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JAMMU, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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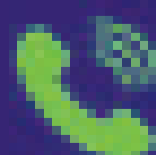
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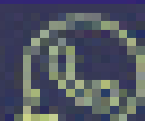
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## BRIEFLY

### LG Sinha pays tribute to soldiers on Vijay Diwas

JAMMU, Dec 16 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday saluted the brave warriors of Armed Forces for their decisive victory in the 1971 war on the occasion of Vijay Diwas. In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "On Vijay Diwas, I salute the brave warriors of our Armed Forces for their decisive victory in the 1971 war. Their selflessness, sacrifice, and heroism continue to inspire generations. Heartfelt tributes to their unwavering spirit and commitment to the nation."

### Two injured as vehicle skids off road, falls into Lidder river in Pahalgam

ANANTNAG, Dec 16 (Agencies): At least two persons were injured after the vehicle they were traveling in skidded off the road and fell into the Lidder River last night, officials said. An official told the news agency JKNS that two people sustained injuries after an Innova vehicle bearing registration no. JK01AV-3800 skidded off the road and fell into the Lidder River in Pahalgam during the intervening night. He said the injured have been identified as Suhail Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohd Rafiq Bhat from Shadipora, Bandedipora, and Nadeem Ahmed Khan, son of Tariq Ahmad Khan from Nehalpora, Pattan. Both injured were initially rushed to PHC Pahalgam for treatment, however after receiving initial medical attention, they were referred to GMC Anantnag for further care, the official said. Meanwhile, cognizance of this matter has been taken up.

### Kashmir temperatures rise slightly but stay below freezing

SRINAGAR: Kashmir experienced a slight relief from the intense cold wave as minimum temperatures rose across the valley, though they remained below the freezing point on Monday. Srinagar recorded a low of -3.4°C, while Qazigund

## Vijay Diwas | President Murmu, PM Modi pay homage to heroes of 1971 War

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday led the nation in paying tributes to the fallen heroes of the 1971 war that led to the redrawing of the political map of South Asia with the birth of Bangladesh as an independent country. The stupendous victory in the war following the surrender of over 90,000 Pakistani soldiers on December 16, 1971 ended horrific violence unleashed by the Pakistani army on millions of Bangladeshis. India commemorates December 16 as Vijay Diwas.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paying his heartfelt tributes to the brave soldiers, said their sacrifices will inspire generations and remain deeply embedded in India's history. "Today, on Vijay Diwas, we honour the cour-



age and sacrifices of the brave soldiers who contributed to India's historic victory in 1971. Their selfless dedication and unwavering resolve safeguarded our nation and brought glory to us," he said in a post on 'X'. "This day is a tribute

to their extraordinary valour and their unshakable spirit. Their sacrifices will forever inspire generations and remain deeply embedded in our nation's history," he said. In her tribute, President Murmu, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, said the ultimate sacrifice of the soldiers shall remain a source of national pride. "On Vijay Diwas, I pay homage to our valiant soldiers who displayed indomitable courage during the 1971 war, securing victory for India," she said. "A grateful nation remembers the ultimate

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## 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots | Verdict in murder case against Sajjan Kumar on January 8



NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): A Delhi court is likely deliver on January 8 next year its verdict in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja, who was scheduled to pass the order on Monday, deferred the pronouncement.

"January 8 is the next date," the Judge said. Kumar, who is currently lodged in Tihar central jail, appeared before the court through video conference. The case pertains to the alleged killings of two persons in Saraswati Vihar area during the anti-Sikh riots. The court had reserved the judgment after hearing the final arguments in the case related to the killings of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh on November 1, 1984. Though Punjabi Bagh police station registered the case initially, a special investigation team

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## CM Omar Abdullah expresses shock over death of young JKAS officer

JAMMU, Dec 16 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed shock over the demise of a young JKAS officer. "Shocked & saddened by the news of the demise of a young JKAS officer Nimisha Dogra. She leaves behind two young kids & her husband Bhupinder who is a police officer serving in Poonch district," Omar said on X.

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## Legendary tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain passes away at 73



WASHINGTON, Dec 16 (Agencies): The world of music is in mourning today with the news of the passing of Ustad Zakir Hussain, one of the greatest and

most influential percussionists of all time. The legendary tabla virtuoso, renowned for his unparalleled mastery of Indian classical music and his global

collaborations, died on December 15, Sunday, in San Francisco at the age of 73. The cause of death was confirmed to be idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic lung disease. The news was confirmed by Jon Bleicher of Prospect PR, representing the family. Ustad Zakir Hussain's passing marks the end of an era for world music. His extraordinary career spanned almost six decades, during which he elevated the

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## Govt asks MPs to publicise list of fake universities on social media

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): The government on Monday asked members of Parliament to spread awareness about 21 fake universities operating across the country and caution students against joining such institutions. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said the central government had requested the chief



secretaries of all states and Union Territory administrations to take legal action for closure of these institutions. "I appeal to the members of Parliament, who are also active on social

media and have a following among students, to publicise the list of fake universities on their social media platforms. Such efforts will prevent students falling prey to such spurious

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## Denied Cabinet berth, Shiv Sena MLA resigns from all party posts

MUMBAI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Shiv Sena MLA Narendra Bhonekar has resigned from all party posts while expressing disappointment at not being included in the Maharashtra Cabinet. Speaking to reporters in Bhandara on Sunday, Bhonekar, who was the Shiv Sena's deputy leader and co-ordinator for eastern Vidarbha districts, claimed his party head and Deputy



Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had promised him a Cabinet berth. Bhonekar said he aspired to secure a Cabinet berth to

become the guardian minister of Bhandara district and work for its development. He won from the Bhandara constituency by defeating his Congress rival by more than 38,000 votes in the November 20 state polls. A total of 39 legislators from Mahayuti allies were sworn in on Sunday in the first Cabinet expansion of the

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## Drug smuggling bid foiled in Rajouri, two arrested

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Dec 16 (Agencies): Two suspected narcotics smugglers were arrested and 5.50 kilogrammes of heroin seized from them near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Monday.



The seizure of the huge quantity of heroin, worth crores of rupees in the international market, from the Nowshera sector thwarted an attempt by the drug peddlers to smuggle the contraband from across the border, they said.

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## EDITORIAL

## Vijay Diwas: Celebrating India's Valour

Vijay Diwas, observed annually on December 16, commemorates India's resounding victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh. This day holds immense significance in Indian history as it marks the valor and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces and the decisive triumph of justice, humanity, and democracy. The victory not only altered the geopolitical landscape of South Asia but also underscored India's commitment to upholding the principles of freedom and dignity.

The 1971 Indo-Pak war was the culmination of rising tensions in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), where the local populace was subjected to systemic oppression, cultural subjugation, and political disenfranchisement by the ruling authorities in West Pakistan. The situation escalated into a humanitarian crisis in March 1971 when Pakistan launched "Operation Searchlight," a brutal military crackdown on the Bengali population, resulting in widespread atrocities, massacres, and displacement.

India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, extended support to the Mukti Bahini (Bangladeshi freedom fighters) and provided refuge to millions of displaced people. The situation reached a breaking point when Pakistan launched preemptive airstrikes on Indian airbases on December 3, 1971, prompting India to respond with full-scale military intervention.

The 13-day war, one of the shortest in modern history, showcased the exceptional strategic planning and bravery of the Indian Armed Forces. Under the leadership of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force executed coordinated operations that led to a swift and decisive victory.

The Indian Army's Eastern Command, led by Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora, advanced rapidly into East Pakistan, liberating key areas and cutting off Pakistani forces. Meanwhile, the Indian Navy established dominance in the Bay of Bengal, effectively blockading East Pakistan, and the Indian Air Force ensured aerial superiority. On December 16, 1971, Lieutenant General A.A.K. Niazi, the commander of Pakistani forces in East Pakistan, signed the Instrument of Surrender in Dhaka, marking the end of the war. This was the largest military surrender since World War II, with over 93,000 Pakistani troops laying down their arms.

The victory led to the creation of Bangladesh, a sovereign nation born out of the struggle for self-determination. For India, the war demonstrated its role as a regional power committed to upholding human rights and democracy. The liberation of Bangladesh also showcased the strength of India's leadership and its ability to forge alliances in the face of adversity.

Vijay Diwas is more than a celebration of military success; it is a tribute to the courage, resilience, and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces. It is a reminder of the cost of freedom and the enduring spirit of those who fought to uphold it. The day also underscores India's commitment to humanitarian values and its willingness to stand against oppression.

In addition, Vijay Diwas serves as a moment of reflection for India's strategic and geopolitical priorities. The 1971 war demonstrated the importance of strong leadership, efficient coordination between military branches, and the necessity of international diplomacy. The role of allies such as the Soviet Union, which provided crucial support to India, highlights the importance of maintaining strong international relationships.

Educational institutions and community organizations also participate in Vijay Diwas celebrations by hosting discussions, exhibitions, and film screenings to raise awareness about the significance of the 1971 war. The day fosters a sense of national pride and unity, reminding citizens of the values that bind the nation together.

The legacy of Vijay Diwas extends beyond the battlefield. It highlights the importance of unity, preparation, and decisive action in the face of challenges. The 1971 war was a testament to the strength of India's armed forces and the nation's ability to stand firm in defense of its principles.

Moreover, Vijay Diwas serves as a reminder of the ongoing responsibility to support veterans and their families, ensuring that their sacrifices are recognized and valued. It also calls for vigilance and preparedness to address contemporary challenges to national security and sovereignty.

## As Fadnavis' star rises, will he be the BJP's next Yogi?

By: Sunil Gatade

There are ironies galore, and more so in politics. It took the BJP nearly 12 days to anoint Devendra Fadnavis as the chief minister of Maharashtra. This despite his proclamations that he was a "modern-day Abhimanyu" and knows how to break the maze, unlike the son of the legendary Arjuna. The irony is that the BJP, with 132 seats in its kitty and the support of five Independents, had almost got a majority in the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, a record for the saffron party, and still the election of the new chief minister was delayed.

As promised, Mr Fadnavis had broken the maze to become the rising star of the Sangh Parivar. Like in the case of Yogi Adityanath, it could be that the RSS had put its foot down to finally clear the way for Mr Fadnavis. Like the Uttar Pradesh CM, Mr Fadnavis has shown that he is a leader in his own right. He is unquestionably a find of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to whom he is grateful for the experience thus far.

What sent the alarm bells ringing in the BJP high command is that everybody who is anybody in the NDA was present to greet Mr Fadnavis, as well as the top guns of Bollywood and the business world. It was an indicator that he had finally arrived. The chief minister of the wealthiest state was once described as akin to the deputy PM by the late Bal Thackeray some decades back. Mumbai is the economic capital, and its control is vital for any ruling party.

The victory brought by Mr Fadnavis was more prominent, as the Maharashtra polls this time were basically a "local" affair in which the Prime Minister as well as home minister Amit Shah, the star campaigners, took a back seat. Whether anyone likes it or not, Mr Fadnavis has landed himself among the "number two" leaders of the BJP, like Amit Shah, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Yogi Adityanath, thereby sending the signal that if other things were preferred, the hardcore RSS man could be destined for bigger things.

Of all these rising leaders, Mr Fadnavis does shine. Despite being a hardcore RSS loyalist, he projects himself as comfortable with the globalised world. Gentle but firm and with good manners and etiquette, he is a picture of perfect patience. But some say that compared with Nitin Gadkari, who had once mentored him, he is not that reliable. It goes without saying that the strength of Mr Fadnavis lies in that he is not counted among the several faceless chief ministers of the BJP who are there because of being the "yes men" of the high command. Ironically, among the first leaders who complimented him after becoming the BJP legislature party leader was Vinod Tawde, a BJP national general secretary, who was eyeing his post. The talk is that Mr Tawde, who had failed to get renomination in the last Assembly polls, was propped up by a section of the BJP leadership to cut Mr Fadnavis to size. During the run-up to the polls, Mr Tawde had suggested that there could be someone else as the chief minister this time and

not Mr Fadnavis. Those in the BJP who have crossed the path of Mr Fadnavis have suffered the worst. Eknath Khadse, who was the BJP boss in Maharashtra before the rise of Mr Fadnavis, is now forced to be back in Sharad Pawar's NCP despite reports suggesting that J.P. Nadda had offered him a bouquet a few months back, that might signal his return. Pankaja Munde has been forced to turn from being a detractor to a loyalist of Mr Fadnavis for her political survival. But the path ahead is not all rosy. First and foremost, he would have to bring stability to the government at a time when deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, his boss till yesterday, does not look at all satisfied. The challenges are galore for Mr Fadnavis, especially over the next year, for him to settle down. With great victories come great responsibilities and expectations -- to deliver, and deliver early. The next year will also be crucial for Mr Fadnavis amidst consistent claims and allegations by the battered Opposition that the Assembly election results were "shocking and inexplicable" and senior leaders, including Sharad Pawar, are expected to move heaven and earth to get at the truth. Time is also of the essence for Mr Fadnavis to prove that his victory was not a flash in the pan. Sooner than later, there will be several local body elections, including to the municipal corporations, which will show who stands where and how the winds are blowing. The moral of the story is that the BJP in Maharashtra will not be the same again after the re-emergence as chief minister of Mr Fadnavis,

who feels that he has been granted carte blanche to run the state, unlike most BJP leaders in the states. Mr Fadnavis may not have a strong Opposition in the legislature, but the two allies, incidentally headed by two Marathas, now his deputies in the Cabinet, will strive hard to expand their own parties -- the Shiv Sena and the NCP respectively -- with the help of power. On the other hand, the BJP high command is aware that the modern-day Abhimanyu is aspiring to be the Arjun of the Mahabharata at a time when murmurs about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's possible successor have begun in political circles after he secured a record third term. Therefore, Mr Fadnavis has to tackle his own bosses in the party on the one hand, as well as Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar on the other, and do both delicately and skilfully. That is because he lacks a caste support base and does not have a vote bank, which Yogi Adityanath has, not only just in Uttar Pradesh but in the Hindi heartland as a whole, being a Thakur. Obviously, Mr Fadnavis has to tread cautiously because of the hidden rivals in his own party. Therefore, every election in Maharashtra will test his leadership, and that will decide his stability and longevity in power. Maharashtra is not an ordinary state. It took 10 long years for the BJP to stabilise in the state after the emergence of Mr Modi on the national stage. The BJP's victory in Maharashtra was no less than "operation blitzkrieg". Mr Fadnavis' road to a bigger national role depends upon how well he tackles Maharashtra.

## Internet media that captivates the mind

By: Vijay Garg

Information is often highlighted as a means of enhancing knowledge. It is said that it is the information that destroys our ignorance in the form of new information and gives meaning to life, but when we are bombarded with information, our brain does not concentrate at any one place. What will happen if you are trapped in the web of information and are unable to decide which information to accept and which to discard? This information comes in the form of meaningless pictures and videos. What would happen if moments take up most of our brain? It is not surprising that the mental condition arising from the internet media that has surrounded us from all sides through the internet on the smart phones in every hand, has been recorded by Oxford University Press as the word "brain rot". Is. By choosing "brain rot" as the Word of the Year for 2024, Oxford University Press has actually exposed a disease of Internet media that may be it has become a very serious problem for the world. Where does this mental inertia come from? If we look at the history of human civilization, humans did not have much information until industrialization started two hundred and fifty years ago, but their mental development did not stop. Many arts developed, a

lot of literature was created, many unique inventions were made and civilization reached such a pinnacle of development where humans became the most powerful species in the known universe, but in the last decade and a half, the internet and Internet media has brought civilization perhaps for the first time in the history of India, our mental or intellectual condition has reached such a low level where people have started accepting shallow knowledge and useless entertainment easily. They do not see anything trivial in meaningless pictures and ridiculous content created by AI, rather such content is viewed with great pride. There is a lot of content that is essentially internet garbage. Some people may argue that what is the harm to anyone in this, but the question is that such content is not relevant to our knowledge. Is it adding anything new and meaningful in the level of information or even in the space of entertainment? Thousands and lakhs of small particles (reels and shorts) are entering our minds every day in the form of useless pictures and videos, but these fleeting materials are not giving us anything specific that can say anything about the individual, society or country. Can do good. The Dirt of Disposable Digital Content It can be said that some people are earning money by creating such content on Instagram reels, You-

Tube shorts and other internet media platforms. What is the harm in this? Certainly, some people have got employment from them, but when the filth served by such people on internet media reaches us, it gradually starts numbing our mind. This garbage in the form of disposable digital content actually takes up valuable space in our brains. In most situations, a mind gripped and rotting by a negative attitude craves for more filth. This is why when you have been on Instagram or Facebook for some time, when you watch a reel on TV, you keep watching it for hours, watching it one after the other. This is actually a mind-numbing tendency, in which when a situation arises, a person starts feeling that he is in someone's grip, but he does not find any way to get out of it. However, some direct effects of brain rot can definitely be seen. As such, it reduces the duration of focusing on an object. Its effect is that our brain engages in positive activities. gets tough. For example, we are not able to read books. We are not able to create something that gives us inner satisfaction. The natural tendency to contemplate, research and invent by thinking begins to weaken. With the emergence of Internet media, the number of people suffering from brainwashing has increased manifold, who are viewers, fans of such materials that fall in the category of pornography, which are

in reality nothing more than meaningless digital debris. The problem is that companies providing information and entertainment also seeing the demand, they have started producing such vulgar materials. They do not provide anything like knowledge, information or real entertainment to their viewers. If our brain is becoming a victim of a permanent kind of inertia, then we can say that that fake virtual life has come to dominate our real life. Which has nothing to do with the real world and its complexities. Solution in digital fasting: In the last decade, there have been many researches which show that internet media is turning into a bad addiction. A new trend to get rid of this is 'Internet fasting', which some experts also call dopamine fasting. This is needed by those people who have actually become victims of internet media, online gaming and pornography addiction. i.e. their brain

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

# IIM Jammu inaugurates fourth batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated the fourth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program on Monday.

The inaugural session took place at the institute's permanent campus in Jagti, marking another step in its mission to foster academic excellence and leadership development.

This initiative aligns with the Malaviya Mission's vision of empowering educators and leaders to shape the future of India's educational landscape.

The leadership training program is one of the unique residential programs designed to develop the leadership skills of educators at different levels and create a pool of potential leaders for generational transition. The program, scheduled from 16th to 20th December 2024, will be conducted by the faculty of IIM Jammu to help institutions evaluate and enhance the leadership potential of their faculty members.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presided over the inaugural ceremony. The fourth



batch consisted of 29 participants from Institutes across India and is fully funded by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. The participants shared their introduction providing insights into their academic and professional journeys. The event commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony

Prof. Sahay welcomed participants to the program, emphasizing IIM Jammu's commitment to excellence and innovation in education. Highlighting the acute shortage of leadership in academia, he praised the Ministry of Education's transformative initiative to cultivate academic leaders as agents of positive change. He encouraged active engagement, networking with peers and faculty, and open discussions to address institutional challenges collaboratively. He

urged participants to explore IIM Jammu's state-of-the-art infrastructure and expressed enthusiasm for personally interacting with them, wishing everyone a productive and enriching experience.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu. Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Program Director and Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu welcomed participants to the Nurturing Future Leadership Program, emphasizing its focus on developing academic leaders. He provided an overview of IIM Jammu's Executive Education initiatives, its diverse portfolio of online, offline, and hybrid programs, and its innovative offerings in machine learning and artificial intelligence aligned with industry trends.

Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Program Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted the program's mutual learning opportunities and networking possibilities while providing an overview of Jammu as the city of temples and sharing insights about Kashmir. He spoke about IIM Jammu's growth from 45 to 1100 students, its diverse programs, and its distinction as the only region in the country hosting three Institutes of National Importance, making it a vibrant hub for academic excellence.

The residential training program will be divided into four broad themes, such as leadership, communication, skill development, and recent government initiatives, and will feature four sessions each for the next five days. These sessions will include lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises to ensure active engagement and application of concepts.

Participants will also have the opportunity to network with prominent experts from reputed Institutions and IIM Jammu faculty. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Niti Shekhar, Program Director, IIM Jammu. Finally, the inaugural program culminated with the National Anthem, filling the room with a sense of unity and pride. The participants were then taken for a campus tour of the Institute.

# Army celebrates Vijay Diwas at Leh

## Top News Report

LEH, Dec 16: Indian Army commemorated Vijay Diwas with solemn ceremony at the Hall of Fame, Leh, to honour the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation.

Major General Dinesh Kumar Singh, Sena Medal, Chief of Staff, Fire and Fury Corps led the tribute by laying a wreath. The ceremony to pay homage to the martyrs was attended by military officers, Junior Commissioned Officers

# LEAD announces second annual Mahotsav Jammu Kashmir Ladakh in Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: LEAD is set to organize the Second Annual Mahotsav - Jammu Kashmir Ladakh (JKL) on December 21st and 22nd, 2024, at GGM Science College Ground, Jammu.

The two-day event will promote the themes of Swadeshi, Swawlambhan, and Sanskriti while showcasing the diverse cultural heritage, entrepreneurial spirit, and indigenous products of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Speaking at a press conference, Harinder Gupta, Board Member of LEAD, shared that the Mahotsav will feature over 100 stalls exhibiting local handicrafts, cuisines, and startup ventures. The event will also include cultural exhibitions, adventure activities and competitions for students, ensuring active community participation. With an anticipated footfall of thousands, the Mahotsav promises to be a grand celebration that highlights the region's untapped potential. Emphasizing the



event's alignment with national initiatives like Vocal for Local, Make in India, and Startup India, Sanjeev Sharma, Media In charge, stated that Mahotsav 2024 serves as a platform to empower local businesses, nurture entrepreneurship, and inspire self-reliance among the youth and community. "The Mahotsav reflects our commitment to promote sustainable development, encouraging innovation, and preserving cultural heritage," he said.

Signature events planned for the Mahotsav include SABRANG (Programme for School and Colleges Students), Gatka (Sikh martial arts demonstration), Khel Utsav (Sports competitions), Jangam (folk Shiv Parvati Vivaah Katha), Rang Tarang and Natyotsav (cultural and theatrical show-

and Other Ranks of Fire and Fury Corps, Air Force Station, Leh and other units located at Leh.

Vijay Diwas is observed every year to commemorate the decisive victory in the Indo Pak War - 1971, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh. The occasion serves as a reminder of the bravery, sacrifice and dedication of the armed forces in safeguarding the nation.

The event concluded with a resolve to uphold the legacy of the war heroes and a commitment to protect the sovereignty of the nation.

# DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of PMJVK Scheme



## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 16: The District Development Commissioner DDC/DC Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, chaired a District Level Committee (DLC) meeting on Monday to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme in the district.

The meeting focused on reviewing various initiatives aimed at the socio-economic development of minority communities.

During the meeting, key directives were

issued to ensure the timely initiation and effective implementation of key projects.

The DC reviewed the status of various key projects under the PMJVK scheme (education department), including the construction of schools such as HS Lopara (Marwah), HS Tipri (Drabshalla), HS Sranwa (Kishtwar), MS Gulabgarh (Paddar), MS Bonda (Inderwal), MS Hindgam (Inderwal), and HSS Mughal Maidan (Inderwal).

He directed the concerned officials to proceed with the construc-

tion of one additional room for the Health and Wellness Centre at Sigdi Bhata, the assessment of the old block and multipurpose hall at HSS Kishtwar, and the remodeling of NTPHC Inderwal.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed, CEO Kishtwar Javed Ahmed Kitchloo, LDM Kishtwar, BMO Chatroo, along with representatives from ITI Kishtwar, NGOs, and other staff from the concerned departments.

# JKBS grieves Bansi Lal Lakhotra's demise

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: To mourn the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Bansi Lal Lakhotra who hailed from Village Dei Chack, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha held a meeting here today.

JKBS members said, Late Bansi Lal Lakhotra was most polite, humble, affable, respectful and a compassionate person. All present prayed

to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give enough strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

Among others who attended the meeting included Messrs R.L.Kaith, Tialak Raj Basha, Hav. Ghari Lal Lakhotra, Hav. Jeet Ral Mandi, Ex Panch Yog Raj Baassa and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

# SSP Kulgam chairs PCPG meeting in Hallan



## Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 16: In order to bridge the gap between Police and public, Police in Kulgam have facilitated Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting at Hallan a remote village of Qazigund belt in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, besides, SP NHW Mumtaz Ali Bhatti, SDPO Qazigund, Rameez Raja, SHO Qazigund Masood Malik and others were present on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by a large number of respectable members of the area including Numberdars and Chowkidars of and its adjacent areas.

During the meeting, various issues including road connectivity, electricity issues, water supply, Solar lights, SPO recruitment, drug menace, rising social evils and other public service delivery were discussed.

All the grievances were heard patiently in the meeting. The

attendees were assured that all the grievances pertaining to police will be dealt with as per law and remaining grievances will be taken up with the concerned departments.

The cooperation of the general public was sought in eradication of drug menace and other social crimes from the society. It was said that these meetings play an important role in bridging the vacuum between police and the general public and transforming police force into responsible, transparent, accountable and sensitive to public issues," said police official.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP said such meetings are conducted to solicit suggestions and seek public support for better policing in the area and this process will continue in the future as well.

The participants appreciated the role of the police in conducting such interaction meetings and assured their full support and cooperation in curbing the menace of social evils of society.

# Having shown its place by Omar, Congress must stop spreading fake narrative about EVMs: Raman

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member Raman Suri has strongly criticized the Congress party for perpetuating a false narrative against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Suri emphasized that India's electoral system, under the guidance of the Election Commission of India (ECI), is a global benchmark for conducting free, fair, and transparent elections.

He urged the Congress to introspect on its repeated electoral failures instead of venting frustration on EVMs or blaming the government.

Highlighting the advancements made by India in electoral technology, Suri remarked, "The use of EVMs has eliminated the inefficiencies and vulnerabilities of paper ballot systems, ensuring quicker, cleaner, and more accurate election processes.

Our nation is far ahead of many democracies in this regard, where archaic systems like ballot papers still lead to controversies and delays."

He further stated that EVMs have withstood rigorous scrutiny and legal challenges, proving their reliability time and again.

Suri pointed to the recent statement by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who dismissed Congress's objections to EVMs. Abdullah had rightly pointed out the inconsistency in Congress's stance, saying, "You can't celebrate victory using EVMs in one election and then cry foul when the results don't favor you in another." Echoing this sentiment, Raman Suri added, "The Congress must understand that blaming EVMs is a poor excuse for its own failures. The machines don't change; it's the people's mandate that does. It's time Congress stops mis-

leading the public and focuses on introspection."

Taking a strong stand, Raman called on Congress to appreciate the efforts of the Election Commission of India, which has consistently delivered impartial elections across the nation without any bias. "The ECI's exemplary work has strengthened India's democracy and earned global recognition. Instead of maligning such an institution, the Congress should be proud of how India has modernized its electoral process," he asserted.

Suri advised Congress to engage in constructive politics and respect the democratic verdict of the people. "The failure lies within Congress, not in the EVMs. With leaders like Omar Abdullah pointing out its double standards, Congress should cease its baseless allegations and channel its energy toward rebuilding its political credibility," he said.

# GDC R S Pura organizes awareness-cum-loan Mela



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: GDC RS Pura in collaboration with Women Development Corporation and National Minorities Development Corporation New Delhi organised an awareness-cum-loan Mela in the premises of the college.

The mela was coordinated by Women Development Cell under the worthy patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and supervision of Dr. Neena Gupta Rohmetra, Convenor Women Development Cell and Head, Department of

English. The programme was attended by prominent faculty members and students of the college.

The District Incharge of J&K State Women's Development Corporation Shashikant Sharma gave a welcome note and addressed several schemes and financial advice on providing opportunities that allow students to grow, lead, and thrive in all areas of their lives.

Atisha Sethi, Child Development Project Officer emphasised the employment experiences of women from minority

groups. These women face multiple layers of inequality due to the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, and in some cases socioeconomic status, which compound the barriers they encounter in the labor market. Understanding and addressing these challenges is critical for fostering a more inclusive and equitable workforce, where all women, regardless of background, can thrive.

In her address, Principal laid emphasis on empowering young women for creating a more equitable society and ensuring minority girls to have access to quality education, vocational training, and digital literacy programs for future employment opportunities. The awareness camp was concluded with formal vote of thanks by Shashikant Sharma.

# ICICI Pru Life settles 99.04% of claims in just 1.2 days in Q2-FY2025

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.04%, the highest in the industry, for the period from July 2024 to September 2024. Importantly, the average time to settle a death claim was just 1.2 days.

Amish Banker, Chief Operations Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "Claims is the ultimate moment of truth, and we handle every claim with utmost sensitivity.

In Q2-FY2025, we had a claim settlement ratio of 99.04% while our average claim settlement turnaround time

for non-investigated claims from last document received date was just 1.2 days. Besides, we settled death claims totalling over Rs. 451 crore in the same period.

Under our "Claim for Sure" initiative, we promise to settle eligible claims in one-day after all documents are submitted. We have settled death claims amounting to Rs. 71.24 crore in Q2-FY2025 under this initiative. We have consistently had an industry leading claim settlement ratios; in Q1-FY2024 it was 97.94%, in Q2-FY2024 it stood at 98.14%, in Q3-FY2024 it was 98.52% and for FY2024 it was 99.17%".

## 'Wah, Ustad!': Zakir Hussain gave tabla new identity, fused music to make magic

His fingers flew, fluttered and floated in quicksilver changes of raga and rhythm, drumming up music and magic. Zakir Hussain was the maestro of tabla, percussionist, composer and even actor – a legend who was India's very own and yet belonged to the world.

Hussain died from 'idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis', a lung disease, in a San Francisco hospital early Monday. He was 73.

The artiste, a marquee name in India and abroad, leaves behind more than 60 years of music. He played on the stage alongside some of the greatest Indian and international musicians in a fusion of Indian classical and world music, giving the tabla a whole new identity.

The great percussionist created music across genres and styles, including in his repertoire jazz and concertos, naturally developing an "all-inclusive musical creativity" after learning and playing under the tutelage of his father and renowned tabla player, Alla Rakha.

"The mindset as I was growing up tuned itself to the idea that music is music, it's not Indian music or that music, so when I actually started working with musicians who were non-Indian it seemed like a natural handshake," Hussain told PTI almost a year ago ahead of a performance in Goa.

As the son of Alla Rakha, one of the greatest tabla players of all time, Hussain was to the music born.

He started early. The child prodigy performed his first concert at the age of seven and began touring at 12. After completing his education in Mumbai, where he was born, he moved to the United States in 1970.

The borders melted away when it came to his music.

In February, Hussain became the first musician from India to receive three Grammys at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards in February for Best Global Music Album, Best Global Music Performance and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.

"I am overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of love, affection, and blessings for my multiple Grammy wins. It is impossible for me to individually respond to all of you but be



assured that you are all in my heart and I'm bowing to each and every one of you in thanks. It was a great day for India at the Grammys and I'm proud to be carrying the national flag," he wrote on Instagram at the time.

At the 2024 Grammys, Hussain earned his first honour for best global music album for "This Moment" as part of the fusion music group Shakti, which includes founding member British guitarist John McLaughlin, as well as vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram.

He later won two other awards for the best global music performance for "Pashto" and best contemporary instrumental album for "As We Speak", along with flautist Rakesh Chaurasia, American banjo player Bela Fleck and American bassist Edgar Meyer.

In January last year, the Shakti quintet reunited for a world tour in India to much excitement from fans.

Other than Shakti, Hussain also contributed to many groundbreaking collaborations, including Masters of Percussion, Planet Drum and Global Drum Project with Mickey Hart, Tabla Beat Science, Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, CrossCurrents with Dave Holland and Chris Potter, in trio with Béla Fleck and Edgar Meyer, and, most recently, with

Herbie Hancock.

Hussain composed three concertos. His third, the first-ever concerto for tabla and orchestra, was premiered in India in September 2015, by the Symphony Orchestra of India, in Europe and the UK in 2016, and in the US in April, 2017.

The composer who travelled and performed all across the globe had reservations against performing at private gatherings and disliked latecomers. He was also very vocal in his views.

In a conversation with author Nasreen Munni Kabir as written in her book "Zakir Hussain: A Life in Music", Hussain said a private gathering, corporate events or weddings are not places "where music should be heard".

"Those are places where people come to socialize, to drink and perhaps have a meal. That's not the way music should be heard. For me, it's the concert hall or the theatre-people take their seats, the hall darkens and we musicians take our place," he said.

Hussain would ask the organisers to close the doors once the performance begins and not allow latecomers.

Then there was the man himself. His broad smile, boyish good looks and curly locks keeping rhythm with his fingers gave him a distinctive star persona that sometimes went beyond his music.

The percussionist was once

voted the "sexiest man" by women readers of the Indian magazine "Gentleman" in 1994 in a competition against the likes of Amitabh Bachchan.

"The magazine team came to see me and wanted me to wear all these suits and jackets and Western clothes and feature on their cover. I think they were equally shocked and surprised that I won the greatest number of votes because they had assumed the winner would be Amitabh Bachchan," Hussain is quoted as saying by Kabir.

Besides his work as a tabla player, Hussain also composed music for many movies, including "Manto" and "Mr and Mrs Iyer".

He also acted in the Merchant Ivory film production "Heat and Dust", "The Perfect Murder" and "Saaaz", opposite Shabana Azmi.

In 1988, Hussain became a household name as the face of the Taj Mahal Tea brand.

In a 33-second TV commercial, the ustad was shown immersed in his tabla riyaz, only to later sip on a cup of Taj tea.

The voiceover, by the famous Harish Bhimani, would then compliment Hussain's skills saying "Wah Ustad, wah!". To which, the percussionist would reply: "Arre huzoor, wah Taj boliyel!" That "Wah Taj" became an oft used buzzword for many an occasion, and still remembered all these years later.

The same year, Hussain also shared screen space with his father Allah Rakha in the iconic national integration song "Mile Sur Mera Tumhara" which premiered on Doordarshan.

He is survived by his wife Antonia Minnecola and two daughters, Anisa Qureshi and Isabella Qureshi.

Apart from four Grammys, Hussain was the recipient of countless awards and honours, including Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the USA's National Heritage Fellowship and Officer in France's Order of Arts and Letters.

As his countless fans bid farewell to the artiste who transcended boundaries, of music and of geography, and went too soon, many could only say – "Wah Ustad".

## I would not manipulate my viewers, says screen writer Ritesh Shah of I Want to Talk fame



In a country where cinema thrives on dialogue baazi, where dialogues often have longer shelf life than movies, making silence speak is a challenging job. Yet, noted and acclaimed screen writer Ritesh Shah's latest film I Want to Talk talks more through cinematic language than dialogues. He says, "What is expected of me as a writer in a Shoojit Sircar film is to delve into a character's inner journey and the lyricism in such melancholic moments."

To convey the same is easier said than done. Some clues, he shares, came from Arjun Sen's biography on which the Abhishek Bachchan-starrer film is based. He elucidates, "Take the scene where after learning of his life threatening ailment, the simple act of eating pizza out of a box and wiping his fingers on his shirt conveys his state of mind."

Of course, writing on real life people poses yet another kind of challenge. Shah, the writer of films like Sardar Udham, Batla House and now I Want to Talk, laughs and recalls how there was a point in life when he begged the makers, "Give me anything but a fact-based film." He reasons, "So much monkey balancing has to be done with real life stories. If there is a man of Sardar Udham Singh's magnitude, you have to be conscious of his stature without turning it into

a hagiography. Then if it's a Batla House, eight days before the release someone would file a court case. And for a living person like Arjun Sen you have to factor in other constraints." Comparatively pure fiction works better for him but also, "it taxes your imagination as the source material does not exist."

Shah, of course, is not an either/or person or genre specific or even one director's writer. If he can word paint an eloquent picture minimalistically in Sircar's films, he is equally adept with dramatic flair in say a Nikhil Advani project. Since cinema is a director's medium, he feels that it is very important to have a convinced director on the sets. "I completely surrender to director's vision. I am conscious of what section of audiences he is appealing to." Writers, he believes, anyway have multiple personalities 'not as in disorder,' that's why "we can write negative characters too."

How did this student of English literature end up writing films in Hindi? Well, he owes his closer brush with Hindi to five years of theatre with Act One group. It was this association which made him browse through works of luminaries in Hindi galaxy. If in theatre, audiences are the most significant others, in cinema too their value can't be undermined. Indeed, writers are not immune to box office pressure, especially in

big budget films like say an Airlift or a Raid. But more importantly, he observes, "It's so heartening to have audience whose heart and mind is in sync with yours as is happening with I Want to Talk. People are reacting at exactly the same points we expected them to." He also insists, "It's wrong to say we don't write for audiences. Only I would not be dishonest or manipulate my viewers. Had I been asked to put an item number in Pink I would have walked away."

Among the many memorable films he has given us, Pink, Sardar Udham, Airlift, Madari and now I Want to Talk are closest to his heart. However, he opines, "Cinema at the end of the day is not one man's voice but a collective vision of so many. There are invaluable contributions of 40 to hundred people of the crew before it becomes what you see on the screen."

At some stage in life he might wield the directorial baton. "Only if there is a compelling story that doesn't find a parent shall I adopt it."

Till his dream ventures become a reality, you can watch his pen work wonders in upcoming films like Tehraan, Azaad and Diplomat.

Pride, he might profess is not a sin most writers suffer from, but he has enough body of work for which he deserves more than kudos. If lines like 'no means no,' 'koi zinda hai,' 'pehle wohi apni thi phir sab apne ho gaye' and 'let the world know I was a revolutionary' continue to echo in your mind, you can tip your hat to the man whose writing goes way beyond jumlebaazi.

Quote: "All classic screen-writing is about being as visual as possible and resorting to dialogues only when all crutches fail."

## Will Smith denies any links to Sean 'Diddy' Combs

Oscar-winning Hollywood star Will Smith has denied any connection with Sean "Diddy" Combs and said that he "ain't been nowhere near that man".

Smith, who released a new song called "Tantrum," performed at the Observatory North Park theater in San Diego. A video shared on TikTok and obtained by TMZ shows Smith addressing the crowd between songs, speaking about memes linking him to Combs.

He said in the clip: "The world we're in right now, it's really hard for y'all to discern what's real and what's true, you know? I've been seeing y'all's memes and stuff ... Some of that stuff's funny. ... I haven't addressed any of this publicly, but I just wanna say this very clearly: I don't have to do with Puffy, so y'all can stop all them memes. You can stop all of that bulls..."

"I ain't been nowhere near that man, ain't did none of that stupid," Smith, who's been previously photographed with Combs at industry events over the years, said from the stage.

"So whenever y'all



hear it, if somebody say that, it's a damn lie," reports people.com.

Combs, 55, is in federal custody in New York City after his September indictment on charges of sex trafficking, racketeering and transportation to engage in prostitution.

He is alleged to have used coercion to make women participate in so-called "freak-offs," described by prosecutors as "elaborate and produced sex performances."

Prosecutors say authorities found "freak-off supplies," including

drugs and over 1,000 bottles of baby oil and lubricant, when they raided Combs' homes in Los Angeles and Miami in March. Combs has denied committing any wrongdoing.

His attorneys previously said in a statement after the first wave of civil assault complaints that he "cannot address every meritless allegation in what has become a reckless media circus," but that he "emphatically" denied sexually abusing anyone. Combs will remain behind bars until his trial in May 2025.

## Jacqueliene Fernandez on dealing with tough times: Resilience and self-belief have been my biggest learnings

*Jacqueliene Fernandez opens up on completing 15 years in the industry, dealing with tough times and the future of her music career*

It's been 15 years for Jacqueliene Fernandez in the industry, and through this time while the actor has seen many successes, she has also been subjected to tough times. Ask her how she deals with them and find the strength to get up and brave it all and she says, "Resilience and self-belief have been my biggest learnings. There are always going to be tough days, but I remind myself why I started this journey. Having a strong support system of loved ones and focusing on the things that make me happy keeps me grounded."

Coming from Sri Lanka, the 39-year-old admits that India has given her an acceptance that she could have only dreamt of. She says, "I'm a South Asian so there are many cultural similarities that I've also grown up with - whether it's enjoying curry and rice in tropical weather or the emphasis on family values. Adapt-



ing to a new language and nuances was chal-

lenging at first, but the warmth of the Indian

audience made me feel right at home. Indians today embrace their roots while being open to global perspectives."

After acting and dancing, Jacqueliene Fernandez tried her hand at a new skill this year—singing, with her song Stormrider, and after the response to the song, it has given her a zeal to pursue music with much more gusto. "The response has been so encouraging. It's amazing to hear from fans about how much they connect with the song, particularly its themes of resilience and empowerment. Knowing that my music has touched people's hearts and inspired them makes it all worthwhile," she says, adding, "Every step of the process was about channeling my evolution as an artiste into something meaningful. It's more than just a song; it's a piece of my journey."

Interestingly, the musical inclination is heredi-

tary for Jacqueliene. She reveals, "Music has always been a significant part of my life. My father was a part-time DJ, and growing up, our home was filled with records from the '50s, '60s, '70s, and beyond. That exposure to diverse musical genres laid the foundation for my love of music." Prod her on her future musical plans and she shares, "Right now, I'm exploring solo music as it is such a powerful medium for storytelling. As for the future, there are more songs and possibly an album in the works, each reflecting a different side of me as an artiste."

Currently, the actor is working on Housefull 5. While she doesn't divulge much about it, she shares, "It's such a fun movie. I've always enjoyed working with Akshay (Kumar, actor) and my other co-stars. And the camaraderie on set with all of them is so special."

## PM Modi holds talks with Sri Lankan President Dissanayaka

India has been expanding its overall defence and strategic ties with Sri Lanka amid concerns over China's attempts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held extensive talks with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, focusing on further shoring up cooperation between the two countries in a range of areas, including defence, trade and investment.

The Sri Lankan leader arrived in Delhi on Sunday, his first foreign trip after becoming president in September.

Ahead of the talks, Dissanayaka was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

'An extensive agenda encompassing trade, investment, development and security cooperation will be discussed,' External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X ahead of the Modi-Dissanayaka talks.

On Sunday, the Sri Lankan leader held separate meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval.



The Sri Lankan leader will also meet President Droupadi Murmu.

Dissanayaka is scheduled to attend a business event in Delhi to promote investment and commercial linkages between the two countries. He is also scheduled to visit Bodh Gaya.

Sri Lanka is India's closest

maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and holds a central place in Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday. "The visit of President Dissanayaka to India is expected

to further strengthen the multi-faceted and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries," it said.

Issues relating to maritime security cooperation are likely to figure during Dissanayaka's visit, people familiar with the matter said.

India has been expanding its overall defence and strategic ties with Sri Lanka amid concerns over China's attempts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean.

The docking of the Chinese missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang' at Hambantota port in August 2022 had triggered a diplomatic row between India and Sri Lanka.

Another Chinese warship docked at the Colombo port in August last year.

India has been supporting various capacity-building measures of Sri Lankan defence forces, including providing indigenously constructed Offshore Patrol Vessels.

## Amit Shah lauds Chhattisgarh government for action against Maoists



JAGDALPUR, Dec 16 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday commended the Chhattisgarh government for its determined efforts in combating Maoism in the state.

Addressing a gathering in Jagdalpur, Mr Shah praised the collaborative approach adopted by the state government and central agencies to tackle the issue effectively.

During his visit, the Home Minister interacted with surrendered Maoists and their families, offering them reassurance and support. He emphasised the government's commitment to rehabilitating those affected by the violence and urged collective efforts to uproot Maoism from the region.

"The Central government, in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh government, will ensure comprehensive support to the families impacted by Maoism. I appeal to everyone to join hands with the ongoing campaigns by both governments to eradicate this menace," he said

Highlighting the progress made in the past year, Shah noted the decline in Maoist activities, including the neutralisation of several of its top cadres. "Commendable action has been taken under the leadership of the Chhattisgarh government, utilising a well-devised strategy. I am confident that we will achieve complete elimination of Maoism from the country by March 31, 2026," he asserted.

Mr Shah specifically praised the leadership of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, along with the tireless efforts of the state police and other security forces. "The combined efforts of the Chhattisgarh government, police, and security agencies have laid a strong foundation for this campaign. I assure you all that the goal of a Maoism-free state will be realised within the set timeline," he reiterated.

Home Minister Shah said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave him the responsibility of the Home Ministry

in 2019, he thought that those who were involved in armed movements should be given a chance to lay down their arms, surrender and live a peaceful life. "Following our initiatives, 20 peace accords were signed in the northeast and 9,000 militants surrendered," he said.

He further said that PM Modi approved 15,000 homes for surrendered Maoists under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana while the National Dairy Development Board would provide at least one cow or buffalo to such families so that they could earn 15,000 to 20,000 per month.

"Today in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, I met Maoist-affected people and those who surrendered their weapons and joined the mainstream. Maoism not only deprived the country's large population of their fundamental rights for decades but also crossed all limits of inhumanity and adversely affected their lives. Maoists, who sow seeds of fear and greed in the minds of youth and lead them on the path of violence, are the biggest enemies of the society. Our government under the leadership of Modi is committed to the empowerment and all-round development of Maoist-affected people and the youth who have given up violence and joined the mainstream," Mr Shah wrote on his X handle.

## Indian Constitution has stood test of time: Sitharaman in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): India's Constitution has stood the test of time in the last 75 years of its existence, even as most of the 50 countries that framed their Constitution around the same time have rewritten or changed features of their Constitutions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

Initiating the discussion on the 'Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India' in the Rajya Sabha, she paid homage to the 389 members of the Constituent Assembly, including 15 women, who took up the arduous challenge and prepared the Constitution for India in a very challenging environment.

The Constitution of India "has stood the test of time," she said. "Today we are extremely proud of the way India's democracy is growing."

As the country marks the 75th year of its Constitution, "it is time to reaffirm our commitment to build India, that is Bharat, that shall uphold the spirit enshrined in this sacred document," she said.

Stating that India and its Constitution stands out in a separate league of its own, Sitharaman said post second World War, over 50 countries had become independent and they had their Constitution written. "But many have

changed their constitutions, not just amended them, but literally changed the entire feature of their constitution. But our Constitution has stood the test of time, of course, it yielded itself to very many amendments," she said, adding the amendments were the need of the hour.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said time would not be a constraint and as many speakers willing to speak would be accommodated by extending the duration of the discussion.

The Rajya Sabha is functioning today for the first time since almost over two weeks of wasted time over multiple issues -- BJP's



attack on the Congress over alleged links with US businessman George Soros and his anti-India designs and an Opposition notice to bring a motion for the removal of Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar accusing him of acting like a government spokesperson.

The Rajya Sabha will debate on the issue on Monday and Tuesday.

It is likely that Union Home Minister Amit Shah replies to the debate in the Upper House.

In the Lok Sabha, PM Narendra Modi had replied to a two-day debate.

## 6 killed, 7 injured in SUV-truck collision in Chhattisgarh's Balod

BALOD (CHHATTISGARH), Dec 16 (Agencies): Six persons were killed and seven others injured when a sports utility vehicle (SUV) they were travelling in collided with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Balod district, police said on Monday.

The accident took place under Daundi police station area late Sunday night when the victims, natives of Gunderdehi area in the dis-

trict were returning from a family function, they said.

"The vehicle collided head-on with the truck. Of the 13 occupants of the SUV, six died on the spot, while seven others suffered serious injuries," a police official here said.

The deceased have been identified as Durpat Prajapati (30), four women - Sumitra Bai Kumbhkar (50),



Manisha Kumbhkar (35), Sagun Bai Kumbhkar (50) and Imla Bai (55) - and minor boy Jignesh Kumbhkar (7), he said.

The seven injured persons, including five women and a child, were shifted to a local community health centre from where they were referred to Rajnandgaon district hospital for further medication, the official said.

An accidental death report has been registered and further investigation is underway, he added.

## BJP to Rahul after Omar's comments: Don't blame EVMs if you don't know how to fight polls

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): The BJP on Monday latched onto Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's sharp take on the Congress over a host of issues to attack Rahul Gandhi, saying if he does not know how to fight elections then he should not blame Electronic Voting Machines.

"Leadership is not earned and not demanded. You have to have the qualities of a leader. You cannot impose yourself," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference, targeting the Congress leader.



He said the National Conference leader has conveyed his message bluntly to Gandhi due to the conduct of the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

Patra said even Congress allies have realised the legacy of

the Gandhi family and the main opposition party. The BJP spokesperson claimed that the INDIA bloc was the "biggest scam" and that its allies fight polls separately and project different leaders as the face of the opposition

alliance.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Abdullah had asked the Congress to justify its leadership role in the alliance instead of taking it for granted. The National Conference leader emphasised that leadership "has to be earned" and cannot be taken for granted.

He also dismissed the Congress party's vehement objection to Electronic Voting Machines and echoed the BJP's defence — you can't accept election results when you win, and blame EVMs when you lose.

"When you get a hundred plus members of Parliament using the same EVMs, and you celebrate that as sort of a victory for your party, you can't then a few months later turn around and say... we don't like these EVMs because now the election results aren't going the way we would like them to," Abdullah had said.

Patra also cited the NC leader's rejection of doubts over EVMs as the chief minister had noted that his party won the assembly polls in the Union Territory after losing in the Lok Sabha elections.

## Kharge slams Sitharaman, says 'those who disrespect Constitution are lecturing us'

NEW DELHI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Taking a jibe at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday that she studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University and the students there are so progressive and contributive to nations development whether it is in Economics, Political Science but here today, there's talk of dismantling democratic values.

"They studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University but I do not know what they studied because the students who studied there are so progressive and they have a big hand in building the country whether it is in Economics, Political Science or History but here the talk is about eliminating the democratic things," Kharge said.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the discussion on the 'Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India,' Kharge emphasised that all must adhere to the Constitution and its Preamble.

"Merely pointing fingers at each other won't help. The Jan Sangh had once aimed to structure the Constitution based on the laws of Manusmriti. This was the intent of the RSS. Those who despise the tricolor, the Ashoka Chakra, and the Constitution are now lecturing us. On the day the Constitution was implemented, these people burned effigies of Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru at Ramlika Maidan. They insult the Nehru-Gandhi family without shame," he said.

"In 1949, RSS leaders opposed the Constitution of India because it was not based on Manusmriti... Neither did they accept the Constitution nor the tricolour. On 26 January 2002, for the first time, the tricolour was hoisted at the RSS headquarters under compulsion. Because there was a court order," he added.

He recalled that in 1931, during the Karachi Congress session presided over by Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru proposed a resolution on fundamental rights and economic policies, which was passed.

"The Constitution didn't emerge out of nowhere but was shaped by pivotal



movements, the freedom struggle, and even earlier events. Nehru made the demand for a Constituent Assembly a central issue in the 1937 elections. These people neither respect Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, nor Ambedkar," Kharge added.

The LoP also mentioned that that in 1949, RSS leaders opposed the Indian Constitution because it wasn't based on Manusmriti.

"Even today, the spirit of Manusmriti remains ingrained in them, and they blame us instead. They neither respected the tricolor nor the Constitution, which is why it took a court order on January 26, 2002, to compel the RSS headquarters to hoist the national flag," he said.

Mallikarjun Kharge also asserted that the Constitution empowers the poor and serves as a moral guide for governance. "It leaves no room for discrimination based on caste, creed, gender, or economic status. Yet, threats to the Constitution persist. For the sake of future generations, we must preserve and protect it. We need to remain vigilant because their intentions are unpredictable and can change at any time," he said.

Further, he praised former PM Indira Gandhi over 1971 war and also called on the Centre to take steps to protect the minorities in Bangladesh.

"The 1971 war, in which our brave leader Indira Gandhi broke Pakistan into two and captured 1 lakh Pakistani soldiers. Known as the 'Iron Lady,' she showed that anyone who threatened us would face severe consequences. Considering the current situation in Bangladesh, the government should open its eyes and take steps to protect the minorities," Kharge said.





## Public Works Department Casual Labour Union holds protest, demands regularization

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Public Works (R&B) Department Casual Labour Union held protest for regularization of Daily Wagers/ Casual Labourers/Need-Based Workers in PW(R&B) Department.

Protesters highlighted the challenges faced by Daily Wagers, Casual Labourers, and Need-Based Workers in the Public Works (R&B) Department.

To address these concerns, they said protest was held in front of the Chief Engineer's Office, Lok Nirman Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu. The protest underscores our demand for regularization of services.

"For over two decades, we



have been serving as Daily Wagers, Casual Labourers, and Need-Based Workers in roles such as Computer Operators, Draftsmen, Drivers, Cooks, Plumbers, Electricians, and more. Our contributions include operating official portals like JK

Tenders, BEAM, Paysys, and Parvish. Despite our dedication and efficiency, we remain unregularized," they said.

They added, "Many of us have crossed 40 years of age, with some nearing retirement or already retired as Daily Wagers.

Our families, including elderly parents, depend on our income, yet we lack social security like EPF or ESI. Being outside the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, we are ineligible for government welfare schemes. Notably, 2,272 Need-Based Casual Labourers are registered in Jammu Division alone."

"Families of workers who have passed away during service are left without income. We request that one eligible family member be engaged in the same role to ensure their livelihood," They said and appealed for the regularization of Daily Wagers, Casual Labourers, and Need-Based Workers to secure our future and allow them to live with dignity.

## Titan Company opens watches & eyewear outlet in Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Titan Company Limited, the Tata Group's lifestyle company, Opens Titan World, Helios, Fastrack & Titan Eyeplus- Quadrombo format store, First of its kind in North Region at Apsara Road, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

This Titan Company's flagship store has been inaugurated by BJP State President Sat Sharma, MP Rajya Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana and MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa whereas DIG Jammu Samba Kathua range Shiv Kumar Sharma, SP Ajay Sharma was special invitee on this inaugural function.

Many senior official from the Titan Company Ltd, various dignitaries, members of many associations and a large no. of customers were also present in this inaugural event.

"Our store represents timeless tradition, authenticity promising quality. Our collection of top premium watch & eyewear brands endorses craftsmanship, unique designs and embraces innovation. We take a personal interest and make the

extra effort for those who cherish quality time-pieces. At Titan World, Helios, Fastrack & Titan eyeplus Quadrombo store, we bring you the largest & exclusive collection of Titan watches, Fastrack watches & Helios with 40+ International premium, fashionable, Swiss and smart watches. Along with watches this stores also offers exclusive collection of Eyewear with 20+ national and international brands all under one roof. Our store has free eye check up clinic, good quality lenses with fitting lab and watch care centre. We are sure that our Helios & Titan world store will become your go-to destination to buy Premium and Fashion watches. We cater to the changing tastes of Indian customers, from casual to sophisticated timepieces that are sure to make styling effortless for you," owners od the outlet said.

The Helios store features renowned international brands like Seiko, Michael Kors, Citizen, Emporio Armani, Fossil, Armani Exchange, and Swarovski, Titan world features Titan's exclusive collections like Titan Edge, Nebula, Raga, Xylis and Titan Smart.

Eye wear brands include Swarovski, Rayban, Stepper, Burberry, Prada, Tomford, Gucci, Mont Blanc and many more.

With the trust of Tata group, you can be sure of the authenticity of our exquisite collection of watches. As India's leading retailer of premium branded watches, Helios watch store embraces innovation and 100% authentic craftsmanship and design.

The strategic expansion aimed to increase footprints of Helios & Titan World in Jammu and Kashmir.

This expansion reflects Titan's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of consumers and strengthens its leadership in the J&K market.

Jammu residents can now enjoy access to a wider selection of prestigious brands and elevate their style.

On this occasion, CA Anil Sharma and Aruna Sharma, the owners of this flagship store stated that it is an exclusive showroom of Titan company ltd offering wide variety of top brands including an affordable range to the premium ones in terms of both watches and eye wear.

## J&K wins 40 medals in 25th RSFI National Rope Skipping Championship 2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Jammu & Kashmir skippers achieved an impressive 40 medals (11 Gold, 10 Silver and 19 Bronze) in the 25th RSFI National Rope Skipping Championship 2024 - Panchkula, marking a proud moment for the Union Territory.

The championship was organised by Rope Skipping Federation of India with the collaboration of Modern Phythian Games Council of India.

This outstanding performance marks a proud moment for the Union Territory, showcasing the exceptional talent and determination of J&K's athletes on the



national stage.

The team was trained under the leadership of Danish Sharma Technical Chairman of Rope Skipping J&K assisted by Rudrakshit Gupta (National A Grade Judge & Coach), Nitish Singh, Shivang Kumar, Palak

Sharma and Jaspreet

Kour.  
Gold: Aditya Morya Singh Jamwal, Shivya Sharma, Pahal Gupta, Gauresh Bazotra, Divyam Chargotra, Krish Mehra, Priyasha Dogra, Aradhna, Krish Mehra, Aapurti Saini, Manvi

Sharma.

Silver: Ritish Kumar, Sheikh Aairah, Adarishtha Manhas, Anandika Sangotra, Anaya Singh, Aayati Saini, Nitin Kumar (Second Event), Aradhna (Second Event), Abhinash Singh Sodhi, Mandar Mehta, Shivang Kumar

Bronze: Prince Mehra,

Kunal Surya, Naveen Singh, Sushant Sharma, Paras Balgotra, Divyansh Sharma, Kanika Sharma, Yuvraj Chib, Haseena Hamid, Falak Batool, Anaya Singh (Second Event), Ridhika Mehra, Kavya Singh, Kashish Saberwal, Nitin Kumar (Second Event), Aradhna (Second Event), Abhinash Singh Sodhi, Mandar Mehta, Shivang Kumar

Congratulations to all the medal winners for bringing glory to Jammu & Kashmir.

## Shoolini University hosts delegates from University of Tasmania

### Top News Report

JAMMU/SOLAN, Dec 16: Shoolini University welcomed delegates from the University of Tasmania, Australia, to explore avenues for academic collaboration. The visit aimed to strengthen global academic partnerships, with a focus on exchange programs and dual degree offerings.

The delegates included Professor Tristanne Scott-Durairajah, Associate Director, Partnerships and Learning Abroad, and Nitin Sharma, Head of Partnerships and Coun-

try Manager, from the University of Tasmania, Australia.

During their visit, the delegates held discussions with Shoolini University's leadership and faculty members. Professor Tristanne Scott-Durairajah shared insights on international collaboration strategies and emphasized the importance of global learning opportunities for students.

She also highlighted the University of Tasmania's commitment to promote academic partnerships in India through

initiatives such as student exchange programs and dual degree courses.

Chancellor Prof. PK Khosla stated that our partnership with the University of Tasmania will open new horizons for academic excellence and research innovation.

On the occasion, Avnee Khosla, Vice President, Shoolini University, Director Student Experience and Success, Admissions and Financial Aid at Shoolini University, said the visit by delegates from the

University of Tasmania marks an important milestone in Shoolini University's journey toward global academic collaborations.

Dr. Rozy Dhanta, Deputy Director, Office of International Affairs at Shoolini University, stated, this interaction with the University of Tasmania opens up significant opportunities for our students and faculty.

"We are optimistic about building long-term collaborations that will enrich academic experiences at both institutions", she added.

## Dr. Prakash Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu transferred to Lucknow; Dr. Sandeep takes over charge

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu has been transferred to Regional Centre Lucknow as per the Order issued by Academic Coordination Division of the New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU. Dr. Jai Prakash Verma stands relieved on 16.12.2024 from the Regional Centre



Jammu.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, who is the senior most Academic at Regional Centre Jammu at present, has taken over

the operations of the Regional Centre. Apart from the Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Sandeep Gupta has already served in the New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU in the Student Service Centre and also at the Regional Centre Srinagar and carries a varied experience in handling the student grievances and operations at the Regional Centres.

"We are right now in

the midst of December 2024 Term-End Examinations which is one of the most important activities for the Regional Centre and it is our foremost priority to conduct the examinations smoothly in the region with the cooperation of our Centre Superintendents, Invigilation staff, local administration, postal authorities and other stakeholders of the University", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director.

### FROM PAGE 3

## Vijay Diwas | President Murmu, PM Modi pay homage to heroes of 1971 War

sacrifice of our brave-hearts whose stories inspire every Indian and shall remain a source of national pride," Murmu said on 'X'.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial to mark the day.

"Today, on the special occasion of Vijay Diwas, the nation salutes the bravery and sacrifice of India's armed forces," Singh said.

"Their unwavering courage and patriotism ensured that our country remained safe. India will never forget their sacrifice and service," he said.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan too paid rich tributes to the fallen heroes of the war.

Gen Chauhan also conveyed his compliments to all serving personnel, veterans and 'Veer Naris' for their dedication, resolve and "enduring commitment" towards the nation.

## 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots | Verdict in murder case against Sajjan Kumar on January 8

subsequently took over the investigation. On December 16, 2021, the court framed charges against Kumar, finding a "prima facie" case against him.

According to the prosecution, a huge mob, armed with deadly weapons, resorted to large-scale looting, arson and destruction of properties of Sikhs to avenge the

assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The mob attacked the house of the complainant, Jaswant's wife, killing her husband and son apart from looting articles and setting their house ablaze, alleged the prosecution.

Putting Kumar on trial, the court order found sufficient material to form a "prima facie" opinion that he was not only a participant, but had also led the mob".

## CM Omar Abdullah expresses shock over death of young JKAS officer

"Namisha's father is a long-time colleague & former minister Babu Jagjivan Lal ji. May her soul rest in peace & may her family find strength at this difficult time," he added.

## Legendary tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain passes away at 73

tabla from a supporting instrument in Indian classical music to a central figure in performances worldwide.

Known for his virtuosity and emotive expression, Hussain was not just a performer, but a cultural ambassador who bridged the gap between traditional Indian rhythms and global musical genres.

Born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai, India, Zakir Hussain was the son of the iconic tabla master Ustad Alla Rakha. From a young age, he displayed a remarkable affinity for the tabla, quickly gaining recognition for his exceptional talent. By the time he was a teenager, Zakir was already performing alongside some of the greatest

Indian classical musicians.

Throughout his career, Ustad Zakir Hussain collaborated with some of the most iconic names in both traditional Indian and global music scenes. He worked with legends such as Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan, and was a key figure in creating international fusion bands like Shakti with guitarist John McLaughlin and Planet Drum with Grateful Dead's Mickey Hart.

His collaboration on the Planet Drum album also earned him a Grammy Award. Zakir Hussain's contributions to music were recognized by numerous prestigious awards over the years, including the Padma Shri (1988) and Padma Bhushan (2002) from the Indian government, as well as four Grammy Awards.

His excellence in Indian classical music was honoured by the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and in 2014, he received the National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honour for traditional artists in the United States.

As news of his death spread, tributes poured in from across the globe. Musicians, artists, and fans alike mourned the loss of a man whose music not only transcended borders but also united people of diverse cultures.

## Drug smuggling bid foiled in Rajouri, two arrested

The accused — Sajjan Kumar (25) and Subash Chander (36) — were arrested during a joint operation conducted by the Army and the police in the forward villages of Sher and Kaneti late on Sunday.

The Border Security Force (BSF) had recovered a Pakistani drone and nearly half-a-kilogramme of high-grade narcotics along the international border in the Arnia sector of Jammu on Saturday.

## Govt asks MPs to publicise list of fake universities on social media

claims," Majumdar said.

He said the state governments had also been asked to take appropriate action against those involved in defrauding and cheating students by misrepresenting themselves as "universities", awarding degrees and using the word "university" with their names.

"If we take direct action, there will be questions on federalism," Majumdar said.

The minister said 12 fake universities had been shut down between 2014 and 2024.

"It was also requested to intimate the central government/UGC (University Grants Commission) if there are other fake universities functioning in their states/ Union territories which are not included in the UGC list of fake universities," the minister said.

He said FIRs were lodged against several self-styled institutions/universities and showcase/warning notices issued to the unauthorised institutes awarding invalid degrees.

## Denied Cabinet berth, Shiv Sena MLA resigns from all party posts

Devendra Fadnavis-led ministry, including 16 new faces, while 10 former ministers were excluded.

While the BJP secured 19 ministerial berths by virtue of being the largest party among allies, Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) were allotted 11 and 9 berths, respectively.

Bhondekar said, "I joined the Shiv Sena

on the condition that I would be given a cabinet berth. Shinde had even promised me the same. When Shinde became chief minister in the previous government, I was an independent MLA and extended support to him." The Sena leader claimed his name was also considered for a ministerial position during the last cabinet expansion (of the previous Mahayuti government).

"When I reviewed the Cabinet list and realised I was omitted, I decided to step down from all positions in the party," he said.

Bhondekar said he intended to secure a Cabinet post to become the guardian minister of Bhandara district, but he will now serve as an ordinary party worker.

Bhandara district consistently had an outsider as the guardian minister for several years. Such a practice has hindered the resolution of issues affecting the district, he claimed. "I no longer have the mindset to hold any official position. I have submitted my resignation to my party leaders and await their response," Bhondekar said.

## Kashmir temperatures rise slightly but stay below freezing

and Gulmarg registered -4.0°C. Pahalgam recorded -5.0°C, and Shopian emerged as the coldest location in the valley at -6.3°C. Meanwhile, Zojila continued to experience severe cold with a low of -23.0°C.

In the Jammu region, temperatures were relatively warmer, with Jammu city recording 5.0°C, Katra 6.9°C, and Ramban 6.8°C. Banihal registered 1.0°C, while the coldest location in the region was Padder at -4.3°C.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum temperature of -8.6°C, and Kargil experienced -10.6°C. Drass data remained unavailable.

The weather is expected to remain mainly dry across the region until December 21, providing some stability in conditions after the recent cold wave.

## Tiger Division celebrates 53 glorious years of India's victory over Pakistan by honoring supreme sacrifices

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Tiger Division of Indian Army celebrated 53 glorious years of India's victory over Pakistan on the occasion of 'Vijay Diwas' at Balidan Stambh war memorial on Monday.

The event was conducted to commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by the gallant soldiers during India-Pakistan war of 1971 during which Indian armed forces thwarted Pakistan Army's nefarious design by defeating Pakistan in only thirteen days to end the war on 16 December 1971.

To commemorate the event, Deputy General Officer Commanding (Dy GOC), Tiger Division laid wreath at



'Eternal Flame' of the memorial to pay tribute to the fallen heroes with ceremonial guard of honour in presence of other ranks of the Tiger Division.

Balidan Stambh depicts 'Tower of Sacrifice' and was constructed to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of war heroes in service of the nation.

The monument is the country's tallest war memorial with the tower

height of 60 meters.

In addition to the tower of Sacrifice, the memorial comprises of 52 memorial pillars with 7512 names of bravehearts and murals of 09 Param Veer Chakra awardees and 27 Ashok Chakras awardees.

The solemn day of 16 December is observed every year at Balidan Stambh with full zeal to mark the 'Vijay Diwas' celebrations of 1971 war in the befitting manner.

## 53rd Vijay Diwas celebrated Shakti Vijay Brigade in Tangdhar

Top News Report

KARNAH, Dec 16: Tangdhar witnessed a grand celebration of the 53rd Vijay Diwas, commemorating India's historic victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak War. The event, organized by the Shakti Vijay Brigade, was marked by patriotic fervor, enthusiasm, and grandeur.

The celebration commenced with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial. Brigadier S.K. Pradhan, Commander of Shakti Vijay Brigade, along with 1971 war veterans from Tehsil Karna, paid homage to the Bravehearts who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. School and college students present at the ceremony were deeply inspired by the legacy of courage and



devotion demonstrated by the Indian Armed Forces.

A special felicitation ceremony honored the 1971 war veterans from Karna. The event was attended by Zafar Ahmad Lone, Sub Divisional Magistrate of Karna; Mushtaq Ahmad, Principal of Degree College Tangdhar; Ashtaf Wani, SHO Karna; and over 200 Indian Army veterans with their families.

As part of the celebration, painting and essay competitions saw enthusiastic participation from over 350 students, who showcased their creativity through thought-provoking and emotional presentations. Winners were felicitated by the Commander and Sub Divisional Magistrate, amid applause from the audience.

Cultural performances by students from Army Goodwill School, Haji-

nar, and New Light Public School, Tangdhar added vibrancy to the event, invoking patriotic sentiments among attendees.

In his address, Commander S.K. Pradhan paid heartfelt tributes to the Bravehearts and praised the 1971 war veterans for their valor and sacrifice. He also acknowledged their ongoing contributions to nation-building and encouraged students to

harness their potential and work tirelessly to achieve their goals.

The Commander called upon citizens to draw inspiration from India's proud legacy and traditions, urging them to selflessly contribute to the nation's progress and development.

The event concluded with an overwhelming sense of pride and patriotism, leaving an indelible impression on the community.

## Army conducts Ex Servicemen Rally at Kalakote



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Dec 16: With the aim to connect with Ex Servicemen, an interaction was conducted at Kalakote Rajouri, as welfare activities by Indian Army to address grievances, healthcare support, pension related issues and well-being of Veer Naris, Veterans and their families. The basic objective behind

the meeting was to honour and resolve the problems of Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen.

During the interaction, the invitees were acquainted with various initiatives undertaken by The Indian Army for the welfare of Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen in the nearby areas.

The gathering was made aware of latest Government policies,

pre-recruitment rallies and other welfare related measures planned in upcoming months.

During the event, Veer Naris were felicitated by Indian Army. Ex-Servicemen pledged that they will motivate youth of their area to join Armed forces to be part of mainstream and keep them away from all illegal activities.

A free Medical Camp

was also organized to help Ex-servicemen in leading a normal and healthy life, which is otherwise challenging considering the terrain and weather conditions. Requisite consultation, vaccination and medicines were provided to help the invitees avail medical treatment benefits.

Additionally a lecture was also organized

during this interaction to emphasize on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan and maintaining personal hygiene and sanitation to increase happiness quotient amongst the gathering.

The meeting provided a platform for open dialogue and constructive discussions on various issues and the way forward for creating a congenial environment between The Indian Army and Awam.

The event also served to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the Veer Naris and Veterans of this region.

It showcased The Indian Army's commitment towards the Veer Naris and Veterans for their yeomen service to the nation.

## Army conducts Cricket Tournament at Darhal



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Dec 16: The Indian Army successfully concluded its highly anticipated Cricket Tournament, bringing together talented players from various regiments to showcase their skills, foster camaraderie, and promote the spirit of teamwork.

The event, held at Darhal, saw participation from four teams representing different villages in the Area of Responsibility.

The tournament was inaugurated by Dr. Zamir Ahmed Mirza, Principal of the Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery College in Darhal, along

with the Principal of Boys Higher Secondary School, Darhal, and the 2IC (Second-in-Command) of Saaj Army Camp.

A total of six teams are competing, divided into two pools of three teams each. Today, two matches were played.

The tournament, organized by the Indian Army, aims not only to promote physical fitness and sportsmanship but also to strengthen the bond among soldiers across various divisions.

The matches were played in a highly competitive yet friendly atmosphere, with players displaying exceptional cricketing talent and commitment.

## Army organises Lecture on Women Equality Day at Batsiala

Top News Report

REASI, Dec 16: The Indian Army organized a lecture on Women's Equality Day at Batsiala, Reasi.

The event aimed to promote awareness and foster discussions on gender equality and women empowerment within the local community.

The lecture highlighted the pivotal role of women in nation-building and emphasized the need for equal opportunities in every sphere of life.

The Indian Army offi-



cial and guest speakers shared inspiring stories and insights, encouraging women to take on leadership roles and break societal barriers.

The lecture, followed by an interactive session, provided a platform to address ques-

tions related to education, employment, and legal rights.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to strengthen community ties and inspire progressive change, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.

## Army organizes Volleyball Championship at Suchetgarh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: In a spirited celebration of 53rd Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army's Tiger Division organized a Volleyball Championship for the youth of border villages in Suchetgarh, RS Pura. The event aimed to foster unity, encourage sportsmanship, and honor the valor and sacrifices of the Indian Army in the 1971 war. Held at Satowali, the championship brought together teams from several border villages in a vibrant display of skill, energy, and enthusiasm. The competition witnessed overwhelming participation from the local youth, highlighting the immense talent and potential within the



region. The championship concluded with Saheed Raman Kumar (SRK) Club, Arnia, RS Pura

emerging victorious after an intense and thrilling final match.

The winner, runners-up and participating teams were rec-

ognized for their efforts with trophy, medals and cash awards.

Conduct of the championship reaffirmed the Army's commitment to engaging with and empowering the border communities through such initiatives.

The local community expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for organizing the event and providing the youth with an opportunity to showcase their talent and engage in healthy competition.

As the Nation commemorates Vijay Diwas, the championship stands as a testament to the enduring bond between the Army and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## ADGP L&O/Armed decorates newly promoted officer

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Vijay Kumar, ADGP L&O/Armed J&K joined by Dr Vinod Kumar-IPS DIG Armed Jammu decorated Shri Ab Rashid with the rank of Insp (S) on Monday at Armed Police Headquarters J&K Jammu.

In this context, an impressive piping ceremony was organised at Armed Police Headquarters J&K Jammu.

Among others the event was attended by Syed Sajad Hussain Pvt Secretary to ADGP Armed J&K, Kuldeep Handoo-DySP, Mohd Yousuf, DySP (M), ADO & Nisar Ahmad Insp (Pers) APHQ J&K.

ADGP Armed extended his warm greetings to Ab Rashid on his Promotion as Insp (S) and wished him blossoming career in the organization in future as well.



## Prof Shaad Ramzan selected to represent Kashmiri Language at National Symposium of Poets 2025

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 16: Prof Shaad Ramzan, a prominent poet of Kashmir has been selected by the Prasar Bharati jury to represent Kashmiri language at the prestigious National Symposium of Poets-2025 (The biggest poetic congregation of the world) to be held by Prasar Bharati on

19th of December at Mumbai.

Selected poets from twenty two Indian languages will present their poems in the glittering event at Mumbai. The recording of this symposium, held in connection with the Republic Day every year, is being broadcast from all the Stations of Akashvani in the country on 25th of January at 10 PM.



Shad Ramzan's poem 'Tyuth Kanh Baeth' is a prayer made for the bliss of reconnection to nature and its bound-

ties beyond measures and boundaries. It is pertinent to mention here that Prof Shaad is a Sahitya Akademi Awardee poet and critic of eminence with many significant books of literature to his credit.

A celebrated academician, Shaad is presently the Convener of the Kashmiri Advisory Committee of Sahitya Akademi.

## 3rd Test: Australia break India's Gabba pride between frequent rain breaks on Day 3

BRISBANE, Dec 16 (Agencies): India's resistance at Gabba has seemingly come to an end as the constant rain breaks would rule Day 3 of the Brisbane Test on Monday, December 16. Australia ended up posting 445 runs in the first innings in Brisbane after a bold knock from Alex Carey, but the focus was firmly on the Indian batting order.



The day started with Carey and Mitchell Starc resuming the Australian innings and both men were on the offensive. Carey quickly got to his fifty as the pair added some quick runs. However, Jasprit Bumrah was able to break the frustrating partnership for India and also achieved a double milestone with his scalp of Starc. This meant that Carey switched gears and quickly went on the offensive, which saw him play a delightful shot off Akash Deep to hit a six.

Mohammed Siraj would pick up the wicket of Nathan Lyon and Akash Deep ended the Aussie innings by getting the scalp of Carey for 70. The onus was on the Indian batting order once again with a big score in front of them. However, much like what has happened throughout the series, the batters crumbled at Gabba.

Yashasvi Jaiswal had a streaky boundary to begin the innings off the first ball but the very next delivery saw the opener would hit one straight to Mitchell Marsh. The all-rounder was involved once again with an incredible catch as Shub-

man Gill's expansive shot saw Marsh jump in the air to pull off a stunner. Virat Kohli once again looked tentative during his stay at the crease, and it was a ball outside the off-stump that would come to haunt the star batter once again as he knicked it to Alex Carey.

India were left reeling at 22 for 3 as KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant were left to stabilise the innings. Rahul looked to be in a different league altogether as he played some delightful shots and raced to 30 runs. However, the rain breaks constantly would disrupt the flow of the game, much to the dismay of the players. The play on Day 3 saw as many as 5 stoppages due to the weather conditions. Once the game had restarted after one of these breaks, India would lose Pant, who fell to Pat Cummins for the 3rd time.

India were at 48 for 4 when another rain break came in with KL Rahul and Mitchell Starc painting a sad picture at that

time. The game did restart for 3 overs which Rahul and Rohit Sharma saw off before the weather conditions worsened again, forcing the players and the umpires to call it a day.

India will now resume at 51 for 4 on Day 4 with Rahul at 33 and Rohit yet to get off the mark.

The Indian batters have no place to hide

A pattern that has been seen in recent times with the Indian team is the bowlers bailing the team out most of the time. It started in the New Zealand series where India got blanked 0-3 despite the brave efforts of the bowlers.

In Perth, the second innings saw Indian batters step up to the plate and deliver a memorable win. But apart from this, the Indian batters have had nothing going for them with senior players like Kohli and Rohit failing to inspire. Some of the shots on Monday were rightfully criticised by Sunil Gavaskar.

"I would say batting is tough

when you get out to the second ball. Playing a shot that Yashasvi Jaiswal played. How do you say batting was tough when you chase outside off and get out like Shubman Gill did. That's not tough. In my book, that's not understanding the situation. I get that you have to play with intent and all that. But look how far he has reached. He is an opening batter. Kohli's dismissal was around the 7th stump."

"The batters have gotten themselves out. When you're chasing 445, your aim should have been to bat the first 10 overs and get to lunch. Are you trying to get 245 in the first hour? The understanding of the situation wasn't there," said Gavaskar.

Thankfully for the Indian batters, Rahul has shown the way during his innings on how to tackle the demons on the pitch. But now, the aim will surely be to save the game and go again in Melbourne.

Rain to frustrate Australia and give India a lifeline

And India may head to Melbourne with the series still level at 1-1 as the weather in Brisbane seems to be relentless at the moment. While the drainage system at the Gabba has done well working on overtime, it does seem like the dominant Aussies could be left without anything to show for their performance.

The Brisbane weather for Day 4 and Day 5 doesn't look promising at all and this could be the stroke of luck India needs to keep themselves in the series heading into the next Test.

## NZ vs ENG: Ben Stokes injury plagues England as New Zealand sniff consolation win



HAMILTON, Dec 16 (Agencies): New Zealand moved within striking distance of avoiding a series whitewash against England and securing a significant win in the third Test in Hamilton, ending Day 3 on December 16 in a commanding position. With England set an imposing target of 658 runs to chase and already reeling at 18/2, their problems were compounded further as skipper Ben Stokes suffered a hamstring injury.

On the back of a stellar 155 off 204 balls from the ever-reliable Kane Williamson and a gritty 60 off 84 from Daryl Mitchell, New Zealand reached yet another mammoth total in their 453, setting

England an uphill task of chasing 658 runs to win the Hamilton Test. Tim Southee, playing his farewell series, quickly made an impact when England came out to bat. He clean-bowled Ben Duckett for just two runs, while Matt Henry dismissed Zak Crawley to leave England at 18/2 within five overs.

At stumps, Jacob Bethell and Joe Root were at the crease, with England requiring a monumental effort to salvage the match on Day 4.

Ben Stokes' injury raises alarms

Adding to England's woes, Ben Stokes suffered a hamstring injury while bowling the 56th over of New Zealand's second innings. After being struck for a bound-

ary by Rachin Ravindra on his second delivery, Stokes pulled up in visible discomfort, clutching his left hamstring. The England skipper limped off the field, raising immediate concerns about his availability for the remainder of the match.

This injury is particularly alarming as it involves the same hamstring that Stokes tore earlier this year while playing in The Hundred. That injury had sidelined him from cricket for two months, and there were already concerns about the risk of aggravating it during the ongoing Test series.

England confirmed that Stokes had sustained a hamstring injury, but his return remains uncertain. His absence would deal a further blow to England's slim chances of pulling off an improbable chase.

With two early wickets down, a record-breaking target to chase, and their skipper possibly sidelined, England's hopes now rest heavily on Joe Root and the rest of the middle order. Day 4 promises to be a defining moment for both teams as New Zealand aim to cap off their dominance with a resounding victory.

## Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy: All-round Mumbai beat MP to clinch 2nd title

BENGALURU, Dec 16 (Agencies): Mumbai leaned on their collective batting strength to subdue a spirited Madhya Pradesh by five wickets and clinch the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Mumbai were stretched on more than one occasion during the chase of 175, a target MP built around skipper Rajat Patidar's fluent unbeaten 81, on a slightly tacky pitch, but eventually they reached 180/5 in 17.5 overs.

This is Mumbai's second SMAT title, after winning it in 2022, while MP's wait for a maiden trophy prolonged to another season.

After a brief period of lull, Suryakumar Yadav (48, 35b, 4x4, 3x6) reactivated his run-making ways and added 52 runs for the third wicket with Ajinkya Rahane (37, 30b, 4x4).

It helped Mumbai to



recover from the early dismissals of Prithvi Shaw and skipper Shreyas Iyer, both of them falling to rather casual shots.

Just when it seemed that the two veteran batters would carry Mumbai home, Rahane and Suryakumar got out.

At 129/5 in 14.4 overs, Mumbai needed 46 runs but any worries were soon eased by the big-hitting Suryansh Shedge (36 not out, 15b, 3x4, 3x6) and Atharva Ankolekar (16 not out, 6b, 2x6) who knocked

off the remaining runs without much fuss in a little over three overs.

Earlier, Patidar shone brightly while hammering his fifth fifty of this tournament. The right-hander, who was retained by the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, entertained 15,000 spectators.

Brief scores: MP: 174/8 in 20 overs (Patidar 81\*, Senapati 23; Shardul 2/41, Dias 2/32); Mumbai: 180/5 in 17.5 overs (Suryakumar 48, Rahane 37, Shedge 36\*, Tripuresh 2/34).

## World champion returns: Gukesh lands in Chennai to rapturous welcome

CHENNAI, Dec 16 (Agencies): Newly-crowned world chess champion D Gukesh returned home to an enthusiastic reception as hundreds of eager fans, and officials from the Tamil Nadu government and the national federation lined up to receive him at the airport here on Monday.

The 18-year-old defeated China's Ding Liren 7.5-6.5 in Singapore last week to become the youngest ever world champion, overhauling the long-standing mark set by Russian icon Garry Kasparov as a 22-year-old back in 1985.

Upon his arrival, Gukesh thanked everyone for supporting him.

"It's amazing. Your support gave me a lot of energy. It's a great feeling to win the world championship," said Gukesh as media and fans jostled to get



a closer view of the youngster.

"It means a lot to bring back the trophy to India. Thank you for this reception. I hope we will have a great time in the next few days celebrating together," he added.

Once he touched base at the Kamaraj airport, the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu and his school Velammal Vidyalaya staff greeted him with a bouquet

before draping a shawl around him at the airport lounge.

Gukesh started his chess journey at the Velammal school. After greeting the waiting fans, Gukesh left for his home in a car decorated with flowers, and his photo. He is scheduled to speak to the media later in the day at the Velammal School in Mogappair, before settling at home to cel-

brate with his parents, relatives and friends. His father - ENT surgeon Dr Rajinikanth - was with him during the entire competition, while his mother - microbiologist Padmavathi - joined him in Singapore after the final round.

On Tuesday, he will be given a grand reception at the Kalavanan Aranganam at Wallajah Road and he will be taken to the iconic auditorium in a specially-arranged parade.

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin is expected to be present during the function to present Gukesh with a cheque of Rs five crore. "To honour the monumental achievement of Gukesh, the youngest-ever World Chess Champion, I am delighted to announce a cash prize of 5 crore! His historic victory has brought immense pride and joy

to the nation. May he continue to shine and achieve greater heights in the future," Stalin had written on X soon after Gukesh's historic triumph.

Gukesh is only the second Indian after the great Viswanathan Anand to claim the world title.

Anand played a pivotal role in shaping the teenager at his academy here.

Gukesh has enjoyed a stellar year, starting with his win in the Candidates Tournament in Toronto which made him the youngest challenger to the world crown. He later spearheaded India's first-ever gold-winning campaign in the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. The world champions win also fetched Gukesh a whopping cash prize of USD 1.3 million (approx Rs 11.03 crore).

## Isa Guha calls Bumrah 'primate'; apologises for her remark later

BRISBANE, Dec 16 (Agencies): Former England player and commentator Isa Guha, who referred to Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as a "primate" during the third Test between India and Australia here, apologised for her racist remark on Monday.

She said she was "deeply sorry" for choosing a wrong word to describe the India pacer's brilliant display with the ball.

Guha commented in response to Brett Lee's praise of the Indian bowler after Bumrah dismissed both Australian openers on day two of the Test on Sunday.

"Well, he's the MVP, isn't he? Most valuable primate, Jasprit Bumrah," Guha had said

while commentating for Fox Cricket.

"He is the one that's going to do all the talking for India, and why so much focus was on him in the buildup to this Test match, and whether he would be fit."

The usage of the word "primate" by Guha caused a social media storm, as fans slammed her and forced the 39-year-old to issue an apology.

"Yesterday in commentary I used a word that can be interpreted in a number of different ways. I'd like to apologise for any offence caused. I set myself high standards when it comes to empathy and respect of others. If you listen to the full transcript I only meant the highest praise for one



of India's greatest players. And someone that I admire greatly," Guha said on air at the start of day three.

Guha, who is of Indian heritage and has been in Fox Sports' broadcast team for several years, said there was no malice in her comments.

"I'm an advocate for equality and someone who has spent their career thinking about inclusion and under-

standing in the game. I was trying to frame the enormity of his achievement and I've chosen the wrong word. For that I am deeply sorry," she added.

"As someone who is also of South Asian heritage, I hope people would recognise there was no other intention or malice there. I hope this doesn't overshadow what has been a great Test match so far and I

look forward to seeing how it progresses. Once again, I am really, really sorry."

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who sat next to Guha when she issued the apology, praised her for addressing the matter live on air. Former Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist was also there.

"Brave woman, to apologise on live television takes some steel. You heard it from the horse's mouth so far as I am concerned, game's over," Shastri said.

"People are entitled to make mistakes, we are all human. In the heat of the moment, sometimes when you have the mic in your hand, things can happen. Let's move on," said Shastri.

## Simran costliest player in WPL mini-auction

BENGALURU, Dec 16 (Agencies): Mumbai cricketer Simran Shaikh became the costliest player of the Women's Premier League mini-auction after being bought by Gujarat Giants for Rs 1.90 crore even as veteran India player Sneha Rana went unsold.

On a day when five teams competed to fill 19 slots from a pool of 120 players to finalise their squads for next year's WPL, the other top money earners were West Indies stalwart Deandra Dottin (Gujarat Giants — Rs 1.70 crore), 16-year-old U19 wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini (Mumbai Indians — Rs 1.60

crore), Prema Rawat (Royal Challengers Bengaluru — Rs 1.20 crore) and N Charani (Delhi Capitals — Rs 55 lakh).

Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Giants were involved in a bidding war for Simran before the latter raised the bar to net her. Simran, 22, is a middle-order batter. She played a few matches for UP Warriorz during the 2023 WPL season. She made 176 runs in 11 matches for Mumbai in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy in October-November.

All-rounder Dottin, who is currently in India with the West Indies team for the white-ball series,

was the costliest among overseas players and was bought by the Giants for the second time in the auction.

Dottin, 33, was one of the three players with base price of Rs 50 lakh and saw UP Warriorz too make a wholehearted bid for her before Gujarat Giants upped the amount. Dottin was signed by Gujarat Giants for Rs 60 lakh ahead of WPL 2023, but could not play the tournament as the franchise failed to obtain a medical certificate before the season. No capped India player was bought during the auction, which included senior player Rana, who captained Gujarat in the first edition.

## Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat Branch holds meeting

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Brahman Sabha, Channi Himmat Branch, a Subsidiary of Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, held meeting which was centrally focussed on discussion and suggestions for smooth implementation of Sanskars and Sanskrit programs in the society.

The meeting commenced by Sunil Sharma, Incharge Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, Channi Himmat Unit, Yash Paul Khajuria, Vice President Baba Ambo Devsthan, Professor R.D. Sharma Ex. Vice Chancellor Jammu University, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Khajuria, Subash Shastri along with Executive body members.

Speaking on this occasion, Yash Paul Khajuria stressed on giving due recognition to the Brahmins who have done a lot for the society and country. Enlightening that Brahmins by Birth should also be Brahmin with Karma and Sanatan Sanskriti needs proper Prachar among masses so that nobody could dare to deliver false propaganda among masses just for vote bank politics.

Sunil Sharma, Head of the



Channi Himmat Unit, delivered brief report on the work done till date by Sabha.

He informed the gathering that database is being prepared by connecting the Brahmin families living in Channi Himmat.

Brahmins in Channi Himmat area can become a part of Brahmin Sabha by filling a form to take membership of Brahmin Sabha.

Every Sunday this campaign will be taken forward with the help of many Brahmin families. This campaign is gaining momentum every day with some new experiences and suggestions which will prove useful

in strengthening Sabha in the future.

Sunil Sharma said that in the coming time, this campaign of moral values started by Sabha will move forward with more speed and many works for the upliftment of the society will be done by the Sabha in the future.

Sunil Sharma further informed that sabha started Hanuman chalisa in Temples as a part of "Sanskar Sinchan Programme" After the address of other Dewaker Khajuria, Pran Nath speakers Kewal Krishan Sharma stressed on propagation of moral values among Brahmins, eradication of

Nasha which is rapidly flourishing among youth and celebration of different occasions viz Parshuram Jayanti, National days and Sanskriti events and upkeep of Dogra culture and heritage with unity and coordination. He lauded the efforts of Sunil Sharma, Convenor of the Channi Himmat Sabha and executive body members for the best efforts done to unite Brahmins in Channi Himmat in short time.

The proceedings of meeting were conducted by Shiv Kumar Sharma and vote of thanks was given by Pran Nath.

Others included Kewal Krishan Sharma, Ramesh Magotra, Shyam Lal Khajuria, Bodh Raj Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, P. N. Koul, Vinod Kumar Khajuria, Vijay Kumar Bhushan, Rakesh Khajuria, Hitesh Kumar Choudhary, Bimal Sharma, Sanjeev Mohan Sharma, Sanjay Mohan sharma, Rakesh Baru, Chetan Sharma, Manohar Lal Sharma, Sudhir Bakshi, Bipul Khajuria, Sanju Bakshi, Hans Raj Sharma, Anil Khajuria, Tushar Kant Sharma, Romesh Sharma, Ashok Magotra were present on the occasion.

## MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi calls for one-time age relaxation for JKPSI aspirants

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 16: National Conference MP Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, representing Jammu and Kashmir, Monday made a fervent plea in Parliament, urging the central government to grant a one-time age relaxation for aspirants of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector (JKPSI) posts.

He said that the issue concerns thousands of candidates who have been rendered ineligible after exceeding the

upper age limit due to prolonged delays in the recruitment process.

These events, he argued, delayed critical recruitment opportunities, depriving many aspirants of their chance to serve in the police force despite their qualifications and dedication.

Drawing attention to the broader impact on the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, Mehdi stated that this situation has left countless candidates disillusioned and uncertain about their futures.

He stressed that granting a one-time relaxation in the upper age limit would not only be a fair resolution but also a vital step in restoring faith in the recruitment system.

"I request the government of India and the Home minister to intervene in the matter".

He called on the central government to consider the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir's youth and take immediate measures to address this issue.

## Dr. R.K. Uppal receives Research Excellence Award-2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Research Scholars Organization honoured Professor Rajinder Kumar Uppal with Research Excellence Award 2024.

Prof Uppal is currently Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab, India.

In addition to holding the position of MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking and Finance, he is a Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi.

The expertise of Dr. Uppal extends to teaching at numerous institutions in India, including Trinity Group of Insti-



tutions, KC Group of Institutions, and Vishisht School of Management. Dr. Uppal's journey from humble beginnings to scholarly heights exemplifies his unwavering passion for learning and knowledge.

With dedication and scholarly prowess, he began his academic career at D.A.V. College, Malout in 1987 as a part-time lecturer, rising to his current eminent position.

Dr. Uppal holds

numerous national and international patents in recognition of his profound contributions to Banking and Finance. A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and is a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations. His visionary leadership and scholarly endeavors continue to inspire and shape the academic landscape in the field of finance.

## Exhibition-cum-Awareness Camp organized by DRI Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Deputy Registrar, Industries, Jammu in collaboration with Handloom and Handicrafts Department, Doda and Kishtwar in organizing the day long Chandrabhaga event and encouraged weavers and artisans to explore innovative ways to enhance local crafts.

Joint Director, Handloom, Jammu in his speech stressed on promoting the local crafts and availing benefits of the government schemes and assured full support from the district administration at every stage.

On the occasion, registered artisans and weavers with the departments and officials were felicitated with memento along with certificates for commendable work in different crafts. Moreover, Handloom Doda distributed traditional charkha and shearing machines among the cooperatives and weavers under HADP scheme by the chief guest.

Dy. Registrar, Shaziya Rehman said that Handloom & Handicrafts Sector is playing a vital role and is the back bone of the economy of state by generating employment opportunity for the unemployed youth, down trodden section of the society for both male and female. She further made the participants aware about forming cooperatives with financial support of 1.00 lac, state award scheme and about marketing of the products.

The event was successfully concluded with a vote of thanks by DRI, Jammu and refreshments were also made available for the participants.

the efforts of Shaziya Rehman, Deputy Registrar, INDUSTOS, Jammu and the Department of Handloom and Handicrafts, Doda and Kishtwar in organizing the day long Chandrabhaga event and encouraged weavers and artisans to explore innovative ways to enhance local crafts.

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## J&K Youth Congress leaders meet IYC Chief Uday Bhanu Chib at New Delhi

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: J&K Youth Congress leaders Anirudh Sawhney and Sahil Singh Langeh met with the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) All India President Uday Bhanu Chib in New Delhi to discuss key organizational matters pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the Youth Congress in J&K and devising strategies to strengthen the party's grassroots presence in the region.

The IYC President Uday Bhanu Chib listened to and addressed the concerns of the youth leaders and deliberated on enhancing youth engagement in the political framework of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the need for capacity-building initiatives to empower young



leaders and discussed ways to address the aspirations of the youth. Issues related to organizational restructuring and expanding the party's influence in rural areas were thoroughly discussed.

Anirudh Sawhney expressed the youth leaders' gratitude to Uday Bhanu Chib Ji for his guidance and unwavering support to the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Youth Congress. Youth Congress wants to lend full support in resolving

the local challenges and implementing progressive policies for the youth of our region, said Sawhney after the meeting.

Sahil Singh Langeh said that it marks a significant step toward revitalizing the Youth Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, with an emphasis on inclusivity and strengthening the party's cadre. Our commitment to working tirelessly to ensure that the voice of the youth in J&K is effectively represented at the national level.

## Rajesh Gupta appeals PM, HM to restore Statehood, allocate complete powers to Omar Govt

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 16: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) senior leader, Rajesh Gupta, on Monday in an interview with local news channel expressed that Prime Minister and the Home Minister have to live up to their public commitments made inside the Parliament and in public meetings during the election campaign that the Statehood shall be restored to Jammu & Kashmir immediately after the elections to the Assembly are over.



Gupta expressed guarded hope about the central government's commitment to restoring statehood.

Gupta appealed to Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and retrieved his demand of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir

immediately and allocate complete powers to Omar government so that common public should not be deprived of their genuine rights.

Gupta said it becomes incumbent on the Union of India to order restoration of the Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir in the interest of the cohesion and integrity and regional aspirations.

He further added that Omar government is an elected one and bureaucrats are still doing their willfulness. "A dual power centre system is never going to work," Gupta said.

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