

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

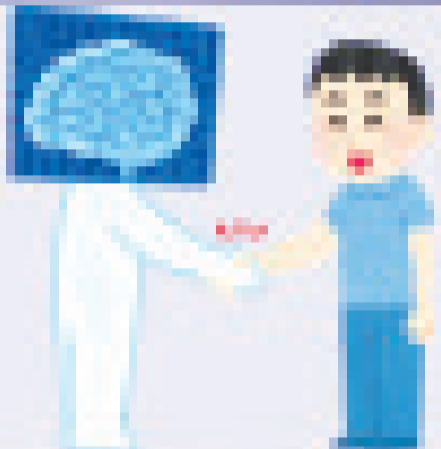
Daily Evening Newspaper

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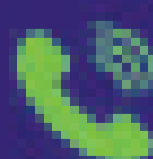
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10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Ashok Dogra S/o Lt. Sh. Mani Ram R/o 236-A, Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu** who left for heavenly abode on 06.12.2024.



Dr. Ashok Dogra

10th Day will be performed on Sunday 15.12.2024 at 11.00 AM at our residence 236-A, Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on Monday 16.12.2024 at 12.00 Noon at our residence 236-A, Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Uthala will be held on 16.12.2024 (Monday) at Shiv Mandir, Gandhi Nagar from 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Reena Verma (Wife)
Mr. Abhishek Dogra (Son)
Mr. Lakshya Dogra (Son)

Sh. Sham Lal Chargoita & Smt. Kamla Devi (Brother & Bhabhi)
Sh. M.R Verma & Lt. Smt. Prem Lata (Brother-in-law & Sister)
Sh. Happy Verma & Smt. Rachna Verma (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)

Mob: 9419301753, 9796082062, 9149659279.

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.



Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat
(Educationist)

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)

BARKHI

"Lives are like rivers: though they disappear from sight, their course remains etched forever in the hearts they touch."
The Barkhi of Sh. Jugal Kishore S/o Late Sh. Kaka Ram R/o H.No. 75 Mohalla Dalpatian, Jammu will be observed on 16th December 2024 at 12 Noon onwards at Devi Dwara Temple, Malhotra Street, Jammu.



Sh. Jugal Kishore

Forever in Our Hearts:
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Archana (Wife)

Rishab Pradhan (8716955888) , Dhruv Pradhan (Sons)

Brothers and Bhabhi

Sh. Vijay Kumar & Smt. Sakshi Pradhan - 9796624311

Sh. Pankaj Pradhan & Smt. Anjali Pradhan - 9419113009

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bansilal Bakshi (Bhaijaan)** S/o Late Sh. Sarup Chand Bakshi originally resident of Wachi Pulwama (Now Shopian) at present H.No. 440/A, Sec-2, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu on 09-12-2024.



Sh. Bansilal Bakshi
(Bhaijaan)

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** shall be held on Wednesday 18th December 2024 at Akhnoor Ghat.

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

IN GRIEF:
Smt. Vijanti Bakshi -Wife

Smt. Santosh and Bal Krishan Bakshi - Bhabhi & Brother

Doly & K K Bakshi - Daughter-in-law & Son

Princy W/o Late Sh. Behari Lal Bakshi - Daughter-in-law

Sunita & Sh Sanjay Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law

Neetu & Ravi Bakshi - Daughter-in-law & Son

ALSO MOURNING:
BAKSHI, BHAN, BHAT FAMILIES

MOB: 7006763216, 9981253919, 9419110673, 7006276890

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.



Sh. Bushan Lal Kuchroo
(Baiji)

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Basanti Kuchroo (Wife)

Sh. B. K. Kuchroo and Smt. Vijay Laxmi (Brother and Bhabhi)

Smt. Raniji (Bhabhi)

Smt. Chhotiji (Bhabhi)

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

OBITUARY/ 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Phoola Koul W/o Late Sh. Diljeet Koul**, originally from Akura (Mattan)/ H.No. 251, Sector F, Sainik Colony Jammu at Wagoli Pune on 12-12-2024.



SMT. PHOOLA KOUL

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Wagoli Pune on 20th December 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Subashni & Sunil Koul-9682190881

Daughters & Son-in-laws

Ashwin & Anu Koul- 9923184220

Raja & Mannu Koul- 9561534661

SAMAST PARIVAR
(PANDITA'S, BHAT'S & BAMEZAR'S)

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.



Late Rita (Pinky Koul) Mattoo

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

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

We regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. R. D. Sharma** on 6/12/2024.



Sh. Ripu Daman Sharma
Retd. D.F.O

Tenth Day will be performed on 15/12/2024 at Ram Mandir Sainik Colony at 11 AM.

Kriya shall be performed at our residence 603 E Sainik Colony at 12 Noon.

Uthala Rasam Pagri shall be performed at Ram Mandir Sainik Colony on 16/12/2024 at 4 PM- 5PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sudesh Sharma - Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Jatin Sharma & Sonali Sharma

Chain Singh & Rita

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sonia & Sunil Sharma

Brother & Sister-in-law

Sh. Anil & Poonam Sharma

Smt. Sushma Sharma - **Sister-in-law**

Smt. Savita Sharma - **Sister**

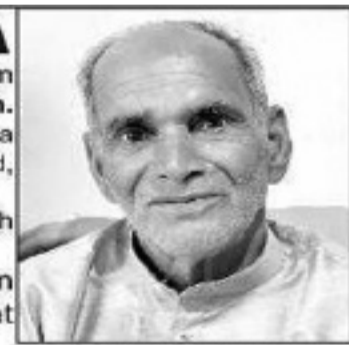
Smt. Manju & Suresh Khajuria - **Sister & Brother-in-law**

Children : Adhrita, Adharv, Muna, Lakshita and Sia

Mob: 9419113883, 9858269127

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.



SH. BHUSHAN LAL BHAT

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

UTHALA

With profound grief we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Puish Lata Gupta [Retd. Lecturer] (Lado)** W/o Late Dr. N. K. Gupta R/o H. No. 155, Ward No. 6, Karan Nagar, Udhampur who has left for the heavenly abode.



Smt. Puish Lata Gupta
(Retd. Lecturer) (Lado)

UTHALA shall be performed on 16th December 2024, i.e. Monday from 3-4 pm at Jagriti Old Age Home near Post Office.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Dr. Dikshit Gupta (Son)

Dr. Shivani Mahajan (Daughter-in-law)

Prikshit Gupta (Son)

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.**



Smt. Usha Ganjoo

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Ramesh Ganjoo - Husband

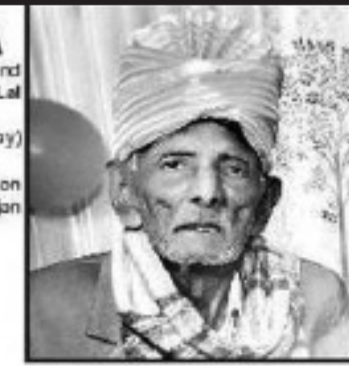
Sheela Ganjoo - Mother-in-law

Rohit Ganjoo - Son

Riya Ganjoo - Daughter

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.



SH. CHARANJEET LAL

Tenth Day will be performed at 11 AM on 12-12-2024 (Thursday) at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Dhakki Sarajan, Link Road.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Leela Wanti - Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Vinod Kalha & Smt. Sunita Kalha

Sh. Naender Kalha & Smt. Ranu Bala

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Swaraj & Sh. Vinod 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

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of **Shri Shiban Lal Raina**, S/o Late Shri Tika Lal Raina (Razdan), Originally from Salla, Anantnag due to tragic road accident.



SHRI SHIBAN LAL RAINA

Mourning will be held at Sathu Niwas, House No.-541, Subash Nagar, (Vika Nagar Lane) Jammu.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Shama Raina (Bhabhi)

(Bhabhi & Brother)

Smt. Shyama Raina & Shri Avtar Krishan Raina (Sister and Brother in law)

Smt. Gya Sathu and Shri Bharat Bhushan Sathu

CHILDREN
Jolly & Rajeev Koul (Daughter & Son in Law)

Ria & Rakesh Razdan (Daughter in law & Son)

Anjali & Suresh Safoya (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)

Anahu & Sandeep Bakaya (Daughter & Son in law)

Contact Number - 7051480624, 9419126767, 9796439821

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Sudesh Kumar Pandita (Ravi Ji)** S/o Sh. Omkar Nath original resident of Bakshiabad, Anantnag at present H.No. 725, Sector 3, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu who passed away on 9/12/2024 at Delhi.



Sh. Sudesh Kumar Pandita (Ravi Ji)

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 18/12/2024 (Wednesday) at Akhnoor and subsequent **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Camp Ghat at 10.00 a.m. on 18/12/2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Omkar Nath Pandita (Father)

Phoola Jee Pandita (Mother)

& Samast Pandita Parivaar

Mobile No.: 9796044991, 8899293467

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 Jitendu Ji) originally resident of Village Bha, District Anantnag. Mourning is being held at Community Hall behind lane number 4, Jagti Colony, Nagrota Jammu.



INDU RAINA (PUMMY)

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Anil Kumar Raina (Husband)

Deepakshi Raina & Kirika Raina (Daughters)

(Mother-in-law & Father-in-law)

Smt. Binla 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

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Chopra W/o Late Sh. Bharat Chaudhary Chopra R/o 361 Sainik Bhawan Rehara Colony Jammu.**



SMT. SANTOSH CHOPRA
W/o Lt. Sh. Bharat Bhushan Chopra

UTHALA - will be performed at Hari Mandir Rahan Colony, Jammu on 16.12.2024 (Monday) at 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON

Smt. Sarika & Sh. Nigam Chopra

Smt. Reshika & Sh. Vishal Chopra

DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Nitin Aggarwal

SISTERS & BROTHER-IN-LAWS

Smt. Sarita Mehra

Smt. Asha &

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BRIEFLY

Light snowfall likely over higher reaches of J-K on Dec 21, 22: MeT

SRINAGAR, Dec 15 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted light snow over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir between December 21 and 22.

Today the weather will remain generally cloudy, while on December 16-17, it will be dry, an official said.

He said on December 18 the weather will remain generally cloudy, while it will be cloudy with mainly dry between December 19 and 20.

The official maintained that there will be generally cloudy with light snow over higher reaches towards late evening/night of December 21 and 22 early morning.

During December 23 to 25, there will be cloudy with dray weather.

He said that cold wave to continue at isolated to scattered places.

While issuing advisory, the official said that in view of fresh snowfall sub-freezing temperature and icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to follow advisories issued by administration and traffic department.

J&K Police arrests two drug peddlers in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession in Srinagar.

Police on Sunday said that a Police party of Urdu Bazar during checking at Budgeer Kawdara crossing arrested two drug peddlers and during their search about 16 grams of charas like substance and 210 gram of ganja like substance was recovered from their possession.

The accused duo has been identified as Milad Bashir Bhat a resident of Dolipora Kawdara and Toyab Ahmad Shekh of Surnai Mohalla Kawdara.

A case FIR No. 53/2024 under relevant sections of NDPS Act stands registered in PS M R Gunj and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Police appealed to the public to report any

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Dynasty politics not 'Lifelong Ticket' to success, politicians remain glorified daily wagers: Omar's advice to Sons

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): Pooh-poohing the BJP's criticism of dynasty politics, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said that political lineage is not a "lifelong ticket" to success and questioned why the ruling party doesn't raise the issue with its allied parties which can also be accused of perpetuating dynasties.

Abdullah was responding to a question during an exclusive interview on Friday with PTI whether his family's fourth generation will go into politics, and if that would expose him to fresh criticism of perpetuating dynastic politics the way the Congress party and other opposition parties have been.

Abdullah's two lawyer sons have recently made forceful political



commentaries, especially on the issue of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that took away Kashmir's special status, an emotive issue among Kashmiris. They also campaigned extensively with their father during the September Assembly elections.

"Whatever space they choose to carve out, they will have to make

for themselves. Nobody is going to give them anything on a plate," said Abdullah, whose grandfather Sheikh Abdullah is considered the founding father of the post-independence state of Jammu and Kashmir.

His father Farooq Abdullah was also a chief minister for decades, and Omar Abdullah returned as chief minister for a second time in October.

"Belonging to a political family is not a lifelong ticket for success. And I don't need to point towards anybody else. I'll just talk about myself. I lost an election this year," he said, referring to his failed bid in the Parliamentary elections earlier this year.

However, he contested in the

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Pakistani drone with narcotics seized near IB in Jammu



JAMMU, Dec 15 (Agencies): A Pakistani drone carrying nearly half a kg of high-grade narcotic substance was seized by the Border Security Force near the International Border here, officials said on Sunday.

The quadcopter entered India from across the border and

was seized from the Chinaz Border Outpost area in the Arnia sector late Saturday, they said.

Confirming the recovery, a BSF spokesperson said a smuggling attempt was foiled by the alert troops with the successful interception of the Pakistani drone along with 495 grams of narcotic substance

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Punjab DGP, Central Govt representative, meet farmer leader Dallewal

CHANDIGARH, Dec 15 (Agencies): Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav accompanied by Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs Mayank Mishra on Sunday met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on fast-unto-death to press the Centre to accept the demands of farmers, and enquired about his health.

The 70-year-old Dallewal, a cancer patient, has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 to press the Centre to accept the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP on crops.

Speaking to reporters, Yadav said, "We came to enquire about the health of Dallewal."

Government of India's representative Mayank Mishra was specially sent here, he added.

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AAP releases final list: Kejriwal to contest from New Delhi, Atishi fielded from Kalkaji

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has released its fourth and final list of candidates for the remaining 38 seats on Sunday. According to the list, party's national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will contest from the New Delhi constituency, while Delhi Chief Minister Atishi will contest from the Kalkaji constituency. The Assembly elections are scheduled for Febru-



ary, 2025. However, the Election Commission is yet to announce the date for polls.

Notably, the former Delhi Chief Minister will contest from the New

Delhi Assembly constituency for the fourth time. AAP has been in power in the national capital since 2013, when it formed the government for 49 days. In 2015, it won 67 seats and in 2020 it won 62 seats.

In a post on X, Kejriwal expressed confidence in the party and wrote, "The party is contesting elections with full confidence and full preparation. The BJP is

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LG Sinha felicitates langar organizations & NGOs for Amarnath Yatra 2024 services



JAMMU, Dec 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha on Sunday felicitated members of Langar Organizations & NGOs participated in offering Food, Langar (Community Kitchen) & other services to pilgrims during

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Simultaneous Election Plan Will 'Erase' Political Voice Of J&K: PDP's Para

SRINAGAR, Dec 15 (Agencies): PDP leader Waheed Para on Sunday said the 'one nation one election' (ONOE) plan directly "threatens" the political, legal and cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

The youth president of the PDP said the plan will erase "whatever remains" of the political voice of Jammu and Kashmir.

"One Election (ONOE) proposal! This is not just

an administrative shift; it directly threatens the political, cultural, and legal identity of Jammu and Kashmir," Para, the MLA from Pulwama, said in a post on his X handle.

"Our region has long fought for its distinct voice and identity. The revocation of Article 370 was a blow, and ONOE risks erasing what little remains of our political voice. At the heart of the issue is the erosion of regional autonomy

across India. Jammu and Kashmir has unique issues—like restoration of Article 370 and 35A, the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, land rights—that cannot be lumped into national debates," he said.

"These concerns will be lost in the national political noise, leaving us with no room to address our specific needs. ONOE threatens to silence our voices, allowing national issues to dominate and

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Cyber Cell crack multiple financial frauds in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Dec 15 (Agencies): Cyber Cell of District Police Kupwara have successfully resolved multiple cases of online financial fraud, recovering a total of Rs 1,55,208.

In July 2024, the Cyber Cell of Kupwara Police received a complaint regarding an online earning fraud in which the complainant was duped of Rs 84,380.

Acting swiftly, the Cyber Cell collected evidence and information from the victim. Using

advanced cyber tactics, the team successfully recovered the entire amount of Rs 84,380, which was credited back to the victim's account.

Another case was reported in December 2024, involving an online financial fraud of Rs 1,01,196. The victim received a fraudulent call posing as Jio Customer Care, asking them to recharge their SIM for Rs 10. Following the recharge, the victim's bank account was debited by Rs

1,01,196. Upon receiving the complaint, the Cyber Cell collected evidence and analysed the case. Cyber Cell successfully recovered Rs 65,418 from a merchant where the fraudster had ordered an Apple iPhone 15, and this amount was credited back to the victim's account.

In a separate incident, a complainant lost Rs 5,430 after searching for jobs online and unknowingly sharing credentials

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Gupshup

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Air-Conditioner Rooms with attach Bathroom
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Room No: 2

Room No: 3

Room No: 4

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Contact for Kitty Parties, Birthday Parties and other parties
Contact: 9086072548, Email: gupshupjammu@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

ROLE OF YOUTH

Youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of a society. They are the architects of a nation's future and the backbone of its progress. The role of youth in nation-building cannot be overstated, as their energy, innovation, and passion have the potential to transform the socio-economic and political landscape of any country. In a nation like India, with one of the largest youth populations in the world, empowering and engaging the youth is essential for achieving sustainable development and creating a robust, progressive society.

The youth have always been at the forefront of change, driving revolutions and shaping the course of history. Their ability to think critically, challenge the status quo, and innovate makes them natural catalysts for progress. From Mahatma Gandhi's leadership during India's independence struggle to modern-day social and technological revolutions, young people have played pivotal roles in defining the nation's identity and aspirations.

In today's world, youth are leading the charge on critical issues such as climate change, gender equality, digital innovation, and social justice. Their enthusiasm and determination can bring about positive transformations, provided they are given the right opportunities and support.

Education is the cornerstone of youth empowerment. An educated youth population is better equipped to contribute to a nation's development through their knowledge, skills, and innovative ideas. In this era of globalization and technological advancement, the emphasis must be placed on skill-based and vocational education to make young people industry-ready.

Moreover, education fosters critical thinking and social awareness, enabling youth to understand their responsibilities as citizens. Civic education should be integrated into the curriculum to instill values such as patriotism, tolerance, and respect for diversity, which are crucial for nation-building in a pluralistic society like India.

In the digital age, technology is a powerful tool for change, and youth are at the forefront of leveraging it. From startups to digital activism, young innovators are reshaping industries and addressing societal challenges through technology. India's thriving startup ecosystem, led by young entrepreneurs, has positioned the country as a global hub for innovation.

The government's initiatives, such as "Startup India" and "Digital India," have provided a platform for young minds to innovate and contribute to economic growth. Youth-driven technological advancements in fields like artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and healthcare hold the potential to address critical challenges and propel the nation toward sustainable development.

Active participation of youth in politics and governance is vital for creating a responsive and inclusive democracy. While traditionally seen as a domain for experienced leaders, politics needs the energy, fresh perspectives, and progressive thinking of young people. Youth engagement in politics ensures that policies reflect the aspirations and needs of the younger generation.

Programs such as mock parliaments, youth parliaments, and leadership training initiatives can prepare young people for active roles in governance. Political parties and civil society organizations must also create opportunities for youth to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

Youth are uniquely positioned to address social challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality, and corruption. Their ability to mobilize communities and use digital platforms to raise awareness has proven effective in bringing about social change. Initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have seen enthusiastic participation from young volunteers, showcasing their commitment to creating a cleaner and healthier nation.

Moreover, youth-led organizations and movements focused on issues like environmental conservation, mental health, and women's empowerment are making significant contributions to societal well-being. By channeling their energy into such initiatives, young people can drive progress at the grassroots level.

Sports play a crucial role in nation-building by fostering unity, discipline, and a sense of pride. Youth engagement in sports not only promotes physical and mental well-being but also nurtures leadership and teamwork skills. Indian athletes, many of whom are young, have brought glory to the nation on international platforms, inspiring millions and strengthening national identity.

Investing in sports infrastructure and providing opportunities for young athletes, particularly in rural areas, can unlock the potential of youth and contribute to national development.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Really a good news for NDA/BJP as the Hindutva strong proponent of Shiv Sena [UBT] Uddhav Thackeray is all set to return back to NDA fold as the hints for the home coming are given by the newly anointed chief minister Devendra Fadnavis of the industrial capital of the country- Maharashtra .At last Uddhav will be returning to NDA fold and there is no doubt about this home coming happening within few days as revealed by no less a leader than the new chief minister Fadnavis who is a strong face of the saffron party .In fact Devendra Fadnavis drops big hint on ex-ally's ghar wapsi. The alliance between BJP and Shiv Sena fell out after Uddhav Thackeray decided to walk out of the NDA in 2019 and formed government in partnership with the Congress and NCP .Now it is after a long gap of more than five years that Shiv Sena[UBT] leader will be returning to his original place which is the real home of the natural and ideological alliance of the BJP and Shiv Sena.It is now a matter of few days and Uddhav Thackeray will be back to NDA.Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said former ally Uddhav Thackeray 's Shiv Sena inherently had a "Saffron DNA" and there was bound to be some level of discomfort among leaders of his party over the "green clock "that he had taken over his head .During an interaction with CNN-News 18 a day after taking oath as the 18th CM ,Fadnavis was asked whether he believed it was possible that Uddhav and his faction of the Shiv Sena could realign with the NDA. Fadnavis said while Mahayuti enjoyed absolute majority in the assembly ,rendering the Sena[UBT]'s presence meaningless ,Uddhav and his party were inherently driven by the Hindutva ideology at its core. "Mahayuti has a clear majority in the state .But Uddhav Thackeray is driven by the Hindutva ideology

Ghar Wapsi of Uddhav Thackeray

but has covered himself with a green clock .It is natural for leaders of his faction of the Sena to be uncomfortable with it,"Fadnavis said .Notably ,the BJP and Shiv Sena had been long-term allies until Uddhav decided to walk out of the alliance after the Assembly polls in 2019 over his demand to be made chief minister after the NDA won a majority in the state .The Shiv Sena [then undivided] formed a government in alliance with the Congress and NCP also then [undivided] with Uddhav as the chief minister .Less than half way into his term ,Uddhav had to step down ahead of a court -ordered floor test after Eknath Shinde led a rebellion against the then CM and joined hands with the BJP along with majority of the Shiv Sena's MLA's .The BJP and Shinde Sena formed a government and Shinde was appointed as the Chief Minister while Fadnavis took the oath as his deputy .Ajit Pawar did a 'Shinde' on his uncle Sharad Pawar and spilt the NCP to join NDA less than a year later and eventually became the deputy CM as well .Asked who between the Shiv Sena and NCP he saw as a natural alliance partner for the BJP ,Fadnavis said , "The alliance with Shiv Sena is natural .With NCP ,it is a political alliance ."Ghar Wapsi is on cards? Uddhav Thackeray is in touch with Shinde camp MP's after polls .The next challenge for Shinde was the state assembly elections later this year .These elections will decide which Shiv Sena faction is the real one Shinde's or Thackeray's .After the recent Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra ,there were reports that some MP's from Eknath Shinde's Shiv sena Party were in touch with Uddhav Thackeray .They may want to leave Shinde's party and join Thackeray's party again .According to news channel ABP News ,several MP's from Shinde's Shiv Sena are talking to Uddhav Thackeray .They may be planning to switch sides and go back to Thackeray's party called Shiv Sena UBT .Political experts say these MP's are consider-

ing rejoining Thackeray because Shinde's party did not do well in the Lok Sabha elections .However, it is not clear exactly how many MP's are in contact with Thackeray .Congress leader Supriya Shrinete shared a video clip about these reports on social media .She said, "According to sources Many MP's of Shiv Sena Shinde are in contact with Uddhav Thackeray ."These reports have led to the speculation that there could be a big shift in Maharashtra politics if MP's leave Shinde's party to join Thackeray's party again .In the recent elections, Shinde's Shiv Sena won 7 out of the 15 Lok Sabha seats it contested in Maharashtra .But it lost two seats in Mumbai to Thackeray's rival party Shiv Sena UBT. The most pertinent question is will Uddhav Thackeray bounce back to NDA ?Shiv Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray has been suffering from one setback after another .The first was when Eknath Shinde raised the banner of revolt against Thackeray along with over 30 MLA's and pulled down the MVA government helmed by him .In a way ,Thackeray had violated a solemn assurance given by his late father and Sena pramukh Bal Thackeray .Uddhav Thackeray's bold decision to challenge the BJP in 2019 and form an alliance with the Congress and NCP has resulted in a significant electoral setback in the Maharashtra assembly elections ,where his Shiv Sena UBT secured only 20 out of 95 contested seats .He expressed surprise at the electorate's dramatic shift in preference ,considering their rejection of the BJP -led alliance merely five months ago in Lok Sabha elections .The political journey of Bal Thackeray's reserved son has been notable .He successfully overcame challenges from Narayan Rane and his cousin Raj Thackeray ,eventually becoming Maharashtra's chief minister in November 2019 after dissolving the long -standing BJP alliance post assembly elections .During the covid -19 crisis ,Uddhav established a strong con-

nection with the public through social media platforms like Facebook ,presenting himself as a reassuring leader .Despite receiving acclaim for his pandemic management ,he failed to recognize growing dissatisfaction within his party regarding the alliance with the former ideological opponents. Eknath Shinde' rebellion in June 2022 resulted in his governments collapse and party split .Nevertheless ,Uddhav maintained his criticism of the BJP ,Prime Minister Narendra Modi ,and those he termed 'traitors' who aligned with Shinde .His party 's performance in the Lok Sabha elections was modest ,winning nine out of 21 contested seats .Critics have pointed out his limited accessibility ,with even ally Sharad Pawar commenting on his tendency to work from home during his chief ministership .However Uddhav gained support from previously distant communities ,including Muslims and Dalits ,and developed his own distinctive speaking style ,different from his father's but equally sharp .Following the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance's decisive victory ,CM Eknath Sinda declared it settled the question of Shiv Sena's legitimate leadership .The 64 year old Uddhav and his son Aaditya now face the task of maintaining their support base and challenging Shinde's claim to Bal Thackeray's legacy while defending their alliance with the secular Congress and NCP .Any way ,Shiv Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray is set to switch to ruling BJP-led NDA any time in near future and the indications about home coming of Uddhav has been given by the newly anointed chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis and his words are not without meaning and political sense.

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

PRINCIPLES OF A HEALTHY DIET

By: Surinderpal Singh

Today in the age of ever-growing science and technology mankind has been blessed with a boon. The boon which provided luxury, safety, enjoyment and cheerful life. diet has been an integral part of mankind from the initials days of humans. with fast paced life mankind has been affected by various disease. the premier reason behind the humans sufferings is diet. in order to live a long and healthy one needs to have a check on diet. the principles of healthy diet are discussed below .

1.Quality food choices
Diet should be labeled healthy only if it is fresh ,natural and unprocessed. one should shift focus to organic products to reduce ingestion of toxic pesticides and ultra harmful chemicals in order to preserve nutrients diet should contain whole-grain over refined and processed food. Storage and cooking time

needs to be readjusted to cater healthy diet.

2.Variety

In order to obtain antioxidants, vitamins ,minerals and phtonutrients one needs a variety of foods consisting of vegetables, plants,

cereals, sea food and flesh.

3.calories chart

A healthy diet should have proper and balanced proportion of essentials nutrients .calorie requirements needs to be relooked according to one's age, gender, height, weight and activity level.

4.Sugar level

Over intake of sugar could leads to deadly diseases like diabetes . obesity, heart failures, mood swings ,improper immune function and other health complications. So to prevent the deadly diseases one should have a check on sugar, artificial sweetners aspartame, saccharins.

Stevie which is a natural sweetners obtained from plants should be used .

5.Water

Water is necessary to regu-

late body temperature and in transportation of essential nutrients throughout the body.

a balanced diet should have sufficient water as it's integral part because it also helps to remove body wastes.

6.Salt

Salt or sodium chloride plays pivotal role in maintaining health. It helps to maintain body fluid balance and aids muscles and nerve functions. Diet should be made in such a manner that quantity of salts should be reduced from diet but with an eye on potassium and sodium levels.

7.Fibers

Fiber is an integral part of essential nutrients which aids to keep an check on cancers, blood sugar levels, bowel movements and weight management.

8.Caffeine

caffeine has gained popularity amongst people but it's over intake is promoting calcium losses from bones, increased blood pressure, infertility in women's, insomnia,

anxieties and tremors.

9.Alcohol

Alcohol when used in moderate consumption may have some benefits but it's over drinking could leads to liver failures, cardiovascular disease, cancers, impotence, pancreatitis, anxiety and tremors.

10.Small meals

In order to improve metabolism and blood sugar balance one needs to have small meals and they too be should be taken at proper intervals.

So last but not the least one needs to have realization of its calorie needs .then steps should be taken to make food changes as per above choices. By following a healthy diet one can have more energy in healthy body residing with better mood.

*Surinderpal Singh
M.Sc (Mathematics)
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Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans delivers religious sermons

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: During the Sat-sang on the occasion of Poornima in Ranjdi, Jammu, Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi shared profound insights about the secret name with the congregation that had gathered from far and wide. He explained that the true name is the ultimate essence of spirituality. Citing Kabir Sahib's words, he stated that the one who knows this secret name is the true Guru. This name, though present in everyone, remains hidden until revealed by the Sadguru.

Sadguru Ji elaborated on how one receives this name. Referring to Kabir Sahib, he explained that when a person connects with the immortal world, they attain the true essence of life. He illustrated this concept with the analogy of the Anal bird, which lives in the sky and derives its energy from the wind. He explained that all elements—air, fire, water, and earth—are interconnected, originating from the sky element. The Anal bird's strength from the air signifies how life itself sustains through the unseen energies around us.

Sadguru Ji described the Anal bird's unique reproductive process. The bird lays its eggs high in the sky, and as the eggs fall, they are nourished during their descent.



By the time the young bird emerges, it develops eyes and wings and instinctively knows that the earth is not its home. Without assistance from its parents, it flies upward toward the sky, demonstrating an inherent wisdom encoded in its DNA.

He drew parallels with the turtle, whose female lays eggs on the shore, carefully ensuring they are protected from predators and waves. Once hatched, the baby turtles instinctively make their way to the sea without guidance, driven by an innate knowledge embedded in their DNA. Similarly, he emphasized, the soul possesses the inherent power to reach God. The human body, being a rare and precious gift, serves as the doorway to salvation.

Sadguru Ji highlighted that just as the turtles and Anal birds instinctively follow their destined path, the soul has an innate capability to seek and unite with God. However, this journey requires the guidance of a perfect Guru. The secret name is not something that can be spoken, written, or heard. It is a spiritual essence beyond the physical senses, imparted only by a Sadguru with Paras Surati (divine touch).

Explaining further, he said that when a disciple merges with this divine power through the Guru's guidance, they attain extraordinary strength and spiritual transformation. Unlike the Paras stone, which turns iron into gold but cannot make gold like itself, a true Saint transforms the disciple to be like himself. This profound teaching, rooted in Kabir Sahib's philosophy, underscores the unique role of the Sadguru in leading the soul to its ultimate destination.

Sadguru Ji concluded by urging the congregation to recognize the importance of the Guru, disciple, and God coming together in devotion. He emphasized that the soul's ability to reach God is a divine attribute, and through the grace of the Sadguru, one can overcome the wandering of the soul and find the essence of the true name, leading to ultimate salvation.

Tilak Shan demands CM to approve free 300 units of electric tariff in Chenab region

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: Tilak Shan, Shiv Sena UBT's contested candidate from West Doda (53 Constituency), has raised a significant concern regarding the lack of benefits provided to the residents of Chenab Valley despite the region being a hub of power generation projects. In a statement, he appealed to National Conference leader Omar Abdullah to address this issue if his party forms the government.

Tilak Shan highlighted that Chenab Valley generates thousands of megawatts (MW) of electricity through projects like Dul Hasti and Baglihar, managed by NHPC and JKSPDC. However, the electricity produced is supplied to other states, and the residents of Chenab Valley have not been provided even a single



unit of free electricity. He lamented that while these corporations earn crores of rupees from these projects, the local population continues to be deprived of any tangible benefits. He urged Omar Abdullah to ensure that the matter is addressed in the first cabinet meeting if the National

Conference comes to power. Specifically, Shan requested approval for providing 300 units of free electricity to Chenab Valley residents, citing the vast contribution of the region to power generation through projects such as Pakkal Dul, Keeru, Kwar, and Rattle, which collectively have a capacity exceeding 8,000 MW. He also mentioned the extensive land acquisition for future projects like Burser, Karthai, and Sawalkote, which has significantly impacted local communities.

Shan emphasized that it is unjust for the residents of a region contributing so much to the state's economy to remain without adequate compensation or benefits. He called for immediate action to rectify this disparity and ensure the residents of Chenab Valley are fairly accommodated.

15th State Level Speedball Championship concludes

Rich Harvest School remains overall champion

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: The two-day Speedball Championship organized by the J&K Sports Speedball Association concluded on a high note at Sukh Sagar Bhawan, showcasing the talents of around 500 players from various schools across the districts of Samba, Kathua, and Jammu. The event brought together students from different institutions, promoting sportsmanship and competitive spirit in the youth of Jammu Province.

The closing ceremony was graced by the presence of Sh. Vikram Randhawa, MLA Gandhi Nagar, as the Chief Guest. Pooja Malhotra, Founder Patron of JKSSB, presided over the event, while Asha Wali, Principal of Kinder Nest Playway School, and Munish Gupta, Vice President, were the Special Guests of the evening. Other prominent attendees included S. Ajeet Singh Soni, MD of DRS Gandhi Nagar. Sr. Sucha Singh, Event Director JKSSB, and Subedar Karanchand, along with other members of the association.

During the ceremony, medals and certificates were distributed among the winners by Vikram Randhawa and the association members. In his address, Randhawa lauded the efforts of the J&K Sports Speedball Association for organizing such a remarkable championship, which provides a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills.

The championship saw participation



from several schools, with standout performances from institutions such as SD Tara Puri Public High School, May Fair High Secondary School, New Era Mother High School, Shiksha Niketan High School, Dogra High Secondary School, Shubh Memorial International School, Akhnoor, KB Public School, Global Convent School, Renu International High School, Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua, Mount Litera Zee School, Kartar Public School, Kathua, Minerva High School, Kathua, DAV School, Kathua, and Sai International School, Kathua.

The matches were officiated by an experienced team of referees, including Renu Devi, Sahil Janjua, Sandeep Sharma, Shivang, Suchit Kumar, Kailash, Sahil Kaith, Vishal Kumar, Yogant Singh, Monty, Mayank Mahajan,

Raghu, Amer Kushal, and Gurvansh Choudhary, who ensured fair play and smooth conduct of the matches.

Looking ahead, the medal winners from this championship will represent the region in the National Speedball Championship, scheduled to take place in January 2025. This opportunity will allow these young athletes to showcase their talent on a national platform, further boosting their confidence and career prospects in sports.

The event was hosted by Vanshika Manhas, who added charm and enthusiasm to the proceedings. The championship concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Pooja Malhotra, who expressed her gratitude to the organizers, participants, and supporters for making the event a resounding success.

Pankaj Sharma delivers solo act on 'Marriage and Reconciliation'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: Natrang today presented a new play "Yeh Meri Wife Hai" as part of its popular weekly theatre series "Sunday Theatre" at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu.

The play, written by Azra Choudhary and Pankaj Sharma, was also directed and performed by Pankaj Sharma, who showcased his acting prowess by skillfully enacting multiple roles as the sole performer.

Pankaj Sharma is one of the senior actors of Natrang who has dedicated over 35 years to the service of theatre. Known for brilliant comedy performances in the plays like Ghumayee, Kanjoos, Bagia Bancha Ram Ki and Saiyan Bhaye Kotwal, Pankaj always mesmerises audiences with his outstanding histri-

onics. Presented in Hindustani, the play compellingly highlights the shifting paradigms of husband-wife relationships, transitioning from early affectionate years to the challenges and bitterness that arise due to family responsibilities, financial pressures, and changing priorities.

The storyline focuses on Som Nath, a middle-class man, and his wife as they navigate the trials of married life. Initially filled with joy, affection, and companionship, their relationship begins to deteriorate with the increasing pressures of raising children and managing daily routines. Misunderstandings and conflicts gradually consume their bond, and years are wasted in blame and regret. However, with time and after their children settle in life,

the couple finally reconciles and rediscovers happiness, realizing the importance of mutual understanding and shared responsibilities.

The play draws inspiration from Rolin Foreman's "A Play of Fools" and creatively reimagines the themes of love, struggle, and rediscovery in relationships. Pankaj Sharma's solo performance brought depth and emotion to the narrative, allowing the audience to connect with the universal challenges and triumphs of married life. His powerful portrayal of multiple characters kept the viewers engaged while evoking introspection on the complexities of human relationships.

The play was supported by Neeraj Kant, who executed the lighting design with precision, enhancing the emotional and dramatic

tone of the performance. The show was efficiently coordinated by Mohd Yaseen.

Natrang's Sunday Theatre series continues its legacy of presenting thought-provoking and engaging performances that reflect societal themes and human emotions. By providing a platform for artists to showcase their creativity and talent, Natrang reinforces its commitment to promoting meaningful theatre and cultural enrichment in the region.

The play "Yeh Meri Wife Hai" captivated the audience with its relatable narrative and heartfelt message, leaving a lasting impact. It reminded viewers of the significance of love, understanding, and reconciliation in navigating the inevitable challenges of life and relationships.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH
TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 217 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:- 12-12-2024 3rd Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Construction of B/path/P/work Kulbel to Masjid Ratheran Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.00	200	6000	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 18-12-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Construction of B/path/P/work near I/o Shakoor Bhat Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.50	200	5000	20 days			
3	Construction of B/path/P/work Near L/o Abdul Hamid Rather Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days			
4	Construction of Toilet Complex near the H/O Zarifa Begum W/o Late Mohd Bashir W No 2 Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.30	200	4600	20 days			
5	Construction of Pacca Path in W.No. 01 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days			
6	Construction of Pacca Drain from L/o Zulfiqar to Ali Mohd W.No. 03 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days			
7	Construction of Pacca Path in W.No. 6 Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.00	200	4000	20 days			
8	B/Wall Moh Shian W.No 2 Nr. H/o Shoket Ali Mir Pyl. Palera-B Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		0.98	200	1960	30 days			
9	Tractor Road from Hayat Nagar to Narbal W.No 10 Pyl. Tantraygam Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		3.00	200	6000	30 days			
10	Construction of Ruarsi Haat at Thari W.No 09 Pyl. Brachar Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		3.44	300	6880	30 days			
11	View Point at Dharranwali Dhok Pyl. Loyal Bella Block Loran Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.97	200	5940	30 days			
12	Culvert at Link Road Moh. Nalla Malika W.No. 5 Pyl. Arai Malikan Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		1.98	200	3960	30 days			
13	Construction of R/wall Near H/o Abdul Haq Pyl. Poshana-A Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	2.50	200	5000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 18-12-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
14	Construction of Toilet Complex Graveyard Nr. L/o Mohd Rizaz S/o Ahmed Din Pansar Pyl. Dogran Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
15	R/Wall Mohalla Upper Chamber Lona Nr. Mohd Ibarim and others Pyl. Chamber kinar Block Mandi Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 rd Call		1.96	200	3920	20 days			
16	Construction of Two Additional Room at Block Development Officer Mendhar with Toilet and Kitchen Pyl. Gohlad Mustafa Nagar Lower Block Mendhar Under CD and Pyl. Year 2024-25 3 rd call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	8.50	600	17000	40 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 18-12-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	CEE/ DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
17	Construction of Compound Wall P/Work at Sakhi Maidan W.No. 8 Pyl. Sakhi Maidan Block Mendhar Under CD and Pyl. Year 2024-25 3 rd call		3.00	200	6000	30 days			
18	Construction of Tractor Road Soked to Khaat W No 03 Pyl. Gursai Tamvi Block Mendhar Under CD and Pyl. Year 2024-25 3 rd call		2.40	200	4800	30 days			

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in Reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

- The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.
- Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-12-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12-12-2024 to 17-12-2024, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	12-12-2024 from 1855 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	17-12-2024 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	18-12-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual KB" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. No:- XEN/REW/P/3278-88

Dated:- 12-12-2024

DIP/J-8119/24

Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

Kangana Ranaut on why South films are outshining Hindi movies: 'Bollywood running after six pack abs, hot babe, bike'

Kangana Ranaut has offered her perspective on the recent trend of South Indian films outperforming their Bollywood counterparts at the box office. According to the actor, one key reason for this disparity lies in the fact that many Hindi films have become increasingly disconnected from reality.

Kangana shares her view during a session at agency, Kangana was asked about the reason behind the massive success of Allu Arjun's Pushpa franchise, comparing it to the business situation in Bollywood. "Pehele toh mujhe nahi lagta ke Bollywood or Hindi cinema ne mainstream hone ka theka liya hua hai (I don't think Bollywood can be dubbed as mainstream). They are not mainstream by any standard. Our films should be defined as the Indian film industry, one industry in which every type of audience is addressed," Kangana said.

Kangana decoded the success of Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2 by emphasising how he plays the role of a daily wage earner.



"People in Bollywood live in a bubble. And that is one of the biggest reasons I have a problem with them. Kyunki yeh log bubble se nikalna nahi chahte han (They don't want to come out of the bubble). All they need is to go to the gym, take protein shakes, take injections. They don't have any connection with

reality," she said. According to Kangana, no one from Bollywood would have agreed to the role that Allu Arjun plays in the film. "Inko chaiyeh six pack abs, hot babe, beach, bike, item number bas bahut hai (They want six pack abs, hot babe, beaches, bike and item numbers. That's

enough for them)... It is important to have a reality check," she ended.

About Pushpa franchise Pushpa: The Rise was released in 2021 and was a pan-India success. The film grossed over 136 crore in Telugu and an additional 106 crore net in the Hindi-dubbed version. It emerged as Allu Arjun's highest-grossing film ever. The film and its songs gained popularity in the Hindi-speaking belt as well.

Now, Allu Arjun, along with Rashmika Mandanna, has come back with Pushpa 2: The Rule. The sequel moves forward showing how Pushpa Raj now runs the red sanders smuggling syndicate after growing from a daily wage worker. Rashmika plays his wife, Srivalli, who stands up for him against his estranged family. Fahadh Faasil is seen as a police officer Bhanwar Singh Shekawat, who is still reeling from the humiliation he faced in Pushpa: The Rise. The film ends by setting up a new story for Pushpa 3: The Ram-page.

I enjoyed breathing and living Tara: Ridhiema Tiwari on her character in Choices



Ridhiema Tiwari makes her OTT debut with Sara Khan's Choices on Shemaroo. About her character, she said, "I play Tara in the series—a strong-headed modern woman who is opinionated and well-spoken, righteous and ethical at work. She's a thorough workaholic and is an equally loving and responsible daughter. I enjoyed breathing and living Tara and expressing through her my most honest emotions."

Having been a part of the big screen with Begum Jaan, she is grateful for the opportunities she got and shared that she doesn't mind the platform as long as she gets to showcase her craft. "The challenge to keep up with changing times in the entertainment industry and the ability to evolve as an actor is a constant journey," she added.

Rock legend Bryan Adams delivers an unforgettable performance in Gurugram

Rock icon Bryan Adams took to the stage last night at the Backyard Sports Club in Gurugram, delivering an unforgettable performance that resonated deeply with his fans. The event, part of his So Happy It Hurts India Tour, saw a packed crowd of 15,000 fans, all eager to witness the legendary singer-songwriter in action.

The 65-year-old singer captivated the audience with a nearly two-hour show filled with high-energy hits and emotionally charged ballads. The setlist was a carefully curated journey through four decades of musical excellence. The concert kicked off with Kick-Ass, a track from his latest album So Happy It Hurts.

From there, Adams seamlessly transitioned through a mix of crowd-pleasers, including classics like Summer of '69, Run to You, and Can't Stop This Thing We Started, while also including heartfelt ballads such as Please Forgive Me and All For Love.

The audience's enthusiasm never



wavered, with fans singing along, creating an electric atmosphere that matched the high intensity of the performance. In a unique twist, the show was further personalised by including fan-requested songs. Requests were sourced from both online submissions and signs held by audience members.

One of the evening's most memorable moments occurred when Adams walked through the crowd midway through the show, serenading fans from the sound console.

Sharvari: 2024 has been a dream come true with Munjya, Vedaa and Maharaj

Sharvari has had a successful year as an actor, and she couldn't be any more "grateful". Not only did Munjya fetch her the box-office numbers, but Vedaa and Maharaj also got her critics' nod for her acting chops. "This year has been incredible and it's been a dream come true. I am more grateful for the timing [of this successful period] than anything else," the 27-year-old tells us.

Despite her recent milestones, the actor is relatively new in the space. What is it like to be a newcomer in the industry? "It is exciting because you can experiment a little more. Because you are



a young actor, everything has a sense of novelty. People you are working with and even the genres you're part of feel new. Also, there is so much to learn on set... The passion [of a newcomer] should definitely be preserved," she shares.

Looking ahead, the actor feels both excited and nervous as she is set to headline Alpha, a project that is currently under production, alongside Alia Bhatt: "The film stems from the Spy Universe franchise, and it is headlined by superstars such as Alia. For me to be the youngest actor is a very big deal. I treat it like a responsibility

because there is a lot that rides on my shoulders. So, I just want to deliver."

Sharvari, who completed a shooting schedule for Alpha in Kashmir, has also been taking up various training sessions for her upcoming role. Ask her about the same, and she responds, "I have been training for a very long time now. In fact, even before the film was announced or given to me, I was given an action-oriented audition. At that time, Adi (Aditya Chopra, producer of Alpha) sir wanted to see if I could pull off the genre and whether I was able to learn. Now, we train every day."

Sidhant Gupta reveals why he disappeared from social media before Freedom At Midnight

Actor Sidhant Gupta is revelling in the good reviews for his portrayal of former Indian prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the web show Freedom At Midnight. "Thankfully I'm just finding my way into meeting these directors that are seeing these great characters in me. It feels like I'm doing what I came here to do. Of course, it's a dream," he says.

In today's political scenario, where a lot of political projects are considered propaganda, he believes the show, set in the pre-partition era, didn't add in the narrative, and that's what appealed to him. "When I read the script, it felt right. It felt like this seems the truth on paper, and when I did my research, all the facts and all the reality checks of that time, everything just aligned. So, I knew that this was the right thing to do. I was just amazed that our writers had really captured that essence of those people who were misunderstood along the way. That felt like the greatest risk and

the greatest responsibility of my life. These are the superheroes of our history, there are no bigger characters than them," he asserts.

Getting a chance to play a 56-year-old Nehru on screen at the age of 35, Sidhant Gupta considers it a huge privilege. He says, "I fell in love with Jawaharlal Nehru and what he stood for. But I saw there were a lot of weird things that people keep saying about him. It's not respectful enough and these men deserve all the respect, and that became my mission to portray him in a way that earned him all the respect possible."

After Jubilee last year and before the release of Freedom At Midnight, the actor disappeared from the public eye for almost a year-and-a-half. Ask him why and he says, "Jubilee gave me all the acceptance and love. Why that happened was because I was able to perform with all my heart, and that needs a lot. It requires you to just invest everything that you have in you, towards the char-



acter. So, all the other aspects of wanting to be seen in that time in the middle and keeping up with appearances take a backseat. I needed to just disconnect in order to get things right for my role in Freedom At Midnight. My understanding is that if a project comes in which makes a mark, then everything falls into place like it happened with Jubilee. So, it's fine if I disappear because when I appear, I'll appear right."

With both these shows, the web medium has given Sidhant a huge push and recognition in his career. Does he agree? "OTT has given this entire country a big boost. Now we're suddenly experiencing the cinematic delight in the smallest as well as the biggest stories. Otherwise, our senses were prone to just a very average way of looking at cinema. Not to demean anyone, but there are more opportunities and thus more talented people are coming in. People are more aware of great performances, and appreciate it," he responds.

Kamya Panjabi shares her perspective on finding balance



In today's fast-paced world, where professional demands often overshadow personal life, popular actress Kamya Panjabi shares her perspective on finding balance. Kamya, who portrays the intrigu-

ing character of Mohini in Sun Neo's show Ishq Jabariya, opens up about the challenges of her profession and how she ensures quality time with her family.

Kamya says, "In fields where this balance is

being implemented, it's a very good thing. But in our field, acting and television, it's very demanding. You need to work long hours, plus there's the travel. Because we have to deliver six or seven episodes a week due to high demand, the supply also has to match. How do I balance it? I think with altered weekends or at least one day off. I try to adjust my schedule. Sometimes, I am let off early, or the work gets done on time, so it doesn't get too hectic. This way, I can make time for my family and also have some personal time."

The Ishq Jabariya actress added, "Spend time with your family. It's very important for mental health. For me, spending time with family is non-negotiable. At home, phones are not allowed at the dinner table. We spend that time talking to each other. Even after my shoot, when I go home, my mother will sit with me. I ensure that my daughter is also engaged in these conversations. We talk about so many things."

Govt Committed To End Naxalism In Chhattisgarh By March 2026: Amit Shah

RAIPUR, Dec 15 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre and the Chhattisgarh government were committed to eradicate the menace of Naxalism from the state before March 31, 2026.

When Chhattisgarh becomes free of Naxalism, the entire country will get rid of the menace, Shah said addressing the President's Police Colour Award function at the Police Parade Ground in Raipur.

The Chhattisgarh police have made a significant achievement in the fight against Naxalism in the last one year, he said.

Shah also hailed the Chhattisgarh government's rehabilitation policy for Naxalites and appealed to them to quit violence and join the mainstream.

"The state leadership, the chief minister, the home minister of the state have taken a pledge and the Government of India is also committed to your pledge. Together, we will completely eradicate Naxalism from Chhattisgarh before



March 31, 2026. We all are committed to free Chhattisgarh from the clutches of Naxalism before March 31, 2026," he said.

When Chhattisgarh becomes Naxal free, the entire country will get rid of the menace, the Union minister said, adding it is the state police's resolve to end Naxalism.

The President's Colour is not just an award, it is a symbol of service, dedication and sacrifice and it reminds of the countless

challenges that police have to deal with, he said.

Shah expressed confidence that the Chhattisgarh police will discharge their responsibilities and will never step back from their duty.

"I am confident that from tomorrow the jawans of Chhattisgarh police will come out with the President's insignia on their uniforms and their morale will increase manifold," Shah said.

"The Chhattisgarh police have secured a significant achievement in the fight against Naxalism in the last one year...287 Naxalites were neutralised, around 1,000 were arrested and 837 surrendered in the last one year in the state, which reflects the momentum added to the fight against Naxalism. Fourteen top cadres (of Naxalites) were neutralised in the last one year in the state," he said.

For the first time in four decades, the death toll of civilians and security forces in Naxal violence has been brought down to less than 100, Shah said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Naxalism has been curbed in the entire country in 10 years, he said.

A comparative analysis of the last 10 years (versus the previous decade) shows a remarkable 73 per cent decline in deaths of security personnel and 70 per cent drop in deaths of civilians in Maoist violence, he said.

PM Modi invokes Nehru to distract nation's attention from his own 'failures': Congress



NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): The Congress on Sunday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, charging that defamation of Jawaharlal Nehru and minimum democratic governance was his model.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Prime Minister Modi has an "obsession" with Nehru as he invokes him to distract the nation's attention from his own failures and current challenges on which he maintains a complete silence.

The Congress attack on the prime minister came a day after he attacked the party during the debate on the 'Glorious 75 year journey of India's Constitution'.

"It was the famous French philoso-

pher Voltaire who had first said that if God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him. For our self-anointed divinity - if Nehru had not existed, it would have been necessary to invent him," Ramesh said.

The Congress leader asked what would the prime minister do without Nehru, for whom he has a pathological obsession?

"Nehru is necessary to distract the nation's attention from His own failures.

Nehru is necessary to divert the nation's attention from current challenges on which He maintains a complete silence," the Congress leader said.

He also said that Nehru is necessary to deny the nation's many achievements before May 2014.

Prime Minister Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of repeatedly mutilating the Constitution, having "tasted blood" in its "greed" for power, as he asserted that his government's policies and decisions since 2014 have been aimed at boosting India's strength and unity in line with the vision of the Constitution.

Sambhal administration continues crackdown on encroachments, power theft near Shahi Jama Masjid

SAMBHAL (UP), Dec 15 (Agencies): Weeks after violent clashes over a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid claimed four lives, the district administration has launched a campaign against encroachments and illegal power theft in the area around the historic mosque.

As part of its efforts, the administration began removing encroachments from the area on Sunday morning.

According to Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shrish Chandra, the focus is on clearing drains outside houses and shops in the area under the Nakhsha police station.

The area is close to the residence of Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Zia ur Rehman Barq.

Chandra said the operation, aimed at restoring public spaces and ensuring a smooth flow of the drainage system, started at 7 am.

The drive uncovered an illegal stockpile of domestic gas cylinders in a house. Supply Inspector Yogesh Shukla said they found 25 such cylinders at the house of Haji Rabban.

"While the family claimed that the cylinders were for a wedding, they were unable to provide the necessary documentation.

The cylinders, two of which were filled and the rest empty, were confiscated and an FIR will be registered," Shukla said.

Meanwhile, the electricity department

also carried out a major operation targeting power theft.

Naveen Gautam, Executive Engineer of the department, said during a raid at Deepa Sarai, officials unearthed illegal electricity connections in four mosques and a madrasa.

"A total of 130 kilowatts of electricity, amounting to approximately Rs 1.25 crore, were being stolen. The operation led to the identification of 49 individuals involved in the theft and FIRs are being filed against them," Gautam said.

In another development, the Bhasma Shankar temple, which was reopened by the district administration on Saturday, has resumed regular worship.

Mahant Acharya Vinod Shukla said worshippers have begun visiting the temple, offering prayers and reciting the Hanuman Chalisa. The temple has been secured with the presence of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) personnel.

Local resident Mohit Rastogi expressed gratitude for the temple's reopening. "I had heard about this temple from my grandfather," he said, after offering water to the Shivaling and reciting prayers. "I thank the district administration for allowing us to reconnect with our heritage," he added.

District Magistrate Rajender Pensiya said on Saturday that these actions are part of a broader initiative to restore order and address illegal activities in the Shahi Jama Masjid area.

Pranab should've been made PM, Manmohan elevated to President in 2012: Aiyar in new book

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): Pranab Mukherjee should have been given the reins of the UPA-II Government and Manmohan Singh elevated to President when the office of Rashtrapati presented an opening in 2012, veteran Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar says in his latest book.

The 83-year-old Aiyar states in the book that if this step had been taken, the UPA would not have gone into a "paralysis of governance".

He says the decision to retain Manmohan Singh as the PM and shift Pranab Mukherjee to the Rashtrapati Bhawan "doomed" any prospects the Congress might have had to form UPA-III.

Aiyar puts forward these ideas in his forthcoming book 'A Maverick in Politics' published by Juggernaut.

In the book, Aiyar talks about his early days in politics, navigating through the Narasimha Rao years, his time as a minister in UPA I, his Rajya Sabha term and then his "decline...fade out...fall".

"In 2012, the prime minister (Manmohan Singh) underwent operations for multiple coronary bypasses. He never quite recovered physically. It slowed him down and this showed up in governance. As for the party, there was no official announcement about the Congress president's health when she took ill at about the same time as the PM," Aiyar says.

It soon became clear that in both the offices



— the PM's and the party president's — there was stasis, a distinct absence of governance, while several crises, particularly Anna Hazare's 'India Against Corruption' movement, were either not handled effectively or not handled at all, says the diplomat-turned-politician.

"The choice of Rashtrapati: Manmohan Singh or Pranab Mukherjee. Personally, I was of the view that Pranab Mukherjee should have been given the reins of the government and Dr Manmohan Singh elevated to President of India when the office of Rashtrapati presented an opening in 2012," he says.

"This was principally because we needed a very active PM in good health and with the energy to lead the government (Pranab Da) and a person of high distinction who had served his country exceptionally well (Dr Singh) to preside over the nation. Pranab's memoirs indicate that this was in fact contemplated," Aiyar points out.

He quotes Mukherjee as saying in his memoir that while Sonia Gandhi was 'on holiday in the Kausambi hills', she had given the 'vague impression' that she was considering making

Singh the 'presidential nominee'.

"This led Pranab to wonder 'if she selected Singh for the presidential office, she may choose me as the prime minister'. For reasons to which neither I, nor it seems anyone else, was made privy, the decision was taken to retain Dr Manmohan Singh as PM and shift Pranab Mukherjee upstairs as Rashtrapati," says Aiyar.

That, in my view, doomed any prospects the Congress might have had to form UPA-III, he adds.

While the Indian media slammed the government, Time magazine ran a very damaging cover story that described Dr Singh as a 'Do Nothing' Prime Minister, he recalls in the book.

Aiyar argues that Pranab's left-wing reputation would have disturbed the business community and the Americans if he were made PM, but there was no one more experienced than him.

"I hazard the view that if this obvious step had been taken, we would not have gone into a paralysis of governance and thus opened the door to the worst excesses of Hindutva in the general elections of 2014," he says.

In the book, Aiyar also recounts his own most telling memory of the "meltdown of UPA II" was when he returned home one evening he found his wife, Suneet, sitting before the TV set with a shattered look on her face.

"When I inquired what the matter was, she raised her stricken face and exclaimed, 'No scams today!' We, therefore, went into the 2014 general elections very much a runner up. In the event, the election exposed the Indian National Congress as a broken reed that fell from 404 seats in 1984 to 44 seats in 2014," Aiyar says.

Talking to PTI about his view expressed in the book that Mukherjee should have been made PM in 2012, Aiyar said, "Manmohan Singh had six bypasses. So, we were crippled at the head of the government and at the head of the party. But there was one man who was still full of energy, full of ideas, had a certain amount of charisma and could have run either the party or the government or even both. And that was Pranab Mukherjee."

"...And if that had happened, if Dr Manmohan Singh had become President and Pranab had become the Prime Minister, I still think we would have lost in 2014.

But not by this massive humiliating defeat that we actually had, where we fell to 44 seats. I mean, a party that had been at 414 in 1984, December, had fallen in 2014 to 44 seats. And that is because there was no governance," he

told agency.

In 2013, everyone was recovering from illness and so a lot of charges were made against us, which had never been established in a court of law, he said.

In his book, Aiyar says the government and the party were unable to carry credibility in answering the charges to an obviously sensational-hungry media and thought the issues could be quashed by getting the ministers concerned to resign.

That resolved nothing, and only aggravated the harm the unproven allegations caused to the government's reputation, he says.

The Commonwealth Games scandal also contributed to blackening the government's face in the eyes of the general public, Aiyar adds.

"But what, perhaps, put the lid on the UPA government's election prospects was the mishandled Anna Hazare-led agitation, 'India Against Corruption'.

"The minister of home affairs, PC who initially refused Anna Hazare permission to conduct his fast in the Ram Lila grounds, eventually caved in and the Ram Lila grounds became 'ground zero' for a much-publicized agitation. I think the lowest point in UPA-II's reign was when three Union ministers went to Delhi airport to receive the private aircraft of Baba Ramdev, the highly controversial 'godman' who was supporting Anna Hazare," Aiyar says in the book.

Bengaluru techie suicide: Police arrest Atul Subash's wife, her mother and brother

BENGALURU, Dec 15 (Agencies): The Bengaluru Police have arrested three people, including the estranged wife of senior tech executive Atul Subhash, who died by suicide recently.

Nikita Singhanian was arrested in Gurugram, Haryana, while her mother Nisha Singhanian and brother Anuragh Singhanian were picked up from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, police said on Sunday.

They were arrested on Saturday morning, brought to Bengaluru and

sent to 14-day judicial custody after being produced before a local court, they said.

Subhash, 34, was found hanging at his house in Munnekolalu, South-east Bengaluru, on December 9. He left behind lengthy videos and notes, blaming his wife and in-laws for driving him to suicide through "false" cases and "persistent torture".

Marathahalli police has registered a case of abetment to suicide and arrested Nikita and two others.

Four including newly married couple killed in accident in Kerala

PATHANAMTHITTA, Dec 15 (Agencies): Four members of a family, including a newlywed couple, were killed after their car collided with a bus carrying Sabarimala pilgrims in this district early on Sunday.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 5 am on the Punalur-Muvattupuzha state highway.

The passengers of the car were pulled out of the mangled vehicle, according to locals. Three died on the spot and one succumbed to the injuries on the way to the hospital, police said.

The car reportedly rammed into the bus, which was carrying pilgrims from



Telangana and none of the passengers on the bus sustained injuries.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the couple, who were married last month, were returning home after a honeymoon trip to Malaysia.

The accident took place just 10 kilometers from the victims' residence. A case has been registered.

3 killed, 4 injured as tractor-trolley overturns in Bihar's Khagaria

KHAGARIA, Dec 15 (Agencies): Three women were killed and four others injured after a tractor-trolley in which they were travelling overturned in Bihar's Khagaria district on Sunday, officials said.

The incident occurred on NH 31 near Chaidha village, Maheshkhunt police station SHO, Dhananjay Kumar said.

"The accident took place when the tractor trolley was hit by an unknown vehicle... following which the driver lost control. The tractor-trolley overturned, trapping several occupants underneath. While three women died on the spot, four others sustained severe injuries. Immediately after getting the information, police reached the spot and took all injured to the nearest government hospital. Their condition is reported to be stable," the SHO told reporters.

4 killed, 15 injured as tractor-trolley overturns in MP's Gwalior



GWALIOR, Dec 15 (Agencies): Four tribal persons were killed and 15 others injured when a tractor-trolley overturned in an attempt to save a buffalo in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, police said on Sunday.

The accident took place at around

10.30 pm on Saturday in Ghatigaon area, an official said.

As many as 31 persons, belonging to the Saharia tribal community, had gone to a forest in Pai Kho village for collecting herbs.

They were returning to the Kait village when the tractor-trolley overturned at Tilawali square while its driver was trying to avoid hitting a buffalo, Ghatigaon police station in-charge Jeevanlal Mahor said.

Four persons, identified as Foolwati (45), Ramdas (46), Arun (14) and Kasturi Bai (65), were killed in the incident, the official said.

Antony Blinken says US in contact with new Syria rulers

Secretary of State Antony Blinken's comment on "direct contact" with the HTS rebels came despite the United States having designated the group as terrorists in 2018.

AQABA, Dec 15 (Agencies): The United States said that it had made contact with Syria's victorious Hayat Tahrir al-Sham rebels, as Western and Arab states along with Turkey jointly voiced support for a united, peaceful Syria.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken's comment on "direct contact" with the HTS rebels came despite the United States having designated the group as terrorists in 2018.

While Blinken and other diplomats held talks on Syria in Aqaba, Jordan, Turkey reopened its embassy in Damascus, nearly a week after the Islamist-led rebels toppled president Bashar al-Assad --and 12 years after Ankara's diplomatic mission was shuttered early in Syria's civil war.

"We've been in contact with HTS and with other parties," Blinken told reporters, without specifying how the contact took place.

Ankara has been a major player in Syria's conflict, holding considerable sway in the northwest, financing armed groups there, and maintaining a working relationship with HTS, which spearheaded the offensive that toppled Assad.

In a joint statement after the meeting in Jordan, diplomats from the United States, Turkey, the European Union and Arab countries "affirmed the full support to the Syrian people at this critical point in their history to build a more hopeful, secure and peaceful future".

They called for a Syrian-led transition to "produce an inclusive, non-sectarian and representative government formed through a transparent process", with respect for human rights.

"Syria finally has the chance to end decades of isolation," the group said.

The head of the US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, in the country's northeast, on Saturday appealed on X for Kurds "to adopt a favourable position toward the Syrian dialogue".

UN special envoy for Syria



Geir Pedersen urged participants in the Jordan talks to provide humanitarian aid and to ensure "that state institutions do not collapse".

A Qatari diplomat said that a delegation from the Gulf emirate would visit Syria on Sunday to meet transitional government officials for talks on aid and reopening its embassy.

Unlike other Arab states, Qatar never restored diplomatic ties with Assad after a rupture in 2011.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said in Jordan that the bloc, Syria's biggest aid provider, is "interested in rebuilding and reconstruction of Syria".

Assad fled Syria last weekend, hours before rebel forces seized Damascus, five former officials told agency.

His flight left Syrians in joyous disbelief at the sudden end to an era in which suspected dissidents were jailed or killed.

It capped more than a decade of war that killed more than 500,000 people and displaced millions.

'So much tragedy'

Sunni Muslim HTS is rooted in Syria's branch of Al-Qaeda and is designated a "terrorist" organisation by many Western governments.

But the group has sought to moderate its rhetoric. The interim government insists the rights of all Syrians will be protected, as will the rule of law.

"We appreciate some of the positive words we heard in

recent days, but what matters is action -- and sustained action," Blinken said.

If a transition moves forward, "we in turn will look at various sanctions and other measures that we have taken", he added.

Pubs and liquor stores in Damascus initially closed following the rebel victory, but are now tentatively reopening.

"You have the right to work and live your life as you did before," Safi, the landlord of Papa bar in the Old City, said the rebels had told him.

But in Abu Dhabi, Anwar Gargash, a presidential adviser in the United Arab Emirates, said "we need to be on guard" despite HTS's talk of unity.

Thousands of Syrians have swarmed the country's notorious detention centres over the past week, seeking evidence that might lead them to loved ones who disappeared under Assad's repressive rule.

Some former prisoners, like Mohammed Darwish, are also returning as free men to where they were once incarcerated, trying to find closure.

"When the door closed behind us, we were plunged into the depths of despair. This cell was witness to so much tragedy," he said, back at his former windowless cell in a Damascus prison.

Syrians also face a struggle for necessities in a country ravaged by war, runaway inflation and years of sanctions.

The country's situation remains highly volatile.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said an ambush Saturday had killed at least four rebel fighters when they were ambushed by "loyalist elements of the former regime" near a villa belonging to an Assad relative on the Mediterranean coast.

'Dumb politics'

Assad was propped up by Russia -- to where a former aide told agency he had fled -- as well as Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group.

The rebels launched their offensive on November 27, the same day a ceasefire took effect in the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon, in which Assad's ally suffered staggering losses.

Naim Qassem, the leader of Iran-backed Hezbollah, admitted on Saturday that, with Assad's fall, his group could no longer be supplied militarily through Syria.

He also said he hoped Syria's new rulers saw Israel "as an enemy" and do not normalise ties with the country.

Both Israel and Turkey have carried out military strikes inside Syria since Assad's fall.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported more than 60 Israeli strikes across Syria in several hours on Saturday.

To Gargash, the UAE adviser, such strikes are "dumb politics", even though "to structurally degrade Syrian capabilities might be seen as a sensible thing from an Israeli practical point of view".

Israel has also ordered troops into a UN-patrolled buffer zone that separated Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights, a move the UN said violated a 1974 armistice.

HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, now using his real name Ahmed al-Sharaa, said the Israeli move "threatens a new unjustified escalation in the region".

But "the general exhaustion in Syria after years of war and conflict does not allow us to enter new conflicts," he said in an online statement.

Russia deploys North Korean soldiers to reclaim Kursk: Volodymyr Zelenskyy



KYIV, Dec 15 (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia had begun deploying North Korean soldiers to storm Ukrainian positions in the Kursk region.

He spoke after Russian authorities said their firefighters were battling a blaze in the western Oryol region caused by a drone attack, with Ukraine saying it had hit a major oil terminal.

"Today, we already have preliminary data that the Russians have begun to use North Korean soldiers in their assaults. A significant number of them," said Zelenskyy in his evening address.

"The Russians include them in combined units and use them in operations in the Kursk region," he said.

While so far they had only been deployed there, they might also be sent to other parts of the frontline, he said, adding: "There are also already noticeable losses in this category."

Washington and Seoul have accused Pyongyang of sending more than 10,000 soldiers to help Moscow, after Russia and North Korea signed a landmark defence pact this summer.

The two US foes have

strengthened their military ties since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Zelenskyy said last month that 11,000 North Korean troops were in Russia's western Kursk region and had already sustained losses.

Taken by surprise by the Kursk incursion, Russia has since steadily clawed back territory, halting Ukraine's advance and rushing reinforcements to the region.

A Ukrainian army source told agency last month that Kyiv still controlled 800 square kilometres of the Kursk region, down from previous claims it controlled almost 1,400 square kilometres.

Oil depot attacks Russian officials said firefighters were battling a blaze caused by a drone attack in the western Oryol region.

Ukraine has been targeting fuel depots in Russia in retaliation for Moscow's strikes wreaking havoc on its power-generation network.

The Ukrainian military said that its forces had attacked a major oil depot in Stalnoi Kon, about 165 kilometres into Russian territory.

One of the largest terminals in Russia, it served Russia's "military industrial complex" supplying the army, the

General Staff said.

The governor of Oryol region, Andrei Klychkov, said on Telegram that a fire was blazing at "a fuel infrastructure facility" in Stalnoi Kon after a "massive drone attack".

He said, firefighters appeared to be getting it under control, but local residents were advised to keep windows closed and not go out.

Russia's Interfax news agency reported that the attack targeted a facility owned by Transneft-Druzhba, which operates the Druzhba oil pipeline, a key supply route for Russian oil heading to much of central Europe.

Russian media showed images, purportedly of the attack, with clouds of smoke billowing up into the night sky from a fire.

Governor Klychkov said there were no casualties in the attack, during which air defences had downed 11 drones.

In Russia's Belgorod region, which also borders Ukraine, a drone attack killed a nine-year-old boy and wounded his mother and baby sister, said the governor Vyacheslav Gladkov.

He posted photos of the family's home with a huge hole in the facade and the roof partially torn off.

Ukraine regularly attacks military and energy infrastructure in Russia, sometimes deep into its neighbour's territory, in response to Russian attacks on its own infrastructure.

Kyiv's General Staff said Russia had attacked overnight with 132 drones, claiming 130 of them were downed or failed to reach targets.

Russia's military said that it had meanwhile downed 60 drones overnight.

Lost Syrian military supply route after Bashar al-Assad's fall: Hezbollah Chief

Hezbollah started intervening in Syria in 2013 to help Assad fight rebels seeking to topple him at that time.

BEIRUT, Dec 15 (Agencies): Hezbollah head Naim Qassem said that the Lebanese armed group had lost its supply route through Syria, in his first comments since the toppling of President Bashar al-Assad nearly a week ago by a sweeping rebel offensive.

Under Assad, Iran-backed Hezbollah used Syria to bring in weapons and other military equipment from Iran, through Iraq and Syria and into Lebanon. But on Dec. 6, anti-Assad fighters seized the border with Iraq and cut off that route, and two days later, Islamist rebels captured the capital Damascus.

"Yes, Hezbollah has lost the military supply route through Syria at this stage, but this loss is a detail in the resistance's work," Qassem said in a televised speech on Saturday, without mentioning Assad by name.

"A new regime could come and this route



could return to normal, and we could look for other ways," he added.

Hezbollah started intervening in Syria in 2013 to help Assad fight rebels seeking to topple him at that time. Last week, as rebels approached Damascus, the group sent supervising officers to oversee a withdrawal of its fighters there.

More than 50 years of Assad family rule has now been replaced with a transitional caretaker government put in place by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a former al-Qaeda affiliate that spearheaded the rebel offensive.

Qassem said Hezbollah "cannot judge these new forces until

they stabilise" and "take clear positions", but said he hoped that the Lebanese and Syrian peoples and governments could continue to cooperate.

"We also hope that this new ruling party will consider Israel an enemy and not normalise relations with it. These are the headlines that will affect the nature of the relationship between us and Syria," Qassem said.

Hezbollah and Israel exchanged fire across Lebanon's southern border for nearly a year in hostilities triggered by the Gaza war, before Israel went on the offensive in September, killing most of Hezbollah's top leadership.

South Korea opposition urges top court to act swiftly on impeachment

SEOUL, Dec 15 (Agencies): South Korea's opposition leader offered Sunday to work with the government to ease the political tumult as officials sought to reassure allies and markets, a day after the opposition-controlled parliament voted to impeach conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol over a short-lived attempt to impose martial law.

Liberal Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung, whose party holds a majority in the National Assembly, urged the Constitutional Court to rule swiftly on Yoon's impeachment and proposed a special council for cooperation between the government and parliament.

Yoon's powers have been suspended until the court decides whether to remove him from office or reinstate him. If Yoon is dismissed, a national election to choose his successor must be held within 60 days.

Lee, who has led a fierce political offensive against Yoon's embattled government, is seen as the frontrunner to replace him.

He told a televised news conference that a swift court ruling would

be the only way to "minimize national confusion and the suffering of people."

The court will meet to begin considering the case Monday, and has up to 180 days to rule. But observers say that a court ruling could come faster. In the case of parliamentary impeachments of past presidents -- Roh Moo-hyun in 2004 and Park Geun-hye in 2016, the court spent 63 days and 91 days respectively before determining to reinstate Roh and dismiss Park.

Lee also proposed a national council where the government and the National Assembly would work together to stabilize state affairs, and said his party won't seek to impeach the prime minister, a Yoon appointee who's now serving as acting president. "The Democratic Party will actively cooperate with all parties to stabilize state affairs and restore international trust," Lee said. "The National Assembly and government will work together to quickly resolve the crisis that has swept across the Republic of Korea."

It wasn't immediately clear how the governing People Power Party

would react to Lee's proposal. Kim Woong, a former PPP lawmaker, accused Lee of attempting to exert power over state affairs.

The Democratic Party has used its parliamentary majority to impeach the justice minister and the chief of the national police over the martial law decree, and previously said it was also considering impeaching Prime Minister Han Duck-soo.

There was no immediate response from Han, a seasoned bureaucrat.

Upon assuming his role as acting leader, Han ordered the military to bolster its security posture to prevent North Korea from launching provocations. He also asked the foreign minister to inform other countries that South Korea's major external policies will remain unchanged, and the finance minister to work to minimize potential negative impacts on the economy by the political turmoil.

On Sunday, Han had a phone call with U.S. President Joe Biden, discussing the political situation in South Korea and regional security challenges including North Korea's nuclear program. Biden expressed his appre-

ciation for the resiliency of democracy in South Korea and reaffirmed "the ironclad commitment" of the United States, according to both governments.

Yoon's Dec. 3 imposition of martial law, the first of its kind in more than four decades, lasted only six hours, but has caused massive political tumult, halted diplomatic activities and rattled financial markets. Yoon was forced to lift his decree after parliament unanimously voted to overturn it.

Yoon sent hundreds of troops and police officers to the parliament in an effort to stop the vote, but they withdrew after the parliament rejected Yoon's decree. No major violence occurred. Opposition parties have accused Yoon of rebellion, saying a president in South Korea is allowed to declare martial law only during wartime or similar emergencies and would have no right to suspend parliament's operations even in those cases.

Yoon has rejected the charges and vowed to "fight to the end." He said the deployment of troops to parliament was aimed to issue a warning to the Democratic Party, which he called

an "anti-state force" that abused its control of parliament by holding up the government's budget bill for next year and repeatedly pushing to impeach top officials.

Law enforcement institutions are investigating possible rebellion and other allegations. They've arrested Yoon's defense minister and police chief and two other high-level figures.

Yoon has immunity from most criminal prosecution as president, but that doesn't extend to allegations of rebellion or treason. He's been banned from leaving South Korea, but observers doubt that authorities will detain him because of the potential for clashes with his presidential security service.

Lee called for authorities to speed up their probes and said that an independent investigation by a special prosecutor should be launched as soon as possible. Last week, the National Assembly passed a law calling for an investigation led by a special prosecutor.

"Individuals and institutions involved in this act of rebellion should fully cooperate with the investigations," Lee said.

Training Program on Embracing Behavioral Skills for Workplace Effectiveness Commences at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 15: The School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) inaugurated a three-day training program titled "Embracing Behavioral Skills for Workplace Effectiveness" for Shrine Board employees scheduled from 12th-4th Dec, 24, with the participation of 30 attendees. Prof. Jyoti Sharma welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the program in fostering workplace harmony and enhancing professional capabilities. The first session, conducted by Prof. Suparn Sharma,

focused on emotional intelligence.

Dr. Shazia Bukhari conducted sessions on attitude and interpersonal skills, while Mr. Sumanta Sarthi Sharma provided valuable insights into mindful self-regulation. Dr. Arti Maini will discuss the significance of effective listening and life positions in shaping workplace behavior.

Further sessions include exercises on behavioral harmony and the importance of gratitude at the workplace, facilitated by Dr. Rashi Taggar. Dr. Jyoti Sharma will address resilience building as a crucial component of

behavioral skills.

The program also features contributions from external experts, including Prof. Manoj Aggarwal from IIT-Jammu, who will elaborate on strategies to avoid and manage conflicts in the workplace, and Ajay Khajuria, who will highlight the role of constructive criticism in enhancing behavioral skills.

Planned and coordinated by the faculty members of the School of Business under the guidance of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, this initiative aims to develop critical skills among executives, reaffirming SMVDU's commitment to professional excellence.

Kulgam Police crack-down illegal miner's at Vishav Nallah

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 15: Police crackdown illegal mining at vishav nallah Kulgam, serious environmental concerns have emerged over the illegal extraction of resources at vishav nallah Kulgam.

Officials told that the Kulgam Police along with (DMO Kulgam) crack down illegal Miner's, On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam and SSP Kulgam Sahil Saringal with the swift action of SHO Kulgam Subzar Ahmad and DMO Kulgam Bilal Ahmad, During the surprise

and massive night raids headed by SHO Kulgam, DMO Kulgam and Sho Qaimoh along the Vishav Nallah and seized JCB's Dumper's ETC.

Kulgam Police warned the illegal miners not to indulge in the said matter any person found involved shall be dealt seriously under rules.

People lauded the efforts taken by SSP Kulgam Sahil Saringal and Kulgam police with regard to the illegal mining in the vishav nallah and extraction of resources environment.

Educational visit by school students to GDC Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 15: Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar hosted an educational program today, welcoming students from Government Higher Secondary School, Mugalmidan and Government Higher Secondary School, Atholi Padder. Around 200 students, accompanied by their respective teachers, participated in the visit.

The program was conducted under the patronage of the Principal, Prof. Basharat Iqbal, and the supervision of Prof. Umar Din Rather, Head of the Department of Chemistry. During the visit, students explored various laboratories and facilities of the col-

lege, gaining valuable insights into higher education and scientific practices.

At the Department of Botany, students were introduced to diverse plant species and laboratory instruments. Prof. Asma Javaid provided an engaging session on the basics of botany and its significance to life and the environment, while Dr. Hasan Jaleel further enriched their knowledge by discussing various plant species, many of which were new to the students.

The Department of Zoology offered an opportunity to learn about animal species. Prof. Waseem Raseed, Head of the Department of Zoology, delivered an insightful lecture, and

Dr. Usman demonstrated the use of microscopes, explaining their types and applications in scientific study.

In addition, the students explored the laboratories of the Chemistry and Physics departments, experiencing advanced technology and practical scientific processes. They also visited the college library, where they were encouraged to utilize the academic resources, and toured the botanical garden to learn about the campus flora.

This educational visit provided an inspiring and informative experience for the school students, encouraging them to pursue scientific learning and appreciate the value of higher education.

NGHEU extends gratitude to Principal Secretary APD

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: The Non Gazetted Horticulture Employees Union (NGHEU) extended heartfelt gratitude to the Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department (APD), and the Directors of Horticulture in Kashmir and Jammu.

The union sincerely thanks them for the thoughtful nomination of 14 deserving and eligible employees for the B.Sc. course degree at SKUAST from Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative has provided valuable opportunities for skill enhancement and educational growth, contributing significantly to the welfare of the department.

The NGHEU appreciated the proactive approach taken by the concerned authorities and looks forward to their continued support for the professional development of employees and the growth of

the horticulture industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, it has come to our attention that some miscreants are spreading rumour against the said order and the Directors on Facebook pages. These individuals are not members of our union and are using a Facebook page named "Horticulture Non-Gazetted Employed Union Jammu and Kashmir" to disseminate false information.

NGHEU, clarified that we do not operate any Facebook page. We have already informed both the Directors of the Horticulture Department regarding these fake Facebook pages and unauthorised email accounts.

U.T President Fayaz Ahmad Bhat said "We request the concerned authorities to take appropriate action against these culprits who are defaming the department in the name of our union".

Shweta Mittal becomes first women from J&K to win Procam Slam Marathon title

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: Shweta Mittal, Runner, Cyclist & Fitness Enthusiast, has become the first woman from Jammu & Kashmir to successfully complete and win the Procam Slam Marathon title on Sunday at Kolkata.

Procam Slam is a running program that recognizes the dedication and hard work of amateur runners who complete four consecutive Procam running events: Tata Mumbai Marathon, TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, and Tata World 25K Kolkata. It is a dream for all the marathoners to conquer the Procam Slam running programme that recognises and rewards great amateur runners for their devotion and hard effort in all Procam International running events. The Procam Slam holds a high significance in the lives of the marathoners which shows unmatched perseverance and dedication throughout the demanding course. To become a Procam Slam Champion, runner needs to complete the appended feature race categories with in the defined finish time cut-off: Marathon in Under 6 hr & 30 mins @ Tata Mumbai Marathon, Open 10K in Under 1 hr 25 mins @ TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Half Marathon in under 3 hr 30 mins @ Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon & 25K Run in under 3 hrs 45 mins @ Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata.

Procam International, Tata Steel Kolkata 25K Run saw Shweta Mittal from Jammu, demonstrated extraordinary perseverance and skill as outstanding athlete. She showcased unwavering passion and dedication. More than 20,000 athletes from various parts of the country and abroad joined this prestigious event, making it a remarkable

display of sporting camaraderie and excellence. Moreover, Shweta Mittal earned the prestigious titles of "Procam Slam 2024."

Shweta Mittal has been continuously participating in marathons across the country for the last few years, with the aim of leading the youth towards sports.

"It was a pride moment for me to participate in such an international event. I believe nothing is difficult if you decide to achieve it," said Shweta Mittal. "We should not participate just to win the race, but participation is much more important than winning. Cycling and running are the best ways to improve your health and refine your endurance" she added.

Shweta Mittal already has a lot more credits to her score by Achieving, Podium Finisher 70.3 Ironman Duathlon for (03) three consecutive years 2022, 2023 & 2024, Podium Finisher 10k Hearth Marathon 2024, Finisher 42.1k Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024, Finisher 10k TCS Bengaluru 2024, Finisher 21k Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2024, Gold medalist 5K, 10k, 400M - J&K Masters Athletic Meet 2023, Gold Finisher HDOR Half Marathon Challenge 2022, Ambassador Ganga Sustainability Run Rishikesh 2022, Gold medalist 800M J&K Masters Athletic Meet 2022, Podium Finisher Jammu marathon 2022, Podium Finisher 35k Ganga Sustainability Run Rishikesh 2022, Podium Finisher Gran Fondo 50k 2022, Podium Finisher Patnitop half marathon 2022, Podium Finisher Katra half marathon 2022, 26k Republic Day Flag Run 2022, Cycling Brevet De Randonneur Mondiaux (BRM) 200k Ride 2021, Finisher Duathlon by Eco-cycleture 75k ride + 7.5k run 2021, Many Half Marathons and 10k Runs.

Celebrating 29 years of commitment, progress of NLP: Rubina Akhter

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 15: As the National Loktantrik Party marks its 29th anniversary, National General Secretary and Parliamentary Board Member Rubina Akhter extended heartfelt greetings to each and every member of the party.

This milestone not only signifies nearly three decades of dedicated service but also represents a collective journey of resilience, unity, and progress.

In her message, Rubina Akhter stated, "Happy 29th anniversary from national general Secretary and parliamentary board member Rubina Akhter greets to each and every person of national Loktant-

rik Party. Today, we celebrate our shared achievements and the unwavering spirit that binds us together. Each member has played a vital role in our journey, and it is your commitment that fuels our drive for a better tomorrow."

The National Loktantrik Party has witnessed remarkable growth and transformation over the years. From advocating for democratic values to championing social justice, the party has been at the forefront of significant changes in the political landscape. This anniversary serves as a reminder of the hard work and dedication of its members who have tirelessly contributed to the party's mission.

Rubina Akhter further emphasized, "Happy

29th anniversary from national general Secretary and parliamentary board member Rubina Akhter greets to each and every person of national Loktantrik Party. Let us take this moment to reflect on our accomplishments and reinvigorate our commitment to the ideals that brought us together. Together, we will continue to strive for a nation where democracy thrives and every voice is heard."

As celebrations commence, the National Loktantrik Party invites all members and supporters to join in honoring this significant occasion. Together, let us pave the way for another successful decade of leadership, advocacy, and community engagement.

FROM PAGE 1

Dynasty politics not 'Lifelong Ticket' to success, politicians remain glorified daily wagers: Omar's advice to Sons

Assembly elections in September and won handsomely. "I'm the same person, same family, same political party," he said. He said the BJP's criticism of dynasty politics is simply political hypocrisy.

"The BJP only seems to oppose political dynasties when it's convenient. They have no issues with dynastic politics among their allies," he said.

"I don't need to point out the number of dynastic allies that the BJP has or has had in the past or will have in the future. So, I have always maintained that the BJP doesn't have a problem with political families. They have a problem with political families that are opposed to the BJP," he said.

From the BJP's vantage, he said, politicians are neither dynasts nor corrupt once "you are an ally of the BJP."

Asked if he will still give guidance or political advice to his sons, Zamir and Zahir, Abdullah, 54, said, "I have told them that as elected representatives... we are basically glorified daily wagers. We are here today. We will probably not be there tomorrow."

He then gave his example, saying his party and he were elected in 2014. Then "we were dropped out of office in 2018 and we didn't come back until 2024. So, you need something (an income and profession) to fall back on," he said.

Drawing parallels with other fields like acting and sports, he highlighted that initial advantages of family connections quickly fade.

"Some get recognised initially, but if you can't perform, no one will carry you," he said.

Pakistani drone with narcotics seized near IB in Jammu

at 8.10 pm on Saturday.

"The relentless dedication and sharp vigil of BSF Jammu personnel have once again defeated the nefarious design of anti-national elements, showcasing their unwavering commitment to the nation's security," the official said in a statement.

Punjab DGP, Central Govt representative, meet farmer leader Dallewal

Deputy Inspector General of Police Man-deep Singh Sidhu, Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh and Patiala Deputy Commissioner Preeti Yadav were also present during the meeting at Khan-auri border point.

Before reaching the protest site at the Khanauri border point, Yadav held a meeting with farmer leader Sukhjit Singh Har-dojhande, Kaka Singh Kotda and other leaders.

DGP Yadav's meeting came two days after the Supreme Court directed the Centre and Punjab government representatives to immediately meet Dallewal.

The court had further asked to provide him with medical help and persuade him to break his indefinite fast, saying his life was precious.

Doctors have already recommended Dallewal's hospitalisation, saying because of the prolonged fast, he has turned weak.

Farmers under the banner of SKM (Non-Political) and KMM have been camping

at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces.

Besides a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops, the farmers are demanding a debt waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in the electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21 are also part of their demands.

AAP releases final list: Kejriwal to contest from New Delhi, Atishi fielded from Kalkaji

missing. It has no CM face, no team, no planning and no vision for Delhi. They have only one slogan, only one policy and only one mission — 'Remove Kejriwal'. Ask them what they did for five years, they'll answer — 'Abused Kejriwal'."

He further wrote that AAP has a vision, a plan for development of the people in Delhi and a good team of educated people to implement it. "There is a long list of works done in the last ten years. Delhiites will vote for workers, not abusers," the former Delhi CM added.

As per the list, Satyendra Kumar Jain will contest from Shakur Basti, Durgesh Pathak from Rajinder Nagar, Ramesh Pehalwan from Kasturba Nagar, Raghuvinder Shokeen from Nangloi Jat, Som Dutt from Sadar Bazar, Imran Hussain from Ballimaran, Jarnail Singh from Tilak Nagar.

There are two new names in the list of 38 candidates released today, all the remaining 36 MLAs have been repeated.

IG Sinha felicitates langar organizations & NGOs for Amarnath Yatra 2024 services

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2024.

He expressed gratitude for their selfless service & making valuable contribution to devotees' well-being during pilgrimage.

Simultaneous Election Plan Will 'Erase' Political Voice Of J&K: PDP's Para

undermining our region's distinctiveness," he said.

Para said the regional parties are crucial in representing the needs of the people but the ONOE will suppress their voice.

"Our regional parties, are crucial in representing the needs of our people.

With ONOE, their voices will be drowned out by the resources of national parties that have little interest in our issues. The rehabilitation of displaced persons, tribal rights, and local governance concerns will become secondary.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a region of diverse political and cultural identities. Both Jammu, and Kashmir have different needs and priorities. Holding state and national elections together would only deepen divisions," he said.

Para said the national politics often fail to reflect the regional realities.

"National policies often fail to reflect our realities, and ONOE would exacerbate this gap, leading to governance challenges and policy deadlocks. Our region's complex geography, security issues, and administrative strains make it difficult enough to hold elections under normal circumstanc-

es," he said.

The MLA said managing both state and national elections would stretch resources thin, leading to delays, disenfranchisement, and potential electoral errors.

"Finally, the legal complications of ONOE are substantial. The revocation of Article 370 and subsequent reorganization have left unresolved legal questions. Introducing synchronised elections in this volatile environment would further complicate constitutional questions.

"For Jammu and Kashmir, One Nation, One Election represents disempowerment to our identity, political autonomy, and future. This is not the reform we need. We need policies that respect our unique challenges and preserve our local governance," he added.

Cyber Cell crack multiple financial frauds in Kupwara

and personal details. The fraudster, impersonating officials of a reputed company, conducted fake interviews and demanded money for registration. The Cyber Cell recovered Rs 4,560, which was credited back to the victim's account.

Another case involved a victim losing Rs 850 after being contacted through a fake advertisement on Instagram. The Cyber Cell promptly acted and managed to recover Rs 850, which was credited back to the victim's account.

J&K Police arrests two drug peddlers in Srinagar

instances of drug peddling or other criminal activities that they may witness in their surroundings or can reach out to the nearest police station or call 112 to share information.

WGC sees modest demand for gold in 2025, central bank demand crucial

MUMBAI, Dec 15 (Agencies): After a sizzling growth both in terms of demand as well as in prices, which had crossed the USD 2750 mark this week, mostly led by huge demand from central banks and the safe-haven nature of the metal from an investor's perspective in the years gone by, gold demand is seen moderating in 2025.

According to the World Gold Council, the outlook for gold presents a mix of challenges and opportunities, with the precious metal poised for modest growth amid a dynamic global economic landscape in 2025.

The council expects the price of the metal to rise modestly in 2025 due to factors like central bank actions, geopolitical tensions, and economic conditions in key markets like the US, China, and India.

While lower interest rates and geopolitical risks could boost prices, rising rates and slowing growth may pose challenges. Continued central bank buying is expected to provide support, though.

Potential upside can emerge from stronger-than-expected central bank purchases or economic shocks prompting a flight to safe assets. On the flip side, tighter monetary policies and rising interest rates could weigh on gold, the council said in its annual forecast for 2025.

The US, under President Donald Trump's second term, is a critical factor in gold prices' trajectory. While his pro-business agenda may boost consumer demand sentiment, global investors are cautious, wary of inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions.

Though the US Federal Reserve is expected to lower interest rates by 100 bps this



year, which historically supports gold, a prolonged pause or reversal in policy could pose challenges.

China and India, the largest gold markets, will remain vital for the industry. While China's improving economic growth and government stimulus could boost consumer demand, competition from stocks and real estate may limit gold's appeal. In India, with its struggling growth and rising household crises, there may be significant downside risks to demand growth, analysts say.

Central banks have been net buyers of gold for nearly 15 years, recognising its value as a crisis hedge and a reliable reserve asset.

In 2025, central bank demand is projected to exceed the long-term average of 500 tonnes, continuing to bolster gold prices. However, a dip below this level could introduce headwinds for the metal.

It can be noted that the main reason for the 2024 rally in gold prices was the demand from

leading central banks, which was mostly led by the Reserve Bank, which snapped up 48 per cent of all central bank buying in October, acquiring 27 tonnes in the month. Other central banks collectively bought 60 tonnes in the month.

The Reserve Bank added a whopping 27 tonnes to its reserves, taking the total tonnage to 882, according to the latest data from the World Gold Council.

The RBI has purchased as much as 77 tonnes between January and October, according to WGC data, based on the reported monthly numbers from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It can be noted that gold had touched its historic high prices in October, crossing the USD 2750/ounce mark, and the buying happened at the historically highest prices – maybe prices skyrocketed due to the demand from central banks.

The October purchase represents a five-fold increase compared to the same period

of 2023, said the WGC. With this purchase, the country's total gold reserves stood at 882 tonnes, of which 510 tonnes are held in the country and the rest are mostly in London, Zurich, and New York.

The RBI has been on a gold-buying spree between April 2022 and September 2024 when it added close to 100 tonnes to the reserves.

Between January and September, the RBI had bought 24 tonnes, taking the total to 854.73 tonnes. At the end of March 2024, the reserves stood at 822.73 tonnes, which was only 760.42 tonnes in March 2022, meaning that the RBI had lapped up 94.31 tonnes since then and in September 2024.

In the whole of 2023, the gold reserves went up by 16 tonnes, making the RBI the second-biggest central bank buyer of the yellow metal. In terms of overall forex reserves (in USD terms), gold is worth 9.32 per cent in September 2024, up from 8.15 per cent in March 2024.

The council further said emerging market central banks continued to dominate the market, with Turkey and Poland adding 72 tonnes and 69 tonnes, respectively, till October 2024. This means that these three central banks alone accounted for 60 per cent of the total global net purchases reported this year. Till the first half of this year, the Chinese central bank had led the bullion buying spree.

The central bank of Turkey added 17 tonnes, making October the 17th consecutive month of net purchases and the highest reported monthly figure on record since December 2023. Other central bank buys are less than 10 tonnes.

Credit card defaults surge to 7.6 per cent amid rising indebtedness



MUMBAI, Dec 15 (Agencies): Reflecting the rising indebtedness of individuals and households, delinquency rates among credit card issuers or the portfolio at risk in banking parlance have risen by 110 basis points to 7.6% as of June 2024, up from 6.5% in June 2023.

According to an analysis by credit information bureau Crif Highmark, the numbers for the June quarter indicated that banks did not report significant stress. However, in the second quarter, almost all issuers, led by Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, RBL Bank, and Axis Bank, reported higher delinquencies.

The average balance per card rose to Rs 32,233 by June 2024 from Rs 28,919 in June 2023, further highlighting the rising indebtedness of cardholders. Crif Highmark noted

that default or delayed repayment of credit card dues in the 91-180 days past due (DPD) bucket was persisting beyond 180 days. Delinquencies in the 181-360 days bucket increased from 0.7% to 0.9%, while defaults exceeding 360 days rose from 1.3% to 1.7%.

Credit card issuers typically charge 3.75% or more on unpaid balances on a monthly basis, translating to an annualised rate of 45%. Failure to make timely payments incurs additional penalties ranging from 0.5% to 1% of the minimum payment due, which gets amortised into the principal outstanding, thereby compounding the debt.

The value of credit card transactions has tripled over the past three years, growing to Rs 18.31 trillion in fiscal 2024 from Rs 6.30 trillion in fiscal 2021, according to Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) data. The transaction value stood at Rs 9.71 trillion in fiscal 2022 and Rs 14.32 trillion in fiscal 2023. Of the Rs 18.31 trillion in total credit card transactions in FY24, Rs 6.51 trillion was attributed to point-of-sale transactions involving merchants and shops.

Monthly spending by card users has also seen a significant increase, surpassing Rs 1.50 trillion and reaching Rs 176,202 crore in September 2024, up from Rs 72,319 crore in March 2021. Meanwhile, the number of credit cards issued rose sharply to 10.61 crore as of September 2024, compared with 9.3 crore in September 2023, 7.36 crore in March 2022, and 6.20 crore in March 2021. However, a private report last week revealed that card issuances halved in October 2024.

Credit card outstanding balances have also surged to Rs 2,81,392 crore as of October 2024, compared with Rs 2,49,635 crore in October 2022. In November 2023, the RBI raised the risk weight on credit card receivables by 25 percentage points to 150%, fearing a bubble was forming in this portfolio. Since then, growth in card spending and issuances has shown signs of moderation.

Is Paracetamol safe? study raises concerns about potential side effects

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): Paracetamol, a common over-the-counter medication, may increase the risk of gastrointestinal, heart- and kidney-related complications among adults aged 65 and above, a new study has found.

Taken commonly for treating mild-to-moderate fever, paracetamol is also the first drug recommended for treating osteoarthritis -- a chronic condition causing pain, stiffness and swelling in the joints due to wear-and-tear -- as it is considered effective, relatively safe and accessible.

However, some studies have provided evidence to contest the effectiveness of paracetamol in relieving pain while others have shown increased risks of gastrointestinal side effects, such as ulcers and bleeding, from pro-

longed use.

The latest study, conducted by researchers from the University of Nottingham, UK, found that paracetamol use was linked to a 24 per cent and 36 per cent increase in risk of peptic ulcer bleeding (bleeding due to ulcer in the digestive tract) and lower gastrointestinal bleeding, respectively.

Taking the drug may also increase the risk of chronic kidney disease by 19 per cent, heart failure by 9 per cent and hypertension by 7 per cent.

"This study shows a significant incidence of renal, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal side effects in older people, who are prescribed acetaminophen (paracetamol) repeatedly in the UK," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal *Arthritis Care and Research*.

"Due to its perceived safety, paracetamol has long been recommended as the first line drug treatment for osteoarthritis by many treatment guidelines, especially in older people who are at higher risk of drug-related complications," said lead researcher Weiya Zhang from the University of Nottingham's School of Medicine.

"Whilst further research is now needed to confirm our findings, given its minimal pain-relief effect, the use of paracetamol as a first line pain killer for long-term conditions such as osteoarthritis in older people needs to be carefully considered," Zhang said.

For their analysis, the researchers looked at health records of 1,80,483 (1.80 lakh) people repeatedly prescribed paracetamol (more than two prescriptions within six months).

Their health outcomes were compared to those of 4,02,478 (4.02 lakh) people of the same age who were never prescribed paracetamol repeatedly.

Data from the Clinical Practice Research Data-link-Gold was analysed for the study. The participants were aged 65 and over (average age 75) and had been registered with a UK general practitioner for at least a year between 1998 and 2018.

A 2016 study in *The Lancet* journal pooled and analysed data from 76 randomised trials, involving 58,451 patients, published between 1980 and 2015. Researchers from the University of Bern found that paracetamol did not provide the minimum levels of effective pain relief or improve physical function in patients with knee and hip osteoarthritis.

Blood tests are currently one-size-fits-all - machine learning can pinpoint what's truly 'normal' for each patient

WASHINGTON, Dec 15 (Agencies): If you've ever had a doctor order a blood test for you, chances are that they ran a complete blood count, or CBC. One of the most common blood tests in the world, CBC tests are run billions of times each year to diagnose conditions and monitor patients' health.

But despite the test's ubiquity, the way clinicians interpret and use it in the clinic is often less precise than ideal. Currently, blood test readings are based on one-size-fits-all reference intervals that don't account for individual differences.

Brody H. Foy and his team, at the University of Washington, studies ways to use computational tools to improve clinical blood testing. To develop better ways to capture individual patient definitions of "normal" lab values, Foy and his colleagues in the Higgins Lab at Harvard Medical School examined 20 years of blood count tests from tens of thousands of patients from both the East and West coasts.

In their newly published research, they used machine learning to identify healthy blood count ranges for individual patients and predict their risk of future disease.

Clinical tests and complete blood counts

Many people commonly think of clinical tests as purely diagnostic. For example, a COVID-19 or a pregnancy test comes back as either positive or negative, telling you whether you have a particular condition. However, most tests don't work

this way. Instead, they measure a biological trait that your body continuously regulates up and down to stay within certain bounds.

Your complete blood count is also a continuum. The CBC test creates a detailed profile of your blood cells -- such as how many red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells are in your blood. These markers are used every day in nearly all areas of medicine.

For example, hemoglobin is an iron-containing protein that allows your red blood cells to carry oxygen. If your hemoglobin levels are low, it might mean you are iron deficient.

Platelets are cells that help form blood clots and stop bleeding. If your platelet count is low, it may mean you have some internal bleeding and your body is using platelets to help form blood clots to plug the wound.

White blood cells are part of your immune system. If your white cell count is high, it might mean you have an infection and your body is producing more of these cells to fight it off.

Normal ranges and reference intervals

But this all raises the question: What actually counts as too high or too low on a blood test? Traditionally, clinicians determine what are called reference intervals by measuring a blood test in a range of healthy people. They usually take the middle 95% of these healthy values and call that "normal," with anything above or below being too low or high. These

normal ranges are used nearly everywhere in medicine.

But reference intervals face a big challenge: What's normal for you may not be normal for someone else.

Nearly all blood count markers are heritable, meaning your genetics and environment determine much of what the healthy value for each marker would be for you.

At the population level, for example, a normal platelet count is approximately between 150 and 400 billion cells per liter of blood. But your body may want to maintain a platelet count of 200 -- a value called your set point. This means your normal range might only be 150 to 250.

Differences between a patient's true normal range and the population-based reference interval can create problems for doctors. They may be less likely to diagnose a disease if your set point is far from a cutoff. Conversely, they may run unnecessary tests if your set point is too close to a cutoff.

Defining what's normal for you

Luckily, many patients get blood counts each year as part of routine checkups. Using machine learning models, Foy and his team were able to estimate blood count set points for over 50,000 patients based on their history of visits to the clinic. This allowed them to study how the body regulates these set points and to test whether they can build better ways of personalizing lab test readings.

Over multiple decades,

they found that individual normal ranges were about three times smaller than at the population level. For example, while the "normal" range for the white blood cell count is around 4.0 to 11.0 billion cells per liter of blood, they found that most people's individual ranges were much narrower, more like 4.5 to 7, or 7.5 to 10.

When Foy and his team used these set points to interpret new test results, these results helped improve diagnosis of diseases such as iron deficiency, chronic kidney disease and hypothyroidism. They could note when someone's result was outside their smaller personal range, potentially indicating an issue, even if the result was within the normal range for the population overall.

The set points themselves were strong indicators for future risk of developing a disease. For example, patients with high white blood cell set points were more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes in the future. These patients were also nearly twice as likely to die of any cause compared with similar patients with low white cell counts. Other blood count markers were also strong predictors of future disease and mortality risk.

In the future, doctors could potentially use set points to improve disease screening and how they interpret new test results. This is an exciting avenue for personalized medicine: to use your own medical history to define what exactly healthy means for you.

Autistic children could be perceiving people's faces differently, study suggests

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): Tracking eye movements in autistic children has revealed that they might be perceiving and processing people's faces differently, according to a new study.

Researchers from the University of Houston, US, analysed social perception behaviour in almost 400 children, of whom 280 had autism, by monitoring eye movements as they looked at images.

Children on the spectrum processed a face in an "exploratory" manner that included looking at regions that do not have social cues and require minimal gaze -- rather than immediately fixating on specific facial regions of interest, the team found. Children not having the neurodevelopmental

condition showed fewer exploratory patterns in eye movements.

Autistic children are known to have trouble with social skills, including looking at another person in the eye while interacting with them. "In this study, our primary goal was to test the hypothesis that children with autism display qualitatively distinct eye movement patterns during social perception," said Jason Griffin from the University of Houston, an author of the study published in the journal *Biological Psychiatry*.

From the analysis, two patterns of eye movement emerged, said the psychology researcher.

"A focused pattern was characterised by small face regions of interest that captured looking

immediately. In contrast, an exploratory pattern was characterised by larger face regions of interest that included non-social objects and did not capture looking immediately," Griffin explained.

The researchers found that autistic children were more likely to use this exploratory method, compared to the focused patterns.

"Decreased likelihood of precisely looking at faces early in social visual processing may be an important feature of autism that is associated with autism-related symptomatology and may reflect less visual sensitivity to face information," the authors wrote.

They said the study's findings could help improve facial processing in autistic children.

“With mantra of fitness” friendly match of Parliamentarians played at Delhi’s Major Dhyan Chand Stadium

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (Agencies): A friendly cricket match between Parliamentarians under Rajya Sabha Chairman XI and Lok Sabha Speaker XI is being played at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium on Sunday.

BJP MP Anurag Thakur captained Lok Sabha Speaker XI while Union Minister Kiren Rijju led Rajya Sabha Chairman XI. The friendly affair has been named ‘TB Mukta Bharat awareness cricket match’.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju says, “Several of our MP colleagues have come here. With the mantra of fitness...this event has been scheduled to fill people with vigour through sports. I believe everyone will play with energy. Our mantra is ‘TB Free India’ and ‘Fit India Movement’.”

“Without fitness, you cannot serve the country. You have to be fit mentally and physically,” he added.

“PM Modi has given the goal of making India TB-free by 2025, the global goal is 2030. If you see from 2015 till date, there has been a 38 per cent drop in TB-related deaths in India. There has been an 18 per cent drop in new cases. This number is around 8 per cent globally. This means India is doing better than the rest of the world. But India is the most populated country. There is a treatment for it. The government provides free medicines and provides Rs 1000 for it. The cases are tracked as well,” BJP MP Anurag Thakur said while



speaking to reporters.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha hailed the initiative and said, “This is a good initiative. The match is being played for a good cause. I think the awareness of this cause will reach every corner of the country through this match.”

“Besides this, elections end but the animosity in the political arena between leaders continues even after that. I think that through such teamwork initiatives animosity will be diluted and we will work as a team of Bharat Mata to take the country forward,” Chadha said.

BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy feels the effort of the MPs towards TB-free India is unique. “This is a unique effort by MPs towards TB-free India. The Captain of our team is Anurag Thakur. He had been the Sports Minister. This is another face of MPs. Cricket is the most interesting sport in the world,” he said.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari stated

that through this friendly match, they want to create awareness about TB and told reporters, “We want to give a message that we are MPs, still we will run on the ground, play this match and try to create awareness against TB. TB can be defeated with a little awareness. Who wins today’s match is a different matter but we have to defeat TB and make the country win.”

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu added, “Very happy to be participating, especially with all the MPs today participating here. I would like to congratulate all the organisers for putting up a great event today. The PM has very committedly said that we have to defeat TB by 2025 and a long series of events have been done based on this and today, taking it one step forward again to create more awareness in the country and to bring in all the people together in this fight against TB, we are holding this cricket match. We can see a

great enthusiasm here.”

Former India captain and Congress leader Mohammed Azharuddin remarked, “It is a matter of joy that you get to meet everyone like this and MPs get an outing like this. The country should indeed be TB-free. It should be eradicated at the earliest. I am happy that I am participating today.”

BJP MP Ravi Kishan gave his take on the “historic match” while speaking to news agency and said, “This will be a historic match. The youth has to be awoken, they have to be freed of drugs and TB. We will be able to fulfil the dreams of PM Modi when we create awareness among our children over TB.”

The Government’s commitment to “End TB by 2025” was first articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the “End TB Summit” held in New Delhi in March 2018 and was reaffirmed at the “One World TB Summit” in Varanasi on World TB Day 2023, as per an official release.

At this summit, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for a decisive and revitalized response to TB. Additionally, India is a signatory to the Gandhinagar Declaration, the joint declaration by the Health Ministers and WHO South-East Asian Regional Office (SEARO), which was signed at the high-level ministerial meeting on “Sustain, Accelerate and Innovate to End TB” in the South-East Asia Region by 2030 in August 2023.

3rd Test: Santner’s heroics hand New Zealand advantage over England on Day 2



HAMILTON, Dec 15 (Agencies): Mitchell Santner’s all-round brilliance propelled New Zealand into a commanding position against England on the second day of the third Test at Seddon Park. The hosts held a massive 340-run lead at stumps on Sunday, finishing the day at 136 for 3 in their second innings.

Santner, who top-scored with a gritty 76 in New Zealand’s first innings total of 347, also played a pivotal role with the ball, claiming three crucial wickets to dismantle England for a meagre 143. The all-rounder’s performance, combined with devastating spells from Matt Henry and Will O’Rourke, left England reeling in their attempt to salvage a consolation win after securing the series in Christchurch and Wellington.

Resuming at 315/9,

New Zealand added a vital 32 runs for the last wicket on the morning of Day 2, with Santner and O’Rourke frustrating the England attack. Matthew Potts eventually ended the resistance, claiming his fourth wicket of the innings. In response, England’s batting unit crumbled under relentless pressure from New Zealand’s bowlers. Matt Henry set the tone early, dismissing both openers, Zak Crawley (21) and Ben Duckett (11), in quick succession. O’Rourke then delivered a fiery post-lunch spell, removing Jacob Bethell (12), Harry Brook (0), and Joe Root (32), as England lost three wickets for just five runs.

Santner joined the fray, dismissing Ollie Pope (24) and skipper Ben Stokes (27) in quick succession. England’s tail offered little resistance, with Henry and Santner wrapping up the innings. Henry finished with figures of 4/48, while

O’Rourke claimed 3/33.

Opting not to enforce the follow-on, New Zealand’s second innings began positively, with opener Will Young leading the charge with a fluent 60 off 85 balls. Captain Tom Latham (19) fell early to Gus Atkinson, while Ben Stokes struck twice to remove Young and nightwatchman O’Rourke (0). However, Kane Williamson steadied the ship with an unbeaten 50, his 38th Test half-century, ensuring the Black Caps remained firmly in control heading into Day 3.

Reflecting on the day, O’Rourke praised the collective effort, saying, “It was big for us to make their bowlers work hard, and we’re focused on keeping up the pressure tomorrow.”

England assistant coach Paul Collingwood acknowledged the brilliance of New Zealand’s bowling, describing O’Rourke’s spell as “hostile and special” while lamenting his team’s underwhelming performance. With New Zealand eyeing a consolation victory to honour veteran Tim Southee in his final Test on home soil, England face an uphill battle to avoid defeat and salvage pride in the series finale.

Hendricks’ ton leads SA to series win against Pak

CENTURION, Dec 15 (Agencies): South Africa won a bilateral T20 series for the first time in more than two years when they chased down Pakistan’s 206. Opener Reeza Hendricks’ maiden T20 century, 117 off 63 balls, drove the Proteas to 210/3 with three balls to spare. Pakistan’s 206/5 was braced by an equally brilliant unbeaten 98 off 57 by opener Saim Ayub, who was desperately unlucky not to notch his maiden T20 century. He was stranded, unable to face the last nine balls of the innings.

South Africa won the series 2-0 with a game to spare for their first T20 series victory since August 2022. The teams’ combined 416 runs were the most in the 17-year history of their T20 matchups.



Hendricks has been a T20 Protea for 10 years and a prolific scorer and striker but he’d been on a mediocre run of late. When South Africa were 28/2 after four overs, he stepped up. “First over, five dots and got away, and so the moment I got that away, things started to click,” Hendricks said.

Hendricks hit 10 sixes and seven boundaries.

Siraj is getting stick from “saints” of Australian cricket, writes sarcastic Gavaskar

BRISBANE, Dec 15 (Agencies): Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar has called out the double standards of the Australian cricket pundits for their criticism of Mohammed Siraj’s aggressive send-off to Travis Head in the Day/Night Test in Adelaide.

Siraj and Head were at loggerheads after the Indian pacer got the Australian centurion bowled and gave him a send-off. While

Head said that Siraj’s reaction was uncalled for, the Indian pacer on his part countered that the southpaw never said “well bowled” which he claimed to have told the media.

ICC warned Head and Siraj was fined 20 percent of his match fee but what has irked Gavaskar is the holier than thou attitude of some former Australian players.

“Siraj is getting the

stick from all the “saints” in Australian cricket who, of course, were known for their impeccable behaviour on the field. It may have incensed Australian fans that Siraj’s fiery send-off was directed at Head, who scored a magnificent century and was also the local boy,” Gavaskar wrote in his column for Sydney Morning Herald.

Gavaskar took a dig at the double standards

about how the same people support boorish behaviour from their own. “But the same people will cheer if an Aussie quick gives a similar send-off to an English batter during next summer’s Ashes.” “There were some suggestions in the media that the Australians should get back to being the mongrels they once were.

So, do mongrels simply purr, or do they

bark, too?” He was however surprised at Siraj’s outburst considering that IPL had lessened the animosity among players.

“Siraj’s outburst was surprising because if the Indian Premier League has done one thing, apart from making Aussie cricketers and coaches millionaires, it has also taken away to a huge extent the animosity that previously existed in the game.”

Gabba Test: Head, Smith give India WTC Final flashback despite Bumrah heroics on Day 2

BRISBANE, Dec 15 (Agencies): Travis Head and Steve Smith scored centuries on Day 2 of the Gabba Test, evoking memories of the World Test Championship Final held in June 2023 at The Oval. Head smashed 152, while Smith registered his 33rd Test century with a knock of 101, as Australia finished Day 2 at 405 runs for the loss of 7 wickets.

After Day 1 of the match was marred by rain and only saw 13.2 overs being bowled, both teams were looking for a strong start on Sunday at the Gabba. And it was India, who got off the blocks quickly, thanks to the ever-dependable Jasprit Bumrah. The Indian pacer came in and ensured Usman Khawaja got a fine edge to Rishabh Pant in the 17th over. Nathan McSweeney also didn’t last long as the India pacer returned to dismiss him for the 4th time in

the series as Australia were left reeling at 38 for 2. Khawaja, on the other hand, has gotten out 3 times to Bumrah already.

Marnus Labuschagne and Smith would come in to steady the innings, but both men looked a bit shaky in the middle. Labuschagne, who was labouring during his 12 off 55 balls, had a heated moment with Mohammed Siraj, as the Indian pacer performed a bail switch in front of the Aussie batter. This seemingly created a lapse in concentration for Labuschagne, who perished soon after as Australia were in a spot of bother at 75 for 3.

And just when India thought that they were in the contest, another Head masterclass knocked the stuffing out of them. The southpaw carried on from where he left off in Adelaide and showed full confidence as he started to toy with the Indian bowling. Smith did have a

couple close calls at the other end and looked unconvincing, but the duo got Australia to lunch safely. The second session saw both men assert themselves, with Head leading the way.

After getting to his 50 off 71 balls, the southpaw put his foot on the accelerator as India employed questionable tactics against him. He would race to his 9th Test hundred in quick time and that gave Smith to free his arms and get in on the act.

The duo ensured Australia went into tea at 234 for 3 and the first hour after the break saw the duo go berserk. Smith would end a long wait for a hundred as Australia went past the 300-run mark. India were hoping for a miracle with the new ball, and it was Bumrah who would deliver that.

The Indian pacer came in and claimed the wickets of Smith, Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head to complete his



2nd 5-wicket haul in the series, to shift the momentum a bit back to the visitors at the Gabba. However, Alex Carey and Pat Cummins would put on a strong partnership to ensure Australia ended the day on top. Cummins would fall to Siraj for 20, Carey would continue scoring at a brisk pace.

Carey remained unbeaten on 45 and Starc on 7 as the stumps were called in Brisbane. Indian fans forced to live a WTC final horror film once again

Imagine the plight of waking up early in the morning in India to get

a flashback of a horror experience which you had to face in 2023. That was the case of the Indian cricket fans on Sunday and the similarities between both matches are astonishing.

At the Oval in June 2023, India felt they were on top as they had Australia reduced to 76 for 3. That is when Head joined Smith in the WTC final and what followed next was batting brilliance. The duo put on 285 runs in their incredible partnership and helped Australia post 469 runs.

Smith and Head put

on 241 runs for the 4th wicket on Sunday, and it seems like Australia are set for a 450-plus score once again.

India never recovered from it and Australia won the match by 209 runs. Now fast-forward to December 15, 2024, and it is again the same duo that has seemingly taken the game away from the visitors yet again. Ravi Shastri called this match the moving Test, and it seems like the direction of the game and the series is heading towards the hosts.

Rohit Sharma cannot afford to wait anymore. Rohit Sharma’s captaincy was questioned in the pink-ball Test when India barely put up any resistance and surrendered. A change was needed and fans expected this when the action shifted to Brisbane. But right from the toss, it seems like whatever the Indian skipper had planned hasn’t worked out.

India were on top when

Khawaja and McSweeney fell and Labuschagne’s wicket came in at the right moment. However, India and their captain failed to learn anything from their Adelaide hammering and just allowed Head to get away once again.

Rohit’s plan to wait and hope for Bumrah to deliver a wicket and bring in the new ball to the equation cost India dearly on Day 2. Smith was allowed to come into form as India just resisted the urge to attack. While Bumrah, the stand-in skipper in Perth, said there is not a need to search for wickets after the win in the first Test, India should have been smarter with their fielding placements and tactics. Simon Katich’s rant video of India’s plans against Head has gone viral, and it seems like that was the emotion that all the Indian fans had on Sunday.

Bumrah+10 = India? There was a time in

Indian cricket in the early 2000s when people used to say the Indian team was Sachin Tendulkar and 10 other players. Well, atleast in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, that seems to be the case as India is extremely dependent on Bumrah.

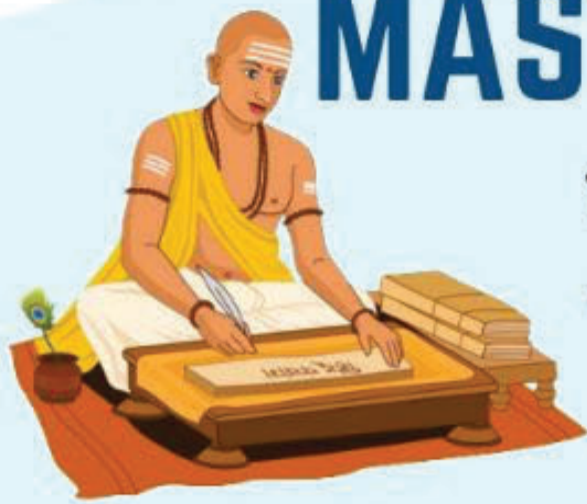
The pacer has delivered great moments across all the 3 Tests and the stats don’t lie. 17 wickets in 5 innings at an average under 13. While all this is all good for the legend of Bumrah, he needs support badly at the other end, as pointed out by Ravi Shastri.

On Day 2, while Akash Deep had some close moments, the rest didn’t stand up for their teammate as the workload is piling up on Bumrah.

Maybe, this is the moment that they sent the S.O.S signal to a certain Bengal pacer who is back and fit and has got 44 wickets in 12 matches against the Aussies.

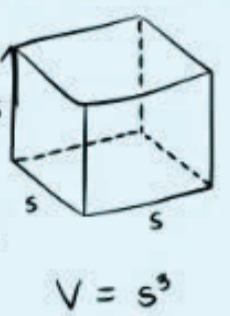


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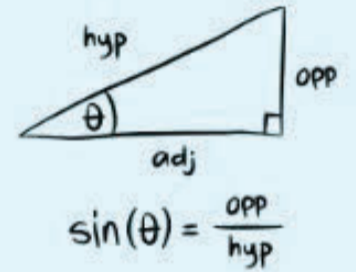
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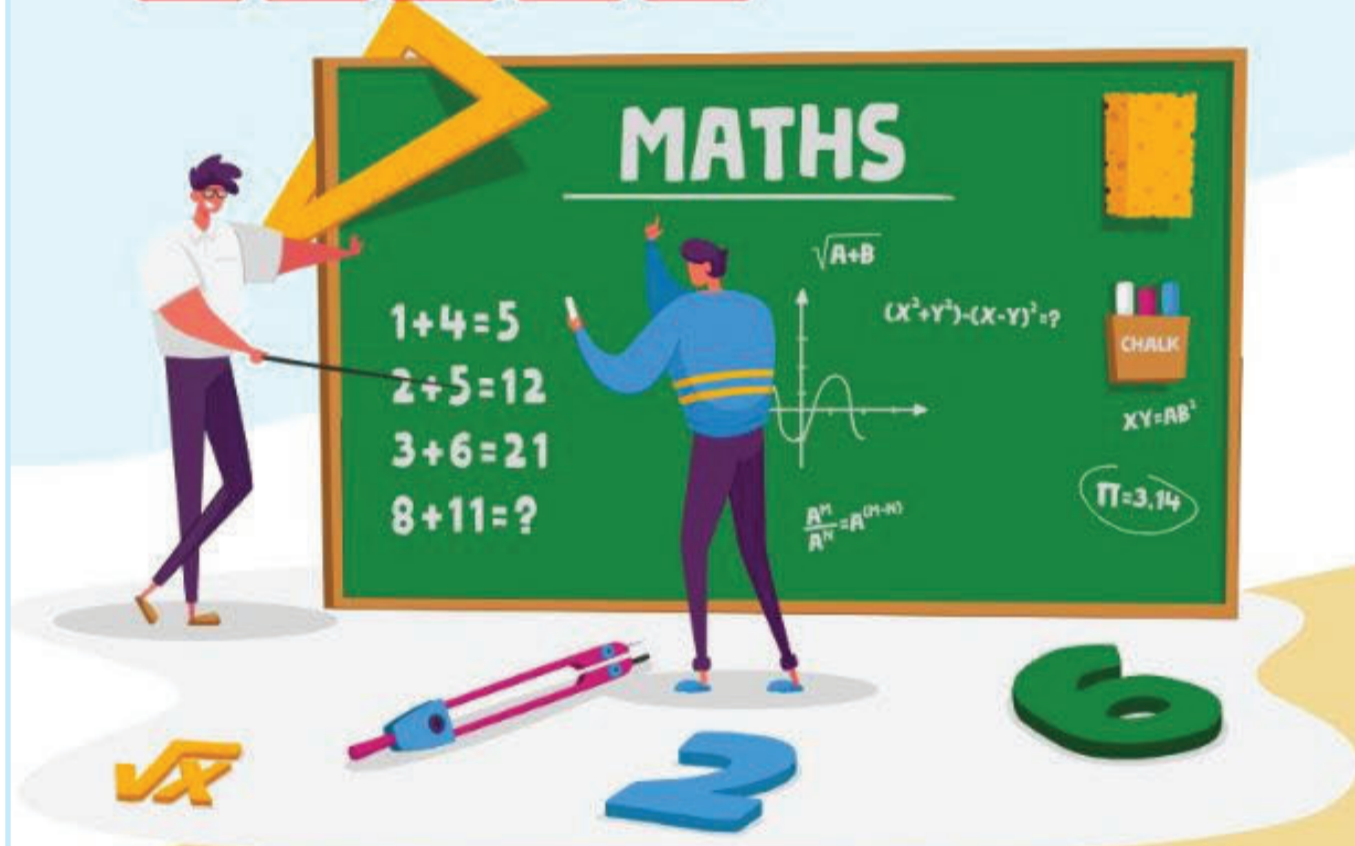
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