

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Soldier shoots himself dead in Rajouri

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): In an apparent case of suicide, an Army personnel allegedly shot himself dead using his service rifle in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Havaldar Indesh Kumar was on sentry duty inside his camp at the Anjanwali village in the Manjakote area when he fatally shot himself late Tuesday, the officials said. They said the reason behind the extreme step was not known immediately. Police have started inquest proceedings into the case, the officials added.

PoK man arrested from 'illegally' crossing LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder was apprehended by the Army near the LoC in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, security officials said on Thursday. Mohd Sadiq (18) was allegedly attempting to sneak into the Indian side from across the border when he was intercepted by the alert troops at Noorkote, a village near the border fence late Wednesday evening, the officials said.

They said the individual was not carrying any incriminating material and he is being questioned to ascertain his motive. Preliminary investigation suggested that he might have crossed the LoC inadvertently, the officials said.

PDP nominates Khursheed Alam as General Secretary, Youginder Singh as Coordinator Urban Rural

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) on Thursday nominated Mohammad Khursheed Alam as party general secretary, while Youginder Singh has been appointed as Coordinator Urban Rural. Besides party nominated several district presidents for Kashmir and Jammu zones.

Opposition protests with 'Desh Bikne Nahi Denge' placards, demands JPC on Adani Issue

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Several opposition MPs on Thursday staged a protest inside Parliament complex carrying placards of different Hindi letters that jointly read 'desh bikne nahin denge' and raised slogans to reiterate their demand of a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue.

This is the latest in a series of unusual daily



demonstrations led by the Congress over the Adani issue. Congress general sec-

retary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MPs from the Congress, DMK, and the Left parties, among

others, stood in front of the Makar Dwar steps and in front of Samvidhan Sadan with most of them carrying the placards that together read 'desh bikne nahin denge (will not let the country be sold off)'. They raised slogans against the alleged collusion between Modi and Adani and demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe

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Complaint filed against illegal construction on government land in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: A complaint has been lodged with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) against Darshan Choudhary, a resident of Patoli Brahmna, Akhnoor Road, Jammu, for allegedly raising an illegal commercial construction on government land. The complaint, filed by Vinay Gupta, a resident of Rehari

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NIA searches 19 locations including in J&K, UP in JeM conspiracy case

NEW DELHI/SRI-NAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency on Thursday conducted searches at 19 locations as part of a probe into a conspiracy by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed to radicalise youths and spread terror in India, officials said.

The searches were being conducted in three states, including Uttar Pradesh, and in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In J-K, the NIA sleuths carried out early

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Sixty percent of those killed in road accidents in 18-34 age group: Govt In Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): As many as 1.78 lakh people are killed in road accidents annually in the country and 60 per cent of the victims are in the age group of 18-34 years, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday. He lamented that



people do not fear the law and many drive two-wheelers without helmets and some jump

the red signal. "One unfortunate fact is that of the 1.78 lakh people dying in road accidents, 60 per cent are in the age group of 18 to 34 years. Still there is no fear of law. Some do not wear helmets, some jump red signal," he said during the Question Hour, adding that it

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Kashmir plains receive season's first snowfall

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): Several areas in the plains of the Kashmir Valley received the season's first snowfall, while higher reaches experienced moderate

rainfall, officials said on Thursday, adding that the minimum temperature has improved across most places in the valley. The plains of Shopian,

Pulwama, and Baramulla, as well as the upper areas of Anantnag, Budgam, and Bandipora received light snowfall. However, there was no

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DC Kargil chairs meeting on AN-32 Kargil courier service

KARGIL, Dec 12 (Agencies): Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting through virtual mode to discuss the operational arrangements for AN-32 Kargil Courier Service for the 2024-25 winter season. Key attendees included SSP Kargil, Director Airport Authority of India Srinagar and Jammu, Sr. Commandant CISF

Jammu & Srinagar airport, Er. Aamir Ali Chief Coordinator AN32 Courier Service, General Manager AIASL, officers from the Indian Air Force and other stakeholders. Discussions covered the Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs), facilities for passengers and crew, security protocols, infrastructure maintenance at Kargil airport, deployment of

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JKAS officer Mohammad Usman Khan appointed SA to Minister Satish Sharma

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): In a recent administrative decision, Mohammad Usman Khan, JKAS, previously ordered to transfer as Deputy District Election Officer, Kishtwar, has now been appointed as Special Assistant (SA) to

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Cash crunch in JK Treasuries leaves employees, contractors, and pensioners in distress

SRINAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): A severe cash crunch in Jammu and Kashmir's government treasuries has triggered widespread discontent among contractors, government employees, and pensioners, with delayed payments causing significant hardships. Concerns over the situation were raised by Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) senior leader and former minister Naem Akhtar, who called for urgent intervention to address the financial crisis. Akhtar described the situation as "frightening," highlighting that pensioners' files for retirement benefits, including gratuity, leave salary, and pensions, are languishing in adminis-

trative offices without action. He also noted that General Provident Fund (GPF) cases of government employees have been pending for months. Contractors working with key departments such as Roads and Buildings and Jal Shakti are similarly affected, with payments for completed projects

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Bovine smugglers killed due to road accident after their vehicle jumped police naka, no firing incident in Samba: Police

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): Police on Thursday issued rebuttal regarding a report circulated on social media that bovine smugglers were killed in firing incident.

In a handout, the police said that today a news in some media groups is in circulation regarding firing by Police upon bovine smugglers at Naka Nud in district Samba. This news is totally baseless and not based on facts. No firing incident took place.

The police spokesman further stated that the fact is that bovine smugglers in a speedy car, broke the Police Naka at Nud, critically injured a Police Official and fled away from the spot.

After hundreds meters away from the naka point, bovine smugglers lost control of the vehicle and fell down into gorge resulting in the death of two bovine smugglers on the spot and one injured. One bovine was also found dead. Further details awaited, reads the statement.

Senior IPS Officer Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gilani promoted to DGP Grade

JAMMU, Dec 12 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has ordered the promotion of senior IPS Officer, Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gilani to the DGP Grade with



effect from the date of assumption of charge. An order issued by Rakesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary to Government of India, reads: "In pursuance to the recommendations of

the Screening Committee in its meeting held on 20.12.2023 and with the approval of the Competent Authority, Shri Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gilani, IPS (AGMUT:1994) is

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Gupshup

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

Room No: 1

Room No: 2

Room No: 3

Room No: 4

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 Trilok 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** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education at 10 AM.

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



SHRI TRILOKI NATH AGA

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Late Sh. Girdhari Lal R/o Railway Line Gagjan R.S. Pura, Jammu on 03-12-2024.

10th Day will be performed at our residence Railway Line Gagjan R.S. Pura, Jammu on 12-12-2024 (Thursday) at 10:00 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence Railway Line Gagjan R.S. Pura, Jammu on 13.12.2024 (Friday) at 12 Noon.

Grief Stricken:

Sons and Daughters in law
Subash Chander & Santosh Kumari
Ramesh Chander & Surekha Devi
Anita Kumari & Satish Kumar- **Daughters and Sons in law**
Grand Son:- Ankit Kalotra & Nishu Kumari
Grand Children: Ansil, Akhil, Danish, Haardik, Roopali, Ritika
Great Grand Son:- Nishank Kalotra
Mobile No.:- 9906003664, 9858621179, 6005690057



Smt. Krishna Devi

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of **Shri Shibban Lal Raina**, S/o Late Shri Tikka Lal Raina (Razdan). Originally from Salla, Anantnag due to tragic road accident. Mourning will be held at Sathu Niwara, House No. - 541, Sathu Nagar, (Vikas Nagar Lane) Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 16th Dec 2024 at 9:30 am Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Shyama Raina (Bhabi) (Bhabi & Brother)
Smt. Shyama Raina & Shri Avtar Krishan Raina (Sister and Brother in law)
Smt. Grjs Sathu and Shri Bharat Bhushan Sathu CHILDREN

Jolly & Rajeev Koul (Daughter & Son in Law)
Ria & Rakesh Razdan (Daughter in law & Son)
Anjali & Suresh SaSya (Daughter & Son in law)
Archana & Sarjeev Koul (Daughter & Son in law)
Renu & Amit Raina (Daughter in law & Son)
Dimple & Ashwini Koul (Daughter & Son in law)
Anshu & Sandeep Bakaya (Daughter & Son in law)
Contact Number - 7051480824, 9419126767, 9796439821



SHRI SHIBBAN LAL RAINA

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

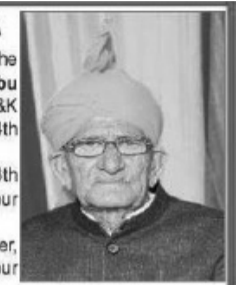
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Babu Ram** R/o Thanger Pallanwala, Jammu, J&K who left us for his heavenly abode on 04th December, 2024, Wednesday.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 13th December, 2024, Friday at 10:30 am at our residence Thanger Pallanwala.

Kriya will be performed on 14th December, 2024, Saturday from 9:00 am onwards at our residence Thanger Pallanwala.

Grief Stricken :-

Sons & Daughter in laws
Jagdish Raj (Contractor) & Smt Kamlesh Kumari
Sh Suresh Sharma (DFO) & Smt Rita Sharma
Sh Sushil Sharma (Bhai) & Smt Sunita Sharma
Grand Son in law
Rohit Sharma (Sr. Geologist)



Sh Babu Ram

Daughters & Son in laws
Smt Kamlesh Kumari & Sh Babu Ram
Smt Suresh Sharma & Sh Krishna Lal
Grand Sons & Daughters
Vikas, Akash, Rishab, Shantaram, Mohit
Ankush, Dr Preeti, Gargi, Kumbhish, Shreshth, Manu, & Pooam
Contact No. 9419103353, 9419138323, 9419308613

Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Ashok Kumar Padha** S/o Late Sh. Hari Ram Padha R/o H.No. 111 Sector-3 Channi Himmat Colony, Jammu, on 2nd December, 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on Wednesday, 11th December 2024 at 11 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on Thursday, 12th December, 2024 at 12 Noon.

Uthala will be performed at Panch Mandir, Sector-2 Channi Himmat on Friday, 13th December, 2024 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Kusum Padha-Wife
Miss Anam Padha-Daughter
Brother and Bhabhi:
Er S. C. Padha and Smt. Anja Padha
Sh. P. C. Padha and Smt. Veena Padha
Sisters:
Smt. Shyama Dogra W/o Late Sh. Ram Das Dogra
Smt. Kamlesh Khajuria W/o Late Er R. L. Khajuria
Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law:
Er Govind Mehta and Smt. Naeem Mehta
Mobile: 9419140578, 7006102009, 9140974427



Sh. Ashok Kumar Padha

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, it is to inform the demise of **Mr Vijay Kumar Nakhasi** S/o Late Shri Madsudan Nakhasi & Late Smt. Rupa Nakhasi, originally from Bagh-e-Jogi-Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar, currently R/O Pune, A1-301 Nyati Evara Near Corinthian club, Undri Pune-411060.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 13/12/2024 at 8 AM.

ASSEMBLY will be held at Alandi Temple Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Usha Nakhasi- Wife
Yuek Kaul & Shikha Kaul- (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Niraj Nakhasi & Sonam Nakhasi- (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sarla Zutshi- (Sister)
Brother-in-law & Sister
Puran Bhushan Sumbli & Vijay Laxmi Sumbli
Kuldeep Dhar - (Brother-in-law)
Dilip Munshi & Rita Munshi (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)
Vijay Munshi (Sister-in-law)
Vinod Watal & Indra Watal (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)
Preetam Batra & Veena Batra (Sambandhi)
Shyla Kaul & Tavish Nakhasi (Grand children)
SAMAST PARIYAR: NAKHASI'S, ZUTSHI'S, SUMBLI'S, DHAR'S, MUNSHI'S, WATTAL'S, KAUL'S, BATRA'S
MOBILE NO-9764215935



MR VIJAY KUMAR NAKHASI

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

Uthala Ceremony on 13th Dec, 2024 at Jain Sabha adjacent Lane to Jain School Kachi Chawni, Jammu time 4 to 5 PM of **Smt. Sheela Sethi** W/o Krishan Lal Sethi.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Pallav Sethi - Son
Priyanka Manhas - Daughter
Randhir Singh Manhas - Son-in-law
Grand Son (Nati): Vedant Singh Manhas, Tejas Singh Manhas
Rajesh Sethi & Anil Sethi - Brother-in-law
Sister's Family, Sister's-in-law Family, Sethi Family, Manhas Family, Sehgal Family
Contact No: 7889962607, 80820 77230, 979 69 73339



SMT. SHEELA SETHI

BARKHI

Barkhi of our beloved Late **Sh Jagdish Sharma** who left us for his heavenly abode on 25th December 2023, will be performed at our residence House No. 187 Ward No. 11 Mohalla Shanker Nagar, Poonch on 13th day December 2024.

Grief Stricken:

Kanchan Sharma (Wife)
Sourav Sharma (Son)
Nancy Dutta (Daughter-in-law)
Swati Sharma (Daughter)
Sanjeev Sharma (Son-in-law)



Sh Jagdish Sharma

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh K. L. Kharoo** originally resident of Banamohalla Srinagar, Kashmir, At Present Lane No-3, Amrit Vihar, Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra clinic lane, Barnai, Jammu on 04-12-2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on Friday 13th December, 2024 at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) at 8:30 am.

Grief Stricken:

Samast Kharoo Family
And all extended Family Members.
9596779378, 7483034789, 7006262130



Sh K. L. Kharoo

Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Dwarka Nath Sharma** expired on 03/12/2024.

10th Day will be performed on 12/12/24 at 11 am at our residence Pouni Chak

Karam Kriya will be performed on 13/12/24 at 12 pm at our residence Pouni Chak

Rasam Pagri will be performed on 14/12/24 at 1 pm at our residence pouni chack

Uthala will be performed on 14/12/24 Timing 3.30 PM to 4.30 PM at Bakshi Resort Pouni Chack (Sari).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Chanchala Devi (Wife)
Contact No 6005522882 and 9419300300



Sh Dwarka Nath Sharma

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Usha Ganjoo** W/o Sh. Ramesh Ganjoo R/o Jagti Township Lane No.1, Quarter No. 22.

10th Day Kriya will be held at Sainik School Nagrota on 16th Dec at 10 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Ramesh Ganjoo - Husband
Sheela Ganjoo - Mother-in-law
Rohit Ganjoo - Son
Riya Ganjoo - Daughter



Smt. Usha Ganjoo

TENTH DAY/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved grand father **Sh. Charanjeet Lal** who left for heavenly abode on 3-12-2024.

Tenth Day will be performed at 11 AM on 12-12-2024 (Thursday) at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Dhakki Sarajan, Link Road, Uthala/Rasam Pagri will be performed from 3 PM to 4 PM on 16-12-2024 (Monday) at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Dhakki Sarajan Link Road.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Leela Wanti - Wife
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Vinod Kumar & Smt. Sunita Kalha
Sh. Natinder Kalha & Smt. Ranu Bala
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Swaraj & Sh. Vinod Kumar
Smt. Neelam & Sh. B.R. Senkar
Smt. Suman & Sh. Ajay Raina
Smt. Neetu & Late Sh. L.C. Girdhi
Grand Sons & Grand Daughters-in-law
Sh. Karan Kalha & Smt. Shalini Kalha
Sh. Pradeep Kalha & Smt. Shagun Kalha
Sh. Goutav Kalha - **Grand Son**
Grand Daughters & Grand Sons-in-law
Smt. Sakshi & Sh. Vishal Patel
Smt. Samiksha & Sh. Raju Dabgotra
Mobile No: 8082351815, 808271815
7 889 837335



SH. CHARANJEET LAL

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bhushan Lal Bhat**, S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Bhat originally from Chowdrigund, Shopian, Kashmir.

He left us for heavenly abode on 9th December, 2024 at Hinjewadi, Pune.

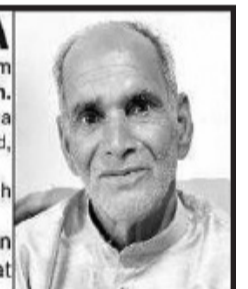
10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 18th December, 2024 (Wednesday) at Hinjewadi, Pune.

FOR CONDOLENCES
Pune Address: Blue Ridge Society, Hinjewadi Phase 1, Pune

Jammu Address: H.No.124-D, Sector-2, Durga Nagar, P.O. Roop Nagar, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Vijay Bhat (Wife)
Shilpi & Vikram Bhat (Daughter-in-law & Son) and Samast Bhat Parivar

Contact: 7028465275/ 9890204002/ 9419229514/ 7006388072/ 8899575239



SH. BHUSHAN LAL BHAT

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ramesh Chander Verma** R/o Bantalab Opposite CRPF Gate on 4th of December 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 13th of December 2024 (Friday) at our residence from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Suman Kanta -Wife
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Neetu & Sh. Jainder Verma
Smt. Shipra & Sh. Virinder Verma
Smt. Reena & Pawan Kohli
Sh. Parmod Kohli

Grand Children
Urvashi, Kartavya, Virat, Antriksh, Ayush, Udit, Priya
Contact : 9419131558, 9419770992

M/s Virender Gold Smith



Sh. Ramesh Chander Verma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of our beloved father, **Sh. Bansilal Bhat (Qazi)**, originally from Kalosa, Bandipora. Present Address: House No. 677, Sainik Colony, Sec-C, Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Wednesday, 18th December 2024, at Akhnoor Ghat.

The **ASSEMBLY** will take place at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of Education, at 10:00 AM.

IN GRIEF

Smt. Krishna Bhat (Qazi)-Wife
Sh. Sarwan and Bhat/Qazi -Brother
Rajhansi & Anil Kachroo -**Daughter & Son-in-law**
Basanti & Younginder Bhat -**Daughter-in-law & Son**
Jolly & Dileep Bhat -**Daughter-in-law & Son**
Ruby & Satish Bhat -**Daughter-in-law & Son**
Also Mourning:
The Qazi, Koul, Sedhu, Raina, Tikoo, Pandita, and Bhat families.
Contact Numbers: 7506371497, 9962503399, 9797576662



SH. BANSI LAL BHAT (QAZI)

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UP Cabinet Minister & State Minister leads roadshow for Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025 in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is dedicated to making Mahakumbh 2025 a global symbol of India's cultural unity. As part of this endeavor and vision, Cabinet Minister, Science and Technology, Anil Kumar and State Minister of Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf, Haj Danish Azad Ansari led a grand roadshow in Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted the Mahakumbh as a unique celebration of unity within India's diversity and extended an invitation to the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and the esteemed people of Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025. They emphasized that the government is taking significant steps to ensure the event is historic, featuring international participation and state-of-the-art facilities. Speaking to the media after the roadshow, Kumar stated that the Mahakumbh embodies the spirit of India's cultural and spiritual consciousness and is a divine and vibrant representation of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshth Bharat-Samaveshi Bharat (One India, Great India, Inclusive India)'. During the press conference, the Science & Technology Minister reminded, "Many of you may have witnessed the 'divine and grand' experience of the Prayagraj Kumbh in 2019, which became an indelible symbol of India's cultural pride on the global stage. The world widely acknowledged the efficient management of the event." He further emphasized that this year's Mahakumbh will surpass the previous one in both grandeur and divine essence. Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025 is expected to welcome over 450 million pilgrims, saints, ascetics, and tourists. In preparation, the Uttar Pradesh government has made meticulous and timely arrangements. During his address to the press, Kumar informed, "Under the inspiration and guidance of Prime Minister



Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Mahakumbh will take place in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025, on the sacred banks of the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. Recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Mahakumbh will once again be held on the holy land of Prayagraj after a gap of 12 years." Addressing the media regarding the preparations for the Mahakumbh, the Science & Technology Minister said, "It would be a clean, healthy, safe and digital Mahakumbh. A pledge has been taken to make the event environment friendly by declaring it a single-use plastic-free Mahakumbh. As part of this initiative, various shops of dona-pattal vendors will be allocated within the Mela area, and meetings have been conducted with principals of 400 schools to discuss cleanliness and the initiative of a clean Maha Kumbh is being communicated to 4 lakh children and 5 times the population of Prayagraj. Furthermore, under the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign, the message of a single-use plastic-free environment is being delivered to every household." He highlighted that special emphasis has been placed on making Mahakumbh Mela 2025 both clean and green. Approximately three lakh plants have been cultivated across Prayagraj, with the Uttar Pradesh government pledging to ensure their care and maintenance even after the conclusion of the Mela. The Science & Technology Minister informed that the preparations for the Mahakumbh Mela

are being made with a focus on health and hygiene. This includes making healthcare arrangements for pilgrims, sadhus, saints, those observing Kalpas at Mahakumbh and tourists. A large number of specialist doctors have been deployed. A 100-bed hospital has been set up at the Parade Ground. Two more hospitals with 20 beds each and smaller hospitals with 8 beds have also been prepared. Two 10-bed ICUs have been set up by the Army Hospital at the Mela area and Arail. These hospitals will have doctors on duty 24 hours a day. In total, there will be 291 MBBS doctors and specialists, 90 Ayurvedic and Unani specialists, and 182 nursing staff. Moreover, separate wards for male, female and children have been set up in these hospitals. Delivery rooms, emergency wards and doctors' rooms will also be available. Addressing the press, the Cabinet Minister of Science and Technology, Anil Kumar stated that the Uttar Pradesh government is committed to organizing a divine, grand, and digital Maha Kumbh. The preparations include the launch of a dedicated website and app, an AI-powered chatbot in 11 languages, QR-based passes for people and vehicles, a multilingual digital lost-and-found center, ICT monitoring for cleanliness and tents, software for land and facility allocation, multilingual digital signage (VMD), an automated ration supply system, drone-based surveillance and disaster management, live software for monitoring 530 projects, an inventory tracking system, and integration of all loca-

tions on Google Maps. The Minority Welfare Minister informed that arrangements have been made to ensure tourists do not face parking issues. In this regard, 101 smart parking facilities have been created, capable of accommodating up to five lakh vehicles daily. The parking area spans 1,867.04 hectares, which is 763.75 hectares larger compared to the 1,103.29 hectares allocated for parking in 2019. These parking facilities will be monitored through the Integrated Control Command Center. During the press conference, the Science and Technology Minister provided details about the arrangements for the Mahakumbh. He informed that 35 existing permanent ghats and 9 new ghats have been constructed in the Mahakumbh city to facilitate bathing for devotees. Aerial flower showers will be carried out across all 44 ghats spread over a 12-kilometer area. He further mentioned that a riverfront, modeled after Mumbai's Marine Drive, has been developed along a 15.25-kilometer stretch on the banks of the Ganges, extending from the Sangam to Nagvasuki Temple, Surdas to Chhatnag, and near Curzon Bridge to Mahavir Puri. Additionally, the Integrated Control Command Center has been upgraded to enhance crowd management. Four viewing centers, equipped with 52-seater setups, have been established for real-time CCTV monitoring. The Science and Technology Minister stated that approximately 450 million devotees are expected to attend Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025, marking a significant milestone.

Director CSIR-IIIM inaugurates Farmers Awareness Program at Dhar, Uttarakhand



Top News Report

TEHRI, Dec 12: In order to augment the aromatic farming under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III and transform hilly regions to Aroma Valleys, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, organized a productive Farmers Awareness Program in Dharpayakoti village, Block Kirtinagar, Tehsil Garhwal, Dehradun, Uttarakhand." Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu inaugurated the programme. The event hosted at the Dhar Regional Development Institute, focused on promoting the sustainable cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants in the region, a cornerstone of the Aroma Mission Phase-III. On this occasion, IIIM celebrated two significant milestones: the successful cultivation of rosemary and the launch of lavender farming in the region. The central theme was the transformation of remote hilly areas of Uttarakhand into "Aroma Villages" through aromatic plant cultivation, heralding a new era of economic development and environmental sustainability. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, highlighted the initiative's under CSIR Aroma Mission to empower rural communities by fostering entrepreneurship, creating sustainable livelihoods, and advancing self-reliance. Dr. Ahmed also emphasized the economic potential of aromatic plant cultivation, which can thrive in Uttarakhand's challenging terrain while promot-

ing environmental conservation. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Suphla Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer of CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III, informed the farmers about accessing high-quality planting materials and technical support for oil distillation and value addition to their produce. Dr. Gupta's remarks reinforced the mission's dedication to supporting rural communities in achieving long-term agricultural prosperity. Dr. A.S. Rawat, Former Chief Scientist from CSIR-NBRI Lucknow, encouraged farmers to adopt aromatic crop cultivation as a means to achieve higher economic returns and regional prosperity. Beside him, Dr. J.S. Butola, Professor at HNBGU Srinagar and Founder of Human India, and Ajay Pal Singh Panwar, Founder of Dhar Kshetriya Vikas Sansthan also addressed the farmers. Both experts, having

long associations with supporting local farmers, applauded the program's efforts in bringing the benefits of high-value aromatic crops to the region. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from women farmers, rural community members, and representatives from various parts of Uttarakhand, including Chakrata, Thauldhar, Chamba, and Pauri Garhwal. Participants explored the possibilities of transforming their regions through aromatic farming. In the afternoon session, the team of experts toured the farmer's field, reviewed ongoing agricultural initiatives under the Aroma Mission, and commended the farmers' achievements. The program marked a pivotal step in Uttarakhand's journey toward becoming a hub for aromatic and medicinal plant cultivation, fostering economic growth and environmental resilience in the state.

MLA Devsar holds public darbar at Devsar, listens public issues

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 12: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Devsar Constituency Peerzada Ferzode Ahmad Shah on Thursday Inaugurated Kisan Mela cum Public darbar at Devsar in Kulgam district. After inaugurating the Kissan Mela, MLA inspected the Stalls established by line Departments showcasing different varieties

under Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, KVK and other Departments, besides Agri-Entrepreneurs and progress. He also chairs a public darbar, which witnessed an overwhelming turnout of enthusiastic locals, providing an important platform for them to voice their concerns before the MLA and seek immediate redressal to their problems. MLA attentively listened to the

grievances and assured the public of swift action. He directed the concerned departments to resolve the issues in a time-bound manner, emphasizing the government's commitment to the region's overall development. The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, officers from various departments were present on the occasion.

Keshav Chopra organises free eye screening camp for cops

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra Organises 90th Free Eye Screening/Check Up at Police Station Nowabad Jammu. The Camp was Organised in collaboration with Sood Eye Centre (A unit of Agarwal Hospitals) and was inaugurated by Superintendent of Police Jammu North Vivek Shekhar Sharma JKPS accompanied by Deputy Superintendent of Police Hqs Ashok Kumar, SRO Now-



abad Inspector Deepak Pathania and Incharge Police Post Canal Road Sub Inspector Darshan Singh. The camp saw great attendance; a total of 64 Cops were provided free of Cost Treatment including Refraction, NCT, AR Check Up,

Vision Check Up by a team of experts and Free Medicines were also given. Speaking during the Camp SP North Vivek Shekhar Sharma praised the Samvedna society's initiative to provide voluntary services to the Police Personnel by organizing regular Health Check up Camps at different locations so that they can take benefit of it. Speaking during the Camp Keshav Chopra said that Samvedna Society is committed to work for all sections by

providing best healthcare facilities to the people at their doorstep. This camp was planned exclusively to benefit the Police Personnels and to foster a culture that is devoted to the serving of JKP. Cataract removal surgeries will also be done free of cost on Ayushman Bharat Golden Card keshav added. Dr Vithal Rao Balaji MS Eye, Ashish Sharma, Anees, Hiteshar Singh, Vikas Kumar, Ashish, Manoj tandon, Sourav Gupta and others were also present.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE) MECH. DIVISION
KATHUA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 95/JSPHEMK of 2024-25 dated: 10-12-2024

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 5000 GPH x 200m HCP including its other allied works at P/S Billawar Town.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua	Rs. 500.00 (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua & also mentioned the e-NT No. and date	2% (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	7.75 lac	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **10-12-2024 (06:00PM) and uploaded from 10-12-2024(6:00 PM) to 17-12-2024 (01:00 PM)**. he complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua on **18-12-2024 at 01:00 P.Mor** any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Kathua.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua** during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: JSPHEMK/2492-95
Dated: 10-12-2024

DIP/J-8022/24
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division,
Kathua

EDITORIAL

Mahakumbh

The Mahakumbh is one of the most spiritually and culturally significant events in Hinduism. Held every twelve years, the Mahakumbh is an extraordinary occasion where millions of devotees gather at specific locations across India, to take a holy dip in the sacred rivers and seek blessings for purification of the soul. It is not just a religious event, but also a cultural phenomenon that brings people together, transcending boundaries of region, language, and social status. The Mahakumbh is much more than a festival; it is a powerful symbol of unity, faith, and devotion that resonates deeply with the spiritual heart of India.

The Kumbh Mela is celebrated at four major riverbanks in India: Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad), Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. These locations are chosen because they are believed to have a divine connection with the Ganga, Yamuna, Sarasvati, Godavari, and Shipra rivers, all of which are considered sacred in Hindu tradition. The Mahakumbh, specifically, is a grander version of the regular Kumbh Mela, held once every twelve years at one of these locations, and the time of its celebration is determined by an astrological calculation that aligns with certain planetary positions.

The origins of the Kumbh Mela can be traced back to the Puranic texts, particularly the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata Purana. The mythological story behind the event is rooted in the Samudra Manthan or the churning of the ocean, where, after a cosmic battle, the gods and demons together churned the ocean to obtain the nectar of immortality, known as Amrit. In the process, the Amrit spilled over at four places—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik—and it is believed that these places became sacred for performing the ritual of the Kumbh Mela. Thus, the festival marks not only the gathering of people for purification but also the renewal of the spirit.

One of the most prominent rituals of the Mahakumbh is the royal bath or shahi snan, during which millions of devotees take a holy dip in the river at a specific time considered auspicious. Devotees believe that bathing in the sacred waters of these rivers during the Mahakumbh can wash away their sins and offer them liberation (moksha). Pilgrims from across India, as well as from different parts of the world, gather for the occasion, making it the largest peaceful gathering in the world.

The Mahakumbh is not only a time for bathing in sacred rivers but also a time for spiritual reflection, chanting, and prayer. Various spiritual leaders and saints hold discourse and lectures on religious scriptures, providing a platform for thousands to deepen their understanding of Hindu philosophy, traditions, and the meaning of life. The event is marked by Bhandaras (free food distributions) and other charitable activities, making it a spiritually enriching and community-centered occasion.

The scale of the Mahakumbh is staggering. In some years, the number of devotees attending the festival exceeds 100 million. Organizing such a massive event requires meticulous planning and infrastructure. Temporary tented cities** are set up along the riverbanks, with facilities for lodging, sanitation, and food. Authorities ensure that there are adequate provisions for medical care, transportation, and security, making sure that the gathering remains safe and smooth. The event also brings considerable economic benefits to the host cities, boosting tourism, local businesses, and hospitality services.

The Mahakumbh also serves as a platform for political and social leaders to connect with the masses. Political leaders often visit the site to show their respect and gain the blessings of the devotees. The Kumbh, therefore, remains a symbolic event where religious, political, and social aspects of Indian society converge.

While the festival is deeply rooted in Hindu traditions, the essence of the Mahakumbh transcends religion. It becomes a space where individuals, regardless of their background, come together to celebrate the divine and seek spiritual rejuvenation. For many, attending the Mahakumbh is a life-changing experience that instills peace, devotion, and a sense of belonging to something much greater than oneself.

Mahakumbh is not just a religious festival; it is a grand spectacle of faith, tradition, and unity. It is a celebration of India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage that continues to captivate millions, drawing them into a shared experience of divinity, devotion, and community. Whether one attends for spiritual purification, cultural exploration, or personal reflection, the Mahakumbh stands as a testament to the enduring power of faith and human connection.

Rohingya Issue –intense politics amid shivering cold

By: Omkar Dattatray

The Rohingya issue is really a matter of grave and serious concern. It is rightly hogging limelight and is the top subject of the newspapers of J&K. The issue of Rohingya settlement and their deportation to the foreign countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and some other countries has these days become a hot subject in the political circles of Jammu and Kashmir. It has become an intense subject of politics as every big, small, national and regional party is politicking on this issue. It is very unfortunate, disturbing and politically untenable that Rohingyas had been settled in and around Jammu thanks to the passive and supportive tactics of the then PDP-BJP government which was totally controlled by the regional and Kashmir centered PDP and its chief minister. Both PDP as well as NC allowed and supported their settlement in and around Jammu for the political expediency and vote bank politics. It is really a bane of democracy that the vote politics dictate the working and whole politics of the political parties and thus NC as well as PDP are very soft on the issue of Rohingyas and they had allowed them to register in the Ration cards, water connections, electricity registration and thus these unwanted foreign citizens are allowed all civic amenities in Jammu. At the outset, it is important to note that Rohingyas are a virtual threat to peace and security of Jammu and Kashmir particularly when the UT is still in the grip of militancy, radicalism, extremism and in fact a serious threat to national unity and integrity. The political parties especially the Kashmir centric such as NC, PDP, Apni Party and even CPI(M) should understand and appreciate the fact that India or for that matter J&K is not a dharamshala that every Tom, Dick, Harry will come, stay and settle here notwithstanding the threat to national unity and security of the people. Therefore Rohingyas are a perpetual threat to unity, integrity and even to societal cohesion and the political parties and more so the ruling party NC and the government headed by Omar Abdullah should understand the intricacy of the problem of Rohingyas and not favor their settle-

ment in Jammu otherwise NC and the chief minister are risking the unity and integrity of not only Jammu and Kashmir but also of whole India. The government of India and the ruling BJP which is a nationalist party should take a urgent call and take a broad decision of deporting them to the foreign countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and some other countries. NDA government of centre should take a serious view of the issue of illegal settlement of Rohingyas and deport them to the countries of origin where they belong. Both the centre and UT government should not allow the Rohingyas to settle permanently in Jammu and risk volatile peace, normalcy and security. It is true that under a well planned conspiracy the Rohingyas had been allowed to settle in Jammu to change the demography of the Doggerland. One can vividly see the communal overtones in Rohingya refugee's settlement in Jammu and elsewhere. Rohingyas refugees, who have found safe haven in Jammu and Kashmir, pose a threat to security of people in the region and as such should be 'thrown out' of the UT. Even the terror attack at Nagrota, Samba and other places can be attributed to Rohingyas, however such attacks were not possible without local support and hideouts. The Rohingyas should not be settled in Jammu. The UT government should throw them out from this region as they are the illegal foreigners and hence need to be send back to Myanmar, Bangladesh and other places to which they originally belong. They should not have been allowed to set up clusters on government and private land. It is a security risk to the people and army. But it is very unfortunate that with the support of the J&K government from time to time, Rohingyas had been allowed to set up clusters on government and private land perhaps to disturb and change the demography of Jammu. In fact a deep rooted conspiracy is being hatched by the refugees from Myanmar. There number, according to government figure released was 5,700. It must have increased by now. Jammu and Kashmir is a sensitive region and Kashmir valley has seen 'forced migration of Hindus, but the Rohingya refugees were settled in clusters. The height of the matter

is that the people in the administration gave them ration, water and electricity connections and this made their settlement in clusters easy. It is strange how these refugees, after crossing the Indo-Bangla border and crossing the entire country have come to Jammu. Let us know the genesis of the Rohingya issue. In August 2017, a deadly crackdown by Myanmar's army on Rohingya Muslims set hundreds of thousands fleeing across the border into Bangladesh. They risked everything, to escape by sea or on foot a military offensive which United Nations later described as a 'textbook example of ethnic cleansing.' In January 2020, the UN's top court ordered the Buddhist majority country to take measures to protect members of its Rohingya community from genocide. But the army in Myanmar formerly Bhutan has said it was fighting Rohingya militants and denied targeting civilians. Described by UN Security council Antonio Guterres as 'one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world', the Rohingyas are the one of Myanmar's many ethnic minorities. Myanmar government considers Rohingyas as the illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The Rohingyas have spread not only in and around Jammu, but these illegal foreign refugees are spread in national capital Delhi and have settled in various parts there and they pose a big security threat and risk both in Jammu and Delhi. It is a matter of serious concern that the centre government headed by Modi has no policy to deport Rohingyas to Myanmar and Bangladesh. Recently the issue of Rohingya issue in Jammu is being politicized as different political parties both of the regional ones as well as the national ones are busy in politicking the issue of Rohingyas. One the one side right wing saffron party as well the VHP, Shiv Sena-Dogra Front demand the deportation of illegal Rohingyas to the countries where they belong. But NC and PDP has soft corner for these refugees who are mostly Muslim and both these and other regional political outfits of Kashmir have sympathy with the Rohingyas. The BJP on Monday termed the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in the Jammu city a major political conspiracy and demanded a CBI probe to identify

those involved in facilitating their temporary settlement in Jammu. Hitting out at the NC and chief minister Omar Abdullah and NC president Farooq Abdullah for publicly stating that power connection and water connection will not be disconnected to Rohingyas's habitations. Both further said that their government will not allow their starvation and inconveniences due to cold. They said as long as Rohingyas are here, they will have to be provided necessary amenities for their survival. Omar Abdullah has also asked the centre if they can deport them to their countries? The BJP on Monday appealed to LG Manoj Sinha to initiate a CBI probe into the rising number of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi settlers in Jammu city and surrounding areas. BJP termed their settlement as a major political conspiracy. "They said it must be determined who brought and settled the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in and around Jammu, and stringent action, including prosecution and imprisonment, should be taken against them. BJP leader Sunil Sethi claimed the BJP has been repeatedly raising questions on their entering Indian territory illegally, travelling thousands of kilometers, crossing half a dozen states and settling in Jammu. It is double speak and great anomaly that Indians from various states of India are debarred to purchase land in Jammu and Kashmir and settle here but for Rohingyas have been made to find safe haven in Jammu. GOI should take a serious note of the Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis and frame a policy in this connection and deport them to their countries. One is at a loss to understand what is preventing NDA government to order deportation of these foreign nationals living in Jammu and Delhi illegally. No more politics on this issue but solid action to throw them out from India to their countries.

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

Transforming Classrooms: National Education Policy (NEP)-Aligned Education

By: Vijay GarG

National Education Policy (NEP) and National Curriculum Framework (NCF). Developed for all levels ranging from Foundational to Secondary, New Directions revolutionizes classroom learning with focused content, skill-building exercises and advanced digital tools.

Viva Education's commitment to academic excellence and reliable learning resources has shaped education nationwide. With New Directions, it further redefines learning by equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed academically and beyond.

Key Features of New Directions:

1. NEP and NCF Aligned Curriculum

The New Directions series by Viva Education is closely aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) objectives to ensure a modern and holistic approach to learning. The books focus on 'Less Content, More Learning', reducing unnecessary complexity and enabling students to engage deeply with essential concepts. Each book is structured to simplify topics, promote better conceptual understanding and ensure knowledge retention.

2. Skill-Based Learning

The series emphasizes skill development, preparing students for real-world challenges focusing on 21st-century competencies such as communication, collaboration and critical thinking. Every book in the series has activities and exercises to enhance these essential skills. These include problem-solving

scenarios, group discussions and critical thinking tasks that go beyond traditional textbook content.

3. Interdisciplinary Learning and UN Sustainable Development Goals

The NEP recommends interdisciplinary approaches across subjects and the curriculum. The series New Direction English, for example, has special activities that help learners to expand on and explore textual ideas by applying them in contexts from other subjects, disciplines and domains. The series also integrates UN Sustainable Development Goals in the language curriculum in a manner that builds awareness and inspires action.

4. Real-World Relevance

The New Directions curriculum incorporates multidisciplinary lessons that connect subjects like Science, Mathematics, Languages and Social Science to real-life scenarios. For instance, mathematics lessons in the books include budgeting exercises, while science topics explore environmental conservation. Each chapter provides practical examples and activities to bridge the gap between abstract concepts and their everyday applications. This approach helps students see the relevance of their education and improves comprehension and retention by making learning meaningful and impactful.

5. Cultural Integration

The books celebrate India's rich cultural heritage while maintaining a global outlook. Lessons are designed to instil pride in the nation's traditions, history and values, fostering strong cultural awareness and national identity. Simultaneously, the series

broadens students' horizons by incorporating global perspectives, ensuring they are prepared for international opportunities. By integrating stories, examples and activities reflecting Indian and global cultures, the books create balanced individuals who appreciate tradition while embracing innovation.

6. Interactive and Inclusive Activities

New Directions offers inquiry-based exercises, hands-on projects and collaborative activities to cater to diverse learning styles. These interactive elements engage students in active learning, making the classroom more inclusive and enjoyable. Specific sections in the books address different learning preferences, ensuring accessibility for all students, including those with unique needs. The books also have visual aids, guided exercises and group-based tasks to enhance participation and foster inclusivity.

7. Advanced Digital Tools

Viva AI-Buddy, an AI-powered learning assistant, personalizes the learning experience with tailored exercises, instant feedback and interactive support. With easy accessibility, students can use Viva AI-Buddy by accessing the app or platform linked to their Viva Education textbook, scanning the QR code provided, and interacting with the AI assistant. They can ask questions, request concept summaries, view animated explanations or take practice quizzes to test their understanding. High-quality animations, explainer videos and digital exercises engage lessons, boosting interest and comprehension.

8. Holistic Development

Beyond academics, the books

incorporate values education, emotional well-being and social awareness lessons. Chapters include activities and scenarios to develop empathy, resilience and ethical decision-making. This holistic approach ensures that students grow into well-rounded individuals capable of navigating challenges beyond the classroom. The series prepares students to maintain integrity and adaptability in diverse situations by focusing on emotional balance and social responsibility.

About Viva

Viva Education is a trusted name in the education sector, dedicated to creating high-quality learning resources for students and educators. With over 35 years of publishing expertise, Viva Education, a division of Viva Books, focuses on providing innovative, engaging, and curriculum-aligned content for Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary levels. Known for its commitment to excellence, Viva Education develops books that combine academic rigour with practical learning, fostering critical thinking, creativity and skill development. With a blend of traditional values and modern technology, including digital tools and AI-powered solutions, Viva Education is shaping the future of learning.

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

CAT Quashes Illegal Transfer Order of SKUAST-J

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: The Central Administrative Tribunal has directed SKUAST-Jammu to immediately post Dr. Jasbir Singh Manhas in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education who was illegally swapped with Dr. Vinod Gupta, Chief Scientist, KVK Samba.

The tribunal's judicial member, Rajinder Singh Dogra, and administrative member, Ram Mohan Johri, issued a 9-page order quashing the forcible University order (AUJ/Est/22-23/F-520(II)/4110-17 dated: 26.08.2022) and directed SKUAST-Jammu to immediately post Dr. Jasbir Singh Manhas in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, Faculty of Agriculture, Chatha.

Having heard both the parties and perusing the records, the tribunal came to the conclusions that the applicant, Dr. Jasbir Singh Manhas who was appointed as Assistant Professor/Junior Scientist (Extension Education) in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, SKUAST-Jammu, was transferred to Krishi

Vigyan Kendra, Samba which is illegal and arbitrary as per the rules and regulations of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Vide Memorandum of understanding between ICAR and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu, it is clearly mentioned that any scientist, technical and office staff of KVK for any other work other than that of Krishi Vigyan Kendra cannot be transferred or diverted.

SKUAST-Jammu vide its University Order No:71-(Secy.) of 2018 dated 11.07.2018, has specifically provided that the transfer of staff appointed on either positions of KVKs shall be made within the KVKs only and all the employees promoted/upgraded/appointed shall be governed strictly as per the KVK norms prescribed by the ICAR from time to time. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi vide its communications bearing No: F.No. TS-19(01)/2002-Estt.IV dated 19.03.2020 and F.No.A.Extn.4/18/2019-AE.III (e-52000) 20.08.2024 has also

clarified that employees of KVKs can only be transferred within the KVKs. ICAR has also communicated to the University that all posts of KVK are non-teaching posts and SAUs have no authority to re-classify or re-designate the post of KVK as Teachers/Assistant Professors/Associate Professors/Professors etc.

The KVK employees of SAUs cannot be treated as "Teachers/Assistant Professors/Associate Professors/Professors" because Teaching is not the mandate of KVK. The Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad has also expressed this view while observing that Training Associates/SMS are not Teachers. Moreover, the Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report of March 2021 has objected to the transfer of the staff of the KVKs to the university or their attachments in the University in any manner.

The Tribunal has directed SKUAST-Jammu to post Dr. Jasbir Singh Manhas in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education within six weeks of the order's issuance.

Lack of accountability in Grievance Redressal System must be addressed: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri has highlighted the urgent need for an effective system to address public grievances in Jammu and Kashmir. Acknowledging the growing pile of unresolved complaints in the region, he expressed concerns over the lack of accountability within the grievance redressal mechanism, which has been hampering effective resolution.

"While complaints are registered, their redressal remains a significant challenge. The government's decision to establish the Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office' is a good step toward creating a better administrative system. However, it must be ensured that the grievances of the people seeking justice are resolved effectively," said Raman Suri.

Suri emphasized the need for identifying and taking strict action against officers and employees who ignore public concerns. He pointed out that a lack of transparency has created opportunities for corruption, and some employees are failing to uphold their responsibilities.

"Public access assessment and feedback are essential for administrative reforms. However, even after receiving feedback, the administration has struggled to implement meaningful changes," Suri remarked, adding that complete transparency and accountability must be ensured in addressing public grievances.

Despite engaging the Information and Technology Department to enhance the Samadhan portal for grievance resolution a robust mechanism must be put in place to incorporate public suggestions through both online and offline channels, ensuring the system evolves to meet people's expectations.

This initiative to help people seek redressal of their issues will only be effective if the government removes existing administrative shortcomings. Transparency, accountability, and responsiveness are key to ensuring justice for the people," Suri said, adding that the government is required to ensure that this initiative sets a precedent for efficient and transparent grievance redressal, restoring public faith in the administration.

Stationery distribution drive organized by Talla Jewellers & LFO-BHF at SPS



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: In a heartwarming effort to support the educational needs of children, Live for Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), in partnership with Talla Jewellers, organized Stationery Distribution Drive at Sunrise Public School (SPS), Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event, held on December 10, 2024, aimed to equip underprivileged students with the necessary materials for their educational journey.

Under the guidance of Kashish Gupta, CEO of Talla Jewellers, and Vivek Parihar, CEO & Director of LFO-BHF, the initiative successfully distributed a variety of educational supplies, including notebooks, registers, pencils, erasers, color kits, and sharpeners.

To promote the well-being of the students, nutritious snacks such as bananas, juices, and biscuits were also provided.

In addition to the distribution, a Drawing Competition was organized to give the children an opportunity to showcase their creativity. This fun-filled activity not only brightened the spirits of the young participants but also strengthened the bond within the community.

Kashish Gupta, CEO of Talla Jewellers, expressed her enthusiasm about the initiative, stating, "These essential distributions are a testament to the commitment of Talla Jewellers & LFO-BHF towards uplifting underprivileged communities and promoting a culture of kindness and compassion."

Vivek Parihar, CEO

& Director of LFO-BHF, emphasized the significance of such initiatives, saying, "Empowering these children through education is at the heart of our mission. This initiative underscores the foundation's core values of compassion and solidarity, highlighting the importance of community engagement in creating lasting positive change."

The entire event was managed by Navya (Domain Incharge) with the support of several volunteers, including Abhinandan, Shubam, Stuti Abrol, Kangan, Ritik, Bharti, and many more.

This initiative not only provided essential materials to the children but also fostered a sense of hope and community spirit among the participants.

Guest Lectures on Communication and AI at Govt School

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: A guest lecture was organized today at Government Higher Secondary School, Kot Bhalwal, for students of Classes 9 and 11. Delivered by Ankush Sharma, District Correspondent, All India Radio, Jammu, the sessions aimed to enhance students' knowledge on practical and academic topics.

For Class 9, the lecture focused on communication skills, underlining the importance of effective verbal and non-verbal communication. Sharma encouraged students to develop confidence in speaking and listening, emphasizing



their role in personal and professional success.

For Class 11, the session delved into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the fundamentals

of camera angles and shots. Students learned about AI's applications in everyday life, its potential to revolutionize industries, and career opportunities

in this emerging field. The discussion on camera techniques provided insights into how angles and framing contribute to impactful storytelling, with relatable examples from media.

The interactive lecture received an enthusiastic response, with students actively participating and asking questions. Teachers appreciated the initiative, highlighting its importance in equipping students with practical knowledge and inspiring them to explore diverse fields. The guest lecture was a step towards preparing students for the challenges of a rapidly evolving world.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat visits irrigation channels to inspect desilting work



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Dec 12: Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, the MLA of Bishnah Constituency, visited various irrigation canals and channels today to inspect their condition before the desilting works commence. Accompanied by Executive Engineer Irrigation Hafeez Reshi and his team, the MLA reviewed irrigation systems across multiple areas, including Bishnah, Banachack, Ratnal, Khairi, Shahpur, Rehah, Pandorian, Shibuchack, Ranjipur, Kiryal, Marole, Sohagpur, Pindi Charkan, Kudwal, Trewa, and Jabawal.

During the visit, several farmer deputations met the MLA to express their concerns regarding

the current state of the canals. Farmers highlighted problems they face during the rainy season, particularly the non-availability of irrigation water. They reported that despite desilting efforts, the canals often remain obstructed by weeds and grasses, preventing the rapid flow of water.

Representatives from thirty-nine panchayats also accompanied the MLA, sharing concerns from their jurisdictions. They stated that many residents face irrigation water shortages due to canal damage and requested that the government address these issues before the next rainy season. Several farmers also urged the construction of culverts on canals for easier access and improved

water flow.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, impressed by the farmers' concerns, directed the engineers to address these issues at the grassroots level, ensuring that all pending desilting work is completed promptly and that canals are fully cleared for smooth water flow. He emphasized the importance of resolving these issues to avoid further difficulties during the upcoming rainy season.

Hafeez Reshi, the Executive Engineer, assured the MLA and the farmers that the department is committed to fulfilling these demands and will continue to work with dedication and zeal for the welfare of the farmers in the region.

Rohingyas are not a security threat to Jammu: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Senior Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) leader Rajesh Gupta has stated that Rohingya refugees are not a security threat to Jammu and emphasized that it is the responsibility of the Jammu and Kashmir government to provide basic amenities such as water and electricity to the refugees residing in the region.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to Nagrota, Gupta clarified that the Government of India brought the refugees to Jammu and Kashmir, and as long as they remain in the region, it is the moral and humanitarian duty of the local government to ensure that their basic needs are met. "We did not bring them here. The Government of India settled them here, and it is our duty to provide them with basic facilities like water and electricity," Gupta said.

He also criticized the BJP leadership for

relying on a divisive agenda to win elections. Gupta reiterated that the National Conference (NC) has always believed in secularism and communal harmony, refusing to divide people for electoral gains.

Turning his attention to Nagrota Constituency, Gupta claimed that the past government had treated the area with neglect. He accused the previous administration of showing indifference to the region, leading to various hardships for its residents. Gupta praised Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for their efforts in the development of Nagrota during the NC regime, noting that the area has been suffering from numerous issues under the BJP-led government.

Gupta concluded by reiterating his demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, calling it crucial for delivering justice to the people of the region.

Grand celebration of Gita Jayanti by Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: On the auspicious occasion of Gita Jayanti, Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust organized a grand celebration at SD Memorial High School, Karwanda. The event was graced by SP Rural Brijesh Sharma, who was the chief guest for the occasion.

The celebration saw a collective recitation of verses from the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita by students, teachers, and the principal, creating an atmosphere of devotion and reverence in the school.

In his address, SP Rural Brijesh Sharma emphasized the transformative power of the Gita. He stated, "Studying, listening to, contemplating, and reflecting on the Gita cultivates a sense of excellence in life. The verses of the Gita are not merely messages but fundamental

mantras that, when embraced, benefit all of humanity. The Gita dispels the darkness of ignorance and illuminates the inner self with self-knowledge." He further explained that the teachings of the Gita provide a pathway to liberation from ignorance, sorrow, attachment, anger, desire, and greed, and inspired everyone to view action as the core purpose of life.

Sharma also shared his personal connection with the Gita, highlighting that he incorporates its teachings into his own life by prioritizing his duties and striving for excellence in his tasks.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust and a State Awardee, also addressed the gathering, urging the youth to explore the knowledge of the Gita. "The Shrimad Bhagavad Gita holds immense significance in human life. Its teach-

ings guide individuals through life's challenges, inspire selfless action, and inculcate a sense of duty," he said.

The school's director, Rakesh Gandotra, lauded Mahant Rohit Shastri's efforts in promoting cultural heritage and raising awareness in society. He commended the Trust's initiatives in guiding society toward a brighter future through the teachings of the Gita.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the former Sarpanch of Bhalwal, Rajdev Singh, and others such as Bhushan Jamwal, Uttam Chand Sharm, Sheetal Gandotra, and Lucky Sharma.

The grand celebration at SD Memorial High School served as an enriching experience, spreading the wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita and encouraging selfless action among all attendees.

Payal Kapadia scripts history as *All We Imagine As Light* nominated in Best Director and Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language) categories for Golden Globe 2025

Filmmaker Payal Kapadia created history after being nominated in the Best Director (Motion Picture) category for *All We Imagine As Light* at the 82nd annual Golden Globe Awards. This marks the first time an Indian director has been nominated in this category.

All We Imagine As Light has received a total of two nominations, with the other one being for Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language). Starring Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha and Chhaya Kadam, the film is an official Indo-French co-production between Petit Chaos from France and Chalk & Cheese and Another Birth from India. The film follows Prabha, a troubled nurse who receives an unexpected gift from her estranged husband, and Anu, her young roommate seeking intimacy with her boyfriend. A trip to a beach town allows them to confront their desires. The film stars Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha and Hridhu Haroon.

Earlier this year, the film created history by winning the prestigious Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival.

All We Imagine As Light premiered at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival in its much-feted Competition Section on May 23. It was the first Indian film to feature in the festival's main segment in 30 years. The last Indian movie to make it to the competition section was Shaji N Karun's *Swaham* in 1994. Earlier, the film also won the Best International at the New York Film Critics Circle, and the Best International Feature trophy at the reputed Gotham Awards 2024.

The nominations for the 82nd Golden Globe Awards were announced on December 9, by



Mindy Kaling and Morris Chestnut.

They revealed the nominees across 27 categories.

The Golden Globes recognize achievements across film and TV, with categories for cinematic and box office achievement in film and best performance in stand-up comedy on television, which were introduced last year and are set to return this year. The awards will stream live and exclusively in India on Lionsgate Play on January 6 starting 6:30 am.

Emilia Perez leads with 10 nods, *The Brutalist* earns 7

Musical thriller *Emilia Perez* and post-World War II epic *The Brutalist* topped the roster of films nominated on Monday for the 2025 Golden Globes, the Hollywood honours that kick off the awards season leading to the Oscars. *Emilia Perez*, a Spanish-language movie released by Netflix, scored 10 nods and independent distributor A24's *The Brutalist* earned seven.

Both movies will compete for the top Globes honour — best film drama — with papal selection story *Conclave*, Bob Dylan

biopic *A Complete Unknown*, sci-fi epic *Dune: Part Two*, historical drama *Nickel Boys* and *September 5*, the story of sports journalists who covered a hostage crisis at the Olympics.

Box office smash *Wicked*, adapted from a long-running Broadway play about the witches in *The Wizard of Oz*, landed four nominations. It faces dark romantic comedy *Anora* and others in the best movie musical or comedy category.

Winners of the Globes will be chosen by 334 entertainment journalists from 85 countries, compared with roughly 9,000 voters who select the Academy Awards.

Comedian Nikki Glaser will host the January 5 Globes ceremony for the first time.

The show, in the past a booze-fuelled and more free-wheeling occasion than the Oscars, will be broadcast live on CBS and streamed on Paramount+.

Congratulations Payal After filmmaker Payal Kapadia created history with her critically acclaimed film *All We Imagine As Light*, earning two prestigious nominations at the 82nd Annual Golden Globe Awards,

Bollywood stars and filmmakers took to social media to congratulate Payal Kapadia on this historic recognition.

Actor Anil Kapoor expressed his pride in the film's success, writing on Instagram, "What a monumental recognition of Indian cinema, and the storytelling prowess of @payalkapadiafilm! So incredibly proud."

Laapataa Ladies director Rao said "Christmas has come early this year" with twin Golden Globe nominations for "All We Imagine..." "Brava Payal!" she wrote on her Instagram Stories. "Let's celebrate this together," actor Divya Prabha wrote on Rao's post.

Rana Daggubati, whose production banner Spirit Media has distributed "All We Imagine..." across Indian theatres, shared the news on his Instagram Stories with two star-struck emojis.

Sonam Kapoor also shared her excitement, posting, "Such a proud moment, 2 Golden Globes for All We Imagine As Light. You're incredible @payalkapadiafilm."

Rajkumar Rao also joined in with his congratulations, "Congratulations @payalkapadiafilm! This is awesome. All the very best. Rooting for you."

Mehta gets cheeky Filmmakers Hansal Mehta, who has long supported the movie as India's 'official selection for the Oscars', shared the Golden Globe nomination cards for the film on X soon after the announcement was made.

"India's official selection for the Oscars secures 2 nominations at the Golden Globes. Best non-English language film and best director for All We Imagine As Light and Payal Kapadia," Mehta wrote, tongue firmly in cheek.

Diljit Dosanjh tops UK's 2024 South Asian celebrity list



Popular singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh has topped the UK list of the 'Top 50 Asian Celebrities in the World' previewed in London on Wednesday, following his mega live tour and box-office success.

The 40-year-old Punjabi star dethroned last year's topper, Shah Rukh Khan, and ranked ahead of international talent from the world of cinema, television, music, arts and literature celebrated in the 2024 edition of the list published by UK weekly 'Eastern Eye' on Friday.

Dosanjh has been recognised not only for delivering hit songs, including top tracks for films, but also for making his mark with major international collaborations during the course of the year.

"The singing superstar delivered the most successful world tour undertaken by any South Asian celebrity in history with his blockbuster 'Dil-Luminati' show," said 'Eastern Eye' Entertainment Editor Asjad Nazir, who compiles the list annually.

"His history-making performance on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' broke new ground for Indian music. In between all the musical magic, the multi-talented star showed off his impressive acting ability in films and proudly promoted his Punjabi culture. Everybody was talking about him

in what turned out to be a dream year," he said.

Indian heritage pop superstar Charli XCX came in second, narrowly missing out on the top spot, for an incredible year that included sold-out live performances, seven Grammy nominations and her now iconic 'Brat' album, which spawned a huge global movement.

While third-placed Allu Arjun smashed box-office records with the year's most successful Indian film 'Pushpa: The Rule' and significantly changed the cinema landscape in his country, fourth-placed Dev Patel confirmed his place as a Hollywood power player by remarkably writing, directing, producing and starring in the hit film 'Monkey Man'.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas came in fifth for balancing high-profile projects that ranged from movies to starting work on season two of mega-budget series 'Citadel'; actor Vijay, who starred in the year's most successful Tamil movie and started a political party, is ranked sixth; and singer Arijit Singh seventh.

Australian actress Geraldine Viswanathan, Pakistani actress Hania Aamir and British actress Simone Ashley complete the top 10 for the year.

The oldest star in the list is once again 82-year-old Amitabh Bachchan (26th) and the youngest, aged 17, is actress Nitanshi Goel (42nd) for her impressive performance in India's official Oscar entry 'Laapataa Ladies'.

"Being the youngest on this prestigious list is truly humbling. The year 2024 has been a transformative year for me, especially with the love and appreciation my character Phool and 'Laapataa Ladies' has received. Phool's story of resilience and self-discovery touched my heart, and it's amazing to see how it resonated with audiences across the globe. I'm incredibly grateful for the love and hope to continue inspiring young dreamers like me," said Goel.

The Top 50 list celebrates South Asian stars who shone the brightest in 2024, based on their impactful work, breaking boundaries and being generally inspiring over the course of the year. It is compiled as a result of public inputs, with readers and social media users nominating their favourites.

Shabana Azmi to be the guest of honour at the IFFK inaugural ceremony

Versatile actor Shabana Azmi, who celebrates 50 years of her career this year, will be the guest of honour at the inaugural ceremony of the 29th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), beginning on Friday.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will felicitate Shabana Azmi during the inaugural ceremony in recognition of her contributions to the film world, an IFFK release said.

The festival has also included a segment titled Celebrating Shabana Azmi, which will begin with Ami addressing the delegates. This will be followed by a screening of 'Ankur', on December 14.

The IFFK will screen five of her internationally acclaimed films, including 'Ankur'. The other four films to be



showcased at the festival are 'Arth', 'Khandhar', 'Paar', and 'Fire', the release stated.

In a career spanning 50 years, Azmi has acted in over 160 films and is renowned for her remarkable performanc-

es in both mainstream and parallel cinema. She has won numerous honours, including the Padma Shri (1988) and the Padma Bhushan (2012). She also served as a Member of Parliament from 1997 to 2003.

Richa Chadha-Ali Fazal's 'Girls Will Be Girls' earns two nominations at Independent Spirit Awards

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's debut film production "Girls Will Be Girls" has earned two nominations—the John Cassavetes Award and Best Supporting Performance for Kani Kusruti—at the 40th Independent Spirit Awards.

"Girls Will Be Girls", directed by Shuchi Talati, revolves around a 16-year-old girl called Mira (Preeti Panigrahi) whose rebellious awakening is intertwined with her mother's (Kusruti) unfulfilled coming-of-age experiences.

According to a press release, the film is one of the five contenders for the John Cassavetes Award, which honours the creative team of the best films made with a budget under USD 1 million.

"Big Boys", "Ghostlight", "Jazzy", and "The People's Joker" are also competing for the award.

Kusruti, also known for the Golden Globe-nominated "All We Imagine As Light", is nominated in the Best Supporting Performance category alongside Yura Borisov and Karren Karagulian for "Anora", Joan



Chen ("Didi"), Kieran Culkin ("A Real Pain"), Danielle Deadwyler ("The Piano Lesson"), Carol Kane ("Between the Temples"), Brigitte Lundy-Paine ("I Saw the TV Glow"), Clarence ("Divine Eye"), Maclin ("Sing Sing"), and Adam Pearson ("A Different Man").

Chadha, who has produced "Girls Will Be Girls" with husband Fazal under their banner Pushing Buttons Studio, said she couldn't be prouder of what the film has achieved.

"To be nominated for the John Cassavetes Award, which celebrates independent filmmaking

at its finest, is truly an honour. And Kani's nomination is a testament to her incredible talent and the truly incredible year she is having," she said in a statement.

Fazal called it a "dual celebration" for the team.

"Independent cinema often struggles to find its place, but this recognition by the Independent Spirit Awards highlights the fact that there is a place for all kinds of cinema.

"Girls Will Be Girls" is a case study in how co-productions can be made for a global audience, with an Indian story at its heart. Kani's performance is nothing short of transformative, and her nomination is well-deserved," he added.

"Girls Will Be Girls" had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival where it received two awards in August and multiple awards at MAMI recently. It will premiere on Prime Video on December 18.

Independent Spirit Awards 2025, which supports independent filmmakers, will take place on February 22 in Santa Monica, California.

Selena Gomez gets engaged to Benny Blanco, says 'forever begins now'

Gomez shared a post on Instagram revealing her engagement ring; Blanco also expressed excitement in comments section

Selena Gomez and her boyfriend Benny Blanco have taken their relationship to the next level, announcing their engagement after more than a year of dating.

The couple, who first sparked the dating speculations in 2023, shared the news on social media on Thursday, marking a significant milestone in their relationship.

Gomez, 32, shared

a post on Instagram revealing her engagement ring, captioning the post, "Forever begins now."

Blanco, 36, also expressed his excitement in the comments section, humorously writing, "Hey wait... that's my wife."

The pair, who have long been close collaborators in the music industry, first worked together on several hit songs, includ-



ing Gomez's 2015 chart-topping track 'Same Old Love'.

It wasn't until 2023, however, that they confirmed their romantic involvement.

In December of that year, Gomez opened up about their relationship, revealing they had been dating for six months.

In a heartfelt Instagram post at the time, Gomez referred to Blanco as "my absolute everything"

and declared that he had been "the best thing that's ever happened to me." Their relationship quickly became a topic of admiration among their friends and family, with insiders revealing that Gomez had never been so happy.

"She loves how Benny treats her: he's so kind and thoughtful," a source told Us Weekly in January, adding, "It's been a very long time since

friends saw Selena this happy. She's positively glowing."

Before her engagement to Blanco, Selena Gomez had high-profile relationships with pop star Justin Bieber and singer The Weeknd.

Her relationship with Bieber, which began in 2010, was often in the public eye and ended in 2018. She also dated The Weeknd for part of 2017.

Nepal Army chief honoured by President Murmu

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel at a ceremony here.

There has been a tradition of conferring the title of Honorary General on the Army chiefs of Nepal and India since 1950.

The President "conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on Suprabal Janasewashree General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of the



Army Staff, Nepali Army, at a special investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan for his commendable

military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association

with India", her office said in a statement.

General Sigdel commenced a significant visit to India on Tues-

day, marking a key step in further strengthening defence ties between the two nations.

His visit, which spans from December 11-14, underscores the ongoing efforts to further strengthen and deepen the defence cooperation between Nepal and India.

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel had last month conferred the honorary rank of the General of Nepal Army on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at a special ceremony in Kathmandu.

Cabinet nod to bills for simultaneous polls: Sources



NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved bills to implement 'One Nation, One Election', and the draft legislations are likely to be introduced in Parliament in the ongoing Winter session, sources said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The government is keen on holding wider consultations on bills which are likely to be referred to a parliamentary committee.

Sources said the government was also keen to consult the Speakers of various state legislative assemblies through the committee.

Moving ahead with its 'one nation, one election' plan, the government in September accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner.

Citing recommendations of the high-level

committee, sources had said one of the proposed bills would seek to amend Article 82A by adding sub-clause (1) relating to the appointed date. It will also seek to insert sub-clause (2) to Article 82A relating to the end of terms of the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies together.

It also proposes to amend Article 83(2) and insert new sub-clauses (3) and (4) relating to the duration and dissolution of the Lok Sabha. It also has provisions related to the dissolution of the legislative assemblies and amending Article 327 to insert the term simultaneous elections.

This bill will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the recommendation said. However, any move to hold local body elections together with Lok Sabha and state assemblies will require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies as it deals with matters relating to state affairs.

Another bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union territories having legislative assemblies — Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir — to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha as proposed in the first constitutional amendment bill.

The statutes it proposes to amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019.

The proposed bill will be an ordinary legislation not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states.

The high-level committee had proposed amendments to three Articles, insertion of 12 new sub-clauses in the existing articles and tweaking three laws related to Union Territories having legislative assemblies. The total number of amendments and new insertions stands at 18.

In its report submitted to the government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing one nation, one election in two phases.

Fadnavis meets PM Modi, Shinde stays away; Maharashtra Cabinet expansion on Saturday

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed issues related to the state.

Fadnavis was in Delhi to discuss Maharashtra Cabinet formation.

This was the first time he called on the prime minister after assuming office of Chief Minister on December 5.

"In last 10 years, with your support Maharashtra is Number 1 in almost every sector and now aims to take this journey of VIKAS to the next level under your leadership and guidance," Fadnavis said in a post on X.

He said he was extremely thankful of Modi for his valu-

able time, guidance, blessings and standing firm behind Maharashtra.

"You have always been an inspiration to crores of BJP Karyakarta like us to work even harder," Fadnavis said.

Also, in Delhi was NCP chief Ajit Pawar, who is deputy CM in the state.

Pawar said: "The Cabinet expansion would be held on Saturday."

Shiv Sena chief and deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was not in Delhi amid talks that he was upset at not being considered for Home portfolio, which he was adamant on.

The BJP had made it clear to allies Sena and NCP that Home would remain with the Chief Minister.



Shinde was arguing that Fadnavis had Home ministry in the previous Maharashtra government when he was deputy Chief Minister.

The BJP, however, said "that was a different time". Out of 43 Cabinet berths, the BJP is likely to keep over 20 distributing the rest among allies.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reaches Hathras to meet family of 2020 rape-murder victim

HATHRAS, Dec 12 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi reached Hathras Thursday morning to meet the family of a Dalit woman who had died allegedly after gangrape in September 2020.

The Congress MP reached Bool Garhi village around 11.15 am, even as police stepped up deployment in and around the hamlet in the Chandpa area the district in light of his visit.

Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai confirmed in Lucknow that Rahul Gandhi would be visiting the family on Thursday.

Congress leader in Hathras Chandragupt Vikramaditya told agency, "Rahul ji and Priyanka ji are the leaders who are in touch with aggrieved people across the country. Rahul ji has been in touch with this family also."

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said Rahul Gandhi "is confused" and "not aware of the status of the case".

Asked about the reasons for Gandhi's visit, Pathak said, "The CBI has already conducted an inquiry into this case and in BJP rule no culprit is allowed to get away scot free."

"Whether Sambhal or Hathras, he (Gandhi) keeps visiting them just to be in limelight and not for any other



reason," the senior BJP leader added.

However, UP Minister for Minorities Welfare Om Prakash Rajbhar slammed Rahul Gandhi for the visit saying, "If he was not aware of facts of the case, he should know that a CBI probe had long been done."

"If he knows of any higher investigating authority, he should let us know. Such visits are mere gimmicks showing the Congress desperation," Rajbhar said.

Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi had met the family on October 3, 2020 and declared that they will fight for ensuring justice to the deceased.

The 19-year-old woman was allegedly gangraped on September 14, 2020. She was moved to Aligarh for treatment and later to Delhi, where she died on September 29, 2020.

Arunachal child rights comm recommends disciplinary action against officials involved in sex racket

ITANAGAR, Dec 12 (Agencies): The Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) has recommended to the state government for initiating strict disciplinary action and termination of services against three state government employees, including a policeman, for their alleged involvement in a sex racket involving minor girls.

The alleged sex racket case was brought to light by the minor victims in August this year and a regular case was subsequently registered.

Police have arrested 9 people, out of which 3 are prime accused, in connection with alleged rape and sexual assault of minors. The sex scandal continued over a period of 4 years from 2019 to 2024 till the lodging of FIR in the said case.

The child panel, which took suo moto cognizance of the case, termed the four-year operation of the racket and the reported sexual exploitation of minors as "alarming".

The report alleged that prime accused Chaya Dulom, a female attendant with the department of health and family welfare and her husband David Dulom, a surveyor with the water resources department, lured adolescent girls into the racket.

Victims reportedly faced repeated sexual exploitation, often multiple times a day, the report said.

The Commission expressed concern over the complicity of government employees in such heinous crime and recommended strict disciplinary actions, including termination of service.

It also called for an investigation into the role of police constable Hainu Naiham, who allegedly coerced victims to cooperate with the accused instead of protecting them.

The Commission suggested that disciplinary authorities across departments take stringent measures against erring employees involved in heinous crimes to deter such activities in the future.

"The sex racket was going on since the year 2019 under the guise of a restaurant cum bar at Itanagar. Chaya Dulom and her gang was continuously involved in enticing adolescent girls for work at the restaurant cum bar with ulterior motives of attracting customers and sexual exploitation of the victims. During the enquiry it was informed by the victims that they were subjected to rape and sexual exploitation several times even in a single day," the Commission said in its report.

The Commission observed that since the racket has been going on in the state capital over a prolonged period of 4 years there are compelling reasons for having many more victims as well as accused persons in the said case if thoroughly investigated.

"The fact that the number of victims in this case is more than the number of accused persons is in itself highly questionable and reflects the lacunas in the

entire investigation process," it said.

In addition, there is a high probability of involvement of high-profile persons who can manipulate the course of the investigation, the Commission said and recommended for reconstitution of SIT for a thorough investigation into the case in order to bring out the extent of the offence and actual picture of the case, APSCPCR Chairperson Ratan Anya said in the report.

The Commission also recommended for timely disbursement of victim compensation to all the victims as per the provisions of the Arunachal Pradesh Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.

During the investigation by the Commission, Anya said, around 9 victims were found to be major, over 18 years of age, and their case details have been forwarded to the Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (APSCW) for further intervention.

Woman kills 1-yr-old son after quarrel with mother-in-law in Thane

THANE, Dec 12 (Agencies): A woman allegedly killed her one-year-old son by throwing him in a water tank following a dispute with her mother-in-law over the infant's health issues in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place at Kasane village near Vasind in Shahapur taluka on Wednesday and the Padgha police later arrested the woman, they said.

The child's father, who worked as a security guard at a nearby godown, married the woman in 2022.

Last year, the couple's son was born with a

congenital illness and had been receiving treatment at the Wadia Hospital in Mumbai, an official from Padgha police station said.

The woman and her mother-in-law were frequently at odds over the child's care and well-being.

On Tuesday, the child's grandmother, concerned about his health, decided to take him to Titwala during a visit to her daughter.

However, the child developed a fever there and his grandmother brought him back to Kasane late Tuesday night, the official said.

Later, a heated argument took place

between the child's mother and grandmother over his health condition, he said.

The child's father left for his night shift work after attempting to calm the situation.

When he returned on Wednesday morning, he briefly played with his son before falling asleep.

During this time, the child's mother allegedly drowned him in a water tank located on the first floor of the house, the official said.

Later, when the man was unable to find his son, he began a search for him along with family members and friends.

In the meantime,

the child's mother approached police with a complaint, claiming her son had gone missing, the official said.

Her husband grew suspicious and confronted her. The woman then confessed to him that she had killed their child, he said.

The man subsequently contacted the Padgha police and filed a complaint.

The body was recovered and sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, police inspector Bala Kumbhar said.

The woman was taken into custody and booked for murder and other charges, he added.

Seven Maoists killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur



RAIPUR, Dec 12 (Agencies): At least seven cadres of outlawed CPI (Maoist) in uniform were gunned down by security forces in a fierce encounter along the inter-district borders of Narayanpur-Dantewada in Abujhmad area, south Chhattisgarh on Thursday.

"Based on specific input about the presence of Maoists in the south Abujhmad (meaning unfamiliar land) region, a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) left on the planned anti-Maoist search operation on 10 November. As the search campaign moved ahead, an encounter resulted at around 3 am on November 12 after the Maoists opened fire on

the forces who came close to their location. So far, seven bodies of Maoists have been recovered from the encounter site during a search operation", said a police officer in Bastar.

The Maoists clustered together in the area were stated to be surrounded by the forces.

The officer added that the intermittent exchange of fire continued even as the troops have intensified their search operations in the region and further details are awaited.

The recovered bodies of the Maoists are yet to be identified.

This year, as many as 214 bodies of Maoists have been recovered so far after security forces neutralised them in separate encounters across the conflict-ridden south Bastar zone.

Dantewada and Narayanpur are among the seven Maoist-affected districts in the Bastar range.

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah scheduled to visit Bastar on a two-day trip from 15 December, had earlier reiterated 'the fight against the Maoists is in its final stage' while declaring that the country will be free from the Maoist problem by March 2026.

South Korea President defends martial law decision, denies rebellion charges

SEOUL, Dec 12 (Agencies): South Korea's president defended his martial law decree as an act of governance and denied rebellion charges on Thursday, rejecting the opposition-led impeachment attempts against him and investigations into last week's move.

Yoon Suk Yeol's televised statement came hours before the main liberal opposition Democratic Party submits a new impeachment motion against Yoon. The opposition party plans to put the motion on a floor vote this Saturday.

Its earlier attempt to impeach Yoon fell through last Saturday, with ruling party lawmakers boycotting a vote at the National Assembly.

Yoon's December 3 martial law declaration, the first of its kind in more than 40 years in South Korea, has generated political chaos and large protests calling for his ouster. The decree brought hundreds of armed troops attempting to encircle parliament and raiding the election commission, though no major violence or injuries occurred, and he was forced to lift it about six hours later.

"I will fight to the end, to prevent the forces and criminal groups that have been responsible for paralysing the country's government and disrupting the nation's constitutional order from threatening the future of the Republic of Korea," Yoon



said.

Yoon, a conservative, said his martial law introduction was meant to issue a warning to the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which he said has been paralysing state affairs and destroying the country's constitutional order. He said the deployment of less than 300 soldiers to the National Assembly was designed to maintain order, not dissolving or paralysing it.

Yoon called the Democratic Party "a monster" and "anti-state forces," which he said repeatedly tried to use its legislative muscle to impeach top officials, undermine government budget bills and sympathise with North Korea.

"The opposition is now doing a knife dance of chaos, claiming that the declaration of martial law constitutes to an act of rebellion. But was it really?" Yoon said.

Yoon said his martial law decree was an act of govern-

nance that cannot be the subject of investigations and doesn't amount to rebellion.

It's unclear how Yoon's statement would affect his fate. Earlier on Thursday, the leader of his own conservative party, Han Dong-hun, said Yoon was making it clear he had no willingness to step down voluntarily and called for party members to vote in favour of his impeachment at the upcoming National Assembly vote.

Opposition parties and many experts say the martial law decree was unconstitutional. They say a president is by law allowed to declare martial law only during wartime or similar emergency situations, but South Korea wasn't in such a predicament. They argue that deploying troops to seal the National Assembly to suspend its political activities amounted to rebellion because the constitution doesn't allow a president to use the military to suspend parliament in

any situation.

Yoon's statement was seen as an about-face from his previous position. Last Saturday, Yoon apologised over the martial law decree, saying that he won't avoid legal or political responsibility for it. He said he would leave it to his party to chart a course through the country's political turmoil, "including matters related to my term in office".

On Wednesday, Yoon's office resisted a police attempt to search the compound.

The main focus of the investigation is finding whether Yoon and other top military and government officials involved in imposing martial law committed rebellion. A conviction for rebellion carries a maximum penalty of death.

Earlier this week, Yoon's former defence minister was arrested on allegations of playing a key role in a rebellion and committing abuse of power. He became the first person formally arrested over the martial law decree.

Kim Yong Hyun, one of Yoon's close associates, has been accused of recommending martial law to Yoon and sending troops to the National Assembly to block lawmakers from voting on it. Enough lawmakers eventually managed to enter a parliament chamber, and they unanimously rejected Yoon's decree, forcing the Cabinet to lift it before daybreak on December 4.

New Zealand official reverses visa refusal for US conservative influencer Candace Owens



WELLINGTON, Dec 12 (Agencies): A New Zealand immigration official has overturned a ban on the U.S. conservative political commentator Candace Owens entering the country, citing "the importance of free speech," a spokesperson for the official said Thursday.

Owens is scheduled to speak at events in several Australian cities and in Auckland, New Zealand, in February and March. But Australia's Immigration Minister Tony Burke barred her from that country in October, mentioning remarks in which she denied Nazi medical experimentation on Jews in concentration camps during World War II.

The commentator, who has more than 3 million followers on YouTube, is accused by her detrac-

tors of promoting conspiracy theories and stoking antisemitism, and has ignited firestorms with her remarks opposing Black Lives Matter, feminism, vaccines and immigration.

New Zealand's immigration agency refused her an entertainer's work permit in November on the ground that visas legally cannot be granted to those who have been excluded from another country.

Owens appealed the decision to Associate Immigration Minister Chris Penk, according to a statement by Penk's office on Thursday. Penk, who is allowed discretion on visa decisions, granted Owens a visa "after considering representations made to him, including the importance of free speech," the

statement said.

She remains unable to enter Australia, however. Burke told reporters in October that Owens "has the capacity to incite discord in almost every direction," citing her remarks about the Holocaust and about Muslims.

Burke's spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday.

The Sydney-based promoter of the tour, Rocksmann, welcomed the New Zealand reversal as "a win for free speech, and for all those who believe in the importance of robust debate and open dialogue."

The statement quoted Owens as saying that the reversal was "a step toward a world where individuals are allowed to express their views without fear of censorship or government interference."

Owens had promised Australian and New Zealand audiences a discussion of free speech and her Christian faith when she announced the speaking tour in August. The promoter is still selling tickets in both countries.

China restricts visas to US officials who "interfered" in Hong Kong affairs

BEIJING, Dec 12 (Agencies): Beijing has announced that it will impose visa restrictions on US officials who have "interfered" in Hong Kong affairs.

This move comes after Washington said it would impose visa restrictions on Hong Kong officials last month.

According to Mao Ning, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, the US has "violently interfered in China's internal affairs" by imposing visa restrictions on Chinese officials over Hong Kong issues.

Mao stated that China has decided to impose visa restrictions on US officials who have performed poorly on Hong Kong-related issues. The move is based on China's foreign relations law and a law on countering foreign sanctions.

Mao emphasised that Hong Kong is a part of China and that Hong Kong affairs are China's



internal matters.

"I shall emphasise that Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong, and Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal matters," Mao said. "We urge the US side to genuinely respect China's sovereignty, respect the rule of law in Hong Kong, and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs in any way."

The US had previously announced that it would impose visa restrictions on Hong Kong officials after 45 pro-democracy advocates were sentenced to prison in November. The sentences ranged from four years and two

months to 10 years.

"The 45 defendants sentenced today were aggressively prosecuted, and many now face life-altering imprisonment simply for their peaceful participation in political activities which are protected under the Basic Law of Hong Kong," US Department of State spokesperson Matthew Miller said after the sentencing hearing.

The Hong Kong government condemned the US move, saying that foreign governments and organisations had "turned a blind eye to the facts" and made "exaggerated remarks" about the landmark case.

After Assad's ouster, Syrian rebel leader puts his stamp on the state

DAMASCUS/BEIRUT, Dec 12 (Agencies): Rebel leader Ahmad al-Sharaa's Islamist group is stamping its authority on Syria's state with the same lightning speed that it seized the country, deploying police, installing an interim government and meeting foreign envoys - raising concerns over how inclusive Damascus' new rulers intend to be.

Since Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group swept Bashar al-Assad from power on Sunday at the head of a rebel alliance, its bureaucrats - who until last week were running an Islamist administration in a remote corner of Syria's northwest - have moved into government headquarters in Damascus.

The appointment of Mohammed al-Bashir, the head of the regional government in HTS' enclave of Idlib, as Syria's new interim prime minister on Monday underlined the group's status as the most powerful of the armed groups that battled for more than 13 years to end Assad's iron-fisted rule.

Although it was part of al Qaeda before breaking ties in 2016, HTS had reassured tribal leaders, local officials, and ordinary Syrians during its march to Damascus that it would protect minority faiths, winning broad approval. The message helped smooth the rebels' advance and Sharaa - better known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani - has repeated it since Assad's ouster.

At the office of the Damascus governor, its walls exquisitely decorated with marquetry and stained glass, the man brought from Idlib to run affairs dismissed concerns that Syria was being moved towards an Islamic form of government.

"There is no such thing as Islamic governance.

After all, we are Muslims and its civil institutions or ministries," said Mohammed Ghazal, a bespectacled 36-year-old civil engineer with a thick beard who was raised in the United Arab Emirates and spoke in near perfect English.

"We don't have any problem with any ethnicity and religion," he said. "The one who made the problem was the (Assad) regime." However, the way HTS has gone about shaping the new interim government - by bringing senior administrators from Idlib - has caused concern for some. Four opposition sources and three diplomats told Reuters they were concerned about the inclusiveness of the process so far.

Bashir said he will only remain in power until March.

But HTS - which remains classified as a terrorist group by the United States, regional powerbroker Turkey and other governments - has yet to spell out key details of the transition process, including its thinking on a new constitution.

"You are bringing (ministers) from one colour, there should be participation of others," said Zakaria Malahifi, secretary general of the Syrian National Movement who once served as political advisor to rebels in Aleppo. He said the lack of consultation in forming an interim government was a mistake.

"Syrian society is diverse in terms of cultures, ethnicities, so frankly this is concerning," he said.

"RUINS, RUINS, RUINS"

Like other members of the HTS-affiliated Salvation Government in Idlib brought to Damascus to run state bodies, Ghazal said he had given assurances to employees and urged them to return to work. "It's a collapsed

state. It's ruins, ruins, ruins," Ghazal said.

His priorities for the next three months are getting basic services running and streamlining the bureaucracy. Salaries, which average some \$25 a month, would be increased in line with Salvation Government wages. Its minimum wage is \$100 a month.

"Syria is a very rich country," said Ghazal, asked how this would be financed. "The regime used to steal the money." Policemen brought from Idlib are directing traffic in Damascus, trying to restore some normalcy since HTS ordered armed groups out of the city. One officer, who did not give his name, said they were stretched thin, noting they previously just had to patrol Idlib.

Though HTS is preminent among the factions which fought Assad, others remain armed, notably in areas at the borders with Jordan and Turkey.

During the war, rebel factions often clashed with each, leaving a legacy of rivalries and enmity seen as one of many risks to stability in post-Assad Syria.

Yezid Sayigh, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center, said HTS "clearly is seeking to maintain the momentum on all levels", adding that any group in their position, taking over from a collapsed regime in an exhausted country, would behave broadly the same way.

"There are multiple risks with HTS setting priorities and the pace for what comes next. One of these is to establish a new form of authoritarian rule, this time in Islamic garb," he said.

But he assessed the diversity of Syria's opposition and society would make it difficult for one group to monopolize influence.

Turkey - an influential backer of the opposition - was also keen for a government that could win international backing, he said.

"WE WILL ONLY STAY UNTIL MARCH"

An opposition source familiar with HTS consultations said all of Syria's sects would have representation in a caretaker government. Issues to be determined in the next three months included whether Syria should have a presidential or parliamentary system of government, the source said.

The Syrian revolt spiralled out of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings that toppled autocrats in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen, giving rise to turbulent and often violent periods of transition.

In an interview with Italian newspaper Il Corriere della Sera published on Wednesday, Prime Minister Bashir said "we will only stay until March 2025".

The priorities, he said, were restoring security and state authority, bringing home millions of Syrian refugees, and providing essential services.

Asked whether Syria's new constitution would be Islamic, he said "these details" would be clarified in the constitution-making process.

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem, a leading Syrian activist based in Washington and in touch with senior opposition figures, said HTS was being urged to "be smart and get the transition right, instead of letting the moment go to their heads by completely dominating the new government".

The Biden administration has urged HTS not to assume automatic leadership of Syria but instead run an inclusive process to form a transitional government, according to two U.S.

officials and a congressional aide briefed on the first U.S. contacts with the group.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said the transition in Syria should lead to "credible, inclusive, and non-sectarian governance" consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

That resolution, approved in 2015, calls for a Syrian-led process facilitated by the United Nations, establishing within six months non-sectarian governance and setting a schedule for a process of drafting a new constitution. It also calls for free and fair elections.

One diplomat in Damascus said HTS is the only faction meeting with foreign missions. "We are concerned - where are all the heads of the political opposition," the diplomat said. "It would be a major signal to have them here, and they are not here."

A second diplomat said HTS had conveyed good messages to the public but the degree of inclusiveness displayed in recent days was disturbing. Constitutional reform, in particular, must be an inclusive process and would be a really big test.

The diplomat noted the presence of many other factions which have yet to disarm or demobilise as a potentially destabilising factor if an inclusive process does not take place.

Joshua Landis, a Syria expert and head of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma, said Sharaa "must assert authority quickly to stop a decent into chaos".

"But he must also try to scale up his administrative capacity by bringing in technocrats and representatives of the diverse communities," he said.

Australia to force Meta and Google to pay for news shared on platforms



SYDNEY, Dec 12 (Agencies): Australia will force Meta and Google to pay for news shared on their platforms under a new scheme unveiled Thursday, threatening to tax them if they refuse to strike deals with local media.

Traditional media companies the world over are in a battle for survival as precious advertising dollars are hoovered up online.

Australia wants big tech companies to compensate local publishers for sharing news links that drive traffic to their platforms, an idea they have balked at in the past.

"It is important that digital platforms play their part. They need to support access to quality journalism that informs and strengthens our democracy," Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said.

Social media platforms with Australian revenue of more than US\$160 million a year will be taxed a still-to-be-decided figure earmarked to pay for news.

But they can avoid paying the tax if they voluntarily enter into commercial agreements with Australian media companies.

It is the latest salvo in Australia's efforts to reign in the tech giants.

Australia last month voted for new laws that will ban under-16s from social media.

It has also mooted slapping fines on companies that fail to stamp out offensive content and the spread of disinformation.

Poor canal functioning affects irrigation: Dr Rajiv Bhagat

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Dec 12 : Taking serious cognizance of reports from different areas of Bishnah constituency indicating that the irrigation canals used for agriculture land is not in a good condition, MLA Bishnah Dr Rajeev Kumar Bhagat along with Executive Engineer Irrigation Hafeez Reshi and his team visited irrigation canal / channels before starting of desilting works from Bishnah, Banachack, Ratnal, Khairi, Shahpur, Rehal, Pandorian, Shibuchack, Ranjipur, Kiryal, Marole, Sohagpur, Pindi Charakan, Kudwal, Trewa and Jabawal.

MLA was apprised by locals that till last few years the condition of canals was good but it is not the case right now. The deteriorating condition of the canals is a cause of concern for the farmers. According to them no dredging, cleaning and repair in these canals has been done for the last several years. The canals are shrinking or have turned into garbage dumps. In some areas, people throw garbage into these canals, caus-

ing pollution. If the situation continues like this the agricultural land would lose means of irrigation. The deteriorating condition of irrigation canals is emerging as a new and big challenge, posing a threat to good crop productivity.

Dr Rajeev impressed upon the Engineers and directed them to meet the demands of the people on grass root levels for their convenience and in the coming rainy season leftover works be completed and full desilting canals be made for easily flowing irrigation water. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Hafeez Reshi and his team assured the MLA to fulfill their demands and pending works will be completed with zeal and dedication for the welfare of the farmers. He said if such problems are allowed to continue and linger on without any solution, it can have serious consequences. The concerned government departments must take immediate steps to address the problem.

It has to be seen that if the dredging, cleaning and repair were being done in the past, why is it not being done for the

last few years. Immediate steps must be taken to restore the practice. The canals should be preserved and protected at all costs. Not just the government departments, the people have a responsibility towards safeguarding these canals. The canals should not be converted into garbage dumps. Those must be safeguarded from pollution and consequent shrinking. And those polluting the canals have to be dealt with sternly, added Dr Bhagat.

Dr Bhagat said that hundreds of farmers in Bishnah constituency are feeling dejected during the wheat season as the sowing of wheat is affected due to scarcity of irrigation water not reaching the tail-end of the canal while the tube wells have become defunct due to power outage and lowering of ground water level. He said that already the desilting work has not been accomplished in the proper manner and the indifference of the department is forcing the farmers to face hardships especially during the sowing season when the requirement of the water is at peak.

Provocative utterances of leaders helping anti-India forces: GL Raina

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: The provocative and potentially dangerous statements by the leaders of Kashmir-centric political parties like NC and INDI-alliance are helping anti-India forces, stated Girdhari Lal Raina.

Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC & Spokesperson, J&K BJP, accompanied by party spokespersons Adv. Purnima Sharma and Rajni Sethi, were addressing media persons at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"Strong action against over ground workers (OGW) leading to snapping of the nexus between terrorists, ISI, stone-pelters and separatist sympathizing politicians along with shattering funding channels through coordinated efforts of National Investigation Agency (NIA) and revenue intelligence were effective tools to substantially bring down terrorist violence in Jammu Kashmir post-2019", said Girdhari Lal Raina.

Raina said that Law enforcement agencies were able to work efficiently without bias or prejudice is also an established fact. This situation is being sought to be reversed by 'vested interests' after elections and the formation of an 'elected government' in the UT, he cautioned.

Ministers, elected representatives and leaders of NC and INDI-alliance are issuing irresponsible statements that are helping the narrative of ISI and the terrorist groups operating in Jammu-Kashmir. These statements are used by enemies of the country to revive separatism and radical terrorism.

Speculative statements by raising doubts about terror incidents from people holding responsible constitutional positions or suggesting "Terrorists should not be killed, they should be caught and asked who is behind them" are actually aimed to deflect the attention of people and sort of payback to partners of 'same page' politics.

Official data corroborated by independent agencies have explicitly shown that there is a more than 70% decline in terror incidents. Since 2020 there has been a steady decline and the number of such attacks on security forces fell to 95 in 2021, 65 in 2022, 15 in 2023, and five so far in 2024, the data shows. Civilian safety has been the prime concern for the Modi government and security agencies are putting maximum emphasis on that. This policy of maximum restraint has resulted in a significant decrease in civilian casualties.

Raina further said that Bharatiya Janata Party appreciates the role of security forces, including J&K Police, that are doing a commendable job in preventing Jammu Kashmir from being pushed back to the era of death and destruction.

Preventive action like NIA raids on OGW suspects, arresting of supporters of terrorism, busting of terrorist hideouts, and seizing of arms and ammunition is reassuring the safety & security of people besides maintaining unity and integrity of the nation, added Raina.

GDC Thannamandi holds extension lecture on Multidisciplinary Approaches of NEP-2020

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Dec 12, : Govt Degree College Thannamandi organized an extension lecture on "NEP 2020: Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Approaches" as part of Viksit Bharat 2047 Abhiyan in which Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Aslam Baba, former Nodal Principal of Kashmir Colleges and former Dean of Cluster University of Kashmir, was the resource person.

The program was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College whereas Dr. Asif Ajaz Lone, Head of the Department (HOD) of Physics, co-ordinated the programme.

In his comprehensive lecture, Prof. Baba eloquently explained the importance of integrating knowledge across various disciplines to create a holistic education system. He emphasized that NEP 2020 encourages critical thinking, innovation,

and skill development by breaking traditional silos in education. The audience was particularly engaged as Prof. Baba shared practical insights on how institutions can implement these approaches effectively.

He also highlighted his recently published book, "History of Science Through Ages" that explores the evolution of science through different eras, blending historical narratives with scientific advancements. Dr. Nazakat Hussain, HOD of History, also spoke on the occasion, commending Prof. Baba for his valuable contributions to academia and the thought-provoking lecture.

The event was followed by an interactive session, wherein participants raised questions and shared their perspectives on implementing NEP 2020's objectives in educational institutions. Attendees left inspired by the discussions and motivated to embrace

interdisciplinary learning in their academic endeavours.

Dr. Asif Lone conducted the proceedings of the programme whereas Dr. Nazar ul Islam presented the formal vote of thanks. The program was attended by a diverse audience of students, faculty, and scholars, aimed to highlight the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its emphasis on fostering multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary learning.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Naseem Ahmad, Dr. Ashaq Malik, Rakesh Puri, Prof. Altaf Hussain, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Junaid Ahmad, Dr. Shiraz Ahmad, Anuj Bali, Dr. Athar Aziz Raina, Prof. Rummy Dar, Dr. Nigina Kouser, Prof. Rizwana Kouser, Dr. Mohd Shakkor, Dr. Mudasir, Dr. Zubair, Dr. Showkat and Dr. Ashraq.

Congress remembers G.M. Sadiq, Mir Qasim and Mir Lasjan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Rich tributes were paid by the Congress party to G. M. Sadiq former Prime Minister & first Chief Minister of J&K and founder of Congress party in J&K, Syed Mir Qasim (Former Chief Minister) and G. M. Mir Lasjan (former Minister) on their death anniversaries today. The function was presided over by Working President PCC Raman Bhalla and

attended by senior leaders of PCC, District and Block Presidents and Mahila Congress leaders besides frontal wings.

While paying tributes to the veteran leaders the speakers described G.M. Sadiq was a most honest, secular, patriotic and able administrator who gave corruption free and efficient administration to the people of Jammu and Kashmir State. He played an important role to further cement the

State-Centre relationship and brought J&K more closely to the rest of the Country by taking several important and effective Constitutional measures. He was a revolutionary and most honest leader whose thoughts, policies and programmes are relevant and guiding factors for all the times to come. He was Prime Minister and the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and his tenure is remembered even today as an

exemplary one in terms of clean and efficient administration. It was G.M. Sadiq who brought about the sixth Constitutional amendment to change the nomenclature of Sader-e-Riyasat to Governor and from Prime Minister to Chief Minister. It was under his leadership the congress was formally founded in J&K in 1965.

The leaders also remembered the services of Former Chief Minister

Syed Mir Qasim and G. M. Mir Lasjan who were also founder members of congress described them best administrators who always cared for people and kept their interests above all. Sayed Mir Qasim quit the post of Chief Minister to pave the way for the installation of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah as Chief Minister in 1975 following the Indira-Sheikh Accord, in the larger interest of the nation to strengthen the

mainstream politics in Jammu and Kashmir. All three congress stalwarts remained committed to the secular and democratic principles and ideology of the Congress party.

Prominent among those who paid tributes included Ch. Lal Singh (Ex-MP), Th. Balwan Singh, Ravinder Sharma-Chief Spokesperson, Yegesh Sawhney (Former Minister), Ved Mahajan (Ex-MLC I/C HQ), Jahan-gir Mir (Ex- Dy Chairman

LC), Indu Pawar (Ex-MLA), Yash Pal Kundal (Ex-Minister), Th. Manmohan Singh, Shabir Ahmed Khan (Ex-Minister), Ashok Dogra (Ex-MLA), Shashi Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ajay Lakhota (NSUI), Ch. Hussain Waffa, Parvez Wani, Vinod Khajuria Riyaz Bashir Naaz (DDC Poonch), Sanjeev Panda, Sahil Sharma, AP Singh Lucky,

Michael Wazir, Varinder Manhas, Ricky Dalotra, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Prof. H. R. Sharma, Ranjit Singh Manhas, S.S. Dutt, Rakesh Sharma, Vijatant Pathania, Santosh Manhas, Suman Wazir, Tamana Heer, Santosh Mangotra, Anuradha Sharma, Raj Kumar Sodi, Dewan Chand, Mangat Ram, Shamsheer Bhagat, Janak ehra, Jung Bhadur, Jatinder Bhagat and others.

FROM PAGE 1

Opposition protests with 'Desh Bikne Nahi Denge' placards, demands JPC on Adani Issue

into the matter.

On Wednesday, several opposition MPs greeted their BJP counterparts in Parliament premises with a tricolour in the form of a card in one hand and a red rose in the other, as they urged the ruling party to ensure that the House functions and all issues, including the Adani matter, are discussed.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also offered the tricolour in the form of a card to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh when the latter was entering the main Parliament building.

On Tuesday, MPs carried dark blue 'jholas' with caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani printed on one side and "Modi-Adani Bhai-Bhai" written on the obverse.

On Monday, leaders of some INDIA bloc parties had protested in Parliament complex over the Adani row, with Rahul Gandhi conducting a mock "interview" over the issue with Congress members wearing masks of Modi and Adani.

The opposition protests on the Adani issue have been taking place in Parliament complex since the start of the Winter session.

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

The Congress has said Adani's indictment "vindicates" its demand for a JPC probe into the various "scams" involving the billionaire industrialist's conglomerate.

Rahul Gandhi has sought Adani's immediate arrest.

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

Complaint filed against illegal construction on government land in Jammu

Colony, Jammu, claims that the construction is being carried out without permission or approval from the concerned authorities.

According to the complaint, the unauthorized construction is taking place on government land located near Sharma Sweet Shop on Akhnoor Road, Jammu. Gupta stated that despite numerous requests from local residents to halt the encroachment, Choudhary has continued with the construction, claiming connections with influential bureaucrats and political leaders that protect him from legal action.

Gupta has also highlighted that the land, originally designated for public purposes, is at risk of permanent alteration if the construction is allowed to continue. He has urged the JMC to take immediate action to retrieve the land and ensure that it is restored for its intended use.

The complaint has been forwarded to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, SSP Crime Branch, Divisional Commissioner, and the Governor Grievance Cell for further investigation and action. The concerned authorities are expected to address the issue promptly, as the situation has raised concerns among local residents regarding illegal land encroachment and the misuse of government property.

This case has brought attention to the growing problem of land grabbing in Jammu, with calls for stricter enforcement of laws and regulations to prevent the illegal occupation of public land.

Sixty percent of those killed in road accidents in 18-34 age group: Govt In Lok Sabha

was a "strange" situation. Responding to supplementaries, he said while Uttar Pradesh leads in deaths due to road accidents, in cities, Delhi tops the chart in such deaths.

In Uttar Pradesh, over 23,000 people or 13.7 per cent of the total deaths are due to road accidents followed by Tamil Nadu with over 18,000 (10.6 per cent) deaths.

In Maharashtra, the figure stands at over 15,000 or nine per cent of the total deaths, followed by Madhya Pradesh with over 13,000 (eight per cent) deaths.

In cities, Delhi leads the chart with over 1400 deaths, followed by Bengaluru with 915 deaths. Jaipur registers 850 deaths

due to road accidents.

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NIA searches 19 locations including in J&K, UP in JeM conspiracy case

morning raids in the Bamzoo Mattan area of Anantnag, Kreeri in Baramulla and Khansahib in Budgam districts.

Further details were awaited.

DC Kargil chairs meeting on AN-32 Kargil courier service

Liasoning officers from district administration, online ticket booking facility to ensure smooth operations of courier service during winters.

It was emphasized that close coordination with all concerned Authorities shall be ensured well in advance for the courier service.

The Deputy Commissioner thanked and appreciated all the stakeholders for their support in successful operation of the flights to ease the life of locals when the Zojila pass remains closed.

All the stakeholders assured their full support and committed continuous cooperation to make the AN 32 Service Operational in this winter also.

Kashmir plains receive season's first snowfall

snowfall in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The higher reaches of the valley, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg,

Tangmarg, Gurez and the Zojila Pass, saw light to moderate snowfall.

Due to accumulation of snow along the Zojila Pass, the Srinagar-Leh highway was closed for traffic, while the Bandipora-Gurez road and Mughal Road were also shut, officials said.

Authorities have deployed men and machinery to clear the snow and restore road traffic, they added.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast an improvement in weather conditions from Thursday afternoon. Mainly dry conditions expected to prevail until December 20.

Meanwhile, night temperatures rose across the valley, including Srinagar, due to cloud cover.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 3 degrees Celsius the previous night. Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, saw a minimum of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in northern Kashmir registered a minimum of 0.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag in southern Kashmir recorded minus 1 degree Celsius.

JKAS officer Mohammad Usman Khan appointed SA to Minister Satish Sharma

Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services, and Sports and ARI & Trainings.

Senior IPS Officer Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gilani promoted to DGP Grade

herby promoted to the DGP Grade (Level-16 IN THE PAY MATRIX) with effect from the date of assumption of charge".

Cash crunch in JK Trea-

suries leaves employees, contractors, and pensioners in distress

delayed for months.

"The administration is turning a blind eye to this crisis while engaging in ribbon-cutting ceremonies," Akhtar said. "This pervasive cash crunch signals a looming economic breakdown in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving the common man to suffer." He urged the government to release the 3 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) that has been withheld from employees since July, pointing out that central government employees received it six months ago.

Contractors and employees have echoed these concerns, with many sharing accounts of months-long delays in receiving payments. Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Contractors Association, Ghulam Jeelani Purza, criticised the government for failing to clear bills within the stipulated 24-hour window, noting that contractors face mounting financial and legal challenges as a result. "Post-dated cheques issued by contractors are now bouncing due to the delay in payments, putting them at risk of legal action. Many have already left this profession due to the recurring payment delays over the last two years, which have severely impacted their families," Purza said. He called on the government to urgently address the issue, particularly given contractors' contributions during past crises. Government employees awaiting GPF payments expressed similar frustrations.

PDP nominates Khurshed Alam as General Secretary, Youginder Singh as Coordinator Urban Rural

As per the party handout, Mohammad Khurshed Alam has been nominated as General Secretary, while Youginder Singh as Coordinator Urban Rural. Further Adv Sheikh Javid Ahmed has been nominated as district president for Anantnag, Romesh Verma for Rural Kathua, Vishal Salgotra for Urban Kathua, Surinder Sharma for Reasi and Maheswar Raj for Samba.

Vice Chairperson DDC Reasi advocates for enhanced road connectivity in subdivision Mahore

Top News Report

REASI, Dec 12: Vice Chairperson of District Development Council (DDC) Reasi, Adv. Sajra Qadir, met with Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary here today to discuss the pressing issue of road connectivity in Subdivision Mahore. Highlighting the vital need for infrastructural development in the remote areas of Reasi district, Adv. Qadir urged the PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) to prioritize key road projects that will significantly improve accessibility and transform the socio-economic landscape of the region.

During the meeting, Adv. Qadir presented a detailed proposal for urgent road connectivity projects, emphasizing the strategic importance of linking remote villages with key facilities such as government offices, educational institutions, healthcare

centers, and markets. She specifically highlighted the following critical road and bridge projects that require immediate attention and execution like Ranglai to Dewal & Gungla, Badder to Shabras, Bagga to Badder, Paghiala to Kaindora via Jamia Masjid Baransal and Gulabgarh, Gader to Middle School Shabras via Bdi Arbais, Jamia Masjid Khore to Dandhyala, Damhala to Lar to connect government offices, Dewal to Jamia Masjid Kaindora, Lard to Balmatote, Badder to Leon Gali, Footbridge from Lar to Kangti (PWD) and Dewal Dogga to Nihoch. Adv. Qadir stated, "These roads are not just pathways; they are lifelines for the people of Mahore. Improved road connectivity will unlock new opportunities, reduce travel time, and facilitate better access to essential services. The lack of proper infrastructure has long been



a bottleneck for development in these areas, and it's time to address this issue with urgency." She also stressed the need for timely completion of these projects, citing that many proposed roads have been delayed due to procedural bottlenecks. Adv. Qadir urged the PMGSY department to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that these projects are completed within stipulated timelines to benefit the public at the earliest.

In response, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary appreciated Adv. Qadir's dedication to the development of Reasi district and assured her of the government's commitment to improving road connectivity in the region. He directed the concerned departments to prioritize these projects and instructed them to work closely with local stakeholders to overcome any hurdles. Adv. Qadir also proposed regular reviews

and inspections of ongoing projects to ensure transparency and accountability in the execution process. She underlined the importance of involving local communities in the planning and implementation stages to address their specific needs effectively.

The Vice Chairperson reaffirmed her commitment to advocating for the welfare of the people in Subdivision Mahore. "We must work together to bridge the gap between remote communities and mainstream development. Roads are the backbone of progress, and it is our responsibility to ensure that no village is left isolated," she said.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to expedite the planning and implementation of road projects in Subdivision Mahore, ensuring that the long-standing aspirations of the residents are fulfilled.

KDP Wing (J&K) of DPAP condemns brutality against Hindus in Bangladesh, controversial comments by PDP leader

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: The Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (KDP) of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has strongly condemned the recent brutal attacks on Hindus and their religious places in Bangladesh. In a joint statement issued by the KDP Wing, led by President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and Youth Wing President Navin Gosani, the leaders expressed grave concern over the increasing violence against Hindus in Bangladesh.

The leaders condemned the attacks, calling them barbaric and inhumane, and noted that such acts have created a sense of insecurity among Hindus worldwide. They emphasized that these attacks, perpetuated by members of another community, are intolerable and must be condemned by all people who value humanity.

The KDP leaders appealed to the Government of India and the United Nations to take immediate action to rescue and protect Hindus in Bangladesh. They urged the Indian government to put pressure on the Bangladeshi government to adopt measures to safeguard Hindus from further attacks, ensuring their safety through humanitarian efforts across the country.

The leaders also called upon prominent Hindu societies in India to unite and apply joint pressure on the Bangladeshi government to guarantee the protection of Hindus and their properties.

In addition to condemning the violence in Bangladesh, the leaders expressed their disapproval of controversial remarks made by Ilteja Mufti, a leader from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Mufti had compared Kashmiri displaced Hindus to the Rohingyas, a comment the KDP leaders termed as derogatory and disrespectful. They accused her of deliberately hurting the sentiments of Kashmiri displaced Hindus and undermining the harmony of Kashmiriyat by making such statements. The KDP leaders reminded that the Mufti family has repeatedly made similar remarks since 1986, which have harmed the communal harmony of the region and the rightful place of Kashmiri Hindus within Kashmiriyat.

The leaders demanded that individuals making such derogatory statements be prohibited from visiting Kashmiri displaced people's residential areas. They asserted that such comments, which tarnish the culture and heritage of the community, are unacceptable.

Finally, the leaders urged the displaced people to be vigilant and prevent such leaders from visiting their communities, as their comments could damage the sentiments of Kashmiri Hindus and the unity of the community.

The statement from the KDP Wing of DPAP has garnered significant attention, reflecting the ongoing concerns of the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community about their safety, identity, and the preservation of their cultural heritage.

Complex heart procedure gives new lease of life to woman



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Anju Devi (31) from Jammu got a new lease of life after a rare complex heart procedure at Livasa Hospital Amritsar recently.

Anju, a mother of two kids, had a birth defect. Her heart valve and aorta were small since birth.

In 2011, at the age of 18 years when she was 18 years old, Dr Pankaj

Goel senior director cardiac surgery had operated on her and performed complex valve surgery. The replaced valve was made of pig tissue.

It didn't require any blood thinners, which allowed her to lead a normal married life and have kids. This valve however, had a life of 10-12 yrs.

Recently she was presented with increasing breathlessness.

The valve had narrowed again and had become hard due to calcium deposits.

A very rare and complex procedure- Apico-aortic conduit was performed.

This is the first case of Apico Aortic Conduit surgery, which has been done first time by any hospital in Amritsar region, said Dr Pankaj Goel adding Anju made a remarkable recovery after the procedure.

BOMIS Jammu celebrates annual day 'Anurakt'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Birla Open Minds International School (BOMIS), Jammu, hosted its grand annual day, Anurakt: Together is a beautiful place to be, with great pomp and enthusiasm. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest. The school's Chairperson and other distinguished members of the management also added to the event's grandeur.

Students of classes Nursery to VI were a part of this grand annual day programme. More than 1000 people attended the event. The program commenced with a warm welcome of the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The divine atmosphere was further enhanced with the soulful renditions of Saraswati Vandana and Ganesh Vandana, invoking blessings for success and prosperity.

In her address, Principal



Aparana Kohli reflected on the school's achievements over the past year and its commitment to fostering holistic education. She said, "Our theme, Anurakt, resonates deeply with the values of passion and commitment that define our school community." Adding to this she also read the annual report in which she highlighted the efforts made by the CBSE toppers of class X and XII. She also added the school's extension towards the cricket ground. The school has made its own new cricket ground in 11 acres area which will lead to the perfection of our budding cricketers. The school is also very soon opening its robotics lab. Our school has also taken

a step forward in launching its new basketball court.

The Chief Guest, Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister J&K was felicitated for his valuable contributions to society, and in his inspiring speech, he applauded the efforts of the school in nurturing young minds and emphasized the importance of cultural and educational events in shaping the future.

The event also celebrated the achievements of students during the Achievers' Felicitation Ceremony, recognizing their hard work and dedication in the field of sports. The highlight of the evening was the thematic play, Anurakt, which

captivated the audience with its powerful storytelling and vibrant performances, showcasing the students' talent and creativity. The play represented the importance of the guidance of our parents in our life and how we should not take it for granted. It was not only a lesson for the children but for the parents as well as in what importance does communication hold between the relationship of parents and their children.

Along the play, there were different groups of children depicting dances in their sad and happy emotions. The play concluded with everyone reunited, reaffirming their commitment to live together as one supportive family." The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by School's Head Boy and Head Girl, and the rendition of the National Anthem, leaving everyone with a sense of pride and unity.

The annual day was a resounding success, reflecting the spirit of excellence and togetherness that defines Birla Open Minds International School, Jammu

Concerns raised over recruitment process for Dogri Editorial Executive/Newsreader cum Translator at Prasar Bharati

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Noted cultural activist and columnist Mohd. Yaseen has raised concerns over the recruitment process for the position of Editorial Executive/Newsreader cum Translator (Dogri) conducted by Prasar Bharati.

The selection process, which included a written examination, voice test, and interview held at AIR Jammu, has drawn criticism for alleged lack of transparency and procedural fairness. During a recent meeting with Gulshan Raina, Assistant Director of the Regional News Unit (RNU) Jammu, Yaseen discussed these concerns in detail. Raina, while addressing the matter, advised Yaseen to escalate the issue by writing to the Director General and other senior officials of Prasar

Bharati. Additionally, Raina suggested filing a Right to Information (RTI) application to formally seek answers.

Acting on this advice, Yaseen filed an RTI application under the number PRBHA/R/E/24/01019, raising several pointed questions about the recruitment process.

In the RTI, Yaseen has sought clarity on the identity of the individuals responsible for setting the question paper, the measures adopted to prevent leaks, and the overall transparency of the examination process.

He has also questioned the qualifications of the panel members who evaluated the candidates' Dogri language skills and voice quality during the audition and interview stages. Furthermore, he raised concerns over the informal use of WhatsApp to



communicate results, with selected candidates being notified two or three days earlier than others, which he believes undermines the professionalism of the recruitment process.

To avoid any perception of bias or conflict of interest while raising these concerns, Yaseen has voluntarily requested the withdrawal of his candidature from the recruitment process. He emphasized that his intention is not to challenge the outcome of the recruitment but to ensure transparency and fairness in the process, which is crucial for the credibility of Prasar Bharati as a public

broadcaster.

Yaseen's efforts reflect a larger commitment to safeguarding the integrity of recruitment processes, particularly for roles that serve to promote and preserve regional languages like Dogri.

The importance of transparency and professionalism in such recruitments cannot be overstated, especially when these positions play a vital role in cultural representation.

The cultural activist has urged Prasar Bharati to address these concerns comprehensively and take corrective steps to ensure that future recruitment processes meet the highest standards of transparency, fairness, and accountability. Such measures would not only benefit candidates but also enhance public trust in India's premier public broadcaster.

Shah Re Khass traders and chambers voice concerns over ongoing power cuts

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 12: The Shah Re Khass Traders and Chambers express profound frustration and disappointment regarding the persistent power cuts affecting the Shah Re Khass area. Despite assurances from the power department that residents and businesses would receive uninterrupted electricity service in metered areas, continuous outages remain a significant challenge.

These frequent power interruptions have serious implications, jeopardizing not only the daily operations of local businesses but also putting the health and well-being of community members at risk.

Vulnerable individuals who depend on electricity for essential medical equipment are particularly affected, facing potentially life-threatening situations due to the unreliability of power supply.

"Many businesses in the area are struggling to function, and our ability to serve our customers is severely compromised," said Raqib Altaf Shah, Chief Spokesperson of Shah Re Khass Traders and Chambers.



"We stand with our residents, particularly those who rely on consistent electricity for health reasons.

This situation is no longer sustainable, and we call for immediate action to resolve these power disruptions."

With mounting frustrations, the Shah Re Khass Traders and Chambers appeal to the power department for transparency and accountability.

The community deserves to understand the reasons behind the continued outages and to see a proactive plan implemented for

reliable electricity provision—ensuring that the rights of the residents and local businesses are acknowledged and respected.

As key stakeholders in the economic vitality and health of the area, the Shah Re Khass Traders and Chambers remain dedicated advocates for effective solutions to these challenges.

Together with the community, they request a cubic commitment from local authorities to resolve the power issues, enhance system reliability, and assure citizens of dependable services moving forward.

The captains' clash: Rohit Sharma vs Virat Kohli in Tests, white-ball cricket

India captain Rohit Sharma has faced intense criticism following the loss in the Adelaide Test. While still relatively new to Test captaincy, how does Rohit Sharma's performance compare to that of his predecessor, Virat Kohli?

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Few debates in Indian cricket stir as much fervour as the comparison between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. These two captains have not only led India to crucial victories but have also epitomised contrasting leadership styles, dividing opinion among fans and pundits alike. Kohli, the embodiment of aggression and intensity, revolutionised the way India played Test cricket with his no-holds-barred approach, while Rohit, the master tactician, thrives on balance and composure, bringing his own flavour to the game.

Recent events, however, have reignited the debate.

Rohit Sharma faced intense scrutiny after the team's 10-wicket loss in the Adelaide Test match in December. Sharma's return, after missing the Perth series opener, did not yield positive results for the visiting side, which had taken a 1-0 lead in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy under the stand-in captaincy of Jasprit Bumrah.

Rohit was criticised for his lack of plan B, his body language on the field, and, of course, for his poor batting performance at No. 6 in the pink-ball Test match at the Adelaide Oval. He was already under intense pressure following his 'allowed once in 12 years' comment after India's historic series

loss at home against New Zealand, and the scrutiny intensified after India appeared clueless against Australia in the second Test.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri questioned Rohit's body language during the Adelaide Test. Shastri said that the India captain needed to be more involved and animated during the games.

"Just thought he was a little too subdued, just seeing his body language. The fact that he didn't make runs, I don't think there was enough on the field there. I just wanted to see him more involved and a little more animated. You still have to believe that you can bounce back in this series," Shastri told broadcasters during the second Test.

It has not been easy for Rohit Sharma in recent times. Under his captaincy, India lost to a visiting New Zealand side 0-3, being whitewashed in a Test series at home for the first time in history, in October-November. The Adelaide loss extended this losing streak to four matches.

With India facing the prospect of missing out on the World Test Championship for the first time, Rohit's Test captaincy has come under the scanner. Quite a few on social media have remarked on the waning dominance of India in Test cricket, particularly in overseas conditions.

At this juncture, let's look at the differences in the captaincy records of two of India's greatest modern-day cricketers.

Rohit Sharma vs Virat Kohli: Overall Record

There is a stark difference between the number of matches Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have captained. Kohli was at the helm of the Indian team for seven years, while Sharma was thrust into the position following the World Test Championship 2021 Final and the subsequent South Africa series loss.

Kohli captained a total of 68 matches for India, winning 40-making him the most successful India captain by a significant margin. Kohli's tenure is legendary, marking many firsts for the team worldwide.

Kohli lost only 17 Tests in a 68-match period.

Famously, then-head coach Ravi Shastri had claimed back in 2018 that India was the best-ever travelling side in the world. While his comments were criticised by former greats Sunil Gavaskar and Sourav Ganguly, Shastri went on to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia not once but twice in a row. Together, Shastri and Kohli established a decade-long dominance against Australia in Test cricket.

Rohit Sharma's overall record pales in comparison. He has captained in 22 Tests, winning 12 and



losing 8.

Rohit was not initially considered for leadership in Tests until Kohli's unexpected resignation in January 2022. Then BCCI president Sourav Ganguly handed over the reins to Rohit. The captaincy came to Rohit at the age of 34, whereas Kohli had assumed the role at 26.

Rohit Sharma vs Virat Kohli: Record in SENA Countries

The ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy is Rohit's second Test series as a captain in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) countries. Sharma has previously captained in South Africa, where the Indian team managed a 1-1 draw. Kohli was in sensational form during that series and played two heroic innings across two Test matches.

Rohit also captained in the WTC Final in 2023, where India were comprehensively outplayed by Pat Cummins' Australia.

significant difference lies in the runs they have scored as captains. Any captain must lead by example, and this is where players like Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting, and Pat Cummins have earned reverence in modern cricket.

Kohli as a batter under the burden of captaincy is far more prolific than Rohit Sharma. It is almost as if Kohli thrives on the added responsibility.

Kohli has scored a total of 5,864 runs as a Test captain-more than half of his career Test runs. Sharma, on the other hand, has scored only 1,232 runs in 22 Tests. The difference in averages is stark. Kohli averages 54.80, while Rohit averages 32.42.

This disparity widens in SENA countries, where Kohli has 2,162 runs in 24 matches at an average of 47. Sharma has just 127 runs at an average of 18.14.

It would be cliché to say that Sharma has miles to go, but the reality is he simply does not have the time. If India lose the Border-Gavaskar Trophy under his captaincy and fail to make it to the WTC Final for the first time in three editions, the 37-year-old will likely make way for a new Test captain.

Rohit Sharma vs Virat Kohli: White-Ball Cricket

In white-ball cricket, Rohit Sharma seems to have edged ahead of Virat Kohli. The T20

World Cup triumph in 2024 elevated Rohit among the Indian elite, making him only the third captain after Kapil Dev and MS Dhoni to lead India to a World Cup title.

Rohit also guided India to the ODI World Cup final in 2023.

While India consistently reached the final stages of ICC tournaments under Kohli, Rohit redefined the team's white-ball strategy, particularly in T20Is. Following the disappointments of the 2021 and 2022 T20 World Cups, Rohit adopted an aggressive, fearless approach, setting the tone for his teammates.

With 34 wins in 48 ODIs, Rohit has a better win percentage than Kohli, who led India to 65 wins in 95 ODIs.

In T20Is, Rohit has achieved 49 wins in 62 matches with a win-loss ratio of 4.083. Kohli's record stands at 30 wins in 50 matches with a ratio of 1.870.

In the IPL, Rohit Sharma outshines Kohli by miles. With five titles as captain of the Mumbai Indians, Rohit is arguably the best captain in the tournament's history.

WHAT THE INSIDERS SAY

Head coach Gautam Gambhir, in 2023, noted that Rohit Sharma has been following Virat Kohli's template in Tests. "Honestly, I have always believed that

Rohit Sharma is an amazing captain, but there is not much difference between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's captaincy, especially in this format. Virat Kohli started this template," Gambhir said.

Off-spinner R. Ashwin spoke highly of the dressing room environment under Rohit's captaincy.

"Rohit keeps the team environment light and balanced. Tactically, he is very strong, though both Dhoni and Virat were also strong tacticians. Rohit works more on specific plans with the analytics team and backs his players 100%," Ashwin told journalist Vimal Kumar.

Jasprit Bumrah shared similar thoughts.

"Rohit is one of the few captains with empathy towards bowlers, despite being a batter. He is not rigid and is open to feedback. Virat is energy-driven, passionate, and wears his heart on his sleeve," Bumrah told agency.

Rohit Sharma will be eager to deliver an improved performance in the remainder of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. A spot in the World Test Championship final is still within India's reach. Rohit's legacy as a Test captain hinges heavily on the outcome of the series in Australia over the next three weeks. Can the skipper turn things around?

Major change in Champions Trophy 2025 format amid India-Pakistan row? Report makes big claim

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): The controversy surrounding Champions Trophy 2025 is far from over and no decision has been taken over the scheduling of the competition yet. India refused to travel to Pakistan citing security concerns leading a major conversation on how the International Cricket Council (ICC) will handle the situation. A 'hybrid' formula was suggested that can see India playing their matches in Dubai but no official announcement has been made yet. While an ICC meeting was supposed to be held on December, it had to be postponed due to disagreements regarding the way forward. According to Cricbuzz, the delay can lead to Champions Trophy becoming a T20

tournament from the regular ODI format.

"If the stalemate persists, it is not improbable that certain stakeholders may revive calls to convert the Champions Trophy into a T20 format which is easier and faster to market than the ODIs which are fast losing their relevance," the report stated.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board could face revenue losses, lawsuits and also risk international alienation if it decides to withdraw from the ICC Champions Trophy over a deadlock on the mode of organising the 50-over event scheduled in February-March next year.

A senior cricket administrator here, who is well-versed with the organisation of ICC events, told agency that it would not be an easy

decision for the PCB to pull out if the hybrid model is not accepted in entirety by the ICC and the BCCI.

"Pakistan has not only signed a host agreement with the ICC but like all other participating nations in the event, it has also signed a mandatory Members' Participation Agreement (MPA) with the ICC," the administrator explained.

"It is only after a member nation signs the MPA for playing in an ICC event that it is eligible to get a share of revenues earned from ICC events.

"Most importantly when the ICC signed a broadcast deal for all its events, it has given a guarantee that all ICC members are available to play in their events including the Champions Trophy," he said.

Sports Bill likely to end disputes in federations, says Mandaviya

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (Agencies): Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is confident of ending all infighting within the sports federations, including the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in the next six months. He reckons once the National Sports Bill comes into existence a majority of disputes within sports bodies will come to end.

Speaking to the reporters during an interaction with the reporters, Mandaviya said disputes in the federations ultimately hurt the progression of the athletes. Mandaviya since taking over the sports ministry has seen several bickering in sports bodies, none bigger than in IOA where the entire executive committee has been opposing IOA president PT Usha over



the appointment of new CEO Raghuram Iyer.

Recently, the Indian Golf Union too got caught up in a factional fight, where two sets of Returning Officers have been appointed by warring factions for the elections that are to be held later this week.

Also, the continued confusion regarding the recognition of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections, had forced the minister to intervene after WFI withdrew the team for the World Championships fearing a contempt of court proceedings. Man-

daviya asked the WFI to send the team after wrestlers sat outside the minister's house for six hours.

"You try to solve one dispute and all of a sudden you get to know two other federations are in dispute. It is not good for anyone, especially the athletes. Our primary job is to help the athletes to excel. If we are busy fighting amongst each other, how will that happen?" The Minister said.

"This is where the sports bill comes in. Once that comes into play a lot of such disputes will be taken care of," he added.

Originally slated to be introduced during the Winter Session of the Parliament, it has been delayed a bit after objections were raised regarding a few provi-

sions including establishment of the Sports Regulatory Board of India, which would grant recognition to the NSFs and ensure compliance. It also seeks setting up an Appellate Sports Tribunal to handle all sports-related disputes and reducing reliance on civil courts for faster resolution.

The Minister further informed that there will be few changes made to the bill before introducing it in the Parliament. "There will be no major changes as far as we are concerned. Of course, there have been reservations raised but we are confident of getting approval from all stakeholders before going forward. But I will assure you that we are making good progress," he explained.

Hope I can throw a few more punches at Bumrah at Gabba: McSweeney

BRISBANE, Dec 12 (Agencies): Ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah has dismissed Nathan McSweeney three times across four innings, but the Australian opener is hoping to "throw a few more punches" at his Indian nemesis in the third Test, beginning here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old had a disappointing start to his international career after being ousted by Bumrah for 10 and zero in the first Test at Perth. McSweeney, however,

made 39 and 10 not out in Adelaide as the hosts made a comeback into the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy with an emphatic series-leveling 10-wicket victory in the pink-ball Test.

"To get a bowler like Jasprit early in my career, it's not going to get much tougher than that and I take some confidence from getting through a spell in Adelaide. The more I face, the more comfortable I'll get against him," he said.

Bumrah had taken eight wickets in the Perth Test, before adding four more in Adelaide to emerge as the best Indian bowler on tour so far. McSweeney, who was handed a debut after the opening spot was left vacant by the retirement of David Warner, described Bumrah as a 'unique' bowler.

"Facing him for the first time - he's quite a unique bowler. He's obviously world-class and a bit different to

most bowlers I've faced. [It's about adapting to his angle and where he delivers on the crease," said McSweeney, who was one of the Australian batters to train at the National Cricket Centre on Wednesday.

"I got two pretty good balls from him [in Perth], so to try and wear that on the chin and trust what I've been doing is going to be good enough.

"He got me again in Adelaide - he's a great bowler, and really enjoying the experience of

trying to work out a game plan on the run against a world-class player. Hopefully, I'll get better the more I face him and can throw a few more punches here at the Gabba." McSweeney shared a 67-run stand with Marnus Labuschagne in the first innings of the day-night Test.

Labuschagne returned to form with a 64 and McSweeney said watching his senior partner helped him. "He's a beauty of a guy. I think what we see on TV

when the bowler is bowling the ball, he's really intense, but in between overs, he's actually quite calm," McSweeney said.

"It gives me confidence just realising that we're all going through the same stuff - I'm (in my) first game, trying to work it out, (and) he's 50 games in, still trying to tinker and work things out... it's a very important series, we're not quite all batting the way we want to, but there's always room for learning and tinkering, and we

haven't all quite worked it out yet."

"So that gave me a little bit of confidence - we're always striving to be better, and I think that's what makes guys like Steve (Smith) and Marnus really good," he added.

It was at the Gabba where McSweeney made his first-class debut in Sheffield Shield in 2018, and the opener shared some fond memories.

"I love playing here - the wicket has great

bounce.

Batting well at the Gabba (is about) leaving well in particular... you can really trust the bounce here, and it's about not fighting that bounce, and scoring square of the wicket."

"It's a ground that if you spend a long time out there, the game can open up and you can actually score quite quickly. So, it's definitely a new-ball wicket, and if you can get past that, it's a lovely ground to bat on," he added.

Musician Vicky Kaith honored for his inspirational contributions to music

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Renowned musician Vicky Kaith, hailing from the village of Dablehar in R.S. Pura was felicitated at a special function held in his honor. The event celebrated his exceptional contributions to music and his ability to inspire through his art.

Dr. Sewa Mortan, the chief guest at the ceremony, praised Vicky Kaith for his remarkable talent and creativ-



ity. "All the songs he has released so far are

deeply inspirational. He continues to amaze us

with his musical brilliance. We are immensely proud of him and wish him continued success," said Dr. Mortan.

Adding to the commendations, JKBS General Secretary R.L. Kaith highlighted Vicky Kaith's generous nature, stating that his contributions go beyond music and extend to his kindness and character.

The event witnessed the presence of several prominent personalities, including Hans Raj Loria,

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

The felicitation concluded with warm wishes for Vicky Kaith's future endeavors, leaving attendees inspired by his journey and dedication to his craft.

Three residential houses gutted in fire in Kulgam, property worth lakhs destroyed

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 12: A devastating fire broke out in the Paniwah village of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on the intervening night of Wednesday, resulting in the destruction of three residential houses and property worth lakhs.

According to locals, the fire started around 2 a.m. in the upper Mohallah of Paniwah village. Residents immediately

rushed to the scene to contain the blaze, and fire tenders joined the efforts. Despite their timely response, the fire caused extensive damage before it was finally brought under control.

The affected house owners have been identified as Ghulam Mohiuddin Bhat, son of Jalal Din Bhat, Mohammad Shaban Bhat, son of Mohammad Abdullah

Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohammad Abdullah Bhat.

While the cause of the fire is yet to be determined, the incident has left the victims grappling with significant losses. Locals expressed their grief over the mishap and appealed to the authorities for immediate assistance to the affected families.

Efforts are underway to investigate the cause of the fire.

Chairman Adv. Tashi Gyalsen reviews development milestones in Leh

Top News Report

LEH, Dec 12: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Adv. Tashi Gyalsen chaired a crucial review meeting focusing on key developmental projects in Leh. The meeting was attended by Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasiyayam, Principal Secretary of Forest and Health, and Brij Mohan Sharma, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF).

The discussion centered on healthcare, education, and wildlife management initiatives. CEC Gyalsen lauded the recent approval of 265 posts for SNM Hospital and Medical College, calling it a "historic" step. He urged the

Principal Secretary to expedite the recruitment process and ensure that degree college infrastructure is operational by the coming summer.

Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasiyayam informed the meeting of an advertisement released for recruiting specialist doctors under the National Health Mission (NHM) for UT Ladakh, aimed at addressing the need for specialized healthcare services.

Another significant achievement highlighted was the approval for establishing a Nursing College in Leh. The college will offer BSc and MSc Nursing courses, providing local students with opportunities to pursue advanced healthcare education

within the region and contributing to local capacity-building.

Progress in wildlife management was also reviewed. The rationalization of wildlife boundaries, which has seen substantial advancement, was discussed as a critical measure to balance ecological preservation with developmental goals.

CEC Gyalsen emphasized the importance of these initiatives for Leh's growth, praising the UT Administration's efforts in enhancing healthcare and education infrastructure. The meeting concluded with an optimistic outlook on the transformative impact these projects will have on the region's development.

JKBS member Jagdish Raj Kaith honoured



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 12: Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha Member Jagdish Raj Kaith hailing from R.S. Pura's Village Gegan, was honoured at a brief function for rendering social work to his community.

Chief guest Dr Sewa Mortan said, "Social workers are essential parts

of any community. They are always there when people need them most, and they always do what they can to ensure they get the care they need. Social workers also make sure that people have access to all kinds of services, such as mental health care or substance abuse treatment services if needed. By working in this position, you can help improve many people's lives in your community."

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

Haji Tasleem Mir: A beacon of hope for Karnah's development



Top News Report

KARNAH, Dec 12: Haji Tasleem Mir, re-elected as the President of Karnah Beoparmandal and serving as the Personal Private Secretary to the MLA Karnah, continues to demonstrate his unwavering commitment to the welfare of his community. Known for his proactive leadership, Haji Tasleem

has become a trusted voice for the people of Karnah.

During the recent Block Diwas event held at Dak Bungalow Tangdar, Haji Tasleem passionately articulated the challenges and genuine demands of the region's residents. Issues ranging from infrastructure development to essential public services were raised, with the Deputy

Commissioner of Kupwara assuring timely action to address these concerns.

Haji Tasleem's dedication and collaboration with the MLA Karnah have garnered widespread appreciation, with community members lauding his efforts on social media platforms and public forums. Messages of gratitude and support highlight the profound impact of his leadership in addressing local issues.

As a leader who prioritizes the needs of his people, Haji Tasleem Mir continues to inspire hope and progress in Karnah, setting an example of compassionate and effective governance.

UNNAT organizes awareness program on cervical cancer



Top News Report

REASI, Dec 12: Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Reasi hosted an awareness lecture on cervical cancer causes and preventive measures. The programme was organized by Neena Abrol, General Secretary of "Unnat" NGO.

The session was led by Colonel Dr. Manoj Kumar Tangri, a gynecologic cancer surgeon from SRMS Medical College, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the chief guest, and Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary JKNC was the guest of honour. Whereas, Kulbhushan Singh, Principal (JNV) Reasi presided over the occasion. Rahul Gupta and Manan Raina were the special invitees.

Addressing students and staff, Dr. Tangri emphasized the alarming statistics of cervical cancer, stating that globally, a woman dies every two minutes due to the disease, and in India, one woman succumbs to it every eight minutes.

Dr. Tangri highlighted the World Health Organization's (WHO) campaign focused on HPV vaccination for girls aged 9-15, cancer screening for women, and timely treatment for those testing

positive during screenings. He urged parents to gift their daughters (aged 9-26) the HPV vaccine on their birthdays and encourage women in the family to undergo cancer screening as a gift on their special occasions.

He stressed, "A healthy woman is the foundation of a healthy society, and a healthy society ensures a progressive nation."

Dr. Tangri reassured that HPV vaccines and cervical cancer screening tests are readily available in most hospitals.

Speaking on the occasion, Sudarshan Abrol, President of Unnat said that our NGO is imparting teaching to the children to learn their own work. He also said that the government and Schools should come forward and encourage creative skills in children.

Earlier, the event began with a warm welcome of Dr. Tangri by Principal Kulbhushan Singh, who presented him with a bouquet. At the end of the lecture, the principal expressed gratitude to NGO "Unnat" and all attendees for their participation.

Dr. Tangri, a gold medalist with over 15 years of experience in gynecologic oncology, has made significant contributions not only in the Indian Army

but also during his tenure with the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He has been honored with a Presidential commendation for his exemplary work in the medical field.

Neena Abrol, General Secretary of "Unnat" NGO was delivering the vote of thanks.

Among those who were present on the occasion include Dr. Anuradha (Treasurer-"Unnat" NGO), Neha Garg, Archana Sharma, Anjna Abrol and others.

CEC held meeting to review preparations for Losar and New Year festival

Top News Report

LEH, Dec 12: In preparation for the upcoming Losar, Christmas and New Year festivals the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen has convened a meeting to review the necessary arrangement at the Conference Hall of the Council Secretariat, LAHDC Leh.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor for minority Ghulam Mehdi; Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, Shruti Arora; Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Sonam Deachen; Additional District Divisional Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Nurboo; Executive

Engineers from PDD, PHE, and R&B; Chief Medical Officer, Dolma Chuskit; Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Assistant Director of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Leh; Range Officer of the Forest Department, Vice President Ladakh Buddhist Association Rigzen Dorjey, President of the Christian Association, Leh, Sonam Parvez; President of the Merchant Association, Tsering Angchuk.

The meeting was aimed at taking stock of all preparations to ensure the successful and smooth festivals.

Discussions were held in the meeting to plan a series of celebrations in Leh market from

December 20 to December 31, marking the festive season for both Losar and the New Year. The planned activities include cultural performances, choirs, and market promotions to engage the community and visitors alike.

Additionally, key issues have been addressed to ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential commodities in the market and at all cooperative stores. Critical services such as water supply and power management will be closely monitored to meet the increased demand during the event, with backup generators on standby to prevent any disruptions.

Medical safety is a top priority, with well-equipped first-aid teams positioned throughout the venue, and fire safety protocols will be rigorously enforced to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and spectators.

Discussions were also held regarding the concern over the non-availability of Juniper, a plant of significant cultural and ritualistic importance during the Losar festival.

This collaborative meeting aims to ensure all aspects of the celebrations are well-organized, ensuring a festive and harmonious atmosphere for the community.

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