

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Drug peddler held with contraband in Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): Srinagar Police has arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

According to police spokesperson, a police party of Police Station Nowhatta during a routine naka checking at Malkha Chowk, Nowhatta intercepted a suspicious person. He has been identified as Sajad Sheikh, son of Baktawar Sheikh, resident of Sheikh Colony, Hawal.

During search, approximately 3.370 kilograms of charas powder-like substance and 20 grams of charas was recovered from his possession and he has been arrested.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 55/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Nowhatta and further investigation initiated, he said.

Police urged the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. They also requested people to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society.

Temperatures settle below freezing point across Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 7: After recording the coldest night of the season, the night temperature improved in Kashmir on Saturday, although it still remained below the freezing point.

The meteorological centre in Srinagar said the Shopian in south Kashmir was the coldest place in the Valley, with the mercury plummeting to minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum of -4.3 degree Celsius.

MeT said that summer capital Srinagar witnessed the minimum temperature of -2 degree Celsius, against minus 4.1 degrees the previous night. Incidentally, on Friday Srinagar had recorded the coldest night of the season so far.

Kashmir's ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a minimum night

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LG pays homage to Armed Forces' Bravehearts, urges people to donate liberally to Armed Forces Flag Day fund



Rajiv

JAMMU, Dec 7 : The Armed Forces Flag Day was observed today in UT of J&K. To mark the occasion, Armed Forces flag was pinned

on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Raj Bhavan. The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude and appreciation by contributing to the "Armed Forces Flag Day Fund"

to honour the bravery and supreme sacrifice of valiant soldiers, sailors and airmen. He said our Armed Forces have always remained in the forefront, ever ready to serve the Nation with

commitment, dedication and ready to render valuable service during natural calamities.

"In Jammu Kashmir, the Army has been playing a crucial role in combating terrorism and providing a secure environment for people, particularly those who live along the borders and in the remote and far-flung areas of the Union Territory.

With the immense contribution of our armed forces, we have entered a historic fast-track path of socio-economic growth and working with

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One killed, another injured in road accident in Reasi



JAMMU, Dec 7 (Agencies): One person was killed and another injured when a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Official sources said that an Eeco vehicle (JK20B 2493), on way from Tharal towards Shikari, skidded off the road and rolled about 200-feet off the road/embankment in Mahore

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Union Cabinet approves 13 new Kendriya Vidyalayas for J&K

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Centre has approved establishment of 13 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Jammu and Kashmir to improve access to education in the region, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said today.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, has approved opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under civil/defence sector across the country and expansion of one existing KV," read an official handout.

The new KVs will be set up in Gool, Ramban, Bani and Ramkote in Kathua district, Reasi and Kakriyal Katra, Mughal Maidan (Kishtwar), Gulpur (Poonch), Vijaypur (Samba), and Panchari (Udhampur).

In the Kashmir valley, the KVs will be established in Drugmulla (Kupwara), Ratnipora,

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Cow smuggling threatens public order, observes J&K High Court

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): While upholding the preventive petition of a man accused of cattle smuggling, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has observed that cow smuggling hurts religious sentiments of one community and also threatens public order.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi observed that the alleged activities (cattle smuggling) of the detinue - one Shakeel Mohd - not only poses a law and order problem but would be a threat to the maintenance of public order in the area, reported Bar and Bench.

"Bovine animals include cows and calves and their illegal smuggling is always viewed by one community only for the purpose of slaughter and, there-



fore, there is a feeling amongst the people belonging to such community, that the activity hurts their religious sentiments," the court said. It, therefore, opined that the detinue's preventive detention was justified.

"The activities of the detinue, against whom number of FIRs stand registered for illegal smuggling of bovine animals, have the potential to disturb even tempo of

current life of the community and not only poses law and order problem but would also be a threat to the maintenance of public order in the area," the Court said.

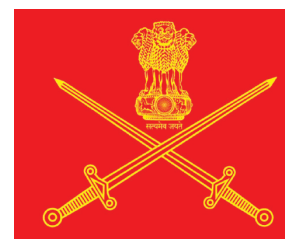
Shakeel was detained under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act in March, 2024. His mother later filed a petition on his behalf to challenge his preventive detention on various grounds.

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Army pays tribute to rifleman Jaswinder Singh who sacrificed his life in line of duty

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Indian Army paid tribute and offered their condolences to braveheart Rifleman Jaswinder Singh who laid down his life in the line of duty in Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking to its official handle, the Indian Army posted on X, "Gen-



eral Upendra Dwivedi COAS and All Ranks of the Indian Army salute the supreme sacrifice

of braveheart Rifleman Jaswinder Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty in Jammu and Kashmir."

"Indian Army offers its deepest condolences and stands firm with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," read the post.

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Groom from Dubai duped after 'Instagram bride' goes missing on wedding day



PUNJAB, Dec 7 (Agencies): In a bizarre case, a groom from Dubai was left stranded after arriv-

ing with a bazaar of 150 guests to marry his "Instagram bride," who went missing on the wedding

day. Deepak, a 24-year-old labourer from Dubai, had met Manpreet Kaur on Instagram three years ago. The couple had been in a 'relationship' since and had even fixed their wedding over the phone.

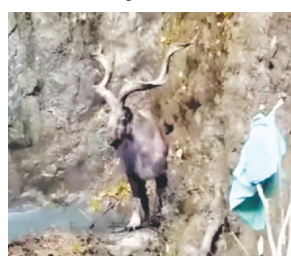
December 6 was set as the wedding day for the couple, but things went south when Deepak, along with his large

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Markhor spotted by locals in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Markhor, a wild goat with spiral-shaped horns, was seen in a rare appearance in Noorkha village of Boniyar in Baramulla district of North Kashmir on Saturday morning, officials said.

An official said that locals spotted the animal near a waterfall



in Noorkha, and soon alerted the authorities, following which a team of police and wildlife offi-

cials visited the spot. He said that this rare species has been spotted in the area for the first time. "It may have crossed over from the other side of the border," he speculated.

The official said that efforts are on to catch the animal to ensure its safety. Locals have been

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Gupshup

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

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

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

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound sorrow and grief, we inform you about the sad demise of our uncle **Shri Triloki Nath Aga** at our residence H.No. 21 & 22, Kailash Vihar Phase-1st Gole Gujral Camp Road, Talab Tillo Bohri, Jammu on 4-12-2024. **10th Day Kriya** on 13-12-2024 will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education at 10 AM.



SHRI TRILOKI NATH AGA

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Nancy Aga - Wife
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Jagar Nath Aga & Smt. Pushpa Aga
Sh. Jawahar Lal Aga & Smt. Shyama Aga
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Phoola Bhat & Lt. Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Ajay Aga & Smt. Archana Aga
Grand Children: Aavishi & Pavit

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **S. Paramjeet Singh (Goldy)** S/o Late Gurbachan Singh R/o Ward No 1 Main Bazar Sunder Bani Aarambh **Shri Akhand Path Sahib** is on 06-12-2024 at 9:00 AM at their residence. **Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** is on 08-12-2024 at 09:30 AM at their residence.



S. Paramjeet Singh (Goldy)

Antim Ardas

will be performed at Gurdwara Singh Sahib Sunder Bani on 08-12-2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Manmeet Kour Mittu -**Wife**
Harshjot Singh -**Son**
Gurjot Kour -**Daughter**
Inderjeet Singh (Sonu) & Gurmeet Kour (**Brother and Sister-in-law**)
Jatinder Kour & Kawaljeet Singh (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)
M/S Goldy Ornaments Sunderbani
Sonu Gold Smith
Manjot Jewellers
Mob. 9419625383, 7006807060

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: 7006234106, 9419188045, 9419125787

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, Bajji, Jija-Sahab (originally Gurguri Mohalla Aikadai/Broadway Shivpora Srinagar, presently at Vitar Mumbai) on 30th November, 2024 at 3.15 PM. The Cremation was performed on 02.12.2024 at 10 am at Cremation Ground Vitar Mumbai. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Bhayander Ghat Mumbai on Monday, 09.12.2024 at 09.00 am.



Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo

Grief Stricken

Tickoo's, Pandita's, Kau's, Bhat's, Kashkari's, Mattoo's, Dhar's, Babu's, Razdan's, Muju'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

TENTH DAY KRIYA (REMINDER)

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Karamyogi 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. The **MOURNING** is held at community Hall near temple Lane No 23, Jagti Nagrota Jammu.



Smt. Kamla Wati

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. Shubam Lal & Smt. Lalita Pandita
Lt. Chuni Lal & Smt. Reeta Pandita
Sh. Ramesh Kumar & Smt. Lovely Devi
Sh. Satish Kumar & Smt. Simple
Smt. Asha 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, Neesha, Kunalwar, Reshan
CONTACT: 7051978217, 94692 31236, 9872644258

MASWAR AND VAHARVAR

Maswar and Vaharvar on 7th and 8th December 2024 respectively.

It has been One Year since you left us physically for the heavenly abode leaving behind cheerful memories. We will always feel presence around us and miss you. Your noble soul will rest in peace and pray to Almighty for your Moksha in Vaikunth.



Karamyogi Late Smt. Kamla Tikku

Maswar and Vaharvar of Karamyogi Late Smt. Kamla Tikku W/o Late. Omkar Nath Tikku. Shalla kadal 2nd Bridge Srinagar, Kashmir at present 28 'A' Extension 2nd, Gandhinagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Tikku's , Koul's , Gigoo
Mobile No- 9205829814, 9419242684, 7006383285

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **SH. SURAJ PRAKASH BADYAL S/O LATE SH. RAM RATTAN BADYAL** on 29th November 2024.



SURAJ PRAKASH BADYAL

TENTH DAY will be performed on 8th Dec, 2024 (Sunday) at our residence ANAND RATNAKAR, PURKHOO at 11:00 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 9th Dec, 2024 (Monday) at our residence ANAND RATNAKAR, PURKHOO at 1:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:
BADYAL PARIVAR PURKHOO
(9796963535, 9541640266, 9419184412, 9469212043)

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Miss Khushi Anand**, who passed away to his heavenly abode on 26 November 2024.



Miss Khushi Anand

Uthala will be held on 08/12/2024, Sunday.

Timing 3:00-4:00 pm at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:

Sh. Daljeet Kumar Anand -Father (Law Dept. MACT Court Jammu)
Mrs. Asha Rani Anand -Mother
Nanke & Dadke
9086274052, 7006381393

OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved brother **Sh. Kanya Lal Koul** S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Koul originally resident of Khah Bazar, Anantnag, has left for his heavenly abode on 5th December, 2024 at his Jammu residence H. No. 125, Wazir Bagh, Surya Vihar, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Jammu.



Sh. Kanya Lal Koul

Mourning as per his wishes will be observed for 4 days only & 4th day ritual will be performed on 08th December, 2024 (Sunday) at his residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Hari Krishen Koul (**Brother**)
Sh. Chaman Lal Koul (**Brother**)
Sh. Hira Lal Koul & Smt. Rajni Koul (**Brother & Sister-in-law**)
Smt. Vijay Bhat (**Sister**)
Smt. Nancy Koul (**Sister**)
Smt. Basanti & Sh. Ashok Koul (**Sister & Brother-in-law**)
Sh. Ashu Koul & Smt. Meenakshi Koul (**Son & Daughter-in-law**)
Samast Koul Parivaar
Contact No. : 9419137115, 9810897453

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Bilma Bakshi (Bullo)** W/o Lt. Sh. Manohar Lal R/o H.No. 118, Sector No.6, Lane No.10, Narak Nagar, Jammu, expired on 28-11-2024.



SMT. BIMLA BAKSHI (BULLO)

TENTH DAY will be performed on 07-12-2024 (Saturday) at our home at 11 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 08-12-2024 (Sunday) at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 11-12-2024 (Wednesday) at Ram Mandir, Sector-8 Narak Nagar, Jammu from 4 PM - 5PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Ashok Vaid & Smt. Munisha Vaid
Sh. Ravi Bakshi & Smt. Veena Bakshi
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sh. Ajal Mehta & Smt. Reeta Mehta
Grand Children: Manita Vaid, Palak Bakshi, Akshay Vaid, Raghu Vaid
Contact No: 8082150317, 6005178315

OBITUARY

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



MOTI LAL ZUTSHI (PNB)

The **Mourning** will be held at A-1002 Godrej Aqua, Hoshalli, Bengaluru.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 8th Dec, 2024 (Sunday) at Yediyuru Vadka Kendra Jayanagar Bengaluru at 1 PM.

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

Samast Zutshi Parivaar of Anantnag
Bhat Parivaar of Sagam
Koul Parivaar of Vessu & Pampore
Bakshi & Razdan Parivaar of Ang.
Mobile: 8377069002, 9682110219

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Maya Devi** W/o Late (Sh) Rattan Lal Kotwal R/o Udrana Bhaderwah, who left us for her heavenly abode on 28th November 2024.



SMT MAYA DEVI

TENTH DAY will be performed on 7th Dec, 2024 (Saturday) at our residence, Udrana, Bhaderwah at 9:00 AM.

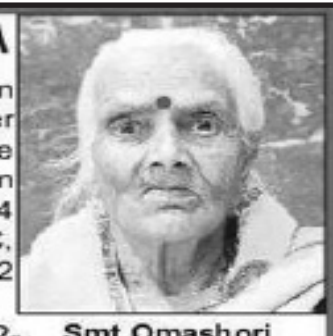
KRIYA will be performed on 11th Dec, 2024 (Wednesday) at our residence at 01:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Suman Kotwal & Smt. Kamlesh Kotwal
Sh. Sudhir Kotwal & Smt. Uttama Kotwal
Sh. Susheel Kotwal & Smt. Sapna Kotwal
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Sudha Kotwal & Sh. Vipin Kotwal
Smt. Anu Radha & Sh. Ranesh Kotwal
Smt. Manu Rani & Bikram Singh Mahasha
Brothers & Sister-in-law
Smt. Dayawanti Kotwal W/o Late (Sh) Kishori Lal Kotwal
Sh. Karar Singh Kotwal
All Nephews and Nieces, All Grandsons and Granddaughters
Grand Daughter and Grandson-in-law

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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Raina** R/o Maitan, Anantnag, A/P Flat No 08, Block No 147, lane No 23, Jagti 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 Ravesh Muzsa (**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 revered Father **Sh. Piaray Lal Koul (Bobu Ji)** S/o Late Shamboo Nath Koul erstwhile resident of Batagund Hardwara at present Flat No. 102, Shagarga Apartments, second Vigan 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 Shankar Mandir New Palm Vihar, Block T Sector 10B, Gurgaon at 8:00 am. Assembly will be held at Vigan Garden residence at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Asha Koul W/o Late Sh. D.K. Koul - **Sister-in-law**
T.K. Koul & Gulji Koul - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
K.K. Koul & Shanta Koul - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
G.J. Koul and Asha Koul - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
S.K. Koul and Sunita Koul - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
R.K. Koul and Veena 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. Lalita Ganoo - **Sister**
Grand Children and Great Grand Children
Ph. No.: 7780991497, 8800186309

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BJP pays floral tributes to Ch. Piara Singh in Shradhanjali Sabha



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP organized a heartfelt Shradhanjali Sabha at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to honor the memory of Ch. Piara Singh, former MLA and veteran BJP leader. The event, attended by the family members of Ch. Piara Singh and hundreds of party leaders, saw a packed hall reflecting the deep respect and admiration for the late leader.

Sat Sharma, J&K BJP President, hailed Ch. Piara Singh as a towering figure whose

exemplary life balanced familial, social, and political responsibilities. He emphasized Singh's dedication to promoting deserving individuals for the betterment of the party and society.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), highlighted Ch. Piara Singh's unwavering commitment to social activism and public welfare throughout his life. He noted that Singh's legacy of selfless service continues to inspire.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Singh's son, recounted his father's struggles after losing his own father early in life and

how he emerged as a leader opposing anti-Jammu politics. He praised his father's leadership in associations like the Jat Sabha and Motor Transport bodies. Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP, shared instances of Ch. Piara Singh's concern for society, even during his final days.

Er. Ghulam Ali Khattana, MP (Rajya Sabha), lauded Singh's clear vision for public welfare, while Ravinder Raina, former J&K BJP President, admired his bold yet endearing nature.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta reflected on Singh's

political contributions, urging leaders to emulate his working style.

Other speakers, including Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Salath, Chandar Prakash Ganga, Sunil Sethi, Baldev Billa-waria, Suresh Jamwal, and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, praised Ch. Piara Singh for his bold initiatives, dedication to the welfare of the poor, and leadership within the Jat community.

The event concluded with tributes celebrating Ch. Piara Singh's legacy as a true leader and a champion of the underprivileged.

Director Horticulture flags off farmer exposure visit-cum-training programme in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Director Horticulture Jammu Chaman Lal Sharma flagged off a within-state Exposure visit-cum-Training programme, featuring the participation of 150 farmers, including a significant number of female participants. The event commenced from the office of the Chief Horticulture Officer, Jammu, in the presence of Joint Director Horticulture Jammu Vikas Anand, Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Rakesh Kotwal, Dean Horticulture SKUAST Jammu Dr Vikas Tandon, DLSMS Pomology Jammu Sandeep Gupta, DMPP Jammu Abdul Hamid and Horticulture Development Officer Amit Saraf.

Addressing the farmers before

their departure, the Director Horticulture underscored the pivotal goals of the programme. "This initiative aims to familiarize farmers with the latest technologies and practices adopted by the horticulture department to enhance fruit production quality. Furthermore, it seeks to educate unemployed youth and trainees on opportunities in establishing small-scale fruit processing units to produce value-added products," the Director stated. The programme also emphasizes the promotion of hi-tech polyhouses for cultivating off-season fruits, vegetables, and flowers — a strategy designed to secure better market returns for farmers, significantly increasing their incomes while generat-

ing employment for others in the region.

Chief Horticulture Officer Rakesh Kotwal highlighted the value of exposure visits in equipping farmers and unemployed youth with innovative horticultural practices and entrepreneurial strategies. "By adopting advanced technologies and establishing small-scale processing units, participants can not only boost their income but also create employment opportunities within their communities," Kotwal remarked.

A special focus of the programme is the empowerment of women farmers. Female participants were encouraged to explore entrepreneurial ventures in horticulture, contributing to their economic independence and strengthening the role of women in the agricultural sector.

Over the course of the visit, participants will tour various Demonstration Sites, Hi-tech fruit plant nurseries, processing units and engage with horticultural experts to gain hands-on experience. These interactions are designed to enhance capacity building among farmers and trainees, enabling them to adopt advanced practices in fruit cultivation, processing, and marketing.

'Infiltration, smuggling will end' Border fencing of 50 Rajouri villages on LoC a great initiative by Army: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: "Indian Army's initiative to fence over 50 border villages located on the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri will not only end infiltration but also rule out any possibility of smuggling of arms, ammunition, drugs, and other contraband.

This fencing work, started at the behest of the Ministry of Defence, will also end the woes of border villagers who used to find it hard to live because of infiltrators seeking forced sheltering in their homes, which now will not be possible."

This was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri, who said that prior to the year 2003, Pakistan used to resort to indiscriminate firing to stop fencing work but now

that the Indian Army and the Ministry of Defence have resolved to go ahead with the work firmly, guns have fallen silent and the border people are happy to see their villages getting permanent protection.

This fencing will also increase the accessibility of local administration, and people too will be able to move in their villages safely without fear of militants hiding in their homes.

Raman Suri said that this fencing is also going to increase border tourism as the administration and the Army are mooting out plans to open these villages for tourists, who can even stay in the homes of villagers and experience a new life. Now that the work in more than fifty percent of the villages is almost complete, it is likely that border people

will get tourists visiting them soon. Earlier, Army used to help villagers and provided them with amenities but after fencing, now administration will ensure that all amenities are provided in the villages.

This, Raman Suri said, will also lessen the burden on the Army and increase the involvement of local administration, which is a healthy sign of normalcy and able administration.

The BJP leader said that earlier, people used to move with passes and relatives of the villagers also used to face hardships, but now they won't need any pass and will be able to move freely. Their relatives, he added, will also be able to visit villages comfortably as the entire area will be under surveillance and fencing will not enable any infiltra-

tor to come and stay in border villages.

This is what all previous governments and the Centre couldn't do which, Raman Suri said, the BJP government did in record time and provided people with great relief.

Raman Suri lauded the decision of the Ministry of Defence and said that only the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi can take such tough decisions in the large interest of general public and to safeguard our nation from infiltrators, smugglers and anti-national elements, which now will not be able to infiltrate or do mischievous activities on borders.

All such small yet important decisions, he added, are going to bring complete peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir in days to come.

National Training Centre 'Nissan Academy' launched

Top News Report

JAMMU, CHANDIGARH, Dec 7: Nissan Motor India (NMIPL) has announced the launch of its first state-of-the-art National Training Centre – Nissan Academy, located at the Alliance JV plant in Chennai. The academy will enhance the skills and capabilities of Nissan's dealership and service staff network across India, reinforcing Nissan's commitment to delivering an exceptional customer experience. Inaugurated by Frank Torres, DVP AMIEO & President, Nissan India Operations, the 10,500-square-foot training facility is designed to provide top-tier educational and training experiences across sales, technical maintenance, and body shop services for all Nissan Motor India dealership teams.

The Nissan Academy features an advanced mechanical workshop for hands-on training in vehicle repair, diagnostics, and aggregate overhauling. Additionally, it boasts a state-of-the-art body shop equipped with upgraded equipment and resources, offering training in a wide range of repair and

maintenance techniques. This initiative will provide Nissan's dealership teams with practical, high-quality training, aimed at enhancing customer service excellence across Nissan's pan-India network.

Over 1,000 technicians can be trained in a year at this academy, a key part of Nissan's commitment to strengthening and expanding its dealership network and ensuring the highest standard of service across India.

Frank Torres, Divisional Vice President-AMIEO Region Business Transformation & President-Nissan India Operations, said, "The opening of the Nissan Academy - National Training Centre in Chennai marks a significant step in our commitment to delivering innovation and excellence in customer service to the Indian customers. By investing in the development of our dealership teams, we aim to ensure that our customers receive unmatched service quality and experience. This training facility will support our ongoing efforts to drive excellence in customer experience and satisfaction."

ENIT NO. 14-JJM OF 2024-25 DATED 02-12-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 14-JJM OF 2024-25 Dated: 02-12-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, invitees-tender from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/ registered in DIC or any other state Government for below mentioned work at Water Supply scheme of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the works	Estimated cost (lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money deposit	Bid Validity	Time of completion of work (days)
1	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical machinery along with allied works at WSS Matta Pochal under JJM.	As per ANNE XURE-I to this biddocum ent	Rs. 500/-	2% of the estimated cost (in case of non-registered firms) Or 1% of the estimated cost (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	180 days	As per ANNE EXURE-I to this biddocum ent.

Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of T.S : Sanctioned

The tendering authority is Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical

ENIT NO. 14-JJM OF 2024-25 DATED 02-12-2024

Division Udhampur.

ENIT NO. 14-JJM OF 2024-25 DATED 02-12-2024

CRITICAL DATES:

i	Publish Date	03-12-2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
ii	Document Download Start Date	03-12-2024 (15:30 Hrs.)
iii	Clarification Start date	05-12-2024
iv	Clarification End date	07-12-2024
iv	Bid submission Start date	03-12-2024
v	Bid submission End date	16-12-2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
vi	Date of Bid opening	17-12-2024 (11:00 AM onwards)

- Bid documents can be accessed & downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the biddocum ent from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur. Bids must be accompanied cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.

- The cost of tender documents should be in form of Treasury challan / e-Challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215-WSS (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Udhampur bearing bank account No. **0028010200000091**, IFSC code **JAKA0UDMPUR** in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur

- Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
 - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
 - "Experience certificate of having successfully completed or substantially completed one similar work during last seven years ending last day of the month previous to the one in which tenders are invited".
 - Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with according

ENIT NO. 14-JJM OF 2024-25 DATED 02-12-2024

ly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

7. Other details can

be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

- Queries by email if any should be made at eephemudr@gmail.com.

No. JSPHEM/UDHR/2023-24/3037-50
Dated: 02-12-2024

DIP/J-7787/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change refers to significant changes in global or regional climate patterns, especially those that occur over an extended period of time. In modern discussions, it most often refers to the rise in global temperatures, mainly caused by human activities. This increase is largely due to the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O), which trap heat and cause the Earth's average temperature to rise. This phenomenon, often referred to as global warming, is a key aspect of climate change.

The scientific consensus on climate change is well-established. Multiple studies, including reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), demonstrate that human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, have significantly accelerated the warming of the planet. Deforestation, industrial agriculture, and other human-driven changes to land use further contribute to the problem by reducing the Earth's ability to absorb carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The evidence of climate change is visible across the globe, from melting ice caps and rising sea levels to more frequent and severe weather events, such as droughts, hurricanes, and heatwaves. Climate change is vast and multifaceted. One of the most significant impacts is the alteration of weather patterns. As temperatures rise, some regions are experiencing more intense heatwaves, while others are seeing more frequent and severe storms. In some areas, there is an increase in rainfall, leading to flooding, while other regions are becoming drier, resulting in severe droughts and the loss of water resources. These weather extremes affect agriculture, wildlife, and human populations, with vulnerable groups facing the worst consequences.

Another critical climate change is the rising sea levels caused by the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. As ice melts, the volume of water in the oceans increases, which threatens coastal regions with flooding and erosion. This process is particularly concerning for low-lying islands and densely populated coastal cities around the world. Additionally, warmer oceans contribute to the intensification of tropical storms, making them more destructive when they make landfall.

The impacts of climate change also affect biodiversity and ecosystems. Many species are being pushed beyond their tolerance limits due to changing temperatures and habitat destruction. Coral reefs, for example, are experiencing widespread bleaching due to warmer ocean temperatures. This not only threatens marine life but also disrupts the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on healthy oceans for food and income. In terrestrial ecosystems, forests and grasslands are experiencing shifts in vegetation and wildlife patterns, often leading to declines in biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Furthermore, climate change poses significant social challenges. Disruptions to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, along with the increased frequency of extreme weather events, result in economic losses. Many communities, especially those in developing countries, lack the resources to adapt to these changes, exacerbating poverty and inequality. Climate-induced displacement is also a growing concern, with millions of people becoming environmental refugees as they flee from areas affected by drought, flooding, or sea-level rise.

The global response to climate change has been increasingly urgent. In 2015, the Paris Agreement marked a pivotal moment in international climate policy. Under this accord, nearly every country in the world committed to limiting global warming to well below 2°C, with efforts to keep it below 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this goal, countries pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. While the Paris Agreement has spurred action, it is clear that ambitious and urgent efforts are needed to meet these targets and prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

The transition to renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, is a key strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, energy efficiency, carbon capture technologies, and sustainable agriculture practices are essential to curbing emissions. Governments, businesses, and individuals all have roles to play in addressing climate change. Policies that promote sustainable development, clean energy, and environmental conservation, alongside efforts to reduce consumption and waste, can make a significant difference.

In conclusion, climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Its impacts are wide-reaching, affecting everything from weather patterns to food security, ecosystems, and global economies. The good news is that solutions are available, and the momentum for action is growing. By reducing emissions, adopting sustainable practices, and working together on a global scale, we can mitigate the worst effects of climate change and protect the planet for future generations. However, urgent action is needed to ensure a livable world for all.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated every year on December 7 and the day has a special importance for not only the defense /armed forces but for the countrymen as well. The day is celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm. The Armed Forces Flag Day or the Flag Day of India is a day dedicated to honoring the soldiers and veterans of India's armed forces. It has been observed annually in India on December 7 since 1949. Immediately after India achieved independence, a need arose for the government to manage the welfare of its defense forces personnel. On August 28, 1949, a committee set up under the defense minister decided to observe a Flag Day annually on December 7. The idea behind observing a Flag Day was to distribute small flags to general population and in return collect donations. Flag Day gains more significance as it considers that it is the responsibility of the civilian population of India to take care of the families and dependents of the armed forces personnel who fight for the country. The Flag of the Indian Armed Forces is similar to that of the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense, first utilized in 1956, and is a common color scheme in British-aligned territories, used by fellow Commonwealth nations including Cyprus, Kenya and Nigeria. The Flag Day serves to promote three basic causes which are as follows: 1-Rehabilitation of battle casualties 2-Welfare of serving personnel and their families and 3-Resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. On this important occasion funds are collected from the people through distribution of flags and the money so collected is used for the welfare of army and their families. It is the time for Indian's to express its gratitude and appreciation to the current and veteran military person-

nel of India and to acknowledge those who died in service to the country. On the Flag Day all three branches of the Indian forces, the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy, arrange a variety of shows, carnivals, dramas and other entertainment programmes to showcase to general public the efforts of their personnel to ensure national security. Throughout the country small flags and car flags in red, deep blue and light blue colors representing the three services are distributed in return for donations. The original Flag Day Fund was set up in 1949, by the Defense Minister's Committee. In 1993, the Defense Minister of India consolidated related welfare funds into single Armed Forces Flag Day fund. Those funds include— Amalgamated Special Fund for War Bereaved, War Disabled and other ex-servicemen /serving personnel. 2 Flag Day Fund 3-St Dunstan's -India and Kendriya Sainik Board Fund. 4-Indian Gorkha EX -Servicemen's Welfare Fund. The fund collection is managed by the local arms of the Kendriya Sainik Board -KSB, which is part of the Ministry of Defense. The collection is organized both by official and non-official means through voluntary organizations. Though welfare of the ex-servicemen and their dependents is the responsibility of the union government, and the governments of states and UT's, majority of the problems have to be resolved only by the states and UT's. Like the Kendriya Sainik Board at the centre, the Rajya /Zila Sainik Boards are responsible for policy formulation and implementation of resettlement and welfare schemes for ex-servicemen, widows and their dependents residing in their respective states/UT's /Districts. To assist the central government in this regard, there are 32 Rajya Sainik Boards and 392 Zila Sainik Boards in the country. The Secretary KSB advises the Department of Sainik welfare in the states/UT's on the policies for

resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen, widows and seeks reports from the Director, Department Sainik Welfare /Secretary RSB and Zila Sainik welfare officer/Secretary ZSB, on implementation of policies and success in resettling ex-servicemen, widows, disabled personnel invalidated out from the Service and their departments. Advise is also rendered on the welfare schemes required for the clientele, which are financed from funds allotted by the governments of states/UT's and the Amalgamated Special funds. The Fund is operated by a Managing Committee presided over by the Defense Minister at the centre and by the executive heads of the governments in states and UT's. When the Armed Forces Flag Day programme was introduced, the fund collection was managed in such a way that the Central KSB headquarters is given only a very small share of the Flag Day Fund collections made by each state. The allotted funds for KSB is only half a paisa per individual in the state. The primary objective of Armed Forces Flag Day is to honor the sacrifices and dedication of the Indian Armed Forces Personnel. The objective is also to generate funds for the welfare of families of martyrs, ex-servicemen, and disabled soldiers. Objective also includes to foster a sense of responsibility among citizens to support their defenders. Armed Forces Flag Day is all about paying tribute to the members of the armed forces, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force, who selflessly dedicated their lives to safeguarding the country's freedom and peace and so protect its borders. A horizontal tricolor of red, navy blue and sky blue represent the army, navy and air forces of India. As already pointed above since 1949, 7th December is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day throughout the country to honor the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought and continue

to fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honor. Soldiers are one of the greatest assets of any country. They are the guardians of the nation and protect its citizens at all costs. To fulfill their duties, soldiers have sacrificed a lot of things in their lives. The country is forever indebted to these gallant heroes who lay down their lives in the service towards the motherland. It is our duty to not only show our admiration for the martyrs and the living heroes who were wounded while doing their duties but also their families who have been a crucial part of this sacrifice. Apart from government measures at the Centre and state level, it is the collective duty of every citizen of our country to make his/her unstinted and voluntary contribution towards providing care, support, rehabilitation and financial aid. Flag Day brings to the forefront our commitment of looking after our war disabled soldiers, Veer Naris and the families of Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country. The citizens should contribute generously for the welfare of the soldiers, their families, widows, Veer Naris and disabled soldiers as well as for their resettlement and rehabilitation. Let us join hands to celebrate the auspicious occasion with dedication so that welfare of the soldiers, their families and widows is ensured. All of us should contribute for making the Armed Forces Flag Day a success as we are indebted towards the armed forces and should try to repay the debt by contributing towards Armed Forces Flag Day. Jai Hind, Jai Jawan.

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

Of gaps in history; and a remarkable absence of graffiti in India's big cities

By: Farrukh Dhondy

On my recent sojourn of several Indian cities -- Mumbai, Bengaluru, Goa, Delhi and the city of eternal selfies, Agra, I noted, a couple of categorical absences -- pause and cause for thought.

The first notable absence in all these cities is that of graffiti on vacant spaces. None. Yes, there were commissioned pictures on the city walls, some possibly attempting to give pictorial expression to the supposed soul of the city, others historically or simply decoratively striking. Try London, Berlin or any Western city where every inch of available space, even the sides of bridges which one would imagine were impossible to access, plastered with names, abuse, crude slogans, undecipherable (to me and other non-members of some fraternity) codes and messages. They are all assertive in one sense or the other. It was Norman Mailer who first wrote a paean to graffiti in the magazine Esquire, calling it a tide of urban art. Mailer calls himself the Aesthetic Investigator (A-I) and his second paragraph reads thus: "A-I is talking to CAY 161. That is the famous CAY from 161 Street, there at the beginning with TAKI 183 and JUNIOR 161, as famous in the world of wall and subway graffiti as Giotto may have

been when his name first circulated through the circuits of those workshops which led through Masaccio to Piera Della Francesca to Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael. Whew! In such company CAY loses all name although he will not necessarily see it that way..." "Whew!" indeed. I recall that I read Mailer's ramblings in 1974 but at the time didn't consider sending that paragraph and, in the same vein, the rest of the article to the satirical British fortnightly Private Eye which runs a column called "Pseud's Corner" and solicits pretentious quotes from readers who may have come across and noted them. At the time, in my short and happy innocence, I regarded Mailer as one of my literary heroes and publicly labelling it "pseudery" would have been the deepest sacrilege. But... one grows up?

It is of course said that CAY and perhaps all the others who put their imprimatur on walls, on gravestones, on railway carriages parked in the sidings of railroad territory, on the sides of elevated highways and the girders of rail and road bridges, do so to mark out gang territory. It's the sort of thing dogs do on lampposts to claim them. I must admit, gentle reader, that I have always been intrigued as to how and

when graffiti of this sort -- or any non-commissioned sort -- is done. It's obvious that it's done at night when the streets and railway sidings and bridges are quiet and deserted. But how and even why do the grafitos (is that the proper word? Though I have heard them (called "taggers") brave heights and detection to do it? Yes, they mark their territory and some of them declare their affections and most of them do it in an internationally uniform black font. How did this almost mandatory graffiti font spread from one continent to the other? Despite Mailer's pretentiousness, very little graffiti now appeals as art, though some of the black lettering does give way, in appreciable instances, to illustrative art. In the case of the secretive Banksy, one can even see its distinctiveness and emotional appeal -- a girl flies a balloon as a symbol of hope or aspiration perhaps? So, why then is there no amateur graffiti in Indian cities? There certainly are nasty gangs of youth and of the not-so-young but they don't seem compelled to mark out their territory. Perhaps the profits from selling Ganja, or even doctored cocaine, which has been smuggled into the country in condoms shoved up the smugglers' backside, hasn't caused the sort of ter-

ritorial gang-murder that one sees in London, Manchester or New York. Or perhaps the Indian youth regard going out at night and expending the effort on painting graffiti to assert that they were there as unpaid hard work? The professional, commissioned artist grafitos don't do any writing. Even the notices that I used to see in my youth no longer exist. I recall the most prominent in Pune and Chennai (then Poona and Madras) were signs saying COMMIT NO NUISANCE, which didn't mean don't play drums on this spot or paint "Harish loves Ramaswamy" on these walls, but it clearly meant "do not urinate" here. The other absence I noted and take seriously concerns two of the museums that I visited. In the Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Museum's miniature paintings gallery, there were perhaps just one or two of the dominant miniature style of the Mughal period, originals of which dominated the galleries in the past and reproductions of which could be seen in all history books. A gap in history is a gap in national identity? Some erasures, such as renaming The Mall, as the Raj named it, as Mahatma Gandhi Road appear to be just. But pretending that the Brits or the Mughals were never there doesn't.

On Armed Forces Flag Day, nation salutes, strengthens support for armed forces veterans



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: As the nation marks Armed Forces Flag Day today, it is a moment to reflect on the unparalleled service and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces. This day not only celebrates the valour and dedication of those in uniform but also acknowledges the contributions of veterans whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Veterans form the backbone of the Indian Army's rich tradition, their values of discipline and patriotism serving as a guiding light for society. Even after their active service, they remain integral to nation-building, contributing as community leaders, mentors, and role models. Recognising their enduring importance, the Indian Army, in partnership with the Government of India,

has been implementing a series of welfare initiatives to support and empower veterans, Veernaris (widows of soldiers), and their families.

The Indian Army has intensified its efforts to address the needs of veterans and their families, ensuring their welfare and dignity are upheld.

From July 2022 to March 2024, the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) organised outreach activities in 210 locations across the country. These initiatives resolved pension-related and documentation issues for many veterans and widows, ensuring access to benefits. Additionally, guides on welfare schemes were distributed to Veernaris and Next of Kin (NoKs), enhancing awareness about available support.

Modern tools such as the SAMBANDH chatbot, launched in January 2024, have revolutionized grievance redressal for veterans. This WhatsApp-based platform has resolved over 1,789 issues in just 10 months. Similarly, Veerangana & Veterans Sewa Kendra (VSK+), operational since November 2022, has facilitated over 389,000 calls, addressing queries and resolving service tickets efficiently.

Between April 2022 and March 2024, the Indian Army disbursed Rs 121.06 Crores in welfare grants across various categories. This included Rs 80.57 Crores in ex-gratia payments to the families of battle casualties and Rs 32.35 Crores in education grants for over 20,000 children of veterans and Veernaris.

Post-COVID, the Indian Army has redoubled its efforts under the Nari Sashaktikaran initiative. From September 2023 to March 2024, over 3,277 women—including 23 widows—were trained across 21 job roles, fostering economic independence. This initiative continues to expand, with nearly 3,000 women currently enrolled in skill development courses.

Launched in August 2024, Project NAMAN has established SPARSH-enabled facilitation centers for pensioners, with plans to expand from 14 centers today to 100 by 2026. These centers provide critical support to veterans and their families, significantly increasing accessibility to services such as life certificate submissions and pension disbursements.

Fyaz expresses heartfelt gratitude to authorities for sanctioning KV at Gool, Ramban



Top News Report

GOOL, Dec 7: Sheikh Fyaz, a prominent youth leader, today expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the authorities for sanctioning a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Gool and Ramban.

This significant development is a testament to the government's commitment to providing quality education to the students of Gool and Ramban. The Kendriya Vidyalaya will cater to the educational needs

of children from various backgrounds, including those from transferable Central Government employees, Defence and Paramilitary personnel.

Fyaz thanked the authorities for recognizing the importance of education in the region and for taking concrete steps to improve the educational infrastructure. He expressed his optimism that the Kendriya Vidyalaya will provide students with better opportunities and help them excel academically.

Once again, Fyaz expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government for this significant development.

Anantnag police intensifies crackdown on drug trafficking, properties worth Rs. 4.3 crores attached

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Dec 7: In a significant operation against drug trafficking and narcotics-related crimes, Anantnag Police have attached five residential houses and three vehicles, collectively valued at Rs.4.3 crores, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Among the properties seized were houses belonging to individuals linked to multiple NDPS cases, including Reyaz Ahmad Dar, Mohammad Yousuf Reshi, Subzar Ahmad



Mir, Mohammad Shafi Dar, and Abdul Hamid Chopan.

Vehicles, including a Santro, WagonR, and Toyota Corolla, owned by individuals connected to narcotics-related activities, were also attached. This proactive measure aims to dismantle drug trafficking networks and

disrupt their financial operations. By targeting assets, the police seek to deter future illegal activities and emphasize their commitment to creating a drug-free society. Anantnag Police have called upon the public to support their efforts in eradicating this menace and ensuring a safer community.

GDC Budhal organises cleanliness drive



Top News Report

BUDHAL, Dec 7: The NSS and NCC Units of Government Degree College Budhal collaboratively organized an extensive cleanliness drive across the campus on December 6, 2024, under the supervision of Prof. Tahir Nadeem, the NSS Programme Officer and Prof. Kumar Rabani Chowdhary, the NCC CTO, and under the overall guidance of the Principal of the College, Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Dar. The drive, which aimed to promote a cleaner campus envi-

ronment and encourage the values of selfless service among the participants, saw an enthusiastic participation with over 90 NSS volunteers and NCC cadets taking part.

Participants were divided into teams and assigned specific areas of the campus, including the Administrative Block, Academic Blocks, Science Block and the Library. They engaged in various activities such as sweeping, removing litter and clearing weeds, contributing to a noticeable improvement in the cleanliness

and appearance of the college campus.

Prominent staff members who took active part in this drive were Dr. Atal Bharti, HoD Physics; Dr. Altaf Hus-sain, HoD Chemistry; Dr. Mohd Idris, PTI and Dr. Nisar Ahmed Bhat, Lecturer in Botany.

Commending the NSS Volunteers and NCC Cadets for their efforts, the College Principal emphasized that such initiatives help instill a sense of responsibility in students towards maintaining a clean environment.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Tahir Nadeem, who expressed his appreciation to the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets for their hard work and dedication. He also acknowledged the college administration's support in making the drive a success.

GDC Doda organises awareness programme on Mission YUVA



Top News Report

DODA, Dec 7: A one-day Awareness Program on Mission YUVA- Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan was organized today by the Department of Labour and Employment, Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with GDC Doda at Government Degree College (GDC) Doda. The program was organised under the supervision of Principal GDC Doda, Dr Javid Iqbal Zargar who also welcomed the resource person at the occasion.

In his inaugural address Dr. Javid Iqbal highlighted the importance of ecosystem required for entrepreneurship and start-up culture for young aspiring youth.

The program was aimed at sensitizing all participants on purpose, components, implementation roadmap and monitoring of Mission YUVA.

Pawan Kumar Parihar, JKAS, Special Secretary, Labour and Employment Department and son of the soil, led the aware program with a focus on mission YUVA. He discussed about the pres-

ent employment scenario and landscape of entrepreneurship in the UT of J&K, program targets, government structure, overarching strategy, key interventions, implementation roadmap, responsibilities of Departments/ Stakeholders for effective implementation of the mission YUVA.

He also conducted an interactive Q&A session answering students' questions on various aspects of mission YUVA. The awareness program offered insightful session from a notable resource person who shared his expertise with participating students at the college. Convener Debates and Seminar Committee Prof. Naz Zargar, Convener Career Counseling Committee Dr. Mir Mohammad Masood, Prof. Davinder Singh, Prof. Anoj Kumar, Prof. Majid Gani and other faculty members of the college were also in attendance. The awareness program was moderated by Prof. Naz Zargar and at the conclusion the vote of thanks were presented by Prof. Anoj Kumar Department of English of the college.

NSWA demands KVs for Bhalessa to fulfill long-standing public aspiration

Public misled with empty promises on KVs for 15 years

Top News Report

DODA, Dec 7: The National Students Welfare Association (NSWA), a registered NGO, has renewed its demand for the establishment of two Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the remote region of Bhalessa, specifically at Chilli Pingal and Bhalessa town. This appeal reflects a persistent public demand that has been unaddressed for over 15 years, despite repeated assurances from political leaders.

Sadaket Malik, Chairman of NSWA, criticized the exclusion of Bhalessa from the recent allocation of 85 new Kendri-

ya Vidyalayas under the Civil/Defence sectors by the central government. He said, "Despite years of demands, no action has been taken, leaving the public disillusioned by empty promises. It is imperative for the state education department and the Ministry of Education to prioritize this genuine need."

Malik underscored the severe lack of quality educational infrastructure in Bhalessa, which creates significant challenges for students in this underserved region. The establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas would not only ensure access to high-standard

education but also foster development and open opportunities for students, enabling them to compete on a national level.

The NSWA called for immediate action from the concerned authorities to approve and initiate the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bhalessa without further delay. "The public deserves action, not hollow assurances," Malik added.

This plea serves as a reminder of the urgency to address the long-standing educational needs of Bhalessa's youth and to end the cycle of unfulfilled promises.

GDC RS Pura organizes one day workshop on aari work hand embroidery

Top News Report

RS PURA, Dec 7: Women Development Cell of Government Degree College R.S Pura organized a one day workshop programme on handicraft under the worthy patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and supervision of Dr. Neena Gupta Rohmetra, Convener Women Development Cell and Head, Department of English. The experts for the workshop were Ritu

Gupta and Arun Kumar from Dogre Well Wisher Foundation, registered with the directorate of Handicraft J&K and Ministry of Textiles Govt. of India. The session started with a welcome note given by Dr. Savleen Kour, Assistant Professor Veterinary Technology. More than 30 students participated in this workshop with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The workshop provided a platform to the participants to gain hands-on experience like Aari



work hand embroidery. In her address, the Principal, laying emphasis on the significance of the workshop, said that such types of workshops can help preserve traditional techniques and pass them down to younger generations, ensuring

that these crafts should not disappear over time.

Handicraft workshops can open up opportunities for entrepreneurship. Participants can sell their creative works, thereby contributing to the local economy or even starting their own

business. These workshops also create a sense of community by bringing together people with similar interests, fostering collaboration, and enabling cultural exchange.

Senior faculty member Prof. Shifali Abrol, Associate Professor in Zoology also graced the occasion. The workshop concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Kiran Pathania, Assistant Professor Department of English.

JKTF hails efforts of DSEK, requests DSEJ to speed up promotion process

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 7: Director School Educational Kashmir released one more promotion list of 372 eligible teachers as masters, the list is released for final observation if any, the eligible aspirants from jammu division are pressing hard for their promotion, in a statement issued by chairman Teachers Forum and national vice president of AISTF Mohd Amin khan that Forum is highly thankful to Director School Education Kashmir Dr Tasaduq Hus-sain, personal officer Eng. Hilal Ahmad, for releasing the promotion list in a time

bound manner. JKTF requested DSEK to redress the other legitimate issues of teachers. Meanwhile Chairman Teachers Forum M Amin Khan, UT president JKTF M Ashraf Shiekh, provincial president Jammu Sanjeet Sharma requested Director School Education Jammu to speed up the promotion list of eligible teachers as masters and to address the genuine issues of teachers of Jammu division.

Khan said that JKTF the unique voice and guardian of Teaching community will always high light the legitimate issues of teachers.

Manoj Bajpayee on chasing dreams and being 'intelligently stubborn'

How does a farmer's son from a Bihar village reach the pinnacle of his dreams in starry Mumbai where a million hopes are dashed and met every day? Manoj Bajpayee has the answer - just be "intelligently stubborn".

The actor has successfully owned both commercial and arthouse cinema as well as the big screen along with small roles as diverse as Bhiku Mhatre in 'Satya' and Srikant Tiwari in 'The Family Man'. He says that he soon understood that circumstances can break those not committed to their dreams.

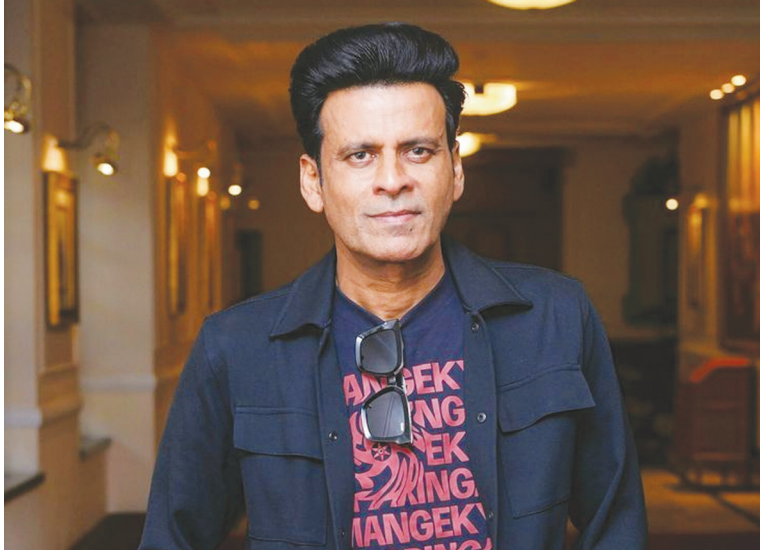
"You have to be intelligently stubborn and audacious. I say stubborn because otherwise circumstances and situations challenge you at every moment and make you doubt yourself," Bajpayee told agency in an interview.

"There is a saying, 'you take four steps back before you take a leap'. I have not been too much in love with myself. I understood the circumstances," Bajpayee said.

After the breakout role in the 1998 underworld drama 'Satya', directed by Ram Gopal Varma and still remembered for Bajpayee's portrayal of gangster Bhiku Mhatre, the offers came rolling in. All in the same mould, Bajpayee wanted none of it.

"I was very stubborn about not getting typecast... The industry didn't know what to offer me and thought if he is refusing, then offer a lot of money... but I knew I would not be a villain because if I do it then will not let me come out of it ever," the 55-year-old said.

"I knew this even at that age," he added citing the legendary actors Pran and Ajeet who found it near impossible to come out of the villain bracket.



Bajpayee, who will next be seen in the role of investigative journalist Joy Bag in director Kanu Behl's 'Despatch', slated for release on December 13, said he understands that people have different destinies and destinations.

Growing up with show business dreams as one of six siblings, Bajpayee said his farmer father didn't have the resources to support his ambitions. Bajpayee travelled to Delhi when he was just 17, pursued a college education as his mother wanted, did theatre and then landed up in Mumbai.

He debuted with a small role in Govind Nihalani's 'Drohkaal' in 1994 and was first noticed in Shekhar Kapur's 'Bandit Queen' the same year. The big break was "Satya" where everyone noticed him.

It propelled him into the big league, launching a three-decade career that is still strong. Along the way have been films such as 'Shool', 'Zubeida', 'Rajneeti', 'Gangs of Wassey-pur', 'Aligarh' and 'Sonchiriya'. He did an easy segue into the small screen with 'Gulmohar', 'Sif Ek Banda Kaafi Hai' and

the web show 'The Family Man'. Bajpayee said that success of 'Satya' changed not just his trajectory and the way cinema was viewed but also the lives of many young people back home. The journey from a small village to the silver screen gave others the courage to explore vistas beyond home, achieve success and not just in the movies.

The only other major successful actor from Bihar in the film industry till that point was Shatrughan Sinha.

"I was told that not just my village, district but many young people from the state left their homes after 'Satya'. Not all of them wanted to be actors, some for sure. Many of them left their homes because they felt that if this man is on the screen now, then why can't we do what we want to in our life?"

"With Shatru ji, everyone knew he came from an affluent family and was from Patna. He just needed to take a train to Delhi. We would first need to ride a tractor, then a bus and then a train to reach Delhi. It would take two and a half days just to reach Patna."

The casting for Bhiku Mhatre,

whose dialogue "Mumbai ka king kaun" is now part of cinema history. Bajpayee had gone to audition for Ram Gopal Varma's 1997 Sanjay Dutt-starrer 'Daud'. This was after 'Bandit Queen', which had given him recognition but not a real break.

"When the film released every other actor got busy in the industry, only I didn't have any work," says the actor.

"When Ramu got to know that I played Mann Singh's character in 'Bandit Queen' four-five years ago, he told me, 'I have been trying to find out about you for four-five years but nobody had any idea about you so I couldn't get any number'. Now that I have found you, don't do this ('Daud') role. I am making my next and you will be the main lead in that'."

Bajpayee insisted he had to be in the film. "I was like, 'Sir, give me this role and when that happens you can cast me in that later'. I am getting Rs 35,000 for this. This chance is very important for me at this time." RGV stayed true to his promise.

'Satya' ended a tough journey though Bajpayee doesn't quite call it a struggle. "The real struggle is that of a rickshaw-walla who will not have money if he doesn't pull his rickshaw one day. It is not his dream... We were chasing our dreams." From Bihar to almost a decade in Delhi theatre scene and then Mumbai, Bajpayee has belonged to different places at different times. But home will always be Belwa, his ancestral village.

"It is ironical that when I was there, I wanted to get out of the place. Now that god has given you a life and that you have made it, then you feel like going back," said Bajpayee.

Allu Arjun breaks silence over 'Pushpa 2' screening stampede



Actor Allu Arjun announced a sum of Rs 25 lakh to the family of a woman who died due to asphyxiation at a theatre screening 'Pushpa 2' premiere show in Hyderabad.

In a video posted on X, the 42-year-old actor said he wants to assure the grieving family that they are not alone in this painful situation and he will meet the family personally.

A 35-year woman died and her son was hospitalised on Wednesday due to asphyxiation, as crowds jostled at a film theatre here during the premiere show of actor Allu Arjun's latest movie.

The incident took place when a large number of fans thronged the Sandhya theatre to have a glimpse of the star.

"Whatever we do, this loss can never be covered. From our side, we want to say that we are emotionally there for you. Whatever help you need, we are there for you, and on my behalf, I would like to donate an amount of 25 lakhs just as a goodwill gesture

ally. While respecting their need for space to grieve, I stand committed to extending every possible assistance to help them navigate through this challenging journey," he said in a post.

He advised the public to be careful when they go to a cinema hall and return home safely after watching the movies.

Meanwhile, the eight-year-old boy remains in a critical condition, doctors at the hospital treating him said.

"(The) Child has persistent fever spikes necessitating higher antibiotics. Child has been started on NG (nasogastric tube) feeds which he is tolerating well with adequate urine output showing some glimpse of hope. However, the condition remains critical, and the patient is under intensive care and close monitoring as the medical team works to stabilise him further," the hospital said in a statement.

Currently he is on mechanical ventilator requiring minimal settings and minimal ionotropic support, neurologically (GCS E3VTM4) improving with no clinical seizures, it added.

Akshansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (central zone) told agency that the police are collecting more evidence regarding the incident.

A proposed press conference by the 'Pushpa 2' team today was cancelled, without citing any reason.

Shahana Goswami, who plays the wife of Manoj Bajpayee in Despatch, says acting with Bajpayee, and director Kanu Behl was rewarding

Shahana Goswami is a woman with many interests. Acting is her true calling, and so are writing and directing, something that she has dreamt of doing since her childhood, which she believes will happen in due time... If Covid had people finding it difficult to pass time, Shahana wanted extra four hours to do all that she wished to do!

We catch her during Despatch promotions and get to know more about her love for cinema, and travel.

But before we get there, it's Despatch, the film that's due to release on December 13 on ZEE5. Working with director Kanu Behl was on her to-do list, and to act opposite Manoj Bajpayee was icing on the cake. Yet, it was a small part and that made Shahana hesitant. "I don't have a problem with small parts, but when you have Kanu and Manoj on board, one gets greedy and wants more," says the Rock On!! actress.

On the hindsight, she is glad that she took up the opportunity. "I consider Despatch an appetiser," she laughs. Playing Shweta Bag, wife of Manoj Bajpayee, came with emotional heft. The couple is in the dying stage of their marriage and gives it one last try to sale it. While real Shahana is pretty different from the character she plays here, she relates



to the sinking feeling that comes with a doomed relationship. "We all have been through that feeling of hopelessness, and despair that comes with it. That bit was relatable." However, it was her character Meenakshi Chatterji in The Suitable Boy that stands out for her. "As an actor you take on many characters but playing Meenakshi Chatterji, so very different from the real me, was a revelation."

Though women directors in the industry can be counted on the fingertips, Shahana has interestingly worked

with more women directors than men. The list includes Deepa Mehta, Reema Kagti, Mira Nair, Shimit Amin, Nandita Das, Alankrita Shrivastava, Bornila Chatterjee, Tanuja Chandra and Anu Menon among others. "I know it's an anomaly, but I take pride in working with many women South-Asian directors. Lately, there has been a push in this direction," says Shahana, who believes one is likely to see many women taking up prominent roles in the film industry in coming times.

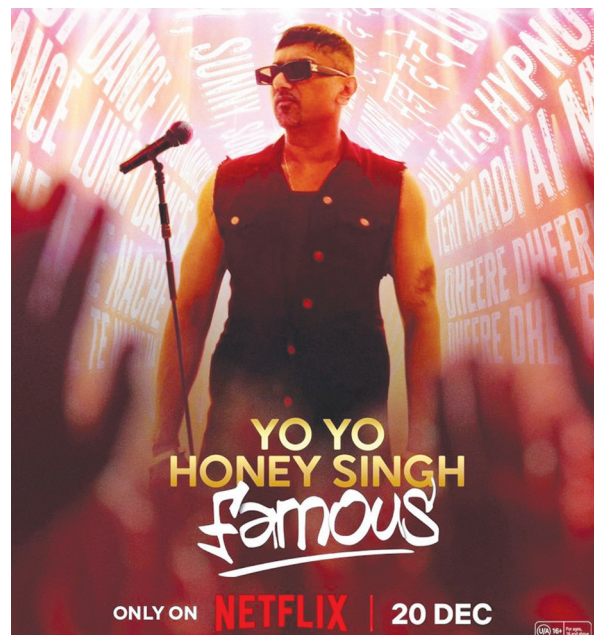
Among many things

that she loves, attending film festivals is one of them. "As a cinema lover, I love to watch films that seldom see theatrical release. As an actor too, I bond with people, who enthusiastically come to film festivals to appreciate a certain director's or actor's work." Shahana, who attended Dharamshala International Film Festival and International Film Festival of India recently, says independent filmmaking is a courageous job and film festivals are the place to celebrate that. Most festivals have a distribution network that can help films see a release as well. "I have done about 35 films and about half of them had a festival round or not released at least in India though they were released overseas. Not just the actor but the cine buff in me loves these festivals!"

She loves to travel to meet people and explore paces. "I travel so much that being in Mumbai is like a vacation for me," she says.

Having started when films were shot on reels, just before the advent of the digital era, Shahana believes that OTT has been the real game-changer. "Now that there is an audience for all sorts of stories, one can experiment with the story telling, which is wonderful," she signs off.

Honey Singh's documentary to drop on December 20



The documentary based on Indian rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh, Yo Yo Honey Singh: Famous has set its streaming date. It is set to drop on OTT on December 20.

It is directed by Mozez Singh of Human fame and offers an exclusive look into the life of the hip-hop artiste and rapper. Revealing the

real Honey, aka Hirdesh Singh, the man behind the headlines, it chronicles his rapid rise to fame, from the challenges he faced to his comeback.

The documentary has been produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain under the banner of Sikhya Entertainment. Guneet Monga Kapoor and

Achin Jain, said in a joint statement, "With Yo Yo Honey Singh: Famous, we delve into his story in its rawest form—from his meteoric rise to his struggles and ultimate comeback as Hirdesh Singh. It was fascinating to discover how little we knew about the real person behind the stage name."

They further mentioned. "After the success of The Elephant Whisperers, we're proud to present a documentary that captures the resilience, reinvention, and unfiltered truth of this true desi kalakar—a journey we believe fans and critics alike will find deeply fascinating. We're thrilled to collaborate with Director Mozez Singh and Netflix again to bring this extraordinary story to audiences worldwide."

For director Mozez Singh, capturing Honey Singh's journey has been an incredible experience, as he said, "He is a fascinating man,

who has already lived so many lifetimes in this one life. I feel honoured and privileged to be bringing a documentary alongside the Oscar-winning Sikhya and to have been given full access to Honey Singh's world. I'm so thankful that he trusted me with his life story. We have covered everything in this film—love, pain, family, success, failure, loss, mental health, and the fight to come back".

"But most of all we have spoken about the price of fame. This documentary highlights his evolution, his lasting impact on popular culture, and a lot of stories that no one has ever heard before. We're thrilled for you to meet the legend, the man who is responsible for creating a revolution in the Indian rap and hip-hop scene, a man entirely unique in his making", he added.

The documentary is set to premiere on December 20 on Netflix.

Each part of an Indian wedding tells a story, says designer Anjali Phougat

Ace designer Anjali Phougat, who is known in the fashion circuit for her clothes and jewellery designs, says that Indian weddings are known for their outfits. She adds that each and every piece has so much significance attached.

"Indian weddings are truly one-of-a-kind, celebrated for their rich colours, intricate designs, and elaborate ceremonies. What makes an Indian wedding so unique is its deep-rooted cultural significance and the artistry that



goes into every element.

Each outfit, from the bride's lehenga to the groom's sherwani, is crafted to tell a story—often blending tradition with personal style.

The combination of luxurious fabrics, hand-embroidery, and ornate jewellery makes the entire experience unforgettable, immersing guests in a celebration of love and heritage," she says. Talking about the current trends, she adds, "Sustainable fashion is also becoming popular."

President Murmu lays foundation for three new railway lines in Odisha

BANGRIPOSI, Dec 7 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday laid the foundation for three new railway lines in Odisha.

Bangriposi-Gorumahisani, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Keonjhar are the railway lines for which the foundation stones were laid by Murmu in the presence of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, among others.

The Railways said the new lines will create more job opportuni-



ties and ensure socioeconomic development of the areas, boosting connectivity in tribal-dominated Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts.

The new lines will facilitate the transportation of raw materials

from mineral rich areas. The President also virtually laid the foundation for three other projects in Rairangpur – Tribal Research and Development Centre, Dandbose Airport and a sub-divisional hospital.

Govt committed to providing school education to every section of society: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible with the Cabinet approving the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas.

He asserted that while the step will benefit a large number of students, many new employment opportunities will also be created.

"Our government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible. Under this, 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country. While this step will benefit a large number of students,



many new employment opportunities will also be created," Modi said in a post in Hindi on X.

The prime minister said the government is committed to providing school education to every section of the society in accordance with the National Education Policy.

"As part of that, our government has

approved 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country. This will expand residential and quality school education to a larger extent," Modi said in another post in Hindi.

The prime minister also said his government is determined to improve connectivity across the country.

"In this direction,

our government has approved the Rithala-Kundli corridor under the fourth phase of Delhi Metro in the National Capital Region. This will make commuting between Delhi and Haryana easier," Modi said.

The Union Cabinet approved on Friday the opening of 85 new KVs and 28 new NVs. It also gave its nod to expanding one KV.

The opening of these new KVs will provide an opportunity for over 82,000 students to receive affordable and high-quality education across the country.

The total estimated requirement of funds for the establishment of the 85 new KVs and the expansion of one existing KVs is Rs 5,872.08

crore spread over a period of eight years from 2025-26.

As of date, there are 1,256 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas, including three abroad -- Moscow, Kathmandu and Tehran -- and 13.56 lakh students are studying in these schools, an official statement said.

The Union Cabinet also approved on Friday the 26.463-km Rithala-Kundli corridor of the Delhi Metro's Phase-IV project that will further enhance connectivity between the national capital and neighbouring Haryana.

The entire stretch will comprise 21 stations, all of them elevated. The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Modi.

Rajnath to begin 3-day visit to Russia on Dec 8

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a three-day trip to Russia on Sunday to witness the commissioning of a stealth warship into the Indian Navy and hold talks with his Russian counterpart, Andrey Belousov, on the expansion of bilateral cooperation in co-production of military hardware.

The Russian-manufactured multi-role stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil will be commissioned on Monday in the coastal city of Kaliningrad. The warship, billed as one of the most technologically advanced frigates globally, is expected to significantly bolster the

Indian Navy's operational capability in the Indian Ocean, a region that has witnessed increasing Chinese forays.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will accompany Singh to the commissioning ceremony.

Defence Minister Singh would pay an official visit to the Russian Federation from December 8-10, an official readout said on Saturday. It said Singh and Belousov would co-chair the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) in Moscow on December 10.



The Defence Minister's visit to Russia comes five months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Moscow and held summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In the talks, both sides decided to further bolster two-way defence ties.

Singh and Belousov would review the entire range of multi-faceted

Russia cooperation in co-production of military hardware will figure prominently in the talks between the two defence ministers.

"As part of the visit, the Defence Minister will also commission the Indian Navy's latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate 'INS Tushil' at Yantra Shipyard, Kaliningrad on December 9," the ministry said. Singh would also pay tributes at 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow to honour the Soviet soldiers killed during the Second World War, it said.

He is also scheduled to interact with the members of the Indian community in Moscow.

People familiar with Singh's visit said India-

Murder case suspect shot at, arrested in UP's Deoria

A manhunt was launched for the shooter at Singh's mother's complaint and five people were arrested in the course of the investigation.



DEORIA/GORAKHPUR, Dec 7 (Agencies): A murder case suspect was shot in the leg and nabbed Saturday morning in the Surauli area of Deoria district, police said.

Deepak Mishra was admitted to Maharshi Devraha Baba Medical College for treatment for a gunshot wound. On November 7, Nihal Singh (alias

Shubham Singh), a resident of Musaf Colony in Deoria, was shot dead near Jaddhu Parsia village.

A manhunt was launched for the shooter at Singh's mother's complaint and five people were arrested in the course of the investigation.

On Saturday, police, acting on a tip-off, intercepted Mishra near Vishunpur Morh in Surauli and opened fire when they were met with resistance.

An illegal firearm was recovered from Mishra's possession, police said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar Singh said Mishra was the final suspect in the case.

"The accused is receiving medical treatment, and legal proceedings are underway," he added.

Man kills mother for objecting to marriage, makes it look like robbery

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): A 22-year-old man in Delhi was arrested for allegedly killing his mother after she refused to let him marry the woman of his choice and threatened to disinherit him, police said on Saturday. The man, identified as Sawan, initially made the crime look like a robbery.

He called the Delhi police control room on Friday night, telling them that his mother had been killed and that her earrings had been stolen.

However, upon investigation, the police did not find any signs of robbery. Other valuables were also found intact in the house, officials said.

Further investigations revealed that Sawan,



the younger son of the victim, Sulochna, had killed her.

Sawan's elder brother, Kapil (27), was scheduled to get married soon. Sawan told his mother that he also wanted to get married to a woman he had known FOR a long time, the accused told the police. However, his mother scolded him and refused to let him marry the woman. She also warned that if

he ever brought up the topic again, she would cut him out of any share in the property, officials said.

Upset, Sawan allegedly made a plan to kill her.

After committing the crime, he removed his mother's earrings to make it look like a robbery. Sawan, who drove a car for transporting goods, used to give all his earnings to his mother, the police said.

CISF sets up quality control unit to ensure world-class aviation security at Indian Airports

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has taken a significant step towards enhancing aviation security by establishing an Internal Quality Control Unit (IQCU) for the Aviation Security Group (ASG) deployed at 68 airports across India, an official said on Saturday.

The IQCU will play a crucial role in establishing world-class security procedures and technology. This initiative is in compliance with the National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme-2024 (NCASQCP) issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft (Security) Rules-2023.

As per the CISF, the



IQCU shall be part of the Aviation Security Control Center (ASCC) which was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 22, 2023.

"The ASCC, with its advanced components like Incident Management Centre, Aviation Research and Data Centre, Centralized

Communication Control Centre will work in tandem with the IQCU to meet the current security challenges and enhance the overall security posture of Indian airports. This system will also cover the airports under Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAAAN)," said the CISF in a statement.

The IQCU will be

led by a senior CISF officer and a team of certified Aviation Security (AVSEC) instructors, national auditors and experienced personnel who will be instrumental in ensuring uniformity in security procedures across all airports through standardized training and evaluation methods.

Other key functions include recommending the adoption of new technologies based on field trials and international best practices, conducting internal inspections and audits based on International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and BCAS and NCASQCP standards to identify gaps and improve performance are among other key areas of work.

The CISF further said it is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of security operations, mitigating risks and maintaining a robust and resilient aviation security system.

Man stabbed to death by neighbours after fight over not flushing toilet

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): An 18-year-old scrap worker succumbed to multiple stab wounds after neighbours in Delhi's Govindpuri came to blows over a common toilet not being flushed.

The fight broke out between the two siblings and a family that lives on the first floor of a building situated in the South Delhi area. Sudheer, his 22-year-old brother Prem and his friend Sagar got into a fight with Bhikam Singh, his wife Meena, and their three sons Sanjay, 20, Rahul, 18, and a minor boy.

Early on Saturday, Sudheer was rushed to the hospital with stab wounds on his chest, head and face, but died during treatment. Meanwhile, Prem was undergoing treatment, while Sagar was discharged.

Sagar Malik, a neighbour, told agency Videos that the victims were beaten up with rods and knives. "Bhikam's family called the police and told them that their mother was attacked," Malik said.

A case of murder has been registered and Bhikam and his family have been apprehended for inves-



tigation, they said.

Sudheer, a native of Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri, paid 3,000 per month in rent for the house which he shared with his brother, an e-rickshaw driver. Bhikam Singh works at a building materials shop and had shifted to the building around 45 days ago.

Mahadev App Betting Case: Probe Agency Attaches Assets Worth 388 Crore

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has attached fresh assets worth about 388 crore in its ongoing money laundering investigation into the Mahadev online betting case in which various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh are alleged to have been involved.

These include movable assets -- investment made by Mauritius-based company Tano Investment Opportunities Fund related to Dubai-based "hawala operator" Hari Shankar Tibrewal through FPI and FD -- and properties in Chhattisgarh, Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh in the name of

promoters of multiple betting apps and websites, panel operators and associates of the promoters, the federal agency said in a statement. A provisional order was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on December 5 to attach these assets with a total value of 387.99 crore, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said.

Mr Tibrewal is being investigated by the agency in this case.

The ED has issued multiple such orders during this investigation and with the latest order, assets worth 2,295.61 crore have been either frozen, attached or seized so far. Eleven people have been arrest-

ed in this case and the ED has filed four chargesheets.

The agency has alleged in the past that its probe into the Mahadev Online Betting (MOB) gaming and betting app has shown the involvement of various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh. The app's two main promoters, Sourabh Chandraker and Ravi Uppal, hail from the state. According to the ED, the MOB app is an umbrella syndicate arranging online platforms for enabling illegal betting websites to enrol new users, create user IDs and launder money through a layered web of benami bank accounts.

South Korean President apologises for martial law, but doesn't resign

Yoon Suk Yeol says martial law declaration born of desperation; People Power Party leader Han Dong-hoon calls him a danger to the country

SEOUL, Dec 7 (Agencies): South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Saturday apologised for his attempt to impose martial law this week but did not resign, defying intense pressure to step down even from some in his ruling party and only hours ahead of a planned impeachment vote.

Yoon said he would not seek to avoid legal and political responsibility for his decision to declare martial law for the first time in South Korea since 1980. He said the decision was born of desperation.

The speech was the embattled leader's first public appearance since he rescinded the martial law order early on Wednesday, just six hours after it was declared and after parliament defied military and police cordons to vote against the decree.

"I am very sorry and would like to sincerely apologise to the people who were shocked," Yoon said in a televised address to the nation, during which he bowed.

"I leave it up to my party to take steps to stabilise the political situation in the future, including the issue of my term in office,"



he said.

Han Dong-hoon, leader of Yoon's People Power Party (PPP), said after the address that the president was no longer in a position to carry out public duty and his resignation was now unavoidable.

On Friday, Han said Yoon was a danger to the country and needed to be removed from power, increasing the pressure on Yoon to quit even though PPP members later reaffirmed a formal opposition to his impeachment.

Han was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Han Duck-soo on Saturday, local Yonhap News

reported. Under the constitution if Yoon resigns or is impeached then the prime minister, who was appointed by Yoon, becomes South Korea's interim president.

Lawmakers will vote on the main opposition Democratic Party's motion to impeach Yoon later on Saturday.

Yoon shocked the nation late on Tuesday when he gave the military sweeping emergency powers in order to root out what he called "anti-state forces" and overcome obstructionist political opponents.

Some PPP members urged Yoon to resign before the vote, saying they did not want a

repeat of the 2016 impeachment of then-President Park Geun-hye, who left office following months of candlelit protests over an influence-peddling scandal. Her downfall triggered the implosion of the party and a victory by liberals in presidential and general elections.

In scenes reminiscent of those protests, thousands of demonstrators holding candles assembled outside parliament on Friday night demanding Yoon's impeachment. More demonstrations are expected on Saturday ahead of the vote.

Prosecutors, the police and the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials have all launched probes into Yoon and senior officials involved in the martial law decree, seeking to pursue charges of insurrection and abuse of power, among others.

The officials face potential charges of insurrection, abuse of authority and obstructing other people from exercising their rights. If convicted, the crime of leading an insurrection is punishable by death or life imprisonment, with or without prison labour.

Syrian rebels seize another key city, close in on Homs in threat to Assad's rule



AMMAN/BEIRUT, Dec 7 (Agencies): Syrian rebels said they seized control of the southern city of Daraa on Saturday, the birthplace of a 2011 uprising against President Bashar al-Assad and the fourth city his forces have lost in a week.

Rebel sources said the military agreed to make an orderly withdrawal from Daraa under a deal giving army officials safe passage to the capital Damascus, about 100 km (60 miles) north.

Social media videos showed rebels on motorcycles and others mingling with residents on the streets. People fired shots into the air at the city's main square in celebration, according to the videos.

There was no immediate comment from the military or Assad's government, and Reuters could not independently verify the rebels' claim.

With the fall of Daraa, Assad's forces have surrendered four important centres to the insurgents in a week.

Daraa, which had a population of more than 100,000 before the civil war began 13 years ago, holds symbolic importance as the cradle of the uprising. It is the capital of a province of about 1 million people, bordering Jordan.

Daraa's seizure followed the rebels' claim late on Friday that they had advanced to the edge of the central city of Homs, a key crossroads between the capital and the Mediterranean coast.

Capturing Homs would cut off Damascus from the coastal stronghold of Assad's minority Alawite sect, and from a naval base and air base of his Russian allies there.

"Our forces have liberated the last village on the outskirts of the city of Homs and are now on its walls," the Syrian faction leading the sweeping assault said on the Telegram messaging app.

A coalition of rebel factions that include the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) made a last call on forces loyal to Assad's government in Homs to defect.

Ahead of the rebel advance, thousands of people fled Homs towards the coastal regions of Latakia and Tartus, strongholds of the government, residents and witnesses said.

Assad regime under threat

A US-backed alliance led by Syrian Kurdish fighters captured Deir el-Zor, the government's main foothold in the vast eastern desert, on Friday, three Syrian sources told Reuters.

The rebels seized Aleppo and Hama in the northwest and centre earlier in the lightning offensive that began on November 27.

In another ominous sign for Assad in the east, the Syrian Kurdish force said Islamic State - a jihadist group that imposed martial law under its harsh rule before its defeat by a US-led coalition in 2017 - had taken control of some areas in eastern Syria.

Aron Lund, a fellow at think-tank Century Foundation, said Assad's government was "fighting for their lives at this point".

It was possible the government could hold Homs, "but given the speed at which things have moved so far, I wouldn't count on it", he said on Friday.

Syrian state TV reported Russian-Syrian airstrikes targeting rebel headquarters in the countryside of Hama, Idlib and Aleppo killed at least 200 insurgents on Friday, citing the Russian Coordination Centre in Syria.

A Syrian army source said Iran-backed Hezbollah forces were positioned to bolster government defences in and near Homs.

Syrian state media reported dozens of rebels were killed in the Homs countryside on Friday in an operation by Syrian and Russian air forces, artillery, missiles and armoured vehicles.

Capturing Homs would solidify a chain of powerful positions under the Islamic insurgents' control from Aleppo on the Turkish border in the north to Daraa on the Jordanian border to the south.

Gaining Homs would also increase the rebels' chances of isolating the seat of Assad's regime in Damascus with the ability to block the route northwest from the capital to the sea.

Rebels reenergised
As the rebels pressed their offensive, Russia and Jordan on Friday urged their nationals to leave Syria.

After years locked behind frozen front lines, rebel forces have burst out of their northwestern Idlib bastion to achieve the swiftest battlefield advance by either side since a street uprising against Assad mushroomed into civil war 13 years ago.

Syria's conflict killed more than 305,000 people between 2011 and 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Office said in 2022.

Assad regained control of most of Syria after key allies - Russia, Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah - came to his rescue. But all have recently been weakened and diverted by other crises, giving Sunni Muslim militants a window to fight back.

Tehran, which has been focused on tensions with arch-foe Israel since the Gaza war began last year, began to evacuate its military officials and personnel from Syria on Friday, a sign of Iran's inability to keep Assad in power, the New York Times reported, citing regional officials and three Iranian officials.

The head of the main rebel faction HTS, Abu Mohammed Al-Golani, vowed in a separate interview with the New York Times published on Friday that the insurgents could end Assad's rule.

"This operation broke the enemy," he said of the rebels' lightning offensive.

Polls open in general election in Ghana overshadowed by the worst economic crisis in a generation

ACCRA, Dec 7 (Agencies): Polls opened in presidential and legislative elections in Ghana Saturday, poised to be a litmus test for democracy in a region shaken by extremist violence and coups.

Some 18.7 million people are registered to vote in the West African country hit by one of the worst economic crises in a generation. However, the two main candidates offer little hope for change for the nation.

Ghana used to be a poster child for democracy in the region. At a time when coups threatened democracy in West Africa, Ghana has emerged as a beacon of democratic stability with a history of peaceful elections. It had also been an economic powerhouse, priding itself on its economic development.

But in recent years, it has struggled with a profound economic crisis, including surging

inflation and a lack of jobs.

According to an opinion poll released earlier this year by Afrobarometer, a research group, 82% of Ghanaians feel their country is headed in the wrong direction.

Although 12 candidates are running to become Ghana's next president, Saturday's election — like previous ones since the return of multiparty politics in 1992 — has emerged as a two-horse race.

Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia is the candidate of the ruling New Patriotic Party, or NPP, which has struggled to resolve the economic crisis. He faces off against former President John Dramani Mahama, the leader of the main opposition party National Democratic Congress, or NDC. He was voted out in 2016 after failing to deliver on promises for the economy.

The NDC prides itself as a social democratic

party, while the ruling NPP tags itself as leaning to the right. But in fact, analysts and voters said, the programs of their presidential candidates do not differ in a significant way.

Two hundred seventy-six members of parliament will also be elected Saturday. The ruling NPP party and the main opposition NDC each have 137 members in the 275-member legislature, with one independent member who has been voting mostly along with the ruling party. One more constituency will be allowed to vote in this election, bringing the number of deputies to 276.

In their final campaign rallies Thursday, both candidates made a last push to pitch their political parties as the answer to Ghana's economic woes.

Bawumia, 61, an Oxford-educated economist and former deputy governor of the country's central bank, prom-

ised to build on the outgoing administration's efforts and stabilize the economy.

Mahama, 65, on the other hand, restated his promise to "reset" the country on various fronts. "We need to reset our democracy, governance, economy, finances, agriculture, infrastructure, environment, health sector, and all that we hold dear as a people," the former president said.

Across the capital of Accra, the mood for the election has been upbeat in posters and billboards with bikers displaying stunts, political rallies on the streets, election jingles and songs blasting from public speakers.

But the concern for many is also palpable for the key thing at stake: The country's ailing economy, which has been challenged on various fronts in recent years.

The country defaulted on most of its foreign

US President Biden considers preemptive pardons for officials, allies before Trump takes office

WASHINGTON, Dec 7 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden is weighing whether to issue sweeping pardons for officials and allies who the White House fears could be unjustly targeted by President-elect Donald Trump's administration, a preemptive move that would be a novel and risky use of the president's extraordinary constitutional power.

The deliberations so far are largely at the level of White House lawyers. But Biden himself has discussed the topic with some senior aides, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday to discuss the sensitive subject. No decisions have been made, the people said, and it is possible Biden opts to do nothing at all.

Pardons are historically afforded to those accused of specific crimes — and usually those who have already been convicted of an offense — but Biden's team is considering issuing them for those who have not even been investigated, let alone charged. They fear that Trump and his allies, who have boasted of enemies lists and exacting "retribution," could launch investigations that would be reputationally and financially

costly for their targets even if they don't result in prosecutions.

While the president's pardon power is absolute, Biden's use in this fashion would mark a significant expansion of how they are deployed, and some Biden aides fear it could lay the groundwork for an even more drastic usage by Trump. They also worry that issuing pardons would feed into claims by Trump and his allies that the individuals committed acts that necessitated immunity.

Recipients could include infectious-disease specialist Dr. Anthony Fauci, who was instrumental in combating the coronavirus pandemic and who has become a pariah to conservatives angry about mask mandates and vaccines. Others include witnesses in Trump's criminal or civil trials and Biden administration officials who have drawn the ire of the incoming president and his allies.

Some fearful former officials have reached out to the Biden White House preemptively seeking some sort of protection from the future Trump administration, one of the people said.

It follows Biden's decision to pardon his

son Hunter — not just for his convictions on federal gun and tax violations, but for any potential federal offense committed over an 11-year period, as the president feared that Trump allies would seek to prosecute his son for other offenses. That could serve as a model for other pardons Biden might issue to those who could find themselves in legal jeopardy under Trump.

Biden is not the first to consider such pardons — Trump aides considered them for him and his supporters involved in his failed efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election that culminated in a violent riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. But he could be the first to issue them since Trump's pardons never materialized before he left office nearly four years ago.

Gerald Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" in 1974 to his predecessor, Richard Nixon, over the Watergate scandal. He believed a potential trial would "cause prolonged and divisive debate over the propriety of exposing to further punishment and degradation a man who has already paid the unprecedented penalty of relinquishing the highest elective office of the United States," as written in the pardon

proclamation.

Politico was first to report that Biden was studying the use of preemptive pardons.

On the campaign trail, Trump made no secret of his desire to seek revenge on those who prosecuted him or crossed him.

Trump has talked about "enemies from within" and circulated social media posts that call for the jailing of Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, former Vice President Mike Pence and Sens. Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer. He also zeroed in on former Rep. Liz Cheney, a conservative Republican who campaigned for Harris and helped investigate Jan. 6, and he promoted a social media post that suggested he wanted military tribunals for supposed treason.

Kash Patel, whom Trump has announced as his nominee to be director of the FBI, has listed dozens of former government officials he wanted to "come after."

Richard Painter, a Trump critic who served as the top White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said he was reluctantly in support of having Biden issue sweeping pardons to people who could be targeted by Trump's adminis-

tration. He said he hoped that would "clean the slate" for the incoming president and encourage him to focus on governing, not on punishing his political allies.

"It's not an ideal situation at all," Painter said. "We have a whole lot of bad options confronting us at this point."

While the Supreme Court this year ruled that the president enjoys broad immunity from prosecution for what could be considered official acts, his aides and allies enjoy no such shield.

Some fear that Trump could use the promise of a blanket pardon to encourage his allies to take actions they might otherwise resist for fear of running afoul of the law.

"There could be blatant illegal conduct over the next four years, and he can go out and pardon his people before he leaves office," Painter said. "But if he's going to do that, he's going to do that anyway regardless of what Biden does."

More conventional pardons from Biden, such as those for sentencing disparities for people convicted of federal crimes, are expected before the end of the year, the White House said.

National Flag hoisted on 108 Feet High Mast at Laungewala Yudh Sthal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: The National Flag was unfurled on a monumental 108 feet High Mast at Laungewala Yudh Sthal on 7th December as a tribute to the exceptional bravery and valour of Indian soldiers during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. The installation of the flag was made possible through the joint efforts of the Indian Army and the Flag Foundation of India.

The event was graced by War veterans Naik Jagdev Singh and Hav Mukhtiyar Singh from 23 PUNJAB who participated in this epic battle 53 years ago. They were also joined by eight other 1971 war veterans from Jaisalmer district. Amongst those present at the function were members from the Indian Air Force, Border



Security Force, civil administration, prominent personalities and the local community. The event was marked by a cultural program that included patriotic songs performed by school students. These performances added vibrancy to the occasion and served to

honour the courage of our Bravehearts.

The Battle of Laungewala, fought in December 1971 stands as a testament to the valour and sacrifice of our Armed Forces. The sacred ground of Laungewala reminds us of the fierce battle fought here from 5th to

7th December 1971, where the courage of a few triumphed over the might of many. A War Memorial at the actual battle site of Laungewala has become a prominent tourist destination, attracting lakhs of visitors to pay tribute to our soldiers. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi, during his visit on 14th November 2020 had emphasized the importance of preserving this legacy while fostering its development as a site of National Pride. Since then, under the concerted efforts of the Indian Army, Laungewala Yudh Sthal has witnessed extensive transformation. As part of this transformation, a 108 feet High Mast National Flag has now been erected which further solidifies this landmark as a place of remembrance and pride.

The initiative has been widely appreciated, and the installation of the flag will inspire all who visit Laungewala on the Nation's rich legacy of heroism and patriotism. The towering flag will stand as a powerful reminder of the indomitable spirit of the Indian Army and its commitment to the nation.

Yudhvir Sethi initiates development works at Swami Vivekananda Hospital

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: In a significant step towards enhancing infrastructure and providing better amenities, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA East Constituency, inaugurated various development works with an estimated costs of Rs 60.5 lakhs at Swami Vivekananda Hospital today. The event witnessed the presence of Executive Engineer JMC Division 2, Nawaz Ahmed Bandy, AEE Ravi Kumar, JE Mukesh Gupta, hospital authorities, party workers, and prominent members of society, reflecting a collective commitment to progress.

The development works included the construction of lanes and drains, along with the tiling of pathways within the hospital premises.

These projects aim to ensure improved hygiene and ease of access for patients and visitors.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving community welfare. "It is our collective responsibility to support institutions like Swami Vivekananda Hospital, which play a crucial role in serving society," he said.

During his address, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the inspirational legacy of Swami Vivekananda, underlining his teachings on selfless service and nation-building. He urged citizens to draw inspiration from Vivekananda's philosophy and work collectively for the betterment of society.

Yudhvir Sethi also lauded the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that the Central Government has laid a strong foundation for holistic development through its people-centric policies.

The leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that the Central Government has laid a strong foundation for holistic development through its people-centric policies. "The leadership of PM Modi has transformed the developmental landscape of our nation, bringing prosperity and progress to every corner," he added.

The senior BJP leader and MLA took the opportunity to interact with the hospital authorities and staff, discussing their challenges and requirements. He assured them of his unwavering support in ensuring that the hospital functions smoothly and continues to provide quality healthcare services. "We will extend all possible assistance to strengthen this institution, as it is integral to the well-being of our community," he added.

Army organizes comprehensive lecture on Holistic Security at Surankote

Top News Report

POONCH, Dec 7: In a significant initiative to enhance community awareness and preparedness, the Indian Army organized a comprehensive lecture on holistic security at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Surankote, Poonch.

The session covered critical aspects, including physical safety, emotional and mental well-being, digital and cyber security, and financial security, emphasizing the importance of being proactive in safeguarding oneself in modern environments.

The event was attended by a diverse audience, including students, teachers, and local residents. Indian Army representatives and subject matter experts led the discussions, offering valuable insights and practical tips on managing security challenges.

The lecture began with a session on physical security, where participants were guided on self-defence techniques, situational awareness, and strategies to ensure personal safety in public spaces. Focusing on emotional and mental well-being, the speakers highlighted the

importance of mental resilience, stress management, and building support systems to cope with life's challenges.

The audience was encouraged to prioritize mental health as a vital component of overall security. In the digital and cyber security segment, participants were educated about the growing threats of cybercrime, phishing, and online fraud.

The Indian Army cyber experts demonstrated effective ways to safeguard personal information, identify scams, and secure devices against potential threats.

The session on financial security covered essential topics such as managing personal finances, recognizing fraudulent schemes, and conducting safe digital transactions. Tips on financial planning and preventing economic exploitation were shared to empower the attendees.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment not only to national defence but also to fostering a secure and informed society. Such efforts strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local population, promoting a culture of vigilance and preparedness.

Army organizes Medical Patrol for Gujjar & Bakarwals at Makhidhar

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Dec 7: The Indian Army organized a medical patrol at Makhidhar village in the Rajouri district, providing essential healthcare services to underserved communities, including Gujjars and Bakarwals.

The initiative saw a significant turnout, with villagers from Makhidhar and nearby areas benefiting from consultations and free medicines. Locals received health check-ups and guidance on preventive measures to

promote overall well-being.

This effort highlights the Indian Army's dedication to supporting remote communities and ensuring access to basic healthcare facilities.

The initiative was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries, who expressed gratitude for the Indian Army's outreach and care. Such programs strengthen the bond between Indian Army and Awam, showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to fostering trust and improving the quality of life for all.

Jammu Division flags off 100-day TB Elimination Campaign

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: In a major move towards eliminating tuberculosis in India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in conjunction with key stakeholders, launched 100 Day TB Elimination Campaign.

In this regard, Jammu Division flagged off the 100-day TB Elimination Campaign from Block Marh Jammu by MLA Marh Surinder Bhagat under the overall Administration of Worthy Administrative Secretary Health and Medical Education Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah and guidance of Worthy DHS Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra along with CMO Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh with the key officials from the administration SDM Marh Athar Amin, and official from Health Department, Dr Harjeet Rai State Nodal Officer NHM, STO Jammu Dr. Jyoti Jolly, CMO Samba Dr. Vidhi Bhatial, DTO Jammu Dr. Amita Turki, BMO Marh Dr. Jyoti Bhau, ZEO Marh Kasturi Lal and official from Panchayati Raj Department commenced this intensified campaign on Saturday from block Marh of district Jammu.

Similar campaign was launched from District Kathua under the super-

vision of DC Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas by ADDC Kathua along with CMO Kathua, DTO Kathua, DIO Kathua.

The project, which will be implemented in 347 districts across 33 states and union territories, aims to increase TB case detection, reduce diagnostic delays, and improve treatment outcomes, particularly among high-risk groups. Jammu is one of these 347 districts in Jammu division.

The campaign highlights the government's commitment to reaching the end-TB goal by addressing the difficulties of tuberculosis (TB) notification and mortality in the division through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The 100-day campaign aims to improve programme performance in key output measures such as TB incidence, diagnostic coverage, and mortality rates.

It also corresponds with previous policy advancements by the Ministry, such as greater financial aid for tuberculosis patients under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana and the addition of household contacts under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.

The campaign's primary focus areas are increased access to modern diagnostics, focused screening of vulnerable populations, specialized care for high-risk patients, and greater nutritional support. The project will make use of the large network of Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs across the country, which have extended TB care to the last mile.

The State TB Cell of Jammu Division and the Chief Medical Officer of Jammu jointly expressed their commitment to implement this intense campaign in the districts and identify TB cases from the high risk groups (>60 years, Malnourished, Diabetes, HIV, Smokers, Alcoholic, Past TB cases and Household Contacts) as majority of TB cases are being contributed by these groups along with CMO.

At the end of the Launch the Block Medical Officer of CHC Marh and the Chief Medical Officer of Jammu expressed sincere gratitude to all dignitaries and public for attending the event. They said that with our dedication and "Jan-bhagidari" the district would be able in lowering the TB burden and enhancing public health outcomes across the country.

Army organizes awareness lecture on World Aids Day at Bafliaz

Top News Report

POONCH, Dec 7: Keeping in view the Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens, the Indian Army organized an awareness lecture to commemorate "World AIDS Day" with school children and locals at Bafliaz in the Poonch.

The aim of the lecture was to strengthen the fight against HIV and AIDS and to spread awareness among the younger generation as well as the local populace about

AIDS, a life-threatening disease.

This lecture helped in raising awareness about this chronic illness and promoted knowledge on best practices to prevent and overcome AIDS among people of all age groups in Bafliaz and nearby areas.

A total of 97 locals (77 students and 20 village dignitaries) attended the lecture. During the lecture, a representative of the Indian Army delivered a comprehensive talk on AIDS, explaining how it affects the human body by attacking the immune system, thereby making it

harder for the body to fight off infections and diseases.

He also shared statistics about how many people have been affected by AIDS and how millions have died of AIDS-related illnesses.

Highlighting its severity as a life-threatening disease, he briefed the youth and locals on adopting preventive measures to combat the spread of AIDS. He assured the gathering that, by religiously following these preventive measures, it is possible to stop the spread of AIDS in society and ultimately eradicate it. This gesture and effort by the

Indian Army were highly appreciated by the locals. This endeavor by the Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where the civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in fostering and strengthening trust between Indian Army and Awam.

The event also served as a platform to reinforce the bond between the Indian Army and the people of this region, showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation.

FROM PAGE 1

LG pays homage to Armed Forces' Bravehearts, urges people to donate liberally to Armed Forces Flag Day fund

dedication to ensure that the fruit of development reach every corner of the Union Territory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appealed to the people of the UT of J&K, particularly the privileged sections of society, to donate liberally to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, as a token of remembrance and expression of gratitude.

"I convey my best wishes to all serving and retired Armed Forces personnel and their families on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day," the Lieutenant Governor further added.

Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan (Retd.), Director, Sainik Welfare Department, J&K briefed the Lieutenant Governor on various schemes and initiatives for the welfare of Veterans, Veer Naris, dependents and serving Armed Forces personnel.

Col BS Sambyal (Retd.); Col SS Assla (Retd.); Col MS Bhau (Retd.); Wg Cdr Tirath Singh (Retd.); Subhash Chander; Suresh Kumar and veterans including Bawa Singh; Ashwani Kumar; Ashok Kumar; Janak Singh and Sh Rajinder Kumar were present.

One killed, another

injured in road accident in Reasi

area of the district.

One person, Noor Jamal (36) son of Noor Hussain of Shikari died on the spot while another person namely Abdul Rashid son of Ghulam Qasim sustained serious injuries and was shifted to CHC Mahore by locals and police who rushed to the spot soon after the accident near Sharki at about 0910 hours.

A police official confirmed the death of the individual as well as injuries to another person in the accident and said that a case has been registered and further investigations taken up.

Union Cabinet approves 13 new Kendriya Vidyalayas for J&K

and Galander Chandhara (Pulwama).

The opening of these new Kendriya Vidyalayas will provide an opportunity for over 82,000 students to receive affordable and high-quality education across the country.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving new KV's.

"Thanks PM Sh @narendramodi ji for giving special consideration to Jammu and Kashmir. Union Cabinet approves 13 new KendriyaVidyalayas for different locations across J&K, out of which over 50% fall in Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency," he said, in a post on X.

Cow smuggling

threatens public order, observes J&K High Court

The plea claimed that Shakeel was detained without any application of mind and by flouting procedural safeguards such as informing him of his right to make a representation against his detention and reading out the detention order in a language known to him.

The issue of the preventive detention order was a sheer abuse of the process of law, his lawyer argued.

The government countered that Shakeel was a hardcore and habitual criminal who has been involved in various criminal offences, including stabbing, rioting and bovine smuggling.

To decide on whether Shakeel's preventive detention was justified, the Court relied on the Supreme Court's ruling in R Kalavathi v. State of Tamil Nadu (2006), in which it was held that the relevant factor is not the nature of the detainee's acts, but their potential to disturb community life or public order.

The Court found that Shakeel's alleged activities had potential to disturb public order and, therefore, upheld his preventive detention.

The Court also found no merit in the petitioner's allegation the procedural safeguards were flouted in detaining him. The Court found that the detention order was read out to Shakeel in Hindi/ Dogri, which he understood, and that only he was to blame for not filing any representation challenging his detention on time.

Therefore, the High Court dismissed the petition challenging his detention.

Army pays tribute to rifleman Jaswinder Singh who sacrificed his life in line of duty

In another post, the Army's Chinar Corps expressed deep regret over the untimely and unfortunate demise of Rifleman Singh while on operational duty

"Chinar Corps regrets the unfortunate and untimely demise of Rfn Jaswinder Singh while on operational duty. In this hour of grief, the Indian Army stands in solidarity with the bereaved family and is committed to their support," read the post.

Groom from Dubai duped after 'Instagram bride' goes missing on wedding day

wedding party, arrived in Moga, for the wedding.

The wedding venue, "Rose Garden Palace," didn't exist, Deepak found after reaching Moga.

Initially, Manpreet promised to send relatives to guide the baraat, but as hours passed, no one showed up. By 5 pm, the groom's frustration grew as Manpreet's phone was turned off, forcing the groom and his family to file a police complaint.

Deepak, as per The Indian Express, told the police that Manpreet had introduced

herself as a lawyer from Ferozepur.

He further told the police that he had transferred Rs 50,000 to her after she said she needed it for wedding expenses.

Markhor spotted by locals in Baramulla

advised to avoid coming close to the operation site

The markhor, a rare and endangered species, is native to the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Temperatures settle below freezing point across Kashmir

temperature of -2.6 degree Celsius while in Kupwara, mercury dropped to -3.6 degree Celsius.

Kashmir's independent weather observer said that Zojila, which connects Kashmir with Ladakh, recorded the night temperature of minus 19 degrees Celsius.

The MeT update said in the Jammu region, Banihal was the only station to record below the freezing point night temperature.

The Jammu city recorded 8.1 degrees, Katra 7.4, Batote 3.1, Banihal minus 0.4, and Baderwah 0.6 as the minimum temperature.

The MeT has predicted isolated to light rain or snow on Sunday in Jammu and Kashmir. Later the weather is likely to remain dry till December 12.

RBI reduces cash reserve ratio, launches AI-based model to detect mule accounts

CHANDIGARH, Dec 7 (Agencies): Detailing the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced measures such as slashing the cash reserve ratio (CRR), raising the limit of collateral free agriculture loan and introducing AI solutions to identify mule bank accounts.

To ease potential liquidity stress, Das said it had been decided to reduce the CRR of all banks to 4 per cent from 4.5 per cent. CRR is the minimum amount commercial banks have to hold as a reserve with the central bank. According to experts, the lowering of CRR is an encouraging move as it would help inject significant liquidity into the banking system, enhance banks' lending capacity and improve credit access-



bility for individuals.

The RBI has also decided to increase the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from Rs 1.6 lakh to Rs 2 lakh per borrower.

This will further enhance credit availability for small and marginal farmers. The limit for

collateral-free agriculture loans was last revised in 2019.

To prevent and mitigate digital frauds, MuleHunter.AI, an innovative AI/ML-based model, has been developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), Bengaluru. This will help banks deal with the issue of mule bank

accounts, and reduce digital frauds.

The RBI has also decided to permit Small Finance Banks to extend pre-sanctioned credit lines through UPI. Credit line on UPI was initially launched in September 2023, and was made available through Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). This will further deepen financial inclusion and enhance formal credit, particularly for 'new to credit' customers.

Furthermore, as part of RBI's consultative approach in framing regulations, a 'Connect 2 Regulate' programme will be launched under the ongoing RBI@90 commemorative event.

A dedicated section of the RBI website will be made available for stakeholders to share ideas and inputs on specific topics.

Sufficient urea stock in Punjab to meet demand for current rabi sowing season: NFL

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): State-owned fertiliser firm NFL on Saturday said there is sufficient stock of urea in Punjab to meet the demand of the current rabi sowing season and advised farmers not to hoard nutrients.

In a statement, the NFL said, "There are sufficient stocks available in Punjab for the Rabi season."

Out of the total requirement of urea in Punjab for the Rabi season, regular supplies are being arranged in the state by fertiliser companies.

"Accordingly, suf-

ficient quantity has already been supplied to Punjab from 1st October onwards on a pro-rata basis of the total requirement. This quantity is higher by more than a lakh tonne against the pro-rata requirement of urea," NFL said.

The company said the fertiliser companies are supplying 60 per cent of urea in Punjab through Markfed and 40 per cent through private dealers.

The company advised "farmers not to hoard stocks based on the rumours as there is a sufficient quantity of urea in the country for a

sustained supply in Rabi season", NFL added.

The company is one of the leading fertiliser manufacturers in the country.

Urea production has increased from 225 lakh tonne per annum during 2014-15 to a record 314.07 lakh tonne during 2023-24.

Urea is provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

The difference between the urea MRP and the production cost is being paid to manufacturers.

A bag (45 kg) of urea is sold at around Rs 250.

AI/ML, cyber security skills in demand for top job roles

BENGALURU, Dec 7 (Agencies): With the increasing adoption of AI across organisational functions, AI/ML and analytics continue to dominate as the most in-demand job family. Cybersecurity has overtaken Cloud to become the second-most sought-after domain.

Indeed and Nasscom launched the fourth edition of their Future of Work report – Balancing Priorities in an AI-driven World, and the report said the top five in-demand job roles include Data Scientist/Analyst, AI/ML Expert, Cybersecurity Specialist, Cloud Architect/Engineer, and DevOps Engineer.

As organisations become increasingly data-driven, AI, Analytics, and Cloud have



emerged as the 'holy trinity' driving this transformation, the report said.

Both the current and future workforce regard AI/GenAI proficiency, creativity, communication, and leadership skills as critical to success.

"A large portion of the workforce now actively leverages GenAI for

diverse applications, including coding, programming, content creation, and beyond. The future workforce is particularly using GenAI for Learning & Development, enhancing general knowledge, improving communication skills, seeking mentorship and advice, and exploring AI's vast capabilities," the report said.

Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra to hike vehicle prices from January

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Maruti Suzuki India and Mahindra & Mahindra announced plans to hike vehicle prices from January in order to offset the impact of rising input costs and operational expenses.

Maruti Suzuki, the country's largest carmaker, will hike prices of its model range by up to 4 per cent from January. Mahindra & Mahindra is increasing prices of its SUV models and commercial vehicles by up to 3 per cent.

Maruti Suzuki India in a regulatory filing said that in light of rising input costs and operational expenses, the company has planned to increase the prices of its cars from January 2025.

The price increase is expected to be up



to 4 per cent and will vary depending on the model, it added.

"While the company continuously strives to optimise costs and minimise the impact on its customers, some portion of the increased cost may need to be passed on to the market," it stated.

Maruti Suzuki sells a range of models, ranging from Alto hatchback to Invicto multi-utility vehicles, in the domestic market.

Mahindra & Mahindra said it will hike prices of its SUVs and commercial vehicles by up to 3 per cent from January next year.

The adjustment is in response to the rising costs due to inflation and increased commodity prices, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) said in a statement.

The automaker has made efforts to absorb as much of these additional costs as possible however, a portion of

this increase will need to be passed on to customers, it added.

The extent of the price increase across different SUVs and commercial vehicles will be up to 3 per cent, the auto major stated.

Similarly, JSW MG Motor India said it will also increase prices of its entire model range by up to 3 per cent from next month.

The price increase is a result of continuously rising input costs and other external factors, the automaker said in a statement.

"Our dedication to quality, innovation and sustainability remains a priority and drives us to improve our offerings continuously. In doing so, minor price adjustments are inevitable to offset the rising input

costs," JSW MG Motor India Chief Commercial Officer Satinder Singh Bajwa said.

While the company tries to minimise impact on customers, a marginal price increase shields it from inflationary challenges, he added.

On December 5, Hyundai Motor India announced to increase prices of its vehicles across the model range by up to Rs 25,000 from January 1, 2025.

The price increase has been necessitated owing to an increase in input costs, adverse exchange rate and increase in logistics costs, it has stated.

Various luxury automakers Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi have also announced to hike vehicle prices from next month.

Eating dark, but not milk, chocolate may cut diabetes risk: Study

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Eating five servings of dark chocolate, and not the milk one, a week may help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, according to a long-term US study.

Published in the BMJ, the researchers also found that increased consumption of milk, but not dark, chocolate was associated with long-term weight gain.

Chocolate contains high levels of flavanols (a natural compound found in fruits and vegetables) which have been shown to promote heart health and reduce the risk of diabetes.

But the link between chocolate consumption and the risk of type 2

diabetes remains controversial due to inconsistent results.

In addition, most previous studies have not looked at whether eating dark and milk chocolate – which have different cocoa, milk and sugar content – might have different impacts on the risk of type 2 diabetes.

To explore this further, researchers combined data from three long-term US observational studies of female nurses and male healthcare professionals with no history of diabetes, heart disease or cancer when they were recruited.

They analysed associations between type 2 diabetes and total chocolate consumption for



1,92,208 participants, and chocolate subtype (dark and milk) consumption for 1,11,654 participants over an average monitoring period of 25 years.

In the analyses for total chocolate, 18,862 people developed type 2 diabetes.

After adjusting for personal, lifestyle, and

dietary risk factors, the authors found that people who ate at least five servings a week of any type of chocolate showed a significant 10 per cent lower rate of type 2 diabetes compared to those who rarely or never ate chocolate.

In analyses by chocolate subtypes, 4,771

people developed type 2 diabetes.

After adjusting for the same risk factors, people who ate at least five servings of dark chocolate a week showed a significant 21 per cent lower risk of type 2 diabetes, but no significant associations were found for milk chocolate intake.

The researchers also found a 3 per cent reduced risk of type 2 diabetes for each additional weekly serving of dark chocolate.

"Clinical trials needed to confirm findings and help identify reasons for dark chocolate's protective effect," said researchers.

1 in 5 babies born via C-section in India, more in pvt facility than public: Study



NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Over one-fifth of deliveries in India are performed via caesarean section, with a higher proportion of these surgeries taking place in private facilities compared to public ones, according to a study published in The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia journal.

A caesarean delivery is performed by surgically cutting through a pregnant woman's abdomen and uterus.

Researchers, including those from The George Institute for Global Health in New Delhi, analysed live birth data of over 7.2 lakh women aged 15-49 years across 28 states and eight union territories, collected during the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (2019-2021).

"India's caesarean delivery rate of 21.5 per cent suggests adequate national access but may

mask significant disparities," the authors wrote.

Caesarean, or C-section, delivery rates across states were found to substantially vary, "ranging from 5.2 per cent in Nagaland to 60.7 per cent in Telangana".

Facilities performing caesarean deliveries were higher among private health care units, compared to public centres across all wealth groups, the authors found.

However, within private facilities too, wealth disparities were found to exist, with fewer C-section deliveries among the least wealthy and more among the wealthier sections.

"The study concluded that both high-income and low-income individuals in India are more likely to receive caesarean deliveries in private rather than public facilities," the authors noted.

Caesarean delivery rates were at least

twice as high among the wealthiest groups compared to the poorest in nearly 70 per cent of states, the study found.

Arunachal Pradesh had a relatively low C-section delivery rate of 14.5 per cent and showed low inequality, while southern states like Tamil Nadu and Telangana exhibited high rates C-section delivery with lower inequality.

The variation could be attributed to factors such as improved access to healthcare, higher literacy rates, and a stronger Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the authors suggested.

Cultural and social factors may also play a role in the higher number of caesarean deliveries, including fear of normal childbirth, a desire to deliver on an auspicious day, and preferences for painless deliveries or smaller families.

Bihar, where much of the population belongs to lower wealth groups, there was a higher preference for vaginal deliveries due to their affordability and shorter recovery times, even when medical professionals recommended a C-section.

Neurons that suppress food intake found, may lead to new obesity treatments

NEW YORK, Dec 7 (Agencies): A team of researchers have discovered a previously unknown population of neurons in the hypothalamus that regulate food intake and could be a promising new target for obesity drugs, according to a study.

In the study published in Nature journal, researchers from the Laboratory of Medical Genetics at Rockefeller University in New York, the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) in Baltimore, as well as New York and

Stanford Universities, discovered a new population of neurons that is responsive to the hormone leptin.

Leptin responsive neurons are important in obesity since leptin is sent to the brain from the body's fat stores to suppress hunger. "We've long known that the hypothalamus—located deep in the brain—plays a role in hunger, hormone levels, stress responses, and body temperature," said Brian Herb, a scientist at IGS and a research associate at UMSOM.

Through several experi-

ments with mice, the researchers found that this previously unknown neuronal population that express both receptors for leptin and the BNC2 gene not only helps suppress hunger, but also responds to food-related sensory cues, such as food palatability and nutritional status.

For example, the researchers used CRISPR-Cas 9 gene technology to knock out the leptin receptor in these BNC2 neurons.

Those mice ate more and gained more weight than control mice.

In addition, researchers added fluorescence to the BNC2 neurons and noticed when they fed mice after fasting, the BNC2 neurons activated, whereas previously known neuronal populations in the hypothalamus did not react.

"These findings add a critical new component to our understanding of how neurons impact appetite and obesity," Dr Herb said. "This could be a future target for obesity treatment, such as by activating these neurons to reduce weight or suppress hunger."

2nd Test: Australia ahead after fifties by Head and Labuschagne

Looking to fight their way back into the game, India got an early breakthrough through who else but Jasprit Bumrah

ADELAIDE, Dec 7 (Agencies): Marnus Labuschagne finally regained form with a composed half-century before being overshadowed by Travis Head's flamboyance as Australia negotiated the Indian pacers to reach 191 for four at tea on day two of the second Test here on Saturday.

Head picked the gaps with ease on way to an unbeaten 53 off 67 balls to keep Australia ahead in the contest after India grabbed three wickets in the first session. The hosts were ahead by 11 runs, having gone past India's first innings total of 180.

Labuschagne (64), whose place in the team was debated prior to this game owing to his prolonged lean run with the bat, registered his 26th half-century and then launched himself into a flurry of boundaries in what were worrying signs for India.

But promising all-rounder Nitish Reddy cut short Labuschagne's innings as the batter tried to guide him through gully only for Yashasvi Jaiswal to hold



on to the catch.

Looking to fight their way back into the game after Australia's dominance on the opening day, India got an early breakthrough through who else but Jasprit Bumrah after four overs into play.

Playing in only his second Test after a forgettable debut in Perth, Nathan McSweeney had no answer to one of many excellent deliveries from Bumrah, which straightened a fraction

after landing on the perfect length and all the batter could do was get a little nick while trying to defend after getting stuck on the crease.

McSweeney walked back after a hard-fought 39, a far better effort following his twin failures in the series opener, but Steve Smith's poor run of form continued as the former captain got out in the most unfortunate fashion after a brief stay at the crease.

Smith looked to flick a Bumrah delivery tickling down the leg side but only ended up edging it to the keeper Rishabh Pant who completed a neat catch diving to his left.

As Ravi Shastri said on air, India got Smith in this fashion in the last tour as well, by attacking his middle and leg stump.

Unlike the first day, when they were guilty of bowling outside the off-stump way too often, the Indian pacers targeted the stumps in the initial phase of second day's play and they were also rewarded for it in the form of those early wickets.

Smith's dismissal, for two off 11 balls, brought into the middle Travis Head and Bumrah welcomed him with one that straightened off the deck and whizzed past the outside edge.

Head, however, moved on quickly from the close shave and got off the mark with a cracking boundary off the Indian pace spearhead, finding the gap between mid-off and extra cover.

Shammi Silva takes over ACC presidency role from Jay Shah



DUBAI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah, who recently became the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Shah had vacated the position after three terms as ACC President. Silva previously functioned as the chairman of the organisation's Finance & Marketing Committee.

"It is a great honour to lead the Asian Cricket Council. Cricket is the heartbeat of Asia, and I look forward to working closely with all member nations to elevate the game, provide opportunities for emerging talent, and strengthen the bonds that unite us through this beautiful sport," said Silva

On behalf of the ACC, Silva also extended heartfelt gratitude to Shah for his exemplary leadership and significant contributions during his tenure.

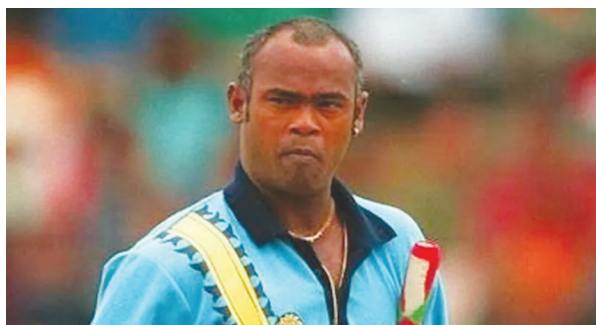
"Under Mr Shah's stewardship, the ACC achieved remarkable milestones, including the successfully achieving highest value for its commercial rights of ACC Asia Cup tournaments for 2024-31, the introduction of a new pathway events structure, and the continued development and growth of cricket across its member nations," the ACC said.

Silva's tenure begins at a pivotal time, with the ACC focusing on the upcoming Asia Cup and striving to strengthen Asia's position as a powerhouse in global cricket.

"Maybe he didn't have talent in...": Rahul Dravid's old assessment of Vinod Kambli resurfaces

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): After a video of Vinod Kambli's recent public appearance came to the fore, an old clip of Rahul Dravid sharing his views on the definition of 'talent', while mentioning Vinod Kambli's name, has resurfaced on social media. Kambli, a childhood friend of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, was one of the most-talked about cricketers when he arrived at the scene, but he failed to maintain the stature. Despite playing 104 ODIs and 17 Tests for India after making his debut in 1991, Kambli's international career could not last even a decade. In the viral resurfaced clip, Dravid, who played 509 matches for India besides also coaching the senior team later, gave the example of how Vinod Kambli had an incredible 'ball-striking ability' but probably "didn't have the talent in the other areas to understand what it took to be an international cricketer."

"I think we judge talent wrong. What do we see as talent? And I've made the same mistake. We judge talent by people's ability to strike a cricket



ball. The sweetness or the timing of a cricket ball. That's the only thing we see as talent. Things like determination, courage, discipline, and temperament are also talents. When we judging talent, I think we've got to look at the whole package," he said in the video. "It's a hard thing to explain but some people just have the gift of timing and ball-striking. Sourav Ganguly just had that ability to time a cover drive. He just had it. You could see. Sachin has it. And Viru. You wouldn't say that about someone like Gautam (Gambhir) as much as you would do for some of these other guys. Not that Gautam is less successful. So that's what we see as talent. We don't actually look at the other side of talent. We say, a talented player didn't make it. We always look at this side but maybe he didn't

have the other talents," Dravid added.

"I hate to use... but Vinod's probably been one of the nicest guys that I've met. Vinod had an incredible ball-striking ability. I remember a game in Rajkot, Vinod got 150 against (Javagal) Srinath and Anil (Kumble). It was incredible. First ball Anil came onto bowl, he hit him straight into the stone wall. In Rajkot, there used to be a stone wall. He hit it bang straight onto it. I mean, we were all shocked, wow it was amazing. How do you do that? But maybe he didn't have the talent in the other areas to understand what it took to be an international cricketer, to deal with the stress and the pressure. I can only guess but maybe Sachin had that much more. That's why Sachin is where he is today," Dravid further said.

Milestones galore as England leads New Zealand by 533 runs in the 2nd test after two days

WELLINGTON, Dec 7 (Agencies): England led New Zealand by 533 runs with five second-innings wickets in hand Saturday after another day of extraordinary incidents and milestones, including a hat-trick on the second day of the second test at the Basin Reserve.

At stumps, England was 378-5 in its second innings with Joe Root 73 not out and captain Ben Stokes unbeaten on 35.

Root was among the history-makers Saturday, reaching his 100th score of 50 or more in tests. When he reached his 65th half century, which goes along with his 35 centuries, he became the fourth player after Sachin Tendulkar, Jacques Kallis and Ricky Ponting to achieve that feat.

When Stokes declares, possibly overnight, New Zealand will have to achieve the highest successful fourth-innings run chase in test history to win the match and level the three-match series. England won the first test by eight wickets in Christchurch.

The record successful fourth innings total currently sits at 418, achieved by the West Indies against Australia at St. John's in the Caribbean 21 years ago.

Under any normal circumstances, Stokes probably would have been happy to declare by now, confident in his bowlers' ability to defend such a mammoth lead.

But the match has progressed



so fast and so far with 783 runs being scored and 25 wickets falling on the first two days, that three full days are still available to New Zealand reach its winning target. Most other winning fourth-innings totals in tests have had some element of a time constraint.

The pitch at the Basin Reserve which has been bathed in sunshine on the first two days also is becoming more docile.

Stokes came to the crease 30 minutes before stumps Saturday and immediately hit a four and a six in the first over he faced from Matt Henry, then another six in what seemed a tacit announcement of an impending declaration. By declaring overnight, Stokes will allow the England bowlers to rest and start fresh on the third day.

The England second innings also saw two batters fall in the 90s, Jacob Bethell on 96, just short of his maiden test century, and Ben Duckett on 92. Harry Brook made 55 to go with his

123 in the first innings and his 171 in the first innings of the first test.

All of those innings would which on any normal day of cricket have notable on their own. But they came one after the other and in quick succession so that Gus Atkinson's historic achievement of the morning session seemed somehow distant.

Atkinson became the 15th English bowler and the first since Moeen Ali in 2017 to take a test hat-trick.

The Surrey pacer claimed the last three wickets of New Zealand's first innings, dismissing Nathan Smith, Matt Henry and Tim Southee with consecutive deliveries as England bowled out New Zealand for 125 to take a 155-run first-innings lead.

"It feels good," Atkinson said. "I've never really thought about getting a hat-trick until I was at the end of my run and I was on a hat-trick. (It) ends the year nicely."

Atkinson bowled Smith (14) with the third ball of the 35th over of the innings. Smith dangled his bat at a delivery wide of off stump, tried too late to leave the ball but managed only to deflect it onto his stumps.

That brought out Henry, a competent batter with an average of almost 20 in tests, who received a ball which bounced sharply from just short of a length and reached chest high. Henry tried to fend the ball away but it skewed from the splice to Duckett in the gully.

That left Southee to face the hat-trick ball. The veteran seamer in his last test series averages 15.6 and has hit 95 sixes in an illustrious career.

Southee clearly was expecting another short ball, the field was set for it. But the delivery from Atkinson was full and straight, struck the batter on the front pad and clearly was going on to hit middle stump.

Atkinson is a statistical marvel who, in just his 10th test, has taken 12 wickets in an innings (12-106 against the West Indies at Lord's in July) and scored a century (118 against Sri Lanka at Lord's in August). He now adds a hat-trick to that already impressive resume.

Atkinson was not privy to Stokes' thoughts about a declaration.

"I'm not really sure what the plans are to be honest," he said. "We'll see tomorrow, assess what the conditions are and see from there."

India storm into U-19 Asia Cup final

SHARJAH, Dec 7 (Agencies): Vaibhav Suryavanshi was the star of the show again with a second successive half-century as India stormed into the U-19 Asia Cup final with a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka here. The 13-year-old, who became the youngest cricketer ever to be bought at an IPL auction last month, smashed five sixes and six fours for his 36-ball 67 as India chased down a target of 174 with as many as 170 balls to spare.

India will face Bangladesh in the final on Sunday.

Bangladesh defeat-

ed Pakistan by seven wickets, completing a modest chase of 117 in 22.1 overs in the first semifinal in Dubai.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka could only manage 173 in 46.2 overs despite a valiant effort from Lakvin Abeysinghe (69 off 110) and Sharujan Shanmuganathan (42 off 78).

Their innings struggled to gain momentum as Indian bowlers were in full control with Chetan Sharma (3/34), Kiran Chormale (2/32), and Ayush Mhatre (2/37) wreaking havoc in the middle overs.

India's chase was built on a solid foundation laid by Ayush Mhatre (34 off 28) as he put on a stand

of 91 with Suryavanshi for the opening wicket.

The young left-hander from Bihar troubled the Sri Lankan bowlers from the beginning as he started with consecutive sixes and a boundary off Dulnith Sigera, who ended up giving away 31 runs in his opening over.

Mhatre too played his strokes at the other end as the duo raced to 87 for no loss in eight overs before Vihass Thewmika gave Sri Lanka their first breakthrough by removing the batter.

But Suryavanshi showed remarkable maturity as he kept the run-rate ticking despite losing his opening partner, forging another cru-



cial association with C Andre Siddharth (22). Skipper Mohamed Amaan (25 not out) and KP Karthikeya (11 not out) then completed the chase.

Brief scores: Sri

Lanka: 173 in 46.2 overs (Abeysinghe 69, Shanmuganathan 42; Sharma 3/34, Chormale 2/32, Mhatre 2/37); India: 175/3 in 21.4 overs (Suryavanshi 67, Mhatre 34, Amaan 25*).

Suthra appointed as FIVB communications commission member

CHANDIGARH, Dec 7 (Agencies): The international volleyball federation (FIVB) has appointed Dr Varun Suthra as a member of its communications commission. This appointment was approved by the FIVB Board during its first meeting for the 2024-2028 Olympics cycle, following the 39th FIVB World Congress. The FIVB commissions provide guidance in critical areas such as coaching, legal frameworks, medical science and communication strategies.

Responding to his appointment, Suthra said, "It is an honour to serve on the FIVB



communications commission. Volleyball is not just a sport, it is a global movement that connects people. Contributing to the growth of this movement is a matter of pride for me. This is not just a personal achievement but a moment of pride for

India as we make significant strides on the global stage."

Suthra, who is the Director of International Relations at Bhubaneswar's KIIT University, acknowledged the guidance of Achyuta Samanta, the former president of the Volleyball Federation of India. "This achievement would not have been possible without the inspiration and encouragement of Dr Achyuta Samanta. His vision and unwavering support have shaped my journey and enabled me to contribute meaningfully to the global volleyball movement. I am deeply grateful for his trust and mentorship."

Renowned industrialist Akhil Gupta honored for selfless social service

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust honored renowned industrialist Akhil Gupta on Saturday for his exceptional and selfless contributions to social service.

Speaking at the ceremony, Trust President and state awardee Mahant Rohit Shastri lauded Gupta's unwavering commitment to society. He emphasized the profound value of selfless service, remarking, "True service lies in supporting and uplifting others. Recognizing and encouraging those engaged in noble work inspires progress and sets a precedent for others to follow. The rewards of selfless ser-



vice inevitably manifest in life."

Akhil Gupta expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Trust and Mahant Rohit Shastri for the recognition. He praised the Trust's commendable efforts in promoting Sanskrit and preserving cultural heritage under Shastri's leadership. Gupta noted, "Shri

Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust is making remarkable strides in promoting the divine language, Sanskrit. The dedication and hard work of all its members are truly praiseworthy."

The event witnessed the presence of several notable citizens, including Pramod Sharma,

Sunil Sharma, Master Vijay Kumar Sharma, Uttam Chand Sharma, Lakhwinder Singh, Rajan Sharma, Lucky Sharma, Ravinder Singh Patyal, and Arun Gupta, who expressed their appreciation for Gupta's altruistic contributions and the Trust's ongoing efforts in cultural and social upliftment.

Protective works on Chenab River begin after decade MLA Mohan Lal inaugurates project worth Rs.1.26 Crore

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 7: MLA Mohan Lal inaugurated a Rs.1.26 crore project for crate revetment and embankment works in the Chanjwa village of Devipur Panchayat. The initiative aims to safeguard the agricultural lands of local residents from the rising water levels of the Chenab River. For the past decade, the residents of the region have been demanding protective measures along the riverbanks.

MLA Mohan Lal emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring safety and development along the Chenab River. He announced that a massive Rs. 55 crore plan has been launched to implement protective works along both banks of the river, stretching from Akhnoor to Hamirpur. Out of this, Rs.42 crore will be dedicated specifically to projects within the Akhnoor constituency. This project is expected to benefit nearly 25,000 residents, providing a long-term solution to protect their land.



Expressing his vision for Akhnoor, MLA Mohan Lal stated, "I am determined to transform Akhnoor into a model constituency. Development works are being carried out across all departments, and this riverbank protection is a crucial step for the large population residing along the Chenab." He also directed contractors to ensure the highest stan-

dards of quality in the execution of these works.

Prominent attendees at the event included Rajiv Gupta (Executive Engineer, Flood Control Department), Bhushan Baral (DDC), former Sarpanch Ganesh Das, former Sarpanch Verinder Bhagat, Manga Ram Sharma, Gullu Ram and other notable residents from nearby villages.

JKBS Members tribute Vir Chakra Mohan Lal Lakhotra on his 54th Martyrdom Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha tributed their Indo-Pak War Hero Lance Naik Mohan Lal (Vir Chakra) on his 54th martyrdom day.

JKBS' General Secretary R.L. Kaith said, "On the intervening night of December 7, 1971 when he was manning the Medium



Machine Gun (MMG), the enemy attacked with heavy artillery fire. Undeterred, he kept

on firing at the enemy, halting its advance thereby enabling own troops to reorganise

for a counter attack as a result of which the enemy was forced to retreat. Eventually, his dead body was found at his MMG post but in front of the bunker there were bodies of as many as nineteen enemies including a company commander thereof. For this brave act, he was posthumously conferred with Vir Chakra by the then President of India."

All present on the occasion said, "We are very

proud of his bravery and urge the Government to name a building, road or institution after him even though belatedly."

Prominent among those who tributed were Subedar Paras Ram Lakhotra (Retd), Havildar Darshan Lal Lakhotra (Retd), Havildar Ghari Lal Lakhotra (Retd), Havildar Jai Kumar Kaith (Retd), Poli Devi, Randeep Kumar Chanjotra and Yuvraj Lakhotra.

Dimple leads protest against attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, Pakistan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a massive protest rally today at Janipur High Court Road against atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh and Pakistan. The protest also raised demands for the liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit-Baltistan, and the deportation of Rohingyas from Jammu and Kashmir.

The rally saw effigies of Pakistan and Bangladesh burnt as demonstrators condemned attacks on temples, killings of Hindus, and

atrocities against minorities in these countries.

Addressing the gathering, Dimple highlighted the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh, alleging brutal killings, public hangings, and destruction of temples and businesses by local authorities and extremists. He specifically demanded the immediate release of Hindu saint Chinmay Krishna, reportedly arrested by Bangladeshi forces.

Dimple also voiced concerns over the security threat posed by Rohingyas in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged their involvement in illegal activities such as human trafficking, drug

smuggling, and espionage for Pakistan. He urged the Union Home Ministry and J&K administration to ensure their deportation.

Calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dimple emphasized the urgent need to liberate POK and Gilgit-Baltistan, asserting that the people in these regions are yearning to join India. He accused the Pakistani Army and ISI of human rights violations, including forced conversions, rapes, and the killing of minorities.

Dimple warned Pakistan and Bangladesh that India would not tolerate any harm to Hindus or Sikhs. He reaffirmed India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens and promoting peace in the region.

Prominent leaders, including Vinay Agarwal, Suresh Jamwal, B.B. Bhat, Narender Sharma, Sameer Gupta, Ashok Kumar, and Vishal Kapoor, joined the protest, expressing solidarity with the cause.

GGM Science College observes AIDS Awareness Week with human chain activity



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: In observance of AIDS Awareness Week, Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, organized a Human Chain Activity under the slogan "Let us join hands to make a difference. Let us show the world that we care." The event, spearheaded by the Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with the NSS unit, was held under the patronage of Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta and guidance of Dr. P.S. Thakur.

The activity highlighted the institute's solidarity with the J&K AIDS Control Society in promoting awareness about HIV/AIDS among students, faculty, and the local community. It aimed to dispel myths, reduce stigma, and encourage voluntary testing and counseling.

Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta emphasized the responsibility of students as future leaders to actively prevent the spread of HIV/

AIDS. He noted, "HIV/AIDS is not just a medical issue; it carries a social stigma affecting individuals, families, communities, and society at large. It is imperative to foster a compassionate and informed society that supports those living with HIV/AIDS."

The event's success was attributed to the visionary approach of Dr. Gupta and the efforts of the organizing team. Enthusiastic student participation was coordinated by faculty members, including Prof. Sunita Kumari, Assistant Dean DSW CLUJ, Dr. Neha Sharma and Dr. Rahul Kait, NSS Programme Officers, Dr. Bekam Paul Singh, Associate Professor in Botany and Dr. Arti Sharma, HOD EVS.

The program concluded with a pledge, "Let us work together to create a world that will not tolerate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS."

Open loot in under guise of toll plaza.: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has termed the toll collection going on incomplete and under-construction roads of Jammu as open loot by the National Highway Authority.

In a press conference held at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni has strongly criticized the toll plaza on the incomplete ring road yesterday and demanded to roll it back with immediate effect.

Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir is the only union territory where there is a plethora

of toll plazas, toll collection is being done on five toll plazas in Jammu and work is going on on the 6th in Akhnoor. Two toll plazas are in Kashmir. Sahni said that no opportunity is being missed to loot the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni has demanded from the BJP MPs of Jammu and Kashmir to raise their voice against this loot and put a stop to it.

On this occasion working President Jai Bharat, Senior Vice President Balwant Singh, Secretary Geeta Lakhotra, Dimple, Nitin were present.

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