# TOP NEWS OF J&K



statue at the Parliament

### Turn to page 9



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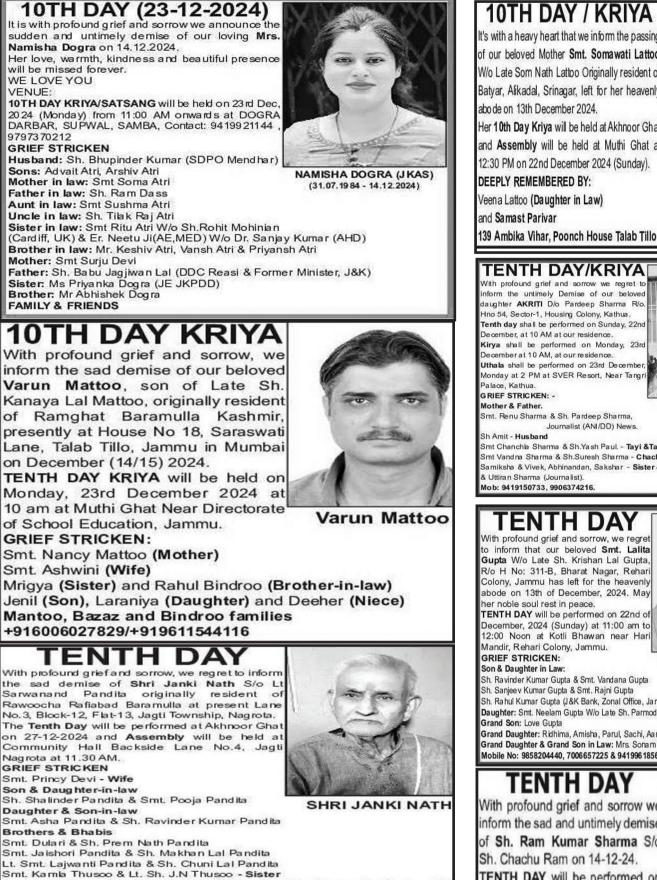


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# **OBITUARIES**



It's with a heavy heart that we inform the passing of our beloved Mother Smt. Somawati Lattoo W/o Late Som Nath Lattoo Originally resident of Batyar, Alikadal, Srinagar, left for her heavenly abode on 13th December 2024. Her 10th Day Kriya will be held at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat a 12:30 PM on 22nd December 2024 (Sunday). DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:



Smt. Somawati Lattoo

Veena Lattoo (Daughter in Law) and Samast Parivar 139 Ambika Vihar, Poonch House Talab Tillo



With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the untimely Demise of our beloved daughter AKRITI D/o Pardeep Sharma R/o Ino 54, Sector-1, Housing Colony, Kathua. Tenth day shall be performed on Sunday, 22nd December, at 10 AM at our residence. Kirya shall be performed on Monday, 23 December at 10 AM, at our residence. Ithala shall be performed on 23rd Decen londay at 2 PM at SVER Resort, Near Tang Palace, Kathua. GRIEF STRICKEN: -Nother & Father.



imt. Renu Sharma & Sh. Pardeep Sharma Journalist (ANI/DD) News.

Sh Amit - Husband Smt Chanchla Sharma & Sh.Yash Paul. - Tayi & Taya Smt Vand na Sharma & Sh.Suresh Sharma - Chachi & Chacha Samiksha & Vivek, Abhinandan, Sakshar - Sister & Brother & Uttiran Sharma (Journalist). Mob: 9419150733, 9906374216.

### **TENTH DAY**

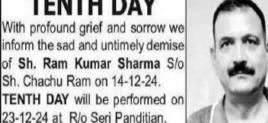
With profound grief and sorrow, we regre o inform that our beloved Smt. Lalita Gupta W/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta R/o H No: 311-B, Bharat Nagar, Rehar Colony, Jammu has left for the heavenly abode on 13th of December, 2024. Ma her noble soul rest in peace. TENTH DAY will be performed on 22nd of December, 2024 (Sunday) at 11:00 am to 12:00 Noon at Kotli Bhawan near Har Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN:



Son & Daughter in Law: Sh. Ravinder Kumar Gupta & Smt. Vandana Gupta Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta & Smt. Rajni Gupta Sh. Rahul Kumar Gupta (J&K Bank, Zonal Office, Jammu) & Smt. Richa Gupta

Daughter: Smt. Neelam Gupta W/o Late Sh. Parmod Gupta Grand Son: Love Gupta Grand Daughter: Ridhima, Amisha, Parul, Sachi, Aarvi & Sonali Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law: Mrs. Sonam Gupta and Mr. Tarun Suri





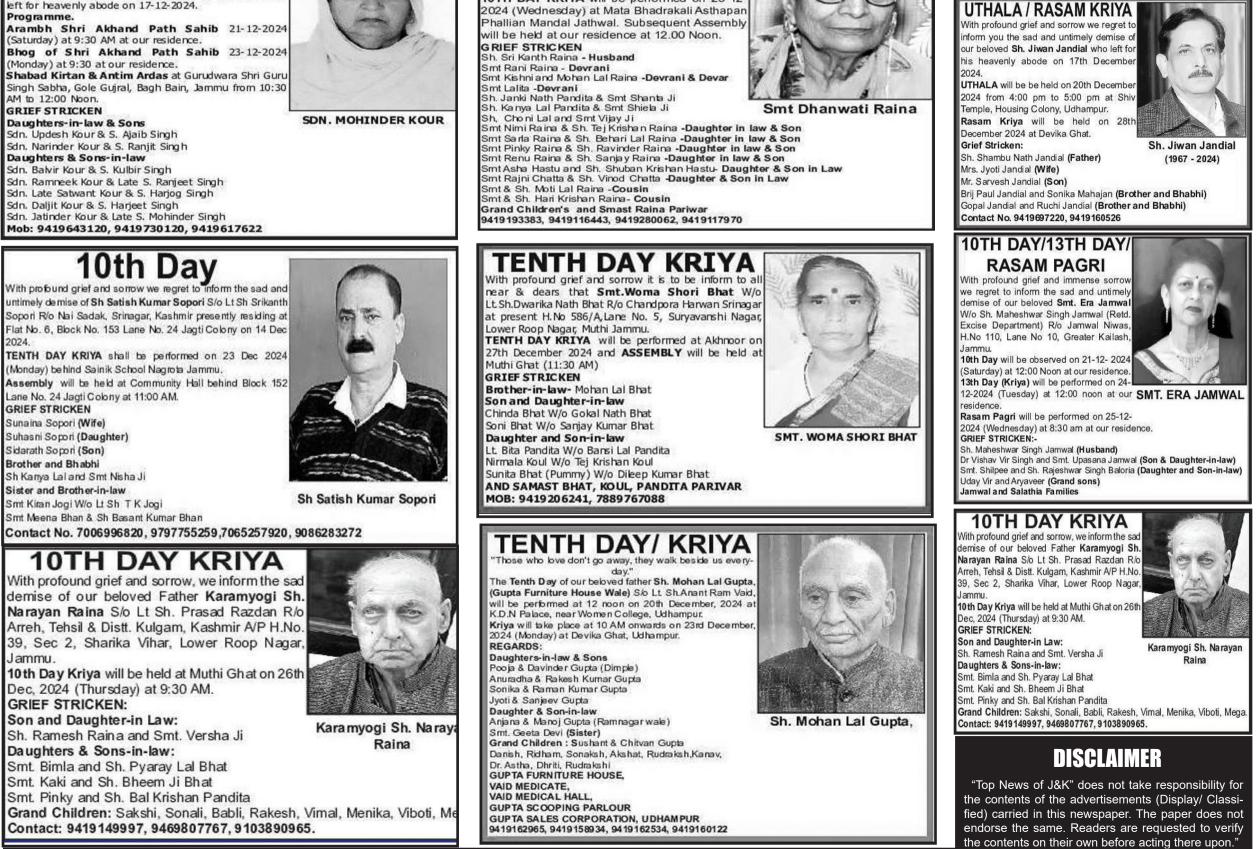
Sh. Chachu Ram on 14-12-24. TENTH DAY will be performed on 23-12-24 at R/o Seri Panditian. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Asha Devi (Wife) Komal Kerni (Daughter)

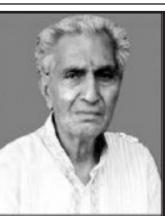


Akshay Sharma (Son)

MOBILE NO: 8493838801

Akhil Sharma (Son)





SH SOM NATH SAPROO

And Samast Saptoo Parivar. D. Pawni Bhat Pandita & Akshay Pancita. (Grand Daughter & Grand Sorvin-law) 7006344670, 9419114022,

SMT. NEENA

KUMARI

9419144055

# **TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA will take place on Monday 23rd

D'Ankita Saproo & Kunal Grover (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law)

heavenly abode on 14th of December.

of Decemberat Muthi Ghatat9 AM.

Sunits Bhat & Rainder Bhat (Deughter& Son-in-law)

Kuldeep Saproo& Kiran Seproo (Son & Daughter in law)

Manmohan Saproo & Anjali Saproo (Son & Daughter in law)

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Ehan Saproo, (Grand Son)

Ankush Saproo & Ekta Pandita Saproo (G rand Son & G rand Deughter in law)

Ishita Saoroo & Mansi Bhat -Grand Daughters

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Neena Kumari W/o Sh. Rahul Kumar R/o W.No.4, H.No.112 Mukerji Bazar, Udhampur.

The Tenth Day will be performed on Saturday 21 st Dec 2024 at Mahajan Hall (Chabutra Bazar Udhampur) at 12:00 Noon.

Kriya shall be performed on Monday 23rd Dec 2024, at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 11:00 am. GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh. Rahul Kumar Kalsotra (Sonu) (Husband)

2

Smt. Rani Kalsotra (Chachi) W/o Late Sh. Khem Raj Kalsotra Mr. Gourav Mahajan (Son) and Mr. Atharv Mahajan (Son) (Bhabhi & Brother-in-law

Smt. Anjana Gupta and Sh. Rajesh Kumar Kalsotra

Sh. Jagdish Kumar Gupta (Brother-in-Law) Smt. Rajni Gupta (Sister-in-law) and Sh. Ajay Gupta (Brother-in-law)

DEEPLY MISSED BY:-Shubham, Tania, Janvi, Kanika and Palak.

Mob. No.: 9103031740, 6005479250

# OBITUARY

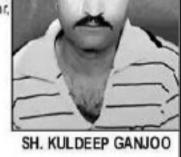
With profound grief & sorrow we are sad to inform the sudden and untimely demise of my father Sh. Kuldeep Ganjoo resident of Plot No 334-C Rajiv Nagar, Begampur Delhi on 13/12/2024. TENTH DAY will be performed on 22/12/2024. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Smt. Lalita Shori (Mother) Smt. Madhu Ganjoo (Wife) Anoop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

Smt. & Sh. Ashok Ganjoo (Brother) Smt. & Sh. Ravi Bhat Smt. & Sh. P N Pandita Smt. & Sh. Rohit Sehgal

MOBILE: 7210009295, 9818859970

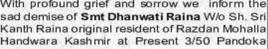
# BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sdn. Mohinder Kour W/o Late Amrik Singh R/o Bagh Bain, Gole Gujral, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 17-12-2024.



**10TH DAY KRIYA** With profound grief and sorrow we inform the

Grand Children: Deepika, Kashvi, Eshita, Harshita, Divyanshi, Charlen, Es



Harsh, Daksh, Vasu, Rudraksh Mob: 6006967906, 9906197577, 8899548132

colony Paloura Jammu. 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 25-12-

# LOCAL/ ADVT

# J&K Youth Congress stages protest against detention of IYC President in Assam

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 21: The Jammu & Kashmir Youth Congress (JKPYC) held a protest in Jammu on Saturday, strongly condemning the detention of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) President Uday Bhanu Chib in Assam. Protesters accused the BJP-led Assam government of suppressing opposition voices and targeting dissent. The demonstration, led by Maan Singh Rathore, IYC Secretary Incharge J&K. along with JKPYC President Akash Bharat and other senior leaders, involved burning an effigy to symbolize frustration with the BJP's alleged undemocratic actions.

The protestors also criticized

### controversial remarks made by the Union Home Minister in Parliament about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, calling it an insult to democratic principles and equality upheld by the Constitution's architect.

Addressing the gathering, Maan Singh Rathore called the detention of Uday Bhanu Chib a blatant misuse of power. "This is not just an attack on an individual but on democracy itself." he said, accusing the BJP of being intolerant of dissent. He highlighted a pattern of criminalizing opposition voices and vowed to continue resisting such tyranny. "The systematic erosion of democratic values under BJP rule is unacceptable. We will not back down, no matter the cost," he asserted.



JKPYC President Akash Bharat criticized the BJP for its "cowardly move" aimed at demoralizing the Youth Congress. "The BJP fears the growing voice of the youth

under Uday Bhanu Chib's leadership," he said. Bharat stressed that such actions only strengthen the Youth Congress's resolve and reaffirmed the youth's commitment

to fighting against divisive and oppressive policies. "From Assam to Jammu, the frustration with this government is evident," he added. Anirudh Sawhney, JKPYC State General Secretary, accused the BJP of detaining Chib without just cause, calling it an act of desperation. "The BJP fears the truth that the Youth Congress is exposing about their failures," he said. Sawhney also expressed outrage over remarks made by the Union Home Minister regarding Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, describing them as disrespectful and indicative of the BJP's disdain for constitutional values

The protest concluded with calls to intensify agitation if such actions persist. Leaders vowed to

continue their fight against authoritarianism and stand in solidarity with Uday Bhanu Chib.

Prominent leaders present at the protest included Vice Presidents Madassar Choudhary, Ranjot Singh, Shoaib Magray, General Secretaries Anirudh Sawhney, Rahul Tandon, Divyansh Verma, Sunny Parihar, and other office bearers such as Annas Munshi, Surinder Kumar, Raghav Khajuria, Jai Sidh, Anmol Kohli, Mehul Abrol, Raghav, Ranjeet Kumar, and Muneeb Kamal.

The protest underscored the Youth Congress's commitment to safeguarding democratic values and challenging oppressive governance.

### **AIIMS Jammu achieves** milestone with groundbreaking rehabilitation surgery on young patient **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 21: In a remarkable feat of surgical precision and teamwork, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Vijaypur in Jammu successfully performed its first case of bilateral equinocavus deformity correction on a pediatric patient. The surgery, a significant achievement in the field of Rehabilitation medicine was carried out by a dedicated multidisciplinary team under the visionary leadership of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu.

The young patient, who had been diagnosed operated case of meningomyelocele with severe bilateral equinocavus deformity coupled with fixed flexion deformities left knee, faced significant challenges in mobility and quality of life. This condition, characterized by an abnormally high arch of the foot and persistent downward-pointing toes, had left the child struggling with standing, and limited function. Addressing such complex deformities requires advanced surgical intervention and exceptional coordination among specialists.

Dr. Junis Ali, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dr. Rashid Anjum, Department of Orthopaedics, and Dr. Parvez M. Dar, Department of Trauma and Emergency Medicine with their teams performed a series of procedures, including

Bilateral Z-Plasty of the Achilles Tendon: This innovative technique lengthens the tendon to relieve tightness and improve flexibility.

Posterior Capsular Release: A critical step to enhance the range of motion by releasing the stiff posterior capsule in the ankle joint.

Plantar Fascia Release: Targeting the thickened band of tissue on the sole, this procedure alleviates tension and corrects deformity.

Fractional Release of Medial and Lateral Hamstring Muscle Tendons: This delicate intervention ensures better alignment of the lower limbs.

The surgery was performed with meticulous precision and lasted several hours. Post-operative care plans were designed to include intensive rehabilitation care ensuring optimal recovery for the young patient. Dr. Junis Ali said, "This case was unique as it required careful planning, coordination, and execution. We are proud to have successfully completed this complex surgery and are optimistic about the patient's improved quality of life post-recovery." Dr. Rashid Anjum emphasized the importance of such cases in highlighting AIIMS Jammu growing capabilities. "Orthopaedic deformities like this demand advanced surgical expertise and collaboration among departments. This milestone demonstrates our readiness to handle complex cases with cutting-edge techniques.

### $\odot$ **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR** OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POUNI (Member Secretary-Selection Committee of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Pouni under Phase-IV.

### Advertisement Notice: No. 03 of 2024

### Dated: 17-12-2024

Reference:- 01. Human Resource Policy for Anganwadi workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) implemented vide Govt. Order No. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022.

- 2. Directions issued vide Govt. Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023.
- 3. Approval letter issued by Mission Directorate, POSHAN J&K, vide letter No. MD/ Poshan/38390-93 dated: 03-12-2024.
- 4. Clarification issued by Administrative Department vide letter No. SWD-ICDS/ 43/2022 dated 14-08-2023 of the Department of Social Welfare.

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "B" from the eligible female candidates for engagement as Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) on Honorarium basis for below mentioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The application forms along with required documents shall be deposited in the office of Child Development Project Officer Pouni. The important dates/ details with regard to the posts are as under:

a) Date of commencement for submission of application forms: 20.12.2024 b) Last date for submission of application forms: 04.01.2025

### A. Posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)

S. No.	Name of the Panchayat	Name of AWC	Ward No.
1	Kolsar	Nagar	6

### B. Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)

S. No.	Name of Panchayat	Name of AWC	Ward No.
1	Saloon	Thandapani	5
2	Kund Khanyari	Darooni	3
3	Bharakh	Upper Bharakh	2
4	Kheral	Patta 1st	6
5	Theote	Sujanpur	9
6	Pouni	Kanka	8
7	Dadowa	Dadowa 1st	2
8	Dadowa	Garan Jagir 1st	5
9	Kothian	Kothian 3rd	1
10	Kolsar	Nagar	6

<u>How to apply:</u>- Applications as per prescribed format (enclosed as Annexure 'B') to the Advertisement Notice complete in all respect along with self attested copies of following documents should reach this office by hand against proper receipt by or before <u>04-01-2025 4:00 PM</u>.

- c. d.
- Copy of Domicile certificate. Academic qualification certificates (Matric/12<sup>th</sup> /Graduation). Copy of Aadhar Card. Copy of Voter Card showing residence proof (Municipal Ward No.) Copy of Date of birth Certificate (10<sup>th</sup> Diploma stating date of Birth). Certified copy of the latest voter list as proof of residence (Panchayat Level).
- g. Certificate from concerned Councillor/ Sarpanch in case of candidate belongs to the family of retired AWW/AWH.
- h. Unmarried Certificate by the concerned Tehsildar (In case of unmarried candidate).
- Affidavit in the prescribed format duly attested by Judicial /Executive Magistrate. Two self attested Photographs.

Incomplete application forms received if any will be rejected. No application will be accepted after the last date i.e. **04-01-2025 4:00 PM.** 

### **Document Verification**

- 1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as selfattested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
  - a) Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
  - b) Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
- c) Domicile Certificate.
- d) Unmarried Certificate (where required)
- 2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
  - Aadhaar Card i)
  - ii) Voter ID Card.
- 3) The candidates, who are supposed to furnish various certificates issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

### **ANNEXURE 'B'**

### **Format of Application**

- 1. Name of Poshan Project\_
- 2. Name of Anganwadi Centre
- 3. Post applied for\_
- 4. Name of the Candidate

Dr. Parvez M. Dar echoed these sentiments, adding, "This surgery is a testament to the world-class medical care available at AIIMS Vijaypur. Our multidisciplinary approach ensures the best possible outcomes for patients."

Under the leadership of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED & CEO AIIMS Jammu has been rapidly evolving into a hub of medical excellence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Gupta commended the surgical team for their dedication and skill.

"This achievement is a significant step forward in our mission to provide state-of-the-art healthcare to the region. I am proud of our team and confident that this is just the beginning of many more groundbreaking surgeries at AIIMS Jammu," he remarked.

Dr. Gupta's vision for AIIMS Jammu includes not only providing top-tier medical care but also fostering an environment for medical innovation and research. The success of this case underscores the institution's commitment to these goals.

The young patient and their family expressed immense gratitude to the medical team and AIIMS Jammu for their efforts. "We had almost given up hope of our child walking normally. AIIMS Jammu has given us a new ray of hope," said the child's father, visibly emotional after the successful surgery.

Such cases resonate with many families across Jammu and Kashmir who struggle to find advanced medical care for rare and complex conditions. The success of this surgery sends a powerful message of hope and reassurance that world-class healthcare is now accessible within the region.

With this milestone, AIIMS Jammu has set a benchmark for future medical achievements and underscored its role as a beacon of hope for patients and families in need.

a) Annexure A - Qualification and Criteria for selection.

b) Annexure B - Format of Application.
c) Annexure C – Affidavit.

### ANNEXURE - 'A'

### **Eligibility:**

### A. For Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)

- 1. The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2024 shall be eligible
- 3. The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever, there is any dispute as to residence for

any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered

- 4. Minimum qualification for Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) shall be 10+2 and maximum Graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission Poshan.
- In case suitable candidate is not available from adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission Poshan
- 6. Weight-age shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and not other criteria to be considered.
- 7. In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- 8. Candidate with qualification higher than Graduation shall not be considered.
- 9. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

### B. Sahavikas (Anganwadi Helpers)

- 1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the Electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- 2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2024 shall be eligible.
- 3. The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- 4. Minimum qualification for (Sahayikas) Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- 5. In case no Matriculate candidate is available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8<sup>th</sup> standard shall be considered.
- 6. The Committee shall select the most destitute/ needy married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.

	. Father's Name	
6	. Husband's Name	
7	. Residence	
8	8. Ward .No	
9	. Address for correspondence	
1	0. Contact No	
1	1. Date of Birth	
1	2. Age as on 01.01.2024	

13. Academic Qualification:

S. No.	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	%age

14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)\_ 15. Document Attached

Signature of the Candidate

Date:

### ANNEXURE 'C'

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

- 1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- 2. Maximum qualification is Graduation and minimum is Class-12<sup>th</sup> for vacancy of Anganwadi Worker and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent
- 3. Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper is Class-10<sup>th</sup> and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- 4. The deponent has read the HR policy No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

No:-CDPO/P/2024-25/340.

Date: - 17-12-2024.

DIP/I-8350/24

Sd/-Child Dev. Project Officer Pouni

# **OP-ED**

# **EDITORIAL**

# India's Influence in Global Politics

ndia, the world's largest democracy and a rapidly growing economic power, has steadily carved a significant role for itself in global politics over the past few decades. From its non-alignment roots during the Cold War to its active participation in multilateral organizations and strategic alliances, India's foreign policy has evolved to reflect its growing stature on the world stage. With its large population, economic potential, military capabilities, and strategic location, India is poised to become a central player in the global geopolitical landscape.

India's economic transformation is one of the primary drivers of its increasing global influence. Over the past two decades, India has emerged as one of the world's fastestgrowing major economies, fueled by its burgeoning middle class, a dynamic service sector, and an expanding manufacturing base. India's economy is now the fifth-largest in the world by nominal GDP, and its role as a major global market has attracted the attention of multinational corporations, investors, and trade partners.

India's growing economic clout allows it to exert significant influence in global trade negotiations and institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). As a member of the G20, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), and other multilateral forums, India has positioned itself as an advocate for developing countries and a voice for the Global South in addressing issues like trade imbalances, climate change, and global health crises. India's economic engagement is also evident in its partnerships with major global powers, including the United States, the European Union, Japan, and Australia, which view India as a key economic and strategic partner in Asia.

India's growing military capabilities are another factor that contributes to its rising influence in global politics. With one of the largest standing armies in the world and a nuclear arsenal, India has become a regional security power in South Asia and beyond. Its military strength allows it to assert its influence in key geopolitical areas, particularly in the Indian Ocean region, where it is actively involved in maritime security, anti-piracy operations, and disaster relief efforts.

In recent years, India has deepened its strategic alliances with global powers, particularly the United States. The Indo-U.S. relationship has evolved from one of cautious cooperation to a robust partnership, driven by shared interests in counterterrorism, defense cooperation, and a free and open Indo-Pacific. The signing of key defense agreements, such as the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), has strengthened military ties between the two nations. India's participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) with the U.S., Japan, and Australia further underscores its commitment to maintaining regional stability and countering China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. At the same time, India has maintained strong defense ties with Russia, particularly in terms of arms procurement and joint military exercises. Its role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member have also bolstered its influence in regional and global security matters. India's leadership in South Asia is another important facet of its rising global influence. As the largest country in the region, India plays a pivotal role in shaping the political and economic dynamics of its neighbors. Through initiatives such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and bilateral relationships with countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, India seeks to maintain peace, promote economic development, and ensure stability in the region. India's diplomatic outreach extends far beyond South Asia. It has become a key player in the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia, where it is involved in peacebuilding, counterterrorism efforts, and infrastructure development. India's strategic partnerships with countries like Israel, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reflect its growing influence in these regions. Furthermore, India's engagement with Africa, especially in terms of trade, development aid, and capacity-building programs, has enhanced its soft power and diplomatic footprint on the continent.

# **Ambedkar Par Dakka Muki Politics**

### By: Omkar Dattatray

hole nation was ashamed, angry and aghast over what happened in and outside the parliament which has the distinction of being called the temple of democracy .The happenings taking place in the august parliament has eroded the image of the parliament and parliamentarians before the public as the proceedings of the parliament are directly telecasted .The parliamentarians should conduct themselves nicely, dignified manner and they should upkeep and uphold decorum and discipline while taking part in the debates, discussions and deliberations .But what has taken place in and outside the parliament over the non and flimsy issue of B.R. Ambedkar is most unfortunate , disturbing and nauseating and the parliamentarians of all hues and colors meaning the MP's belonging to BJP/NDA as well as Congress and INDIA bloc should show sanity and abstain and refrain from raking and raising frivolous issues not connected with the welfare of the people .The political parties both of the ruling BJP/NDA and Congress. as well as the INDIA bloc should see reason and not allow the parliament to become a place of wrestling MP's of all the parties including the treasury benches should maintain discipline and decorum awhile participating in the proceedings of both houses of the august parliament otherwise it can be deduced that Indian parliament is not the temple of democracy but it has degenerated into a place to show muscle and lung power and it is a serious cause of concern .The row over Ambedkar and his dishonor by the Political parties has taken a centre stage thanks to the Congress parties raking and raising this non-issue for vote bank politics and for remaining in the limelight .Congress as well as the BJP are leaving no stone unturned to accuse the other for insulting and dishonoring the father of constitution and

the advocate of reservations and the upholder of the downtrodden ,backward and the marginalized sections of the society .It is very awkward and uncalled for and unwarranted that congress and the BJP are busy in shouting and resorting to fists and fights and even attacking each other in and outside the parliament which is unworthy of the status of the parliamentarians and the parliament .It is indeed very sad that two of the MP's belonging to BJP have suffered injuries in the scuffle and mille.BJP and Congress MP's are accusing one another for attacks and assaults on the other and it is unbecoming and has lowered the prestige of our parliament among the public and in fact in the whole globe as the happenings and proceedings are telecasted directly .Thus it is the basic responsibility of the MP's to conduct themselves in a dignified manner worthy of the august parliamentarians .The MP's should do nothing which lowers the prestige and credibility of the parliament .But what is happening in and outside our parliament is pinching and killing and it has put to all of us to shame as our parliament has resembled fish market and useless gossip shop which robs the parliament and its members of all sheen .From the last few days both houses of parliament witnessed unsavory and useless row over Ambedkar as if our MP's have no real ,pressing issues to attend to and thus it can be construed that for the MP's devoid of issues, issueless politics is all that has become a fashion and habit .It seems that our elected representatives have distanced themselves from the real , pressing issues and problems confronting the people .Besides the MP's have relegated to the background the welfare and developmental issues and public issues and thus they are raking non-issues and doing issueless politics only to hoodwink the gullible people .The ruckus ,fights and fists as well as sloganeering and coming to the well of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha has

become the fashion these days and it is no sign of the vibrancy and strength of democracy .But all this lowers the prestige ,status and credibility of the highest legislative body of our democracy and this is the sad commentary on our parliament .Our parliament should be the institution where serious debates , discussions and deliberations should characterize the system .But the good old days are gone and are now a history when there used to be utmost discipline, decorum and serious and meaningful debates and discussions .However today the proceedings of both the houses of parliament are often marred by sloganeering ,ruckus and shouting as well as virtual fights and fists where the MP's also get injured and this does not augur well for the present and future of democracy .Precious time of the parliament is lost in the noise ,din and unnecessary gossip and the days of yore when in parliament serious discussions, debates and deliberations used to characterized the proceedings of parliament and the serious legislative business was carried on .India is an artificially created Nation of Nations / states with diverse characteristic features .The ruling party at the union government may not be same at the state level .In the parliament ,the representatives ,from the states obviously have diverse views on plans and schemes of the union government .Hence all this ruckus , noise and even marshalling out of MP's so often .Many MP's think that counter questioning original question is the answer .Lack of knowledge on the subject .MP's are debating and questioning government on digitization in parliament .It is a very serious political matter that our parliament is reducing and degenerating into a fish market and a wrestling field and this pinches the public who have voted and elected their MP's to legislate for them .There should be no hooliganism ,goondagradi, ruckus, sloganeering and shouting in the parliament and instead serious and meaningful

debates, discussions and deliberations should be there in the parliament .In parliament decorum, discipline and high morality is all that should characterize our august parliament and unnecessary obstructions ,frictions should not be created by the opposition parties .The opposition parties have every right to oppose the functioning of the government .But the opposition should not oppose every policy ,scheme of the government blindly and they should support and welcome the people friendly and pro poor schemes and programmes of the government .Constructive opposition should be the guiding principle of the opposition parties .What is going on in and outside the parliament is not good as parliament is not the place for showing muscle power ,physical power and lung power ,but the top institution for conducting the legislative business and so fights ,fists and hurling abuses and using of obsessive language has no place in a parliament. It only lowers the prestige, status and credibility of our parliament .Let the treasury benches ,opposition parties and the presiding officers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha put their efforts together so that our parliament remains a temple of democracy where serious and meaningful debates , discussions are held and legislative business is transacted and our parliament and its proceedings be emulated by the whole world's legislative bodies. May the old days of glory and serious discussions and debates become once again the risen d'être in parliament and its motif as well.

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

### By: Vijay Garg

ccording to the Central Pollution Control Board, the air quality index of the national capital Delhi again reached the 'severe category' with 481 points at 8 am on Wednesday. This huge increase in air pollution has come after a gap of about three weeks, when restrictions were imposed under the fourth phase of the 'Graded Response Action Plan'. Pollution has also got the support of cold. Delhi-based Regional Weather Forecasting Center has predicted fog and moderate to dense fog in the morning, partly cloudy. It is expected to be cloudy and the minimum temperature will be around six degrees. There is talk of cold wave in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh as well as in Delhi. In fact, the Indian Meteorological Department declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature in a plain area drops to 10 degrees Celsius or less, while in hilly areas the temperature drops to zero degrees or below. If we look at the difference between normal and basic temperature, then the condition of cold wave is considered when the temperature is normal.4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius below normal, while in a severe cold wave the temperature falls by more than 6.4 degrees Celsius above normal. By the way, talking on the basis of actual minimum temperature (for plains only), in cold wave the minimum temperature drops to four degrees Celsius or less, whereas in severe cold wave conditions it drops to

two degrees Celsius or less. However, cold wave conditions are considered common in other areas including North India from November to March, but its lethality is not known to us between December and February. It bothers me a lot. Same thing is happening this time also. Like extreme heat, extreme cold also harms the homeless, the elderly, the economically disadvantaged, the disabled, pregnant women, lactating women, children, farmers, outdoor laborers and those who live without proper heating or Are forced to work in adverse weather conditions. If precautionary measures are not taken, extreme cold can cause harm in many ways, even causing death to a person. hypothermia due to cold Problems like frostbite, i.e. becoming numb due to extreme cold, trench foot, chilblains can occur. The most life-threatening condition is hypothermia, which is caused by prolonged exposure to very cold temperatures and the body losing heat faster than it can generate it. Due to this, the body temperature becomes very low, due to which the brain is affected. And the person becomes unable to think or walk properly. It is noteworthy that hypothermia can also become dangerous when a person is exposed to rain, sweat, etc.Or gets cooled by immersion in cold water. What also happens is that after the temperature falls below, the blood vessels of our body start shrinking and our blood pressure (BP) starts increasing. This increases the pressure on our heart, which naturally increases the risk of heart attack or heart attack.

Double blow of cold wave and pollution

Extreme cold also makes our heart beats abnormal, which can become a life-threatening situation especially for those who are already suffering from heart related diseases. From 60 years in Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands A comprehensive study conducted on older people found that if the cold lasts even for four days, the risk of heart attack and stroke increases more than double. This study was actually done with the aim of defining particularly cold days compared to the rest of the month. In this, the drop in temperature compared to previous days was considered to be the main factor in heart attack, and not the cold felt. Cold waves and cold winds also have a negative effect on our lungs in many ways. cold air is generally dry And affects the respiratory tract, which can cause wheezing, cough and trouble breathing. This condition can be especially dangerous for people suffering from diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Cold air can narrow and harden the airways, causing trouble breathing, which can especially affect young children. Air quality also deteriorates in cold conditions and increases in particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds. Exposure to these pollutants can increase lung irritation and respiratory problems. Therefore, with the increase in pollution in the last two days, cough and respiratory problems have increased among people. Obviously, we should take many precautions at this time. Doctors always advise wear-

ing adequate warm clothes as you grow. We should protect our hands and feet from cold and cover our exposed skin as much as possible. Mask should also be used, which also protects us from pollution. SufficientFruits and vegetables should be consumed and coarse grains, legumes, nuts and foods obtained from animal sources should be used. Regular exercise is also necessary. This improves our immune system. Older people, infants and children under five years of age, disabled people and people suffering from chronic diseases are more at risk, hence it is necessary to take special care of them. The good thing is that in many cities, action plans are being prepared to deal with pollution according to local conditions, which can be implemented in short, medium And are of long duration. In these, measures like dealing with road pollution, overcoming pollutants from construction work, ban on burning of waste are being taken. Not only this, many types of agencies are also being contacted, so that all the challenges on the path of pollution freedom can be overcome.

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

# LOCAL/ADVT

# **VKMI, Sarv Uthan Trust celebrate International Meditation Day**

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 21: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) and Sarv Uthan Trust organized an inspiring program to celebrate International Meditation Day at Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School. The event aimed to highlight the importance of meditation in enhancing mental and emotional well-being, particularly among students.

The program was graced by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of VKMI, as the Chief Guest. Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI, presided over the event, while C.M. Sharma, Chairman of the school, conducted the proceedings and introduced the distinguished dignitaries

Dr. Jain delivered an enlightening address on the significance of meditation, answering essential questions such as what meditation is, why it is important, and how it can be practiced. He described meditation as a mental practice that fosters focus, calms the mind, and connects individuals with their



incorporate meditation into their Techniques such as deep breathdaily routines, noting its potential ing, mindfulness, and visualization to improve concentration, boost memory, and foster emotional were highlighted as effective tools for achieving emotional stability and resilience

He also provided practical guidance on meditation techniques, such as choosing a quiet space, sitting comfortably, focusing on the breath, and anchoring the mind to the present moment Ashok Gupta also shared his

insights, delivering a concise yet impactful presentation on the benefits of meditation.

Indu Sharma, Principal of the school, extended a warm welcome to the guests, appreciating the initiative and its focus on a vital topic. She praised the talents of the students and stressed the importance of integrating meditation into their daily lives to enhance their academic and personal growth.

The event was supported by key contributors, including Sajni Gupta, School Incharge, and project incharges Sahil Gupta, Ajay Kumar, Jasmeet Kour, and Sujata Gupta, whose efforts ensured the program's success.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by C.M. Sharma, marking the occasion as a significant step toward promoting holistic well-being and mental health. The celebration underscored VKMI and Sarv Uthan Trust's commitment to empowering students and the younger generation through the practice of meditation, fostering a sense of inner peace and resilience.

# **GDC Nagrota celebrates National Mathematics Dav**



special screening of the

biographical film "The Man

Who Knew Infinity" which

narrates the inspiring story

of Ramanujan's journey

from humble beginnings

in India to his collabora-

tion with mathematician

G.H. Hardy at Cambridge

Prof Anjali Mahajan,

Principal of the college

congratulated the partici-

pants and motivated them

to keep organizing such

In her address, she

appreciated the efforts of

the Department of Math-

events in future as well.

ematics

University.

### **Top News Report**

NAGROTA, Dec 21: Under the aegis of IQAC the Department of Mathematics of Govt Degree College Nagrota celebrated "National Mathematics Day" to mark the 137th birth anniversary of mathematical Genius Srinivasa Ramanujan one of the greatest Indian Mathematicians for his outstanding contributions in the field of Mathematics

A poster making event was organized to spread the importance of mathematics in the present scenario

Students showcased their creativity by illustrat-

The event was graced by the presence of faculty members including Dr. Kewal Kumar, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Jeevan Kumar, Dr. Nazakit Hussain, Prof. Sanjay Malhotra, Prof. Tanmeet Kour, and a large number of students, all of whom participated with great enthusiasm. The overwhelming response to the program reaffirmed the college's commitment to fostering cultural and historical awareness among its

### ing Ramanujan's contribuematics for organizing tions to the field of mathactivities which inspire students to pursue excellence The day also featured a

in mathematics. Dr. Neetu Singh, HoD mathematics, formally welcomed the Principal, faculty and the participants. She also highlighted the contributions made

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by Srinivasa Ramanujan in various fields of mathematics without having any formal education in mathematics

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Sunil Kumar. Others who graced the occasion were, Prof Shalini Raina, Prof Praveen Singh and Prof Aashiqui Hussain Parray.

# History Deptt, IQAC organize screening of Chaar Saahibzaade Documentary at GDC Ramnagar

### **Top News Report**

RAMNAGAR, Dec 21: The Department of History, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College Ramnagar, organized a special screening of the documentary Chaar Saahibzaade on the eve of Veer Baal Diwas

The event was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand Anthal, Principal GDC Ramnagar, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and stu-

Prof. Manmohan Singh, Head of the Department of History and organizer of the event, welcomed the attendees and shared his insights on the significance of Veer Baal Diwas. Reflecting on the sacrifice of the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, he said, "The story of the Chaar Sahibzaade is a timeless testament to courage, sacrifice, and unwavering faith. It is essential to pass this legacy to future generations to inspire them to uphold the values of jus-

tice, righteousness, and

heightened awareness

being

dents.

Explaining the benefits of medita-

tion, Dr. Jain emphasized its role in

reducing stress, sharpening mental

clarity, and enhancing overall well-

He encouraged students to



resilience." The screening of the documentary captivated the audience, offering a poignant portrayal of the unparalleled bravery and sacrifices made by the Chaar Sahibzaade. The visual narrative left a lasting impression

on everyone present, enriching their understanding of this vital chapter in history. Concluding the event, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pandit, IQAC Coordinator, expressed his appreciation for the initiative

He remarked, "This screening is not only a tribute to the unparalleled sacrifices of the Sahibzaade but also a step towards educating our youth about the values of selflessness and devotion that define our rich heritage.'

students.

### E-IENDER NOTICE Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-40-24-25. Closing Date/Time 13.01.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. NIT HEADER allowed. NITHEADER Contract Type Works (i) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of KYOSAN Make Electronic Interlocking systems installed at Banga, Bahram Nawashahar & Pathankot stations of Firozpur Division for Three (03) Years. (ii) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of UFSBI work systems of Deltron make installed over Firozpur Division for Three (03) Years. Tender Closing Date & Time 13.01.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Uploading Tender 20.12.2024 at 17:54 hrs. Advertised Value(₹) (i) ₹3,33,74,888.88 (ii) ₹81,29,211.84 Earnest Money(₹) (i) ₹3,16,900/-(ii) ₹1,62,600/-Biding Start Date as per IREPS 30.12.2024 (i) 36 Months (ii) 36 Months Period of Completion Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-40-24-25 Date: 20.12.2024 3912/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE** 



**TENDERING** 

### Short-Term Tender Notice : e-NIT No.:- 64/WLWJ of 2024-25 dated: 19-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. /Central Govt.

**Director Agriculture addresses valedictory** function of Training Programme on 'Remote Sensing and GIS'

**Top News Report** JAMMU, Dec 21: A



weeklong training programme (December 16–21) on "Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS for Land Resource Management" for 10 officers of Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, concluded today at the National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), IARI campus, PUSA, New Delhi.

This training programme was conducted under the Capacity Building Component of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Project 19 (JKSLRI) for the year 2024-25, sponsored by the Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, through the Divisional Soil Survey Scheme.

The initiative was carried out under the guidance of Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Production Department, J&K UT, and A. S. Reen, Director of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu. The valedictory session was presided over by Dr. P.S. Brahamanand, Project Director, WTC IARI New Delhi. The programme cov-

ered various aspects of Remote Sensing and GIS in agriculture. Director of NBSS&LUP Nagpur, for approving with sessions, practical, and field visits conand facilitating the training programme. He also ducted by experts from NBSS&LUP Nagpur, thanked Dr. P.S. Brahamanand for being the RC Delhi, and other divisions of IARI. Notachief guest at the sesble resource persons sion.

included Dr. G.P. Obi In his address, Director A.S. Reen empha-Reddy (Principal Scientist and Head, RSA), sized the importance Dr. R.N. Sahoo (Prinof Remote Sensing and cipal Scientist, IARI), GIS technologies in agriculture, particularly in Dr. Chander Mohan Adhikari (Expert, ESRI areas such as soil map-India), Dr. Nirmal Kumar ping, crop monitoring, yield predictions, water (NBSS&LUP Nagpur), Dr. Jaya N. Surya resource management, (Head, RC Delhi), and climate change, and Dr. Vinay Sehgal (PS, precision agriculture. IARI). The training also He highlighted the need included a field visit for for upskilling officers in these technologies to soil profile study, led by Dr. Jaya N. Surya, ensure the department remains at the forefront where officers learned techniques for soil proof agricultural advancefile characterization. ments. "I am hopeful that the officers, after Arvinder Singh Reen, attending this training, Director of Agriculture Jammu, addressed the will be better equipped to utilize these technolovaledictory function via gies for improved projvideo conference. He ect planning and land expressed his gratiresource management, tude to Dr. N.G. Patil,

benefiting the farming community," said Director Agriculture.

Additionally, he requested Dr. N.G. Patil, Director of NBSS&LUP Nagpur, to consider a project for Jammu Division for conducting land resource management mapping in collaboration with the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu. He suggested a more detailed mapping scale of 1:10,000 for more effective local-level planning, as previous soil resources mapping conducted between 1985 and 1995 at a scale of 1:250.000 has proven less effective for block and village-level applications.

Director Agriculture also extended his appreciation to Dr. Jaya N. Surya, Head of the NBSS&LUP Regional Centre in Delhi, for successfully conducting the training programme.

Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/ Opening Authority
Construction of Basement of Bamboo Hut at Sidha in Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary	3.50 lacs.	D	600	30 days	Tender opening committee

### EMD (3% of advertised amount):- Rs 10,500/-

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloadedfromthedepartmentalWebsite:http://jktenders.gov.in.

AA/TS No. & Date	168 of 2024-25 (RWLWJ) dated 18-12-2024
Position of Funds	Approved under CSS

Publishing Date	19-12-2024
Download Start Date	19-12-2024
Bid Submission Start Date	19-12-2024
Bid submission End Date	26-12-2024 up to 02:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	27-12-2024 at 12:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid.	27-12-2024
Bid documents can be seen https://jktenders.gov.in. Bid criteria quantities, conditions and other	documents contain qualifying for bidder, specifications, bill of
DIP/J-8359/24	

No.:	WLWJ/	

Wildlife Warden Jammu Dated: 19-12-2024

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# **ENTERTAINMENT**

# Punjabi-Canadian singing sensation AP Dhillon, of Summer High fame, has garnered a fan base across the globe

Naam hai Amrit...kamm tusi sab jande hon...the Summer High, Excuses and Insane hitmaker is set for a date with the City Beautiful this evening. Post serenading his 'childhood crush' Malaika Arora during his Mumbai tour, and getting music giants Jazzy B and Honey Singh on stage at Delhi, AP Dhillon, aka Amritpal Singh Dhillon, has raised the expectations of the city folks.

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Starting his Brownpoint India Tour from Mumbai on December 7, performing in New Delhi on December 14, he concludes it in Chandigarh on December 21. In just about five years of bursting on to the scene, AP has a fan base across the globe with a fair smattering of Bollywood stars in it. Billions of streams across platforms, topping the Billboard charts and desi songs with international vibe, AP is one of his kind.

Punjabi munda in Canada Born in Mullianwal in the Gurdaspur district of Punjab, he pursued engineering before moving to Canada. Studies and working odd jobs at convenience stores and gas stations, music slowly and steadily became his life. With no one willing to work with him, he started on his own, investing in technology, spending hours in the garage, coming up music he wanted to take to the world. Sure he's Punjabi, but his sound is an eclectic mix of Pop, Hip hop, R&B and Trap. Starting with singles Fake and Faraar, it was Deadly that got him an entry into music charts. Excuses—Mere Dil Naal Larre Ni Tuu Laun Waaliye/Dil Tera Jadonn Tuttuga Taa Pata Lagunga— brought him name and fame. This was closely followed by the stupendously successful Brown Munde, which made the world go gaga over



### this munda. Women in AP's life

Very guarded about his personal life, a grouse his fans had with the docu-series AP Dhillon: First Of A Kind - Season 1 was that apart from his grandmother there were no women from his life who made it to the screen! His Instagram Stories from Mumbai popped up a name—Mrunal Thakur. To help you jog your memory, she is the lovely princess from the beautiful onscreen love story Sita Ramam. AP tagged Mrunal on a picture of poha, writing 'Best one I had. Thank you, Mrunal Thakur." Strangely, poha keeps popping with Punjabi concerts. Lately, Diljit too was seen enjoying some, giving it a go over paranthas in Punjab.

Back to women in AP's life, his fans were left wondering if there was more to him than serenading Malaika on stage!

Too much, too soon AP's first song came in 2019 and his notes soon won the world over. Amongst his hits are Summer High, Ma Belle, Old Money, Bora Bora, Dil Nu, Desires, Spaceship, Sweet Flower, Arrogant, Scars, War, Sleepless and Gallan. His song With You, which fought a plagiarism battle, turned out to be 'bought sample music'. Dishing out Punjabi lyrics on western beats, his army of fans is growing ever so strong.

First concert was his own Ask AP about his favourite concert and it sure is his first ever show at Gurgaon. Would you believe that it was his first-ever; he had never been to concert as a spectator either! Sitting in his vanity, listening to thousands of spectators screaming his name, AP let go of any hesitancy or doubt that he harboured. Now, he's a master on stage!

Smashing guitar @ Coachella If Diljit Dosanjh was the firstever Punjabi artiste to grace the prestigious Coachella stage; 2024 was AP's year. He ended the electrifying performance smashing the guitar on stage, earning fans' ire! Charting the Brown Munde

course The song that changed the course of AP's life was a one about 'brown appreciation' and 'brown pride'. Lyrics by Shinda Kahlon, Brown Munde brought AP, Gurinder Gill and Gminxr (Gugundeep Singh Randhawa) together in what became an anthem for 'brown' folks, charting an industrious life abroad. The video has brown folks doing odd chores, from construction work to handling kitchens in beats, which became an instant hit.

First Of A Kind, Season 1

Shinda Kahlon, Gurinder Gill and Gminxr have been part of the incredible feat that AP has pulled. The fact that Shinda and AP not only worked together, but lived together too has intrigued AP's fans. Rather reclusive, AP, the global star, left his fans in surprise when Prime Video announced a documentary on his life! AP Dhillon: First Of A Kind –Season 1 was released last year, and featured interviews with Dhillon's family and friends, offering a look at his personal and professional journey. While it sure gave a glimpse of his creative life. fans were left wanting for more. Season 1 leaves room for more in the coming times. We love AP, what he loves

. A good game of basketball, playing for NBA is his growing up dream

. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan has been his favourite singer

. His father and bibi (grandmother) remain his idols . He 'knows' and admires Bollywood's stars — Shah Rukh,

Salman, among others . AP likes desi khana and finds

cooking therapeutic

# Anasua Chowdhury worried about pollution



Anasua Chowdhury, who is known for her roles in Dil Dosti Dance, Savdhaan India, Fear Files and C.I.D, as well as the movie Laal Singh Chaddha, and is currently seen in web series Waack Girls, says the pollution levels in the country have been rising drastically. Asked how one can protect themselves from it, she said, "Wear a double mask." Anasua added, "We can definitely reduce the consumption and production of pollutants. Recycle and reuse. Use public transportation. I feel we all start this from our homes by switching off the lights and fans that are not in use."

# Bold take: Akanksha Puri stars in Dons and Darlings

Akanksha Puri is all set to captivate audiences with her bold and complex portrayal in ALTT's upcoming web series Dons and Darlings. Stepping into the world of crime and passion, Akanksha takes on the role of Naaz, a woman navigating a life fraught with betrayal, loss and emotional turmoil. The series introduces Naaz as the daughter of a powerful drug lord whose life was tragically cut short by her own husband.

This heartbreaking betrayal propels Naaz into a journey of survival and self-discovery. Her loveless marriage and search for affection add layers of vulnerability and complexity to her character.



# Neha Harsora talks about her show Udne Ki Asha

Neha Harsora, who is part of Star Plus show Udne Ki Asha, has



# Payal Kapadia talks on All We Imagine As Light and One Nation One Election

Payal Kapadia sowed the first seeds of her globally-acclaimed film, All We Imagine As Light, while participating at the Interna-



we say that it is made up of only one kind of people, one kind of language. It is not. The city was made by the hands of millions

highlighted how the authentic and grounded storytelling has become the biggest strengths of the show. "The story, the script, and the theme feel so real and grounded," she shared. "People find pieces of their own lives in these characters, and that's what makes this journey so special," she added. One of the show's standout aspects is its ability to mirror reallife dynamics, a quality Neha believes sets it apart.

# Aarya Gautam joins Saajha Sindoor



Aarya Gautam has joined the talented cast of Sun Neo's hit show Saajha Sindoor. She will portray Roli, a fascinating grey-shaded character. Recently, Aarya shared her thoughts about stepping into this intriguing role and whether she related to her character.

Aarya shared, "I feel many girls will relate to my character. She dreams big, aspires to a lavish life and wants to be loved in a way that makes her feel truly special. She's vibrant, energetic and incredibly street-smart, with a knack for understanding situations and helping others see things clearly. These traits made me instantly connect with her."

She added, "Roli and I share a few similarities too. We both enjoy being in the spotlight for all the right reasons and possess a strong, confident personality. Playing Roli has been such an enjoyable experience, and I'm loving every bit of bringing her

to life on screen."

tional Short and Documentary Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) in Thiruvananthapuram in 2015 with her short film, The Last Mango Before the Monsoon. Travelling a long journey, with stints of various development stages at festivals like Rotterdam and Cannes, Kapadia's project would go on to win the Grand Prix in Cannes and two Golden Globe nominations for Best Director and Best Motion Picture - Non-English Language.

A decade later, the Mumbai-born Kapadia, a Film and Television Institute of India, Pune alumna, returned to Thiruvananthapuram this week to receive the Spirit of Cinema Award at the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) on December 20. All We Imagine As Light, which features Malayalam actors Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha, Hridhu Haroon and Azees Nedumangad and several crew members from Kerala along with Marathi actor Chhaya Khadam and others, witnessed many acting workshops and script revisions in the state to reflect the reality of roles and languages.

Kapadia, who heads to Los Angeles from Thiruvananthapuram for the Golden Globes Awards ceremony in the Beverly Hills on January 5 and promotion of her film for the Academy Awards nominations, talks to agency at the conclusion of the IFFK (December 13-20) about the response to the film following the theatrical release in India last month, her own artistic response to the country's socio-economic and political changes through the film, and the forthcoming awards season in the United States. Excerpts from an interview:

It has been a good response largely. In every country, the response has been different. In India, the main thing is that we have been able to screen films in as many cinemas as possible because it is very difficult to get distribution for independent movies in India. Our main aim was, even if we had only one or two cinemas, in each big city, people could come and watch. I think we had a pretty decent response. We had the first release in Kochi, Kerala, and we got an almost hopeful response. In Chennai, too, it was good, also in Delhi and Kolkata. The Chennai audience is a killer audience (laughs). Mostly, we had trouble in smaller cities because we didn't have money for marketing. Many people

didn't even know that it was in their city. Now, we are trying to have a focused distribution, for example, in Guwahati. We received a lot of calls from Guwahati saying, please release it there. We will release it only on the weekend, and, like a quorum, people can sign up for the screening on the internet. We are trying our best. The people want to watch a film about what is happening in the country.

It is obvious from our film that it is the diversity we want to be maintained in our country. The One Nation One election will not allow that. For a federal system to continue the way it is, we must have the elections as we have been having them. We believe in a representational democracy. It is obvious from the film what our stance is. Multiple identities can exist together peacefully. Unfortunately, the world benefits from dividing people. As artists, we all feel diversity is beneficial for better and organic thoughts and ideas. That is democracy and discourse. If everybody was thinking along the same lines, democracy would be null and void.

What was the premise of the city of Bombay? The city was not there. It was a bunch of islands where a few people were residing. Then the colonial British rulers said, They are throwing us out of Surat, so we have to do something over here. So they made a new port. They called people from all over the country to come and work here. The entire premise of the city is that people have come from all over the country, all over Maharashtra, and from all over outside Maharashtra. That is the premise of the city. Then how can of people from all over our country. What is wrong with that? That is a great thing. We have to respect that also. While people of many religions live in Mumbai, there are also many castes and classes. That is the reality. Many people have also made films about that reality.

I think Cannes should really have more Indian films. There has been a gross neglect. We have made so many good films in the past three decades, and these films could easily have been on par. Other festivals are taking Indian films in the main competition, in Venice, Locarno... We had Mahesh Narayanan's film, Ariyippu (Declaration), another Malayalam film in Locarno two years ago. The Disciple by Chaitanya Tamhane was screened in Venice in 2020. Films from states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra are doing well at festivals. There are a lot of different interesting works happening in Indian cinema. There are some people taking risks in the narratives, in the forms. As soon as you start doing that you can have some reach outside as well.

To have our film screened at the International Film Festival of Kerala was an honour. All We Imagine As Light actually started with the IDSFFK in Thiruvananthapuram in 2015. In 2022, too, I was in Thiruvananthapuram, staying in the same hotel and attending the festival, but also doing some casting and pre-production over here. We started like that, and we are ending our journey here. This week witnessed the last day of the film's release in Thiruvananthapuram. It is like a long journey starting in Thiruvananthapuram and ending in Thiruvananthapuram. We also had a great crowd coming to the film screening at the IFFK. Receiving the Spirit of Cinema Award was the cherry on top.

Everything is a new experience. We didn't even know so many awards existed before. In Europe, yes we knew the many awards there. In America, it is new for us. The Golden Globes, of course, we have heard of. In America, we didn't know there were several other awards. Every state has its own critics prize. We got many critics prizes in places like Boston and New York. We were first or second in all of these. It is interesting that in the United States people like All We Imagine As Light.

# **NATIONAL**

# Modi embarks on historic Kuwait visit, aims for 'futuristic partnership'

### Indira Gandhi, was the last PM, who visited the country in 1981

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi--just before departing for Kuwait--on Saturday said his visit would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership between the two countries.

Modi would be in Kuwait for two days and it is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 43 years. In a statement before leaving the country, the PM described the visit saying: "It would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership for the benefit of our people and the region." On India-Kuwait relations,

Modi said: "We are not just strong trade and energy partners, but also have shared interest in peace, security, stability and prosperity in the West Asia.'

Modi said he was confident that the visit would further strengthen and reinforce the special ties and bonds of friendship.

"We deeply value the historical connection with Kuwait that has been nurtured over generations," the PM added.

On Saturday, Modi is scheduled to meet the Indian diaspora



and he expressed that he eagerly looked forward to meeting the diaspora.

"(They) have immensely contributed to strengthening of bonds of friendship between the two nations," Modi added.

There is a million strong Indian diaspora in Kuwait. Modi thanked the leadership of Kuwait for inviting him, on Saturday, to the inauguration ceremony of the Arabian Gulf Cup. The Ministry of External Affairs said Modi would be guest of honour at the event. Also, on Saturday, Modi would visit Gulf Spic Labour Camp and meet Indian workers. In June this year 46 Indians had died following a fire at another labour camp.

The Ministry of External Affairs said PM Modi is visiting Kuwait on the invitation of Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah.

Modi would be accorded ceremonial guard of honour at Amir's Bayan Palace following which he would hold discussions with the leadership of Kuwait. A bilateral is scheduled with Modi's counterpart Ahmad Al-Sabah and some MoU's are expected. Kuwait is among India's top trading partners, with bilateral trade at US \$ 10.47 billion in financial year 2023-24. Kuwait is India's 6th largest crude supplier, meeting 3 per cent of the country's energy needs. Indian exports to Kuwait reached US \$ 2 billion for the first time. Investments by the Kuwait Investment Authority in India exceed US \$ 10 billion.

The two nations share a robust trade and vibrant cultural connections.

Traditionally, India and Kuwait have enjoyed friendly relations, with links dating back to Kuwait's pre-oil economy when maritime trade with India was the backbone of its economy. The diplomatic relations between India and Kuwait were established in 1961.

Earlier this year, PM Modi and Kuwait's Crown Prince held meeting on the sidelines of UNGA in September. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also held meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart this year in August.

Both the countries have institutionalized their cooperation through mechanisms such as the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC).

# Make meditation a part of life: PM Modi



NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called upon people to make mediation a part of their lives, saying it is a powerful way to bring peace and harmony to one's life. In a post on X to mark

the World Meditation Day, he said apps and valuable tools to help incorporate meditation into daily routines in the age of technology. "Today, on World Meditation Day, I call upon everyone to make meditation a part of their daily lives and experience its transfor-

quided videos can be

to bring peace and harmony to one's life, as well as to our society and planet," Modi said. To raise awareness about meditation and its benefits, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 21 as World Meditation Day, recalling the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, according to its website

tation is a powerful way

The General Assembly also acknowledged the link between yoga and meditation as complementary approaches to health and wellbeing, it added.

Amit Shah inaugurates 72nd plenary session of North **Eastern Council in Tripura** 

mative potential. Medi-

AGARTALA, Dec 21 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the 72nd plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) at Prajna Bhavan here. Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with governors, chief ministers of all the eight northeastern states, and senior officials, were also present at the event.

"There will be intense deliberation on the future roadmap for the region, besides reviewing progress of



the council's work for this year," Scindia told reporters.

A delegation of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomos District Council (TTAADC) is also likely to join the discussions, sources had said on Friday. Shah had arrived in Tripura on Friday to chair the 72nd plenary session of the NEC.

The council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the northeastern region, consisting of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

UJJAIN, Dec 21 yan Garg told reporters. (Agencies): A 30-year-He said employees of old woman died after her a private security service 'dupatta' got caught in a and other women on the potato-peeling machine premises informed that at a food centre of the the victim, Rajni Khatri, Mahakaleshwar Temple was working in the bhoin Madhya Pradesh's janshala (kitchen) when Uijain on Saturday, an her 'dupatta' (scarf) got caught in a potato-peel-The accident occurred ing machine. The dupatta tightened around the at the temple's Anna Kshetra in the morning, woman's neck.

doctors declared her dead, the SDM said.

at food centre of Mahakaleshwar Temple in MP

Woman dies after 'dupatta' gets caught in machine

He said the body was sent for post-mortem, and the report will reveal the exact cause.

The SDM said that the aovernment will provide financial assistance to her kin. Anna Kshetra is about

500 metres from the Mahakaleshwar Temple She was taken to a priand provides food to the vate hospital where the devotees.

2 injured after parcel delivered to a house in Ahmedabad explodes,

**BSP supremo Mayawati hits out at Amit Shah** over comments on Ambedkar

### one held

sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Laxmi Nara-

official said.

AHMEDABAD, Dec 21 (Agencies): Two persons were injured after a parcel containing an electronic circuit and batteries delivered to a house in Ahmedabad city exploded on Saturday morning, police said.

The blast occurred at a rowhouse in the Sabarmati area around 10.45 am, an official said

Additional Commissioner of Police (Sector-1) Neeraj Badgujar said the person who delivered the parcel to the house was also injured and has been arrested

He said the parcel was delivered to the house of Baldev Sukhadia to exact revenge over some dispute.

"Even as the accused, Gaurav Gadhavi, handed the parcel, the receiver noticed smoke. The package exploded, leaving Sukhadia's brother Kirit with injuries," Badgujar said.

Gadhavi was also injured and has been arrested, he said, adding that the police teams were looking for other



accused involved in the incident.

"Primary interrogation has revealed that the parcel was delivered to the address over a dispute with the Sukhadia family. They had also received threats earlier," he said.

The official said the bomb appears to have been remotely operated, and an electronic circuit, battery and blades were recovered from the site.

A probe team is investigating the exact nature of the device, he said. The bomb disposal squad (BDS) and forensic team reached the site along with senior police officials, he said.

LUCKNOW, Dec 21 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying that he should apologise for his statement on B R Ambedkar.

If this does not happen, the BSP will protest across the country on December 24, she said.

In a series of posts on X in Hindi, Mayawati said, "Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the author of the original book in the form of the super-humanistic and welfare Constitution for the self-respect and human rights of the Dalits, deprived, and other neglected



people of the country, is as revered as God. His disrespect by Shri Amit Shah hurts the hearts of the people.' She further mentioned

that people from all sections of society in the country are quite angry and agitated by the words spoken by him in Parliament regarding such a great man. "Ambedkarite BSP has demanded that he take back his statement and repent, which has not been done till now," she said

The BSP chief also stated that in such a situation, if the demand

is not met, the BSP will raise its voice across the country.

"That is why the party has now decided to hold a nationwide movement on December 24 in support of this demand. On that day, a complete peaceful dharna-demonstration will be held at all district headquarters across the country," she said.

During a debate on the Constitution in the Raiva Sabha on Tuesday, Shah had said, "Abhi ek fashion ho gaya hai - Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar. Itna naam agar Bhagwan ka lete to saat janmon tak swarg mil jata (It has become

a fashion to say Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar. If they had taken God's name so many times, they would have attained heaven for seven lifetimes)."

On Wednesday, Shah held a press conference in which he accused the Congress of twisting facts and distorting his comments in the Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha witnessed constant protests from treasury benches and opposition members over the alleged insult of Ambedkar until both the houses were adjourned sine die on Friday.

# Sanjay Raut hints at Uddhav Sena's solo fight in Mumbai civic polls

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said that the party workers are demanding to contest the Mumbai Municipal Corporation polls alone.

MUMBAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday hinted that his party, led by Uddhav Thackeray, may contest the upcoming Mumbai local body polls alone, without an alliance with Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP.

Raut said that party workers are demanding to contest the Mumbai Municipal Corporation polls alone and mentioned that the party chief will take a decision after consulting with them. He also pointed out that Shiv Sena has contested the polls on its own in the past.

"Party workers demand that Shiv Sena should contest the Mumbai Municipal Corporation elections on its own. Uddhav Thackeray will take a decision after meeting the workers. This does not mean that the Maha Vikas Aghadi has broken. Even before this, when we were with the BJP, we had contested elections separately," Raut said at a press meeting.

The Uddhav Sena contested the recent Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in alliance with Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP under the banner of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). In the April-May Lok Sabha elections, the alliance performed well, but it delivered a



dismal performance in the Assembly polls in November.

While the BJP-led Mahayuti secured 230 out of 288 Assembly seats, the Opposition coalition managed to win only 46 seats, with the Shiv Sena (UBT) winning 20, Congress 16, and the NCP (SP) 10.

Of the 36 Assembly seats in the Mumbai region, which form the Municipal Corporation's electoral territory, the Uddhav Sena won 10, while Congress bagged only three, compared to the Mahayuti's combined tally of 22. The remaining one seat went to the Samajwadi

Party. Sharad Pawar's NCP is not a key player in the city.

Following the poor performance in the Assembly polls, the MVA alliance witnessed instances of discord, with alliance partners blaming each other for a lack of coordination and for failing to capitalise on the momentum from the Lok Sabha elections. However, alliance leaders maintained that the MVA remains strong despite the setbacks.

The dates for the Mumbai polls are yet to be announced by the state election commission and could be held in early 2025.

# **INTERNATIONAL**

**Elon Musk slams Germany** 

**Deserves to be punished** 

for not extraditing 'attacker':

Muslim and critic of

Islam, was linked to far-

right politics in Germany,

with reports showing his

support for the Alterna-

tive for Germany (AfD)

Saudi Arabia had

requested his extradi-

tion on terrorism charg-

es, including accusa-

tions of smuggling girls

from the Middle East to

the European Union.

Despite this, Germany

granted Taleb asylum

and refused to send him

back to Saudi Arabia, a

decision that Musk con-

Taleb's arrest came

amid heightened politi-

cal tension in Germany.

The country is gearing

up for a central elec-

tion in February next

Democrats said would

have conflicted with

demned as "insane."

party.

# **16 Injured after missile launched by Yemen lands** near Tel Aviv, says Israel

"Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in central Israel, one projectile launched from Yemen was identified and unsuccessful interception attempts were made," the Israeli military said on its Telegram channel.

TEL AVIV, Dec 21 (Agencies): Israel's military said Saturday it had failed to intercept a "projectile" launched from Yemen that landed near Tel Aviv, with the national medical service saying 16 people were lightly wounded.

8

"Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in central Israel, one projectile launched from Yemen was identified and unsuccessful interception attempts were made," the Israeli military said on its Telegram channel.

Yemen's Iranianbacked Huthi rebels have repeatedly launched missile attacks against Israel since the war in Gaza began more than a year ago, most of which have been intercepted. In return, Israel has struck multiple targets in Yemen -- including ports and energy facilities in areas controlled



by the Huthis.

"A short time ago, reports were received of a weapon falling in one of the settlements within the Tel Aviv district," Israeli police said Saturday

According to Israeli media, the projectile fell in the town of Bnei Brak, east of Tel Aviv. Israel's emergency medical service said 14 people had been injured.

"Additional teams are treating several people on-site who were casualties.

to protected areas, as well as those suffering from anxiety," a spokesman said. The Huthi rebels say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians and last week pledged

injured while heading

to continue operations "until the aggression on Gaza stops and the siege is lifted". On December 9, a

drone claimed by Huthis exploded on the top floor of a residential building in the central Israel city of Yavne, causing no

In July, a Huthi drone attack in Tel Aviv killed an Israeli civilian. prompting retaliatory strikes on the Yemeni

port of Hodeidah. The Huthis have also regularly targeted shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, leading to retaliatory strikes on Huthi targets by US and sometimes British forces.

The rebels said Thursday that Israeli air strikes that day killed nine people, after the group

fired a missile toward Israel, badly damaging a school.

While Israel has previously hit targets in Yemen, Thursday's were the first against the rebel-held capital Sanaa.

"The Israeli enemy targeted ports in Hodeida and power stations in Sanaa, and the Israeli aggression resulted in the martyrdom of nine civilian martyrs," rebel leader Abdul Malik al-Huthi said in a lengthy speech broadcast by the rebels' Al-Masira TV. Israel said it struck the

targets in Yemen after intercepting a missile fired from the country, a strike the rebels subsequently claimed. Huthi spokesman Yahya Saree said they had fired ballistic missiles at "two specific and sensitive military targets... in the occupied Yaffa area", referring to

Aviv.

MAGDEBURG, Dec

21 (Agencies): Tech titan Elon Musk lashed out at Germany for previously refusing to extradite the Saudi Arabian native who allegedly drove into a crowd of people at a Christmas market in Magdeburg. In a post on X. Musk said whoever refused to "extradite a murderer" deserved to be "punished severely". Taleb A, a 50-yearold doctor, was wanted by Saudi Arabia in connection with terrorism and human trafficking

Taleb, who has been

year, following the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition government after a recent confidence vote. The AfD, which has grown in influence since its founding in 2013, has gained support in eastern Germany, with its anti-immigration stance resonating among voters.

Earlier today, Musk in a post on X voiced his support for the AfD party, which is being watched by Germany's domestic intelligence agency.

"Only the AfD can save Germany," the tech billionaire wrote on X.

Referring to Olaf Scholz as an "incompetent fool," Musk, earlier in the day, called for the German Chancellor to resign following a deadly attack at a Christmas market.

The German government declined to comment on Musk's support for the far-right party, while the AfD has continued to push its hardline positions on immigration and Islam, agency reported.

# **Russian airports disrupted** after 'massive' overnight drone exchange with Ukraine

Russian authorities reported 8 Ukrainian drones over the city of Kazan.

MOSCOW, Dec 21 (Agencies): Two Russian airports were put under flight restrictions early Saturday after authorities alleged an attack by Ukrainian drones, according to state-run news agencies.

The state-owned RIA Novosti agency reported that Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency announced a temporary block on landing and takeoff at Kazan International Airport and restrictions at Gagarin Airport in the city of Saratov -- both in the southwest of the

"All forces have been deployed," Minnikhanov added. "The most important thing is not to panic. We have instructed the government to inform the population about evacuation sites in a timely manner."

Russia's Defense Ministry said it downed six Ukrainian drones over the city, which it said were "flying in three waves from different directions." Three were shot down and three defeated using electronic warfare measures, the ministry said.

# US Senate clears bipartisan spending bill, narrowly avoids government shutdown

WASHINGTON, Dec 21 (Agencies): The US Congress passed spending legislation early on Saturday in a down-to-the-wire burst of activity that will avert a destabilising government shutdown ahead of the busy holiday travel season.

The Democraticcontrolled Senate, in an 85-11 vote, passed the bill to continue government funding 38 minutes after it expired at midnight. The government did not invoke shutdown procedures in of caving in to pressure from an unelected billionaire who has no experience in government.

Congress did not act on Trump's demand to raise the debt ceiling, a politically difficult task, before he takes office on Jan. 20. The federal government spent roughly \$6.2

trillion last year and has more than \$36 trillion in debt, and Congress will need to act to authorise further borrowing by the middle of next year.

The legislation would extend government funding until March 14, provide \$100 billion for disaster-hit states and \$10 billion for farmers. and extend farm and food aid programs due to expire at the end of the year. Some Republicans voted against the package because it did not cut spending. House Speaker Mike Johnson said the party will have more influence next year, when they will have majorities in both chambers of Congress and Trump will be in the White House. "This was a necessary step to bridge the gap, to put us into that moment where we can put our fingerprints on the final decisions on spending," he told reporters after the House vote. He said Trump supported the

package. A government shutdown would have disrupted everything from law enforcement to national parks and suspended paychecks for millions of federal workers.

A travel industry trade group warned it could cost airlines, hotels and other companies \$1 billion per week and lead to widespread disruptions during the busy Christmas season. Authorities warned travellers could face long lines at airports.

Musk's interests. "He clearly does not want to answer questions about how much he plans to expand his businesses in China and how many American technologies he plans to sell," Democratic Representative Rosa DeLauro said on the House floor. Trump has tasked Musk, the world's richest person, with heading a budget-cutting task force but he will hold no official position in Wash-

ington. Musk wrote on his of the past if we continue social media platform X that he was happy with the package. "It went from a bill that weighed pounds to a bill that weighed ounces," he

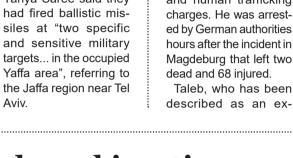
reporters. Trump's demand to

lift the debt ceiling was resoundingly rejected by the House - including 38 Republicans - on Thursday.

Johnson said lawmakers would look at the issue in January.

Representative Rich McCormick, one of 34 Republicans who voted against the Friday bill, said it did nothing to change the nation's fiscal trajectory and would only add to the debt load.

"We will be the country



country

Kazan is more than 600 miles from the closest Ukrainian-controlled territory. Saratov is more than 350 miles from Ukrainian-held territory.

The press service of the head of the Tatarstan region -- of which Kazan is the largest city -- said authorities recorded eight drones attacking the city, with no reported casualties, according to the state-run Tass news agency.

"One was at an industrial enterprise, one was over a river and six were at a residential area," the press service said, as quoted by Tass.

Kazan Mayor Ilsur Metshin said that fires were reported in houses in three districts of the city and announced selective evacuation of schools where it was deemed necessary, Tass reported. Tatarstan head Rustam Minnikhanov wrote on Telegram that the region was subjected to "a massive UAV attack."

Ukraine's air force, meanwhile, said Russia launched 113 drones into Ukraine overnight, of which air defense teams shot down 57.

Another 56 went missing due to "active countermeasures" by Ukrainian defenders, the air force added.

Air raid sirens sounded across Ukraine on Saturday morning with the air force warning of a "threat of the use of ballistic weapons throughout the territory of Ukraine."

The latest overnight attacks followed a combined missile and drone strike on Kyiv early on Friday, which the Kyiv City Military Administration said caused significant damage to buildings in the city center and killed at least one person. The strike also damaged several foreign embassies, Ukrainian Foreign Min-

istry spokesperson Heorhii Tkhiyi told journalists on Friday. Tkhiyi described the attack as "barbaric."

the interim.

The bill will now be sent to the White House, where President Joe Biden is expected to sign it into law.

The package had earlier cleared the Republican-controlled House of Representatives with bipartisan support.

The late-night vote capped a frantic week that saw Presidentelect Donald Trump and his billionaire ally Elon Musk defeat an initial bipartisan deal, throwing Congress into disarray. The final version stripped out some provisions championed by Democrats, who accused Republicans

### THIRD ATTEMPT

The package resembled a bipartisan plan that was abandoned earlier this week after an online fusillade from Trump and Musk, who said it contained too many unrelated provisions, such as a pay raise for lawmakers and a crackdown on pharmacy benefit managers. Republicans struck most of those elements from the bill - including a provision limiting investments in China which posted. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said his party still achieved some of its goals and prevented Republicans from enacting a debt-ceiling hike that would make it easier to cut taxes. "We have successfully

advanced the needs of everyday Americans, but there are still things to be worked on and we look forward to that fight in the new year," he told

doing what we're doing," he said. The federal government last shut down for

35 days during Trump's first White House term over a dispute about border security.

Previous fights over the debt ceiling have spooked financial markets, as a US government default would send credit shocks around the world. The limit has been suspended under an agreement that technically expires on January 1, though lawmakers likely would not have had to tackle the issue before the spring.

# Sri Lanka president Anura Kumara Dissanayake to visit China

COLOMBO, Dec 21 (Agencies): Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will travel to the island's largest bilateral lender China for talks in January, he said on Saturday, days after completing a long-delayed foreign debt restructuring.

China accounted for more than half of Sri Lanka's bilateral debt at the time of the 2022 economic crash, when Colombo ran out of foreign exchange to pay for essential imports such as food, fuel and medicines

Its economy is recov-

ering after receiving an International Monetary Fund rescue package and imposing austerity reforms aimed at repairing the government's ruined finances.

Leftist Dissanayake came to power in September on a pledge to fight corruption and tightened his grip after his party won a landslide in snap parliamentary polls.

"I will be going to China mid next month", he told reporters, without setting an exact date.

Dissanayake's first overseas visit as head of state was to neigh-



bouring India, where he was given a red-carpet welcome by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 16.

Regional powerhouse India is competing fiercely with China for influence in the Indian

Ocean region.

Sri Lanka sits astride the world's busiest shipping route, which links the Middle East and East Asia, giving its maritime assets strategic importance. New Delhi has been

concerned about Beijing's growing toehold in Sri Lanka, which it sees as being within its sphere of geopolitical influence. Fitch Ratings upgrad-

on Friday.

debt restructuring had "reduced the government's debt service burden and liquidity risks", it noted that the "general government debt/GDP and the interest/revenue ratio are likely to stay high in the medium term".

ed Sri Lanka's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating to CCC+ Fitch said that while

# **French Prez faces anger over** cyclone response in Mayotte

anger from residents of

Mayotte during his visit

to the Indian Ocean



MIRERENI, Dec 21 (Agencies): French President Emmanuel Macron faced wide-

archipelago, which is still reeling from the damage of the strongest cyclone to hit the region in nearly a century. As he walked through the area, some shout-

ed: "We want water, we want water." Macron got angry in

turn, shouting, "You're happy to be in France ... If it wasn't France, you'd be 10,000 times more screwed!" The French president added: "There's no place in the Indian Ocean where people get so much help!" A woman could be heard saying "we disagree."

# LOCAL/CONTD....

# UIPS shines bright with "Sitara: The Twinkling Stars" Junior Cultural Fest

eagerly participated in

the vibrant celebrations,

showcasing a beautiful

amalgamation of talent

Arti Bhardwaj, the

Chief Guest, praised the

school for its dedication

to academic and extra-

curricular excellence. In

her speech, she empha-

sized the importance of

such events in nurtur-

ing creativity and build-

ing confidence among

The event was further

graced by the presence

of the Guest of Honor,

Kuldeep Kumar Gupta.

General Secretary of

Jammu and Kash-

mir Amateur Kabaddi

Association and Sher-

e-Kashmir Awardee.

young learners.

and cultural diversity.



### Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 21: Unique International Public School (UIPS) celebrated its annual Junior Cultural Fest with the enchanting theme, "Sitara: The Twinkling Stars", a tribute to the limitless potential and brilliance of its students. The event was marked by joy, creativity, and cultural pride, leaving an indelible impression on all attendees.

The fest commenced with a warm welcome by Randeep Kour, whose inspiring words set the stage for the exciting day ahead. Students, parents, and teachers shaping well-rounded individuals. Adding to the grandeur, Ajay Sharma, Principal took the audience on a journey through

the school's remarkable achievements, detailing milestones in academics, sports, and cultural endeavors that have brought pride to the institution.

His motivating address

highlighted the sig-

nificance of balancing

academics with sports

and cultural activities in

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Chairperson Jasbir Singh, who expressed deep gratitude to the dignitaries, parents, staff, and students for their contributions to the event's success.

"Sitara: The Twinkling Stars" was a spectacular showcase of talent and teamwork, leaving everyone inspired and proud. The event reaffirmed Unique International Public School's commitment to fostering creativity, culture, and excellence among its students.

# SKUAST-J Professors honored at International Conference

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Professor of Agricultural Extension Education at SKUAST-Jammu have been conferred the prestigious title of Fellow of the Indian Ecological Society.

This recognition was awarded during the International Conference on 'Transforming Agri-Food Systems in the Face of Climate Change and Energy Transitions' held at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) from November 12-15, 2024. Dr. S. K. Gupta, with over 30 years of experience in academia and research has held several key administrative positions at SKUAST-Jammu and other institutes including Director Research, Dean (Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry) and Registrar. He has led 17 major research projects worth ₹25.81 crores,

published 58 research papers and authored three books. His contributions to capacity building and ecological research have been widely acknowledged, earning him multiple

national awards. Dr. Rakesh Sharma has been honored for his significant work in agricultural extension education contributing to the advancement of sustainable agricultural practices and ecological research. He has 60 publications to his credit and also handled 18 research projects being funded by different organizations. He has developed two extension models which are being recognized and certified by Indian Council of Agricultura

Research. He has also received Best Extension Scientist Award and Best KVK Professional Award. Their achievements reflect SKUAST-Jammu's growing promi-

nence in agricultural research and its dedication to addressing global ecological and agricultural challenges.

# Model Academy celebrates 88th Annual Day "Jeevan Utsav"



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Model Academy, the prestigious school of MIER, celebrated its 88th Annual Day with great enthusiasm, marking an extraordinary milestone in its legacy of excellence.

This year's event proved to be a memorable occasion, celebrating students' achievements whilst reflecting on the school's journey of growth and success.

The celebration brought together students, teachers and distinguished guests in a spectacular showcase of talent, achievement and unity.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Yudhvir Sethi, Member of the Legislative Assembly, whilst Dr Renu Gupta, Chairperson of MIER, served as Guest of Honour.

Other distinguished guests included Dr Adit Gupta, Director of MIER; Rupa Gupta, Joint Director of MIER; Pramod Kumar Srivastava, Principal; J K Dhiman, Vice Principal; Academic Managers of different wings of the school; members of the Administration and IQAC Team, teaching and non-teaching staff, along with proud parents of academic achievers and students. The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest. Dr Adit Gupta, Director of MIER, delivered a welcome address ach highlighting the Chief aca Guest's achievements boa and emphasising the out importance of such ma events in fostering creativity, teamwork and suc community spirit. of

In keeping with this year's theme, 'Jeevan Utsav - A Celebration of Life', the programme presented a kaleidoscope of colours and sounds.

Students performed various captivating acts, including classical dance, a stirring patriotic dance, an innovative fusion dance blending traditional and modern elements, a jungle safari performance, a soulful rendition by the school orchestra and an amusing theatrical sketch.

The young performers from Humming Buds and the special school captured hearts with their delightful dance performance, their innocence, enthusiasm and natural energy bringing

smiles to all present. The school recognised students who excelled in academics, sports and extracurricular activities, inspiring their peers to strive for excellence.

Chief Guest Sethi shared insightful thoughts on education, perseverance and holistic development, motivating the audience with his words.

He specifically commended Model Academy for maintaining its position as one of the region's premier educational institutions for nearly nine decades. Sethi highlighted the school's remarkable achievements, including academic excellence in board examinations, outstanding performance in national-level competitions, and the successful integration of modern technology with traditional teaching methods.

He particularly praised the school's emphasis on value-based education and its commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence but also character development.

The Chief Guest also lauded the institution's efforts in promoting sports and cultural activities, noting how several of its alumni have achieved distinction in various fields at both national and international levels.

Rupa Gupta, Joint Director of MIER, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing pride in the students' efforts, noting, "This Annual Day reflects the hard work, talent and team spirit of our students and staff. It is a celebration of our collective achievements and the vibrant culture of our school."

Ishit of Class 9 and Arshaleen of Class 11 skilfully conducted the programme. The Annual Day proved a resounding success, leaving attendees with cherished memories and pride in being part of the Model Academy family. Nisha Arora, Convener of CCA, and Ms Neetu Bhardwaj, Co-convener of CCA, successfully coordinated the programme.

# **Capps 4 Rakhmuthi School celebrates Annual Function**

The Welcome Song

set a harmonious tone

for the day. Retro to

Metro depicted India's

journey of transforma-

tion while retaining its

The thought-provoking

Social Media enactment

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 21: Capps 4 Rakhmuthi School celebrated its Annual Function with grandeur and enthusiasm, centered around the theme "Dharohar – Apni Pehchaan" (Heritage – Our Identity).

The event highlighted the importance of preserving cultural heritage and embracing one's roots while moving towards progress.

The program commenced with the Arrival of the Patron and a warm welcome of chief guest Meena Shrivastva chairperson FWO&



theme.

heritage.

other dignitaries, followed by the Annual Report, where the Principal proudly shared the school's milestones and achievements.

The cultural performances, crafted with creativity and passion, beautifully reflected the brings meaningful message to life. Nation The spiritual essence Dance, of the event was brought celebra

alive with Saraswati Vandana and the ceremonial Lighting of the Lamp. The program further included Dance of Emotion, portraying a blend of traditional and modern expressions.

An entertaining Qawwali , heartfelt performance on Saving the Environment, linking heritage with responsibility towards nature. Sri Krishna Leela, retelling the timeless stories of devotion. A Solo Dance symbolizing individual identity.

Group performances

like Patriotic Dance, National Integration Dance, and Bhangra, celebrating India's unity in diversity and then Felicitation Ceremony,

acknowledging the hard work of students. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks and the National Anthem, leaving the audience inspired to cherish their heritage while embracing the future. The Annual Function of Capps 4 Bakhmuthi

The Annual Function of Capps 4 Rakhmuthi School, themed "Dharohar – ApniPehchaan," was a memorable celebration of India's rich cultural legacy and the values that define its identity.

FROM PAGE 3

### LG Manoj Sinha congratulates Jammu University for achieving NAAC A++ grade

goal-oriented research, innovative capacity and holistic development of students to make them enlightened citizens, he said. "My best wishes to all for success in your

mission," Sinha, who is also Chancellor of the Jammu University stated.

# GST Council postpones decision on slashing tax on life, health insurance

Council under Chaudhary, in its meeting in November had agreed on exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies from GST.

Also premium paid by senior citizens towards health insurance cover has been proposed to be exempted from the tax.

Besides, premiums paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh is proposed to be exempted from GST.

However, 18 per cent GST will continue on premiums paid for policies with health insurance cover of over Rs 5 lakh.

# Army has increased operational footprint in Jammu region: Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva

support," said General Officer Commanding (GoC), White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva.

Lt Gen Sachdeva visited Rajouri to strengthen civilian-military ties by taking parting part in a 'Kaumi Ekta meet' which aims to recognise the role of local communities and veterans in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

He said that new posts have been set up

in upper reaches and movement of security forces at night have been increased in a bid to improve security and peace in the region.

"Helicopters, UAVs and several types of sensors are being used as a part of technology to ensure peace", he said.

During the visit, Lt Gen Sachdeva praised the synergy between the civilian population and security forces, particularly in the sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Lt Gen Sachdeva commended the Ace of Spades Division for its critical role in fostering trust through welfare programmes and engaging local communities.

The Corps Commander also participated in the Mendhar Cricket Premier League (MCPL) felicitation ceremony. He emphasised the importance of such events in channelling energy positively and promoting community harmony.

# Submit details of Govt Employees, Political Persons holding offices in sports bodies: J&K Sports Council

Kashmir Sports Council has sought names of the office bearers, those government employees and political persons to furnish supported documents viz No-Objection-Certificate (NOC) etc further seeking submission of the report may by or before December 24, 2024 through hard copy as well as at official email.

However, UNI has reliably learnt from the administrative sources that over 60 people including government officials and political persons are associated as office bearers in the sports association recognised and affiliated with the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC).

"At present, 53 sports associations are affiliated with the J&K Sports Council and most of them have representatives either from the government or the political parties including mainstream," sources said.

Sources further said, "if records are to be believed, more than 60 people comprising government employees and the political personalities are active in the affiliated and recognised sports associations."

"The government employees including bureaucrats and police officers (some retired now) are holding prestigious positions in prominent sports bodies," they said, adding that many of them have not submitted the NOCs issued by their respective departments to the J&K Sports Councilconsidered to be a mandatory document. Sources also revealed that submission of NOCs, as per the rules, is an annual process but the document submitted last by the government representatives, was in 2018, adding they said, "likewise several politically connected people having no sports backgrounds, are acting as office bearers in many associations.

# Lotus will bloom in Punjab: BJP's Tarun Chugh

come out in large numbers, saying, "Your vote will give a befitting reply to Punjab's tyrannical and autocratic government. Today, Punjab has waited for the elections, and people are eager to cast their votes and express their anguish. The law and order situation in Punjab is at its worst. Bomb blasts are happening all over Punjab, and in the past month, this is the fifth bomb blast in a police station. It is a tragedy that the Bhagwant Mann government is incompetent and negligent, having failed miserably in maintaining law and order."

On the reporter's question whether the lotus would bloom in Punjab, Chugh reiterated his confidence, saying, "Yes, surely the lotus will bloom in Punjab because the people of Punjab have witnessed the failures of both Congress and AAP. Both the governments of these parties have let down the people of Punjab. Till now, the promise of a job for every household has not been fulfilled, and today's vote is a befitting answer to the incompetent government of Bhagwant Mann's AAP government."

Proposed 28% GST hike will destroy Kashmiri

# art, says Mehbooba Mufti, Urges Omar Abdullah to act

textile and craft industries, leaving countless artisans and small businesses struggling to survive.

The 28% tax hike proposal, currently under discussion at the GST Council's 55th meeting in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, has drawn criticism from various quarters for its potential to harm regional economies reliant on handicrafts and textiles.

# Cyber Cell recovers Rs 11 lakh in online financial fraud cases in Kulgam, returns 30 smartphones

completing legal formalities.

Moreover, Cyber Cell Kulgam solved huge Online Financial Fraud Cases in which an amount of ₹11,09,565/- was recovered and has been refunded to the victim's account after completing all legal formalities & amount of ₹21,88,715/- was put on hold on receipt of various complaints.

### Congress to take out nationwide protests against Amit Shah's remarks

premises to Makar Dwar demanding an apology and the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks on Babasaheb Ambedkar in Rajya Sabha, in New Delhi on Thursday.

The Congress party is going to organise nationwide protests on December 24 (Tuesday) against the remarks of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on B R Ambedkar.

All party Members of Parliament (MPs) and Central Working Committee (CWC) members are also going to hold press conferences December 22 (Sunday) and 23 (Monday) on Shah's comments.

General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal has issued a circular to all party leaders. The circular, accessed by ANI, mentions that a 'Babasaheb Ambedkar Samman March' will be taken out in every district of the country.

The march will start with garlanding a statue of Ambedkar and will continue till a memorandum is submitted to respect District Magistrates (DM).

On the press conferences, the MPs and CWC members are set to address reporters in their respective constituencies.

During the Parliament winter session, which concluded yesterday, INDIA bloc MPs took out multiple protests since HM Amit Shah's remarks in Parliament on December 18, criticising Congress for making it a 'fashion' to take Ambedkar's name.

"If they had taken the name of God so many times instead of Ambedkar then they would have got heaven for seven lives," Shah had said.

Congress lashed out at the BJP and Shah, demanding an apology and his resignation for his remarks, calling it an "insult" to Ambedkar.

During the protests in Parliament, BJP took out parallel protests to Congress, in turn accusing the BJP of insulting the legacy of India's first Law Minister.

During the protests of both sides, a faceoff occured at the premises of Parliament, injuring two BJP MPs, Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput. Moreover, Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that he was pushed too.

Kharge alleged that BJP MPs pushed him while trying to enter Parliament during a face-off.

Addressing a press conference with Rahul Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, alleged that Amit Shah interacted with the media without looking at facts about his remarks pertaining to Ambedkar.

"The statements that the government and especially the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are making about Dr BR Ambedkar are very sad and he (Amit Shah) addressed the press conference yesterday without looking at the facts. They should look at the facts before abusing Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr BR Ambedkar," he said.

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# **LOCAL**

# Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva visits Rajouri, highlights civil-military collaboration, operational preparedness

### **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Dec 21: Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding (GOC), White Knight Corps, visited Rajouri to strengthen civil-military ties and recognize the pivotal role of local communities and veterans in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

During the visit, Lt Gen Sachdeva praised the synergy between the civilian population and security forces, particularly in the sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. He highlighted the Indian Army's increased operational footprint in the region, including the strategic occupation of the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal Range, as well as its close collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and civil administration. Acknowledging the contributions of veterans and local leaders, he credited their efforts for the improved security scenario in the region.

He commended the Ace of Spades Divi-



sion for its critical role in fostering trust through welfare programs and engaging local communities. Lt Gen Sachdeva remarked, "The coordination between the military and civilians has been instrumental in creating a stable environment." The Corps Command-

er also participated in the Mendhar Cricket Premier League (MCPL) felicitation ceremony, applauding the youth's enthusiasm for sports as a unifying force. He emphasized the importance of such events in channeling energy positively and promoting community harmony.

Lt Gen Sachdeva underscored the Army's proactive outreach to locals, fostering greater

trust and cooperation between the military and civilian communities. He met with Indian Army veterans, thanking them for their enduring contributions to regional stability and social harmony. He noted their crucial role in bridging the gap between the military and civilian communities. This visit reaffirmed the Indian Army's commitment to peace, stability, and community welfare in Jammu and Kashmir. By increasing its operational footprint, enhancing synergy with local law enforcement and administration, and engaging with local communities, the Army continues to work collectively to ensure a secure and harmonious

environment.

# Army conducts lecture on "Beti Padhao Beti Bachao" at Chassana

ering the girl child.

The event saw enthu-

siastic participation

from the local commu-

nity, including students,

parents, and educators.

sized the critical role

of education in shap-

ing the future of young

girls and highlighted

The lecture empha-



**Top News Report** 

REASI, Dec 21: The Indian Army organized an insightful lecture on the theme "Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao" at Chassana in the Reasi District to promote awareness about the importance of educating and empow-

the need to eradicate gender biases. Key topics included access to education, health, and equal opportunities for girls to excel in various fields.

The session also addressed the government's initiatives under the "Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao" scheme, inspiring attendees to actively support this cause.

The event reflects the Indian Army's commitment to fostering societal development and empowering communities in remote regions. The locals appreciated the effort and pledged to uphold the vision of an inclusive and progressive society.

# **Army organises Ex Servicemen** Meet at Peda Gali

### **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Dec 21: Locals, community leaders, Ex-Servicemen, Public Health Engineering employees, Forest Department personnel of the Area of Responsibility, and the Indian Army personnel from Peda Gali, under the aegis of Romeo Force, organised an interactive session with the local populace.

The event saw a significant turnout of 60 individuals, including residents and stakeholders from the Area of Responsibility. The event began with a welcome speech by Ex-Servicemen Sub Rashid.

Operating in remote and sensitive areas,



these participants are uniquely positioned to provide valuable first-hand information regarding local developments, challenges, and

security concerns. The event aimed to enhance coordination between the Indian Army, local communities, and government agencies, while utilizing their insights for improved operational effectiveness in the region.

ed the Indian Army's dedication to fostering strong relationships with local communities and institutions. By interacting with

This initiative highlight-

key stakeholders in the region, the Indian Army not only gains vital intelligence but also strengthens mutual trust and promotes a sense of shared responsibility for ensuring stability and development in the area

# Army organises "Lecture on the Bad effects of **Tobacco**" at Hasplot

### **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Dec 21: Keeping in view the Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through public, the Indian Army organized a "Lecture on the Bad Effects of Tobacco" to spread awareness among the younger generation as well as the local populace regarding the harmful effects of tobacco.

This lecture helped promote and spread knowledge about best practices to boost physical and mental well-being among the local people of all age groups in Hasplot (Maniyal).

A total of 68 people attended the lecture, including 15 men, three women and 50 children. During this event, a representative of the Indian Army briefed the children and youth about tobacco, which has become a common substance these



days, with many young people destroying their lives by getting addicted. This addiction leads to irreversible damage to the lungs, heart, and other vital organs.

It also causes behavioral

changes. Tobacco impacts the brain, which can lead to depression, conduct problems, personality disorders, and other serious health risks, including respiratory problems and an increased risk of cancer.

The children were advised to pursue their goals in their respective fields and contribute to the environment, society, and the country as responsible citizens.

The invitees were motivated and assured of all possible guidance and assistance from the Indian Army for their future endeavors. This gesture and effort by the Army were highly appreciated by the public.

The Army's endeavor to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the Jawan and the public.

The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Army and the people of this region, showcasing the Army's commitment to serving the nation.

# **Army organises Annual Day celebration**

# IIM Jammu students join J&K delegation

### at APS Akhnoor

### **Top News Report**

AKHNOOR, Dec 21: The majestic Sangha Auditorium resonated with joy and pride as Army Public School, Akhnoor, celebrated its Annual Day, "Swarnim Prakaashtha." This marked the grand culmination of a vear-long series of events to commemorate the school's Golden Jubilee.

The occasion reflected on five decades of excellence in education, inspiring both a reflection on a glorious past and hope for a brighter future.

The event was graced by Maj Gen Sameer Srivastava, Patron of the school, and Meena Srivastava, Chairperson, Family Welfare Organisation, Cross Sword Division, whose distinguished presence added prestige to the celebration. The Principal, Geeta Sharma, presented the Annual Report, skillfully outlining the school's outstanding achieve-



ments in academics, co-curricular activities, and social initiatives. With heartfelt gratitude, she acknowledged the collective efforts of the students, staff, and parents in driving the school's success and urged everyone to strive for even greater milestones in the years to come.

Enthralling dances, soulful music, and thought-provoking skits left the audience in awe, with each performance reflecting the essence of "Swarnim Prakaashtha" and the school's cherished values

A highlight of the day was the Prize Distribution Ceremony, where outstanding achievers were felicitated for their exemplary contributions across various domains. The unveiling of the Golden Jubilee Coffee Table Book added nostalgia to the occasion.

### NCP leader Shadib Hanief expresses condolences on demise of Dr. A.G. Ahanger's mother

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Dec 21: In a heartfelt statement to the media, NCP Leader Shadib hanief Khan expressed her grief and extended condolences to renowned cardiologist and former director of SKIMS, Dr. A.G. Ahanger, on the passing of his mother. Dr. Ahanger's mother passed away a few

days back. She was laid

to rest in the ancestral



graveyard of her village, Midoora, located in Tral. Earlier, several social and political activists condoled the demise and expressed their sympathies with the bereaved family, particularly with Dr. A.G. Ahanger.

### JKBS hails Rohit Sangral's Bhajan 'Mela Sohajna Da'

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members today hailed the release of Music Director Vicky Kaith's new bhahan 'Mela Sohajna Da', sung by Rohit Sangral. Vicky Kaith said, Bhajans serve as a means of invoking blessings, purifying the atmosphere, and spreading joy and auspiciousness. JKBS General Secretary RL Kaith said, Singing or listening to bhajans removes all negativity in one's mind and fills one's heart with joy, peace and contentment. It elevates one's mood and creates inner equilibrium.



# in welcome at NITTR Chennai under Yuva Sangam Phase V

### **Top News Report**

CHENNAI, Dec 20: As part of the prestigious Yuva Sangam Phase-V initiative, a delegation of 29 students from Jammu and Kashmir, including students from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, arrived in Chennai for a week-long cultural and educational exchange program. This initiative, under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) program by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aims to foster cultural understanding, knowledge sharing, and national unity among the youth of India. The delegation was accompanied by IIM Jammu faculty members Dr. Harsha Jariwala and Dr. Jaganth G, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The delegation, which

included 15 male and 11 female students, showcased the diversity and vibrancy of Jammu and Kashmir's youth. They were warmly welcomed upon their arrival in Chennai and introduced to Tamil Nadu's rich cultural heritage, setting the stage for a series of immersive and engaging activities. The inaugural event at

NITTTR Chennai was

graced by Professor Usha Natesan, Director of NITTTR Chennai, who extended a heartfelt welcome to the delegates. Faculty members from both institutions, including Prof. G. Janardhanan, Dean of Academics and Research and Nodal Officer for Yuva Sangam 2024, along with Professor Malliga, Head of the Department of CSE, and Professor G. Kulanthaivel, Department of ECE & Institute Function Coordinator, were present to mark the occasion. The event commenced with a captivating video presentation on Tamil Nadu's cultural legacy, followed by an overview of the planned activities presented by Prof. G.

Janardhanan. The program's highlights include a blend of cultural exploration, academic learning, and social interaction. The delegates began their journey by visiting prominent landmarks such as the Kalaignarulagam-

Kalaignar Memorial Museum, which offered them valuable insights into Tamil Nadu's history and cultural richness. A cultural dinner at the International Guest House provided a unique opportunity for the students to experience Tamil Nadu's culinary delights and build connections with peers and faculty members. The itinerary also

features a visit to the Auroville Foundation in Pondicherry on December 21, 2024, where delegates will learn about its principles of sustainable living and universal harmony. Excursions to iconic sites include Mahabalipuram, the Tamil Nadu Government Museum, Besant Nagar Beach, and the Astalakshmi Temple on December 22. The delegation will explore SRM University's sports facilities and ASA Archaeological sites in Kancheepuram on December 23, followed by visits to the Chennai Airforce Station, Tambaram, and

**TANCAM** on December 24 to gain insights into technological advancements. On December 25, students will visit the Crocodile Park and Dakshin Chitra, further immersing themselves in ecological and cultural diversity.

This exchange program underscores IIM Jammu's commitment to holistic student development and its mission to nurture socially responsible leaders. By participating in the Yuva Sangam initiative, the institute reinforces its dedication to building cultural bridges and fostering a sense of national pride and unity among its students.

The week-long journey, rich with cultural exploration, academic exchange, and social learning, reflects the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.' The delegation will return to Jammu on December 26, 2024, carrying with them invaluable experiences and memories to cherish for a lifetime.

# **SPORTS**

# Pickleball can make it to Olympics: India's Vrushali, Vanshik relish sport's boom

NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): Vrushali Thakare and Vanshik Kapadia, India's pickleball power duo, are smashing stereotypes and winning medals while dreaming big for the sport. They see pickleball's age and gender-agnostic inclusivity as the secret sauce behind its rapid rise, even envisioning it paddling its way to the 2032 Olympics. Vrushali, who transitioned from badminton to pickleball and rose to the top, teams up with Vanshik, a pickleball prodigy hooked on the sport since childhood, to dominate the court.

Pickleball is the game everyone's talking about these days. Mixing the best bits of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, this paddle sport is on a rapid rise, and even celebrities are hopping on the bandwagon, swinging their paddles to stay fit. The game is gaining a global following, but India is quickly catching up. Just last month, tennis legend Andre Agassi also visited India to promote the sport in India.

The dynamic pair recently struck gold in the 19+ open mixed doubles at the Hong Kong leg of the World Pickleball Championship, building on India's medal streak from the India leg last November, where the country claimed 28 medals, including 11 golds. Both Vrushali and Vanshik will participate in the inaugural World Pickleball League, scheduled for January 2025. While Vrushali was selected by the Bengaluru franchise during the player draft, Vanshik will represent Pune. A total of 48 players were chosen by the six teams under the close guidance of the league. Players from 14 countries will grace the court as the WPBL kicks off on January 24, 2025.

VRUSHALI BREAKS SOCIAL BARRIERS VIA PICKLEBALL

Nicknamed "Hammer Thakare," Vrushali Thakare has overcome numerous challenges to become one of India's leading pickleball players. Known for her sharp anticipatory skills, Vrushali began her journey in the small town of Jalgaon, Maharashtra. Despite societal pressure to pursue a teaching career, she chose to follow her passion for sports.

. "At the end of 2017 muse see h



taught table tennis, introduced me to pickleball. He had seen the sport and suggested, "Try it out; it's a good sport. If you like it, you can continue, or else leave it." At that time, I was playing badminton and had been a university-level badminton player for four years. I decided to give pickleball a shot, and three months after starting, there was a tournament in Jalgaon. Players from various states were participating. My coach encouraged me to play, saying, "You might perform well." I participated and won gold in doubles and silver in mixed doubles. After that, my coach told me to continue because I was doing well, and that's how my pickleball journey began," Vrushali Thakare said in an exclusive interview with agency.

However, starting from a remote area was not without its challenges. "Coming from a remote area, we faced significant challenges. We didn't have paddles or balls. Our coach had wooden paddles made by a carpenter, which didn't even have proper grips and were hard to hold. Balls weren't available in India then, so we used smiley balls to play. Thankfully, our college had two badminton courts. We lowered the nets and used them for pickleball. Today, the situation has improved. Wooden paddles are available for as little as Rs 250, and a ball can last a week on a decent surface. So now, even kids in remote areas can afford to play pickleball,"Vrushali explained. In 2021, Vrushali and her mixed doubles partner Ajay Choudhary established the Thakare Pickleball Academy in Pune. With two courts funded from their own earnings, the academy has since trained over 200 playChampionship in Vietnam. " At that time, pickleball was relatively unknown in the city, and there weren't any courts. We invested our earnings from pickleball to build two courts and began training players. In just two years, we coached over 200 players, including five juniors who were selected to represent India in the Junior Championship in Vietnam. It's been incredible to see the sport grow and gain recognition. Pickleball is a sport for everyone. At our academy, we've trained players as young as five and as old as 80. I remember a 72-year-old woman from a nearby building who used to watch the games. She was so inspired that she decided to join us, saying, "I want to learn and play too."

Vrushali explains how the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) has played a key role in promoting the sport nationwide, organizing tournaments and providing players with essential resources. As pickleball rapidly gains popularity, with tennis courts in housing societies being converted for the game, it mirrors the sport's growth in the US. With this momentum, pickleball could soon rank among India's top sports.

"The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) has played a significant role in the sport's growth. When I started, IPA was already organizing tournaments, providing exposure and experience for players. Today, they continue to support players with equipment and resources. Their efforts have been instrumental in popularising pickleball across India."

Pick"Pickleball is growing rapidly in India, just as it has in the US. In many housing societies, tennis ademy courts are being converted into 0 playpickleball courts. With such expansion, I believe pickleball Junior most popular sport in India in the next five years. To aspiring players, I would say: play because you enjoy it. If you love the sport, it will give back to you in ways you can't imagine. Whether it's pickleball or any other sport, passion and joy will take you far."

VANSHIK HOPES PICKLE-BALL REACHES OLYMPICS At just 19 years old, Vanshik Kapadia made a formidable presence in pickleball. Transitioning from tennis, a sport he began playing at the age of six, Vanshik found his true calling in pickleball in 2018. Today, he holds the prestigious rank of No. 1 in both Asia and India. Reflecting on his journey, Vanshik shared, "I started playing pickleball when I was six years old, and in 2018, I began playing professionally. My journey began at my home club, Khar Gymkhana, where I hit my first pickleball shot. It was my dad who introduced me to the sport, and from that moment, there was no looking back. I fell in love with pickleball the instant I played my first shot. That's how it all started, and I decided then and there that this was the path I wanted to pursue."

Despite competing on the global stage, Vanshik's calm and focused demeanour sets him apart. "I don't see pressure as a hindrance. It's all about focusing on what's within your control. External factors are just distractions," he explained.

As an advocate for the sport's growth, Vanshik is optimistic about pickleball's potential to reach new heights. "Regarding the sport and my involvement, I've been associated with the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) for the past two years. It has been an incredible journey of growth, both in the game and in life," he said.

Looking ahead, Vanshik expressed his excitement for the upcoming World League, set to take place in January. "It's going to be a huge event with celebrities attending, and I believe pickleball is on its way to becoming a global sensation," he noted. With the sport's growing popularity, Vanshik's ultimate dream is to see pickleball included in the 2032 Olympics. "I hope it gets included, which would be a dream come true for the sport and its players."

# Robin Uthappa in trouble after arrest warrant over PF Fraud allegations

leading to an alleged

In a letter dated

December 4, Commis-

sioner Reddy instructed

the police to execute the

warrant. However, the

warrant was returned to

the PF office as Uthappa

is reportedly no longer

residing at his previous

address. The officials

stated, "The warrant,

issued on December

4, has been returned

after Mr. Uthappa was

found not to be at the

Pulakeshinagar resi-

The former Indian

opening batsman and

his family are reportedly

living in Dubai.

dence.'

fraud of Rs 23 lakh.



NEW DELHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): An arrest warrant has been issued against former Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa over allegations of Provident Fund (PF) fraud. The warrant, issued by PF Regional Commissioner Shadakshari Gopal Reddy, directs the Pulakeshinagar police to take appropriate action.

Uthappa, who managed a private firm called Centuries Lifestyle Brand Private Limited, is accused of deducting PF contributions from employees' salaries but failing to deposit the amounts,

The warrant noted that the failure to remit the dues has prevented the PF office from settling the accounts of the affected workers. It directed the police to arrest Robin Uthappa and return the warrant by December 27. Uthappa, who represented India in 59 international matches, was a prominent player in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Over his cricket career, he scored 1,183 runs in 54 ODI innings, including seven half-centuries. In the IPL, Uthappa played for teams such as Kolkata Knight Riders, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Mumbai Indians. He was part of KKR's winning squad in 2014 and was known for his aggressive batting style. Authorities are now working to trace Uthappa's whereabouts to proceed with the investigation and ensure legal compliance.

### New Zealand Cricket send delegation to Pakistan to inspect security arrangements ahead of tri-series

KARACHI, Dec 21 (Agencies): New Zealand Cricket has sent a delegation to Pakistan to inspect security and other arrangements for a scheduled tri-series in January.

Besides hosts Pakistan and New Zealand, South Africa is the third team in the event. Pakistan is hosting the multi-team event as a curtain raiser to the ICC Champions Trophy in February and March.

The New Zealand delegation, including security expert Reg Dickason and New Zealand Players' Association representative Brad Rodden are in Karachi and Lahore to discuss security arrangements and other preparations for the event.

Around the same time a high-powered delegation from the ICC has also arrived in Pakistan to inspect ongoing preparations and other arrangements for the eight-team Champions Trophy.

The ICC delegation also visited the National Stadium in Karachi before going to Lahore and Rawalpindi.

was going to be the centre of top cricket teams in February and March.

The New Zealand and ICC delegations keenly inspected the ongoing renovation and facelift process at the stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi on which the PCB is spending an amount of 12 billion rupees to get them ready for the Champions Trophy.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that the board was ready to welcome and host all teams as construction work on the stadiums would be completed before given deadlines.

He also said that state level security would be in place for all the teams visiting Pakistan and he will supervise this personally as federal minister for interior.

The NZC delegation also visited Rawalpindi Stadium and Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium as part of their assessment.

Pakistan will host New Zealand and South Africa for an ODI tri-series just days before the Champions Trophy, slated to bee held rfrom February 19 to March 9.

"At the end of 2017, my coach Bhupendra Pal, who initially ers, including five juniors who represented India at the Junior A PCB official said the visits were routine ahead of major events as Pakistan

# Pep Guardiola backs Erling Haaland to perform if Manchester City 'play better'

MANCHESTER, Dec 21 (Agencies): Pep Guardiola has thrown his support behind star striker Erling Haaland, highlighting the need for Manchester City to improve their overall play to maximize the Norwegian's impact. This comes as City navigate a challenging spell of form, with only one win in their last 11 matches across all competitions - a stark contrast to the dominance typically associated with Guardiola's tenure.

Haaland, who has been a goal-scoring machine since joining City, has struggled recently, scoring just once in his last five games. The lack of service has left him isolated against opposing defenders. However, Guardiola dismissed any suggestion of reverting to a false nine system, which had previously brought him success

"I prefer to play with Erling," Guardiola said ahead of City's Premier League clash with Aston Villa. "I don't think in this situation that I should not let Erling play absolutely not. We have to adapt to the qualities he brings."

Guardiola acknowledged that Haaland's reduced goal tally is a symptom of the team's struggles rather than a reflection of the player's form.

"The reason he's not been as productive is the way we're playing," Guardiola explained. "We're not creating the volume of chances we did in the past. When he's surrounded by two, three, or four defenders, it's tough for him. We need to play better as a team to create the spaces he needs."

Amid City's current struggles, Guardiola hinted at the possibility of January reinforcements, a departure from the club's usual reluctance to engage heavily in the winter transfer market.

"We've spoken about doing something," Guardiola revealed. "But it

has to be for the long term, not just for four or five months. Historically,
we haven't done much business in January,
but the circumstances this season have been

special." Guardiola referenced Aymeric Laporte's signing in January 2018 as a rare exception and underscored the challenges of making impactful signings midseason. "Teams don't want to sell, and prices

are high," he noted. One potential hurdle for City is the ongoing investigation into alleged breaches of Premier League financial regulations. While the club faces 115 charges, Guardiola expressed uncertainty over whether this could impact recruitment plans.

As City prepare for their trip to Villa Park, the focus remains on turning their season around. Guardiola's faith in Haaland and the team's ability to rediscover their rhythm will be crucial as they navi-

gate this critical period.

# Hockey India League a big boost for youngsters: PR Sreejesh

CHENNAI, Dec 21 (Agencies): There is something about PR Sreejesh. He is always ebullient, seems at peace with himself and more than anything he is shrouded in an aura of positivity. Always cheerful and articulate, Sreejesh speaks his mind. During a short conversation, he felt that his stint as coach of the junior team had been fantastic. India won the junior men's Asia Cup title beating Pakistan in the final. The first major outing, in his words, was a 'good job'.

Sreejesh said that the revival of the Hockey India League was a big step. "The league is like an international match where top players from across the world play and it is a platform where youngsters can learn and grow," Sreejesh said during

a Zoom interaction on Friday. He said that like earlier editions, domestic players will benefit from it.

With the HIL set to begin in the last week of December, Sreejesh's role has changed – coaching to an administrator. Right now he is the Director and mentor of the Delhi SG Pipers team.



The two-time Olympic bronze medal winner with the India hockey team said even this stint too would be interesting. Sreejesh realised that coaching was not easy either.

"Playing was easier than coaching," he said. "As a player, you just need to worry about your own business. But now you are the boss of 40 players and another eight staff under you. You are responsible for everything. Then it is a new role. But I am enjoying it. I always say this... on the field, the goalkeepers always act like a coach. You are commanding the defenders or organizing them, communicating with the midfielders and forwards. It has slightly changed now. I used to yell from the back or the goalpost but now I am yelling from the sidelines. Hockey is

something which I had known for the last 24 years and teaching that game to the youngsters is something I am enjoying seriously," Sreejesh mentioned.

It is not always that international players are inducted as coaches just after retirement. Sreejesh is an aberration. The moment he retired after the bronze medal at the Paris Olympics, he was offered the role of a coach for the junior national team.

"It happened unexpectedly," admitted Sreejesh, adding that he was hoping to take a break for two years and spend some time with the family.

"I just wanted to join the junior team not as a chief coach. I spoke with my family first about this offer from Hockey India. She said we are happy if you take us with you. We can shift to Bangalore because being a coach you get an apartment." About his new role as director of the Delhi team, Sreejesh felt that this would give him an opportunity to learn something about sports administration. He said that when Mahesh Bhupathi (CEO of the team) approached him and told him to help build the team he was more than willing to join.

"I have been in the sport for quite a long time and I know who are the best players, so I said yes," he said.

Sreejesh has given an example of how HIL can help players.

"It is like this. When I step into a new franchisee in HIL, I'm going to be with some of the best foreign players. And I am going to learn everything from him. From the dining hall, what he eats... what are the things he eats before a match... his daily routine on a match day. How he prepares for a match or behaves before, during, and after a match. How he motivates a player when the team continuously loses or how he talks to a player when the team is winning."

Sreejesh said that HIL helps because every country has its own style. "India, we got a culture, we do have a style. The Europeans have theirs so do Australians. So you are getting a platform where you can learn."

The former India goalkeeper also said that playing in front of a good crowd also helps.

"These youngsters who are 18, 17 or 20 and are dreaming about becoming a part of a senior team are getting the experience playing to play in front of a huge crowd," he said. "I think that is an important part. Pressure management is something that is really important for becoming an elite or mature player."

Sreejesh felt more than anything else he would want his Delhi team to enjoy their games. "If they enjoy they will play well and win," he said. Sreejesh said he would be happy if the team finished in the top four.

Watch the Hockey India League from 28th December 2024 onwards at 7:30 PM IST live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD, Sony Sports Ten 3 SD & HD (Hindi), Sand ony Sports Ten 4 SD & HD (Tamil & Telugu).

# LOCAL/ADVT

# Modi Govt committed to provide better civic amenities to J&K people: Vikram Randhawa

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 21: In line with the Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to the development and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Vikram Randhawa, MLA from Bahu Constituency today inaugurated the construction work of lane and drain at Ward No. 46, Sanjay Nagar. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 37 lakh, is a significant step towards enhancing the region's infrastructure and improving the living standards of the residents. Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Randhawa emphasized that this project reflects the BJP-led government's vision of providing better civic amenities and ensuring a cleaner, safer environment for the people. He said, "This project is not just about improving infrastructure,



but about building a better future for the people of Jammu. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to transforming Jammu and Kashmir with modern infrastructure, development, and progress."

The senior BJP leader asserted that the development project aims to address long-standing issues of drainage and connectivity in the region, which will greatly benefit the residents of Sanjay Nagar and surrounding areas. It is expected to ease the daily challenges faced by the locals while contributing to the overall beautification and development of the area, he added.

# **NDS felicitates eminent artists**



### **Top News** Report

JAMMU, Dec 21 (Agencies): On the eve of "Dogri Bhasha Mannata Dhiadda", Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) organised a Special Function to release the "Sanstha Geet" and to felicitate the distinguished personalities of Duggar . Jenab Ajay Sadhotra Former Minister was Chief Guest on the occasion and Advocate K.Nirmal Kotwal President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu Presided over . The dias

was shared by Advo-

cate Dogra Harish Kaila

President NDS and Prof.

Anupama Sharma Patron

The programme was

ably compered by Yash

Pal Yash General Secretay NDS and Dr.Chanchal

NDS

Sharma Organising Secretary of the Sanstha

Capt Lalit Sharma IFS former APCCF Convener NDS in his opening address welcomed the dignitories and the learnt participants . He spoke on the importance of Dogri Bhasha Mannata Dhiadda and gave a synapsis of the working of NDS over the last 26 years . He remembered the contributions of Ram Nath Ji Shastri and battery of writers , poets , artists, social and political workers who contributed in getting Dogri Bhasha included in 8th schedule of Indian Constitution .

"NDS Geet" wriiten by Yash Pal Yash, composed by Kuldeep Saproo and melodiously sung by Prof.Anupama Sharma and her co-singers was released on the occasion

Ravi Sharma an eminent Santoor Masterio ,Music Composer and son of renowned classical singer Dr. Jagdish Ram Sharma , for his long contributions . Jatinder Kaur an eminent singer who has enriched Dogri Language for decades was also honoured on the occasion

Ajay Sathotra in his address congratulated entire Duggar for Dogri Bhasha Mannata Dhiadda . He said that inclusion of Dogri in 8th schedule has enhanced the pride of Dogras represented by people from all faiths and shades , besides getting national recognition . He said that lot of work is required to be done after inclusion of Dogri in 8th schedules . He assured all support from his Government in this regard .

Nirmal Kotwal observed that the "Mannata Dhiadda" should be celebrated as collective festival in the entire duggar . He said that our state has rich culture and traditions of world wide acclamation and needs to be preserved

Dr.Chanchal Sharma extended vote of thanks in the end .

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3

S

Vikram Randhawa reiterated that this initiative is part of the ongoing efforts by the BJP to bring about a transformative change in Jammu and Kashmir, underpinned by development, prosperity, and better quality of life for every citizen.

"Every step we take is towards fulfilling the promise of progress that BJP has made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This project is a part of our broader vision to uplift the infrastructure and empower local communities." he added.

Later, Vikram Randhawa interacted with the people of the area and listened to their issues with keen attention. He assured them that their concerns would be addressed promptly and reiterated his commitment to working tirelessly for the development and welfare of the Bahu Constituency.

# **Army conducts** Medical Patrol for Gujjar and **Bakarwals at Chakalsalta**

### **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Dec 21: The Indian Army conducted a "Medical Patrol" at Chakalsalta.

In its constant endeavour to understand and address the basic needs of people in the remote areas of Chakalsalta, Raiouri, especially the Gujjarsl and Bakkarwals who lack such amenities, the Indian Army has initiated the conduct of Medical Patrols.

During these patrols, the troops, while ensuring the safety and security of the local populace, are helping them with their basi cal needs.

The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in the remote village of Chakalsalta, which has a considerable population of Gujjar and Bakkarwals

A total of 35 females, 25 males, and 20 children benefited from the initiative. They expressed great satisfaction and gratitude towards the Indian Army for the assistance provided.

# Gau Gopal Maha Yagya enters day 4 at Samadhi of Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri

deep, and Amit shared

their divine performanc-

es, spreading spiritual

wisdom and blessings

The event was guided

by Gangadhar Ji, the

mastermind behind

the grand event, who

imparted valuable life

lessons through bhajans

and scriptural knowl-

edge, leaving a deep

impact on the religious

and spiritual community

Special dignitaries

including former min-

ister and sitting MLA,

BDO of Mandal Block

Kiran Deep Kaur, Ajay

Sharma, SP South

Jammu, and the Princi-

pal of Higher Secondary

School Sohanjana, Bittu

Mahant, attended the

event. Famous Dogri

poet Bishan Vedi also

recited his composition,

adding a cultural dimen-

At the 108 Kundi

Yagyashala, schol-

ars performed sacred

sion to the gathering.

present.

to the large crowd.



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 21: The fourth day of the 9-day long Gau Gopal Maha Yagya was celebrated at the sacred Samadhi of Great Saint Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri Maharaj Ji in Sohanjana village, Mandal Tehsil.

The event saw a powerful performance by artists Tarun Sharma, Vikas Jasrotia, and others from the social organization Natmanch Jammu, who effectively raised awareness about the dangers of alcohol, cigarettes, and intoxicant drugs. Through a play, they highlighted the devastating impact of drug addiction, which they termed as a social evil and a deadly poison affecting the youth, reaching thousands of people in the audience. Renowned Bhajan

singers such as Swami Bua Dita, Shyamsundar, and storytellers like Gautam, Suresh, Kulrituals such as Gopal Sahasranama, Vastu Peeth, Geeta Homa, Purush Sukta, and Lakshmi Sukta, offering prayers with pure desi cow ghee and havan samagri to hundreds of Yajmans. The largescale fair accompanying the Mahayagya offered a variety of food and items, with people enjoying swings and other attractions.

In a symbolic act of patriotism, Gangadhar hoisted the national flag and led the congregation in singing the national anthem, reminding everyone of the importance of devotion to both God and the nation. SP South Ajay Sharma was also present for this significant occasion.

The government administration contributed greatly to the smooth conduct of the event, with arrangements for medical facilities and efficient police service being highly praised. To ensure the safety and convenience of the thousands of devotees expected in the coming days, one-way traffic arrangements have been made, and everyone is requested to cooperate for the success of the event.



# **Children Winter Workshop by NATRANG** commencing from Dec 25

### **Top News** Report

JAMMU, Dec 21 (Agencies): The most fascinating and sought after Natrang's Winter Theatre and Dance workshop for Children-2024 will start from 25th December, 2024 at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu. Sharing details in a press briefing, Natrang Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur informed that this unique theatre-camp would provide opportunity to children to explore their unlimited inner creative and artistic abilities. The timings of the camp will be 2:30pm to 5pm daily and will be held under his close mentorship in which the latest developed popular techniques of theatre which are in youge in Europe and USA will be introduced. The children will also have the occasion to get trained under highly acclaimed professionally trained directors including Neeraj Kant, Sumeet Sharma, Sunny Mujoo and Gauri Thakur. He informed that every year during winter Natrang offers an opportunity to children to enjoy their winter break with amazing learning platform beyond the textbooks. Similarly this year too, Natrang will have a 15 day winter camp for children where they will learn personality development, confidence building, communication skills through story-telling, acting, stagecraft and much more with the help of



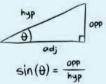
highly innovative creative theatre devices and exercises. Theatre is a sophisticated expression of basic human needs. For children. it is an instinct to mimic and to tell stories through narratives and metaphors. This innate quality in children is enhanced and polished with the help of theatre. It is vital to understand that when phrases like 'learning is fun' and 'play and learn' are quoted, we can easily think of theatre as a means to learn in a child's life. With the growing competition, every teacher and parent is following the rule of thumb, to break this monotony, Natrang introduces theatre to the kids which brings freshness to the child's imagination and helps them to grow intellectually. Since every child is special, it is important that we encourage them to open up to the best of their ability by giving them confidence building opportunities. Theatre since

ages has been considered

as the magical tool of personality transformation and upgradation of soft skills. In Jammu Natrang since the year 1990 has been constantly endeavouring in developing a new methodology using theatre and other artistic expressions in exploring the immense inner abilities of children and since then have generated a huge pool of extraordinary talents who are now the who's who of Jammu and India as well. He desired all not to lose this rare opportunity being offered by Natrang

The interested parents may contact workshop coordinator for details on 9906048670, 8713049875, 9419106669 and may mail requests at natrang83@ gmail.com. A short theatre play will also be produced during the course of the training. Children between the age of 7 to 15 will be considered for this unique training programme. The workshop would be coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

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