# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024

**Daily Evening Newspaper** 

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## 2

## TENTH DAY KRIYA

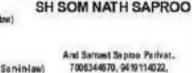
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Karmyogi Father Sh Som Nath Saproo, S/o Late Ram Chand Saproo, Originally Resident of Bul Bul lanker Nawa Kadal Srinagar Kashmir, at present Sec 2 House No 5 Pamposh Colony Janipur Jammu who left us for his heavenly abode on 14th of December.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will take place on Monday 23rd of Decemberat Muthi Ghatat9 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Kuldeep Saproo& Kiran Seproo (Son & Daughter in law) Manmohan Saproo & Anjali Saproo (Son & Daughter in law) Sunits Bhat & Rainder Bhat (Deughter& Son-in-law) D'Ankita Saproo & Kunal Grover (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law) Ankush Saproo & Ekta Pandita Saproo

(G rand Son & G rand Deughter in law) Ehan Saproo, (Grand Son)

D. Pawni Bhat Pandita & Akshay Pandita. (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law) Ishita Saoroo & Mansi Bhat -Grand Daughters



Sh. Bansi Lal Bakshi

(Bhaijaan)

Sh. Bushan Lal

Kuchroo (Baiji)

9419144055

## **10TH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

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

Smt. Vijanti Bakshi -Wife

Smt. Santosh and Bal Krishan Bakshi - Bhabi & Brother Doly & KK Bakshi - Daughter-in-law & Son Princy W/o Late Sh. Behari Lal Bakshi - Daughter-in-law Sunta & Sh Sanjay Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law Neetu & Ravi Bakshi - Daughter-in-law & Son ALSO MOURNING:

BAKSHI, BHAN, BHAT FAMILIES MOB: 7006763216, 9981253919, 9419110673, 7006276890

#### 10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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

Smt. Basanti Kuchroo (Wife)

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

Smt. Chhotiji (Bhabi)

Sh. Kapil Kuchroo and Smt. Suman Lata (Son and Daughter in law). Sh. Arun Tikoo and Smt. Suman Tikoo (Son in law and Daughter). Vitasta, Hemang, Aahi, Aahan (Grandchildren). Mob: 8968188432, 9596991553

## OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow we are sad to inform the sudden and untimely demise of my father Sh. Kuldeep Ganjoo resident of Plot No 334-C Rajiv Nagar, Begampur Delhi on 13/12/2024. TENTH DAY will be performed on 22/12/2024. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

## **OBITUARIES**

#### 10Th DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Revered father Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat (Educationist) S/o Late Sh. Mahadev Ram Bhat Erst while Delina Baramulla, Kashmir (Babapore Habbakadal, Srinagar). A/P H.No 132/2, Saraswati Vihar Bohri, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 10/12/2024. 10TH DAY KRIYA shall be held on Thursday The 19th day of Dec 2024 at

Deeply Missed by Samast Bhat Parivar

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we

inform the sad demise of our beloved

Mrs Namisha Dogra (JKAS) D/o Sh

Jagieevan LaL (Ex Minister) and Wife

of Bhupinder Kumar SDPO Mendhar

5TH DAY will be held at Pangal Aggar

Jitu Katra on Wednesday 18.12.2024

Hans Family and Bhardwaj Family from Bhaderwah

at residence of Babu Jagjeevan Lal.

OBITUARY/

**10TH DAY KRIYA** 

Smt Sunita and Sh Ravinder Koul (Daughter and Son in law)

Vijay Bhat and Neeru Bhat (Son and Daughter in law)

Sunil Bhat and Manju Bhat (Son and Daughter in law)

Akhnoor Ghat. Mourning Assembly will be held at Muthi

Ghat at 11.00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN.** 

Smt Santosh Bhat (Wife)

(9086159239, 7006129877)

who died on 14.12.2024.

Sh Jagieevan Lal and Surio Devi

Lengay Family Slalia Family,

Sh Tarlok Chand and Smt Kanta Devi

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

12-12-2024.



(Educationist)

Top News of J&K Jammu, Tuesday, December 17, 2024

#### 8TH DAY KRIYA/ HARIDWAR GAMAN

With profound grief we inform that our eloved Sh Yog Raj Sudan (Retd. Astt. Director Employment, Deputy Director Employment and Asstt. Labour Commissioner) S/o Late Sh. Hari Chand Lamberi Wale) R/o H. No. 87 Ward No. 12 Shiv Nagar Tehsil R S Pura Jammu EIGHTH DAY RITUALS" will be perform on 18/12/2024 at Our Residence 01:00 PM 0.03:00 PM GRIEF STRICKEN :



SH YOG RAJ SUDAN Smt. Salochana Devi (Wilfe) Retd. Supervisor Social Welfare Department Sons and Daughter in laws Munishwar Kumar Sudan & Adv. Richa Sharma Deepeshwar Kumar Sudan & Alka Sudan oushale shwar Kumar Sudan & Preeti Sudan Daughter and Son in law Advocate Chandhi Sudan and Jatinder Mohan Sharma Bhaiya and Bhabhi Sh. Krishan Lal & Anita Sudan MOB: 6005023582, 9779150228, 9419238117

#### **10TH DAY KRIYA**

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



10th Day Kriya will be performed on 18/12/2024 (Wednesday) at Akhnoor and subsequent Assembly will be held at Muthi Camp Ghat at 10.00 a.m. on 18/12/2024. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Omkar Nath Pandita (Father) Phoola Jee Pandita (Mother) & Samast Pandita Parivaar Mobile No.: 9796044991, 8899293467

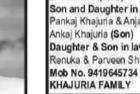
#### TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Shadi Lal Khajuria S/o Late Sh Behari Lal Khajuria R/o Bhaddu Teh Billawar. Tenth Day will be held on 17th of December. 2024 (Tuesday) at our residence at 11 AM onwards. Kriya will be held on 18th of December 2024 Pankaj Khajuria & Anjali Khajuria



Sh Shadi Lal Khajuria

(Wednesday) at 12 Noon. Grief Stricken Shakuntalla (Wife) Son and Daughter in law Ankaj Khajuria (Son) Daughter & Son in law Renuka & Parveen Sharma Mob No. 9419645734



Wagoli Pune on 20th December 2024. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Subashni & Sunil Koul-9682190881 Daughters & Son-in-laws Ashwin & Anu Koul- 9923184220 Raja & Mannu Koul- 9561534661 SAMAST PARIVAR

(PANDITA'S, BHAT'S & BAMEZAI'S)

## UTHALA

Sad & untimely demise of Mrs. Simran Gupta W/o Sh. Rishi Gupta Who expired on 16/12/2024. UTHALA will be performed on 18th Dec. 2024 (Wednesday) at 3 PM to 4 PM at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu. Grief Stricken

Rishi Gupta (Husband)

Amit & Shailu Gupta

Shopian, Kashmir.

Hinjewadi, Pune.

FOR CONDOLENCES

Pune

80829 55063

Chuni Lal Vipan Kumar

Kachi Chowni, Jammu.

Seema Gupta (Mother -in-Law)

Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law)



MRS NAMISHA

DOGRA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of Sh. Ram Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. Chachu Ram on 14-12-24. TENTH DAY will be performed on 23-12-24 at R/o Seri Panditian. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

**TENTH DAY** 



SHARMA

#### MASVAR AND WAHARVER

One year has passed since you left for your heav mly abode, leaving us in deep despair. You emories remain alive in our hearts, offering us mfort and strength. You are missed beyond rds, but we know you will always be with us in ng and loving us from above





SMT. PHOOLA KOUL

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Phoola Koul W/o Late Sh. Diljeet Koul, originally from Akura (Mattan)/ H.No. 251, Sector F, Sainik Colony Jammu at Wagoli Pune on The 10th Day Kriya will be performed a



sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Kanta Devi W/o Late Sh. Om Parkash Baria R/o W.No 8 H.No 153 near ISKCON Temple Dhar Road Udhampur. Tenth Day Mourning Assembly will be held on Tuesday 17th Dec. at Jagriti Old Age Home Billan Bowli Road Udhampur upto 12 noon. Kriya will be held on Friday 20th Dec. at Devika Ghat Udhampur. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

#### Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Sh. Deepak Kumar Baria & Smt. Seema Gupta Sh. Sanjay Kumar Baria & Smt. Shally Gupta Sh. Pankaj Gupta & Smt. Rozy Gupta Daughter & Son-in-law Smt. Ruchi Gupta & Sh. Vipan Gupta

Mob:- 7006179564, 9419175012, 9419214896

### SHRADHANJALI

The love of a brother is a cherished treasure we carry with us forever, even in his absence. Though unseen and unheard, he walks beside us every day, always near.

The Shradhanjali of my beloved brother Shri Bansi Lal Bhat (Qazi), originally from Kaloosa, Bandipora will be observed on Wednesday, 18th December at Akhnoor Ghat. IN DEEP SORROW:

Smt. Shanta Sadhu (Sister) 6005765466



SMT. KANTA DEVI

SHRI BANSI LAL BHAT

(QAZI)

Daughter and Son-in-law

Mr. Vinod Kumar and Mrs. Khyema Sharma

Mr. Rajesh Sharma and Mrs. Shivali Vedang, Tanishka, Pragmya, Agamaya, Advait & Aryaveer -Grand Children

(From All Raina Family)

Mob: 9419194965, 9419896060, 9419158783



Mrs. Simran Gupta

Iohan Koul R/O H.No 148/1, Sharika Mandirlane Paloura Doke Jammu, shall be performed on 17th December and 18th December 2024 respectively. REMEMBERED BY Rakesh Mohan Koul - Husband

Sakshaat Koul -Son

Asha Devi (Wife)

Komal Kerni (Daughter)

MOBILE NO: 8493838801

Akshay Sharma (Son)

Akhil Sharma (Son)

MASVAR AND WAHARVER of our beloved Dr Teena Muthoo Koul (Tee) W/o Sh. Rakesh

DR TEENA MUTHOO KOUL (TEE)

osheeka Koul - Daughter Sh.Praduman Krishen Koul- Father-In-Law Smt. Phoola Koul - Mother-in-Law Smt. Purnima Koul - Sister-in-Law apanshu - Nephew Smt. Chandra Muthoo- Mother Smt. Jyotsana Muthoo - Sister Surya Muthoo -Nephew AND SAMASTH KOUL AND MUTHOO PARIVAR MOB. 9910813366

#### **BHOG & ANTIM ARDASS**

Vilh profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sac emise of Master S Hardit Singh Sio Late S awan Singh Rio Raipur Satwarion 09-12-2024. Jarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib will be per med on 16-12-2024 (Monday) at 9.30 AM at ou

Shog ShriAkhand Path Sahib will be perform on 18-12-2024 at 9.30 AM at our residence. Antim Ardass will be performed at Gurudwa Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Raipur Satwari on 18-12 2024 (Wednesday) from 10.30 AM to 12.30 PM. GRIEF STRICKEN Sdn. Milap Kour - Wife



MASTER S HARDIT SINGH

Sons & Daughters-in-law S. Tejinder Singh (Retd. SSP) & Sdn. Narinder Kour Sdn. Bhupinder Kour Wo Late S. Jagtar Singh S. Jitender Singh & Sdn. Manmeet Kour Daughters & Sons-In-law S. Surinder Singh Wazir & Sdn. Gurcharan Kour S. Ranjeet Singh (Reld PDD) & Sdn. Sweety Kour All Family Members of Late S. Ajlt Singh Rissam - Brother All Grand Son, Grand Daughter, Great Grand Son & Great Grand Daughters ontact No: 9419048600, 7006700963

#### **TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of our beloved father, Sh. Bansi Lal Bhat (Qazi), originally from Kaloosa Bandipora. Present Address: House No. 677, Sainik Colony, Sec-C, Jammu. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Wednesday, 18th December 2024, at Akhnoor Ghat The ASSEMBLY will take place a Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of

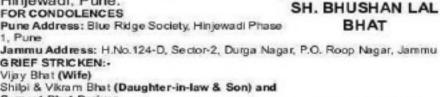


SH. BANSI LAL BHAT

Smt. Krishna Bhat (Qazi) -Wife Sh. Sarwanand Bhat/Qazi - Brother (QAZI) Rajhansi & Anil Kachroo -Daughter & Son-in-law Basanti & Youghinder Bhat -Daughter-in-law & Son Jolly & Dileep Bhat -Daughter-in-law & Son Ruby & Satish Bhat -Daughter-in-law & Son Also Mourning The Qazi, Koul, Sadhu, Raina, Tikoo, Pandita, and Bhat families. Contact Numbers: 7506371497, 9596250399, 9797567662

#### DISCLAIMER

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

**10TH DAY/KRIYA** 

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform

about the sad demise of our beloved Sh.

Bhushan Lal Bhat, S/o Late Sh. Radha

Krishan Bhat originally from Chowdrigund,

He left us for heavenly abode on 9th

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on

18th December, 2024 (Wednesday) at

December, 2024 at Hinjewadi, Pune.

Contact: 7028465275/ 9890204002/ 9419229514/ 7006388072/ 8899575239

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

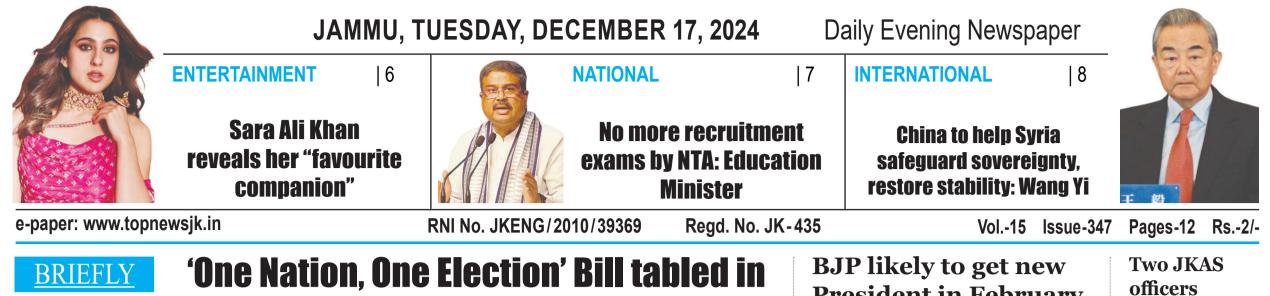
With profound grief and so rrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Pushpa Devi W/o Late Sh. Yash Pal Raina R/o House No.73, Gali Paba Chabutra Bazar Udhampur, 10th Day will be held on Tuesday, 17th December at Sanatan Dharm Sabha, Gali Paba, Udhampur at 11.30 a.m. Kriya will be performed on Wednesday, 18th December at Devika Ghat, Udhampur. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt. Renu Raina W/o Late Sh. K. L. Raina -Devrani Smt Asha and Sh. Vidhu Magotra Sons & Daughters-in-law Mr. Arun Sharma and Mrs. Geetanjali Sharma

Smt. Pushpa Devi



Education, at 10:00 AM. IN GRIEF

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



and more.

dictatorship.

parties.

All of them called

the Bill an assault on

the Constitution and a

brazen attempt to 'kill

democracy and bring

authoritarianism and

The AIMIM chief Asa-

duddin Owaisi, voicing

opposition to the Bill,

said that this legisla-

tion was being brought

to finish off all regional

"This is aimed at maxi-

#### **Youth dies** after coming under chinar tree branch in Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, Dec 17 (Agencies): A 22-yearold youth died after a branch of a chinar tree fell on him in Patti Rampora area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said. Quoting an official, the news agency KNO reported that the youth identified as Umar Ganai, a resident of Safapora, was passing by the area when some labourers were cutting the chinar tree.

He said a branch of the tree fell on Umar, resulting in critical injuries to him.

"He was immediately rushed to District Hospital Ganderbal, where doctors on duty declared him brought dead on arrival," the official said. Meanwhile police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Pattan traders protest over 'unscheduled' power cuts, block Srinagar-

#### NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill for 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE Bill) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The tabling of the ONOE Bill set the stage for yet another showdown in Parliament as Opposition parties stood in protest, demanding its withdrawal over its 'anticonstitutional and antidemocratic' nature. Congress leaders, in a scathing critique of the government, demanded that the Bill be withdrawn immediately.



Home Minister Amit Shah rebutted the charge and said that it has become a habit of the Congress party to oppose progressive legislations. The TDP, a key BJP

ally expressed unwavering support to the ONOE Bill and said that

Jammu Kashmir's rivers among India's most polluted, Government admits in Parliament



SRINAGAR, Dec 17 mir's main river swells (Agencies): Jammu up, it looks like this. The and Kashmir has photograph was taken recorded eight polon June 22, 2022, after luted river stretches, as three days of raining per the latest governand minor snowfall over ment data presented upper reaches in South Kashmir. The river in the Lok Sabha, with one grossly polluting was flowing above the industry flagged in the danger mark. KL Image: region. This information Bilal Bahadur emerged in response According to the Minto a starred question istry of Environment, raised by Sanjna Jatav, Forest and Climate focusing on the scale of Change, industrial effluriver pollution across the ents, untreated or parcountry and the steps tially treated sewage, being taken to address and poor solid waste it. The findings spotlight management have the environmental strain been identified as key on India's rivers, parcontributors to river ticularly those situated pollution. Across India, near cities and industrial 3.519 grossly polluting zones. industries (GPIs) were When Jhelum, Kash-Turn to page 9 **Former MP Ladakh** 

#### **Cold wave** conditions intensify in Kashmir; Srinagar records minus 5.3 degree Celsius

this will not only ease

India's fiscal burden but

will also cut down the

electoral expenses by

more than 40 per cent.

Among the parties who

vociferously opposed

the ONOE Bill were the

Trinamool Congress,

Samajwadi Party, the

Shiv Sena (UBT), AIMIM

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Cold wave conditions intensified in Kashmir as the minimum temperature plummeted several degrees below freezing point, causing the fringes of several water bodies including the Dal Lake here to freeze, officials said on Tuesday. Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, down from minus 3.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, officials said

## **President in February**

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The new BJP president, who will succeed incumbent J P Nadda, is likely to be elected by the end of February, according to a senior party functionary. Party sources said the ongoing organisational election is on track to complete the polling process in more than half of its state units by mid-January, an exercise that will unveil the process of electing its new national president. A senior leader said the tenure of nearly 60 per cent of the BJP's state unit presidents is over, and their replacements are likely to be in place by the middle of

the next month. The BJP's constitution stipulates that organisational polls should be completed in at least half of its state units before the process to elect the national president is started. "We expect that a new BJP president will assume the charge by the end of February. the functionary said. Asked whether the new BJP president may

be someone who is

currently serving as a

Union minister, he said

it could be either from

the government or from

the organisation, adding

that nothing has been

finalised yet.

given new assignments SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday assigned new positions to its two senior administrative officers. The postings have been ordered

with immediate effect. Jammu and Kashmir tourism According to an order copy, Joginder Singh Rai, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Special Secretary with Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister.

Similarly, Abdul

Turn to page 9

Turn to page 9

#### **Opposition parties oppose 'One Nation, One Election' bill; Cong** says it's 'first milestone to bringing new constitution'

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Several opposition leaders, including Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-SCP) MPs, on Tuesday expressed their opposition to the "One Nation, One Elec-



elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies across India. Speaking to ANI, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh rejected the bill, calling it unconstitutional and a threat to democracy. "The Congress party firmly, totally,

comprehensively rejects the One Nation, One Election Bill. We will oppose the introduction. We will demand its reference to a Joint Parliamentary Committee," he said. Ramesh further

slammed the bill, **Turn to page 9** 

mising political gains to a certain party and will pave the way for a presidential form of government," he said, slamming the BJP-led Turn to page 9

tion" Bill, which aims to

Gupshup Restaurant & Homestay / Guest House

#### Baramulla highway

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Traders Federation Pattan on Tuesday held a protest over prolonged and frequent power cuts in the area. The protest led to halting of traffic movement on Srinagar-Baramulla highway, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Nasir Bashir, president Traders Federation told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that despite being a metered area, Pattan receives only a few hours of electricity. He said that they have raised the issue repeatedly with concerned officials, but no action has been taken so far. Another protester said that they receive just 2-3 hours of electricity in a day. "This is nothing short of harassment. The government must address this issue immediately", he said.

Tehsildar Haroon Rashid, who reached at the protest site to pacify the demonstrators, assured protestors that the issue would be raised with higher authorities and that efforts would be made to ensure electricity supply as per the schedule.

Notably as cold wave has intensified in Kashmir valley, the unscheduled power cuts have increased, with each passing day causing inconvenience to

SRINAGAR. Dec 17

(Agencies): Former two-

time Member of Parlia-

ment (MP) Ladakh

& Retired DIG Haji

Ghulam Hassan Khan

passed away on Tues-

He passed away at his

Born on December

11, 1936 in Simloo vil-

residence in Bathandi

day at the age of 88.

Jammu.

#### Haji Ghulam Hassan Khan passes away

lage of, Batalik, in Kargil district of Ladakh, Khan retired as DIG from Jammu and Kashmir Police and later became a veteran political figure in Ladakh. Khan was elected to 13th and 15th Lok Sabha as a

Member of Parliament from Ladakh in 1999 and 2009 respectively. In 1999, Khan contested on National Conference ticket while in 2009 he fought as an independent candidate. Khan is remembered for his selfless services and work for the development of the Ladakh. Turn to page 9

The officials also mentioned that water supply lines in many areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley were frozen due to the cold.

Gulmarg, a tourist destination popular for skiing, recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, the same as the previous night.

Pahalgam, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 5 degrees Celsius. Konibal, a sleepy hamlet on the outskirts of Pampore town, was the coldest place in the

valley, with the mercury dipping to minus 8.5 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Qazigund, the gateway to Kashmir, was minus 6 degrees Celsius; North Kashmir's Kupwara recorded minus 5.6 degrees Celsius and Kokernag, in south Kashmir, recorded minus 5.7 degrees Celsius.

The Met office has forecast mainly dry weather until December 26, with the possibility of light snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley on

**Turn to page 9** 

Air-Conditioner Rooms with attach Bathroom Location like Dalhousie

#### Room No: 1









Room No: 4





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

## **OP-ED**

## **EDITORIAL**

## EMPOWERING YOUTH

In today's fast-paced and ever-changing global economy, empowering youth is crucial for sustainable growth and development. Youth represent a dynamic force of innovation, energy, and creativity, but this potential remains untapped without proper avenues for skill development, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurial ventures. Industrial development emerges as a key enabler for empowering youth, fostering economic progress, and creating an ecosystem that promotes self-reliance and societal advancement. By aligning industrial growth with youth development, we can create a robust framework for addressing unemployment, enhancing skills, and promoting innovation.

Industrial development is the process of establishing and expanding industries that contribute to economic diversification, employment generation, and technological advancement. For youth, it presents an opportunity to gain employment, acquire new skills, and explore entrepreneurial ventures. In developing economies, industrial growth plays a transformative role in lifting communities out of poverty, providing a structured pathway for youth to contribute to national development.

Industries provide direct employment in manufacturing, technology, logistics, and allied sectors. These opportunities cater to youth with varying educational qualifications and skill sets, ensuring inclusive growth. Beyond employment, industrial development fosters ancillary businesses and services, creating additional job opportunities in supply chains, transportation, and maintenance sectors.

One of the major challenges in youth empowerment is the skills gap—a disconnect between the skills possessed by youth and the demands of the industrial sector. Industries require a workforce proficient in technical, digital, and soft skills. However, traditional education systems often fail to equip youth with the practical skills needed in today's competitive job market.

To bridge this gap, there is a need for strong collaboration between industries, educational institutions, and the government. Vocational training programs, skill development centers, and apprenticeship opportunities can play a critical role in preparing youth for industrial jobs. Programs that integrate theoretical education with hands-on experience ensure that youth are job-ready and capable of adapting to the evolving demands of the industry.

Government initiatives such as the Skill India program in India and similar schemes globally emphasize skill enhancement and training in alignment with industrial requirements. These programs provide youth with the technical knowledge and certifications needed to secure meaningful employment in industries.

Industrial development does not merely provide employment but also encourages youth to explore entrepreneurial opportunities. Industries serve as hubs for innovation, enabling youth to develop new products, services, and technologies. By fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, industrial growth empowers youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. Start-up incubators, industrial parks, and government-backed schemes can help aspiring entrepreneurs by providing mentorship, financial support, and infrastructure. Young innovators can leverage industrial platforms to commercialize their ideas, leading to technological advancements and economic diversification. For instance, industries in sectors such as renewable energy, information technology, and manufacturing offer immense opportunities for youth-led start-ups. Programs like Make in India and Start-up India have demonstrated how industrial development can be integrated with entrepreneurship to create a vibrant economic ecosystem. Technological advancement is a key driver of industrial growth, and youth are naturally inclined to embrace and leverage technology. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by automation, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things (IoT), is reshaping industries globally. For youth, this presents an opportunity to acquire cutting-edge skills and contribute to industries that are driving innovation and productivity Industries that adopt digital technologies create an environment where youth can learn, innovate, and grow. Initiatives to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and digital literacy ensure that youth are equipped to participate in high-tech industries. Industrial sectors such as IT, biotechnology, and robotics are particularly attractive for young talent seeking careers in emerging fields. Youth unemployment remains a pressing global issue, particularly in developing countries. Industrial development can significantly reduce unemployment by creating a large number of job opportunities. Manufacturing, infrastructure, energy, and services sectors have the capacity to absorb a sizable portion of the unemployed youth workforce. Governments can encourage industrial investments in regions with high youth unemployment, thereby addressing regional disparities and providing youth with local employment opportunities. Special economic zones (SEZs) and industrial clusters can attract industries to underdeveloped regions, fostering inclusive growth. While industrial development is essential for youth empowerment, it must be pursued responsibly to ensure environmental sustainability. Youth, as future leaders, must be actively engaged in developing and implementing green technologies, renewable energy solutions, and sustainable practices in industries. Promoting eco-friendly industrial growth ensures that economic development does not come at the cost of environmental degradation.

## ISRO's latest space feat – PSLV-C59/Proba-3 Mission

#### **By: Omkar Dattatray**

ndian Space Research Organization known as ISRO is persistent-Ly and continuously adding new feathers to its research achievements .ISRO PSLV -59 successfully launched with European Space Agency's Proba-3. After being rescheduled for a day due to anomaly detected ,the ISRO on Thursday successfully launched the European Space Agency's [ESA] Proba-3 mission abroad the PSLV -C59 rocket. PSLV-C59 carried Proba-3 spacecraft into a highly elliptical orbit as a Dedicated commercial mission of New Space India Limited [NSIL] on December 5,2024 at 16.04 Hrs.Proba-3 is an In-Orbit The vehicle took off with a powerful roar ,precisely at 4.04 P.m from the first launch pad at the SDSC ,Shriharkota ,the home to several rocket launches in India. This mission marks a global milestone as the world's first precision formation -flying demonstration in space. It aims to study the Corona ,which is hotter than the Sun's surface ,and explore the solar wind which is a stream of charged particles emanating from Sun ,says P.V.Venkitakrishnan ,former director of the capacity Building Programme office ,ISRO headquarters. He said that another flawless launch by the Indian Space Research Organization's reliable workhorse ,the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle -PSLV ,the PSLV -C59/PROBA-3 today on 5th December 2024 successfully launched European Space Agency [ESA]PROBA-3 Satellites into a highly elliptical orbit .This marks the successful collaboration of New Space India Ltd [NSIL], ISRO &ESA.proba-3 is ESA's and the world's first precision formation -flying mission .A pair of satellites were flown together ,maintaining a fixed configuration as if they were a single large rigid structure in space ,to prove innovative formation flying and rendezvous technologies .The launch was originally planned at 14.08 hrs on Wednesday that is 4th December ,but was delayed by a day due to an anomaly detected in the PROBA-3 spacecraft .At 14.04hrs today

on 5th December, the rocket left the First Launch Pad from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre [SDSC], Sriharikota , and roared into the clear blue sky .The "PSLV-C59 has successfully soared into the skies ,marking the commencement of a global mission led by NSIL ,with ISRO's technical expertise ,to deploy ESA's groundbreaking PROBA-3 satellite .A proud moment celebrating the synergy of international collaboration and India's space achievements,"ISRO said in its social media post.Proba-3 is an In-Orbit Demonstration mission of the ESA .The mission goal is to demonstrate the precise flying of formations .It consists of 2 spacecraft – the Coronagraph Spacecraft and the Occulter Spacecraft and was launched together in a stacked configuration.Proba-3 will function as an orbital laboratory ,demonstrating acquisition ,rendezvous, proximity operations and formation flying while validating innovative metrology sensors and control algorithms, opening up novel methods of OSC blocks out sion control .The two satellites will adopt a fixed configuration in space ,150m apart ,while lined up with the sun so that OSC blocks out the brilliant solar disk for the CSC . This will open up continuous views of the sun's faint corona ,or surrounding atmosphere ,for scientific observation .ESA's website said ,"A pair of spacecraft were launched together today from India with the potential to change the nature of future space missions .ESA's twin Proba-3 platforms will perform precise formation flying down to a single millimeter ,as if they were one single giant spacecraft .To demonstrate their degree of control ,the pair will produce artificial solar eclipses in orbit, giving prolonged views of the Sun's ghostly surrounding atmosphere ,the corona ."Fourteen ESA Member States, including Canada ,came together on this mission ,which was set to demonstrate game -changing European technology in the areas of autonomous operations and precision maneuvering by delivering neverbefore -seen science results. Stacked together ,the two satellites separated from their upper at age about 18 min-

utes after launch. The pair will remain attached while initial commissioning occurs ,overseen by mission control at European Space Security and Education Centre ,ESEC ,in Redu ,Belgium. Proba-3 mission manager Damien Galano said ,"I am grateful to ISRO for this picture-perfect ascent to orbit .Now hard work really begins ,because to achieve Proba-3 mission goals ,the two satellites need to achieve positioning accuracy down to the thickness of the average fingernail while positioned one and half football pitches apart." The latest and historical feat achieved by ISRO is the launch of PSLV-C59/ PROBA-3Mission and by its launch most recently ISRO has once again created history .The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3Mission has successfully achieved its launch objectives ,deploying ESA's satellites into the designated orbit with precision .Global Space Exploration Conference -GLEX 2025 will be held -7th -9th May 2025. The third developmental flight of SSLV is successful .The SSLV -D3 placed EOS -08 precisely into the orbit .ISRO completes its RLV technology demonstrations through LEX trio .For this historical and milestone launch ISRO chairman Dr Somanath was Live on Istagram. ISRO has on 5th December 2024launched PSLV-C59/ PROBA-3 mission successfully .The Indian space Research organization -ISRO launched Europe's twin Probe-3 spacecraft on Thursday .The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle [PSLV-C59 in a picture -perfect launch begun its journey to space a day after the launch was postponed .ISRO's PSLV -XL lifts off with Europe's Probe-3mission to space .The launch vehicle is on its way to space to deploy Probe-3in an elliptical orbit around Earth .The mission will be completed in 1122 seconds .This moment is inspiring and wonderful to all lovers of space exploration .The new satellite has been launched at Sriharkota Andhra Pradesh's Satish Dawan Space Centre .As per the ESA's request ,the launch of PSLV -C59 /PROBA-3 had been rescheduled on 5th December 2024 and thus it has been launched on this date .ISRO PSLV-XL Probe-3 mission

launched .Satellite injection complete. Proba-3 separates and deployed into elliptical orbit formation flying in space .ISRO mission director said that Proba-3 mission fully accomplished .ISRO PSLV-XL lifts off with Europe's Proba-3mission to space .ISRO is strengthening global collaboration .On December 4,2024,ISRO &ESA signed a technical implementing Plan to provide ground tracking support for the Gaganyaan Mission .A major step for seamless orbital operations .The Proba-3 mission by the European space Agency -ESA and India's Aditya L1 mission differ significantly in their objectives and operational designs.Proba-3 focuses on technology demonstration through two satellites ,the Occulter and the Coronagraph ,which work in precise formation to create artificial solar eclipses for extended observations of the sun's corona .This mission emphasizes formation flying technology and aims to stimulate solar eclipses ,allowing for up to six hours of continuous observation. In contrast Aditya 1 is a single spacecraft positioned at the Sun-Earth Language Point 1-L1 , approximately 1.5 million kilometers from Earth .It aims for comprehensive solar research ,including studying solar winds ,magnetic fields ,and coronal mass ejections ,thereby providing insights into space weather dynamics affecting Earth .The Proba-3 twin satellite will offer a novel view of the sun's surrounding atmosphere, or corona .A million times fainter – but larger in expanse than the sun itself-the enigmatic corona is the source of space weather and the solar wind .The team from the ESA had been in India to integrate the spacecraft with the PSLV -XL rocket .In brief we can say that the present PROBA-3 with PSLV-C59 is another feat in the space achievements of ISRO.

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

## IIT Madras has a digital human brain atlas ready

#### **By: Vijay Garg**

y creating the world's most detailed digital human brain atlas, the researchers at IIT Madras are embarking on a journey that could fundamentally change how we approach both medicine and AI. The complexity of the human brain has always presented one of the greatest challenges in science. Neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and epilepsy affect millions of people worldwide, yet we still know relatively little about their underlying causes. Existing treatments are often expensive, difficult to access, and only modestly effective. This leaves millions of patients and families facing daunting uncertainty, as well as health care systems strained by the burden of care. At the same time, the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming industries and creating new opportunities, yet AI still pales in comparison to the efficiency, adaptability, and learning capacity of the human brain. Despite its ability to process massive datasets and perform specific tasks at superhuman speeds, AI systems remain energy-intensive and lack the flexibility that comes naturally to human cognition. If we could better understand how the brain works - its adaptability, efficiency, and ability to process information - we could revolutionise not only the treatment of neurological diseases but also the future of AI. This is where the work being done at IIT Madras comes in. By creating the world's most detailed digital

human brain atlas, the researchers

at IIT Madras are embarking on

a journey that could fundamentally change how we approach both medicine and AI. This digital brain atlas will map the human brain at an unprecedented level of detail, providing insights into its structure, connectivity, and the underlying mechanisms that make human cognition so unique. Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC), a joint initiative of IIT Madras and department of biotechnology (DBT), ministry of science and technology, sets the stage for major advancements in neuroscience and foetal medicine, with potential applications ranging from early diagnosis of International collaborations with institutions like the University of California underscore the global significance of this work. India's ability to innovate at lower costs gives it a unique advantage in addressing global problems.

If solutions can work in India, where resources are often stretched

The brain is estimated to be made up of approximately 80 billion neurons, with trillions of connections forming a network of incomprehensible complexity. Mapping this network has long been a dream of neuroscientists, but existing tools have been limited in their ability to provide a clear, detailed picture of how the brain is structured and how its different regions communicate with one another. The team at IIT Madras, however, is changing that. Their project involves slicing human brains into ultrathin sections - 10,000 slices per brain – each captured at tens of gigapixels resolution, resulting in a 3D, fully digital model of the whole brain. This process generates three petabytes of data per brain, creating a dataset that offers unprecedented insights into the inner workings of this most complex organ.

In an exciting new development, the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre at IIT Madras has released DHARANI, the first-ever 3D highresolution imaging dataset of the human foetal brain. Featuring over 5,000 sections at cellular resolution, this groundbreaking dataset offers researchers a detailed view of early brain development. Remarkably, the team achieved this at less than one-tenth the cost of similar projects in the West. This achievement, led by Sivaprakasam, professor in department of electrical engineering at IIT Madras and head of the developmental disorders to understanding the origins of neurological diseases.

The potential applications of this research are vast. By studying the brain at this level of detail, scientists will gain new insights into how neurological diseases develop, what biomarkers signal their onset, and how various treatments affect brain function over time. The digital brain atlas could help researchers identify early indicators of diseases like Alzheimer's, enabling earlier diagnosis and more effective interventions before symptoms become severe. This is particularly important in countries like India, where access to expensive diagnostic tools is limited and millions of people go undiagnosed until it is too late for treatment to make a meaningful difference. The affordability aspect is central to the project's mission, with the team focused on making their tools and insights available at a fraction of the cost, democratising access to this critical information and ensuring it benefits patients everywhere. The brain atlas also represents a new model for innovation in India, where affordability and scalability are essential. For years, much of the cutting-edge research in fields like neuroscience and AI has been concentrated in the West. IIT Madras is proving that

India has the talent and creativity

to not only participate in but lead

the next wave of breakthroughs.

thin, they will be effective everywhere. This democratisation of science and technology is central to the mission of the brain atlas project.

Transformative work like this is made possible by visionary donors like Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys, who has dedicated his post-corporate career to supporting research with global impact. His investment in the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre reflects a belief that India can lead the world in creating affordable, scalable solutions for some of humanity's greatest challenges.

Witnessing the groundbreaking work at IIT Madras firsthand early this year also inspired me to collaborate with them and relocate my company, Vionix Biosciences' R&D to India, leveraging their expertise to develop advanced diagnostic technologies. Their commitment to making cuttingedge science accessible to all aligns perfectly with the mission of democratising innovation. These are shining examples of how grand visions, rooted in affordability and global collaboration, can transform industries and improve lives.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

## LOCAL/ADVT

## CM Omar Abdullah likey to meet Amit Shah **Tomorrow over Statehood restoration**

SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is expected to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday to discuss a range of key issues, including the early restoration of statehood, official sources said.

This will be Omar's second meeting with the Home Minister since assuming office as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory

Sources indicate that Omar, who received "positive assurances" during his first meeting, remains optimistic that the Union Government will fulfill its promise of restoring statehood at the earliest.



However, while the Union Government has repeatedly assured its commitment to the restoration of statehood, it has yet to provide a concrete timeline for the same.

In addition to statehood, Omar is likely to raise concerns regarding administrative issues of dual control during his meeting with the Home Minister.

Even after more than two months in power, the Jammu and Kashmir is without the Transaction of Business Rules (TBR) that would delineate the powers of the elected government and it's power over various departments and administrative matters. The absence of the Business rules is creating a friction between Omar Abdullah-led elected government and the Lieutenant Governor -led administration.

#### clerk in bribery case in Sopore SRINAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested a clerk of Fire & Emergency Service department posted in Sopore for demanding bribe of Rs 5000 for issuance of NOC to open a timber sale depot. According to a statement, a complainant

alleged that he intended to open a sale depot of timber in Baramulla for which he had applied online with forest department for securing licence and as per check list, he completed all formalities except fire department NOC which was manda-

ACB arrests fire service department

The statement reads that when he approached th office in Sopore concerned clerk, Nisar Ahmad Wani initially delayed NOC on different grounds and finally told him to give bribe of Rs 5000. "The clerk also compelled complainant to pay Rs 1500 through bank account to some unknown person on pretext of fee for NOC beside made him install various instruments at proposed timber depot through selected shopkeeper at higher price," it reads.

tory.

It added that as the 7 of the Prevention of complainant was not Corruption Act, 1988 was interested in paying the registered against him bribe he accordingly and the investigation was approached ACB with his initiated" complaint and demanded legal action against the

The statement reads that during investigation, a team laid a successful trap and accused clerk was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs

4000 from complainant. "Accordingly, after completing all legal formalifies the accused was arrested on the spot. The bribe money was also recovered, while further investigation is going on," it added.

standing performance in

the Sub-Junior U14 Boys

Speed Skating Event, win-

ning two Gold Medals in

the 1500m Road Race and

1000m Rink Race, along

with a Silver Medal in the

Heritage School extended

heartfelt congratulations to

these young athletes, their

coaches and their fami-

lies for their exceptional

achievements. Their hard

work and dedication have

brought immense pride to

the school and the U.T. of

500m Rink Race.

## Dimple leads protest against JMC, PWD, ERA, JDA



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a massive protest rally along with traders and residents on Amphalla-Janipur High Court Road, causing traffic disruption. The protest targeted the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), ERA, JDA, and PWD over worsening sanitation conditions, dysfunctional waste collection services, trafdeteriorating state of roads, lanes, and street lighting in Jammu city. Addressing the protesters, Dimple accused the JMC of failing to deliver basic services despite collecting substantial revenue from residents, traders, hoteliers, and businesses. He highlighted the nonfunctional house-tohouse waste collection

waste materials piling fic congestion, and the up across Jammu's 75 wards.

Dimple criticized the poor sanitation, particularly in areas like New Plot, Sarwal, Rehari, Janipur, Bakshi Nagar, and Talab Tillo, which, he said, create a dismal impression for visitors. The traders who joined the protest were Bilo Pahlwan, Arun Verma, Vikas, Dileep, Kala Singh, Raspal Singh, Devinder Singh, Akash, and many others.

#### JKBS' members present Chandi Ram Chandi award to Singer Video Director R.K.Khanna

vehicles, which remain

out of order, leaving

heaps of garbage and

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: Renowned Singer Video Director Rajesh Kumar Khanna from Dudu Basant Garh was presented the first Chandi Ram Chandi award



## **HERITAGEANS shine at 62nd National Roller-Skating Championship**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: Heritageans made the school proud with their stellar performance at the 62nd National Roller-Skating Championship.

The championship was held from December 5th to -15, 2024, at two prestigious venues. Speed Skating events took place in Mysore (Karnataka), organized by the Karnataka Roller Skating Association, while Roller Hockey events were conducted in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), organized by the Tamil Nadu Roller Skating Association under the aegis of the **Roller Skating Federation** of India.



Representing Jammu and

D, Agastya Shivpuri of III D, Neyonika Salathia of IV F. Kamaakshi Mahaian of IV E, Parmaarth Bral of IV D Samarthya Singh of V E, Kumar Vanishree N Verma of VII A, Navdeep Kour of

VII C, Puneesh Puri of VIII D, and Medhaansh Sharma of IX C.

concerned official.

"On receipt of the com-

plaint a discreet verifica-

tion was conducted by

ACB PS Baramulla. The

verification prima facie

disclosed the commis-

sion of offence punish-

able under Section 7 of

the Prevention of Corrup-

tion Act, 1988 by Nisar

Ahmad Wani, Accord-

ingly, a case FIR No 16/2024 Under Section

Achievements of these Heritageans in the tournament were remarkable Bhumik Singh Salathia and Parmaarth Bral secured a Silver Medal in the Cadet Mix Roller Hockey Event. Kumar Vanishree N Verma and Navdeep Kour won a Gold Medal in the Sub-Junior Mix Roller Hockey Event

Puneesh Puri, National skater, delivered an out-

#### Jammu & Kashmir NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 01/01/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their originalitevised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender bournent cost and earned money only through only payment modes available on awww.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not

Tender Type			Tendering Section Works Bid Starting Date 16.12.2024		Bidding System Single Packet System Bid Closing Date/Time 01.01.2025 / 15:00 Hrs.							
Open Date of Uploading Tenders 10.12.2024												
		S.No.					Tender No.		Details of Tender			
		1.					252-2024-25- ADEN-2-FZR	the set of second				
	Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest	Validity of offer		Period of completion						
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#### **Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands donates Uniform Sweaters to GMHSS Domana** Mahajan (Project Direc-



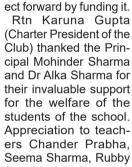
**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 17: Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands donated its school uniform project, reaching out to more than 100 needy students

He extended thanks

Kashmir, several students from Heritage School showcased exceptional skill and determination The participants included

## Bhumik Singh Salathia of II



tor) for driving this proj-

Sharma, Anju Bala Other members who were present are Rtn Sunny Gupta, Rtn Vinu Jamwal, Rtn Sushma

instituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha in memory of late Chandi Ram Chandi, who was born in a Kaith family at Lyallpur District of Pakistan and after the partition of India in 1947. relocated to Ludhiana. He has hundreds of Punjabi songs that still resonate with his admir-



ers across the globe. After receiving the award, R.K.Khanna said to JKBS members, "I am deeply grateful for this award and the recognition it represents. Thank

you for believing in me and my work.' JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith and the Music Director Vicky Kaith said, "R.K.Khanna has a euphonious

uniform Sweaters to the needy children of the Govt Modal Higher Secondary School. Speaking on the occasion, Rtn Jaswinder Singh Kuku, President of Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands said that it was a heartwarming moment as the Club of once again conducted

#### Sahni to sponsor, Rtn Aviral

#### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAL SHAKTI (IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, JAMMU.

e-mail:xenfcjammu@gmail.com

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 29 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of President of India, e-tenders (in two cover system) Cover-Ist containing Earnest Money (CDR/ FDR) including prequalification documents and Cover-IInd containing price Bid are invited on percentage basis as per specifications in BOQ from Registered Contractors having upto date GST Clearance certificate.

S. No	Name of work.	Amount of Work (In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Cost of Tender documents (In Rupees)	Class of contractor
1	Construction of protection work by way of crate bar revetment on Tributary of Chatta nallah and plugging of crates to divert the nallah water to check land erosion of GHS Chatta Sunjwan Pyt. Sunjwan Upper.	3.91	7820/-	45 Days	300.00	(A,B,C&D)
2.	Construction of crates revetment and laying of new crates on the existing studs at village Kukrian Jammu at R/S Waddi Tawi.	10.35	20700/-	45 Days	1000.00	(A,B,C&D)
3.	Construction of crates revetment and 03 No. studs at village Thub in Jammu.	12.13	24260/-	45 Days	1000.00	(A,B,C&D)
	Position of AAA : Accor Position of TS : Accor Position of Funds : Availa Source of Funding : UT Ca Important Dates	ded				
i)	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice		:	14-12-2024 (	06:00 Pm)	
ii)	Date of downloading Tender documents start		:	14-12-2024 (06:00 Pm)		
iii)	Bid submission start date		:	14-12-2024 (06:00 Pm)		
iv)	Bid submission end date		:	23-12-2024 (04:00 pm)		
v)	Date and time of Bid opening		:	24-12-2024 (	12:00 PM)	
1.	The complete bidding process will be o	online.				
2.	The tenders shall be received online on online on the same website <u>www.jkten</u> Executive Engineer Flood Control Divi	ders.gov.in	at above men	tioned time ar	d date in the	office of the

online on the same website www.jktenders.gov.in at above mentioned time and date in the office of the
Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Jammu on 24-12-2024 or any other date convenient to the
tender opening authority in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
Sd/-

	anay .			
No: FCD/J/3593-3604	DIP/J-8218/24	Executive Engineer		
Dated: 14.12.2024	DIF/J-0210/24	Flood Control Division		
		Jammu		

#### JKSA thanks PM, EAM for timely intervention in evacuation of stranded Kashmiri pilgrims from Syria

voice!"

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Monday expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for their prompt and effective intervention in the safe evacuation of over 40 Kashmiri pilgrims stranded in Syria amidst severe unrest

National Convenor of the Association, Nasir Khuehami, said, "We extend our deepest gratitude to the Prime Minister, Union External Affairs Minister, and the Ministry for their swift and effective response during this crisis. The Ministry ensured the safe transportation of the pilgrims from Syria to Lebanon, providing them with food, excellent accommodation, and assistance with onwards travel."

Khuehami explained that the Indian Embassy in Syria took immediate action to evacuate the pilgrims from the volatile Saida Zainab area, arranging safe bus transport to Lebanon since flights were not operating from Syria. "The Embassy staff extended exceptional care, even booking tickets for further travel, ensuring a seamless journey for the stranded pilgrims," he said.

Further, the Indian Embassy in Beirut made detailed arrangements for the pilgrims, including their boarding and lodging, and facilitated their onwards journey to Iraq as per their request. This allowed the pilgrims to fulfill their spiritual obligation of visiting sacred sites such as Karbala and Najaf, which hold immense significance in their faith. "Such efforts reflect the Ministry's and the Embassy's dedication to ensuring the comfort, safety, and religious aspirations of Indian citizens," Khuehami said.

Khuehami also praised the warm reception provided by Indian Ambassador Noor Rahman in Lebanon, where the pilgrims were received with utmost care and efficiency.

He noted that the Ministry's prompt assistance brought immense relief to the anxious families in Kashmir, who were deeply worried about their loved ones. "The extraordinary support and coordinated efforts reflect the Government of India's unwavering commitment to the safety and welfare of its citizens abroad," he said. Khuehami emphasized that this is not the first instance of the Ministry's timely intervention for citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. "Be it during the Ukraine-Russia war, the Bangladesh reservation

crisis, or other emergencies, the Ministry's consistent efforts have provided relief and hope to those in distress," he stated.

He also added that the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association had taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs from the very first day. "The immediate response ensured not only the evacuation of pilgrims from Syria but also facilitated their subsequent travel to Iraq, allowing them to fulfill their religious obligations," Khuehami added.

The coordinated actions of the Ministry, Indian Embassies in Damascus and Beirut ensured the safe passage, appropriate accommodations, and logistical support for the stranded pilgrims. "This intervention demonstrates the Government of India's, especially Ministry's efficiency and empathy in handling such crises. The efforts of the Indian embassies and the Ministry have brought immense solace to the affected families and strengthened their trust in the Government of India's care for its citizens," Khuehami said.

He assured that JKSA remains committed to collaborating with the Ministry to assist students, labourers, and other citizens during emergencies. "We will continue to support efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of people, especially during crises," Khuehami added.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

## Sharmila Tagore concerned about actors' huge fees, competition over vanity van

Actor Sharmila Tagore has expressed her concern over actors charging "huge amounts" and many of them travelling with "cooks, masseuse, and an entire entourage". Speaking with agency, Sharmila also said that many celebrities have a "competition over the size of their vanity vans", which is pushing actors away from acting.

6

Sharmila concerned about actors' huge fees, entourage

She said, "I am concerned about how actors are not just charging huge amounts, but many even travel with cooks, masseuse, and an entire entourage. I was doing an ad film, and the person who did my makeup revealed that today, there some actors have a running competition over the size of their vanity vans."

Sharmila compares needs of



vanity vans earlier vs now "Vanity vans were all about privacy, and a comfortable place to dress up. Now, you have meeting rooms, resting rooms, etc... All of this is pushing actors away from what actually matters... the acting. Of course, making money is important, but if you are moving away from reality,

Khan. how would you know what works and doesn't with the audience." About Sharmila's career, life Sharmila has captivated audiences for decades with unforgettable performances in clas-

sics like Aradhana, Kashmir Ki

Kali, and Amar Prem. Beyond

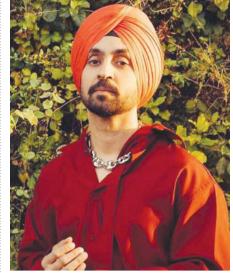
her brilliant acting career, she

remains a timeless style icon

and an inspiration to generations. Sharmila married cricket Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. Saif Ali Khan, Soha Ali Khan and Saba Ali Khan are their children. She was last seen in the Disney+ Hotstar movie Gulmohar. The Rahul V Chittelladirected movie also featured Manoj Bajpayee, Simran and Suraj Sharma. Before Gulmohar, Sharmila was seen in the 2010 movie Break Ke Baad with Deepika Padukone and Imran

Sharmila's upcoming film Sharmila is set to return to the big screen with Outhouse, a heartwarming movie that will release in theatres on December 20. Directed by Sunil Sukthankar, the film's cast includes Mohan Agashe, Sonali Kulkarni, Neeraj Kabi, and Sunil Abhayankar.

### Diljit slams trolls after being pulled up for wrong Punjab spelling



Punjabi singing sensation Diljit Dosanjh criticised online trolls for tagging him in a tweet where he had misspelled Punjab and forgot to add the Indian flag.

The 40-year-old singer said everything is a conspiracy and labelled his navsavers as "vehlev" (idle).

"If in a tweet there is no mention of the flag, that's a conspiracy. Even in the Bengaluru tweet, there wasn't a flag in one place. If Puniab is written as Panjab then that's conspiracy. Whether its written Punjab or Panjab, it will remain as Punjab only (sic).'

"Panj Aab - 5 Rivers Hats off to those who are using foreigners' language to push conspiracy theories. In the future, I will write PANJAB in Punjabi, as in Gurumukhi. You guys won't stop I know. So keep going. How many times do we have to prove that we love India? Do something new or have you been given a task to create conspiracies around me? #Vehley," he added.

He also attached the screen shots of his previous posts. One of them had "Tomorrow CHANDIGARH PANJAB" written over accompanied by an Indian flag.

The other picture featured one of his tweets which had no flag.

Dosanjh is currently on his Dil-Luminati India Tour which began on October 26 in New Delhi. It will conclude on December 29 in Guwahati. His next stop is Mumbai where he will perform on December 19.

## Paris Hilton sings 'Sanasa' catchphrase to her kids during playtime

Reality star and socialite Paris Hilton is singing to two of her adoring fans, her kids. She recently took to her Instagram, and shared a sweet video in which she is seen holding a toy microphone and kneeling on the floor next to son Phoenix, and daughter, London.

The reality star and Phoenix then sang the word 'Sanasa', which Simple Life fans will recognize as the show's sing-songy catchphrase, typically sung by Hilton and best friend Nicole Richie at random moments, reports 'People' magazine.

Phoenix and London then bang on a tiny bongo drum as Hilton laughs. "Baby P's new favorite song!#Sanasa", Hilton wrote in the caption of her post. As per 'People', Hilton and her husband, entrepreneur Carter Reum, welcomed Phoenix and London via surrogate in 2023. The star opened up about the same last year, revealing what she found to be the most surprising part of

motherhood "It's just how much love I could have for someone", she said. "I thought I knew what love was with my husband. but as soon as I met my baby, it's just this love on another level. He has just changed my life in every way. I just feel like the luckiest girl in the world every single day for this beautiful family that



Since then, Hilton has shared many loving tributes to her children, including a recent Thanksgiving post.

"This Thanksgiving, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. I'm so thankful for my beautiful family and my precious babies who bring endless love, happiness and laughter into my life every day. Here's to celebrating love, togetherness, and all the things we're grateful for this year. Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours", she shared in her

## Aamir Khan on winning Oscar for India with Laapataa Ladies

With Laapataa Ladies becoming India's official entry to the Oscars, all eyes are on Aamir Khan's film. In a recent interview agency, the actor opened up about what winning an Oscar for India means to him. He said that if Laapataa Ladies wins the Academy Award, people in India will go 'ballistic'. Aamir Khan on winning

Oscar for India When asked what would it mean to him to win Oscar for India, Aamir Khan replied, "I am not quite sure how seriously to take a competition.

But I would be really happy. It would create tremendous opportunity for the film to be seen by a lot more people because when a film wins an Oscar or Academy award, then people



want to see what it's like. So it opens a huge window of opportunity for a larger audience for

a film." He further added how Indians will react if Laapataa Ladies wins Oscar and said, "More important than that, I think Indian are so film crazy and we have been dying to win an Academy Award for an Indian film which hasn't happenedd till now. So the country would go ballistic. They'll just go mad if we win. So just for the people of our country, I'd be very happy if we win the award.

In the history of India, only three films- Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan- have been nominated in the International Feature category; however, none of them have won Oscars.

Best Original Song and Elephant Whisperers won the Best Documentary Short.

Writing with Fire and All that Breathes got nods in the Best Documentary Feature category. Now, the audience has high expectations from Laapataa Ladies. The shortlist of Oscars 2025 will be announced on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

Aamir Khan upcoming films

Meanwhile, Aamir Khan will be next seen in the movie Sitaare Zameen Par which also stars Darshal Safary and Genelia Deshmukh. The film is scheduled to release in theatres in 2025.

He is also backing Rajkumar Santoshi's directorial, Lahore 1947 which is headlined by

I have"

For Sara Ali Khan, her "favourite companion" is the setting sun, revealed the actress.

Sara took to Instagram, where she shared a picture montage of herself. In the image, the actress's back is towards the camera. She is seen wearing a bright sunny yellow saree paired with an aqua blue blouse. The daughter of actor Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh is seen looking at the setting sun behind the mountains.

For the caption, she wrote: "Favourite companion while my moon shows up."

The actress, who was last seen in "Ae Watan Mere Watan". a historical biographical film about India's struggle for freedom in 1942, based on the life of Usha Mehta, recently celebrated six years of her debut film "Kedarnath" starring late star Sushant Singh Rajput. Sara thanked god for giving her a "lifetime of memories."

She had shared a video featuring a collection of clips of the movie and its BTS. She wrote in the caption, "6 years of Kedarnath. Sometimes it feels like just vesterday and sometimes it feels like a lifetime away... Jai Bholenath. Thank you for making me me. And thank you for giving me a lifetime of memories". The disaster film talked about the 2013 flash floods in Uttarakhand, and revolved around the inter-faith love story between a wealthy Hindu Brahmin girl whose family owns a lodge and shops near the historic Kedarnath Temple in the Uttarakhand mountains and a Muslim boy who is a 'pithoo' (porter) working in the same vicinity. As their bond grows

closer, the couple face many hiccups, including familial disapproval and contrasting backgrounds; when the sudden rains of the 2013 Uttarakhand floods devastate the region, the duo are forced to survive against the elements and face the ultimate test of their love.



The film was written and directed by Abhishek Kapoor, who is known

for blockbusters such as 'Rock On!!' and 'Kai Po Che!'.

## Madhuri Dixit rents out her Andheri West office space for Rs 3 lakh per month: report

Bollywood actor Madhuri Dixit is making moves in Mumbai's bustling real estate market by renting out her office space in the city for a monthly sum of Rs 3 lakh. The office space is located in Mumbai's Andheri West area and has been leased to a private company. This move highlights how many celebrities are leveraging real estate investments-whether through lavish homes or commercial properties—as an additional source of income. Madhuri's office space spans an area of 1,594.24 square feet. According to a Hindustan Times report citing documents accessed by Propstack, the Tezaab actor is set to earn Rs 3 lakh per month from this property. The rental agreement for the property was finalized on November 13, with the

tenant company making a security deposit of Rs 9 lakh. Furthermore, while the monthly rent

for the first year is Rs 3 lakh, it is set to increase to Rs 3.15 lakh in the second year.

out office space, Mad-

huri made headlines in

October for purchas-

ing a luxurious flat in

Mumbai's Lower Parel

In addition to leasing

area. The upscale property is part of a premium residential project and covers a sprawling 5,384 square feet. This opulent flat, which includes seven parking spaces, was acquired for a whopping Rs 48 crore. Madhuri paid a substantial stamp duty of Rs 2.4 crore to finalise the transaction.

In November, Shahid Kapoor and his wife Mira Kapoor also rented out their luxury apartment in Mumbai's upscale Worli area. The high-end property is being rented out for Rs 20 lakh per month under a five-year agreement. Registered in November 2024, the lease spans a tenure of 60 months and includes an initial security deposit of Rs 1.23 crore, according to a statement by SquareYards.

On the work from, Madhuri was recently seen in Anees Bazmee's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which also starred Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan and Tripti Dimrii in lead roles.

#### Recently, RRR won the Sunny Deol.

## **NATIONAL**

## Cong promoted water disputes between states, does little for farmers: PM Modi

JAIPUR, Dec 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the Congress, saying they talk big in the name of farmers but neither do anything for them nor let others do it.

The delay in the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is a direct proof of the intention of the Congress, he said.

"The Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) was delayed for so long by the Congress, this is also a direct proof of the Congress' intentions. They talk big in the name of farmers but neither do they do anything for the farmers themselves nor do they let others do it," he said addressing a public meeting in Dadiya in Jaipur.

He was addressing 'the Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh' to mark completion of one-year of Rajasthan government during which he inaugurated and laid foundation stone for 24 projects related to energy, road, railways and water worth over Rs 46,300 crore.

The prime minister said the Pravati, Kalisindh, Chambal project will provide irrigation water as well as drinking water to 21 districts of Rajasthan and accelerate the development of



both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

While the BJP's policy is to promote dialogue, the Congress continued to promote water disputes between states, he said.

"The BJP's policy is of dialogue, not of conflict. We believe in cooperation, not opposition. We believe in solutions, not disruption. Therefore, our government has approved and also expanded the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project. As soon as the BJP government was formed in MP and Rajasthan, an agreement

'evil attempt to strangle democracy'

Kalisindh-Chambal project," he said. The prime minister noted that he had launched a big campaign to bring the water

was reached on the Parvati-

of Narmada river to different parts of Gujarat when he was the chief minister and charged that the Congress and some NGOs adopted various tactics to stop it.

"The Congress never wants to reduce water problems... The water of our rivers used to flow across the borders, but our farmers did not get its benefits. Instead of finding a solution,

the Congress continued to promote water disputes between states," he said.

PM Modi also said that the BJP is getting huge public support in different states where elections were held.

"The BJP is getting such huge public support in one state after another. The country has given the BJP the opportunity to serve the country for the third consecutive time in the Lok Sabha. This had not happened in India in the last 60 years," he said.

"Today, BJP's double engine governments are becoming a symbol of good governance. Whatever resolution the BJP takes, it makes honest efforts to fulfil it. Today, the people of the country are saying that BJP is the guarantee of good governance."

He also appreciated the work of the CM Bhajanlal Sharmaled BJP government in the state.

"In the last one year, Bhajanlal ji and his entire team have worked very hard to give new momentum and direction to the development of Rajasthan This first year has, in a way, laid a strong foundation for the many years to come," he said.

## **PM favoured referring ONOE** bill to JPC for wider discussions: Shah tells LS

Constitution (129th

Amendment) Bill that

seeks to usher in simul-

taneous polls to the

Lower House and state

"When One Nation,

One Election bills came

up in Cabinet, PM Modi

said these should be

referred to the Joint

Committee of Parlia-

ment. There should be

a detailed discussion

over it at every level,"

The home minister

assemblies

Shah said



NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi favoured detailed discussion at every level on the 'one nation, one election' bill and wanted it to be referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Shah made the remarks in Lok Sabha when the House was hearing objections to the introduction of the pointed out that DMK member T R Baalu too had favoured referring the bill to a parliamentary committee.

Shah said the bill can be discussed in greater detail in the Joint Committee of Parliament. The report of the JPC will be approved by the Union Cabinet and the Bill can be discussed again in Parliament, he said.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha following a division of votes. The Union Territories Amendment Bill seeks to align the elections to the union territories Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir with the Lok Sabha polls.

## No more recruitment exams by NTA: Education Minister

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The National Testing Agency (NTA) will not conduct any recruitment exams starting 2025 and will focus on only higher education entrance exams, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Tuesday.

The move is part of examination reforms based on recommendation of a high level panel set up earlier this year following alleged leak of medical entrance NEET exam and series of cancellations of other exams due to suspected leaks and other glitches.

The Ministry is also in conversation with the Health Ministry about whether the exam should be conducted in traditional pen and paper based mode or switch to a Computer Based Test (CBT).

"NTA will be limited to conducting only entrance exams for higher education and will not conduct any recruitment exams from next year," Pradhan told reporters.

The Minister also clarified that the



Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will continue to be conducted once a year.

"The government is looking at moving to computer adaptive test and technology-driven entrance exams in the near future," he said.

Pradhan said that NTA will be restructured in 2025.

"The agency will be restructured in 2025, at least ten new posts are being created and there will be many changes in functioning of NTA to ensure there is zero-error testing," he said.

6 killed, 10 injured as bus rams into dumper truck in Gujarat's Bhavnagar

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Union Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday criticised the Congress, calling the Emergency an "evil attempt to strangle democracy," during the second day of the special debate on the 75th anniversary of the Constitution's adop-

tion in the Rajya Sabha. "It will be 50 years next year since the Emergency was imposed. We will celebrate Anti-Democracy Day. The Indian National Congress should join in and appeal to the people that for 50 years, there was an evil attempt to strangle democracy. If there is any remorse in your heart, I appeal to you to join Anti-Democracy Day on June 25, 2025," Nadda said during the debate.

during a broadcast on All India Radio. This came shortly after the Supreme Court granted a conditional stay on an Allahabad High Court verdict that had nullified her election to the Lok

Sabha. Union Minister JP Nadda, while addressing the Kashmir issue during the Constitution debate in Rajya Sabha, expressed his gratitude to Parliament for the abrogation of Article 370. He criticised the Opposition for protesting the move at the time, questioning what exactly they were against. Nadda emphasised that,



through a Presidential Order, was granted Presidential status without any parliamentary debate.

**BJP's JP Nadda slams Congress, calls Emergency** 

Criticizing the legacy of Article 370 and 35A, Nadda said that these provisions bypassed parliamentary scrutiny and had severe consequences

symbol, calling the latter a metaphor for resilience and India's democratic journey. "The lotus inspires us that, despite all challenges, we will leave no stone unturned in strengthening democracy," he said.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for uniting 562 princely states and welcomed Congress acknowledgement of Patel's contributions. "For the first time in a long while, I heard the Congress side mention Sardar Patel," he remarked.

Nadda also praised

The Constitution debate, which began in the Rajya Sabha on

On the night of June 25, 1975, Indira Gandhi announced the imposition of the Emergency

thanks to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is now firmly integrated as a "part and parcel" of India. Highlighting the historical context, Nadda pointed out that Article

He noted that 106 laws passed by the Indian Parliament, including the Prevention of Atrocities Act and the Human Rights Act, were not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir. Even laws like the Protection 35A, introduced in 1954 of Children from Sexual

Kashmiri woman married a non-Kashmiri, she was deprived of her property rights," he added.

Speaking on cultural imprints in the Constitution, Nadda referenced the Ajanta and Ellora cave motifs and the lotus

Offences (POCSO) Act

were not implemented in

The BJP leader further

criticized former Prime

Minister Jawaharlal

Nehru, stating that while

Nehru was a strong

advocate for women's

property rights, those

rights were denied to

Kashmiri women. "If a

the region.

Monday after two days in the Lok Sabha, aims to reflect on India's democratic journey. On Monday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accused the Congress of allegedly undermining the Constitution over the last 75 years.

BHAVNAGAR, Dec 17 (Agencies) Six persons were killed and nearly 10 others injured after a private bus rammed into a dumper truck on a highway in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district on Tuesday morning, police said.

The accident took place near Trapaj village at around 6 am when the bus was on its way towards Mahuva from Bhavnagar, Superintendent of Police Harshad Patel said.

The bus hit the dumper truck from behind

Six persons were killed in the accident, the official said, adding that eight to ten others were injured.

The injured persons were undergoing treatment at a hospital and they were reported to be out of danger, he said.

The collision was so severe that the right side front portion of the bus was completely damaged, as per officials.

#### Man arrested for rape, murder of niece in Bihar



ARA, Dec 17 (Agencies): Man arrested for raping and murdering his 12-year-old niece in Bhojpur district, police said on Tuesday.

"The incident occurred in the Dharahara Hanuman Tola area on Monday night, under the jurisdiction of the Town police station. I visited the spot," the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Bhojpur, Raj, said while speaking to reporters.

The residents of the locality told the police personnel that the accused sexually assaulted the girl and beat her to death in his house, the SP said.

The girl had gone to her uncle's house to borrow something. The accused then sexually assaulted and killed her, the members of the victim's family claimed.

They also told police that the accused had tied the girl's body to a cot after killing her.

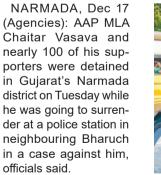
When family members started looking for the girl, they went to the accused's house and found her body tied to a cot.

By the time other residents of the locality also reached the spot, the SP said.

The locals handed over the accused to the police after beating him, he said.

"The girl's body has been sent to a hospital for a post-mortem examination and an investigation has been initiated," the SP added.

## **AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava detained** while on way to surrender in Gujarat



The preventive detention was made due to law and order concerns as the MLA was going to appear before the police without notice, Dediapada police station's inspector Prakash Pandya said.

"In view of the law and order concerns, we detained Vasava and around 100 of his supporters at Navagam when they were on way to a police station in Ankleshwar in connection with an FIR registered against the MLA on December 10," Pandya said.

Vasava, a tribal leader, was booked for making an unauthorised entry to the premises of an industrial unit at the Ankleshwar GIDC (Gujarat Industrial

Development Corporation) in Bharuch district on December 3 along with his supporters soon after a boiler blast there killed four workers. In the FIR registered

at the Ankleshwar GIDC police station on December 10, Vasava was charged with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections pertaining to obstructing public servants, threat of injury to a public servant, criminal trespass and wrongful restraint.

The FIR stated that Vasava and his supporters entered the factory premises despite being prevented from doing so, as the rescue operation was underway.

They went in to meet relatives of the deceased workers and prevented police and other officials from carrying out their duties, and even threatened factory officials. They also instigated relatives of the workers against the police and government, said the FIR.

Reacting to his detention. Vasava said he was on way to appear before the police in connection with the FIR as he was "wrongly framed".

"If the police want, they can put me in iail. I am here to fight for justice to the people, and will continue to do so till my last breath," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator also questioned police's "compulsion" that made them the complainant in the case.

Referring to another FIR registered against him at Rajpardi police station in Bharuch on December 7, Vasava alleged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was running a "dictatorial" government.

"We were booked for a peaceful protest march, but we are not going to be scared," he said.

Vasava is the MLA from Dediapada in Narmada district.

Earlier this year, he unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election from Bharuch seat.

#### **Children help police** nab convict who jumped furlough in murder case

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): A breakthrough provided by two children led to the arrest of a murder convict who had been evading the police since being released on furlough in the Narela area of Outer North Delhi, an official said on Tuesday.

The convict was apprehended on Monday after the children, both related to him, cooperated with the police to track him down.

According to the police, Sanjay had been sentenced to life imprisonment in a 2010 murder case. He was out on furlough and was due to surrender on June 18, 2024, the police said, adding that he had requested the Supreme Court for interim relief, which was granted by the apex court

However, Sanjay evaded the police even after the interim relief period expired. "On December 2, the Supreme Court of India passed an order directing the Delhi Police to immediately arrest Sanjay and take all necessary steps in accordance with the law," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan said.

The court also directed the police to file a compliance affidavit by January 2, 2025, he added.

Police said that despite extensive searches, they struggled to track Sanjay and their efforts to seek cooperation from his surety provider proved futile as he refused to assist. "Our teams later reached out to the children of the surety provider --a nine-year-boy and a 10-year-old girl, appealing for their help. Initially reluctant, the children were explained the seriousness of the matter and the police emphasised that their uncle was absconding in connection with a heinous crime," the DSP said.

"Through careful communication and repeated efforts, the police gained the trust of the children. In a crucial breakthrough, the children provided a phone number linked to Sanjay," said the DCP.

The police used technical surveillance to track Sanjay's location following which he was apprehended, he said.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

## **Magnitude 7.3 earthquake hits Pacific** island nation of Vanuatu

The USGS says a magnitude 7.3 earthquake has struck just off the coast of Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean

WELLINGTON, Dec 17 (Agencies): Injured people were arriving at a hospital in Vanuatu as unconfirmed reports of casualties emerged after the South Pacific island nation was rocked by a powerful magnitude 7.3 earthquake that struck just off the coast on Tuesday.

8

A tsunami warning was called off less than two hours after the quake. With communications still down hours after the jolt and official information scarce, witness accounts of casualties began to surface on social media and through patchy phone calls.

The earthquake occurred at a depth of 57 kilometers (35 miles) and was centered 30 kilometers (18 miles) west of Port Vila, the largest city in Vanuatu, a group of 80 islands that is home to about 330,000 people. The jolt was followed by a magnitude 5.5 aftershock near the same location.

It was not immediately clear how much damage was caused as phone lines and government websites remained down and official channels have not been updated, but reports of widespread destruction filtered out on social media and in interviews.

Dan McGarry, a journalist based in Port Vila, told agency he heard of one death in the quake from a police officer outside Vila Central Hospital. McGarry saw three people on gurneys "in obvious distress," he said.

Doctors were working "as



fast as they could" at a triage center outside the emergency ward, he added. But the nation is not equipped for a mass casualty event, McGarry said. Video shared by the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation showed crowds outside the hospital. Phone numbers for the police, the hospital and other public agencies did not connect. There were no official reports of casualties.

Reports of people trapped inside buildings could also not immediately be confirmed. A video posted on social media appeared to show crumpled buildings in Port Vila, including one that had collapsed onto cars. A Red Cross spokesperson in Fiji said the head of the aid agency's Vanuatu office had reported widespread damage before communications were cut off.

A building housing a number of diplomatic missions in Port Vila — including those of the United States, Britain, France

coming through from Port Vila at some point," she said.

McGarry said a "massive landslide" at the international shipping terminal was likely to impede the country's recovery. The airport's runway is also damaged, he said.

Vanuatu's position on a subduction zone - where the Indo-Australia tectonic plate moves beneath the Pacific Plate - means earthquakes of greater than magnitude 6 are not uncommon and the country's buildings are intended to withstand quake damage.

"I think it could have been worse," McGarry said. But this was the most serious he had experienced during 21 years in Vanuatu "by a long shot," he said.

In the hours after the jolt, the USGS said a tsunami threat had passed. The agency had earlier warned of waves of up to 1 meter (3 feet) above the tide level.

Authorities in Australia and New Zealand, both located in the Pacific Ocean, said there was no tsunami threat to their countries.

New Zealand's Foreign Ministry said 45 New Zealanders were registered as being in Vanuatu. The ministry did not give details about the status of their nationals.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs said it was able to provide a wide range of support, subject to need, through emergency and development programs.

### Taipei mayor calls for less confrontation as China continues sending ships, planes near island

between the sides.

China considers

Taiwan part of its territo-

ry, to be brought under its

control by force if neces-

sary, although economic

especially with China's

financial hub of Shanghai

- remain robust, with an

Shanghai's represen-

tative, Vice Mayor Hua

Yuan, told the 102 partici-

pants that, "the people of

the two sides are all one

Taiwan banned nine

Chinese reporters from

the gathering, saying

they were superfluous,

along with a Shang-

hai official for Taiwan

affairs, in response to

new, harsh new penal-

ties targeting "diehard

Taiwan independence

separatists." Taiwan's

Mainland Affairs Coun-

cil said Beijing's move

had severely disrupted

already meager bilat-

eral exchanges and put

Taiwanese residents in

China at risk.

family.'

emphasis on high-tech.



TAIPEI, Dec 17 (Agencies): The China-friendly mayor of Taiwan's capital, Taipei, on Tuesday called for less confrontation between the sides, even as Beijing continues to send warships and fighter jets to intimidate the self-governing island democracy.

Chiang Wan-an was speaking Tuesday at the 15th Taipei-Shanghai Twin-City Forum, which is not sanctioned by Taiwan's government, whose official position is that Taiwan is already an independent country with no reason to unify with China.

Chiang put a somewhat romantic twist on his remarks, saying "I am a Taipei mayor elected by the people. I have high expectations for whether there is peace, tension, or development across the strait. I think there should be more ... lights on fishing boats at dawn and less noise of (war) ships and (war) planes." Between Monday and Tuesday, China sent 10 military aircraft and seven aircraft toward

Taiwan, according to

and artillery. On Monday, Taiwan began unloading 38 U.S.-made M1A2T tanks that represent a quantum leap in Taiwan's outdated land defenses. Taiwan's Defense Min-A further 42 of the tanks istry. Four of the aircraft are due to be delivered crossed the middle line next year, and at least 28 of the Taiwan Strait that the year after. forms an unofficial border

Chiang's Nationalist Party fled to Taiwan in 1949 as Mao Zedong's Communists swept to power on the mainland and long vowed to retake the lost territory. Recent decades have seen it warm to China's more capitalist leaders, despite public opinion in Taiwan that favors the status quo of de-facto independence.

Faced with China's massive military, Taiwan

has been upgrading its

defenses with latest version F-16 fighter jets, missiles. submarines

The Democratic Progressive Party - which China has refused almost all contact with since 2016 — won a third consecutive four-year term in the presidential office in this year's election, but the party lost the legislature by a thin majority.

Despite the potential for friction, China has limited its actions thus far to firing missiles over the island, near daily air and sea missions and rehearsals of economic blockades that could be a precursor to a full-on invasion.

### Chief of Russia's nuclear protection forces killed in Moscow explosion

MOSCOW, Dec 17 (Agencies): A high-ranking Russian general, in charge of nuclear protection forces, was killed in an explosion in Moscow on Tuesday, news agency said.

Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, who is chief of Russia's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops, was killed outside an apartment building on Ryazansky Prospekt, near the Kremlin. The incident came a day after Kirillov was charged in absentia with the alleged use of banned chemical weapons in Ukraine. According to Russian investigative agencies, the bomb, which was hidden in an electric scooter, exploded, resulting in the death of Kirillov and another person. "Igor Kirillov, the head of the radiation, chemical and biological protection forces of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, and his assistant were killed," an investigative committee was quoted as saying by news agency.



## China executes official involved in country's largest corruption case

BEIJING, Dec 17 (Agencies): China on Tuesday executed Li Jianping, a former official in the north Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, who was convicted in the largestever corruption case in

model.

Official media accounts say over a million party officials, including two defence ministers and dozens of military officials, were punished and prosecuted in the campaign. In his speech delivered at the plenary session of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) in January this year, contents of which were released for the first time on Sunday by party theoretical magazine Qiushi, 71-year-old Xi has called on cadres to confront corruption head-on so that interest groups cannot prey on the ruling Communist Party. Xi said all party members must deeply

self-revolution referring mainly to the fight against corruption. Significantly, the

number of high-ranking officials undergoing punishments for corruption is on the increase

and New Zealand - was significantly damaged, New Zealand's Foreign Ministry said. Officials were in the process of accounting for New Zealand High Commission staff, a spokesperson said.

A video posted to social media showed the building with some damage to its structure, including buckled windows and debris that had crumbled from walls to the ground. Other photos and videos showed items and shelves that had tumbled to the floors of shops and landslides that appeared to block some roads.

Katie Greenwood, the Fijibased head of the Asia-Pacific regional office for the Red Cross, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that the downtown area of Port Vila was full of large buildings and hotels.

"We haven't heard at the moment about any casualties, but I will be shocked if we don't hear that bad news

Visuals from the ground showed a shattered entrance to a building littered with rubble and two bodies lying in the blood-stained snow. Agency footage from the scene showed a police cordon. A criminal case has been filed after the incident.

Russia's radioactive, chemical and biological defence troops, known as RKhBZ, are special forces who operate under conditions of radioactive, chemical and biological contamination.

On Monday, Ukrainian prosecutors charged Kirillov in absentia with the alleged use of banned chemical weapons in Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine said, according to the Kyiv Independent. Russia, however, denied the accusations.

the country totalling to over USD 421 million.

The death sentence of Li, former secretary of the ruling Communist Party working committee of the Hohhot economic and technological development zone, was initially issued in September 2022 and upheld on appeal in August 2024.

Tuesday's execution followed the approval of the Supreme People's Court and was carried out by a court in Inner Mongolia, state-run



Xinhua news agency reported. Li, 64 was found guilty

by an intermediate court earlier of embezzling a staggering three billion yuan (over USD 421 million) in illegal gains, the largest sum involved in a single corruption

case in China's history, according to earlier reports in the Chinese official media.

Since he came to power in 2012, Chinese President Xi Jinping made the anti-corruption campaign the main plank of his governance

Last year, the CCDI announced that it had launched investigations into a record number of 45 "tigers" or high-ranking cadres, but this year the total has already reached 54, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday. Xi's anti-graft campaign in the military has drawn global attention, which his critics say enabled him to consolidate his hold on power.

## Australian state proposes ban on protests at places of worship to fight rising antisemitism

MELBOURNE. Dec 17 (Agencies): An Australian state government on Tuesday proposed new restrictions on protesters in response to rising antisemitism, including a ban on demonstrations outside places of worship.

Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan proposed the new laws after arsonists damaged a Melbourne synagogue this month and protestors kept fearful worshippers trapped inside a Sydney synagogue for three hours a week earlier.

"That's not peaceful protest. It's menacing behavior," Allan said.

"Antisemitism is a cancer and we must

leave no stone unturned to fight the evil of antisemitism, to fight the evil of this racism in all of its forms and also to continue to work to help heal our multicultural community, to help build on that social cohesion and continue to support our strong, united Victoria," she added. The new laws would

protect the right of people to "gather and pray free from fear, harassment and intimidation," her office said in a statement.

The proposed laws, which will be voted on by the state legislature early next year, would establish safe access areas around places

of worship and prohibit disturbances of religious gatherings.

> The laws would also ban protesters flying flags and displaying symbols of groups listed by Australia as terrorist organizations. Face masks used by protesters to conceal their identities and protect against capsicum spray would also be banned. Anti-Defamation

Commission chair Dvir Abramovich, a leading opponent of antisemitism in Australia, welcomed the proposed law.

"Today, the Victorian government has declared war on hate

and antisemitism and it's about time," Abramovich said in a statement.

"Victoria has drawn a line in the sand and sent a thunderous message to the hate-mongers, the graffiti cowards, the firebombers, and the social media trolls: Your days of terrorizing our communities are over," he added.

The arson attack on Adass Israel Synagogue on Dec. 6 marked an escalation in targeted assaults in Australia since the war between Israel and the militant Hamas group started over a year ago in the Gaza Strip.

Authorities have declared it a terrorist act, which increases resources available to

investigators. A federal law passed in January banned the Nazi salute and the public display of Nazi symbols in response to growing antisemitism, and the government appointed special envoys this year to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Australia is an increasingly multicultural society. The latest census in 2021 found that Australians born overseas or with a parent born overseas formed a majority for the first time.

#### China to help Syria safeguard sovereignty, restore stability: Wang Yi

promote the party's



BEIJING, Dec 17 (Agencies): China will help Syria safeguard its sovereignty and restore stability, Beijing is against terrorist forces creating chaos, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday

"At present, the situation in Syria has suddenly changed, China will continue to support the Syrian people," Wang Yi said at a conference on the international situation in 2024 and Chinese diplomacy.

He added that China "will prevent terrorist forces from taking advantage of the opportunity to sow chaos, and help Syria safeguard its sovereignty and restore stability."

#### **China launches four PIESAT-2 earth** remote sensing satellites into orbit

BEIJING, Dec 17 (Agencies): China successfully launched four PIESAT-2 Earth remote sensing satellites into orbit on Tuesday, the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) said in a statement. The launch took place on Tuesday

at 2:50 A.M. local time (18:50 GMT on Monday) from the Taiyuan Cosmodrome, located in Shanxi Province in northern China, using the Changzheng-2D ("Long March") launch vehicle. This was the 553rd mission for the Changzheng launch vehicles.

despite the relentless campaign.

## LOCAL/CONTD....

## **J&K EJAC demands 3% DA hike, enhanced Medical** Allowance, fulfillment of promised agreements

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 17: The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of President Wajahat Hussain Durrani, has urged the government to release an additional 3% Dearness Allowance (D.A.) for employees and pensioners, including those drawing salaries under the 6th Pay Commission.

This demand aligns with the recent D.A. hike announced by the central government for its employees. EJAC also reiterated its call for the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission for the remaining departments and corporations.

According to a press release issued by UT Spokesperson Mir Bashir, Provincial President EJAC Jammu Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh emphasized the urgency of addressing the financial strain faced by employees and pensioners due to the rising cost of living.

"The escalating cost of essential commodities has placed a significant burden on



employees and pensioners. A 3% D.A. hike is not just a demand; it is a necessity to help them cope with these financial pressures," Sheikh said

In addition to the DA hike, M Ashraf Sheikh strongly advocated for increasing the medical allowance for pensioners from the current Rs 300 to Rs 1,000 per month, citing the steep rise in healthcare costs.

"Pensioners, many of whom depend on limited fixed incomes, are struggling to manage escalating medical expenses. The current medical allowance is grossly inadequate and needs urgent revision," he added.

M.Ashraf Sheikh also underscored the importance of fulfilling prior commitments made to EJAC, including the regularization of daily wagers, casual laborers, and NYCs (National Youth Corps).

He called for the immediate formulation of a comprehensive job policy for NHM (National Health Mission) employees, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and seasonal teachers.

"The government must honor its promises to these vital sections of our workforce, who are integral to the socio-economic fabric of J&K," Sheikh urged. J&K EJAC expressed hope that the government would take swift and decisive action to address these pressing issues and ensure the welfare of employees and pensioners across Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Provision of mind strengthening** cognitive enrichment learning material for Riglam Hostel Saboo

Village, Leh on Tues-**Top News Report** day.

LEH, Dec 17: In a grand ceremony at Saboo Village Leh, Mind Strengthening Cognitive Enrichment Learning Material were handed over to Riglam Hostel by Indian Army as part of Operation Sadbhavana. Under the aegis of Fire

& Fury Corps, Leh Sub Area took the initiative to provide the learning material for the benefit of Children of Ladakh. Brigadier SK Dalal, Officiating General Officer Commanding Leh Sub Area handed over the same to the Principal, Riglam Hostel, Saboo



### Remove curse of toll plazas on nationalist people of Jammu: SSP

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: Col SS Pathania, Chief Convener and President of Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), JKUT expressed his anguish and deep concern on opening of another toll plaza at ring road

"With this the total number of toll plazas in Jammu region has gone up to 5. possibility of another toll plaza at Thandi Khui cannot be ruled out," Pathania said.

Pathania added that discrimination towards nationalist people of Jammu is amply visible, when we see only 1 toll plazas in Kashmir region.

"Policy of discrimination was started by Kashmiri politicians with blessings a big hole in the pocket of common man, and increase in numbers of toll plazas and existing rates are turning out to be disastrous," Pathania said He added that present regime in Centre has miserably failed in provid-

ing equality and justice to people of Jammu region and now is the turn of newly of governments in centre elected government and and inspite of BJP rule leaders of Jammu region of 10 years, no shift has to ensure dispensation of happened in the policy. Common man is suffering years. greatly on making two ends meet on daily basis and is being burdened more and more, instead of getting some relief, enabling him to fulfill his obligation to

justice, denied from last 77 Pathania urged LG, Chief Minister and Union Government to lift the ever increasing curse of toll plazas and provide relief and justice by removing all toll plazas but one on the line of Kashmir region

### **Workshop on Outcome-Based Education under PM-USHA** held at SMVDU

The event witnessed

active participation from

faculty members, adminis-

trators, and academic lead-

ers, reaffirming SMVDU's

commitment to quality

education and its alignment

with the National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020 under

the leadership of Prof. Pra-

gati Kumar, Vice-chancel-

The event commenced

with opening remarks by

the Dean of Academic

Affairs & Coordinator of

the Workshop, Prof. Balbir

Singh. He emphasized the

importance of integrating

outcome-based approach-

es to ensure holistic and

lor, SMVDU

family and on social front.

Constant increase in road

tax have already caused



**Top News Report** NAAC accreditation standards.

KATRA, Dec 17: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organized a one-day workshop on Overview of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Intricacies in Self-Assessment Report (SAR) Preparation under the PM-USHA Scheme, an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India to strengthen the university.

The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding and implementation of OBE frameworks and streamline the preparation of SARs which is pivotal for achievskill-oriented education. The first session of the workshop taken by Prof. A.K. Tandon, Founder Director of Bhagwan Parshuram Institute of Technology (GGSIP University, Delhi (experienced NBA/ NAAC assessor) focussing on the principles and practical applications of OBF

The second session was delivered by Prof. Niranjan Bhattacharya, Director, Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Professional Studies (ADGIPS), New Delhi and an accomplished professional in academic quality assurance and accreditation, who shared invaluable insights into the intricacies of SAR preparation.

His talk emphasized the importance of datadriven approaches and institutional transparency in achieving accreditation excellence.

The event was managed by Dr, B.B. Jindal (Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Engg.) as Co-Coordinator and finally concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shafaq Rasool, (Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Non-Engg.) as Workshop, organizing secretary. The proceedings of the workshop were carried by Antriksha Rathore and Rabiya Tabbassumm Khan of School of Biotechnology

## **Energy Conservation Day** celebrated at MIER College



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: The Environment Unit of MIER College of Education celebrated Energy Conservation Day with the theme "Power Down to Power Up", aiming to raise awareness and foster a commitment to energy conservation among students.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 26 students representing the School of Education (SOE) and the School of Special Education (SSSH), who engaged in various innovative and impactful activities.

The celebrations featured a Social Media Campaign on Energy Conservation, organized in collaboration with the college's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). Students showcased their creativity by sharing reels, photos, and infographics, highlighting energy-saving practices.

An interactive poll was

also conducted by the IQAC to gather participants' insights on energy conser-

meaningful discussions. Adding to the campaign's innovative approach, participants were encouraged to observe a Dark Hour by spending one hour daily without unnecessary electronics. This activity aimed to promote sustainable habits while raising awareness about reducing

energy consumption. enriching the program.

The event concluded with a recognition ceremony, where certificates were awarded to all participants. and special awards were presented to students for their exceptional contributions: Best Reel Making: Ishika Bali, B.Ed. Sem I, Best Digital Poster: Shweta, B.Ed. Spl. Sem I,

vation initiatives, sparking

Students also shared insightful facts on energy conservation and proposed innovative ideas for the Energy Campaign, further

Best Photography: Dhaani Dogra, B.A Hons. Psychology, Sem V and Best Interesting Facts: Ananya, B.A Hons. Psychology, Sem V. Suman Gupta, In-Charge of the Environment Unit,

expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the students' enthusiasm and efforts. She emphasized the vital role of energy conservation in combating climate change and the significance of youth adopting eco-friendly practices. Sonika Kumari, a member

physical activity with the learning material. These learning material will assist students

living in remote and sensitive areas of Union Territory of Ladakh, in getting integrated holistic education for better

These material and

equipment will strength-

en cognitive abilities

and promote mental

enrichment of the chil-

dren. Memory enhance-

ment, problem solving,

logical thinking, criti-

cal thinking, analytical

skills, creativity, innova-

tion and brain health are

said to be promoted with

ing and maintaining NBA/

#### Centre.

The ONOE Bill proposes to hold simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha as well as State Assemblies, by synchronising the tenures of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections

The ONOP has been a long-standing poll promise of the BJP-led NDA.

Top Opposition leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav and MK Stalin have already opposed the idea of simultaneous polls, calling it a move towards "authoritarian democracy."

According to reports, the Lok Sabha Speaker is likely to refer the newly-tabled Bills to a Joint Committee of Parliament for wider consultations.

#### **BJP likely to get new President in February**

Incidentally, Nadda, also the Union health minister, had taken over as the party's national president in February 2020.

Though the tenure of a president is of three years, he was given an extension in view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in which the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance returned to power for a their straight term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

#### **Two JKAS officers given** new assignments

Khabir, JKAS, Special Assistant with Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, the order reads.

#### Jammu Kashmir's rivers among India's most

#### polluted, Government admits in Parliament

of the Environment Unit,

also played a key role in

ensuring the event's suc-

Dr. Adit Gupta, Principal

of MIER College of Edu-

cation, lauded the efforts

of the Environment Unit

and the students' active

involvement. He remarked

that such initiatives instill a

sense of responsibility in

students to adopt energy-

efficient practices and con-

tribute to building a sustain-

able future.

cessful execution.

reported to be discharging harmful effluents, defined as those generating a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) load of 100 kg or more per day or handling hazardous substances. Uttar Pradesh leads the list with over 1,200 operational GPIs, while several states like Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Manipur reported no such industries

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 311 polluted river stretches spanning 279 rivers across the country. Maharashtra recorded the highest number of polluted stretches at 55, followed by Madhya Pradesh (19), Bihar and Kerala (18 each), and Karnataka (17), These stretches, marked by severe contamination, highlight the worsening condition of many of India's rivers, which serve as lifelines for drinking water, irrigation, and biodiversity.

The government has undertaken multiple initiatives to tackle this crisis. Action plans for river rejuvenation, overseen by River Rejuvenation Committees (RRCs), focus on managing municipal and industrial waste, protecting floodplains, and implementing ecological flow measures to restore rivers to bathing standards. Sewage treatment remains a critical focus area, with 203 infrastructure projects sanctioned under the Namami Gange programme, aimed at cleaning the Ganga and its tributaries.

Despite progress, challenges persist. Monitoring data reveals that untreated sewage remains a major issue in urban centres, as many sewage treatment plants (STPs) face operation and maintenance problems. Industrial effluent discharge continues to strain river systems, prompting efforts like the installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and online monitoring systems. The CPCB's inspections of grossly polluting industries have resulted in notices being issued to violators, though compliance gaps remain. A broader effort is underway to conserve river ecosystems. Detailed Proj-

#### FROM PAGE 3

ect Reports (DPRs) for the rejuvenation of 13 major rivers, including the Jhelum, Chenab, Yamuna, and Cauvery, have been prepared, focusing on afforestation and ecological restoration. Conservation measures such as biodiversity parks, wetland protection, and aquatic species rescue programmes have also shown some positive results. For instance, sightings of river dolphins, otters, and turtles in the Ganga basin have increased due to targeted restoration initiatives.

The financial commitment to tackling river pollution remains substantial. Between 2021 and 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change sanctioned over Rs 48 crore for water quality monitoring, while under Namami Gange, Rs 7.921 crore has been released for sewage infrastructure and other interventions. However, the scale of the problem remains immense, with a pressing need for sustained efforts and robust enforcement to restore India's rivers to a healthier state.

India's rivers, vital for millions of people and countless ecosystems, are under unprecedented stress. The latest figures underscore the urgency of addressing river pollution, both in terms of policy implementation and grassroots participation, to ensure these water bodies remain sources of life rather than channels of contamination

#### Cold wave conditions intensify in Kashmir; **Srinagar records minus** 5.3 degree Celsius

the night of December 21-22.

However, the minimum temperature is forecast to fall further in the valley, and there will be a cold wave over many stations in the coming days, it added.

**Opposition parties** oppose 'One Nation, One **Election' bill: Cong says** it's 'first milestone to

#### bringing new **constitution**

asserting, "We believe it's unconstitutional. We believe it goes against the basic structure and it is meant to throttle democracy and accountability in this country."

The Congress leader also highlighted the party's long-standing objections to the idea. "Mallikarjun Kharge had written to former President Ramnath Kovind on January 17 on why the Congress party is objecting to the very idea of one nation, one election."

According to Ramesh, the bill is part of a broader agenda to replace India's Constitution. "The One Nation, One Election Bill is only the first milestone; the real objective is to bring a new constitution.

Amending the Constitution is one thing, but bringing a new Constitution is the real objective of the RSS and PM Modi," he claimed. Ramesh also stated that the RSS has historically opposed the Indian Constitution, saying it does not draw inspiration from Manusmriti.

"They rejected this Constitution on 30th November 1949, saying that it doesn't derive inspiration from the values of Manusmriti and so on... That's what we are opposing.

Meanwhile, Supriya Sule, an NCP-SCP MP, also expressed concerns, calling for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to discuss the bill. "We are demanding that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC ) should be done and discussions should take place. Our party is demanding the JPC," Sule told ANI.

Pramod Tiwari, another Congress MP, questioned the government's approach. "It would have been better if an all-party meeting had been called where there should have been discussions regarding this. But the government has brought this issue to divert attention from other important ones. They clearly know that to make constitutional changes, they neither have a majority in the Lok Sabha nor the Rajya Sabha," Tiwari said.

Congress MP K Suresh also raised similar concerns, stressing the bill's alleged threat to India's democracy. "The Congress party is not accepting this bill; we are strongly opposing this bill. This is against the interest of Indian democracy and our federal system. That is why we are going to strongly oppose it. The entire opposition is going to oppose it," he said, adding, "I think NDA allies, TDP and JD(U) may not openly oppose it, but they don't want this bill."

Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav also criticized the bill, stating, "Our party will oppose it because it is against all sections of the Constitution."

Earlier in the day, Congress MP Manish Tewari submitted a formal notice to oppose the introduction of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill. 2024, in the Lok Sabha, "My objections" to the proposed bill are based on serious concerns regarding constitutionalism and constitutionality," he stated.

#### Former MP Ladakh Haji **Ghulam Hassan Khan Dasses away**

Haji Ghulam Hassan Khan is survived by his wife, son the former Chief Executive Councilor LAHDC Kargil and sitting Councilor Feroz Ahmed Khan and two daughters.

The demise of Haji Ghulam Hassan Khan has widely been condoled by various political, social and religious organisations. CEC LAHDC Kargil Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, former chairman of Legislative Council Haji Anayat Ali, social-political activist and member JUAIK Sajad Hussain Kargili have expressed grief over the death of Haji Ghulam Hassan Khan and prayed for departed soul.

#### Pattan traders protest over 'unscheduled' power cuts. block **Srinagar-Baramulla** highway

consumers across.

## LOCAL

### CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates CT Scan and MRI Units at Vivekananda Medical **Mission Charitable Hospital**

#### **Top News Report**

10

JAMMU, Dec 17: The Chief Minister of J&K UT, Omar Abdullah, on Tuesday inaugurated the newly installed CT Scan and MRI Units at Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital, Ambphalla, Jammu.

The event marked a significant milestone in enhancing healthcare facilities for the general public.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), presented the history of Vivekananda Medical Mission in poetic form and highlighted its vital role in serving society. On this occasion, Dr. Jain proposed the establishment of a dedicated Yoga Centre, requesting space in a government building to promote health and well-being among the masses.

The Chief Guest, Omar Abdullah, assured all possible support to the Mission and appreciated the efforts of the President and the Managing Committee.

The event was graced by several eminent personalities, includ-



ing Ashok Gupta (Vice President, VKMI), Yash Paul (Director, Skill Development, and Motivational Speaker), Narinder Wadhera (Yoga Shikshak), and Mohinder Rana (President, Chamail Mata Forum).

These renowned social activists and philanthropists represented various NGOs, including VKMI.

Anil Gupta, President of Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital (SVMMCH), extended a warm welcome to the Chief Minis-

was Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Retired Principal of Medical College. Jammu, delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and underscoring the importance of collaboration

ment. The inauguration ceremony showcased the hospital's commitment to providing advanced medical care while fostering partnerships with social organizations and government initiatives for the welfare of the people.

Dr. Subhash Gupta,

for societal develop-

### ABVP accuses J&K govt of ignoring Hindi, Sanskrit in recruitment, blocks highway

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: Alleging discrimination by the Jammu and Kashmir government against Hindi and Sanskrit in recruitment, hundreds of students led by the ABVP on Tuesday held a protest march and sat on a dharna, blocking the main Tawi bridge on the highway here.

The demonstrators accused the National Conference-led government of sidelining Hindi and Sanskrit in a recent recruitment notification issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) for 10+2 Lecturer positions.

They also alleged that the government was promoting foreign languages such as Arabic and Persian, which were included in the recruitment notification. Carrying placards and raising slogans, the protestors marched from the Jammu University through the city, highlighting what they described as "regional and linguistic discrimi-

nation". "This is regional and linguistic discrimination by the current government. Instead of



promoting national languages like Hindi and Sanskrit, they are being deliberately ignored. These languages are part of our identity," ABVP leader Surinder Singh said.

"We are not against any language, but the government's preference for foreign languages like Arabic and Persian over Hindi and Sanskrit is a wellplanned conspiracy. It is an assault on our civilisation, and we will not tolerate it," he added. ABVP leader Anita Devi

echoed similar sentiments, saying, "This is not just about recruitment, it is a fight for our cultural identity."

The protesting students expressed frustration over the JKPSC's omission of Hindi and Sanskrit lecturer posts in its notice dated November 12, despite advertising 575 other teaching positions.

"We blame Education Minister Sakina Itoo and warn the Omar Abdullah-led government that students in Jammu will not accept this silently. The Kashmir-centric policies of this government are unacceptable, and we will fight this discrimination tooth and nail," said one of the protestors.

Several protesting students courted arrest and the dharna was underway, even as senior police and district administration officers spoke to them to lift the blockade. Many of the protesters were also detained by police.

The BJP and several Jammu-based organisations have condemned the government's move and warned of serious repercussions.

"The NC government has barely resumed power and has already begun pushing its Kashmir-centric policies, sidelining the legitimate aspirations of Jammu's youth. This is unacceptable and we will not stand for it." BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa said.

Randhawa urged the JKPSC to ensure fair representation for regional languages by adding 200 posts for Hindi and at least 20 posts each for Dogri, Punjabi, and Sanskrit.

## Army organizes program of Skill Development for Southern Pir Panjal



**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Dec 17: The Indian Army, in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), has launched transformative vocational training programs to empower the youth in the southern Pir Panial region.

Focused on high-

demand trades such as welding, carpentry, and electrician skills, this initiative aims to address unemployment and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities in remote areas like Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi.

These skill development courses are designed to align with national standards, ensuring participants receive accreditation recognized across the country.

Trainees will be taught the latest techniques in furniture-making, wood-crafting and electrical installations under expert guidance.

Upon course completion, participants will be awarded certificates by the National Skill Development Corporation, enabling them to seek employment or establish their own busi-

nesses. This initiative not only enhances employability but also promotes selfreliance, paving the way for a better socio-economic future.

The Indian Army's engagement with National Skill Development Corporation ensures that these courses are tailored to meet industry requirements, thus increasing job readiness.

This effort is part of a broader vision to uplift underprivileged communities by providing young individuals with

skills that foster economic independence. By addressing challenges like limited resources and lack of employment opportunities, these programs contribute to the overall development of the region.

The Indian Army's commitment to youth empowerment through skill development underscores its role not only as a defender of the nation but also as a catalyst for social and economic progress.

With continued efforts. initiatives like these will undoubtedly transform the lives of many, creating a skilled workforce and a brighter future for the Pir Panjal region.

## **Ravinder condoles demise** of Gian Chand

ter and all distinguished

guests. The Guest of

Honor for the occasion

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson Jammu & Kashmir Congress Ravinder Sharma has expressed deep Shock over the sad demise of Gian Chand Sharma, a veteran BJP leader of Sunderbani, who expired last night.

Paying tributes to him, Sharma described him a gentleman and principled political person who strictly followed his party ideology throughout his life while maintaining good relations

with people of all shades of opinions. He always advocated the issues of common people of Sunderbani at his

> levels and was a strong voice of Sunderbani. Sharma said that in his death, he has

lost a good & caring neighbour.. He has conveyed heartfelt condolences to the family members, relatives and his party workers. He prayed to God to grant peace to the departed soul and to give strength to the family members. Sharma also rushed to Sunderbani to attend his last rites today afternoon.

#### School of Sciences, CLUJ celebrates Dogri Manyata Diwas

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 17: The School of Sciences at Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) celebrated Dogri Manyata Diwas on Tuesday.

The event was held in the premises of the School of Sciences and witnessed an overwhelming participation of students and staff from all departments.

A total of eight students presented thought-provoking speeches, poems, and other performances that showcased the richness and diversity of Dogri language and culture.

The program was conducted

by Dr. Meenu Sharma from the Department of Geology, who ensured a seamless and engaging experience for all attendees. Dr. Chander Shekhar, Dean of the School of Sciences, graced



and delivered a motivational address. He emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting Dogri language and culture, and encouraged students to take pride in their herithe occasion with his presence tage. Dr. Shekhar also advised students to speak Dogri regularly and work towards its upliftment.

The celebration of Dogri Manyata Diwas at CLUJ's School of Sciences served as a testament to the university's commitment to promoting cultural diversity and preserving the rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. The event concluded with a sense of pride and responsibility among the students and staff to continue promoting and celebrating

Dogri language and culture. The others who attended the program include Dr Rajesh Kumar, Dr Ruby, Dr Landol, Dr Prerna Dr Dilpreet, Dr Upasna and Dr Summit.

## JCDA to hold IT EXPO 2024 from Dec 20

about the latest prod-

ucts and services being

offered by all the top

He introduced Wise-

line- a national level IT

player from J&K as the

main sponsor, Sharp

and Palo Alto as the

Gold Sponsors while

Secureeye, Quantum

Networks, Viewsonic,

and Ingram as silver

sponsors for the event.

He also informed that

Takel is the media part-

ner, Red FM 91.1 is the

Radio Partner, Asura

Studios is the Digital

Partner, and Mahajan

Wedding Planners and

Event organizers is the

Food Partner for the

Office bearers of

JCDA, while interact-

ing with the media per-

sons, highlighted the

need for buying from the

local vendors instead

of buying from online

sites. The idea behind

organizing such a mega

IT Expo is to tell the

mega event

brands in the country.



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 17: Jammu Computer Dealer Association (JCDA) has extended invitation to one and all to IT EXPO 2024 being organized by the association at Kala Kendra, Bikram Chowk, Jammu from December 20 to 22, 2024.

In a press conference held at Jammu, the office hearers of JCDA interacted with the media persons to share the details of the IT EXPO 2024, first of its kind technology exhibition happening in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Sandeep Malhotra, President JCDA, extended invitation to the common people, students, institutional buyers, corporate and government departments to visit the IT EXPO 2024 to get a firsthand knowledge common masses that all the IT products are available with the local vendors at the most competitive prices with warranty/guarantee as offered by respective brands.

JCDA members are there to help people select best suited technologies for all their IT needs and people should desisi from buving online as many a times it results in online frauds and spurious/ fake products

Dr. Gopal Parthasarthi Sharma, General Secretary, JCDA appealed media persons to promote the IT EXPO 2024 so that maximum technology enthusiasts are benefitted by witnessing the latest technologies on display.

He promised all the prospective visitors of a great experience in the IT EXPO as JCDA is committed to provide high quality IT products and services to individuals as well as institutional buyers at the most competitive prices.

The IT EXPO is expected to attract a large footfall and visitors can expect great offers, surprise gifts, great food and a wonderful experience in the IT EXPO 2024.

Slathia, Prof Gharu Ram listen to public grievances **Top News Report** the issues, senior BJP leader

JAMMU, Dec 17: BJP Vice-President & MLA Surjit Singh Slathia, and MLA Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Numerous people, individually as well in the form of deputations, visited the BJP office to discuss their respective issues with the senior party leaders. Various issues represented contained matters of individual concerns as well as development oriented related to their respective areas.

Besides various personal issues, other main issues presented related to PHE, PDD, roads, lanes, drains etc. for all

immediately talked to the con-

cerned department officials. Surjit Slathia, while listening to the grievances, said that our political dispensation is committed to provide immediate relief to the aggrieved and hence we ask for prompt action from the side of concerned officials to provide relief to the needy persons. He said they are working as the dedicated public representatives from an accountable political party. He added that trusting the BJP's commitment in reaching out and solving the issues of the public, people visit the party office to present their issues with a strong belief on the party.

Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat said



that BJP is committed to uphold the cherished mission of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas by ensuring all segments of society, irrespective of caste, religion and region, on

the path of progress and development.

He added that the party leaders make sincere efforts to sort out the issues presented by the people by taking them up at the appropriate platforms.

## **SPORTS**

## **3rd Test, Day 4: Rahul, Jadeja and Bumrah-Deep** blitz helps India avoid follow-on

KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja's resolute fifties and an absolute blitz from Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep for the final wicket ensured India avoided follow-on at the Gabba on Day 4 of the 3rd Test.

BRISBANE, Dec 17 (Agencies): KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja's fifties and a blitz from Akash Deep and Jasprit Bumrah for the final wicket ensured that India avoided the follow-on in the 3rd Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on Tuesday, December 17. Rahul's 84 and Jadeja's 77 kept the hosts at bay before 39 runs from Bumrah and Deep completely left them frustrated, leaving the Indian team management and fans in ecstasy. The Aussies were ultimately left frustrated by the rain and the resilience of 4 batters as the win seems to be slipping away from them.

There was absolute drama with the very first ball of Day 4 as KL Rahul edged on to slips, and it seemed like a straightforward catch to the ever-dependable Steve Smith. However, he would drop the chance and gave Rahul a lifeline. The Indian batter would make the most of the chance as he started to show resilience and grit to get India to a safe spot.

On the other end, however, Rohit Sharma didn't look convincing at all as the Indian captain struggled to get going. While he was able to get a good shot off Cummins' bowling, Rohit was under the couche and ultimately fell to his counterpart for 10 runs off 27 balls to continue his torrid time down under. India were left reeling at 74 for 5 at this point and the Aussies were feeling confident of bowling India out and forcing a follow-on.

Rahul reached his fifty off 85 balls to keep the fight going on and received good support in the form of Ravindra Jadeja at the other end. The duo would post 67-run stand to frustrate the hosts and the rain assisted the duo even more. There were a total of 4 rain stoppages throughout the day, after the 6 on Monday.

Rahul looked set for a welldeserved hundred and seemed to be coasting when he was



on 84. But Smith was able to redeem himself as he pulled off an absolute stunner at slips off the bowling of Nathan Lvon just before lunch to jolt the Indian resistance at 141 for 6.

The onus was on Jadeja at that point to bail out the Indian team and the young Nitish Kumar Reddy would offer some solid company. The visitors went into lunch at 167 for 6 and there was an extended delay due to rain. Once the play restarted, Jadeja got to his fifty in fine fashion and brought out the sword celebration.

Rain would return soon after Jadeja's fifty as India seemed to be edging closer to avoid the follow-on with the score at 180 for 6. But Australia would hit back after the play resumed as Cummins was able to end Nitish's resistance at the crease as India's tail was exposed.

Jadeja and Mohammed Siraj got the score past the 200-run mark when rain would come to halt the proceedings once again, bringing out a hilarious reaction from Starc. Soon after the restart, Siraj's stay was ended by Starc as India slipped further into trouble.

Australia took full control as Jadeja's attempt to farm the strike would force him a rash shot and he was caught in the deep, with the score at 213 for 9. This left Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep forced to fight for their lives.

Bumrah was certainly not ready to go down without a fight as he would pull Cummins for a six to eat into the deficit and keep the scoreboard ticking. Akash Deep would also join in as the duo showed incredible resistance as the Aussies were frustrated even more.

Akash Deep would then hit a boundary off Cummins to ensure India would avoid the follow-on, as big celebrations ensued in the dressing room and amongst the Indian faithful at the Gabba. He would then flex his muscles against the Aussie skipper to deposit him in the stands. The lightmeter would ensure that India would force the game into Day 5 and leave the Aussies frustrated.

Rahul and Jadeja show what Indian batters need to do

Over the years, cricket has changed a lot. We have seen the advent of what England wants to call 'Bazball' and we have seen India go for a more intent-filled approach. However, these new mantras come with a statutory warning that, at times, they may not deliver the results all the time.

Look at England, who tried the approach of trying to chase 600+ runs in the 3rd Test against New Zealand and lost by a huge margin. India faced setbacks in the New Zealand series and in Adelaide and at the Gabba as the top-order absolutely folded. During this time, the often criticised Rahul would show that all you needed to do was respect certain deliveries with a hard defence and leave a few menacing ones outside off. When the ball is there to be hit, the Indian opener went hard at it and didn't give the Aussies any chance apart from the Smith dropped catch.

Jadeja followed the same mantra and it almost people wonder why he wasn't used in the first 2 matches. The southpaw was smart against Lyon, who has had his number over the years and employed the sweep short smartly against the spinner.

As Sanjay Bangar rightfully put it, the other Indian batters need to imbibe the qualities Rahul showed during his Gabba knock in the coming matches. Maybe, they could also have a look at how Bumrah and Akash Deep showed resistance as well.

Sometimes, the beauty of Test cricket doesn't lie in the flashy shots and entertaining people. It is all about just grinding it out and frustrating the opponents. Australia left frustrated despite

giving their all The Australian team would be absolutely gutted by how things unfolded on Day 4. Cummins led from the front with 4 wickets, and he found support from Starc as well from the other end. They were left handicapped as the hosts lost Josh Hazlewood to injury once again, and it seems like he will be out of the series.

The fielding of the hosts on the day was on point as the Indian batters were made to work for the runs, and it always seemed like the hosts were always on top. But the constant rain breaks and an unexpected partnership from Bumrah and Akash Deep caught them off guard.

While they will believe they have a chance still, it seems like the match at the Gabba is heading for a draw, especially with rain expected to play a role on Day 5.

#### NZ bid farewell to Southee with big consolation win over England first England team to win

of games, but I think the

way we came in here

and were able to adapt

to the surface was very

pleasing." England, so

dominant in the first two

tests, crumbled to 234

all out after lunch on day

four in their improbable

chase for 658 runs to

Captain Ben Stokes,

who is being treated for

a left hamstring injury

sustained on Monday,

did not bat in England's

second innings to fur-

ther hasten the conclu-

The end came swift-

ly with England, who

looked determined to

go down fighting before

the break, losing their

last three wickets in 12

deliveries for the addi-

Southee failed to add

to his extraordinary

tally of 98 test sixes

on Monday but he did

take two wickets in his

final innings to finish

his career with 391, the

second highest for a

New Zealander behind

"We're certainly leav-

ing one of the greats

behind, but I'm sure

he's got a bright future

ahead of him, whatever

that may be," added

Latham, who was front

and centre as South-

ee was honoured by

Hadlee after the match.

Although the tour-

ists were disappointed

to finish with such a

crushing defeat, even

on Tuesday there were

some positives to go

along with becoming the

Richard Hadlee.

tion of three runs.

sion.

sweep the series.



HAMILTON. Dec 17 (Agencies): New Zealand beat England by 423 runs on Tuesday to send Tim Southee out a winner on his home ground in his final Test and claim a consolation victory as one-sided as their losses in the first two matches of the series.

The Black Caps had come into the series with confidence high after their remarkable 3-0 sweep in India only to be completely outplayed in more familiar conditions in Christchurch and Wellington. At Hamilton's Seddon Park, they rediscovered their mojo to claim their biggest ever win by runs and inflict the fourth-worst defeat by the same measure on the tourists inside four days.

Recalled spinner Mitchell Santner (4-85) was named Player of the Match after ripping through the England tail for a match tally of seven wickets to go with his 76 and 49 with the bat, but it was a proper team victory.

Kane Williamson could have claimed the honour for a second-innings 156 that took England's victory target well into world record areas, or Will O'Rourke for a dizzying spell of bowling on day one.

"It's obviously pleasing to finish in that fashion," said New Zealand captain Tom Latham. "We certainly knew we weren't quite at our since 2008. Jacob Bethell continued his impressive start to test cricket with a third

half-century of the series before he holed out for 76 to become Southee's Joe Root reached his 65th test half-century

a series in New Zealand

before being dismissed for 54 by Santner but Harry Brook was unable to find the runs that were so instrumental to England's wins in the first two tests.

Named Player of the Series for his two centuries and 350 runs, Brook faced six deliveries for one run before O'Rourke had him caught in the slips with the sort of steepling delivery that is fast becoming his trademark.

O'Rourke also dismissed Brook for a golden duck in the first innings during a spell that will have reassured local fans that the future of New Zealand seam bowling is secure despite the retirements of Southee and Trent Boult.

Brydon Carse, Gus Atkinson and Matthew Potts did the same over the series for England fans still mourning the departure of James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

Atkinson blasted 43 off 41 balls with seven fours and one six in a defiant rearguard on Tuesday but once he departed with a miscued slog to deep cover, the end was not long in coming.

"We want to come out and win every game that we play," said Stokes. "It's obviously disappointing as a team to finish like we have done but ... the first two test matches are where it really counted for us, and that's where we played our best cricket."

final test victim. best those first couple

11

## **Rohan Jaitley easily beats** Kirti Azad to be re-elected as DDCA president

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): Incumbent Rohan Jaitley comfortably defeated former India cricketer and Lok Sabha MP Kirti Azad to be elected as the President of the Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) for a third successive term.

The 35-year-old Rohan, son of former Union Minister late Arun Jaitley, secured 1.577 votes compared to Azad's 777 in the race to the top position, which comes with a three-year term. His father had served as DDCA president for 14 years.

As many as 2,413 votes were cast from among the 3748 members, and 1,207 votes were required to win.

In 2020, Rohan was elected unopposed after Rajat Sharma resigned midway during his term. A year later, he defeated advocate Vikas Singh to claim a full three-year run.

Rohan had the backing of former BCCI acting president CK Khanna, who is considered an influential figure in Delhi cricket as he controls more than 1,000 votes.

Khanna's daughter Shikha Kumar (1,246



A member of the 1983

World Cup-winning

team Azad, who repre-

sents Bardhaman-Dur-

gapur constituency for

the Mamata Banerjee-

led Trinamool Congress

party, had alleged cor-

ruption in the DDCA in

He had alleged that

the DDCA spent as

much Rs 17.5 crore on

installing floodlights

when the much bigger

Narendra Modi Stadium

in Ahmedabad did the

He had also accused

the incumbent DDCA

administration of spend-

ing only a fraction of the

approximately Rs 140

crore it received from

the BCCI in the last

financial year.

same for Rs 7.5 crore.

the run up to the polls.

votes), defeated Rakesh Kumar Bansal (536) and Sudhir Kumar Agarwal (498) to claim the vicepresident's post. Ashok Sharma (893) became the secretary, while Harish Singla (1328) was elected for the treasurer's post and

Amit Grover (1189) won the joint secretary position. All office-bearers are

elected for a three-year term.

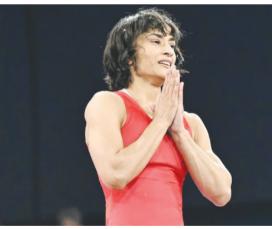
Anand Verma (985), Manjit Singh (1050), Navdeep M (1034), Shyam Sharma (1165), Tushar Saigal (926), Vikas Katyal (1054), Vikram Kohli (939) claimed the directors' post, which goes to polls every year.

### A year of heartbreaks for Indian wrestling but not without hope for future

NEW DELHI, Dec 17 (Agencies): In an ideal world, politics and sport are not meant to be mixed. But then the world of Indian wrestling was far from ideal in 2024 with Vinesh Phogat's Olympic dejection and the never-ending administrative chaos pulling down a once flourishing sport. From the time when Wrestling Federation of India elections were held exactly a year back, to the recent National Championships in Benglauru, Indian wrestling has seemed like a rudderless ship. Not too long ago, wrestling had developed into a sport that promised unprecedented Olympic success but cut to Paris 2024, Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal was what saved the delegation the blushes after Phogat's seemingly destined gold slipped through her grasp due to a cruel twist of fate.

She was, for better or for worse, the most intriguing story of Indian wrestling this year. She punished her-

self to fight in a lower weight category after her preferred class was already booked for the Olympics, downed the then unbeaten Japanese legend Yui Susaki in her opening round in Paris and then ended up disqualified for being



100gm overweight on the morning of the final. A day later, she gave up on her sporting career, declaring that the fight had left her.

She wasn't done though. Following an emotionally overwhelming homecoming which included a custommade gold medal from Haryana's khap panchayats, Phogat joined the Congress party, fought the state assembly elections and managed to become an MLA in her maiden electoral outing from Julana con-

stituency. She wasn't the only one in her fraternity who decided on politics as future.

Bajrang Punia too joined the Congress but he did not get the same returns as Phogat. His position was that of a Kisan morcha head and his wrestling career was left stalled

after coping a four-year

ban for failure to submit dope samples during training camps. This was after he failed to qualify for Paris, a new low in the career of the celebrated grappler, who fetched a bronze in the Tokyo Games.

The two maintained all along that their fight against alleged sexual harassment of women wrestlers by former WFI head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh was an apolitical one.

But their fellow protestor and Rio Olympics bronze-winner Sakshi Malik sought to dispute that soon after they joined congress.She went on to allege in her book that the the duo's "greed" punctured their protest against Sharan Singh.

#### Next generation affected by chaos

The likes of Anshu Malik and Antim Panghal, who were touted as the next big thing in

Indian wrestling, cut a sorry figure in Paris but Aman carried forward the rich legacy of the Chhatrasal stadium by winning the men's freestyle 57kg bronze.

It was a category which 2020 Tokyo Games silver-medallist Ravi Dahiya made his own. But Dahiya vanished from the scene due to spate of injuries that affected his form.

The Tokyo campaign, which yielded two medals in wrestling, should have been the catalyst for better infrastructure and coaching for Indian wrestler.

However, the developments in the last 24 months have prevented growth.

The potential is still there and the biggest example was Indian U17 women team's world championship victory in Amman, Jordan in September.

The country had been aiming for a podium finish for long and the dream finally materialised this year. Out of 10 possible medals, India won eight medals, including five gold medal and one silver. Finishing ahead of

powerhouse Japan and impressive Kazakhstan is no mean feat.

However, the unending litigations have tied the hands of WFI which is now struggling to carry

out day to day affairs of the body.

The team led by Sanjay Singh, that won the elections, stands suspended by the Sports Ministry.

The ground of suspension is announcing Nationals without following a 15-day notice period in December 2023. But the fact remains that if WFI had followed the notice period, wrestlers would have lost a crucial year because by the time the 15-day period would have completed, year 2024 would have started.

WFI was forced to withdraw the team from the senior World Championship owing to pending litigation by Sakshi and and her wrestler husband Satyawart Kadian.

Eventually after government's intervention a team was finally sent.

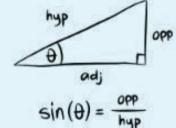
No proper coaching camp has been organised in the last two years, the efforts to revive the Pro Wrestling League are on hold, grants and sponsorships have stopped, no foreign/personal coaches have been engaged and there is no planning to take the sport forward.

If the situation could be summed up in a line, Indian wrestling is stagnant for now.

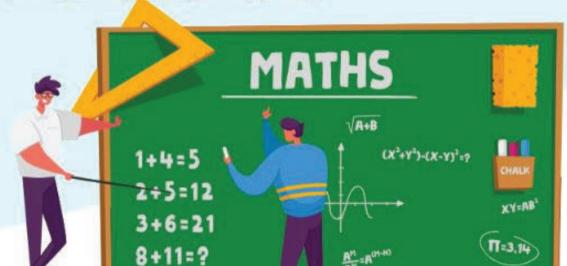
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