Learners must exercise due caution in making online transactions and as far as possible must use their own card/net banking to make payment and in case the learners are using third-party services (cybercafé or some other outlet) for submission of re-registration form, they must ensure that the courses have been correctly chosen and payment of programme fee has been made successfully. Do not forget to obtain a printout of the form submitted and payment confirmation", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.



## Border-Gavaskar Trophy: KL keeps batting line-up a closely guarded secret

ADELAIDE, Dec 5 (Agencies): KL Rahul has refused to divulge the makeup of India's opening partnership for the second Test against Australia amid speculation that he will drop down the order to make way for returning captain Rohit Sharma.

Rohit missed India's comprehensive victory in the series opener in Perth to care for his newborn baby in Mumbai but has since joined the squad ahead of the pink-ball Test at Adelaide Oval, which begins on Friday.

Rahul filled in for Rohit at the top of the order at Perth Stadium and forged a 201-run opening stand with Yashashvi Jaiswal to put India on course for victory.

With Rohit scoring just one fifty in his last 10 Test innings, India may be tempted to retain the opening combination from Perth



and slot Rohit into the middle order instead.

Rahul knows where he will play but was keeping his cards close to his chest.

"I have been told but I have also been told not to share it," the 32-year-old said, sporting a mischievous smile.

"You'll have to wait for Day 1 or when captain comes here

tomorrow," added the right-hander, whose 77 in Perth was crucial to India's big second-innings total.

Rahul said the only thing that mattered to him was that he is in the starting line-up.

"I just want to be in the playing 11, go out there and bat and play for the team," he said. "Early on, when I was asked to bat at dif-

ferent positions, it was a bit of a challenge mentally. How to play those first 20-25 balls? What shots can I play? How early can I attack? How much I needed to be cautious? Now that I have played ODIs and Tests all over the place, it has given me an idea as to how I need to manage my innings."

has yet to play a Day-Night Test match and has therefore turned to some of his teammates for advice on how to handle a swinging pink ball under the lights.

"This will be my first pink-ball Test match, so I don't have the game experience like some other players have," he said. "It is just about speaking to the guys who have played and try and understand what are the things that they found hard and how did they manage and if they made any changes."

## Barca back to winning ways



MADRID, Dec 5 (Agencies): Barcelona got back to winning in the Spanish league in style, routing Mallorca 5-1 with a pair of goals by Raphinha.

Ferran Torres, Frenkie de Jong and Pau Victor also scored for Barcelona, who hadn't won in three consecutive league games to allow Real Madrid to inch

closer at the top of the standings. Madrid are now four points back although they have two games in hand.

Torres, who got to start in place of league-leading scorer Robert Lewandowski, opened the scoring in the 12th minute after Mallorca defenders failed to clear an easy ball from inside the area. One

defender tried to kick it away but it ended ricocheting off a teammate to give Ferran an easy shot on goal.

The hosts equalised with Vedat Muriqi in a breakaway just before halftime in what was Mallorca's only shot on target, but Raphinha put Barcelona back in front by converting a 56th-minute penalty kick. He added to the lead in the 74th after a nice assist by Lamine Yamal.

Raphinha now has 11 goals in 16 league games this season. "This is probably my best moment, but I want to do more," Raphinha said. "We knew it was important to win again after three matches in which something was lacking. It wasn't our best match, but it was important to win."

## Hardik Pandya-less Baroda script history, achieve sensational record in T20 cricket

INDORE, Dec 5 (Agencies): Baroda scripted history by posting the highest team total in the history of T20 cricket during their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy encounter against Sikkim on Thursday. Baroda ended up scoring a mammoth 349 for the loss of five wickets and surpassed the previous record held by Zimbabwe (344/4 against Gambia in October 2024). This was also the first time that any team scored more than 300 in the SMAT with the previous highest total being 275/6 by Punjab. Baroda registered this huge total without Hardik Pandya in their side and captain Krunal Pandya not even getting a chance to bat.

Batting first, Baroda were off to a flying start with Shashwat Rawat and Abhimanyu Singh stitching together a 92-run stand for the opening wicket. While Shashwat slammed 43 off just 16 balls, Abhi-

many completed his half-century and scored 53 off 17 deliveries.

It turned out to be the ideal platform for Bhanu Pania who scored an unbeaten 134 off 51 deliveries with the help of 5 fours and 15 sixes. It was a display of pure power as he ended his innings with a strike rate of 262.75 as Sikkim bowlers looked completely helpless against the onslaught.

That was not the end as Shivalik Sharma scored 55 off 17 balls while Vishnu Solanki scored 50 off just 16 balls to take Baroda's score to 349 and register a big record in the shortest format of the sport.

Earlier, India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav smashed 70 off 46 balls in his first appearance in the 2024 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy while Shivam Dube capped his return from a three-month long injury lay-off with a scin-

tillating 37-ball-71 as Mumbai outplayed Services by 39 runs.

Mumbai scored 192 for 4 riding on the 130-run fourth wicket stand between Surya and Dube.

Between the duo, they smashed 11 sixes with Dube enjoying the lion's share. Surya also hit seven boundaries while Dube had a couple of fours to his credit. Surya's hits were primarily on the on-side with one six over long-on, couple towards deep mid-wicket region and one behind square.

Both batters were severe on off-spinner Nitin Tanwar who went for 54 in his four overs.

In reply, Services were all out for 153 in 19.3 overs with Shardul Thakur redeeming himself with figures of 4/25. Left arm spinner Shams Mulani also chipped in with three wickets. Dube won the player of the match award after also getting a wicket.

## Chess World Championship: Killer instinct missing

*After promising opening, Gukesh lets Ding off the hook again to settle for draw*

SINGAPORE, Dec 5 (Agencies): Gukesh D surprises reigning world champion Ding Liren in the opening moves. He gains a winning position but squanders it. Gukesh doesn't accept a draw and chooses a risky line to try to win but fails to go for the kill. This pattern, seen in almost all of the first seven games of the ongoing World Chess Championship in Singapore, repeated itself in Game 8. Yet again, the Indian teenaged challenger to the world title could not deliver the final blow.

Playing with the Black pieces, he surprised Ding on the board and the chess world off the board with another novelty inside 10 moves. Once again, he avoided desperate draw attempts by his opponent but still could not win. After Game 8, the scores are tied at 4 points each. It seems Gukesh will have to bring out some 'Brahmastra' to break the armour of Ding, who continues to hold his fort.



The match heads to a nail-biting finish, and many live commentators confessed they are going to have a heart attack as the tension on the board becomes unbearable with every game and every move.

The players threw several chess principles away in the game. If controlling the four central squares is the soul of chess strategy, both players tossed it aside. And that is not the only basic chess principle they broke. Gukesh captured flank pawns away from the centre while Ding didn't even move his pawns to the centre of the board for a long time. At one point, his rook somehow reached

the central squares in front of the pawns. It looked ugly, and chess coaches would surely cringe at the moves. The rook protects the pawns from behind and could be trapped in the centre. But the Indian Grandmaster could not capitalise on it. At one point, he gave away the advantage to such a degree that he could have lost the game.

Ding, who has remained under pressure in the openings and middle game, chuckled in the post-match conference. "Today, during the game, I didn't realise I was winning at some point," he said.

The most surprising move was No. 7

by Gukesh, when he moved his 'f' pawn to the sixth square. This is considered a sin as it opens a castling wall for the opponent to raid and kill. A post on X by chess website Lichess.org highlights how unusual the move is: "Only 1 (!) out of over 6,000,000,000 rated games ever played on Lichess had the same position after this move." Another website, chess24.com, said this move was not in the top 15 chess engine (computer) moves suggested in the said position.

Ding opened with the English Opening (1.c4), for the first time in the championship match. Gukesh responded with 1.e4 to put up counter-play and was soon rushing through his moves, showing how well-prepared he was. Ding somehow kept finding defensive moves, even earning a compliment from the challenger, "I missed Qe1 (a move that saved the game). It was actually very impressive that my opponent found this move so quickly," he

said. On earning another applause from the viewers at the match venue for not settling for a draw and putting himself in danger, Gukesh said, "The position where I didn't repeat (moves repeated thrice result in a draw), I didn't think I was much in danger. It was just a misjudgement of the position."

Ding has survived for another day, taking the tension and pressure in his stride. "It seems recently every time I play a match, no matter online or over-the-board... it was a very tense match, so it was in my expectations," he said.

Gukesh took a moment in the conference to thank his seconds and his larger team for their preparation. He also mentioned the contribution of his parents, who accompanied him to the venue. Ding smiled when asked about his parents. "She (my mother) wakes me up, and she provides food for me, so she's doing her job," he said.

## Rishabh Pant has taken to Test cricket like a duck to water: Rahul Dravid

MUMBAI, Dec 5 (Agencies): The void left by MS Dhoni's retirement in Indian cricket lineup was quickly filled by Rishabh Pant, who embraced Test cricket like a "duck to water", feels former head coach Rahul Dravid.

The flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter, who returned after surviving a horrific car crash in December 2022, scored a match-winning 89 in the fourth Test at the Gabba and contributed 274 runs throughout the series, playing a key role in India's historic 2-1 triumph in the 2020-21 tour.

"It's hard to imagine that, after Dhoni left, you felt there might be some time for someone to come in and replace him," Dravid told Star Sports.

"I'm not saying he's replaced him, but certainly in Test cricket, his performances have been absolutely sensational, an incredible performance."

"Watching Rishabh there and chasing to get 89 to win that Test match at the Gabba, with everything on the line and such a depleted side, to put in that kind of performance under that kind of pressure - truly sensational... What a special cricketer he's been. He's just taken to Test cricket like a duck to water. It's just phenomenal." Pant's heroics that included two fifties at 68.50 in five innings helped India become the first Asian side to win successive Test series wins Down Under.

In the ongoing five-Test series, the 27-year-old scored a vital 37 off 78 balls in the first innings of the Perth Test, including a remarkable six that lifted India's spirits, helping them recover from 59/5 to 150 all out.

The Jasprit Bumrah-led team then bowled out Australia for 104 and won the match by 295 runs to take a 1-0 lead going into the Ade-

elaide Test beginning on Friday.

While India have dominated Australia lately, Dravid's knock of 233 during the Adelaide Test in 2003 still remains a fan-favourite.

Nostalgia and regrets Reflecting on his knock, Dravid admitted that he still regrets not winning the series.

"I'm grateful for it, but I wouldn't have voted for myself, put it that way. Probably, I've got a lot of recency bias as well," he continued.

I think the way India has performed in Australia over the last two series in particular - winning series there - that counts for a lot.

"However great my performances or India's performances were, we couldn't actually win that series. We came close, but we couldn't get the wickets on the final day in Sydney that we needed.

"The last two teams that have gone to Aus-

tralia have done that, and that's a fantastic achievement - a terrific achievement - and there have been some absolutely sensational performances right through those." Dravid was joined by VVS Laxman when India were reeling at 85/4, especially after the hosts had posted a mammoth 556 in just a day and a half.

Ganguly run-out: My mistake

The 51-year-old reflected on the incident where he had accidentally run out his captain Sourav Ganguly and admitted it was his "mistake".

"I was thinking, 'I've got the captain run out. I better do something meaningful.' It was totally my mistake getting Sourav (Ganguly) run out. I will own up to that one - it was my mistake."

"But, I think you're just trying to bat, you're just trying to build a partnership, you're just trying to get to the target."

## Australia name playing XI for 2nd test against India, make one major change

ADELAIDE, Dec 5 (Agencies): Pacer Scott Boland will replace injured Josh Hazlewood in the upcoming Adelaide Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) against India as Australia skipper Pat Cummins named the playing eleven, as reported by cricket.com.au. The Adelaide Test will be Boland's first match for Australia in the last 18 months. Skipper Cummins also confirmed that Mitchell Marsh will be fit to bowl in the Adelaide Test, according to cricket.com.au. Boland's previous Test was against England in the prestigious Ashes 2023 series. The 35-year-old will be replacing Hazlewood who suffered an injury during the Perth Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

On the other hand, Marsh has been added to the playing eleven even after battling with back stiffness, which stopped him from bowling at full tilt during India's second innings in the Perth Test, as per cricket.com.au.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Cummins said that it's "pretty awesome" to have Scott Boland in the squad.

"It's pretty awesome for someone like Scotty to come straight in," Cummins was quoted by cricket.com.au as saying.

Meanwhile, India are yet to name their playing eleven for the upcoming pink-ball Test. The Adelaide test will kickstart from December 6 onwards, with India heading into the game with a mental and physical edge over the

Aussies who were left devastated by Bumrah's bowling and captaincy during a 295-run loss at Perth's Optus Stadium in the first Test.

However, the visitors would be looking to overcome the ghosts of the 2020 Adelaide pink-ball Test, which saw them being bundled out for their lowest Test score of 36 runs, starting that series on a nightmarish note. Pat Cummins (4/21) and Josh Hazlewood (5/8) had run riot over the Indian line-up in the second innings, getting an easy target of 90 runs to chase.

Australia Playing XI for the Second Test: Usman Khawaja, Nathan McSweeney, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Mitch Marsh, Alex Carey (WK), Pat Cummins (C), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Scott Boland.



## Non-Gazetted police pensioners hold protest, project demands

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: A protest led by Ajit Singh, Chairman of the Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum, was held at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, to address significant grievances of J&K Retired Police Pensioners and Fire Services personnel.

The protest highlighted long-standing issues related to pay anomalies, healthcare, welfare benefits, and recognition of achievements, urging the government to act swiftly and justly.

One of the primary demands raised was the retrospective implementation of Govt. Order No. 229F of 2014. The forum stressed that the pay anomaly correction should be applied from 1996, the year the 5th Pay Commission recommendations were implemented across the state. Unfortunately, the Police Department was excluded from this correction at the time. Many affected personnel have since passed away, and the surviving pen-



sioners deserve to be compensated for the years of injustice.

The protesters also demanded that healthcare facilities for J&K police personnel be brought on par with those provided to paramilitary forces. They called for the introduction of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) card to ensure affordable and accessible medical care for retired police personnel and

their families.

To support the families of police personnel, the forum urged the government to implement a 10% reservation in professional colleges and recruitment processes for their children. This would provide a much-needed boost to the welfare and future of police families. Additionally, they called for the immediate release of pending Dearness Allowance

(DA) installments to help alleviate financial hardships faced by retirees and state employees.

The forum emphasized the need for the state government to adopt the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme for the Police Department, in line with the central government ordinance implemented for the armed forces. Such a move would ensure equitable

treatment for all ranks in their post-retirement benefits.

Another pressing issue raised was the delayed salaries of Special Police Officers (SPOs), which has caused financial strain on these personnel. The forum demanded that SPOs receive their salaries on time and according to a proper schedule. Additionally, they highlighted the achievement of Manpreet Singh, an SPO who won a gold medal in the World Strength Lifting Championship held in Kazakhstan in July 2024. The forum called for his recognition and appropriate rewards to encourage excellence among the force.

The protest shed light on these unresolved issues, urging the J&K government to address them without delay. The demands represent not only financial and professional justice but also the recognition and welfare that these personnel deserve for their dedicated service to the region.

## Basit Abas qualifies Ph.D



### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 5: Basit Abas, son of Mohammad Abas Shah and Aisha Akhter, has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Business by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, J&K.

He completed his research on the topic "Workplace Deviance in Organizational Setups: A Study of Jammu and Kashmir" under the guidance of Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari, Assistant Professor, School of Business, SMVDU, and co-supervision of Prof. V. Srikanth, Professor, Institute of Public Enterprise

(IPE), Hyderabad.

During his research journey, Basit Abas published his work in reputed high-impact journals indexed in ABDC, SSCI/SCI/SCIE, and Scopus, and presented his findings at international conferences.

He expressed his gratitude to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for providing the necessary resources and support for his research.

He also extended heartfelt thanks to the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad, for administering the National Research Fellowship (NRF), significantly supporting his academic endeavors. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU), Dr. Ashutosh Vashistha (Dean, Faculty of Management), Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari (Supervisor, School of Business), and other committee members congratulated Basit Abas on his remarkable achievement and wished him a bright and successful future.

## BJP Govt boosts solar energy revolution with PM Surya Ghar Yojana: Rohiin Chandan



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary and Media Prabhari Jammu South, Rohiin Chandan, has highlighted the BJP government's efforts to promote the generation of electricity from solar energy through the PM Surya Ghar Yojana. This initiative aims to provide a sustainable and environmentally friendly source of energy while also ensuring financial security for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Rohiin Chandan, the "PM Surya Ghar Yojana" offers numerous benefits to households, including significant savings on electricity bills and the opportunity to earn extra income by selling surplus power generated by their rooftop solar systems. The scheme provides subsidies to households to install rooftop solar panels, with the goal of lighting up 1 crore households and providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

In order to further sustainable development and people's wellbeing, Chandan elaborates that PM Modi launched the PM Surya Ghar, known as the Muft Bijli Yojana. This project, with an investment of over

Rs. 75,000 crores, aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month. He stated that let's boost solar power and sustainable progress. I urge all residential consumers of J&K, especially youngsters, to strengthen the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana by applying at pmsuryaghar.gov.in".

Rohiin Chandan praised the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for giving top priority to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the "PM Surya Ghar Yojana" is a testament to the government's commitment to promoting sustainable development and people's well-being.

Rohiin highlights key benefits of PM Surya Ghar Yojana. He said households can receive up to 300 units of free electricity every month. The government provides subsidies to households to install rooftop solar panels, and households can earn extra income by selling surplus power generated by their rooftop solar systems. He emphasized that the scheme promotes the use of renewable energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.

The PM Surya Ghar Yojana is a significant step towards promoting sustainable energy and reducing carbon emissions. With its numerous benefits and subsidies, the scheme is expected to transform the energy landscape of India and improve the lives of its citizens, he said.

## Genocide against Hindus in Bangladesh: PK urges GoI to take immediate, decisive action

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: Dr. Ajay Chrungoo, Chairman of Panun Kashmir, addressed the media at the Press Club Jammu, drawing attention to the escalating genocide against Hindus in Bangladesh and urging the Government of India (GoI) to take immediate and decisive action. He criticized India's passive approach to protecting Hindus globally and warned of the far-reaching implications of continued inaction.

Dr. Chrungoo began by underscoring the collective pain of Kashmiri Hindus, who have been victims of genocide and its continued denial. He stated that their experiences lend them a unique perspective on the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh, who face genocidal attacks in the aftermath of a coup that ousted a democratically elected government. According to Dr. Chrungoo, the Indian state



must not remain a mute spectator to these atrocities, as such passivity diminishes India's global standing and credibility.

Highlighting the broader geopolitical implications, he noted that the developments in Bangladesh—combined with similar anti-India ferment in Maldives and Nepal—reflect a growing trend of disrespect and hostility toward India in its immediate neighborhood. He cautioned that Bangladesh is fast transforming into "East Pakistan," becoming a springboard for jihadist activities and a site of

relentless persecution of Hindus.

Dr. Chrungoo urged the Indian government to go beyond perception management and take concrete steps to protect Hindus in Bangladesh. He called on the GoI to enact an anti-genocide law to prevent and punish genocidal crimes, both within India and globally. He argued that such legislation would reinforce India's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable communities and serve as a deterrent against further persecution.

He also lamented the

GoI's historical inaction during the genocide of Kashmiri Hindus, describing it as a dangerous precedent of disowning Hindus. He warned that the government's credibility and prestige would suffer irreparable damage if it continued to ignore the ongoing genocidal war in Bangladesh. Dr. Chrungoo appealed to the GoI to demonstrate leadership and decisiveness by intervening to restore democracy in Bangladesh and ensure the safety and dignity of Hindus.

In conclusion, Dr. Chrungoo stressed that the people of India are ready to support any measures, including direct intervention, to address the crisis in Bangladesh.

He emphasized that this moment calls for a resolute commitment to protecting Hindus from persecution and reasserting India's role as a defender of human rights and justice worldwide.

## KCPS students shine at Jammu District Wushu Championship 2024



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 5: 40 students of KC Public School participated in the Jammu District Wushu Championship 2024 held at the Khelo India Centre located in Bhagwati Nagar area of the city from December 2 to 4, 2024.

They put up an impressive performance at the competition and bagged a total of 24 medals in various age categories.

They won 6 Gold, 5 Silver and 13 Bronze medals in this prestigious martial arts event

in which a large number of Jammu schools take part.

In a special assembly organized today morning, Principal AK Mishra and Headmistress Sofia Rana congratulated the school Wushu team comprised mostly of children from the Junior Wing of the school for their sterling performance in the district level event and wished them greater success at the next level of competition in this traditional Chinese sports belonging to martial arts group of games.

## PDP demands transparency on Sgr ring road, satellite townships

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 5: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has called on the elected government to provide clarity on the proposed construction of a ring road and satellite townships along the Galander-Pampore-Narabal stretch.

Addressing a press conference, PDP Chief Spokesman Mehboob Beg, raised significant concerns about the project, especially its potential impact on horticultural and agricultural land.

Beg highlighted that a large portion of fertile land would be affected by the project and questioned the purpose of the satellite townships and their intended residents. "We want to know who is going to live in these satellite townships and whether any notice has been given to the people whose lands are being used," he stated.

He urged the government to keep the public informed and address the concerns of those whose livelihoods rely on these lands. The PDP, in its role as an opposition party, stressed the importance of transparency and proper consultation with communities impacted by such large-scale projects.

# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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