

TOP NEWS OF J&K

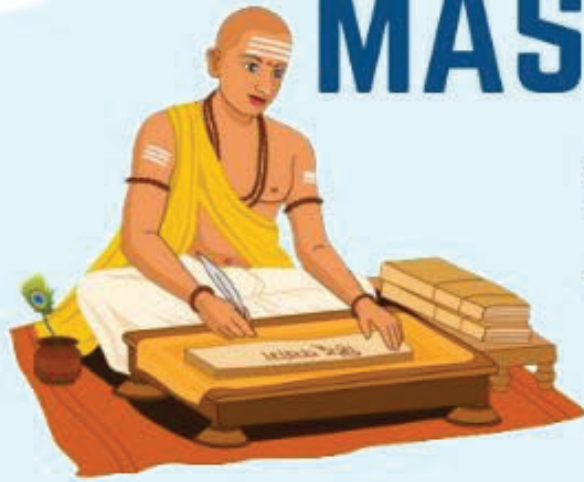
JAMMU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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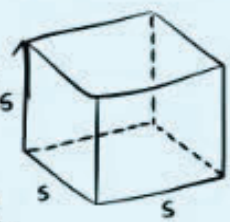


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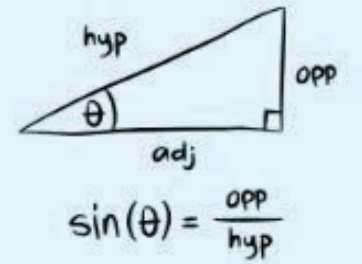
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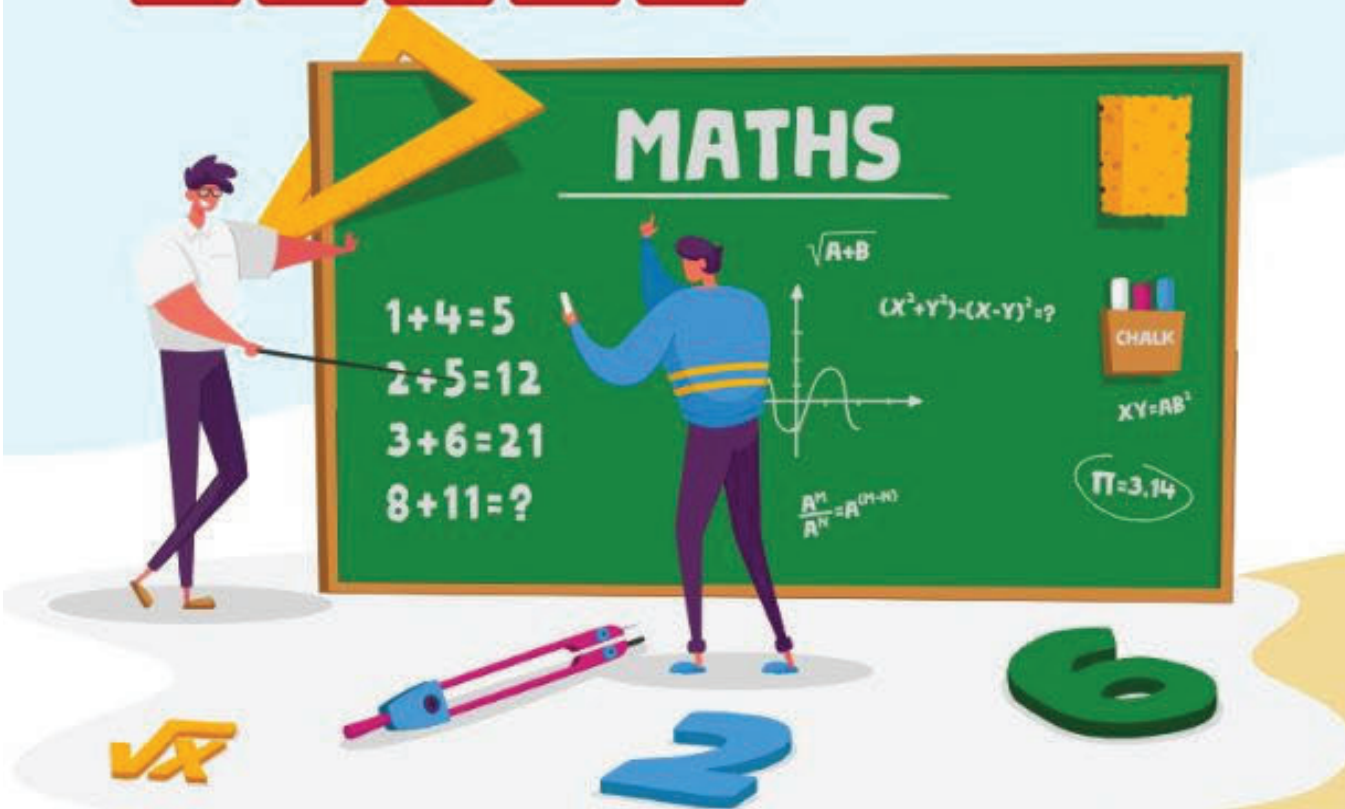
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UTHALA

परिवार जिसका मंदिर था, स्नेह जिसकी शक्ति थी,
परिश्रम जिसका कर्तव्य था, परमार्थ जिसकी भक्ति थी,
दिवंगत आत्मा को भावपूर्ण श्रद्धांजलि।

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform our beloved **Late Jyoti Parkash S/o Late Sh. Babu Ram Gupta**, R/o 107, Sector-1 Shivatik Pura Janipur Colony Jammu has been left us in pain untimely. The **Uthala** will be held at MAHAJAN HALL, Shalamar Road on 14-12-2024 (Saturday) Time 12:00-1:00.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Neelam Jandyal - **Wife**
Sons & Daughter in laws
Ishan Jandyal and Monica Jandyal
Arjun Jandyal & Ruhani Gupta
Sister & Brother in law
Neelam Sadotra & Ajay Sadotra (Former Minister)
Lt Subhash Jandyal & Suman Gupta (**Bhaiya & Bhabhi**)
Ravi Gupta and Madhu Gupta (**Bhaiya and Bhabhi**)
Rakesh Gupta and Kanchee Gupta (**Bhaiya & Bhabhi**)
Vinay Gupta & Anu Gupta (**Bhaiya & Bhabhi**)
Kailas Fashion Studio, Krishna Foodies
Mob. No: 9419159723, 8899333806




Sh. Jyoti Prakash Gupta
19th Sept. 1960 - 11th Dec. 2024

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Prem Chand Khajuria S/o Late Sh. Khem Chand Shastri** H. No 713/F, opposite Sarwal Morh, New Pbt Jammu.

Uthala will be performed on Dec 14th 2024 (Saturday) at Kailash Nath Shiv Mandir near Sarwal Chowk from 3 PM to 4 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Sheela Khajuria - **Wife**
Brothers and Sisters in Law
Smt Kamia W/o Late Sh. Vachaspati Khajuria
Sh Purshotam & Smt Veena Khajuria
Sisters and Brothers in Law
Smt Binia W/o Lt Sh. Bodh Raj Bargotra
Smt Champa W/o Lt Sh. Mohan Lal Bargotra
Smt Santosh and Sh Ravi Dutt Sharma
Sons and Daughters in Law
Smt Chandra W/o Late Sh. Satish Khajuria
Sh Harish Chander and Smt Meena Khajuria
Daughter and Son in Law
Smt Suman and Sh Sanjay Sharma
Grandchildren : Nitish, Sharad, Mridhu and Karan, Anuj, Manik
Contact Numbers : 9419141027, 9419205779, 7006244117



Sh. Prem Chand Khajuria

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bushan Lal Kuchroo (Baiji) S/o Pt. Shyam Lal Kuchroo** originally from Rajghat Baramulla, Kashmir and presently House no. 314 Lane 3 Laxmi Vihar, Tomal Bohri Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 18/12/2024 (Wednesday) at Bhadra Ghat, Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Thalwal Falai Mandal Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA assembly shall take place at our residence at 11:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Basanti Kuchroo (**Wife**)
Sh. B. K. Kuchroo and Smt. Vijay Laxmi (**Brother and Bhabi**)
Smt. Raniji (**Bhabi**)
Smt. Chhotiji (**Bhabi**)
Sh. Kapil Kuchroo and Smt. Suman Lata (**Son and Daughter in law**).
Sh. Arun Tikoo and Smt. Suman Tikoo (**Son in law and Daughter**).
Vitasta, Hemang, Aahi, Aahan (Grandchildren).
Mob: 8968188432, 9596991553




Sh. Bushan Lal Kuchroo (Baiji)

MASVAR & VAHARVAR
December 15th and 16th 2024

It has been one year since you left us physically for the heavenly abode leaving behind cheerful memories. We will always feel your presence around us and your noble deeds will guide and inspire us always. We pray to Almighty for your Moksha in Vaikunth.

MASVAR AND VAHARVAR of our beloved **Late Rita (Pinky Koul) Mattoo** will be performed on 15th and 16th Dec at our residence H No. 1358, Sector 40-B, Chandigarh.

Deeply Missed and Remembered by
Dr S K Mattoo Ex HoD-Psychiatry PGI Chandigarh (Husband)
Rahul Mattoo and Mrs Zirish Mattoo (**Son & Daughter in law**)
Kavin Mattoo (**Son**)
A K Mattoo & Mrs Asha Mattoo (Jammu)
Mob 7087009804, 7006060134



Late Rita (Pinky Koul) Mattoo

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 chak

Uthala will be performed on 14/12/24 Timing 3.30 PM to 4.30 PM at Bakshi Resort Pouni Chak (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


10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Revered father **Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat (Educationist) S/o Late Sh. Mahadev Ram Bhat** Erst while Delina Baramulla, Kashmir (Babapore Habbakadal, Srinagar). A/P H.No 132/2, Saraswati Vihar Bohri, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 10/12/2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be held on Thursday The 19th day of Dec 2024 at Akhnoor Ghat.

Mourning Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN.
Smt Santosh Bhat (**Wife**)
Smt Sunita and Sh Ravinder Koul (**Daughter and Son in law**)
Vijay Bhat and Neeru Bhat (**Son and Daughter in law**)
Sunil Bhat and Manju Bhat (**Son and Daughter in law**)
Deeply Missed by Samast Bhat Parivar (9086159239, 7006129877)




Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat (Educationist)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Opinder Dhar S/o Late Sh Ravinder Nath Dhar** on 6th Dec 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 15th Dec 2024 Sunday at Muthi Ghat (near Education Director) at 10 AM.

Grief Stricken: SAMAST DHAR PARIVAR
Mb No. 7006922933, 9419205040, 7780912076
Add : H No 402, Vinayak Nagar Upper Muthi Jammu




Sh Opinder Dhar

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Khama Devi (Rani) W/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat** on 05.12.2024 originally resident of village Monghama, Pulwama at Present Flat No 2, Block No 171, Lane 26, Jagti Township, Nagrota, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at TRT Nagrota Jammu on 14/12/2024 (Saturday) at 09:30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SAMAST BHAT PARIVAR (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sh Pawan Ji Bhat (Kaka Ji) & Smt Rajni
Mob. 9796691901, 7889853493
Smt & Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat (Daver & Davrani)
Mobile 9596738410
Veer Ji Bhat (Babloo) (Son)
Vithal Bhat (Grand Son)
Vrinda (Grand Daughter)



KHAMA DEVI (RANI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The 10th Day Kriya of Karmyogi **Smt Leelawati Dhar (Push Jigri) W/o Late Triloki Nath Dhar** originally R/o Dalsar (Pahalgam) Natipora Srinagar at present House No. 862, Lane 6-D (Extn.) Suriyanshi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu shall be held at Akhnoor Ghat on 14th of Dec. 2024.

Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.30 AM.

Grief Stricken
Smt Jaikishori Dhar -**Sister-in-law**
Smt & Sh B N Dhar -**Son & Daughter-in-law**
Smt & Sh Shibam Ji Dhar -**Son & Daughter-in-law**
Smt & Sh G L Talashi -**Daughter & Son-in-law**
Smt & Sh M L Koul -**Daughter & Son-in-law**
Smt Ranjini Mattoo -**Daughter**
Smt Babli Koul -**Daughter**
Smt & Sh P N Shah -**Daughter & Son-in-law**
Smt & Sh C L Dhar -**Daughter & Son-in-law**



Karmyogi Smt Leelawati Dhar (Push Jigri)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

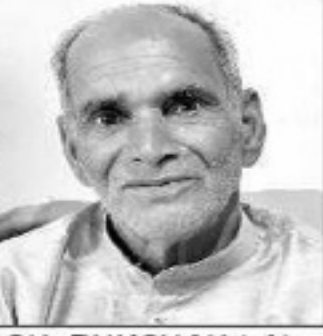
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bhushan Lal Bhat, S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Bhat** originally from Chowdrigund, Shopian, Kashmir.

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/ 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. Vininder Kalha & Smt. Sunita Kalha
Sh. Naatinder Kalha & Smt. Ranu Bala
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Swaraj & Sh. Vininder Kumar
Smt. Neelam & Sh. B.R. Sarkar
Smt. Suman & Sh. Ajay Raina
Smt. Neeru & Late Sh. L.C. Gandhi
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 Patil
Smt. Semisha & Sh. Rajen Dabgotra
Mobile No: 8082351815, 8082171815
7889837335




SH. CHARANJEET LAL

OBITUARY

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

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 16th Dec 2024 at 9.30 am Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Shama Raina (**Bhabi**)
(**Bhabi & Brother**)
Smt. Shyama Raina & Shri Avtar Krishan Raina (**Sister and Brother in law**)
Smt. Gita Sathu and Shri Bharat Bhushan Sathu **CHILDREN**
Jolly & Rajeev Koul (**Daughter & Son in Law**)
Ria & Rakesh Razdan (**Daughter in law & Son**)
Anjali & Suresh Saifya (**Daughter & Son in law**)
Archana & Sanjeev Koul (**Daughter & Son in law**)
Renu & Amit Raina (**Daughter in law & Son**)
Dimple & Ashwani Koul (**Daughter & Son in law**)
Anshu & Sandeep Bakaya (**Daughter & Son in law**)
Contact Number - 7051480824, 9419126767, 9796439821



SHRI SHIBAM 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. Sushil Sharma (DPO) & Smt. Rita Sharma
Sh. Sushil Sharma (Bhai) & Smt. Sunita Sharma
Grand Son in law
Rohit Sharma (Sr. Geologist)

Daughters & Son in laws
Smt. Kamlesh Kumari & Sh. Babu Ram
Smt. Sunita Sharma & Sh. Krishna Lal
Grand Sons & Daughters
Vikas, Akash, Rishabh, Shantaram, Mohit
Anshu, Dr. Preeti, Gargi, Kunalish,
Shashik, Manu, & Pooam
Contact No. 9419103353, 9419136323, 9419308613



Sh Babu Ram

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we deeply regret to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved daughter-in-law **Indu Raina (Pummy) W/o Sh. Anil Raina (Sethi)** originally resident of Village Baha, District Anantnag. Mourning is being held at Community Hall behind lane number 4, Jagti Colony, Nagrota Jammu.

The **10th Day Kriya** assembly will be performed on 16th December 2024 near the Directorate of Education, Muthi Ghat, Jammu at 10.30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Anil Kumar Raina (**Husband**)
Deepakshi Raina & Kirika Raina (**Daughters**)
(Mother-in-Law & Father-in-Law)
Smt Binia Raina & Sh. Nand Lal Raina
Smt. Shama Raina & Sh. Kashi Nath Raina
(Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law)
Smt. Vijay Raina & Sh. Bansil Lal Raina
Smt. Veena Raina & Sh. Bansil Lal Raina
Smt. Simmy Ji & Sh. Vinod Kumar Ganpo
Smt. Shoba Raina & Sh. Sameer Raina
Smt. Anila Raina & Sh. Sunil Raina
Smt. Shrota Raina & Sh. Ajay Raina
Grieving Family
Raina Family
Mobile Number 9596572413



INDU RAINA (PUMMY)


FIFTH DAY

परिवार जिसका मंदिर था, स्नेह जिसकी शक्ति थी,
परिश्रम जिसका कर्तव्य था, परमार्थ जिसकी भक्ति थी,
दिवंगत आत्मा को भावपूर्ण श्रद्धांजलि।

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform our beloved **Late Jyoti Parkash S/o Late Sh. Babu Ram Gupta**, R/o 107, Sector-1 Shivatik Pura Janipur Colony Jammu has been left us in pain untimely.

The **FIFTH DAY** will be held on 14.12.2024 Saturday at 10:AM To 11:00 AM in Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Bhabhi & Brother in Laws:-
Smt. Neelam Gupta, Lt. Sh. Jagmohan Gupta
Mrs. Pinky Gupta & Mr. Ashok Gupta,
Mrs. Rama Gupta & Mr. Gulshan Gupta,
Mrs. Geetanjali Gupta & Mr. Vikram Gupta,
M/S Raja Traders
M/S Raju Trading Co.
M/S Jagmohan Fruit Co.
M/S Rajan Traders
All are Fruit Mandi Narwal Jammu.
Mob. No: 9419191547, 9419191957, 9419185985



Sh. Jyoti Prakash Gupta
18th Sept. 1960-11th Dec. 2024

10TH DAY/KRIYA

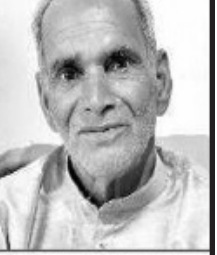
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bhushan Lal Bhat, S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Bhat** originally from Chowdrigund, Shopian, Kashmir.

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

KRIYA & 13TH DAY

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

KRIYA will be performed on 15-12-2024 (SUNDAY) at their residence Flat 202, Tower 7B, Hazelwood Society, High Ground road, Zirakpur, Punjab.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Kailash Nanda (**Wife**)
(**Daughter-in-law and Son**)
Mrs Neenu and Munish Nanda
(**Daughter and Son-in-law**)
Smt Mitali Sawhney and Vinod Sawhney
Mr Rakesh Nanda (**Son**)
(**Grand Children**): Joy Nanda, Juhi Nanda, Abhay Nanda, Vaibhav Sawhney, Vidita and Karan Jetley
Phone No. 9797424076, 9990399807



Sh. MADAN MOHAN NANDA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of our beloved father, **Sh. Bansil Lal Bhat (Qazi)**, originally from Kaloosa, 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**
Basant & Youghinder Bhat - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Jolly & Deep 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, 9596250399, 9797567662



SH. BANSI LAL BHAT (QAZI)

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TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Elon Musk wants to turn SpaceX's Starbase site into a Texas city



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BRIEFLY

Two Drug Peddlers Detained Under NDPS Act in Kathua

JAMMU, Dec 13 (Agencies): Two suspected drug peddlers, including a woman, were detained under stringent the NDPS Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, police said on Friday. Gurnam Singh alias Katta of Chak Drab Khan and Asha Bibi of Khanpur-Marheen were habitual drug peddlers and their detention warrants under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were issued by the Jammu divisional commissioner to prevent their illegal activities, a police spokesperson said. While Singh was named in four FIRs registered under the NDPS Act at Kathua police station since 2021, Bibi was wanted in connection with two FIRs lodged at Rajbhang police station since 2023. Both have been lodged in the central jail at Kot Bhalwal in Jammu, the spokesperson said.

Two run over and killed by trailer in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Dec 13 (Agencies): Two persons died when a truck ran over them at Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district during the intervening night, officials said. They said the accident took place at Pambay Nihama when a speedy trailer truck on the way to Kulgam ran over the two persons on the road during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, injuring both critically. The injured were shifted to a nearby health facility where both of them succumbed, they said. The deceased have been identified as Reyaz Ahmad Rather (34) and Mukhtar Ahmad Itoo (28) both residents of Gopalpora Kulgam. The driver reportedly fled away from the spot after committing the accident. Police have launched a man-hunt to trace the driver and initiated proceedings in the case.

RS adjourned till December 16 amid ruckus over no-trust motion against Chairman

NEW DELHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): The Rajya Sabha was on Friday adjourned till December 16 following ruckus between the treasury and the opposition benches over a no-trust motion against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. Vice-president Dhankhar is the Rajya Sabha's ex-officio chairman. Opposition parties, led by the Congress, have submitted a notice to move a motion to remove Dhankhar, accusing him of being "extremely partisan". During the pre-noon session, several MPs from the ruling bench-



gress, have submitted a notice to move a motion to remove Dhankhar, accusing him of being

"extremely partisan". During the pre-noon session, several MPs from the ruling bench-

es accused Congress leaders of insulting Dhankhar. They said the opposition party was insulting the son of a farmer. Amid the uproar, Dhankhar gave the floor to Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge to speak. Kharge claimed the chairman was giving

Turn to page 9

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju releases book authored by LG Ladakh



LEH, Dec 13 (Agencies): The Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs,

Kiren Rijiju released the book, 'Battles Against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (L.T.T.E.) In

Sri Lanka' authored by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), in the presence of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Indian Armed Forces, General Anil Chauhan and First Lady Neelam Mishra, in New Delhi.

The 320-page book has been published by Prabhat Prakashan. Turn to page 9

Over Rs 1100 Cr remain unspent under rural development sector schemes in J-K, says report

JAMMU, Dec 13 (Agencies): Over rupees 1100 Cr have remained unspent under various rural development schemes sponsored by Government of India in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year. This has been revealed in a Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj report, which was tabled in the Parliament recently. The report said that despite District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meetings held regularly in few district of the UT, but the effective utilization of funds under the said scheme

didn't make any impact on ground. The schemes which have been analyzed by the Parliamentary Panel are Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana -Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deendayal Upadhyay Grameen Kausalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) etc. Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, the objective of which is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed

wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, there is unspent balance of Rs 18.93 crore during the Financial Year 2024-25 as on October 23, 2024. Moreover, there is material liability of Rs 42.90 crore as on October 23, 2024. As far as PMGSY is concerned, the Parliamentary Panel has pointed out Rs 378.72 crore as effective unspent programme fund balance in State Nodal Agency as on October 24, 2024 while as under PMAY-G, which aims to provide

Turn to page 9

'One Nation, One Election': Not feasible in one go, says Ahmad Mir

SRINAGAR, Dec 13 (Agencies): All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary and MLA Dooru, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, on Friday expressed skepticism about the feasibility of implementing the 'One Nation, One

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No threat along international border, maintaining close vigil on illegal crossings: IG BSF DK Boora

JAMMU, Dec 13 (Agencies): Inspector General, Border Security Force (BSF) Jammu, D.K. Boora Friday said that there is no alarming situation along the International Border (IB) in Jammu as the force is maintaining a continuous vigil to prevent any illegal crossings, particularly from Bangladeshi nationals. The IG said that BSF has implemented a spe-



cialized strategy to protect the integrity of the border. Speaking at a press conference in Jammu to mark the 60th anniversary of the BSF, Boora as per news gathering agency KINS, praised the force's remarkable growth, expanding from just 25 battalions to 193, securing its place as one of the most capable and efficient border security forces worldwide. He underscored the BSF's crucial role in ensuring national security, both during peacetime and in conflict.

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Bomb threat in 6 Delhi schools triggers panic, second incident this week

NEW DELHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): Six schools in Delhi received bomb threats early on Friday, leading to panic and chaos as parents rushed to pick their children up from the schools. This latest wave of threats follows a similar incident on December 9, when at least 44 schools received bomb threats by email. Police had later declared those threats to be hoaxes. A Delhi Fire Services official said the first call regarding the threats came in at 4:21 am, with subsequent calls received throughout the morning. The fire department, police and bomb detection teams, along with dog squads, have reached the schools and are conducting checks, he said. Many parents arriving to drop off their children were seen taking them back from the school gates, while

those whose children were already on campus returned to pick them up. The school authorities, meanwhile, shifted to online classes for the day. Rajiv Solanki, chairman of Venkateshwar Global School in Rohini, said, "When we received the email, the first thing we did was inform the police. However, by that time, the students had already started arriving. We immediately dispersed them, informed their parents, and shifted today's classes online from 11 am." "The school had previously received a similar threat, which not only created a sense of fear among parents and students but also disrupted their studies," he added. The schools targeted in Friday's threats are Bhatnagar International School in Paschim Vihar, Cambridge School in

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Kashmir shivers after snowfall, Zojila coldest at minus 28 degree Celsius

SRINAGAR, Dec 13 (Agencies): A day after plain areas in Kashmir received the season's first snowfall, the minimum temperatures dropped across the valley on Friday, with the weather department predicting a cold wave at many places over the next four days, officials said. The night temperatures decreased across the valley, after the

snowfall in the higher reaches and some plains of Kashmir, the meteorological department said. Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2 degrees Celsius, down from minus 0.5 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said. They said that Gulmarg, a tourist destina-

tion in north Kashmir popular for skiing, was the coldest recorded place in the valley, with the mercury plunging to minus 9.6 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 5.2 degrees Celsius the night before. Pahalgam, the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, experienced its coldest night of the season at minus

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EDITORIAL

TRANSFORMATIVE
PROGRESS

Jammu and Kashmir, a region known for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, has experienced transformative progress across various sectors in recent years. Efforts by the central government, local administration, and civil society have brought about significant improvements in infrastructure, education, healthcare, tourism, and social welfare, ensuring holistic development for the people of the region.

One of the most notable areas of development is infrastructure. Road and highway projects like the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel and the Zojila Tunnel have drastically improved connectivity, especially in remote and difficult terrains. The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link is set to enhance integration with the rest of India. Urban areas such as Jammu and Srinagar are undergoing modernization under the Smart Cities Mission, focusing on better urban infrastructure and waste management. Renewable energy initiatives like the Rooftop Solar Yojana are also making strides in providing sustainable energy access to rural and remote areas.

Education has been a cornerstone of progress in J&K. The establishment of premier institutions such as the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu has expanded opportunities for higher education. Skill development programs like Himayat and UMEED are equipping the youth with vocational skills, making them job-ready. In addition, the modernization of schools and the introduction of digital learning tools have improved access to quality education, even in rural regions.

Healthcare in J&K has witnessed significant advancements, particularly with the implementation of schemes like Ayushman Bharat, which provides free health insurance to thousands of families. The establishment of new medical colleges and the construction of AIIMS facilities in Jammu and Srinagar have strengthened tertiary healthcare. Telemedicine services are ensuring that even the most remote areas have access to expert medical consultations, improving overall health outcomes.

Tourism, the backbone of J&K's economy, has been revitalized with focused initiatives. Cultural and adventure tourism, including festivals like the Tulip Festival and snow sports in Gulmarg, has been promoted to attract domestic and international tourists. Improved infrastructure at popular destinations such as Pahalgam, Sonamarg, and Vaishno Devi has enhanced the visitor experience. Eco-tourism initiatives are showcasing the pristine beauty of the region while ensuring sustainable development.

Agriculture, another critical sector, has also seen considerable improvement. The promotion of horticulture, especially the cultivation of apples, saffron, and walnuts, has boosted the region's economy. Organic farming practices are being encouraged to improve the quality of produce and open new markets. Rural infrastructure development under programs like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has facilitated better connectivity, enabling farmers to transport their goods efficiently.

The empowerment of women and youth has been a major focus area. Initiatives under Mission Shakti have helped women gain financial independence through self-help groups (SHGs). Youth engagement programs, including expanded sports facilities and employment schemes like the Jammu and Kashmir Employment Generation Programme (JK-EGP), are creating avenues for positive growth and development.

Restoring peace and security has been a priority in J&K. Anti-militancy operations by security forces have significantly reduced threats, creating a safer environment for residents and tourists alike. Rehabilitation programs are helping former militants and affected families reintegrate into society through counseling and vocational training. These efforts have fostered an atmosphere of stability and confidence in the region.

Social welfare programs have played a crucial role in improving the quality of life for marginalized communities. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide tap water to every household, including those in remote areas. Housing for underprivileged families is being addressed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Organizations like the Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens, led by leaders like Sh. Virender Gupta, focus on ensuring the well-being of the elderly population.

The preservation of J&K's rich cultural heritage has also been prioritized. Literary festivals like the Chinaar Book Festival promote local writers and poets, showcasing the region's linguistic diversity in Dogri, Kashmiri, and Gojri. Cultural events organized by bodies like the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKACL) foster a sense of unity and pride in the region's traditions.

In conclusion, the developmental strides made in Jammu and Kashmir reflect a dedicated effort to bring peace, prosperity, and progress to the region. From improved infrastructure and healthcare to the empowerment of women and youth, these initiatives have laid the groundwork for a brighter future. With sustained focus and collaborative efforts, J&K is on a path to becoming a model of inclusive growth and harmonious living.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Kumbh, Ardh Kumbh and Maha Kumbh has a special significance in Sanatan Dharma. It has been going on since centuries and the Maha Kumbh 2025 will be clean and green. The Maha Kumbh this year will go digital and it is the novel initiative of the UT government of Yogi Adityanath. Prayagraj is expected to host Maha Kumbh Mela which will be participated by about 40 crore people. 2025 Prayagraj Maha Kumbh will begin on January 13 and will last to February 26. It is the world's largest gathering as people from India and other parts of the globe visit Prayagraj for participation in Maha Kumbh and will take holy dip at the confluence of Rivers Ganga, Yamuna and mystical Sarswati. The Uttar Pradesh government is rolling out a digitalization plan. AI technology, mobile apps, Chatbots, a digital lost and found centre and even Google navigation will guide the millions gathered for the Maha Kumbh. UP government lays out 'Digital Kumbh' experience for the visitors. Initiative will involve AI-Powered cameras, Google-assisted navigation & a chatbot, digital lost and found centre to be set up. To tackle a concern among people that has been long associated with the Kumbh Mela - that of getting lost during one of the largest religious gatherings, expected to be attended by around 40 crore people in January 2025 in Prayagraj. The primary goal of digitizing is to help the largest number of the people participating in this years Maha Kumbh Mela so that they feel ease at the Prayagraj. Kumbh Mela 2025 for the first time The Rigveda speaks of a divine event called the "Sagar Manthan" or churning of cosmic ocean, which is considered the genesis of the Maha Kumbh Mela. Legend has it that during this cosmic churning a pot-Kumbh containing the elixir {Amrita} appeared. The Maha Kumbh Mela, is a timeless tapestry of faith and fervor, unfolds like a sacred epic, weaving together the threads of history, spirituality and cultural heritage. This grand pilgrimage held cyclically at four sacred riverbanks of the Ganges, Yamuna, and Sarswati, Haridwar along the Ganges, Nashik on Godavari, and Ujjain on the Shipra is not merely a contemporary spectacle but a tradition steeped in profound historical significance. As we embark on a journey through time, we unravel the layers of his-

Maha Kumb Going Digital

tory that have shaped the sanctity and prominence of the Kumbh Mela. The roots of the Maha Kumbh Mela can be traced back to ancient Hindu scriptures and mythological narratives. The ancient references to a similar pilgrimage are found in the Rigveda, one of the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism. The Rigveda speaks of a divine event called the "Sagar Manthan" or churning of the cosmic ocean, which is considered as the genesis of the Maha Kumbh. Legend has it that during the cosmic churning a pot -kumbh emerged. The celestial struggle for possession of this divine nectar ensued, leading to a celestial battle that spanned twelve divine days, equivalent to twelve human years. Drops of nectar fell on four locations on earth, marking the sites where the Kumbh Mela is celebrated today. The Kumbh mela finds its first historical references during the Maurya and Gupta periods, approximately from the 4th century BCE to 6th century CE. During this period, the great Indian emperor Ashoka is said to have played a pivotal role in the establishment & promotion of Buddhism. Historical records suggest that the Maha Kumbh Mela in its nascent form attracted pilgrims from various corners of the Indian sub-continent. In the contemporary era, the Kumbh Mela has transformed into a global phenomenon, drawing not only millions of domestic pilgrims but also attracting international attention. The UNESCO recognition of the Kumbh Mela as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity in 2017 further underscored its historical and cultural significance. The Kumbh Mela today is a manifestation of India's rich cultural and religious heritage. It serves as a testament to the resilience of ancient traditions in the face of modernity. The historical evolution of the Maha Kumbh Mela from ancient scriptures to the present day, reflects its ability to adapt and thrive, preserving its sanctity and spiritual essence. The main objectives of digitalization of Maha Kumbh are to improve security, increase visibility, monitor activities, and ensure efficient service delivery. The UP government has introduced a digital plan to help people navigate the Kumbh Mela 2025 with ease. This initiative, supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister UP Yogi Adityanath, aims to provide a modern digital experience for both attendees and those unable to visit in person. The chief minister has

also launched a new website and app, offering detailed information on key areas such as ghats, akharas, religious sites, and travel options to enhance the overall experience. In an interview with the Times of India, Kumbh Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand stated, "Work is being done for the chatbot. Through this, devotees will easily reach the camp where they want to go. They will not have to wander anywhere." For the first time, advanced technologies like artificial intelligence will be implemented during the Maha Kumbh. The Prayagraj Mela authority will also be able to track services provided at the event, including the Ganga Aarti Puja, through online platforms. For added convenience, 3D images of all camps will be uploaded to the official website, offering visitors a clear view of facilities and accommodation. To ensure security and cleanliness during the Maha Kumbh 2025, 100 AI cameras will be installed at the mela. These cameras will monitor activities and alert the police to any issue. Scanners will also be installed in all toilets to track their cleanliness and maintenance in real time. During chief minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Prayagraj, an agreement was signed between the UP government and Google. This partnership will enable Google to offer an online view of the entire tent city. Visitors will also be able to access detailed information about attractions such as laser shows, water sports, and more through the official website. For the first time, cutting-edge technologies, including chatbots, Google navigation, and artificial intelligence AI, will be used during the Maha Kumbh. Through internet platforms, the Prayagraj Mela authorities will also be able to monitor services offered throughout the event, such as the Ganga Aarti Puja. All camps will have 3D photo posted to the official website for visitors convenience, providing a clear glimpse of the amenities and lodging. One hundred artificial intelligence cameras will be set up in the mela to guarantee cleanliness and security during the Maha Kumbh 2025. These cameras will monitor the situation and notify the police of any problems. Additionally, scanners will be fitted in every toilet to monitor upkeep and cleanliness in real time. Maha Kumbh 2025 will give UP chance to showcase its tourism potential. The state tourism department will set up a Digital Kumbh Museum to

showcase the cultural heritage of India and offer insight into the mythological and historical significance of the Kumbh. To leverage its religious and spiritual tourism potential, the UP government is pitching for global branding of Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, one of the world's largest congregations of pilgrims. "Maha Kumbh 2025 will represent India and UP before domestic and international tourists. It is therefore imperative that visitors carry back a bouquet of pleasant memories of their stay. Therefore we are going all out in our preparations." Although Kumbh is essentially a religious event, it has a major socioeconomic footprint and the state is going to promote Maha Kumbh to harness its religious, spiritual, and cultural tourism potential for job creation, socioeconomic growth and cultivating a positive image for UP, which is aspiring to become India's first one trillion dollar economy. To host an enormous congregation of devotees, a gargantuan 4,000-hectare tent city is being set up in Prayagraj. It will be illuminated with 67,000 streetlights, and comprise 2,000 tents and 25,000 public accommodations for different categories of tourists. About 23,000 CCTV cameras and AI-based surveillance will complement the security paraphernalia of the tent city at the bank of Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati in Prayagraj. The state budget for Kumbh has jumped 78% from Rs 4,200 crore in Kumbh Mela 2019 to Rs 7,500 crore for Maha Kumbh 2025. Main religious ritual is a holy dip in the waters at the Sangam - the confluence of the three sacred rivers. Prayagraj is considered as the holiest of the holy pilgrimages in Hinduism and a holy dip there is believed to give salvation to devotees. In short the Maha Kumbh Mela has been digitized and let us pass on our cultural, spiritual and religious legacy to the future generations and keep ourselves aware of our rich cultural and religious roots. Kumbh Mela in fact symbolizes the spiritual, cultural and religious legacy of India.

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

Season of Changing colours

By: Vijay Garg

Change is the law of nature and in the process of this change, the cycle of seasons communicates new energy in the human mind, brain and heart with new enthusiasm and new waves of every new season. This beautiful scene of natural colours and changing seasons drenches the entire earth and solar system in this festival of colours. Ever since man was born, the whole world gets swept up in the joy of colors due to the process of colours, changing seasons and this cycle of seasons. This process of changing seasons and the romantic sheet of colours It changes in such a way that every moment of the earth seems new in every season. Its essence is that all the animals, birds and humans living on earth can enjoy the weather by covering their lives with colors and keep themselves alive for every season. A new way to survive and move forward fills man with the capital of new breath. The beauty is that in this amazing race of life and colors, all this happens in such a way and in such a way that it comes with more seasons in life that we cannot even guess at which time and which season. The cycle of the seasons and which seasonal colors have changed. The seasons of summer, winter, rain and spring fill

us with new vigor and enthusiasm in the blink of an eye. Thus, in literature around the world, the process of change between seasons, nature and humans has been described in beautiful words. It is said that every morning is a changing weather indicator. The first rays of the sun fill us with romance with every new color and the animals, plants and vegetation living on this earth. This is the shade of sunlight and this is the influx of colors, which is the sign of life. But in these changing seasons. We cannot even imagine how the season of colors comes into our lives so slowly and without any noise. After getting tired of the scorching heat of mild summer in October, the arrival of pink cold in November has now started the journey of December. This sight of autumn and the air fragrant with the colors of the seasons is a new color of the dawn of new life and new times. This is the season of colors which covers life with its colors. With the changing seasons, the season of nature's magic is beginning. In the world of science, the issues related to the earth are There is no debate these days that due to the changing weather and changing colors, the way we have filled the entire earth with poisonous gases due to the environmental elements, these natural colors have left such spots on our lives, due to which our life and Clean air and water for living

is almost becoming scarce. We have destroyed all the colors given by nature. Changing weather and environmental issues of these colors of nature have spoiled the process of colors so much that now our survival itself has been questioned. The truth at this time is the way we have polluted the water, forests, life and oceans of the entire world tells a different story. This season of colors is the season of new beginnings and it is the gradual influx of new colors into our lives in the light pink winter sky and its aura and with the arrival of autumn there are red, orange, yellow colors all around the earth. And the dark green cover on the earth shows the same gray scene all over the world in hilly and neem hilly areas. The power of natural change of colors can also be seen. And we cannot guess who is this painter, who keeps it and how this earth has been transformed with the adornment of colors, with mild cold and pink hypnotizing sunshine in the trees and plants and in the vegetation, man has been made to look towards new horizons. Fills you with a new enthusiasm and excitement. The kind of vegetation that exists in Kashmir and the North-East is amazing. It is even more beautiful than the snow laden mountains of Switzerland. In our Kashmir, this season has been called Harud and writers from Sufis to new poets have mentioned this

season. The beauty of the weather has been described. People of Kashmir know how these days the leaves of the maple trees found in abundance there change color and cover the hills and land there with brown color. In the poetry of the early Sufis there, it has been given the name of magical season and it is the magic of the season that gives man the enthusiasm to look towards new heights and new heights. The change of seasons has been described as the magic of nature in literature around the world. The question is what are we doing with these colors. fire And if we do not save water, forest, life, sky, mountains and this earth, then these colors will become discolored and will end our life. There is still time to save the opportunity to survive on this land by saving air, water and mountains. Being separated from the colors of the earth will probably cost us so much... We will be deprived of ourselves and the air.

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

SMVDU hosts lecture series by external experts for Bachelor of Design Students



Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 13: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized an engaging Lecture Series for Bachelor of Design (B.Des) students, featuring renowned external experts from the field of design and innovation.

The Lecture Series at the University campus covered various topics, including sustainable design, user-centric innovation, and emerging design technologies.

Prominent speakers include Prof. Mihir Bhole from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Dr. Taruna Singh (Department of Design, DTU), Monica Singh (Artist and Designer), Prof. Ranganath. M. Singari (Former Head of the Department of Design, DTU) who shared their expertise and engaged students

in thought-provoking discussions.

The lecture series also included faculty interactions wherein Ar. Abhinay Gupta and Dr. Yatheshth Anand (Head, SoME), and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assoc. Professor, SME) also participated with other Bachelor of Design Program faculty members.

The interactive sessions offered students a chance to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary design challenges and trends.

The speakers also highlighted the significance of design thinking, prototype development, and the integration of aesthetics and functionality in modern-day problem-solving.

The Lecture Series received an enthusiastic response from students, who actively participated in Q&A sessions and appreciated the opportunity to connect with

industry leaders.

Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Design program at SMVDU informed "SMVDU is the first university in the UT of Jammu of Kashmir to offer a Bachelor of Design course and the program is being mentored by Prof. Lalit.K.Das (Former Professor of Design, IIT Delhi)". Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Exposing students to the wisdom of industry experts broadens their perspectives and enhances their ability to apply design concepts practically."

SMVDU plans to continue organizing such knowledge-sharing events to nurture innovation and prepare students for successful careers in the ever-evolving field of design.

Hemant Kushwaha qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 13: Hemant Kushwaha, a research scholar in the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in



Management under the guidance of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, a faculty member at the School of Business, SMVDU. Kushwaha conducted a study on "Essays on Business Legal Expenses Insurance".

Her research has been published in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the B categories based on the ABDC indexing and under SCOPUS.

Additionally, Hemant Kushwaha has presented her research work at numerous national and international conferences. Currently, she is working as an Assistant Professor (Commerce)

at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (Deemed University).

She extended her heartfelt gratitude to the School of Business at SMVDU for their essential resources and unwavering support throughout her research journey.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Professor, Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Professor Jyoti Sharma, Head of the School of Business, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Hemant Kushwaha and wished her a bright future.

Shriram School excels at 21st State Matsogi-Do-Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: The Shriram Universal School took immense pride in announcing its stellar performance at the 21st State Matsogi-Do Championship 2024, held at the Bhagwati Nagar Indoor Stadium recently.

A large number of students represented the school, showcasing exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship. The participants achieved remarkable success, winning a total of 57 medals, including 12 Gold Medals, 13 Silver Medals, 32 Bronze Medals.

This phenomenal effort secured The Shriram Universal School the prestigious Overall 2nd Position in the championship. The students who brought glory to the school by winning Gold Medals are Aryansh, Rahica, Vedant, Adarav, Varunde, Paras, Chtrakshi, Dyshyant, Ganika, Kanishka, Araiah, Vrinda. Their success stands as a testament to their tireless hard work, unwavering dedication, and the excellent mentorship provided by their coaches. This accomplishment reaffirms school's commitment to fostering talent and providing holistic education.

Social activist Wadhwa urges students to adopt eco-friendly habits

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: Social activist Kewal Krishn Wadhwa, a senior citizen, and a member of the Red Cross, has said that single use plastics should not be used in everyday activities. He was interacting with students and staff of the Government Higher Secondary School, Bahu Fort on Friday.

He stressed on inculcating eco friendly habits by using cloth bags to bring home household items from the market. By using cloth bags, the use of plastic bags can be eliminated, he said.

Mr Wadhwa urged the students and staff to make five cloth bags each and give as gifts to people around them. This will mean they could take these bags to the market for everyday shopping.

He said that we should try to use natural products in such a way that they help the environment. Citing an example, he said that the rose petals can be added to tea and that makes for a healthy drink.

Similarly, after we have taken natural products like aonla, their seeds can be thrown in nearby pushes. Some of them may germinate and may become trees after some years.

Mr Wadhwa said it was very important to take care of one's surroundings and keep them clean. When all of us take care of cleanliness around us, our mohalla, city and the country will automatically become clean.

The important thing is to take care of small things and big things fall into place, he stressed.

He said that it was very important to adapt such habits as lead to sustainable ways in all walks of life. At the end of his interaction, he presented some cloth bags to students. He also urged them to develop good habits which are eco-friendly.

Principal of the school, Mrs Anuradha, thanked Mr Wadhwa for educating and motivating the students and staff. She urged them to try to follow what Mr Wadhwa had said.

All J&K NHM Employees Association delegation calls on Dy CM



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: A delegation from the All Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (AJKNHMEA) met Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary at the Secretariat in Jammu to raise critical issues affecting employees under the National Health Mission (NHM). The meeting focused on grievances including job security, salary disparities, and social security benefits, with the Deputy CM assuring swift action, particularly on the issue of timely salary disbursement.

During the meeting, the Deputy CM expressed his commitment to resolving the delays in salary payments and assured the delegation that he would take up the matter with higher authorities to ensure immediate redressal. The AJKNHMEA delegation, led by President Rohit Seth, also submitted a detailed memorandum outlining their demands, which included calls for regularization of employees,

pay revisions, and service byelaws.

The memorandum underscored the need for regularizing NHM employees, a process that has seen little progress despite government orders and recommendations dating back to 2017. The delegation proposed rationalizing NHM staff by filling vacant positions across the Union Territory, which would not only address workforce shortages but also alleviate funding constraints under the central government's budgetary provisions.

Another major demand was a 100% salary hike for the fiscal year 2024-25, with the association pointing out that no pay revisions have been implemented since 2009.

The employees also called for the immediate formulation of service byelaws, a proposal that has been pending since discussions began in 2022.

Additional demands included leave benefits similar to those in Odisha and Tripura, as

well as financial assistance for retired NHM employees. The association proposed extending contributory welfare fund benefits under a 2022 mission director's order to ensure financial security for retiring staff.

The delegation further advocated for a 50% job reservation for NHM employees in direct recruitment through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and Public Service Commission (JKPSC), recognizing their experience and dedication. They also raised concerns over employees posted in remote, snowbound, and border areas, urging the government to introduce a one-time transfer policy to alleviate the financial and logistical challenges faced by these workers.

The delegation included key representatives of AJKNHMEA from across the region, such as Rajesh Kumar (District President Samba), Sahil Sharma (District President Reasi), Koshal Kumar Sharma (Block President Reasi), Deepak Kumar (Vice President Reasi), and other association members. The AJKNHMEA expressed optimism following the meeting, emphasizing that they trust the Deputy CM's assurance to prioritize their concerns and work towards long-term solutions.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes Nasha Mukht Rally



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: In a remarkable effort to combat substance abuse and promote a drug-free lifestyle, the Government College for Women (GCW) Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu organized a powerful Nasha Mukht Rally aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction under the guidance of Dr. Meeru Abrol, principal of the college.

The rally, which brought together students, faculty members, and community participants, was a clear call for a healthier, addiction-free society.

The event, organized under the leadership of Dr. Kamal Deep Singh, Convenor of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Committee of the college, saw a large number of students and faculty marching through the campus and surrounding areas.

Participants carried placards and banners emblazoned with impactful slogans such as "Say No to Drugs," "Nasha Mukht Bharat," and "Live Clean, Stay Green."

The rally was designed to educate the community, particularly the youth, about the severe social, physical, and mental consequences of substance abuse.

Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the Government College for Bhagwati Nagar, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of collective action in tackling the pressing issues of drug abuse and human trafficking.

She stated, "Drug abuse is a grave societal challenge that undermines the health, security, and dignity of individuals. It is our personal and collective responsibility to confront these issues and work towards a safer, healthier future for all."

The rally also encouraged participants to embrace healthier alternatives to substance abuse by promoting activities, hobbies, and habits that contribute to physical and mental well-being.

Dr. Kamal Deep Singh, the convenor of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Committee, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from the students and faculty, reaffirming the commitment of the college to continue raising awareness and initiating proactive measures against drug abuse in the community.

The Nasha Mukht Rally stands as a testament to the Government College for Bhagwati Nagar's unwavering dedication to social responsibility and the promotion of a drug-free, vibrant society.

GDC Hiranagar commemorates Constitution Day

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Dec 13: NSS Unit and Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) of GLDM Government Degree College, Hiranagar, celebrated Constitution Day with great enthusiasm and fervor under the visionary leadership of Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of the college.

The said symposium was the initiative of Prof. Shapia Shameem, NSS PO and Prof. Amit Sharma, Convener ELC, organized to highlight the importance of the Constitution of India and to instill constitutional values among students. Program started with pledge taking ceremony and the entire program was compared by Saloni, Active NSS volunteer.

A panel of distinguished jury members comprising Prof. Kawaljeet Kour (Head, Department of Economics), Prof. Rajesh

Sharma (Head, Department of Mathematics), and Prof. Rakesh Sharma evaluated the participants. Near about 20 participants shared their insightful knowledge on the said theme "Constitution as the cornerstone of our Democracy".

Savbhi, Chinmay and saloni were adjudged as 1st, 2nd and 3rd along with Rekha, Saloni and Arti as consolation winners.

Dr. Rajni Bala played a pivotal role in making the event a grand success. Among the notable attendees were Dr. Vijay Sharma (NSS member), Prof. Ganga (NSS Member) Prof. Anupama, Prof. Neeru, Dr. Mukesh, Dr. Inaam, Ms. Neharika, and Neetu.

The event concluded with an insightful discussion on the significance of the Constitution in modern governance and the role of youth in upholding democratic values.

Television Artist Rahul Motan felicitated

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: Television artist Rahul Motan hailing from R.S.Pura's Village Gegan, was felicitated at a brief function held here.

While speaking the chief guest Dr Sewa Mortan said, "Congratulations on your marvelous acting in Television serial being shown on Star Plus these days! You have done so well to make it happen; we are proud of you and wish you every success ahead."



Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included Messers 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), Jagdish Raj Kaith, Sat Paul Sargotra, Veerpan Motan, Gourav Nandan and Mukesh Nandan.

Paush Sankranti on Dec 15: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 13: Paush Sankranti, a day of great significance in Sanatan Dharma, will fall on Sunday, December 15. Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, highlighted the spiritual and astrological importance of this occasion.

The auspicious period of Paush Sankranti will begin in the afternoon when the Sun transitions into the zodiac sign Sagittarius, a phenomenon also known as Dhanu Sankranti.

Mahant Shastri explained that during the month of Paush, certain auspicious rituals, including weddings, housewarming ceremonies, tonsure



ceremonies, sacred thread ceremonies, and foundation-laying ceremonies, are considered inauspicious and should be avoided.

Paush Sankranti is an auspicious day for bathing in holy rivers or lakes and performing acts of charity. Donations of food, sweets, and money to Brahmins and the needy are believed to yield tenfold merit compared to other days. Those unable to visit holy rivers are encouraged to mix Ganga

water into their bath at home and donate to those in need in their locality.

The day calls for the consumption of sattvic (pure) foods, which should also be offered to deities. Tamasic foods, alcohol, and intoxicants are strictly discouraged, as they are believed to adversely affect both physical health and future karmic outcomes.

Devotees are advised to worship Lord Satyanarayan, the Sun God, and their Ishadev (personal deity) on this day. Mahant Shastri provided astrological insights, stating that Paush Sankranti is expected to be especially auspicious for individuals with the zodiac signs Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius.

If called for a role, I'll definitely come: Malayalam superstar Mohanlal on acting in Hindi movies

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal says he will definitely come and work in Hindi movies if filmmakers in Bollywood offer him roles.

One of the most influential Malayalam cinema stars, Mohanlal has been part of over 300 films, including all time hits such as 'Manichitrathazhu', 'Kireedam', 'Bharatham', 'Drishyam' and 'Pulimurugan'.

"I have done a couple of Hindi films also. But now most of my other films are dubbed into Hindi. When somebody calls me for a role I'll definitely come and work. I don't mind. I don't have a choice. As actors we don't have a choice. Let it come. Let it happen," Mohanlal, who has previously starred in Hindi films 'Company' and 'Ram Gopal Varma Ki Aag', told reporters at the Hindi trailer launch of 'Barroz'.

'Barroz', a 3D fantasy film based on Jijo Punnoose's novel 'Barroz: Guardian of Da Gama's Treasure', marks the directorial debut of the 64-year-old actor who also stars in the movie. The film revolves around Mohanlal's ghost character guarding the secret treasure of Vasco da Gama for over 400 years.

Mohanlal, who had invited Akshay Kumar, the star of many of his Hindi dubs including 'Bhoolaiyaa' ('Manichitrathazhu'), as the chief guest for the trailer launch.



"It just happened. This is something special. I have done some plays for the National School of Drama. I have done some Sanskrit plays. I don't know Sanskrit but I have done it. So many things in my life just happen. We call it 'vismayam'. It's an illusion. It was my ambition to do something special for my industry. So that is how 'Barroz' came out," he said about the film, which suffered some delays.

On comparison with Akshay in films that have been dubbed in Hindi, Mohanlal said actors can't be compared.

"Most of my films were remade

into Hindi. And Akshay ji has done it. You cannot compare actors. This is totally different. Even the costume, character, body language, everything will be different. I love his films. I have seen most of the films of which Priyadarshan has remade. He's a brilliant actor. He's very punctual. And he loves his profession. He's a 100% professional actor. I'm not that professional," Mohanlal said praising Akshay.

The 'Sooryavanshi' star said he is an admirer of Mohanlal and has seen many of his films.

"Like anyone else I am also

a huge fan of Mohanlal sir. I have seen many of his films. In your first film, you were a villain in 1980. I remember that film. And then 'Chitaram' which was directed by our friend Priyadarshan sahab. I have seen many such films with subtitles despite not knowing the language," Akshay said.

The Bollywood star said not many films are made for children in India so he is looking forward to watch the movie with his daughter.

"Sir (Mohanlal) keeps telling me that he will keep the trailer for me but I want to tell him that I will go and watch it in the theatre properly. It is a wonderful film. It's going to be a great experience. And I'm looking forward to see what kind of reaction my daughter is going to give, because that makes me very happy when she is very happy," Akshay said of the trailer.

The film also features Mayo Rao West and June Vig. Santosh Sivan is the cinematographer, while the music is composed by Lydian Nadhaswaran and Mark Kilian. Produced by Antony Perumbavoor of Aashirwad Cinemas in association with Pen Studios, 'Barroz' will release in theatres on December 25 in 3D and IMAX formats in English and Malayalam. The Hindi language version releases on December 27.

Beauty queen Harnaaz Sandhu to make Bollywood debut with Baaghi 4



Harnaaz Sandhu, who is the winner of the Miss Universe 2021 beauty pageant, is all set to make her debut in Hindi cinema with the Tiger Shroff-starrer Baaghi 4. An announcement was made on X by the official handle of Nadiadwala Grandson, which read, "From #MissUniverse to the #BaaghiUniverse! Pre-

sending our new #NGE-Talent, the lady Rebel in #Baaghi4 - @Harnaaz-Kaur #SajidNadiadwala's #Baaghi4. Directed by @NimmaAHarsha. Releasing in cinemas on 5th Sept 2025." Harnaaz is the third entrant from India to win Miss Universe. She was previously feted with the crown for Femina Miss India Punjab in 2019,

and was a semi-finalist at Femina Miss India 2019 pageant.

The film will be directed by A. Harsha. Talking about the franchise, Baaghi, an action thriller, first released in 2016 and was directed by Sabbir Khan. A partial remake of the 2004 Telugu film Varsham with a climax inspired by the 2011 Indonesian film The Raid: Redemption. The film starred Tiger, Shraddha Kapoor and Sudheer Babu. Baaghi 2, which was directed by Ahmed Khan, released in 2018. It was a remake of the Telugu film Kshanam. The second installment had Tiger alongside Disha Patani, Manoj Bajpayee, Darshan Kumar, Prateik Babbar, Ran-deep Hooda, Deepak Dobriyal and Arravya Sharma. The third installment of the movie, which was again directed by Ahmed Khan, was partially inspired from Tamil film Vettaai, and starred Tiger Shroff, Riteish Deshmukh and Shraddha Kapoor in the lead roles.

Snoop Dogg and Dr Dre's brotherhood is still strong after 30 years with new album 'Missionary'

When it comes to music, there's one particular person Snoop Dogg trusts enough to steer the ship without question: hit-making producer Dr. Dre.

Their bond, built over 30 years of brotherhood, began when Dr Dre shaped Snoop's game-changing debut, "Doggystyle", a cornerstone of hip-hop history. From young dreamers chasing stardom to legends cementing their legacies, the duo has always moved in sync.

Now, the dynamic pair reunites for Snoop's "Missionary", his milestone 20th studio album, which releases Friday. In a music industry where lasting relationships are rare, their bond remains solid.

"We were just playing on our raw ability, and it worked ... But now you're dealing with professionals who are like perfectionists and skilled at what they do," Snoop said while smoking a blunt inside his dressing room trailer. The 15-track project features several big-name guest appearances, including Eminem, 50 Cent, Sting, Method Man, Jelly Roll, Tom Petty and Jhené Aiko.

Before the interview, the ultra-smooth entertainer had just wrapped up rehearsals for "The Voice" with British musician Sting, delivering a performance that aired this week on NBC.

Both hit the stage on the competition series to perform Snoop's album single "Another Part of Me," which was sampled from The Police's "Message in a Bottle," a 1979 song that Sting wrote and sang as lead singer.

Sting quickly approved the sample for "Another Part of Me," getting to know Snoop's personality during the superstar rapper's meteoric rise at the Paris Olympics this summer, despite never



meeting him in person.

Snoop carried the Olympic torch, captivated audiences as NBC's prime-time correspondent, swam with Michael Phelps, attended a US women's soccer game with Megan Rapinoe, danced with Simone Biles and Jordan Chiles and cheered on Caeleb Dressel alongside the swimmer's wife and son.

When Sting first heard the track, he was impressed by Snoop's vocal ability but found himself contemplating how he could contribute to the song.

"He asked me to sing a verse, which is difficult," said Sting, who met Snoop for the first time on "The Voice" set. "It's a different style from the one I normally sing. It's a very, very rapid rap style, which is kind of challenging for me. But I love a challenge. I played the guitar on the track, so I feel very much a part of it. I think it's going to be a hit." Like Sting, many others across the globe have witnessed Snoop ascend to new heights.

Along with being a breakout star at the Paris Games, he's been seen in TV commercials and co-hosting a cooking show with Martha Stewart. He stepped in during a Wrestlemania match and even threw out the first pitch at the

Reds-Brewers MLB game before giving his unique play-by-play commentary. Snoop's daughter, Cori Broadus, has a new reality show about nuptials called "Snoop Dogg's Fatherhood: Cori and Wayne's Story," a three-part docuseries that debuted last week on E!. Snoop and his son Cordell Broadus have a thriving ice cream brand launched in 2023.

This year, Dr Dre and Snoop launched two alcohol brands: A canned cocktail, Gin & Juice, and the premium gin, Still G.I.N., which is a play on "Still D.R.E.," the hit single from Dr Dre's multiplatinum "2001" album released in 1999.

"It's like you don't have to speak. Your work speaks for you now as opposed to you knocking on doors. Now, people are opening doors," he said. "They understand who I am as a person and what my love vessel is and that makes them want to get next to me." Amid Snoop's hustle and bustle, he said Dr Dre felt it was time to head back into the studio to start recording a new album — a process that began nearly two years ago. They recorded in spurts.

"(Dr Dre) was watch-

ing me in the entertainment world and figuring that my music hand ain't matching my entertainment hand," Snoop said. "He wanted to put music back in the foreground with his production, leadership and guidance on the project." While recording, Snoop said Dr Dre musically knew him better than himself at times. He said no other producers — except for Pharrell and Battlecat — have the cachet to critique him like Dr Dre.

"He would basically write it for me, tell me how to say it, give me the enunciation and the way I'm supposed to punctuate it," Snoop said of Dr Dre. "He's like a real (expletive) producer, director. He acts for me and knows what I'm supposed to do in his body and then he makes me do it in my body. And if it's not right, it ain't right." Snoop credited Dr Dre's influence for enhancing the track "Now or Never," a deeply sentimental song that left him feeling emotional at times. He described it as a "tears of joy" record, dedicated to the memory of recently deceased loved ones, including his younger brother, who died earlier this year.

For Snoop, "Now or Never" was a difficult song to record, even though it was his favourite on the album.

"It's really hard to make a track like that — especially because I'm always the life of the party," he said. "I'm always happy, fun, upbeat. So, to have a moment of reflection sometimes makes the mood damp or a little bit light. But it's needed. It's necessary because it happens in life. It's good to speak on it. ... My pen is my mightiest sword. I always write where I live."

Singer and actress Sara Gурpal impresses one and all at a gala event



To commemorate the 25 years of Orane International, a school of hair, makeup and nutrition, co-founders, Dinesh Sood and Kuljinder Sidhu organised a celebratory event, wherein singer-actress Sara Gурpal gave a special performance.

Also, a spectacular fashion show was held at the closing event.

It showcased unique dress designs on the ramp, recent beauty and hair trends, all curated by students and faculty of the institute.

In a heartwarming tale of passion, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit, two friends, Dinesh Sood and Kuljinder Sidhu, revolu-

tioned the beauty and wellness skill development sector.

From their humble beginnings as journalists earning Rs 1,000 a month to building a Rs 300 crore empire, their 25-year journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and dreams.

Talking films Orane International has also invested in entertainment industry, with notable successes in Punjabi cinema.

Their debut film Mini Punjab (2008) featured legendary Punjabi singer Gurdas Maan. Subsequent hits like Sudda Haq (2012) and Yodha (2014) further established their prowess in filmmaking.

Pushpa 2 reflection of people's love, says Allu Arjun

Telugu superstar Allu Arjun on said the humongous success of his latest release Pushpa 2: The Rule is a reflection of people's love and he hopes the box-office record of the film, which has become the fastest movie to earn Rs 1,000 crore, is broken soon by another movie.

A sequel to Arjun's 2021 Telugu blockbuster Pushpa: The Rise, the film released on December 5 with dubbed versions in Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Bengali, and Malayalam, and has emerged as one of the biggest hits of 2024.

It has broken many records at the box-office, first by registering



the opening numbers of Rs 294 crore and then breaking into the Rs 1,000 crore club in just six days. "The 1,000 (cr) number is a reflection of the people's love. The numbers are temporary, but the

love that is etched in your hearts will remain forever. I believe that the numbers always have to be broken. Yes, it's nice to be in this spot and enjoy the records, probably for 2-3 months," the actor said.

"It doesn't matter which film does it, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi or any other. But I want these records to be broken soon because that is progression. It means India is going up," he said. Pushpa 2 joins movies like Aamir Khan's Dangaal, Prabhas' Baahubali 2 and Kalki 2898 AD, SS Rajamouli's RRR and Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan and Jawan in the coveted Rs 1,000 crore club.

Director Balachandrakumar, key witness in 2017 actress assault case no more



Malayalam film director P Balachandrakumar, a key witness in the 2017 actress assault case in Kerala, died early on Friday, film industry sources said.

He breathed his last at 5.40 am, while he was undergoing treatment for a kidney ailment at Dr KM Cherian Institute of Medical Science Hospital in Chengannur,

they said.

Announcing his demise, Balachandrakumar's friend and actor Prakash Bare wrote on Facebook, "After a long battle with illness and injustice, Balu has departed... Farewell, dear friend."

His body will be brought to Thiruvananthapuram later.

The director had been battling multiple health complications, including kidney failure that required frequent dialysis, severe Covid-19 and heart issues, sources added.

Balachandrakumar directed the film 'Cowboy' in 2013.

In 2021, Balachandrakumar made a crucial statement against actor Dileep, who is a key accused

in the sensational actress assault case in Kochi, alleging that the actor possessed visuals of the assault and had attempted to influence witnesses in the case.

He also claimed that Pulsar Suni, the prime accused in the case, was seen at Dileep's residence.

Balachandrakumar's revelations created ripples, leading to a fresh investigation in the case.

The 2017 case involves a South Indian actress who was allegedly abducted and sexually assaulted on the orders of Dileep.

In the last week of November, Balachandrakumar's wife, Sheeba, issued a statement seeking financial assistance to cover his mounting medical expenses.

Vice President, PM, Parliamentarians pay floral tributes to Parliament attack martyrs

NEW DELHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, several Union ministers and MPs on Friday paid floral tributes to those who laid down their lives in the 2001 terror attack on Parliament 23 years ago.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also



paid tributes at an event organised outside the old Parliament building — Samvidhan Sadan. CISF personnel

offered salute or 'salami' at the venue after a moment of silence was observed to mark the anniversary.

Till last year, the CRPF used to offer 'salami shastra' (present arms).

The attack was carried out by five armed terrorists but personnel from Parliament Security Service, CRPF and Delhi Police foiled the attack as no terrorist was able to enter the building. Several leaders were seen interacting with kin of those who were killed in the attack. Six Delhi Police personnel, two Parliament Security Service personnel, a gardener and a TV video journalist were killed in the attack. All five terrorists were gunned down in the forecourt of the then Parliament building.

Maha Kumbh a 'mahayagya' of unity: PM Modi



PRAYAGRAJ, Dec 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday termed the Maha Kumbh 2025 a "mahayagya of unity" which would take the country's cultural and spiritual identity to new heights.

Addressing a public meeting here while inaugurating various developmental projects, the prime minister said the differences of castes and sects disappear at the Maha

Kumbh. "The Maha Kumbh is a mahayagya of unity," Modi said. "It will take the country's cultural and spiritual identity to new heights."

The prime minister inaugurated 167 key development projects worth Rs 5,500 crore, aimed at improving the city's infrastructure for the 2025 Maha Kumbh mela.

The projects also included Sah'Al'yak Chatbot — an Arti-

cial Intelligence-based platform to streamline communication for devotees attending the Maha Kumbh.

Before attending the public meeting, the PM began the visit with the ceremonial puja and darshan at the holy Sangam — the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the Saraswati rivers. Modi undertook a river cruise before the puja.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were also present with the prime minister at the puja.

The 2025 Maha Kumbh mela will be held from January 13 (Pausa Poonima) to February 26 (Maha Shivratri) at Prayagraj. The Maha Kumbh is organised every 12 years.

Constitution debate | Rajnath slams Cong, says it tried to destroy Constitution's basic principles

NEW DELHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh on Friday said the Congress could never tolerate independence and autonomy of institutions and always tried to destroy the basic principles of the Constitution.

Initiating a debate in the Lok Sabha as the House took up a two-day "Discussion on the Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India", the defence minister said the contribution of several leaders in the making of the Constitution was deliberately ignored and hit out at the Congress, asserting that "a particular party" always tried to

"hijack and appropriate" the framing of the Constitution.

"On many occasions, the Congress has disrespected the Constitution and its spirit. It could not tolerate the independence and autonomy of institutions. It always tried to destroy the basic principles of the Constitution," he alleged.

"Talk of protection of the Constitution does not seem appropriate coming from it. These days, I see many opposition leaders keep the Constitution in their pockets. Actually, this is what they have learnt from childhood, they have seen their families keep the Constitution in

their pockets for generations," he said.

But the BJP always bows before the Constitution and has never played with the independence and autonomy of institutions, Singh asserted. He pointed out that the Constitution talked about religious freedom and it had been specified that the state would not have a religion but be secular.

"This was stated by those who were dubbed communal by people of the Congress," he said.

The Constitution is an expression of the general will of the people, Singh said.

"Our Constitution touches upon social,



economic, political, cultural life and shows the way for nation building. It is a roadmap for giving India its place in the world stage... It is the outcome of a series of historical events," he said.

"We must also remember those who were not part of the Constituent

Two Naxalites killed in encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR, Dec 13 (Agencies): Two Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight took place in the morning in the forest of Nendra and Punnur villages when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.

After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of two Naxalites, one 12 bore rifle and other Maoist-related materials were recovered from the spot, he said.

Further details are awaited as the search operation is still underway in the area, he said.



With this incident, bodies of 217 Naxalites have been recovered so far this year following separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar division comprising seven districts, including Bijapur, police said.

On Thursday, seven Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in the south Abujmad area of Narayanpur district.

India wants to have good relations with Pakistan, free of terror: Jaishankar in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): India wants to have good relations with Pakistan that are free of terror but if it does not show it is changing its past behaviour, then there will be implications on bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The minister also said that trade relations had been disrupted due to certain decisions taken by Pakistan in 2019. "I would like to inform the honourable member that in terms of improving ties with Pakistan, like any other neighbour, we would like to have good relations



with Pakistan. But, like any other neighbour, we would also like to have relations free of terrorists," he said during Question Hour.

This has been the position of the government of India, Jaishankar said. "We have made it very clear that it is for the Pakistani side to show that they are

changing their behaviour of the past and if they don't, of course, there are implications on relations," he said. Trade ties with Pakistan were snapped after the Centre abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Pay attention to Bangladesh, act to end Hindus' misery: Uddhav Thackeray to PM Modi

MUMBAI, Dec 13 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray has called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take note of the severe atrocities being perpetrated on the Hindus in Bangladesh and immediately intervene in the matter.

"Why is the government silent on the atrocities on the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh? The Opposition has been raising the issue in Parliament for the past few days on the injustice being meted out to the minority Hindus there, but nothing is being done by India," Thackeray said on Friday.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said a couple of months ago when the Bangladesh cricket team had come to India (September-October), Aditya Thac-



keray had demanded that we should not play with them, but the government kept mum and did nothing about it.

"We want to know why the PM is not saying anything on this. Hindus are being targeted daily, the ISKCON Temple was burnt, their leaders were arrested and subjected to action, but we are silent," Thackeray said.

Taking a jibe, Thackeray said that "on behalf of all the Hindus in the country", he was appealing to the PM that just as he

had taken action in the Ukraine crisis, he should do the same in Bangladesh to ensure that the attacks on Hindus stop there.

"There is no point in making slogans like 'batenge to katenge, fatenge, marenge,' etc., here. There's no need to indulge in showing off such bravado where there are no problems, but act decisively where Hindus are undergoing tortures (Bangladesh)," said Thackeray.

He recounted how a delegation of SS (UBT) members of Parliament had sought an appointment on Thursday to meet with the PM and discuss Bangladesh Hindus issue, but they were not given time. Now, Thackeray said the SS (UBT) would submit a letter to PM Modi as he might be very busy, he had to travel around the world

and make speeches and probably might not have noticed the problems of Hindus in Bangladesh.

"The ex-PM of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina came to India where she is safe. But what about the fate and future of poor Hindus in Bangladesh facing violence? Hindutva is not just about seeking votes by instilling fear among the Hindus, but to speak up for their cause and the PM must look into it now," said Thackeray.

He reiterated that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government did not care for the injustices done to our own people in Manipur state, so it had not really understood the sufferings of the Hindus in Bangladesh, but now the Centre must spell out its role.

Severed human head found in garbage dump in Kolkata's Tollygunge

KOLKATA, Dec 13 (Agencies): A severed human head, suspected of that of a woman aged between 35 and 40, was recovered from a garbage dump in Kolkata's Tollygunge area on Friday morning, police said.

Local people spotted a plastic bag containing the body part in a vat on Graham Road under Golf Green police station area early this morning, they said.

Senior police officers of the South Suburban Division, along with personnel from local police stations, rushed to the spot and started an investigation.

has been sent to M R Bangur Hospital for further examination, an officer said.

"A human body part has been recovered from a garbage dump. A probe has been launched which is currently at a preliminary stage. Efforts are underway to locate the remaining body parts," Bidisha Kalita, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Suburban Division), said after visiting the scene of recovery.

While identification of the victim is the key to solving the crime, investigators from the homicide section of Kolkata Police's Lalbazar headquarters are relying on



all available CCTV camera footage from the locality to identify the assailant, a police source said.

Relevant samples from the recovery spot have also been collected by personnel of the scientific wing of the city police.

The injury mark and blood stains on the severed head suggest that the murder took place within 12 hours of its

recovery, a police officer said.

A fix on the time of crime would, however, be ascertained only after post-mortem examination scheduled to be conducted later in the day.

A sniffer dog pressed into service by the sleuths tracked the source of the body part to a residential apartment about a kilometre

away from the vat but could proceed no further.

Investigators were seen spending about an hour and half at the apartment questioning residents and staff.

Two constables were later posted at the apartment entry gate to track movements of people moving in and out.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillor of Ward number 95, Tapan Dasgupta said, "I went to the spot after receiving information from local people about a plastic bag containing body parts. I informed the Golf Green police station about it."

Woman gang-raped by nine, Guwahati police arrest seven

GUWAHATI, Dec 13 (Agencies): A young woman was allegedly gang-raped by nine persons in Guwahati and the police arrested seven of the accused.

The persons arrested were identified as Kuldeep Nath, Pinku Das, Mrinal Rabha, Gagan Das, Bijoy Rabha, Saurav Boro and Dipankar Mukhiya. They are aged between 18 years and 23 years.

Two others, believed to be the masterminds are absconding. The police are searching for them.

The police learnt about the incident on Thursday midnight after a video of it went viral on social media. The crime was committed on the premises of a Durga temple in the Nizarapar area of Boragoan on the city outskirts.

"We learnt that a video showing a woman being gang-raped was circulating on WhatsApp among the residents of Boragoan. Soon, we received it. There were eight to nine people and a woman with no clothes on her body. Sexual assault was being perpetrated

on her violently," a police officer told the media.

He said a police team was immediately sent to the locality and two persons could be identified from the video where the faces of the accused persons were clearly visible.

"During subsequent raids, we arrested seven persons from three different localities of the city. We are searching for two others," he said.

During preliminary investigation, the police learnt that the incident occurred on November 17.

"The accused persons had gone to see the Raas festival. It was then that some of them went to the Durga temple, perched on a hilltop, to drink liquor while some others went to take drugs. One of the accused had taken the woman to the place. All of them had sexually assaulted her. The act was also filmed," the police officer said.

"We are trying to ascertain the identity of the victim. We will register a case based on her statement or we will do it suo moto," he added.

Russia targets Ukrainian infrastructure with massive attack of cruise missiles, drones

Ukraine's air force reported multiple strike drones launched at Ukraine overnight followed by swarms of cruise missiles in the country's air space.

KYIV, Dec 13 (Agencies): Russia on Friday launched a massive aerial attack against Ukraine, involving dozens of cruise missiles and drones, the latest such strike aimed at crippling the country's electricity system.

The Russian military targeted the Ukrainian power grid, energy minister Herman Halushchenko wrote on his Facebook page. "The enemy continues its terror," he said.

Halushchenko said energy workers do everything necessary to "minimize negative consequences for the energy system," promising to release more details on damages once the security situation allows it.

Ukraine's air force reported multiple strike drones launched at Ukraine overnight followed by swarms of cruise missiles in the country's air space. It said Russia also used air-launched ballistic Kinzhal missiles against Ukraine's western regions.

Friday's attack is the latest in a series of such raids that has heightened fears that the Kremlin aims to destroy the country's power generation



capacity as the winter sets in. Since launching its invasion in February 2022, Russia has relentlessly pummeled Ukraine's electricity system, resulting in repeated shut-downs of critical heating and drinking water supplies during the bitter winter months in an apparent attempt to break Ukrainian spirits and resolve.

Moscow has declared that the attacks are aimed at hobbling Ukraine's defense industry, thwarting the production of missiles, drones, armored vehicles and artillery, among other weapons.

A similar massive attack on Nov. 28 involved about 200

missiles and drones and left more than a million households without power until emergency teams restored supplies.

Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia is stockpiling cruise and ballistic missiles for more attacks.

On Nov. 21, Russia for the first time used an intermediate range hypersonic ballistic missile to strike an industrial plant in the city of Dnipro, in eastern Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin described the attack with the Oreshnik missile as retaliation for Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory with longer-range Western weapons.

He declared that more attacks

with the new weapon could follow.

On Wednesday, the Russian Defense Ministry said that Ukraine struck an air base in Taganrog in the southern Rostov region with six U.S.-supplied ATACMS missiles, injuring several soldiers and damaging buildings and a few vehicles. It vowed to strike back.

The Pentagon warned Wednesday that Russia could use its new missile against Ukraine again soon.

Around half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been destroyed during the almost three years of war with Russia, and rolling electricity blackouts are widespread.

Kyiv's Western allies have provided Ukraine with air defense systems to help it protect critical infrastructure, but Russia has sought to overwhelm the air defenses with combined strikes involving big numbers of missiles and drones.

Russia has held the initiative this year as its military has steadily rammed through Ukrainian defenses in the east in a series of slow but steady offensives.

China's military is staying silent on its recent activity around Taiwan



BEIJING, Dec 13 (Agencies): China's military kept silent Friday on its large deployment of naval and coast guard ships off Taiwan this week, with its top spokesperson quoting an ancient strategist instead.

Taiwanese officials have said that China was simulating a blockade with one string of ships off the island and a second one farther out at sea, in waters between Japan's Okinawa islands and the northern Philippines.

The Chinese Defense Ministry's first public comment on the activity was essentially a no comment.

Wu Qian, the ministry's top spokesperson, included a famous quote from "The Art of War," an ancient Chinese text on warfare strategy, in his remarks. The quote says military tactics adapt to changing conditions, just as flowing water does.

He then said that the military will decide whether to hold an exercise based on its needs and the situation, and that, either way, the country's People's Liberation Army remains committed to opposing Taiwan's independence and to promoting its "reunification" with China.

Taiwan is a self-governing island of 23 million people off China's east

coast. The Chinese government claims Taiwan as its territory and says it must come under its control. The United States is embroiled in the dispute because it supports Taiwan's democratic government and is the main supplier of weapons for its defense.

China's silence on its military activity this week contrasted with previous drills around Taiwan, which were reported by state media with dramatic graphics and images and seen as a public show of force directed at the island's government.

Taiwanese officials described this week's activity as training, since there was no confirmation from China that it was holding drills. They said they were monitoring the training and viewed it as threatening.

Taiwan's government was expecting China to conduct drills in response to a recent visit by Taiwan's president to Hawaii and Guam, an American territory in the Pacific.

Elon Musk wants to turn SpaceX's Starbase site into a Texas city

TEXAS, Dec 13 (Agencies): SpaceX is launching a new mission: making its Starbase site a new Texas city.

Billionaire Elon Musk's company sent a letter to local officials requesting an election to turn what it calls Starbase — the South Texas site where SpaceX builds and launches its massive Starship rockets — into an incorporated city. Residents of the area known as Starbase submitted the petition, according to the company.

The area is on the southern tip of Texas at Boca Chica Beach, near the Mexican border. Earlier this year, Musk announced he was moving the headquarters of SpaceX and his social media company X from California to Texas.

"To continue growing the workforce necessary to rapidly develop and manufacture Starship, we need the ability to grow Starbase as a community. That is why we are requesting that Cameron County call an election to enable the incorporation of Starbase as the newest city in the Rio Grande Valley," Kathryn Lueders, the general manager of Starbase, wrote in a letter to the county.

Cameron County Judge, Eddie Teviño Jr., the county's top elected official, did not immediately respond to a message



seeking comment.

It's not the first time turning Starbase into its own city has been floated. Musk proposed the idea in 2021 when he wrote a social media post that simply said, "Creating the city of Starbase, Texas." More than 3,400 full-time SpaceX employees and contractors work at the Starbase site, according to a local impact study issued by Trevino earlier this year.

SpaceX's rapid expansion in the region has drawn pushback from some locals. Earlier this year, a group called Save RGV sued the company in July over allegations of environmental violations and dumping polluted water into the nearby bay. SpaceX said in response that a state review found no environmental risks and called the lawsuit "frivolous."

Ukraine's reformed military procurement agency drives country's NATO ambitions

KYIV, Dec 13 (Agencies): Ukraine's Defence Ministry unveiled a new state agency for its armed forces last year. It was the government's answer to the rampant corruption within the ministry's procurement companies, and meant to be a driver of reform on the elusive path toward NATO membership.

The enterprise, in charge of purchasing nonlethal military goods such as food, clothes and fuel, has already contracted 95% of the products requested for supply, and saved 25% in the process, says Arsen Zhumadilov, the CEO of the State Logistics Operator, known by the local abbreviation DOT. Soon, he says, DOT also will begin procuring drones.

It's an example of the type of reform that Ukraine hopes will help clear the path toward NATO, a key deterrent against Russia, officials have argued. Membership in the alliance remains largely a political question, with key states reluctant to grant it, fearing escalation from Moscow.

Western officials are also keenly awaiting the inauguration of US President-elect Donald Trump before making declarations. But NATO

officials have also demanded widespread anti-graft reforms before Kyiv can join.

Change has been a difficult pill for many within Ukraine's post-Soviet institutions to swallow.

DOT's promising results so far stand in contrast to the deeply-rooted challenges that continue to plague the tenure of Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, including slow progress with restructuring the institution and ongoing allegations of corruption within lethal military procurement.

Western officials are closely monitoring DOT, three Western diplomats told agency. So far, they have been pleased with the results one year since it was formed. They spoke on condition of anonymity in order to speak freely about their assessments.

DOT embodies the uneasy coexistence of a digital-savvy youthful ethos and paper-heavy post-Soviet bureaucracy. Its office exudes a fresh startup culture vibe, while catering to one of the most stubbornly rigid ministries in the country.

The contrast underscores the spirit of how Russia's war in Ukraine is being fought, in which innovative drone wars

coincide with World War II-style trenches.

"We understand that we have been on the radars of NATO, of G7 (Group of Seven) countries, of all NATO member countries in terms of whether we manage or not to put in place a procurement system that is resilient, that is effective, efficient, and that is not prone to corruption," Zhumadilov said.

Nonlethal military purchases became the focus of two corruption scandals under the leadership of Oleksii Reznikov, the previous defence minister. The first involved inflated prices for food supplies and the other was connected to low-quality winter jackets.

Umerov, Reznikov's successor, has described DOT as not just a new agency, but as the beginning of a new public procurement architecture in Ukraine's defence sector. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy specifically tasked Umerov to increase transparency in defence procurement where corruption has always been rife.

Zhumadilov, an influential public figure with Crimean Tatar origins known for spearheading reforms in public procurement, was selected

because of his previous track record of success. He previously headed Ukraine's procurement of medical supplies.

Plastered on the wall of the agency is a mood board devised by the company's marketing department.

A photo of a military vehicle is placed next to a snaking jungle dirt road, a drone in flight next to a fluffy puppy in midair, a Rubik's Cube and a designer candle. Staff wear oversized hoodies and T-shirts, a contrast to the military fatigues adorned by ministry officials.

DOT's answer to increasing transparency is DOT-Chain, an IT system that manages the army's supply demands by digitising the entire process, from the submission of applications to issuing invoices. Developed by a team of DOT IT specialists, it could reduce delivery time fourfold and is the largest digital project in the institution. For now it will cover foodstuff, but Zhumadilov envisions scaling it up.

There were blips on the road. A planned merger with the Defence Procurement Agency, the state company in charge of purchasing lethal military supplies, was aborted after NATO officials recommended

against it, casting Umerov's decision-making in negative light.

Acknowledging that corrupt practices in defence purchases has plagued Ukraine for years, Umerov has said the state needed to eliminate the "Soviet, oligarchic" approach to public funds.

But, like most things in the war, that is easier said than done. Zhumadilov said their company still faces resistance from ministry officials set in their old ways.

"We are trying to be open to our colleagues at Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but at the same time, and this is also good news, we are an autonomous agency within a larger ecosystem, we can preserve our own culture here."

DOT-Chain, which was designed to lower the burden of army paperwork, for instance, still faces pushback from bureaucrats who prefer signing thousands of papers per week to clicking a smartphone.

"They say that we don't need that. We just want to keep on signing papers," he said. "We are saying, Look, the sheer amount of papers that you are signing on a weekly basis ... it is just unsustainable."

Fire kills six, injures 60 in Jordan retirement home

AMMAN, Dec 13 (Agencies): A fire at a retirement home in Jordan's capital Amman killed six people and injured 60, five of them seriously, state media reported on Friday.

The fire broke out on the first floor of the private retirement home early Friday, Social Development Minister Wafa Bani Mustafa was quoted as saying by the official Petra news agency. The fire killed "six elderly, badly

injuring five, and moderately injuring 55 more," she said.

The fire spread over an area of 80 square metres (860 square feet) in the White Beds Society's (Al-Asirra Al-Baydaa) centre, which is home to 111 residents, she added.

Everyone who was evacuated is safe, the minister said, adding that an investigation had been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

14-year-old stabs a Thai-Australian schoolmate to death in a fight, Thai police say

BANGKOK, Dec 13 (Agencies): A 14-year-old has been arrested on charges alleging that he stabbed a Thai-Australian schoolmate to death in a fight after having an ongoing feud, police in Thailand said Friday.

The suspect told investigators he and the victim harbored a mutual dislike from school and they agreed via the Line messaging app to meet outside a grocery store near their homes on Tuesday in Sattahip in Chonburi province, said police Col. Tanapol Klinkesorn,

director of the Sattahip police station.

The suspect appeared to have lost the fight because the other boy was bigger, but the suspect rushed to his car to grab a cooking knife and stabbed the victim in the back, Tanapol said.

The victim was also 14, but the suspect was an eighth-grader while the victim was a year behind him, police said. They did not release their names because of their age but said the Australian Embassy confirmed the victim had dual national-

ity. The boy was found lying at the entrance to the store with the knife in his back and its broken handle on the ground, according to Sawang Rojanatham Rescue Foundation, a charity organization whose EMS workers rushed to the scene.

Tanapol said the suspect, accompanied by his parents, surrendered to Sattahip police about an hour after the stabbing.

Police charged him with causing fatal physical harm to another

person and a weapons offense. He was released on 10,000 baht (\$295) bail Wednesday by the Chonburi Juvenile and Family Court. Police said the maximum sentence under the charges is 15 years' imprisonment, and that they are investigating the case further.

Adolescent violence is not rare in Thailand but fatal cases usually involve rival gangs of older students.

Sattahip is about 114 kilometers (71 miles) southeast of the capital Bangkok.

Pak court indicts Imran, wife Bushra in 2nd Toshakhana case



ISLAMABAD, Dec 13 (Agencies): A Pakistani court indicted imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife on fresh charges of illegally selling state gifts, local broadcaster

Geo reported.

The indictment was the latest in dozens of cases against the 72-year-old former cricket star, who has been in jail since late last year. Khan and his

wife Bushra Bibi have already been granted bail in the case, which is one of a series of state treasury charges known as Toshakhana.

These charges revolve around allegations that Khan and his wife illegally procured and then sold gifts worth more than 140 million rupees (\$5,01,000) in state possession, which he received during his 2018-22 premiership. They have denied committing an offence.

Khan and Bibi were

both handed a 14-year sentence on those charges days before a national election earlier this year, following a three-year sentence handed to him in late 2023 in another version of the same case.

However, their sentences have been suspended in appeals at the high court.

The gifts included diamond jewellery and seven watches, six of them Rolex - the most expensive being valued at 85 million rupees.

LG addresses Annual Day Function of KCIS

Dream Big! Believe in yourself and work hard with focus and persistence to fulfil your dream: Sinha to students

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Friday addressed the Annual Day Function of KC International School Jammu, at General Zorawar Singh auditorium. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the management, teachers and students of the school and extended his best wishes.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged the students to Dream Big! Believe in yourself and work hard with focus and persistence to fulfil your dream.

"I have always admired the energy, innovation, and commitment of young people and I am witnessing our youth are at the forefront of change," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the youth want



a fear-free, corruption free and development oriented modern society. However, some forces are still active within and trying to destabilize the country. Youth and the entire society will have to unite and defeat such elements, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor further asked the youth to move forward with the common aim that is to reclaim India's

position as Vishwa Guru and prove themselves to be the true successors of the ancestors who established great centers of education like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila.

Speaking on the transformation taking place in the educational landscape in J&K, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor called

upon the teaching community to reinvent the classroom-learning and provide mentorship to students.

Education means learning, not delivery of information. Only teacher-student engagement can generate curiosity, creativity and imagination among students. We must create a conducive environment to develop lifelong learning and

problem-solving skills and encourage critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration among students, he said.

He further emphasised on maintaining a fine balance between Science and Sanskar. Along with core subjects, our focus should be on value-based education and promoting new ideas, new innovations while nurturing the individuality of students, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students, and also congratulated the school for contributing immensely in developing knowledge capital and human capital.

Chaitanya Chowdhary, President, KC International School; prominent citizens; Principal, school staff, teachers, students, and parents were present.

Sakeena Itoo visits Kulgam fire affected families, hands over Rs. 3.66 lakh as immediate relief

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 13: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Friday visited the fire-affected families of Chaki Nagam of Kulgam district and expressed deep solidarity with them.

During the visit, the Minister met the members of affected families and assured them of all possible support from the Government.

On the occasion, the Minister called on district administration to expedite relief operations, including providing

temporary shelter, food and other assistance to affected families in view of cold weather conditions.

She also instructed the Rural Development Department (RDD) to extend support to the families in rebuilding their homes.

Interacting with the locals on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo urged them to adopt precautionary measures to avert such unfortunate incidents.

During the visit, the Minister also handed over cheques worth Rs. 3,66,000 as immediate relief to the families from SDRF.

Deputy Commission-

er Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; ADC, Additional SP, SDM, Tehsildar, and other senior officers of district administration were also present on the occasion.

Later, Sakeena Itoo also visited Gopalpora, Kulgam to meet the families of Mukhtar Ahmad and Riyaz Ahmad, who lost their lives in a tragic road accident.

The Minister, on the occasion, expressed heartfelt condolences with the bereaved families and prayed for highest place in Jannah to departed souls. She also assured the bereaved families all possible support.

Mission Director JJM holds maiden meeting after assuming charge



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 13: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurseed Ahmad Shah, on Friday convened maiden meeting of core team of the Mission at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the officers of Mission Directorate and consultants while Jammu based officers and consultants participated online.

Mission Director was apprised of the major components of JJM by Officer on Special Duty, Reyaz Bhat. He was informed that 3253 Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) are in different

phases of execution under JJM against which 1402 have been completed, so far.

The MD sought the status of technical assessment of schemes which were assigned to the consultants and project Managers for ascertaining the technical and functional feasibility of different components of schemes completed and under execution including source sustainability. He was informed that 2382 schemes were assigned for verifications to consultants and District Project Management Unit's (DPMU's), of which, the reports of 2261 schemes have been received. The issues identified in these have been shared with the concerned Chief Engineers for taking appropriate action and verification of other schemes is under process.

The Mission Director directed the consultants to speed up the process and complete it within 10 days positively. He also emphasized the need for taking necessary steps to find solutions to the issues in the field so that the Mission is completed within fixed timelines.

DC Kathua presides over awareness camp on Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 13: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, on Friday presided over an awareness camp on the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM SGBY), organized by the Power Development Department (PDD) at the DC Office Complex.

The event was part of the ongoing outreach campaign by District Administration Kathua aimed at educating

the public about the scheme's substantial benefits and encouraging participation.

Highlighting the lucrative incentives under the scheme, the DC informed that PM SGBY offers a subsidy of over 65% on the installation of solar rooftop units. He noted that a 3 KW solar unit, priced at Rs 1.60 lakh, requires a subscriber investment of only Rs 65,000, ensuring zero electricity bills and free power generation.

The solar panels come with a 25-year warranty, eliminating maintenance costs and ensuring long-term savings.

Dr. Minhas also urged the public to obtain legal electricity connections, refrain from electricity theft and be responsible citizens by availing themselves of the scheme's benefits.

Executive Engineer PDD Kathua informed that the camp facilitated on-the-spot registration of interested households through government-



approved vendors.

He also informed attendees that Jammu & Kashmir Bank is offering financial assistance, providing loans at a 7% interest rate for up to 95% of the project's cost.

Among others present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Ranjit Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur, district and sectoral officers, PDD officials and a large gathering of the general public.

FROM PAGE 1

RS adjourned till December 16 amid ruckus over no-trust motion against Chairman

more time to MPs from the treasury benches. He also said the Congress was being insulted. Dhankhar asked both Kharge and Leader of the House JP Nadda to see him in the chairman's chamber later in the day so that the logjam in the House could be ended before adjourning the proceedings till December 16.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju releases book authored by LG Ladakh

Union Minister Kiren Rijju congratulated the LG 'for coming up with a wonderful and most-awaited book.' He stated that some books are brought out of sheer passion while some books are authored for other reasons but the book by Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) is his 'sheer call of the duty.' Stating that it is 'a must-read book,' the Union Minister Kiren Rijju mentioned that this book helps learn about many events and incidents regarding the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (L.T.T.E.) in Sri Lanka. He paid tributes to soldiers who made the supreme sacrifices for the mission given to them. Highlighting the need to remember the sacrifices and contributions of the jawans of the Indian Army, Kiren Rijju saluted the LG and all the Indian Army jawans.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG mentioned that the idea of writing the book struck his mind to highlight the contributions and sacrifices of the soldiers who took part in the war against LTTE in Sri Lanka under his command as the head of the brigade. He stated that the book is dedicated to the brave soldiers and their family members who bore the pain of separation from their fathers, husbands and sons with equanimity, of whom some fighting on the front did not return and laid down their lives in their mission.

The book, authored by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, is a firsthand account of the induction of his Brigade into Sri Lanka on 11 October 1987 to form part of

the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and its launch into fierce battles against the LTTE.

Over Rs 1100 Cr remain unspent under rural development sector schemes in J-K, says report

a Pucca House with amenities to all eligible households in rural India, the Panel has mentioned unspent balance of Rs 447.37 crore as per Public Financial Management System (PFMS) reports as on October 23, 2024.

Likewise, under DAY-NRLM, a flagship program for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services, the Standing Committee has underlined the unspent balance of Rs 31.57 crore as on September 30, 2024.

Regarding DDU-GKY, which is a skill training and placement program aimed at improving the quality and employment outcomes of skill development programs in rural areas, the Parliamentary Panel has pointed out unspent balance of Rs 238.98 crore as on October 18, 2024.

About District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee known as DISHA, which is supposed to ensure better coordination among all the concerned in monitoring the progress of major projects aimed at socio-economic transformation at the district level, the Standing Committee has pointed out that such meetings are being held regularly only in few districts of Jammu and Kashmir, the daily excelsior reported.

In 2019-20, only two DISHA meetings were held in J&K while as in 2021-22, 10 meetings of such committees were convened. It was only in 2022-23 that 20 DISHA meetings were convened by the respective Members of the Parliament. During last financial year only eight such meetings were held in J&K, which have 20 districts.

Expressing concern over huge unspent balances under different schemes, the Parliamentary Panel, while making recommendations for all the States and UTs including J&K, said, "unspent funds are not going to help in the development of rural poor

people as envisaged by the Government as such appropriate and effective steps should be taken so that unspent balances do not keep piling up regularly for various schemes", adding "proper and effective implementation of all the development schemes and programmes is imperative for the welfare of poor and marginalized sections of the rural populace across the country".

Regarding DISHA meetings, the Standing Committee said, "the sole aim of such meetings is overseeing the effective utilization of Government money for the welfare of the common masses and as such these meetings assume paramount importance and a tool of great value in the implementation of various rural schemes".

"The meetings of DISHA Committees should be held regularly as per the guidelines and also sufficient number of senior level representatives from the concerned department should remain present in these meetings", the Standing Committee has concluded.

'One Nation, One Election': Not feasible in one go, says Ahmad Mir

Election' initiative in a vast country like India, saying that simultaneous elections cannot be conducted in a single phase.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir's Anantnag, Mir said there is a need for practical planning instead of merely passing laws or orders. "India is a vast country, and the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' is beyond imagination here. We need to approach this issue with practicality," Mir said.

He added that parliamentarians would provide their input on the matter, and if a consensus is reached, there would be no objection as India operates on democratic principles.

"This proposal originates from those in power. If I were to say, 'Let's hold elections for panchayats, sarpanches, councilors, MLAs, and MPs tomorrow,' is that feasible? First, the ruling party must clarify whether they are prepared to conduct elections in one go in the states where they govern. Who will guarantee stability if a government falls tomorrow due to a no-confidence motion or if elected members pass away in the meantime? Who will conduct those elections then? India operates within a

democratic system, and such challenges must be considered. This is not a minor issue," Mir said.

Responding to a query about the Darbar Move, Mir called it more than a government policy, describing it as a traditional and balancing link between the regions of Jammu and Kashmir. "The relocation of offices to Jammu brought a significant influx of Kashmiris to the region, boosting livelihood opportunities for local residents and addressing unemployment to some extent," he said.

No threat along international border, maintaining close vigil on illegal crossings: IG BSF DK Boora

reinforcing its status as a formidable force in global border defense.

"Over the last six decades, the BSF has evolved into a global leader in border security," Boora stated. "We are fully equipped to face modern security challenges, including state-of-the-art anti-drone systems. Our coordination with the Indian Army along the Line of Control (LoC) is essential in preventing security breaches, such as drone droppings."

Boora further assured that the BSF is well-prepared to address emerging threats with cutting-edge technology, strategic planning, and effective coordination. "We have developed a robust system to tackle every security challenge, and our commitment to protecting Jammu's borders remains resolute," he added.

The IG highlighted the force's professionalism, resilience, and use of advanced surveillance systems, including anti-drone technology, to stay ahead of potential threats.

Bomb threat in 6 Delhi schools triggers panic, second incident this week

Srinivaspuri, DPS Amar Colony in East of Kailash, South Delhi Public School in Defence Colony, Delhi Police Public School in Safdarjung, and Venkateshwar Global

School.

A police source said the emails were received at 12:54 am, with the sender mentioning "parent-teachers' meeting" and "sports day" activities in the schools.

The sender also mentioned that the "schools will face bomb blasts" on Friday and Saturday, the source said.

Madhavi Goswami, principal of Cambridge School, said she discovered the email during a routine check and alerted the police around 5:50 am. "They responded promptly, assuring us of a thorough investigation. We informed parents about the situation and shifted all classes online for the day."

Karmveer, a guard at South Delhi Public School, said he received a message at 7:20 am, following which they started to ask the parents coming to school with their children to return.

"Only a few students were already on campus, and they were also sent back home," he said.

Kashmir shivers after snowfall, Zojila coldest at minus 28 degree Celsius

9.4 degrees Celsius, a significant drop from minus 4.6 degrees Celsius recorded the previous night, the weather department said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, registered a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a minimum of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag in south Kashmir logged minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, it added.

The higher reaches, including popular tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Sonamarg, Tangmarg, Gurez, and Zojila axis received light to moderate snowfall on Thursday, the officials said.

Some areas in the plains in Shopian, Pulwama, and Baramulla, as well as the upper areas of Anantnag, Budgam, and Bandipora also received light snowfall, they added.

The Met department has forecast mainly dry weather till December 21. However, the minimum temperature is expected to fall further in the valley and there would be a cold wave over many stations during the next four days, they said.

Dr Jitendra releases landmark RSSDI study 'Indian Prevention of Diabetes Study (IPDS) on Yoga and Diabetes Prevention'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also a Professor of Medicine, a renowned Diabetologist and Life Patron of the "Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India" (RSSDI), the world's largest organisation of Diabetes researchers and practitioners, today released the landmark RSSDI study on "Yoga and Diabetes Prevention".

The Study was conducted by a group of eminent RSSDI members including Prof S.V. Madhu, Head of Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, University College of Medical Sciences New Delhi, Prof H.B. Chandalia, Former Head at Grant Medical College Mumbai and presently Head Diabetes Endocrine Nutrition Management and Research Centre, Mumbai, Dr Arvind Gupta, Manilek Research Centre Jaipur and others.

The Study has been published by prestigious Elsevier Ltd.

Dr Jitendra Singh underscored the transformative potential of Yoga in the prevention of Type-2 diabetes. In his remarks, the Union Minister



emphasized the remarkable findings of this groundbreaking study, which demonstrates how Yoga can significantly reduce diabetes risk among individuals with prediabetes.

Briefing the Minister about some of the salient features of the Study, the first author Prof S.V. Madhu said, the study titled "Yoga and Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes-The Indian Prevention of Diabetes Study" initiated by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) marks a milestone in diabetes prevention.

Conducted over three years across five centers in India and involving nearly 1,000 prediabetic individuals, the study highlights that a 40-minute daily

Yoga routine, incorporating select asanas and pranayama, along with standard lifestyle interventions, can reduce the risk of developing diabetes by approximately 40%. These results surpass the outcomes of existing diabetes prevention strategies in the country.

The Indian Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) achieved a 28% risk reduction through lifestyle changes, while another trial combining lifestyle measures with stepwise medication (metformin) reported a 32% reduction. The efficacy of yoga in this study outperformed both, showcasing its superiority as a standalone preventive measure.

Dr Jitendra Singh described

the study findings as a potential "game changer" for India's healthcare system. With over 101 million people currently living with diabetes and another 136 million in the prediabetic stage, the study's evidence-based approach could play a pivotal role in addressing the growing epidemic.

The Minister stressed the importance of integrating yoga into national diabetes prevention policies to achieve widespread public health benefits. This Study stands out as the first well-designed, long-term trial to scientifically validate yoga's effectiveness in preventing diabetes, he said.

This groundbreaking evidence reaffirms the relevance of yoga, an ancient Indian practice, in tackling modern health challenges, he added.

The Indian Prevention of Diabetes Study is a pioneering initiative by RSSDI aimed at exploring innovative and sustainable approaches to diabetes prevention. Published in Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research and Reviews, the study's findings are set to influence national and global strategies for diabetes management.

GDC Thannamandi holds Interactive Session on Career advancement with Controller BOPEE



Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Dec 13: Career Counseling Cell in collaboration with The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi held an interactive session on career advancement with Controller, JK Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE), Prof. G.R. Verma, as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 Abhiyan here today.

In the highly insightful session organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the College, Prof. G.R. Verma, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, explained various

Career opportunities within BOPEE, providing students with a comprehensive overview of the board's structure and its role in professional entrance examinations. He highlighted various aspects of career planning, elaborating on the current vacancies, future possibilities, and programs available under BOPEE.

Principal Prof. Farooq Ahmad applauded the Career Counseling Cell for its initiative and reiterated the importance of such sessions in guiding students towards their professional goals.

The session aimed to enhance students' understanding of the career landscape and motivate them to explore opportunities in

professional fields associated with the board. Prof. Verma's interactive approach ensured active participation and engagement from the attendees, leaving a lasting impression on their aspirations.

The event concluded with a lively question-and-answer session, where Prof. Verma addressed students' queries with practical advice, making the program both informative and inspiring.

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, Convener, Career Counseling Cell in the college introduced the audience about the program and conducted the proceedings of program whereas Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, HOD, Islamic Studies presented the formal vote of thanks to the audience.

Prominent among the participants present on the occasion were Dr Naseem Ahmad, Dr Abdul Haq Naimi, Dr Fatima, Dr Athar Raina, Prof Rummy Dar, Prof Rizwana, Dr Arshaq, Dr Mudasir Gori, Dr Zubair and Dr. Wahid Qazi.

GGM Science College observes National Conservation Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: The Department of Physics at GGM Science College Jammu, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) under the able guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, organized a grand event to mark National Energy Conservation Day.

The event, centred on this year's theme, Powering Sustainability Every Watt Counts, witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 60 students and faculty members.

Dr. Purshotam Singh Manhas, Coordinator of IQAC and Head of the Department of Physics, delivered a thought-provoking PowerPoint presentation emphasizing the vital importance of energy conservation.

He highlighted how small efforts in con-

serving energy contribute to building a sustainable future for generations to come. He further emphasised on the energy conservation & efficiency by adopting best practices exhibiting responsible behaviour and appropriate technology. As a part of the observance, a highly engaging quiz competition on energy conservation was also conducted providing students an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and awareness. The jury comprising Prof. N.P. Sharma, Dr. Bandhan Sharma, Prof. Suneel Singh Barhey and Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma evaluated the participants' performances and Ashish Kumar & Suman were adjudged co-winner for first position whereas Niyati Raina, Raghav Gupta, Nihar Kohli, Varun Sharma and Krish Sharma jointly

declared as 2nd position holders in a close finish. All the students who participated in the quiz competition were from Semester 1st of this college

The event was gracefully anchored by Prof. Yasmeen Mughal.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Vandana Khajuria, graced the occasion with her presence, alongside distinguished faculty members, including Dr. Narinder Kumar.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Kumar Bhat, in his concluding remarks & vote of thanks, congratulated the participants and organizers for their efforts and stressed the significance of collective action in achieving energy conservation. He urged everyone to embrace the theme of the year and contribute actively to sustainable development goals.

ADC Kishtwar discusses District Environment Plan 2024

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 13: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal today chaired a meeting of the District Environment Committee to deliberate on the District Environment Plan 2024 and review its implementation strategies. The meeting focused on critical environmental issues, ongoing projects and compliance with regulatory guidelines to ensure sustainable development in the district.

During the meeting, directions were issued to the Chief Medical Officer Kishtwar for the identification of suitable land for the establishment of a Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant in the district. This initiative aims to ensure the scientific disposal



of bio-medical waste in adherence to prescribed environmental standards.

To monitor and implement the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines effectively at dumping sites associated with various ongoing Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPPs) and NHIDCL projects, the ADC instructed the District Officer (DO) of the Pollution Control Board, District Mining Officer Kishtwar and Assistant Director Fisheries to conduct a joint site visit.

They were tasked with furnishing a detailed status report on compliance with environmental

norms at these sites.

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department was directed to provide an updated status on the completion of the Filter Plant and ensure the availability of clean drinking water facilities for the township. This step aims to enhance the water supply infrastructure and promote public health in the district.

The ADC also reviewed the progress of key projects, including the establishment of a Modern Slaughter House, Cattle Pond, and Waste Plastic Management system in the district. The Executive

Officer (EO), Municipal Council (MC) Kishtwar was instructed to furnish the latest progress report on these initiatives.

Furthermore, the Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) Kishtwar and Marwah were asked to provide comprehensive details of various activities being undertaken under the Bio-Diversity Management Plan in the district. This plan seeks to preserve and promote ecological balance and protect the district's unique biodiversity.

The meeting emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among various departments to

address pressing environmental concerns. The members also discussed strategies for enhancing waste management, afforestation drives and public awareness campaigns to foster environmental conservation.

The ADC underscored the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability, and timely action in implementing the District Environment Plan. He urged all committee members to prioritize sustainable development goals and ensure compliance with environmental guidelines in all ongoing and upcoming projects.

The meeting was attended by all members of the District Environment Committee, including senior officials from various departments.

INM Trainees visit Directorate of Agriculture Jammu for Exposure on Soil, Fertilizer & Pesticide Testing

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 13: On the third day of the ongoing 15-day certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for agricultural input dealers, 30 participants from Jammu, Kathua, Kupwara, Anantnag, and Baramulla districts visited the Soil, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Testing Laboratory at Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan Jammu. The training program was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, SKUAST Jammu.

The exposure visit was organized to provide trainees with hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of soil testing, fertilizer management, and pesticide analysis. The visit also aimed to familiarize participants with the parameters of



soil testing, soil health cards, and the process of making test-based recommendations for fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs.

During the visit, trainees interacted with Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, who emphasized the crucial role that fertilizer/input dealers play in disseminating knowledge on fertilizer management to farmers. He highlighted the importance of making

dealers more aware of the available natural resources, the balanced use of inputs, and the need to improve their professional competencies. By doing so, they can provide the best advisory services to the farming community.

The trainees were briefed by Dr. Neeraj Rajwal, Assistant Soil Chemist Jammu, who explained the Soil Health Card scheme and demonstrated the various laboratory equipment and tech-

niques used for nutrient analysis of soil samples. He also explained the process of collecting soil samples from farmers' fields and analyzing major and micro-nutrients in soil.

Dr. Dolly John, Assistant Biochemist, provided insights into the Fertilizer Laboratory's operations, including quality assessments, nutrient analysis, contaminant detection, soil compatibility, and chromium analysis. Dr. Adil Rashid Assis-

tant Soil Survey officer detailed the working of Soil Survey Section. Additionally, Dr. Tarminder Singh, Research Assistant, detailed the procedures involved in pesticide testing, including pesticide residue analysis, pesticide screening for food and agriculture, and quality assessments of registered pesticides and their formulations.

The visit concluded with an interactive technical discussion, where trainees had the opportunity to deliberate with the laboratory staff on various aspects of soil, fertilizer, and pesticide testing. Dr. Satvir Singh SMS KVK Jammu, along with the staff members of KVK Jammu, Directorate of Extension, accompanied the participants throughout the program.

Diva International Foundation organizes Mega Eye Camp in Poonch



Top News Report

POONCH, Dec 13: Diva International Foundation organized a one-day mega eye camp in Poonch, aimed at providing free eye care services to the local population.

The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal who attended as the chief guest. Accompanying him at the event were Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Parvaiz

Ahmed Khan, Medical Superintendent Dr. Nusrat Bhatti, and Mr. Amardeep Singh CEO and Director Diva International Foundation

The DC emphasized the importance of such initiatives in providing accessible healthcare to underserved communities. He applauded Diva International Foundation for their efforts in bringing specialized medical services to the district.

The camp ran throughout the day, offering free

eye check-ups, consultations, and distribution of glasses. Patients requiring surgeries were identified and arrangements were made for further treatment.

The CMO and Medical Superintendent assured their support for similar initiatives in the future to enhance healthcare delivery in Poonch.

The CEO of the foundation reiterated commitment to organizing more such camps to address healthcare challenges faced by the people in remote areas.

The camp was a significant step towards ensuring better eye health for the residents of Poonch, showcasing the importance of public-private partnerships in enhancing medical services.

Gukesh becomes youngest world chess champion by beating Ding Liren of China

Says happy to live his dream to bring back the title to India which Magnus took from Vishy sir in 2013

SINGAPORE, Dec 13 (Agencies): Indian grandmaster Gukesh D became the youngest world chess champion at the age of 18 years, six months and two weeks by defeating reigning champion Ding Liren from China in Game 14 of the world title match in Singapore.

After winning the match, Gukesh said he dreamt of winning the world chess title in 2013 when Viswanathan Anand, his Vishy sir, lost to Magnus Carlsen. "In 2013 I watched Vishy sir lose. The title was taken away from India. I wanted to be in the same glass box (soundproof glass cabin or Fishtank, slang for where players compete for the chess championship) and bring back the title. That has been my dream for the last 10 years or so: to be in the glass box. And my best moment, before this, was when I entered the glass box for the first game."

Continuing with his aggression, novelty and display of guts and nerves throughout the championship, Gukesh kept pressing for a win in a Rook-Bishop pawn endgame theoretically drawn at the grandmaster level. Ding, who had been exchanging pieces throughout the game in an attempt to force a draw in the last game of the 14-round classical format before the rapid



and blitz tiebreaks, blinked under pressure and committed a blunder on move 55 when he went for a Rook trade.

Gukesh could not believe what he saw on the board. His eyes widened in surprise, but he didn't play his move immediately. He took his time, reflecting on the position, had a sip of water, and then took Ding's Rook. Ding held his head in disbelief and resigned after three moves.

Gukesh, whose meditative pose on the chair next to the board has become as famous as his rival's 'Dingchilling' smile, could not hold back any longer. He had not shown a single emotion of joy or dejection in the last 13 games, whether win or lose, but today the floodgates

opened. He sobbed and cried as he set up the board again, setting the black pieces back on the board, as his habit—and a gentleman chess tradition—has been. He accepted congratulations on the chair and then got up, throwing his hands in the air to finally exalt in the moment.

At the post-match conference, Ding Liren was asked about losing the theoretical endgame. "It was a blunder...a shock. So... there will be no games tomorrow," he said, referring to the lack of need for tiebreak games now. He remained desolate and heartbroken but wore the famous 'Dingchilling' smile again and said, "I played my best tournament. It could be better. It seems a fair result to

lose in the end. No regrets. I will continue to play. I will..."

"It seemed like a draw, but the position was tricky. We had Rook and Bishop but I had three pawns against his two. So, there were a lot of possibilities," Gukesh said.

Asked to reflect on the victory and what it means, Gukesh again showed a mature champion's response by saluting his rival. "We all know who Ding is. How much pressure he has to face to be the world champion and try to defend it. And how much fight he gave in this match. He is a true champion. He is a real-world champion. In such matches, the champions step up the momentum. He came here. He was struggling with form and health for the last two years. For me, he is a true champion. I would like to thank him. This could not have been the same for me if he was not my opponent."

On what he told his mother on phone after the game, he said, "We didn't say anything. We were crying. I think I said congratulations."

My career has just started. I want to have a very long career and to stay at the top. Winning a world championship does not mean I am the best. There is Magnus Carlsen. I want to achieve the greatness which he had."

Hazlewood replaces Boland in Australia XI for 3rd Test against India, confirms Cummins



BRISBANE, Dec 13 (Agencies): Australian captain Pat Cummins on Friday announced that pacer Josh Hazlewood will replace Scott Boland in his playing XI for the third Test against India after having recovered from a side strain.

The injury had forced Hazlewood to sit out of the Pink Ball Test in Adelaide last week. Cummins exuded confidence that Hazlewood would pull through the match without any "hiccups".

"He had a really good bowl yesterday, he had another bowl in Adelaide a couple of days previously. Him and the medical team are really confident," the captain said on the eve of the game at the Gabba.

Cummins said he had to take the ball away from Hazlewood at Perth to prevent his injury getting worse.

"We've seen it a few times where Josh has pushed through to get through a Test match and a little bit of soreness turns into a month or two of injury."

"So, we made the call then that it probably wasn't worth the risk of keeping him bowling. I think he bowled an extra two overs leading into tea break and he said it felt ok, but I just kind of thought from there, 'that's enough'," said Cummins.

The Australian captain was sympathetic for Boland after the veteran pacer made a stirring return to Test cricket at Adelaide after last year's Ashes.

Boland had a match-haul of five wickets that included the prized scalp of star India batter Virat Kohli in the second innings.

"It's tough. Boland was fantastic in Adelaide. Unfortunately, he's spent quite a bit of time on the bench over the last 18 months and whenever he plays he's fantastic."

"It's a shame for Scotty, but still a fair bit to play out this series. I'd be surprised if he didn't play again in this series," said the New South Wales player.

Green is fading at Gabba
The green tinge on the Brisbane deck was significantly reduced on the match eve.

Once a fortress of the Aussies, India had breached the Gabba barrier during the 2020-21 series to end the hosts' winning run dating back to 1988.

After that, the West Indies too beat Australia here, riding on the back of pacer Shamar Joseph's heroics.

"I looked at the ground yesterday – it looked like a good wicket, like it has been the last few years," said Cummins.

"A bit of sun baking it the last couple of days (means) I don't think it's as green and leafy as it was against South Africa," he said.

Cummins was referring to the Test against South Africa here in 2022 which ended inside two days.

The 31-year-old also did not read too much into that recent vulnerability of his side in Brisbane.

"It's just a venue really. We play at dozens of venues each year. It's always good coming back to a place that's familiar ... but the scoreboard starts at 0-0, so the venue isn't the be-all and end-all," he added.

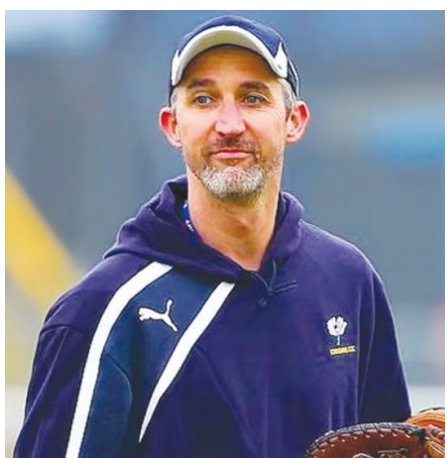
After Gary Kirsten, Jason Gillespie resigns as Pakistan cricket coach

KARACHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): Former Australian cricketer Jason Gillespie has resigned as Pakistan's Test coach, just a month after Gary Kirsten stepped down from his role as the white-ball coach. Gillespie's resignation comes as a significant blow to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), especially with the two-match Test series against South Africa set to commence on December 26.

According to multiple reports, Gillespie's decision stems from ongoing tensions with the PCB, reaching a peak when he refused to board his scheduled 6 AM flight to South Africa on Friday. The former pacer informed the board of his intent to resign, citing strained relations and unresolved disputes. The PCB has announced that former Pakistani cricketer Aaqib Javed will serve as the interim Test coach for the South Africa series. Javed, who is already the interim coach for Pakistan's white-ball sides, will now oversee the red-ball format temporarily.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has named Aaqib Javed as interim red-ball head coach of the Pakistan men's cricket team following the resignation of red-ball head-coach Jason Gillespie," PCB's statement read.

Gillespie's dissatisfaction with the PCB reportedly began when the board decided against renewing Tim Nielsen's contract as high-performance red-ball coach. The decision was made without Gillespie's consultation, leaving the Australian coach frustrated and sidelined. This lack of communication eroded trust, leading to Gillespie's ultimate decision to step down.



mate decision to step down.

Adding to the instability, Gary Kirsten's earlier departure from the white-ball coaching role further compounded Pakistan's leadership challenges. Gillespie had briefly filled in as the interim white-ball coach, but his tenure was short-lived due to ongoing friction with the board.

The timing of Gillespie's resignation leaves Pakistan in a precarious position. With no clear plans for appointing permanent coaches for either the red-ball or white-ball teams, the PCB faces mounting pressure, especially with the Champions Trophy on the horizon. As Pakistan prepares for a crucial Test series and the upcoming Champions Trophy, the lack of stability in leadership could significantly impact the team's performance.

For now, all eyes are on Aaqib Javed as he takes charge in a challenging interim role, tasked with steering Pakistan through this turbulent phase.

Rohit must return to opening if he has to throw the first punch: Shastri

BRISBANE, Dec 13 (Agencies): Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who knows a thing or two about winning Test rubbers in Australia, asked Indian skipper Rohit Sharma to return to the opening slot "if he has to throw the first punch" on an opponent brimming with confidence.

Shastri was serving as team director when India won their maiden Test series in Australia in 2017-18 and was the head coach when the side rallied brilliantly to stun the hosts in the last tour in 2020-21.

The move to slot Rohit at number six did not yield the desired results for India and they were hammered by 10 wickets in the second Test at Adelaide, leaving the five-match clash locked at 1-1 and with everything to play for in what Shastri believes could decide the fate of the series.

"That's where he's (Rohit) been at his best over the last eight or nine years," Shastri said. "It's not that he's going



to set the world on fire – he could – but that's the place that's best for him...If he has to do damage, if he has to throw the first punch, that's the best place from where he can do it."

Rohit had only one fifty in his last 10 innings heading into the Pink-ball Test last week when Shastri, interestingly, advised against changing the opening combination of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul after their success in the position while backing the captain to bat in the middle-order.

Shastri said he has no doubt the winner of the third Test, starting here on Saturday, could go on to claim the series.

"I feel whichever team wins this Test match will win the series. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind. So it is very, very important that India get the balance right, because Australia have got the confidence back," the former captain said.

The triumph of 2021 is considered one of the greatest in the history of Indian cricket and Shastri, while speaking at the first annual Usman Khawaja Foundation lunch at the Gabba, said the unity showed by the team, despite restrictions due to COVID-19, played a big part in the historic win.

"In COVID, the first Test match you start

with five bowlers and the same five bowlers don't play the last Test. That says it all, it's like Australia playing without these five bowlers in the last Test of the series, it's a different ball game. Plus you didn't have quite a few batsmen as well. So it's a tribute to the players."

"You can only do so much as a coach from behind the scenes. At the end of it, it's the players who have to go out there and do their job and they were magnificent."

Four years ago, after getting bundled out for their lowest Test total of 36 in Adelaide, India made a magnificent comeback to win two of the remaining three games and emerge as winners.

Shastri fondly recalled a conversation between Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill, who was helping out the latter with some useful tips right after his dismissal, as India went for the jugular to score 140 odd runs in the final session of play to shock the hosts at the

Gabba, which was until then the home team's fortress.

"I'll never forget it," Shastri said.

"Last session, 140 runs to get. We had two different change rooms because of COVID. I went down from the coaches' room to have a chat with either Rishabh or (Chateshwar) Pujara. When I was about to reach the toilet, I heard a conversation between Gill and Pant."

"Seventy-one overs bowled, Gill had got out for 91, and they were the two youngest players in the side, 21 and 22. 'Nine overs left, they need the new ball, they'll bring (Marnus) Labuschagne on with his leg spin, you've got to score 45-50 runs there'."

"They are planning how they can reach closer to the end score, and no way was I going to stop them, I don't want to change that mindset. So I just walked past and said 'do what you have to do'. In the end, we chased down nearly 150 in that last session."

"It came to my mind that Sachin Tendulkar didn't help": Vinod Kambli breaks silence

NEW DELHI, Dec 13 (Agencies): One of the most talented Indian cricketers of his time, Vinod Kambli didn't quite touch the heights he was once destined to. The former India cricketer's career went on a downward spiral and never witnessed a comeback. His friend and former teammate Sachin Tendulkar, who started his career alongside Kambli, went on to become arguably the greatest batter of all time. As the two cricketers met during their former coach Ramakant Achrekar's memorial, the soul-shat-

tering contrast between their health and current status sent a shockwave across the country.

As the entire Indian cricketing spectrum expressed its worry over Kambli's health, he has vowed to fight back and put an end to health issues that have been holding him back. In an interview, Kambli also opened up about his friendship with Sachin, especially on the 2009 incident, when their relationship went through a rough phase.

At that time, Kambli had even accused Sachin of turning his back on him. However, he has now



issued a clarification. The former batter even revealed that Tendulkar had taken care of many of his medical bills when he underwent surgeries in 2013.

"At that time, it came to my mind that Sachin didn't help. I was extremely frustrated. But Sachin did everything

for me, including paying for my two surgeries in 2013. We spoke, and childhood friendship came forward," Kambli revealed on The Viky Lalwani Show.

"Sachin told me how to play. I made nine comebacks. We are cricketers; we get hurt. When we get out, we also get

hurt," Kambli added.

Recalling some of his cricketing milestones, Kambli still cherishes the double hundred he scored at Wankhede when he rose to prominence in the 1990s.

"The double hundred at Wankhede, I will cherish the most. Achrekar sir was with me, and we had such a great team. I used to have fun battles with Muttiah Muralitharan and our other opponents," Kambli recalled. "My journey wasn't perfect, but I gave it my all. I'm grateful for the support of my family and friends like Sachin," he said.

Treesa-Gayatri keep semis hopes alive



HANGZHOU, Dec 13 (Agencies): The Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand defeated the Malaysian combination of Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan in their second Group A tie to keep alive their semifinal hopes at the BWF World Tour Finals.

Treesa and Gayatri, the only Indians to have qualified for the season-ending tournament, beat their opponents 21-19 21-19 in just 46 minutes to stay afloat in the competition.

Babu Rampaul welcomes CM's announcement on reinstatement of "Darbar Move"

Top News Report

JAMMUM, Dec 13: The Central Zone of the J&K National Conference (JKNC), encompassing Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts, convened a pivotal meeting under the leadership of former minister and Zonal President Babu Rampaul.

In the meeting, the office bearers unanimously urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to grant full-fledged statehood to Jammu & Kashmir, citing it as crucial to fulfilling the aspirations of the region's people.

Addressing the office bearers of Central Zone, Rampaul emphasized the people's high expectations from the central government. He asserted that granting full-fledged statehood would align with the larger interests of both J&K and the country.

Among the key demands raised, Babu Rampaul called for the reinstatement of the "Darbar Move," a



traditional practice of alternating government offices between Jammu and Srinagar.

He also lauded the statement of Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah regarding resumption of Darbar Move practice. He highlighted its role in fostering cultural ties and economic benefits, alongside enhancing unity between the regions.

The meeting also included a review of party programs aimed at strengthening the National Conference's framework and address-

ing pressing issues affecting the masses. Rampaul paid tribute to the contributions of Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, hailing him as a towering personality in J&K's socio-political landscape.

Expressing concern over the delay in restoring statehood to J&K, Rampaul warned that prolonged inaction could foster discontent among the region's people. He reaffirmed the National Conference's commitment, under the leadership of hon'ble Dr. Farooq Abdullah and

Jenab Omar Abdullah, to promoting democratic governance and socio-economic welfare across Jammu and Kashmir.

Babu Rampaul exhorted the party functionaries to gear up for upcoming Panchayat and Local Body elections. He emphasized upon their active role in the forthcoming Panchayat and urban local body elections, underscoring the importance of grassroots empowerment.

The meeting also reviewed the outcome of Assembly poll results.

A threadbare discussion was on shortcomings as well as positive outcome of the results.

The meeting concluded with renewed resolve to uphold the party's legacy and work towards the holistic development and unity of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Sham Lal Mehra, Ashok Koul, Rahul Mahajan, Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, S. Nirmal Singh, Rehmat Ali (ex-BDC Chairman), Bharat Bushan, Dr. Gourav Bharat, Sat Paul Bhatwaj (rtd. D.C.), B.D Dalotra (rtd. S.P.), Om dalotra, S.Surjeet Singh Sasan, Baldev Singh Bahu, Dr.Y.P Singh, Prem Kumar Verma, adv. Prem Singh, Yash Paul, B.D Sharma, Amrish Sharma, Naved Raja, Arvind Jamwal, A.N Bhagat, Shakeel, Sat Paul, Manhor Lal, Baramanad, T.R Mandi, Harbans Lal, Hemraj, Jatinder Kumar, Narinder dutt and others.

PM SHRI KV No.1 Jammu celebrates KVS Foundation Day



Top News Report

JAMMUM, Dec 13: PM SHRI KV No.1 Jammu celebrated 62nd Foundation Day on Friday with great fervour. The KVS Foundation Day is celebrated to highlight the organization's mission on nurturing core values, fostering educational excellence and shaping responsible citizens. The KVS was

established on December 15, 1963. It is under the authority of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. The Theme of this year's KVS Foundation Day is, Honour the Past while creating the future.

The programme started with Tilak Ceremony, Presentation of Bouquet by the Tiny Tots of Balvatika and lighting of the lamp by the Guests

and Alumni of KV No. 1 Jammu. The students of KV No.1 Jammu presented captivating cultural performances and showcased the diverse cultural heritage of India.

The guests of the day, alumni of KV No.1 Jammu and retired KVS Staff shared their inspirational words and fond memories of their school time. Mementos were presented to the worthy guests of the day.

Vote of Thanks was presented by Sudha Gautam, PGT Maths of the Vidyalaya.

The programme was really enthusiastic and inspirational for the students of KV No.1 Jammu under the able guidance of Vice Principal KV No. 1 Jammu, Akash Gupta.

BJP's gimmickry over Rogingyas can no longer beguile Jammu People: Harsh



Top News Report

JAMMUM, Dec 13: Expressing dismay over the hullabaloo created by BJP over settlement of Rohingyas in Jammu city for the last few days, Harsh Dev Singh, former Minister and president JKNPP India has questioned the saffron leadership's silence over the issue during the last ten years from 2014 to 2024 when they ruled J&K directly or indirectly.

He said that massive protests were held in 2015, 2016 and 2017 when Rohingyas and Bangladeshis were not only settled in Jammu but were provided all possible assistance by the then govt with all civic amenities including water, power connections, ration, Aadhaar cards and even PRCs. Who was at the helm of affairs at that point of time? Was it not the BJP rule at the centre as well in the state of J&K. And when people of Jammu launched agitation seeking their deportation, a deception was played by

the then govt by announcing the then Dy CM as chairman of a committee to work out the modalities for ouster of illegal immigrants. What has been the fate of the said committee? Should the BJP not explain the same as it was their Dy CM who headed the said committee? And now when it was out of power, its leaders were once again trying to mislead the people of Jammu through such gimmicks and melodramatic rants. He was addressing public meetings in various villages of Nagrota constituency.

Accusing the BJP leaders of indulging in double standards and taking one stand while in power and another in opposition, Singh asserted that no facade of deceptive slogans could beguile the people of Jammu who had recognized the real face of BJP. He said that by indulging in such tantrums over Rohingyas and cursing the new govt formed merely a month ago, the BJP was trying to create a smokescreen so as to

cover up its own failures and to escape the wrath of the people whose expectations they had belied. He said that with none made accountable during the past 10 years, when BJP either ruled directly or through its proxies in J&K, the saffron regime owed an explanation to the people for issuance of PRCs/ State Subjects, Aadhar Cards, Ration cards etc to Rohingyas and non initiation of any action to ensure their deportation. And while the BJP worked as petty accomplice with PDP during its rule in J&K and continued to lay eggs in the latter's camp, it miserably failed to rake up any of the issues projected by its electorates of Jammu region.

Flaying the BJP for having done the greatest dis-service to the people of J&K and particularly Jammu region, Singh said that its bizarre rule had laid the foundation of huge political corruption and moral depravity whose dividends would be reaped by the future generations for years together.

Recruitment for Dogri posts lacks clarity: President NDS

Top News Report

JAMMUM, Dec 13: Adv. Dogra Harish Kaila, President of Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS), has voiced serious concerns over alleged irregularities and lack of transparency in the recruitment process for the position of Editorial Executive/Newsreader-cum-Translator (Dogri) conducted by Prasar Bharati. Adv. Kaila emphasized that these practices undermine the credibility of the institution and discourage talented candidates from participating in such processes.

During a detailed discussion with Mohd Yaseen, a candidate in the process, Adv. Kaila raised several issues regarding the alleged lack of clarity in question paper preparation, the absence of qualified Dogri language experts in the interview panel, and the use of informal communication channels such as WhatsApp for result announcements.

Adv. Kaila remarked, "The selection process appears to have overlooked the pride and integrity of the institution, seemingly catering to individuals who are either well-connected or possess little to no relevant experience. Such decisions reflect poorly on Prasar Bharati's commitment to transparency and meritocracy."



He further stated that Dogri, a language deeply rooted in the cultural identity of the Duggar region, deserves a fair and professional representation in all processes concerning its promotion. "Dogri is not just a language but a heritage of millions of people in this region. Any compromise on its dignity is unacceptable," he added.

Mohd. Yaseen, a cultural activist and National Scholarship holder in theatre, filed an RTI (PRBHA/R/E/24/01019) after being advised by Gulshan Raina, Assistant Director, RNU Jammu, to seek clarification on the recruitment process. Yaseen has raised pertinent questions regarding the fairness and transparency of the process, including the qualifications of panel members and safeguards against irregularities.

Adv. Kaila called on Prasar Bharati's leadership to address these grievances and restore public confidence in the recruitment process. He also urged authorities to scrutinize past recruitments—whether casual, contractual, or permanent—to identify any similar irregularities or backdoor entries.

The President of Nami Dogri Sanstha concluded by reaffirming the organization's commitment to upholding the honor of the Dogri language and culture. "Our focus remains on ensuring that Dogri receives the respect it deserves through just and transparent processes. I urge local leaders and authorities to step forward and address this issue with the seriousness it warrants."

The matter has sparked widespread resentment, with many calling for an independent inquiry into the recruitment process to safeguard the integrity of cultural appointments.

Senior Journalist Sansar Singh Motan felicitated



Top News Report

JAMMUM, Dec 13: Senior Journalist Sansar Singh Motan hailing from Preet Nagar Digiana, was felicitated at a brief function held here.

While speaking the Chief Guest Dr Sewa Mortan said, In America, the President reigns for four years, and journalism governs forever and ever. He further said, If your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more

immediate short-term weapon.

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included Messers 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), Jagdish Raj Kaith, Sat Paul Sargotra, Veerpan Motan, Gourav Nandan and Mukesh Nandan.

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