

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Bhumika Gurung plays a negative role in Bas Itna Sa Khwaab



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CM Adityanath says law and order in UP has improved, SP claims 'jungle raj' everywhere

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Trump threatens to return Panama Canal to US unless Panama cuts fees



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BRIEFLY

Trainee cop dies of bullet wound at Police Training Centre in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 22 (Agencies): A local trainee policeman was killed on Sunday by a bullet injury in Police Training Centre (PTS) Manigam in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Officials said the trainee policeman died when he was hit by the bullet of the sentry at the training school.

"Investigation is going on to ascertain the exact circumstances that resulted in the death of the trainee policeman. The trainee policeman was undergoing a basic recruitment training course at PTS Manigam," the officials said.

Security Forces apprehend three individuals with arms in north Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 22 (Agencies): Security forces apprehended three suspect individuals in separate operations and recovered arms and ammunition from them in the Kashmir Valley, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The army said on December 21, based on specific intelligence input, a Joint Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established by the army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Chanpura in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. One suspected individual has been apprehended along with the recovery of one pistol, one hand grenade, and other warlike stores.

In another similar operation at Yarbug in north Kashmir's Baramulla district conducted on Saturday, the army aided in the apprehension of two more suspected individuals along with one pistol, two hand grenades, and other warlike stores.

Further investigation by police is in progress, they said.

Aga Ruhullah to protest outside CM's House Tomorrow on reservation policy

JAMMU, Dec 22 (Agencies): Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah Sunday said that he will hold a "peaceful" protest tomorrow outside the CM's house regarding reservation policy.

Under Rozgar Mela, PM Modi to distribute over 71,000 appointment letters to recruits in Govt Depts

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 71,000 appointment letters to new recruits in various central government departments on Monday via videoconferencing, his office said.

Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment of the prime minister to accord the highest priority to employment generation, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Modi will distribute more than 71,000 appointment letters to newly-appointed recruits through videoconferencing around 10:30 am



on Monday. He will also address the gathering on the occasion, the PMO said.

The Rozgar Mela will provide meaningful opportunities to

youngsters for their participation in nation-building and self-empowerment.

It will be held at 45 locations around the country. The recruitments are taking place for various central government ministries and departments.

The recruits, selected from around the country, will join various ministries/departments, including the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Department of Higher Education, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Financial Services, among others, the PMO said.

In view of intense cold in Kashmir, CM Omar Abdullah cancels all programmes in Jammu



SRINAGAR, Dec 22 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on

Sunday said he has cancelled all his forthcoming programmes in Jammu and would sta-

tion himself in Srinagar to personally oversee the functioning of the power department and other essential services in view of the severe cold wave in the valley.

Kashmir valley is reeling under intense cold wave conditions as the minimum on Saturday dipped to minus 8.5 degrees Celsius. It was the lowest night temperature in more than three decades.

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Boosting Kashmir's connectivity: Indian Railways plans to launch two new trains by next month



SRINAGAR, Dec 22 (Agencies): In a significant boost to connectivity in Kashmir, Indian Railways is planning to launch two new trains next month, according to media reports.

These additions aim

to enhance transportation links to the region's picturesque snowy landscapes.

The two trains include a centrally heated sleeper train and a Vande Bharat train with chair car seating. Notably, the

sleeper train will traverse the iconic 359-meter-high Chenab Bridge, a marvel of engineering.

According to sources, the centrally heated sleeper train will operate between New Delhi and Srinagar. Designed for a 13-hour journey, it will pass through breathtaking snow-capped mountain landscapes. However, this train will not offer second-class sleeper accommodations.

A senior railway official added that the connectivity boost also includes an 8-coach Vande Bharat train, equipped with chair car seating.

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J&K Police attaches properties worth Rs 1.28 Crore under NDPS Act

SRINAGAR, Dec 22 (Agencies): Police on Sunday said it attached a residential house and vehicles, including a Mahindra Scorpio, a mini truck, and an Ashoka Leyland worth Rs 45.5 lakh, belonging to one Muhammad Yaseen Dar, a resident of Sholipora Budgam.

"The accused was involved in case FIR



Nos. 302/2020 U/S 8/15 of NDPS Act of Police Station Budgam and 134/2021 U/S 8/15 of NDPS Act of Police Station Khansahib," police said.

Similarly, Police Station Chadoora attached land measuring 9 Malras and 7 1/2 Malras situated at Moza Nowgam of district Srinagar, a

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Suspected member of Kashmir militant outfit arrested in Bengal's South 24 Parganas

KOLKATA, Dec 22 (Agencies): A suspected member of a militant outfit in Kashmir valley was arrested from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Sunday, a police officer said.

Javed Munshi, suspected to be a member of the outlawed 'Tehreek e Mujahideen' outfit in Kashmir Valley was picked from near Canning Hospital by a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police and

Bengal Police, the officer said.

Javed, who claimed to have visited the residence of a relative in the Canning town for personal reasons, had been allegedly involved in subversive activities in the valley and was wanted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police for a long time, he said.

The 'Tehreek e Mujahideen' is controlled from Pakistan having contacts with other militant outfits in the valley, Paki-

stan and Bangladesh, the officer said. The relatives of Javed said though he is a resident of Srinagar, they were not aware of his links with any terror outfit and if the charges are found to be true law should take its own course.

The police officer said the arrested man will be produced at Alipore court for transit remand soon.

The arrest followed the recent arrests of eight

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J-K people face immense hardships due to administrative shortcomings: JKCSF

SRINAGAR, Dec 22 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Civil Society Forum (JKCSF) today expressed concern over the increasing hardships faced by the people of the region due to administrative shortcomings.

In a statement JKCSF chairman Abdul Qayoom Wani said that the recent cancellation of 1.27 lakh ration cards has deprived thousands of below-poverty-line families of their basic food entitlements, causing distress and uncer-

tainty. Adding to the challenges, Kashmiri artisans—custodians of the region's cultural heritage—are struggling under the burden of GST, and it is hoped that the government refrains from imposing further taxes on handicrafts like shawls to protect this vital industry.

Meanwhile, the ongoing power and water crises in the Valley remain unresolved, with the government yet to explore innovative solutions for sustainable infrastructure and

resource management. Furthermore, exorbitant airfares, such as Rs. 13,000 for Dubai to Delhi (2,200 km) and ₹10,000 for Jammu to Srinagar (270 km), highlight the stark disparity in pricing, making essential travel unaffordable for the common man, Wani in a statement said.

The JKCSF strongly urged the administration to fund large-scale digging of water wells across rural and semi-urban areas to address the acute water scarcity

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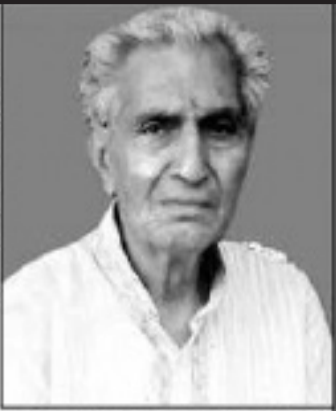
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TENTH DAY KRIYA

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 Bulanker Nawa Kadal Srinagar Kashmir, at present Sec 2 House No 5 Pamposh Colony Janipur Jammu who left us for his heavenly abode on 14th of December.



SH SOM NATH SAPROO

TENTH DAY KRIYA will take place on Monday 23rd of December at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Kuldeep Saproo & Kram Saproo (Son & Daughter in law)
Mahmohan Saproo & Anjil Saproo (Son & Daughter in law)
Sunita Bhat & Rajinder Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
D Ankit Saproo & Kunal Grover (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law)
Anush Saproo & Ekta Pandita Saproo (Grand Son & Grand Daughter in law)
Eshan Saproo, (Grand Son)
Dr Pawan Bhat Pandita & Akshay Pandita (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law)
Ishita Saproo & Mansi Bhat -Grand Daughters
Aad Samant Saproo Parivar,
7006344670, 9419114022,
9419144050

10TH DAY (23-12-2024)

It is with profound grief and sorrow we announce the sudden and untimely demise of our loving Mrs. **Namisha Dogra** on 14.12.2024. Her love, warmth, kindness and beautiful presence will be missed forever.
WE LOVE YOU
VENUE:
10TH DAY KRIYA/SATSANG will be held on 23rd Dec, 2024 (Monday) from 11:00 AM onwards at DOGRA DARBAR, SUPWAL, SAMBA, Contact: 9419921144, 9797370212



NAMISHA DOGRA (JKAS)
(31.07.1984 - 14.12.2024)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Husband: Sh. Bhupinder Kumar (SDPO Mendhar)
Sons: Advait Atri, Arshiv Atri
Mother in law: Smt Soma Atri
Father in law: Sh. Ram Dass
Aunt in law: Smt Sushma Atri
Uncle in law: Sh. Tilak Raj Atri
Sister in law: Smt Ritu Atri W/o Sh. Rohit Mohinjan (Cardiff, UK) & Er. Neetu Ji(AE,MED) W/o Dr. Sanjay Kumar (AHD)
Brother in law: Mr. Keshav Atri, Vansh Atri & Priyansh Atri
Mother: Smt Surju Devi
Father: Sh. Babu Jagjivan Lal (DDC Reasi & Former Minister, J&K)
Sister: Ms Priyanka Dogra (JE JKPDD)
Brother: Mr Abhishek Dogra
FAMILY & FRIENDS

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

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 21st Dec 2024 at Mahajan Hall (Chabutra Bazar Udhampur) at 12:00 Noon.



SMT. NEENA KUMARI

Kriya shall be performed on Monday 23rd Dec 2024, at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 11:00 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sh. Rahul Kumar Kalsotra (Son) (Husband)
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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Varun Mattoo**, son of Late Sh. Kanaya Lal Mattoo, originally resident of Ramghat Baramulla Kashmir, presently at House No 18, Saraswati Lane, Talab Tillo, Jammu in Mumbai on December (14/15) 2024.



Varun Mattoo

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on Monday, 23rd December 2024 at 10 am at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Nancy Mattoo (Mother)
Smt. Ashwini (Wife)
Mrigya (Sister) and Rahul Bindroo (Brother-in-law)
Jeetil (Son), Laraniya (Daughter) and Deeher (Niece)
Mantoo, Bazaz and Bindroo families
+916006027829/+919611544116

13TH DAY/ KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Shri SATISH BHASIN (SWEETY)** S/o Late Sh. INDERJEET BHASIN, R/o 87-BC Road, Rehari Chungi, Jammu.

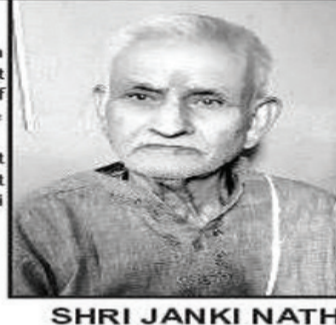


SHRI SATISH BHASIN (SWEETY)

KRIYA will be performed on Monday, 23rd December, 2024 at our Residence at 12 Noon.
UTHALA will be held on Monday, 23rd December, 2024 at Gurudwara Kalgidhar, Rehari Chungi, Jammu from 4pm to 5pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Krishna Bhasin (Mother)
Smt. Renu Bhasin (Wife)
Sons and Daughter in law
Mr. Abhinav Bhasin & Mrs. Disha Bhasin
Mr. Pranav Bhasin & Mrs. Bani Bhasin
Daughter & Son in law
Mrs. Bhawana & Mr. Ashish Maharaj
Brothers & Bhabhi
Sh. Sunil Bhasin & Smt. Anju Bhasin
Sh. Sanjeev Bhasin & Smt. Remmy Bhasin
Sister & Brother in law
Smt. Neena Gandotra & Sh. Ashok Gandotra
Smt. Madhu Verma & Sh. Rajinder Verma
Grand Childrens: Mayra Khair, Abhisha Bhasin, Manvita Khair
"BHASIN & GUPTA FAMILY"
"HOT BILLIONS"
"C3 INSTITUTE"
MB. NO. 7006610051, 9419147468, 9419186570, 9697222274, 9419338528

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Shri Janki Nath S/o Lt Sarwanand Pandita** originally resident of Rawoocha Rafiabard Baramulla at present Lane No.3, Block-12, Flat-13, Jagti Township, Nagrota. The **Tenth Day** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 27-12-2024 and **Assembly** will be held at Community Hall Backside Lane No.4, Jagti Nagrota at 11.30 AM.



SHRI JANKI NATH

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Princy Devi - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Shalinder Pandita & Smt. Pooja Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Asha Pandita & Sh. Ravinder Kumar Pandita
Brothers & Bhabis
Smt. Dulari & Sh. Prem Nath Pandita
Smt. Jaishori Pandita & Sh. Makhan Lal Pandita
Lt. Smt. Lajwanti Pandita & Sh. Chuni Lal Pandita
Smt. Kamla Thussoo & Lt. Sh. J.N Thussoo - **Sister**
Grand Childrens: Deepika, Kashvi, Eshita, Harshita, Divyanshi, Charlen, Est Harsh, Daksh, Vasu, Rudraksh
Mob: 6006967906, 9906197577, 8899548132

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.



SDN. MOHINDER KOUR

Programme.
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib 21-12-2024 (Saturday) at 9:30 AM at our residence.
Bhog of Shri Akhand Path Sahib 23-12-2024 (Monday) at 9:30 at our residence.
Shabad Kirtan & Antim Ardass at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Gole Gujral, Bagh Bain, Jammu from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Sdn. Updesh Kour & S. Ajaib Singh
Sdn. Narinder Kour & S. Ranjit Singh
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Sdn. Balvir Kour & S. Kulbir Singh
Sdn. Ramneek Kour & Late S. Ranjeet Singh
Sdn. Late Satwant Kour & S. Harjot Singh
Sdn. Daljit Kour & S. Harjeet Singh
Sdn. Jatinder Kour & Late S. Mohinder Singh
Mob: 9419643120, 9419730120, 9419617622

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt Dhanwati Raina** W/o Sh. Sri Kanth Raina original resident of Razdan Mohalla Handwara Kashmir at Present 3/50 Pandoka colony Paloura Jammu.

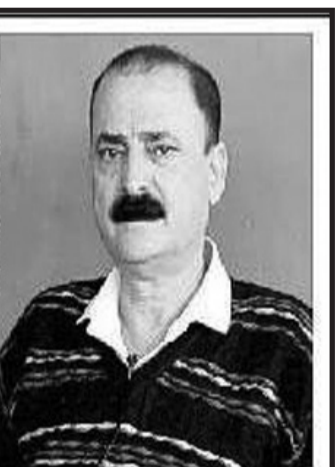


Smt Dhanwati Raina

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 25-12-2024 (Wednesday) at Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Phallian Mandal Jathwal. Subsequent Assembly will be held at our residence at 12.00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Sri Kanth Raina - Husband
Smt Rani Raina - **Devrani**
Smt Kishni and Mohan Lal Raina - **Devrani & Devar**
Smt Lalita - **Devrani**
Sh. Janki Nath Pandita & Smt Shanta Ji
Sh. Kanya Lal Pandita & Smt Shieela Ji
Sh. Choni Lal and Smt Vijay Ji
Smt Nimi Raina & Sh. Tej Krishan Raina - **Daughter in law & Son**
Smt Sarfa Raina & Sh. Behari Lal Raina - **Daughter in law & Son**
Smt Pinky Raina & Sh. Ravinder Raina - **Daughter in law & Son**
Smt Renu Raina & Sh. Sanjay Raina - **Daughter in law & Son**
Smt Asha Hastu and Sh. Shuban Krishan Hastu - **Daughter & Son in Law**
Smt Rajni Chatta & Sh. Vinod Chatta - **Daughter & Son in Law**
Smt & Sh. Moti Lal Raina - **Cousin**
Smt & Sh. Hari Krishan Raina - **Cousin**
Grand Childrens and Smast Raina Pariwar
9419193383, 9419116443, 9419280062, 9419117970

10th Day

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh Satish Kumar Sopori** S/o Lt Sh Srikanth Sopori R/o Nai Sadak, Srinagar, Kashmir presently residing at Flat No. 6, Block No. 153 Lane No. 24 Jagti Colony on 14 Dec 2024.



Sh Satish Kumar Sopori

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 23 Dec 2024 (Monday) behind Sainik School Nagrota Jammu. **Assembly** will be held at Community Hall behind Block 152 Lane No. 24 Jagti Colony at 11:00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sunaina Sopori (Wife)
Suhaani Sopori (Daughter)
Sidarath Sopori (Son)
Brother and Bhabhi
Sh Kanya Lal and Smt Nisha Ji
Sister and Brother-in-law
Smt Kilan Jogi W/o Lt Sh T K Jogi
Smt Meena Bhan & Sh Basant Kumar Bhan
Contact No. 7006998820, 9797755259, 7065257920, 9086283272

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow it is to be inform to all near & dear that **Smt.Woma Shori Bhat** W/o Lt.Sh.Dwarika Nath Bhat R/o Chandpora Harwan Srinagar at present H.No 586/A, Lane No. 5, Suryavanshi Nagar, Lower Roop Nagar, Muthi Jammu.

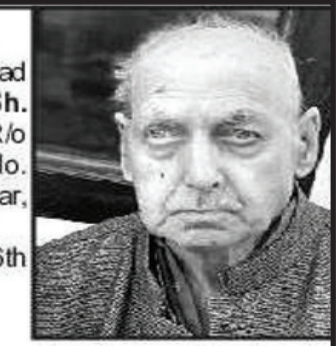


SMT. WOMA SHORI BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor on 27th December 2024 and **ASSEMBLY** will be held at Muthi Ghat (11:30 AM)
GRIEF STRICKEN
Brother-in-law- Mohan Lal Bhat
Son and Daughter-in-law
Chinda Bhat W/o Gokal Nath Bhat
Soni Bhat W/o Sanjay Kumar Bhat
Daughter and Son-in-law
Lt. Bita Pandita W/o Barsi Lal Pandita
Nirmala Koul W/o Tej Krishan Koul
Sunita Bhat (Pummy) W/o Dileep Kumar Bhat
AND SAMAST BHAT, KOUL, PANDITA PARIVAR
MOB: 9419206241, 7889767088

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Karmyogi Sh. Narayan Raina** S/o Lt Sh. Prasad Razdan R/o Arreh, Tehsil & Distt. Kulgam, Kashmir A/P H.No. 39, Sec 2, Sharika Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.



Karmyogi Sh. Narayan Raina

10th Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat on 26th Dec, 2024 (Thursday) at 9:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Son and Daughter-in Law:
Sh. Ramesh Raina and Smt. Versha Ji
Daughters & Sons-in-law:
Smt. Binla and Sh. Pyaray Lal Bhat
Smt. Kaki and Sh. Bheem Ji Bhat
Smt. Pinky and Sh. Bal Krishan Pandita
Grand Childrens: Sakshi, Sonali, Babli, Rakesh, Vimal, Menika, Viboti, Mega
Contact: 9419149997, 9469807767, 9103890965.

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

"Those who love don't go away, they walk beside us every day."

The **Tenth Day** of our beloved father **Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta**, (Gupta Furniture House Wale) S/o Lt. Sh. Anant Ram Vaid, will be performed at 12 noon on 20th December, 2024 at K.D.N. Palace, near Women College, Udhampur.



Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta,

Kriya will take place at 10 AM onwards on 23rd December, 2024 (Monday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.
REGARDS:
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Pooja & Davinder Gupta (Dimple)
Anuradha & Rakesh Kumar Gupta
Sonika & Raman Kumar Gupta
Jyoti & Sanjeev Gupta
Daughter & Son-in-law
Anjana & Manoj Gupta (Ramnagar wale)
Smt. Geeta Devi (Sister)
Grand Childrens : Sushant & Chitvan Gupta
Danish, Ridham, Sonaksh, Akshat, Rudraksh, Kanav, Dr. Astha, Dhriti, Rudrakshi
GUPTA FURNITURE HOUSE,
VAID MEDICATE,
VAID MEDICAL HALL,
GUPTA SCOOPING PARLOUR
GUPTA SALES CORPORATION, UDHAMPUR
9419162965, 9419158934, 9419162534, 9419160122

KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT. PREM LATA RAJPUT W/O DR. S.S.JAMWAL WHO LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 12TH OF DECEMBER 2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE "SANDHUR SINGH AVENUE" OPPOSITE DIGIANA ASHRAM, JAMMU.



PROF. PREM LATA RAJPUT

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON MONDAY, 23rd OF DECEMBER FROM 12:00 NOON ONWARDS.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON MONDAY, 23rd OF DECEMBER AT 3:00 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
DR. S.S.JAMWAL (HUSBAND)
(DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)
MRS. PRATIMA THAKUR AND DR. PADAM DEV SINGH
(DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)
MRS. RAJHA MALHOTRA AND KR. ABHINEET SINGH JAMWAL - DEEDO
GRAND CHILDREN: SAMAR, ARYA VEER, ANUSHKA
PH. 9419275953, 9419190457.

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the untimely Demise of our beloved daughter **AKRITI** D/o Pardeep Sharma R/o, H.No 54, Sector-1, Housing Colony, Kathua. **Tenth day** shall be performed on Sunday, 22nd December, at 10 AM at our residence. **Kriya** shall be performed on Monday, 23rd December at 10 AM, at our residence.



AKRITI SHARMA

Uthala shall be performed on 23rd December, Monday at 2 PM at SVER Resort, Near Targri Palace, Kathua.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Mother & Father.
Smt. Renu Sharma & Sh. Pardeep Sharma, Journalist (ANI/ID) News.

Sh Amit - Husband
Smt Chanchib Sharma & Sh. Yash Paul. - **Tayi & Taya**
Smt Vandana Sharma & Sh. Suresh Sharma - **Chachi & Chacha**
Samiksha & Vivek, Abhinandan, Sakshar - **Sister & Brother**
& Utrian Sharma (Journalist).
Mob: 9419150733, 9906374216.

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and immense sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mr Vishal Narwalia (Bablu)** S/o Sh. Pardeep Kumar R/o H. No 311 W. No 09, Mohalla Ustad Jammu on dated 13-12-2024.



MR VISHAL NARWALIA (BABLU)

10TH DAY will be performed on 22-12-2024 (Sunday) at 11.00 AM at our residence.
13TH DAY will be performed on 25-12-2024 (Wednesday) at 11.00 am at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Rajni Devi & Sh. Pardeep Narwalia - **Mother & Father**
Smt. Preeti Narwalia - **Wife**
Pratham & Himansu - **Son**
Smt. Shalu Narwalia & Sh. Vikas Narwalia - **Bhabhi & Brother**
Smt. Neeru Pawa & Sh. Rishi Kumar - **Sister & Brother in Law**
CONTACT: 7889343261, 9622233696

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Ram Kumar Sharma** S/o Sh. Chachu Ram on 14-12-24.



SH. RAM KUMAR SHARMA

TENTH DAY will be performed on 23-12-24 at R/o Seri Panditian.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Asha Devi (Wife)
Komal Kemi (Daughter)
Akshay Sharma (Son)
Akhil Sharma (Son)
MOBILE NO: 8493838801

UTHALA / RASAM KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Jiwan Jandial** who left for his heavenly abode on 17th December 2024.



Sh. Jiwan Jandial (1967 - 2024)

UTHALA will be held on 20th December 2024 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Shiv Temple, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

Rasam Kriya will be held on 28th December 2024 at Devika Ghat.
Grief Stricken:
Sh. Shambhu Nath Jandial (Father)
Mrs. Jyoti Jandial (Wife)
Mr. Sarvesh Jandial (Son)
Brij Paul Jandial and Sonika Mahajan (Brother and Bhabhi)
Gopal Jandial and Ruchi Jandial (Brother and Bhabhi)
Contact No. 9419697220, 9419160526

10TH DAY/13TH DAY/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and immense sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Era Jamwal** W/o Sh. Maheshwar Singh Jamwal (Retd. Excise Department) R/o Jamwal Niwas, H.No 110, Lane No 10, Greater Kailash, Jammu.



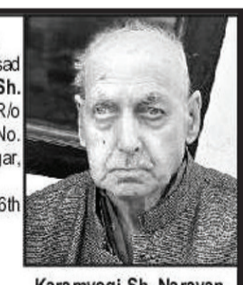
SMT. ERA JAMWAL

10th Day will be observed on 21-12-2024 (Saturday) at 12:00 Noon at our residence.
13th Day (Kriya) will be performed on 24-12-2024 (Tuesday) at 12:00 noon at our residence.

Rasam Pagri will be performed on 25-12-2024 (Wednesday) at 8:30 am at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sh. Maheshwar Singh Jamwal (Husband)
Dr. Vishav Vir Singh and Smt. Upasana Jamwal (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Shilpee and Sh. Rajeshwar Singh Bakoria (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Uday Vir and Aryaaveer (Grand sons)
Jamwal and Salathia Families

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Karmyogi Sh. Narayan Raina** S/o Lt Sh. Prasad Razdan R/o Arreh, Tehsil & Distt. Kulgam, Kashmir A/P H.No. 39, Sec 2, Sharika Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.



Karmyogi Sh. Narayan Raina

10th Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat on 26th Dec, 2024 (Thursday) at 9:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Son and Daughter-in Law:
Sh. Ramesh Raina and Smt. Versha Ji
Daughters & Sons-in-law:
Smt. Binla and Sh. Pyaray Lal Bhat
Smt. Kaki and Sh. Bheem Ji Bhat
Smt. Pinky and Sh. Bal Krishan Pandita
Grand Childrens: Sakshi, Sonali, Babli, Rakesh, Vimal, Menika, Viboti, Mega
Contact: 9419149997, 9469807767, 9103890965.

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Sakeena Ito distributes Artificial Limbs, Clutches, Callipers, Wheelchairs among specially abled

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Education, Sakeena Ito, today remarked that the Government is committed to provide necessary resources and support to specially abled persons so that they lead an independent, quality and dignified life.

The Minister made these remarks during distribution of artificial limbs, callipers, clutches, tricycles and wheel chairs among specially abled persons at Brahman Sabha Parade here. The event was organised by Shree Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic Jammu and sponsored by Rural Electrification Corporation in collaboration with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayta Samiti Kota.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Ito emphasised the Government's unwavering commitment towards welfare of the disabled community in order



to make their lives dignified. "The present dispensation has always been determined to uplift and improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. We are committed towards providing them with necessary resources, equipments and support, so that they too can live a dignified life", she asserted.

"The present Omar led Government is committed to address all issues of people especially the specially abled community. We are working on to increase the disability pension from Rs.

1000 to Rs. 3000 per month", Sakeena maintained. She added that this increase will alleviate the financial burden on families and provide them financial support.

The Minister, on the occasion, also highlighted the importance of inclusive growth and need to focus on marginalised communities, especially the disabled persons. She assured the gathering that the Government will continue to prioritize the needs of disabled community, with plans for providing them greater

accessibility and support.

Sakeena Ito, in her address, also commended the NGO for this noble work. She assured them of Government's continuous support and said that the issues raised by them will be addressed promptly. She advised them to organise awareness campaigns across the regions in order to educate people, especially the disabled persons about the rights and facilities available for disabled persons.

The Minister also interacted with the specially abled persons and assured them continuous support from the government.

General Secretary, Shree Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic Jammu, Pradeep Jain informed that 429 persons were screened in the camp while 123 hearing aids were given to the patients in addition to distribution of 104 artificial limbs, 73 callipers 22 artificial hands, 20 wheel chairs and 19 tricycle among the beneficiaries in the three day camp.

FCSCA refutes claim of cancellation of BPL ration cards

8.6 lakh new, left out beneficiaries added to PDS cover since 2022; currently 98.40 lakh beneficiaries availing benefits in PDS

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 22: The Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs has strongly refuted reports from certain quarters on social media, particularly a video, wherein it is being alleged that "...the Government has issued an order cancelling around 1.5 lakh Below Poverty Line ration cards affecting a huge number of beneficiaries and putting their families in distress ..." while terming the assertion totally fabricated and based on false assumptions.

As per the statement issued by the Department, no such order has been issued. Besides, it has rebutted the claims that the figure being quoted in the said video does not even match the actual deletion figure of 1.27 lakh cited in media reports for having been reported to the parliament recently with regard to fake and duplicate ration card deletions in Jammu and Kashmir since 2013. These are in fact the deletions carried out in the past, over 10 years in J&K as a part of reforms pursued by the Government of India across the country.

The document added that elimination of bogus/duplicate ration cards and beneficiaries is an essential requirement under Targeted PDS Control Order of Government of India, which is now being established through technology interventions like Aadhaar seeding, eKYC and through field verification.

As a result of accelerated Aadhaar seeding,

pursued by the Department, huge duplication of ration cards and beneficiaries was established leading to deletion of such ration cards and beneficiaries over the years. At the same time, bringing the left out eligible beneficiaries under the PDS cover has also been seriously pursued by the Department, and this effort has also led to the addition of 8.6 lakh eligible beneficiaries to PDS in J&K since shifting to a dependable Ration Card Management System in September, 2022.

Further, it is clarified that only order issued by the Department in recent past in the context of PDS seeks inclusion of children born during years 2011 to 2016 in their family ration cards so that additional benefits flow to these beneficiaries and households as per eligibility under PDS. The Department has also issued explicit orders for prompt inclusion of any eligible beneficiary still left out under PDS, wherever reported. As a result of these efforts the number of beneficiaries under NFSA, who are provided free food grains every month, has gone up from 66.37 lakh to 66.59 lakh during last three months.

Additionally, the Department has also pursued, in a mission mode, the inclusion of left out JK registrants on e-Shram Portal so that none such registrant who is eligible under PDS for free or subsidised food grains, remains uncovered. A mammoth exercise for matching of nearly 34.80 lakh such registrants in J&K was

carried out in coordination with NIC and every registrant who remained unmatched with PDS data base, was approached by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Labour & Employment Department for securing their inclusion. Of these, nearly 34.40 lakh registrants are presently availing benefits under PDS or other schemes, and remaining forty thousand, could not either be traced by the Department or they refused to share their details and documents, despite making efforts in coordination with respective district administrations.

Expressing firm resolve of the Department, a spokesman of the Department said the Department is making arrangements for providing free food grains every month to 66.59 lakh beneficiaries under NFSA and for providing highly subsidised food grains to another group of 31.81 lakh beneficiaries in the Non Priority Households category, which implies that 98.40 lakh people are presently benefitted under PDS every month in J&K.

The spokesman further said that the technological interventions like aadhar seeding, e-PDS etcetera are aimed at securing the marginalised communities their due share in ration distribution and this would remain a priority of the Department so that eligible beneficiaries are benefitted under Targeted Public Distribution System and undeserving are weeded out.

Vikram Randhawa inaugurates TTAPIO Café at Channi



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: In a significant step towards promoting self-reliance and entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir, Vikram Randhawa, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, today inaugurated the TTAPIO Café in Channi today. The event witnessed the presence of prominent residents and community leaders of the area, celebrating the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Speaking at the inauguration, MLA Randhawa lauded the entrepreneurial spirit of Mehak Sharma, the café's owner, and her younger brother, who have taken a bold step in bringing innovation and quality service to the region. "This initiative resonates with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision

of Atmanirbhar Bharat, encouraging individuals to become self-reliant and contribute to the nation's economic growth," he said.

Applauding the venture as a step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat, Randhawa emphasized the importance of self-reliance and highlighted several schemes initiated by the Modi Government to empower the youth, including Start-Up India, Skill India, and Mudra Yojana, which provide financial support, training, and opportunities for innovation. He commended the café as a symbol of determination and hard work, inspiring local youth to explore entrepreneurial avenues while contributing to the region's economic growth.

The TTAPIO Café,

with its modern ambience and diverse menu, is poised to become a hotspot for locals, offering a unique blend of flavors and a comfortable space for social interaction. Randhawa highlighted that such ventures not only provide employment opportunities but also inspire the youth to explore entrepreneurial avenues.

Congratulating Mehak Sharma and her family, the senior BJP leader said, "This café is not just a business venture; it is a symbol of hard work, determination, and the belief in one's dreams. I am confident that TTAPIO Café will set new standards and encourage more young minds to take similar initiatives."

Vikram Randhawa assured the people of Channi of his continued support for such endeavors that empower individuals and strengthen the local economy. "TTAPIO Café stands as a testament to the transformative power of self-reliance, embodying the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and showcasing how small businesses can make a big difference," he added.

DC Bandipora inspects JKSSB examination centres, reviews arrangements

Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Dec 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on Sunday successfully conducted the OMR-based examination for the post of J&K Police Constable (Photographer).

Out of the 4062 candidates scheduled to appear, 183 participated in the examination held across 14 designated centres in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, visited several examination

centres to oversee the arrangements and ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of the examination.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities including security, logistics, and overall management at High School Bagh, GHSS PLAN, GDC Hajin, GHSS Hajin and other centres in Bandipora and Sumbal Sub Division.

He expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and commended the efforts of all stakeholders involved in maintaining the integrity of the examination process.

ADC Kupwara inspects JKSSB Examination Centres in district

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Dec 22: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Mohammad Rouf Rehman today inspected various examination centers across the district to monitor the conduct of the OMR-based examination for the post of Constable-Photographer in the Home Department, conducted by the J&K Services Selection

Board (JKSSB).

The ADC visited several examination centres including AGS Chandigam, BHSS Sogam, AGS Krusan and other centres where he reviewed the arrangements and interacted with the examination staff. He emphasized for maintaining transparency, fairness, and strict adherence to prescribed guidelines.

The ADC appreciated the efforts of the district administration, law enforcement agencies, and examination staff for their coordinated efforts in facilitating a conducive and secure environment for the candidates.

Meanwhile, 36 examination centres had been established in district Kupwara where 351 candidates out of 8996 appeared for the examination.

JU organises workshop on "Research Methodology"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: The week-long workshop on "Research Methodology," jointly organized by the UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre and the Department of Urdu, University of Jammu, concluded today with a valedictory function.

The valedictory session was presided over by Prof. Mazher Mehdi from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), with Afad-ul-Mujtaba, former ADGP and member of the Public Service Commission, as the Chief Guest. The event was also graced by Prof. S.K. Pandita,

Director, UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, and Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Coordinator of the workshop.

Speakers lauded the workshop as a resounding success, highlighting the wealth of knowledge shared by eminent experts on various aspects of research methodology. They commended Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik for his meticulous coordination and for ensuring the participation of high-caliber resource persons. Participants expressed the need for similar workshops in the future to further enhance the

knowledge and skills of research scholars.

Chief Guest Afad-ul-Mujtaba emphasized that research is integral to human progress and urged the younger generation to understand and adopt effective research practices. He also highlighted the distinction between police and academic research. In his presidential address, Prof. Mazher Mehdi applauded the University of Jammu for organizing the workshop, elaborating on the aims and objectives of research and shedding light on essential research techniques.

The workshop wit-

nessed active participation from nearly 70 participants, including research scholars and faculty members from various universities and colleges. Esteemed resource persons such as Prof. Abu Kalam from MANUU, Hyderabad; Prof. Mazher Mehdi from JNU, New Delhi; Prof. Suchetana Pathania, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Jammu; Prof. Jigar Mohammad, former Dean, Research Studies, University of Jammu; Prof. Anupama Vohra; Prof. Mohammad Reyaz Ahmad; Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik; and others contributed significantly to the workshop's success.

The valedictory function concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants by the dignitaries. Prof. S.K. Pandita, Director of UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all those who contributed to the workshop's success.

EDITORIAL

ROLE OF YOUTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Young Civil Servants – Architects of India@2047

By: Omkar Dattatray

It is plain speaking and truth that the young civil servants who are energetic, innovative and can initiate modern innovations and reform in the administration are in fact the architects of developed India by 2047 and they can perform the positive role as the agents of change and development and they can also be the ambassadors of socio-political as well as technological growth. They can play a dominating role in bringing development by 2027 as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and there is no exaggeration about it. This apt and true statement has been given by no less a man than the union minister of so many departments including science and technology Dr Jitendra Singh the other day. Dr Jitendra Singh said that the young civil servants are the architects of Viksit Bharat by 2047 while addressing the "Dr Rajendra Prasad National Convention" held at the Indian Institute of Public Administration – IIPA. Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized the critical role young leaders / administrators this will play in shaping India's transformation into developed nation by 2047. He rightly described the young civil servants as the driving force of change rather positive change and stressed their vision, dedication and innovative approach will determine the success of this national mission of developed Bharat as envisioned by the prime minister Narendra Modi. Jitendra Singh said that the government is committed to empowering youth as well as women segment of the society so that young civil servants will take this monumental task, highlighting the key initiatives introduced under the union budget 2024-25. The minister announced a big plan of skilling

/training 20 lakh youth, modernization of the ITI's as well as internship opportunities for one crore young people. He further stated that this skilling is aimed to equipping India's youth with the tools to lead in a competitive global environment. The minister talked passionately about empowering women and governments focus on this as well as on inclusivity particularly the enhanced participation of women in nation's work force and in shaping future growth and development. Giving examples of workforce women hostels, SHG's and called these initiatives game changers that would ensure women's role as equal partners and change agents in country's development journey. The minister said that Modi's government has given much importance to infrastructure development and in this regard mentioned PM Gati Shakti and fostering sustainable development through clear energy investments. Dr Singh stressed India's global role and leadership in green initiative, including its ambitious target of achieving 500GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2023. He also mentioned the innovations in digitization and artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and renewable energy driven by policies under Digital India and the Atal Innovation Mission. He lauded India's G20 presidency and its success and India's leadership role in the world. The minister also mentioned nation's achievements in diplomacy. He also mentioned India's role in combating climate change, food security and digital transformation. Dr Jitendra Singh called young civil servants to take ownership of the nation's growth story. He reminded the administrative officers of their immense responsibility in translating the policies, scheme and programmes of the govern-

ment into tangible outcomes for ensuring development of India. He appealed young civil servants to take the mantle of bringing positive change and development so that it reaches to the last man in the queue and everyone is benefitted by developmental journey. The young civil servants are not just administrators only but they are the architects of country's future. The vision and noble mission of Viksit Bharat by 2047 rests on the shoulders of the young civil service officers and as such they should play their role in a free and fair manner uninfluenced by the politicians and political high up. There is urgent and great need to protect the civil service officers from the interference of the politicians and political authority. The young administrators should be insulated from the influences and interference of the political authority and ministers so that the administrative officers will be free to take people friendly decisions. This is only possible when there is minimum or no interference and intervention of the politicians. The young civil servants should perform their role well so that developed India by 2047 will become a reality with inclusivity and sustainable growth and India's role as a global leader. The occasion serves as a reminder to civil servants and general public to work for the developed India by 2047. All this will lead to the reality of developed and prosperous India with self reliance by 2047. Dr Jitendra Singh described the civil servants as the driving force of change and said their vision, dedication and innovative approach will determine the success of this national mission. He called upon the young civil servants to take the ownership of the nation's growth story and build an India that is not only developed but also inclusive, sustainable and

global leader in every sense. He hailed the young civil servants as the "architects of Viksit Bharat@2047. Speaking to the audience comprising civil servants, academicians, industry leaders and the students, the minister emphasized the critical role young leaders will play in shaping India's transformation into a developed nation by 2047. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that India would continue to emerge as a strong voice on global stage, advocating for equitable solutions to shared global challenges. To conclude it can be said that the young civil servants are the positive agents of change, growth and development and it rests on their shoulders to make serious efforts in the direction of development so that India will be a Viksit nation by 2047. All including the general public, political parties, intelligentsia and above all the young civil servants will work in tandem to make Viksit Bharat a reality by 2047. Therefore let the young civil servants and all stakeholders put efforts together to realize the broad dream and mission of Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and developed India will become a reality as desired and envisioned by talented Prime Minister Narendra Modi by 2047 and in this mahayaga young civil servants, stakeholders and public at large should cooperate with the government to put the developed India dream of Modi a reality by the stipulated time frame of 2047. Jai Bharat, Jai Viksit Bharat.

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

Expectations from the year 2025

By: Vijay Garg

At this time most of the people are wondering what the coming year 2025 will be like? These estimates are of mixed nature. The renowned French saint and astrologer Nostradamus had made many important predictions about the future of India and the world in 2025. This sixteenth century saint had predicted many events that have shaped the world. These include things ranging from the Covid-19 global pandemic to man landing on the moon. These surprise the conjectures of Nostradamus. Today many people are interpreting the prophecies of this sixteenth-century saint and are impressed by their historical accuracy. Nostradamus predicted that the Russia-Ukraine war could end in 2025. He warned that both countries could face climate crisis and floods. According to 'The New York Post', Turkey and France can provide great assistance to the peace process between Ukraine and Russia. Nostradamus predicted an 'ancient plague' in England in 2025, which would lead to the re-emergence of a historical disease. There is a possibility of emergence. Along with this, he has also predicted Brazil's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war and many natural disasters. Along with these, Nostradamus has speculated that the Earth may collide with an asteroid. He had said, 'A ball of fire will rise from the universe which will change the future.' The prophecies of Nostradamus alert us to possible future events and their effects. As far as the future of India is concerned, the year 2025 will start from Republic Day. Will be from the parade. This time the theme of the parade is 'Golden

India: Developed India', although the name of the chief guest invited to the parade has not been finalized yet. From a religious point of view, the next Mahakumbh will be held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh from January 13, 2025 to February 26, 2025. On the occasion of Mahakumbh, this great spiritual event takes place at different places every 12 years. On this occasion, lakhs of pilgrims and devotees gather to take bath at the holy confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. central and state government All efforts are being made to make this Mahakumbh event extraordinary and unprecedented. Next year 2025, rapid economic progress, social change and new technologies can be seen in India. The government is making rapid improvements in the fields of technical education and renewable energy. These efforts are expected to accelerate economic progress, which bodes well for future prosperity in India. India's importance globally is expected to increase further this year, bringing it into line with other major economies in the areas of trade, defense and climate change. I will intensify my efforts. These also reveal India's growing political power across the world. At the national level, the opposition alliance 'India' is facing significant challenges and questions are being raised on its unity. A lot of tension has already arisen within this opposition alliance. Trinamool Congress-TMC and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have distanced themselves from the alliance. AAP has decided to go alone in the Delhi Assembly elections. In the opposition alliance 'India' during the recent Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly elections. These cracks were beginning to appear. While the Congress performed poorly in

Haryana and Maharashtra, its alliance with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-JMM won the elections in Jharkhand. Members of the 'India' alliance are saddened by the disappointing performance of the Congress. His eyes are now on how Congress performs in the Delhi and Bihar assembly elections to be held in 2025. The upcoming assembly elections will also indicate future political re-polarization. Assembly elections in Delhi will be held in February where BJP is gearing up to remove Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal from power. AAP has faced several challenges in the recent past, including allegations of corruption against many of its leaders. As a strategy, AAP has made Atishi the Chief Minister of Delhi till the elections. However, AAP and Congress had contested the Lok Sabha elections together in Delhi. AAP's performance was slightly better in this, but Congress did not get even a single seat. Bihar Assembly elections will also be held next year. This is politically very important state. Here, the ruling National Democratic Alliance - NDA is led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, but he is facing a tough challenge from the 'Grand Alliance' which is led by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav. BJP and Janata Dal United - JDU are trying to form their government again in the state. In the year 2025, two important political organizations Communist Party of India CPI and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh RSS will celebrate their centenaries. RSS 100 years of its establishment. The CPI will complete its centenary celebrations in September, while the CPI will begin its centenary celebrations in December this year. Despite many ups and downs, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

(RSS) has deeply influenced Indian politics and society. In such a situation, it has now become very difficult for any government to weaken it in future. Along with this, due to right wing parties becoming more popular, the influence of communist parties has reduced. If we look at the international front, India will organize the Quad conference in 2025. It was originally scheduled to be held this September. It was to be held in New Delhi, but due to other programs of the leaders participating in it, it was organized in New York. Now India will organize the Quad summit in 2025. US President Donald Trump is expected to come to Delhi to participate in this conference. Due to which India's position in international affairs will be further strengthened. Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India is proposed early next year, which will be an important occasion. The Kremlin has confirmed the date to be set for early next year. This will be Putin's first visit to Ukraine since the start of the war. Overall, the year 2025 is full of expectations for India. The economy is progressing well and foreign relations are stable, although the political situation is still unclear. Next year it remains to be seen whether there is some improvement in the situation of Congress or whether BJP and other regional parties succeed in strengthening their hold on the voters.

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

Babu Rampaul reiterates demand for restoration of statehood to J&K

S D Singh alongwith supporters join JKNC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Former Minister and Zonal President, JKNC Central Zone, Babu Rampaul has reiterated his demand for restoration of full-fledged statehood to Jammu & Kashmir and urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to fulfill their promise with people of J&K, who are utterly frustrated due to unfair discrimination with them at the hands of Centre.

Rampaul was addressing the office bearers and party workers during an programme in which Swaran Dev Singh, a retired PHE Inspector and President of PHE Union, Sub-Division Hiranagar officially joined Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), along with a substantial number of his supporters.

The programme was organized by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary of the Central Zone of JKNC.

The programme was graced by Babu Rampaul, President of



JKNC Central Zone, as the chief guest, while Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary, served as the guest of honour. Rampaul garlanded Swaran Dev Singh and his supporters and welcome them into the party fold.

Addressing the gathering, Babu Rampaul emphasized the need to fortify the party's base at the grassroots level. He highlighted the pivotal role of dedicated workers and local leadership in addressing the challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "JKNC has always been a voice for the common people, and it is our collective responsibility to

strengthen this movement at every level," he remarked.

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

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

cratic governance and socio-economic welfare across Jammu and Kashmir.

Ankush Abrol, in his address, underscored the importance of youth participation in political discourse and called for a united effort to address pressing regional issues. He urged the attendees to work collectively for the welfare of the people and uphold the principles of justice and development championed by JKNC.

Dr. Vikas Sharma extended a warm welcome to S D Singh and his supporters, appreciating their decision to align with JKNC's vision for equitable development and progress in

the region. He praised Singh's commitment to public welfare and expressed confidence that his inclusion would invigorate the party's efforts in Hiranagar and beyond.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a resolution to amplify efforts to strengthen JKNC's presence across the region. The inclusion of Swaran Dev Singh and his supporters is seen as a significant boost to the party's influence in Hiranagar.

This development comes at a crucial time as JKNC continues to build momentum in the region, preparing for upcoming political challenges with renewed energy and commitment to public service.

Among those who attended were Sham Lal Mehra, Rahul Mahajan, Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, S. Nirmal Singh, Dr. Gourav Bharat, Arvind Jamwal, B.D Dalotra (rtd. S.P.), Om dalmotra, S. Surjeet Singh Sasan, Prem Kumar Verma, Hemraj, Naved Raja, A.N Bhagat, Sat Paul, Manhor Lal, Baramanad, Harbans Lal, Jatinder Kumar and others.

Dr. Uppal receives the Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Excellence Award 2024

"Best Principal of the Year 2024"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Excellence Award 2024 was presented to Dr. Uppal by PAAI. Throughout his career, Dr. Uppal made a significant contribution to education and research. Reorganizing his exemplary dedication, generosity, and patience in the field of education, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to imparting knowledge and fostering learning. His contributions to the teaching community serve as an inspiration and reflect his boundless passion for shaping education and research. Dr. Uppal was awarded the Best Principal of the Year



in 2024. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a distinguished Emeritus Professor and acclaimed academician, currently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab, India. Dr. Uppal is recognized internationally for his profound contributions to Banking

and Finance, evidenced by numerous national and international patents stemming from his research. A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations.

Indian Army Organised Awareness Talk on Health at Kalaban, Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Dec 22: To promote health awareness and education, the Indian Army organized an awareness talk on health at Govt. Higher Secondary School Kalaban on 22 Dec 2024. The event aimed to educate students, faculty, and local community members

about the importance of health and wellness. A total of 143 participants, including 72 boys, 47 girls, and 24 teachers, attended the event. The lecture, attended by 143 participants, highlighted the significance of maintaining good health and the Indian Army's commitment to promoting health awareness. It provided valuable insights

on various health-related topics, including nutrition, fitness, and disease prevention. The event served as a platform to reaffirm the Indian Army's commitment to promoting health awareness and education, particularly among the youth. The Indian Army's efforts to promote health awareness are a testament to its dedication to upholding the values of wellness, fitness, and overall well-being. The event was highly appreciated by the participants, who praised the Indian Army's initiative to promote health awareness.

Sawhney Holds Nukkar Meeting Held in Aitham, Jammu East



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22 : Senior Congress leader and Former Minister J&K, Yogesh Sawhney today held a Nukkar meeting at Sail Jageera, Aitham in Jammu East to discuss critical issues with the local residents. The meeting witnessed a significant turnout of residents who voiced their grievances and longstanding issues impacting the region. The meeting focused on various challenges faced by the local community, including inadequate infrastructure, unemployment, and a lack of basic amenities.

During the meeting, ex-MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney emphasized the importance of public participation in governance and assured the residents that their issues would be taken up at appropriate platforms. The primary concerns raised included the poor condition of roads, irregular water supply, and the lack of technological development in the area. Residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the current state

of public infrastructure, highlighting how these problems hinder daily life and economic progress. Sawhney called for immediate attention to these matters, urging the government to prioritize the development of basic connectivity and amenities.

Another critical issue discussed was unemployment, which has been a persistent challenge for the youth in the region. Residents lamented the lack of job opportunities and skill development programs, which forces many young individuals to migrate to other places in search of work or sit idle. Sawhney pointed out that the government must create policies to boost local employment opportunities, particularly in sectors like tourism, technology, and small-scale industries. He stressed the need for vocational training centers and government-backed initiatives to empower the local workforce.

Sawhney also addressed the broader issue of development, stating that rural and semi-urban areas like

Sail Jageera often get sidelined in the process of modernization. There is a lack of basic road connection in this region, as I have also personally witnessed during my various visits here, said Sawhney. He added that party advocates for the inclusion of these areas in developmental projects, ensuring that people of Aitham Jammu East have access to basic amenities such as healthcare, education, and reliable electricity. Development should not be confined to urban centers. People of Aitham, Jammu East need equal access to progress and opportunities, he remarked.

Sawhney assured the residents that their concerns would be escalated to higher authorities. He also encouraged the community to stay united and proactive in demanding their rights. People widely appreciated Sawhney's efforts for providing a platform for open dialogue between the residents and their leaders, fostering a sense of hope and collective responsibility for the betterment of the region.

Congress to connect with roots, observe anniversaries of all top leaders, honour party veterans

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22:- Congress will observe the days of all veteran leaders who have played important role in their life in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir & remained loyal to the party .

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has asked the PCC HQs and all District Presidents to shortlist the names of all such prominent leaders in respective districts ,to be remembered on their birth or death anniversary ,in respective district or constituency headquarters.

Acting on the recommendation of the Fact Finding Committee headed by Ravinder Sharma , Shri Karra has asked the top party leaders to identify all such leaders of stature ,whose remembrance shall be observed every year in order to reconnect with the roots of party.

The committee has recommended that the party should re-connect with the roots by remembering the past leaders of great contributions, at different levels right from PCC to block levels and also honouring the veteran leaders who have retired from active politics. This will reconnect party with the roots and give the families of original congressmen , a sense of belongingness with the party..

Accepting the recommendations of the committee, in this regard,JKPCC Chief has already issued instructions ,Earlier only few leaders of J&K,on pick & choose basis,are remembered.

MAHAJAN SABHA Gandhi Nagar Celebrates MEHR CHAND MAJAJAN 135th Birth Anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Mahajan Sabha Gandhi Nagar today celebrated justice Mehr Chand Mahajan's 135th Birth Anniversary at Mehr Chand Mahajan Park Gandhi Nagar with solemnity and Favor. Chief Patron of Mahajan Sabha Sh. Jugal Mahajan paid rich tributes to Justice Mehr Chand and described him as a great patriot with whose wisdom Jammu and Kashmir became part of India. He spoke about his simplicity and social reforms especially in Mahajan Biradari and said that he was against unnecessary extravagance in marriages and this should be followed by all biradaris even now. K.B.Jandial Retd. (I.A.S) whole remembering Justice Mahajan said that it was he as a member of redcliff boundary commission for Punjab who ensured



a road connectivity to Jammu through Gurdaspur without which accession of the state with India could not have been possible later as Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. He said Jammu and Kashmir in Particular and Indian Nation as a Whole cannot forget the services of Justice Mahajan.

Bhanu Mahajan Vice President Mahajan Sabha Gandhi Nagar and Acting working President of Congress Party J&K Wing also spoke on the occasion she called for emulating values and Principles

of Redcliff Boundary Commission on Punjab and Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. He said Jammu and Kashmir in Particular and Indian Nation as a Whole cannot forget the services of Justice Mahajan.

Bhanu Mahajan Vice President Mahajan Sabha Gandhi Nagar and Acting working President of Congress Party J&K Wing also spoke on the occasion she called for emulating values and Principles

of Justice Nationalism, simplicity and social reforms which justice Mahajan Pursued through his life.

Vipin Gupta President Mahajan Sabha Channi while remembering Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan said that it was he as a member of Redcliff Boundary Commission for Punjab who ensured a road connectivity to Jammu through Gurdaspur without which accession of the state with India could not have been possible.

Earlier the other dignitaries garlanded the statue of Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan and participated in the Havan. Those present included Chief Patron Jugal Mahajan, President Jagdish Vaid, K.B.Jandyal Retd. I.A.S., Prem Gupta I.G.P, Bhanu Mahajan Working President Congress J&K< Ravi Rohmetra Columnist, Vipin Gupta President Mahajan Sabha Channi, Dr. R.K.Gupta Senior Vice President, P.C.Gupta General Secretary, Naresh Gupta Publicity Secretary, Raman Mahajan Treasure, Raj Pal Secretary, Bansi Lal Gupta, Romesh Gupta, Ravi Mahajan, Sanjay Saraf, Veena Mahajan and Varinder Jeet.

A large number of Prominent persons of Mahajan Biradari participated in the memorative function.

Arjun Kapoor says Salman Khan is not a bully: 'There is a lot of warmth to the man'

Arjun Kapoor talked about how Salman Khan is perceived in the industry and praised him for maintaining his audience through his body of work. During a recent podcast appearance with Raj Shamani, Arjun Kapoor shared that Salman Khan is definitely not a bully and is someone who has a lot of warmth in him.

What Arjun said
During the chat, Arjun said, "He is not a bully. Anybody who has a tough image... When you are not always openly warm in the first few minutes, you feel they are being a certain way. There is a lot of warmth to that man. It's just he might not give it in the first second. But you will



have to allow that to happen." "He operates for the masses" He went on to talk about Salman's career and added, "He has always looked at cinema as an audience's medium, he

has never looked at it only as an artiste. Even today, when he does stage shows and hosts Bigg Boss one can see that these are mass mediums. He operates for the masses. He

has worked for the audience and then he has built that audience. Maybe this comes to him because he is grown up around Salim-Javed. He put it to use in mainstream cinema."

Arjun was an assistant director on Salman's film Wanted. Arjun was also in a relationship with Malaika Arora, who was previously married to Salman's brother Arbaaz Khan. The actor also had a song named Superman, 'Salman ka fan' from his film Tevar.

Arjun was last seen in an antagonistic role in Singham Again. On the other hand, Salman will be seen next in Sikandar. It will release in Eid next year.

John Abraham spoke about Nepal's Chitwan Elephant Festival



Actor John Abraham has requested the Nepal government to cancel the Chitwan Elephant Festival. As reported agency, John shared a letter to Nepal's Ministry of Culture urging them to replace such events with ethical wildlife tourism initiatives. He added that such steps would elevate Nepal's reputation as "a world leader in eco-tourism while ensuring that your wildlife is celebrated and protected".

John praises Nepal's beauty

In his letter, John praised the beauty of Nepal. He said, "I am writing to you not only as an actor and advocate for animals but also as someone who holds Nepal close to his heart. When I see your beautiful country, I am reminded of its rich culture, breathtaking landscapes, and, most of all, the warmth and hospitality of its people. Nepal is a nation I deeply admire, and it is this admiration that compels me to reach out to you today."

John writes about impact on elephants

The actor talked about the Chitwan Elephant Festival and how it hurts the animals. "I recently

learned of the plans to revive the elephant games at the Chitwan Elephant Festival. While I understand the tradition and allure these events might have for some, I must respectfully share my concerns about the impact they have on the elephants involved. These intelligent, sensitive animals endure immense physical and emotional strain during these games. Behind the scenes, they are often subjected to harsh training methods and gruelling conditions that no living being should have to bear," he added.

John says how Nepal can protect its wildlife

"As someone who has witnessed the beauty of elephants in their natural habitat, I can tell you that they symbolise strength, grace, and wisdom. They are a national treasure in so many ways, and Nepal has the opportunity to lead the way in showing the world how to respect and protect these magnificent animals," John added.

"Nepal is uniquely positioned to inspire global travellers by offering experiences rooted in its compassion and

sustainability. Replacing events like elephant polo and football with ethical wildlife tourism initiatives could elevate Nepal's reputation as a world leader in eco-tourism while ensuring that your wildlife is celebrated and protected," the actor further wrote.

John urges Nepal to cancel festival

"I humbly urge you, Honorable Minister, to cancel the elephant games and steer Nepal towards a future where traditions can evolve to reflect our shared values of kindness and respect for all living, feeling beings. I would be honoured to support such efforts and help showcase Nepal's leadership in humane tourism to audiences worldwide," the actor continued.

"Thank you for taking the time to consider this heartfelt appeal. Nepal holds a special place in my heart, and I am confident that its bright future will be shaped by decisions that honour its people, wildlife, and unparalleled natural beauty. Please let me know what you decide," concluded his note.

About John's last film Fans saw John last in Vedaa alongside Sharvari and Tamannaah Bhatia. The film, which was released in theatres on August 15, kick-started its digital journey on October 10. Directed by Nikkhil Advani, the action-packed drama follows the journey of a determined Dalit girl and boldly addresses the pressing issues of caste-based injustices and crimes.

The Chitwan Elephant Festival takes place in the Chitwan district of Nepal. The festival, as per reports, witnesses elephant walk, elephant bath, elephant football, beauty contest, and elephant picnic.

Angelina Jolie sparks alarming 'bulging veins' diet craze with recent looks

Angelina Jolie's recent red carpet appearances for her Maria Callas biopic have unintentionally sparked a concerning new trend. Fans on social media have been obsessing over her skinny appearance and visible veins, swapping dangerous tips to achieve a similar look. The actress, in the middle of a chaotic divorce battle with ex-husband Brad Pitt, made multiple appearances this month to promote her new Maria Callas biopic.

Angelina Jolie's skinny appearance sparks alarming craze

Angelina Jolie's stunning portrayal of Maria Callas is earning rave reviews, with fans and critics alike praising her ability to bring the legendary opera singer's life and struggles to the screen. Since its debut on Netflix on December 11, the biopic has become a hot topic of conversation, celebrating Jolie's talent and dedication to the role.

However, concerns about her health have started stealing the spotlight. Many fans believe the stress of her ongoing, messy divorce battle with Brad Pitt may be taking its toll. Adding to the chatter, Radar Online revealed an unsettling trend among fans inspired by Jolie's recent red-carpet appearances.

Her visibly popping veins have allegedly started a disturbing social media trend with few netizens sharing extreme dieting tips, and some admirers going as far as exchanging methods involving dehydration and starvation to mimic the look. This alarming obsession has left many questioning the dangerous lengths some will go to in the pursuit of unrealistic beauty standards.

"I love Angelina's bulging veins look. How do I get that for me?" a netizen commented on a video where the Maleficent actress is seen engaging with fans. Another user replied, "You need to strip back the body fat, work out loads, but don't hydrate much. This will bring the veins to the surface. She looks amazing!" A third added, "Vein popping is so sexy. Lose the fat to free the veins."

While concerns are rife about the actress' health, speculation about her weight has been a recurring theme throughout her career, with some expressing worry about a potential eating disorder. Even onlookers during the recent film event pointed out "how unhealthy she appeared," with veins popping up on his forehead and her arms.

Angelina Jolie admits lack of 'light and life' in her

Angelina Jolie recently shared a deeply personal moment, opening up about a difficult time in her life when she felt she had "gone very dark" during her break from Hollywood. Amid reports of financial strains from her high-profile court proceedings and the demands of motherhood, her career has found new life through Maria, Pablo Larrain's biographical film, which has earned her Golden Globe and Critics' Choice Awards.

Reflecting on the challenges she overcame, she told agency, "I went very dark for reasons I'd rather not explain, but I didn't have a lot of light and life within me. Your light's dim." She opened up about the emotional and practical challenges that influenced her decision to take a step back, expressing a need to be home more, which limited her ability to take



on long-term projects. "The choice of what to work on and when was not a creative choice, often, the last few years, but sometimes the practical choice," she shared.

Reflecting on her return, Jolie described her role in Maria as the start of her healing process. "Maria was the beginning of starting to come alive again," Jolie shared, adding, "I needed a lot of kind people around me to hold my hand."

Bhumika Gurung plays a negative role in Bas Itna Sa Khwaab

Bhumika Gurung, who plays an out-and-out-grey character in Zee TV's new offering Bas Itna Sa Khwaab, is in a happy space as of now. "I believe Shagun is a character full of complexity and intrigue, driven by jealousy and bitterness towards those she feels have wronged her. She's manipulative and cunning, and doesn't shy away from using others to get what she wants. For me, playing such a negative role is a thrilling and new experience. Having always portrayed positive characters in the past, this is the first time I am stepping into the shoes of an antagonist. I am absolutely loving the challenge and the opportunity to explore such a layered character. I am looking forward to the audience's reactions."

Through Avani's story, Bas Itna Sa Khwaab aims to send a powerful message—that housewives who juggle a hundred responsibilities with ease and flair within the four walls of the house can most



certainly transcend the threshold, step into the

big bad world and provide for the house too.

Honey Singh recalls 'wishing for death' as he talks about fighting mental illness in his documentary: 'I saw hell'

Honey Singh's much-awaited documentary, Yo Yo Honey Singh: Famous has finally been released on Netflix. In the documentary film, the singer and rapper talked about his struggles with mental health and recalled getting suspicious symptoms during his tour with Shah Rukh Khan.

Honey Singh recalls facing suspicious symptoms

Honey recalled how Shah Rukh asked him to join him on the Slam Tour and he agreed to it, "We were on a flight to America the next day. We went back and forth to America for four days. I started getting suspicious symptoms that someone was staging a conspiracy against me to trap me and file a case against me. I didn't understand what was happening," he stated as per agency.

He further recalled how he trimmed his hair so as not to perform on stage and said, "Somebody spread the rumours that Shah Rukh Khan slapped Honey Singh. That man loves me so much, he could never slap me. I'll tell



you what happened. When they took me to the Chicago show, I didn't want to do it. I felt that I would die during the show. I was not getting ready.

Everyone including my management team asked me why. I said, "No, I'm not going." I went to the washroom. I took a trimmer and trimmed my hair. I asked, "How will you make me perform now?" They said, "We'll make you wear a hat." I said firmly that I would not go. I grabbed a coffee mug and hit myself on the head."

Honey Singh on fighting bipolar disorder

Honey Singh then revealed that he was fighting bipolar disorder and said, "It was bipolar disorder. There were psychotic symptoms as well. What happens then is that your mind goes out of control. You start seeing dreams while you're awake. I would get scared even when my maid used to come thinking she'd be laughing at me, she was wiping blood off the floor, etc. It was a weird feeling. I thought I'd never be able to meet

my parents again. I saw hell. I wished for death every day. I grew my hair and beard. I would just spend my days sleeping, crying, and not meeting anyone. I would stare at the moon, and how it changes every night. I used to think I must have been staring at the moon for 6-7 hours but it would only be 15 minutes. My days would not come to an end. I used to stay in a room. I used to feel that somebody was going to die. That's why there were 'paaths' being done in the house. I thought I was going to die and that's why these 'paaths' were being done in the house."

Honey's documentary Yo Yo Honey Singh Famous, directed by Mozez Singh and produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain, shows moments from the rapper's personal and professional life, including heartfelt accounts from his family, friends, and collaborators. Being touted as a "deeply personal portrayal", the project will give a glimpse into his rise, fall and journey of paving his comeback.

India can never permit others to have veto on its choices: EAM Jaishankar

Jaishankar said India is an exceptional nation because it is a civilisation state. Such a country will only exercise influence when it fully leverages its cultural strengths in the global arena, he said.

MUMBAI, Dec 22 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India can never permit others to have a veto on its choices and will do whatever is right in the national interest and for the global good without being intimidated to "conform".

In a video message for a function, he said when India is etched more deeply in global consciousness, its repercussions are truly profound.

In a world grappling with unhealthy habits, stressed lifestyles or recurring climate events, there is much learning to be gained from India's heritage. But the world will only know when the countrymen take pride in it, he said.

In an age of globalisation, technology and tradition must march together, said Jaishankar.

"Bharat will inevitably progress but it must do so without losing its Bharatiyata. Only then can we truly emerge as a leading power in a multi-polar world," he said.

Jaishankar was conferred the 27th SIES Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati National Eminence Award. The awards are given in four fields – Public



Leadership, Community Leadership, Human endeavour, Science and Technology and Social Leadership – with primacy on spiritualism.

The awards are named after the late 68th Seer of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati.

The foreign minister did not attend the event but sent his video message.

"Independence should never be confused with neutrality. We will do whatever is right in our national interest and for global good without being intimidated to conform. Bharat can never permit others to have a veto on its choices," he said.

"For too long we were schooled to visualise progress and modernity as a rejection of our heritage and traditions," Jaishankar said.

Perhaps, this came from an affinity for imported models, or perhaps it was a discomfort with its own practices. But now as the deepening of democracy has thrown up more authentic voices, the country is rediscovering itself and finding again its own persona, he said.

Jaishankar said India is an exceptional nation because it is a civilisation state. Such a country will only exercise influence when it fully leverages its cultural strengths in the global

arena, he said.

"To that it is essential that we ourselves, the younger generation, are fully aware of the value and significance of our heritage. This can be articulated at various levels, but most importantly it should have an impact at the societal level," he said.

Jaishankar said India is poised today at a crucial juncture. On the one hand, the last decade has demonstrated that it has the capabilities, confidence and, most importantly, the commitment to advance development across broad fronts.

It has shown that the age-old problems of poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities can be indeed addressed. On the global stage, it has established itself as an independent power but one committed to global good, especially the well-being of the global south, he said.

"At the same time, however, the constraints and limitations that have long been our bane still remain in place. There are viewpoints and ideologies which are more pessimistic and even denigrating of ourselves," added Jaishankar.

Modi govt's 'calibrated erosion' of EC's integrity: Kharge on election rule



NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday hit out at the government for tweaking an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents, alleging it is part of the Modi government's "systematic conspiracy" to destroy the institutional integrity of the Election Commission.

Kharge also said the Modi government's "calibrated erosion" of the ECI's integrity is a frontal attack on the Constitution and democracy.

The government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse.

Based on the recommendation of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Union law ministry on Friday amended Rule 93(2) (a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict the type of "papers" or documents open to public inspection.

Reacting to the development, Kharge said,

"Modi government's audacious amendment in the Conduct of Election Rules is another assault in its systematic conspiracy to destroy the institutional integrity of the Election Commission of India." "Earlier, they had removed the Chief Justice of India from the Selection panel which appoints Election Commissioners, and now they have resorted to stonewall electoral information, even after a High Court order," he said in a post on X.

Also Read – BJP MPs did not mention Indira herself voted to remove many provisions of 42nd Amendment: Ramesh
Everytime the Congress party wrote to the ECI, regarding specific poll irregularities such as voter deletions and lack of transparency in EVMs, the ECI has responded in a condescending tone and chosen not to even acknowledge certain serious complaints, Kharge said.

"This again proves that the ECI, even though it is a quasi-judicial body, is not behaving independently," he said.

"The Modi government's calibrated erosion of ECI's integrity

is a frontal attack on the Constitution and Democracy and we will take every step to safeguard them," Kharge said.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh had said the party would legally challenge the amendment.

Lok Sabha MP and Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said the poll panel had chosen opacity and a pro-government attitude in its dealings thus far.

According to Rule 93, all "papers" related to elections shall be open to public inspection.

The amendment inserts "as specified in these rules" after "papers".

Law ministry and ECI officials separately explained that a court case was the "trigger" behind the amendment.

While documents such as nomination forms, appointment of election agents, results and election account statements are mentioned in the Conduct of Election Rules, electronic documents such as CCTV camera footage, webcasting footage and video recording of candidates during the Model Code of Conduct period are not covered.

"CCTV coverage, webcasting of polling stations are not carried out under Conduct of Election Rules but are the result of steps taken by the ECI to ensure a level playing field," a former ECI official explained.

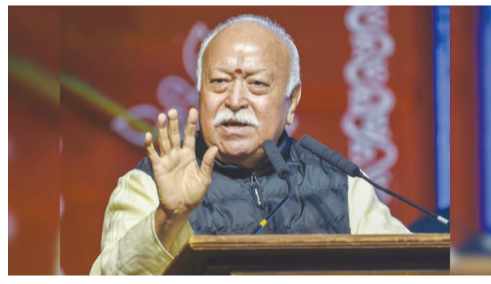
Persecution in the name of Dharma took place due to lack of its understanding: Bhagwat

AMRAVATI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said all the persecution and atrocities that took place in the name of "Dharma" (religion) happened due to misunderstanding and lack of understanding of "Dharma".

Speaking at the centenary function of 'Mahanubhav Ashram' in Maharashtra's

Amravati, he said Dharma was important and must be taught properly.

"Because improper and incomplete knowledge of Dharma leads to Adharma. All the persecution and atrocities that took place across the world in the name of Dharma actually took place because of misunderstanding and lack of understanding of Dharma," he emphasised.



CM Adityanath says law and order in UP has improved, SP claims 'jungle raj' everywhere

LUCKNOW, Dec 22 (Agencies): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh has improved and as a result, the state government has received investment proposals worth Rs 40 lakh crore.

The opposition Samajwadi Party, however, countered Adityanath and claimed there is an atmosphere of "jungle raj" in the state with loot, hooliganism and anarchy everywhere.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister's Office shared a video in which Adityanath is heard saying that there is a better security environment in the state and people have faith in law and order.

"It is the result of this that Uttar Pradesh has



received investment proposals of Rs 40 lakh crore," he said.

Within two hours of this post, the Samajwadi Party's Media Cell shared on X clippings of news reports about a murder and a dacoity in Varanasi and Chitrakoot respectively.

"This is CM Yogi's shameful and ruined law and order which he boasts about from packed stages," read the post which was also shared by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Questioning the chief minister's claims of improved law and order in the state, the SP said, "In Yogiraj, there is an atmosphere of jungle raj with loot, hooliganism, anarchy, and murder and kidnapping everywhere." "In CM Yogi's rule, there is collusion between police, BJP and robbers and the looted goods are distributed among all... CM Yogi should tell if he is the CEO of this gang of robbers or the trainer," it said.

BJP MPs did not mention Indira herself voted to remove many provisions of 42nd Amendment: Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his colleagues mounted a "furious attack" on Indira Gandhi for the 42nd Amendment but they did not mention that she, along with other Congress MPs, voted in favour of the 44th Amendment which removed a number of provisions introduced through the 42nd Amendment, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said on Sunday.

Ramesh pointed out that the PM and his colleagues also did not mention the fact that many of the provisions of the 42nd Amendment have been retained ever since it was enacted almost half a century ago.

"During the discussion on the Constitution, the PM and his colleagues mounted a



furious attack on Indira Gandhi for the 42nd Amendment that was passed by Parliament in December 1976," he said in a post on X.

"What they did not mention was that Indira Gandhi herself, along with other Congress MPs, then voted in favour of the 44th Amendment in December 1978, when Morarji Desai was PM," he said.

The words "socialist" and "secular" were inserted into the Preamble under the 42nd con-

stitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976.

The amendment changed the description of India in the Preamble from a "sovereign, democratic republic" to a "sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic".

Ramesh said the 44th Amendment removed a number of provisions introduced through the 42nd Amendment.

"The PM and his colleagues also did not mention the fact that

many of the provisions of the 42nd Amendment have been retained ever since it was enacted almost half a century ago," the Congress leader said.

Ramesh pointed out that the provisions of the 42nd Amendment include the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble that have been recently held by the Supreme Court to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

They include Article 39-A that provides for equal justice and free legal aid and Article 43-A that provides for participation of workers in management of industries, Ramesh said.

The provisions retained also include Article 48-A that provides for protection and improvement of the

environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife, he said.

They also include Article 51-A that lists 11 fundamental duties of citizens and Articles 323-A and 323-B that provide for administrative and other tribunals, he said.

Inclusion of education, population planning, environment, and forests in the Seventh Schedule, i.e., the Concurrent list that gives responsibility to both the Union and state governments was also retained, Ramesh said.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha held a two-day debate on the "Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India" earlier this month that saw acrimonious exchanges between the treasury and opposition benches.

Kejriwal announces doorstep registration for women, elderly welfare schemes starting tomorrow

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced that registration for the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana, which would provide monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to women in the city, would begin tomorrow.

In its 2024-25 budget, the Delhi government had announced this scheme to provide Rs 1,000 per month to all women aged above 18. However, Kejriwal recently announced that the amount

would be raised to Rs 2,100 if his party returns to power in the Assembly elections, slated for February next year.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said, "The registration for the scheme would start tomorrow. Women don't have to go anywhere for registration; our volunteers would come to your home and complete the registration."

The beneficiaries will need to show their voter identity cards, and all eligible women voters in



Delhi will receive the benefits, he added.

Kejriwal also announced that registration for the Sanjeevani

Yojana would start tomorrow, and elderly people would be registered at their homes by AAP volunteers.

Earlier, the AAP supreme announced that the Sanjeevani Yojana would be launched to provide free treatment to people aged above 60 years after his party returns to power in Delhi.

In the run for the upcoming Delhi elections, AAP is vying for a third consecutive term, having won 62 out of 70 seats in the last election.

Elderly man, his two granddaughters killed as house catches fire in Madhya Pradesh

SHIVPURI, Dec 22 (Agencies): A 65-year-old man and his two minor granddaughters were charred to death after their hut caught fire in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at 11.30 pm on Saturday in Laxmipura village under Bairad police station limits, an official said.

Prima facie, it is suspected the house caught fire from an 'angithi' (stove) lit for protection from the cold weather, Bairad police station in-charge Vikas Yadav said.

After getting information about the incident, police and fire personnel reached the spot and controlled the blaze, he said.

Hajari Banjara (65) and his granddaughter Sandhya (10) died on the spot, while his another grandchild Anushka (5) succumbed to burn injuries on way to the hospital, the official said.

Bairad tehsildar Dragpal Singh Vaish said financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh for each of the deceased has been approved in addition to other assistance to the family for the last rites of the victims.

Two US Navy pilots shot down over Red Sea in apparent 'friendly fire' incident

Shutdown underlines just how dangerous Red Sea corridor has become over ongoing attacks on shipping by Iranian-backed Houthis

DUBAI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Two US Navy pilots were shot down on Sunday over the Red Sea in an apparent "friendly fire" incident, the US military said, marking the most serious incident to threaten troops in over a year of America targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Both pilots were recovered alive after ejecting from their stricken aircraft, with one suffering minor injuries. But the shutdown underlines just how dangerous the Red Sea corridor has become over the ongoing attacks on shipping by the Iranian-backed Houthis despite US and European military coalitions patrolling the area.

The US military had conducted airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels at the time, though the US military's Central Command did not elaborate on what their mission was and did not immediately respond to questions from agency.

The F/A-18 shot down had just flown off the deck of the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier, Central Command said. On December 15, Central Command acknowledged that the Truman had entered the Middle East, but hadn't specified that the carrier and its battle group were in the Red Sea.

"The guided missile cruiser USS Gettysburg, which is part of the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group, mistakenly fired on and hit the F/A-18," Central Command said in a statement.



From the military's description, the aircraft shot down was a two-seat F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet assigned to the "Red Rippers" of Strike Fighter Squadron 11 out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia.

It wasn't immediately clear how the Gettysburg could mistake an F/A-18 for an enemy aircraft or missile, particularly as ships in a battle group remain linked by both radar and radio communication.

However, Central Command said that the warships and aircraft earlier shot down multiple Houthi drones and an anti-ship cruise missile launched by the rebels. Incoming hostile fire from the Houthis has given sailors just seconds to make decisions in the past.

Since the Truman's arrival, the US has stepped up its airstrikes targeting the Houthis

and their missile fire into the Red Sea and the surrounding area. However, the presence of an American warship group may spark renewed attacks from the rebels, like what the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower saw earlier this year. That deployment marked what the Navy described as its most intense combat since World War II.

On Saturday night and early Sunday, US warplanes conducted airstrikes that shook Sanaa, the capital of Yemen that the Houthis have held since 2014. Central Command described the strikes as targeting a "missile storage facility" and a "command-and-control facility," without elaborating.

Houthi-controlled media reported strikes in both Sanaa and around the port city of Hodeida, without offering any casualty or damage information.

In Sanaa, strikes appeared particularly targeted at a mountain-side known to be home to military installations. The Houthis later acknowledged the aircraft being shot down in the Red Sea.

The Houthis have targeted about 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip started in October 2023 after Hamas' surprise attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage.

Israel's grinding offensive in Gaza has killed more than 45,000 Palestinians, local health officials say. The tally doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The Houthis have seized one vessel and sunk two in a campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by separate US- and European-led coalitions in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have also included Western military vessels.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the US or the United Kingdom to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

The Houthis also have increasingly targeted Israel itself with drones and missiles, resulting in retaliatory Israeli airstrikes.

Trump threatens to return Panama Canal to US unless Panama cuts fees



WASHINGTON, Dec 22 (Agencies): US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to return the Panama Canal to US ownership unless Panamanian authorities regulate its "ridiculously" high fees. In a Truth Social post,

Trump said the Panama Canal is considered a vital national asset for the United States because of its critical role in the economy and national security. However, he called the high fees charged by Panama "ridiculous"

and said this "rip-off" must stop.

"If the principles, both moral and legal, of this magnanimous gesture of giving are not followed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to us, in full, and without question," Trump added.

The Panama Canal is an artificial waterway in Panama, Central America, crossing the Isthmus of Panama at its lowest point and connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is one of the most important international transport waterways.

China says US is 'playing with fire' after latest military aid for Taiwan

BEIJING, Dec 22 (Agencies): The Chinese government protested Sunday the latest American announcements of military sales and assistance to Taiwan, warning the United States that it is "playing with fire."

U.S. President Joe Biden authorized Saturday the provision of up to \$571 million in Defense Department material and services and in military education and training for Taiwan. Separately, the Defense Department said Friday that \$295 million in military sales had been approved.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement urged the U.S. to stop arming Taiwan and stop what it called "dangerous moves that undermine peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait."

Taiwan is a democratic island of 23 million people that the Chinese government claims as its territory and says must come under its control. U.S. military sales and assistance aim to help Taiwan defend itself and deter China from launching an attack.

The \$571 million in military assistance comes on top of Biden's authorization of \$567 million for the same purposes in late September. The military sales include \$265 million for about 300 tactical radio systems and \$30 million for 16 gun mounts.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry welcomed the approval of the two sales, saying in a social media post on X that it reaffirmed the U.S. government's "commitment to our defense."

Winter is hitting Gaza and many Palestinians have little protection from the cold

KHAN YOUNIS, Dec 22 (Agencies): Winter is hitting the Gaza Strip and many of the nearly 2 million Palestinians displaced by the devastating 14-month war with Israel are struggling to protect themselves from the wind, cold and rain. There is a shortage of blankets and warm clothing, little wood for fires, and the tents and patched-together tarps families are living in have grown increasingly threadbare after months of heavy use, according to aid workers and residents.

Shadia Aiyada, who was displaced from the southern city of Rafah to the coastal area of Muwasi, has only one blanket and a hot water bottle to keep her eight children from shivering inside their fragile tent. "We get scared every time we learn from the weather forecast that rainy and windy days are coming up because our tents are lifted with the wind. We fear that strong windy weather would knock out our tents one day while we're inside," she said.

With nighttime temperatures that can drop into the 40s (the mid-to-high single digits Celsius), Aiyada fears that her kids will get sick without warm clothing.

When they fled their home, her children only had their summer clothes, she said. They have been forced to borrow some from relatives and friends to keep warm.

The United Nations warns of people living in precarious makeshift shelters that might not survive the winter. At least 945,000 people need winterization supplies, which have become prohibitively expensive in Gaza, the U.N. said in an update. The U.N. also fears infectious disease, which spiked last winter, will climb again amid rising malnutrition.

The U.N. Agency for Palestinian Refugees, known as UNRWA, has been planning all year for winter in Gaza, but the aid it was able to get into the territory is "not even close to being enough for people," said Louise Wateridge, an agency spokeswoman.

UNRWA distributed 6,000 tents over the past four weeks in northern Gaza but was unable to get them to other parts of the Strip, including areas where there has been fighting. About 22,000 tents have been stuck in Jordan and 600,000 blankets and 33 truckloads of mattresses have been sitting in Egypt since the summer because the agency doesn't have Israeli approval or a safe route to bring them into Gaza and because it had to prioritize desperately needed food aid, Wateridge said.

Many of the mattresses and blankets have since been looted or destroyed

by the weather and rodents, she said.

The International Rescue Committee is struggling to bring in children's winter clothing because there "are a lot of approvals to get from relevant authorities," said Dionne Wong, the organization's deputy director of programs for the occupied Palestinian territories.

"The ability for Palestinians to prepare for winter is essentially very limited," Wong said.

The Israeli government agency responsible for coordinating aid shipments into Gaza said in a statement that Israel has worked for months with international organizations to prepare Gaza for the winter, including facilitating the shipment of heaters, warm clothing, tents and blankets into the territory.

More than 45,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The ministry's count doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but it has said more than half of the fatalities are women and children. The Israeli military says it has killed more than 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war was sparked by Hamas' October 2023 attack on southern Israel, where the militant group killed 1,200 people and took 250 hostages in Gaza.

Negotiators say Israel and Hamas are inching toward a ceasefire deal, which would include a surge in aid into the territory. For now, the winter clothing for sale in Gaza's markets is far too expensive for most people to afford, residents and aid workers said.

Reda Abu Zarada, 50, who was displaced from northern Gaza with her family, said the adults sleep with the children in their arms to keep them warm inside their tent. "Rats walk on us at night because we don't have doors and tents are torn. The blankets don't keep us warm. We feel frost coming out from the ground. We wake up freezing in the morning," she said. "I'm scared of waking up one day to find one of the children frozen to death." On one night, she fought through knee pain exacerbated by cold weather to fry zucchini over a fire made of paper and cardboard scraps outside their tent. She hoped the small meal would warm the children before bed. Omar Shabet, who is displaced from Gaza City and staying with his three children, feared that lighting a fire outside his tent would make his family a target for Israeli warplanes. "We go inside our tents after sunset and don't go out because it is very cold and it gets colder by midnight," he said. "My 7-year-old daughter almost cries at night because of how cold she is."

UK 2024: Sunak exits Downing Street, successor Starmer revives hope for free trade agreement with India

LONDON, Dec 22 (Agencies): The year earmarked for general elections in both India and the UK was destined to throw up many new scenarios on the political front. Among them was a decision to relaunch a "mutually beneficial" Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Just as India's mammoth democratic exercise edged towards its phased conclusion in 2024, Britain's first Indian-origin prime minister Rishi Sunak surprised many within his own Conservative Party by calling an earlier-than-expected election on July 4 — exactly a month on from a third term win for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Democratic Alliance.

This meant the FTA talks, having entered their 14th round of intense negotiations, slipped into a more uncertain phase until the new Labour Party-led government committed itself to "deepening our bilateral ties".

"We agreed to raise the ambition of our UK-India comprehensive strategic partnership... Crucially, this work will start with trade and investment, and I am pleased to say that we agreed to relaunch Free Trade Agreement negotiations early in the new year," said newly-elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer after his first meeting with Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil last month.

It mapped out a clearly defined landscape for the future of the India-UK trade ties, which



official UK government statistics clock at GBP 42 billion a year in the 12 months to June 2024. Sunak may not have succeeded in getting the FTA over the line, but, as he admitted in his resignation speech at the doorstep of 10 Downing Street, British voters had given a "clear signal" in favour of change.

The 44-year-old leaves behind quite the legacy despite presiding over the Conservatives' worst electoral performance in history. His words that "one of the most remarkable things" about modern Britain is just how "unremarkable" his migrant roots were to the top job will resonate with many, not least a 1.8-million-strong Indian diaspora.

Having resigned after the bruising election defeat, Sunak served as interim Opposition leader before handing over the reins to Kemi Badenoch as the new Tory leader.

A fellow British Indian leadership hopeful, Priti Patel, soon returned to the frontbenches of Parliament as shadow foreign secretary in a House of Commons with a record of nearly 30 parliamentarians of Indian heritage — including Lisa Nandy as Culture Secretary

and Seema Malhotra as immigration minister.

Under Malhotra, the UK introduced measures to curb rising migration, including giving an independent body more power to reduce reliance on foreign labour and expedite the return of illegal immigrants.

She has a tough task ahead of digitising the entire UK visas and immigration system, the deadline for which has been extended until March 2025.

Indian students and professionals are among those impacted, even as their numbers began registering a steady decline this year with the previous government's clamp down on accompanying spouses and hiked minimum salary cut-offs.

A simmering anti-immigration sentiment was behind a flurry of riots triggered by misinformation around the Welsh-born suspect behind a fatal stabbing of three schoolgirls in Southport, north-west England, at the end of July.

While anti-racism activists turned out for large counter-protests, the issue of migration will continue to dominate the news agenda in the new year even as businesses struggle to

meet skills requirements across different sectors.

It was against this backdrop that the BT Group, back in August, welcomed Bharti Global's acquisition of a significant stake in the British telecom major as a "great vote of confidence". Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal described the investment in an "iconic" British company as a "significant milestone" for Bharti Enterprises.

Another Indian multinational, Tata Steel, also hit a major milestone as it shut down its furnaces at the UK's largest steelworks in Port Talbot, Wales, to transition towards greener steelmaking.

It came just before Tata Group icon Ratan Tata, behind setting the course for several cross-sector India-UK tie-ups, breathed his last in Mumbai on October 9. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds led the tributes in the UK to "truly a titan of the business world and someone who played a huge role in shaping British industry".

The two-way flows were reflective across different areas beyond business and trade, especially over Diwali — celebrated widely across UK government corridors.

Starmer followed in the footsteps of his Hindu predecessor to light diyas on the doorstep of Downing Street but courted controversy when meat and alcohol were served during the festivity.

"We understand the strength of feeling on this issue and so would

apologise to the community and assure them it will not happen again," his spokesperson said.

The apology came just before Starmer met with Modi, who also raised the issue of long-pending extradition requests — including fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who remains behind bars at Thameside, south-east London, after another failed bail attempt in May this year.

Sanjay Bhandari, a consultant in the defence sector wanted in India on alleged tax evasion and money laundering charges, won a High Court appeal against his extradition order which is to conclude in the new year.

Also expected in 2025 is King Charles III's return to Bengaluru for a wellness retreat where the 76-year-old monarch and wife Camilla made a private stopover in October on their way back from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa.

It came at the close of a tough year for the royals with Charles and his daughter-in-law, Kate Middleton, revealing their cancer diagnosis earlier. However, they are both back on official duties following their treatment and looking ahead to a packed schedule in the new year.

As 2024 comes to a close with both nations reaffirming their commitment to deepening trade, business, and cultural ties, 2025 holds promise for a stronger partnership and new opportunities on the global stage.

Annual Mahotsav 2024 showcases Swadeshi Spirit & Self-Reliance: Kavinder



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today visited the Annual Mahotsav 2024 – Jammu Kashmir Ladakh (JKL), organized by LEAD at the GGM Science College Ground, Jammu.

The two-day Mahotsav, centered around the themes of Swadeshi, Swawlambhan, and Sanskriti, is a vibrant celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage, entrepreneurial zeal, and indigenous products.

The event showcases the untapped potential of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh through over 100 stalls featuring local handicrafts, cuisines, and innovative startup ventures.

Speaking at the event, Kavinder Gupta lauded the efforts of LEAD in bringing together citizens, entrepreneurs, and cultural ambassadors on a single platform. "This initiative reflects the spirit of self-reliance and the promotion of Swadeshi values, which are integral to our nation's growth. It also provides a boost to local businesses and arti-

sans," he said.

He said that the Mahotsav has become a hub for community engagement, featuring cultural exhibitions, adventure activities, and competitions for students. These initiatives aim to foster active participation from all age groups, creating a dynamic and inclusive environment.

Kavinder highlighted the importance of events like Mahotsav 2024 in promoting sustainable development and inspiring self-reliance among the youth. He emphasized that nurturing entrepreneurship and showcasing the region's cultural identity are key to driving progress and empowering communities.

The senior BJP leader reiterated BJP's commitment to supporting such initiatives that align with the vision of an empowered and self-reliant India.

Education Department organizes debate, painting competition under Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore

Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Dec 22: Education Department Ganderbal organized a program on Good Governance under the banner of 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' at Sheikhul Alam High School Kangan today.

The event featured a debate, painting & drawing competition of students from various institutions across the Kangan Sub-division.

The program aimed to promote awareness about effective governance, focusing on transparency, accountability, and grassroots development.

The debate competition highlighted students' oratory skills as they presented thought-provoking arguments on governance reforms and public participation.

Meanwhile, the painting competition served as a creative platform for students to visually express ideas related to justice, equality, and community welfare.

The program saw enthusiastic involvement from students, teachers, and Officers, who appreciated the participants' efforts and creativity.

Organized under the 'Prashasan Gaon ki Ore' initiative, the event effectively underscored the importance of inclusive governance and inspired young minds to reflect on societal challenges and solutions.

Buds School Channi Himmat Celebrates Christmas Carnival

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Buds School, Channi Himmat, hosted a grand Christmas Carnival, graced by Advocate Ishant Gupta, State IT Head of BJP Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest. His esteemed presence elevated the festive spirit of the event.

The Principal, Mrs. Mridula Mangotra, along with Sh. Sanjay Singh and the students, welcomed the Chief Guest with a bouquet of flowers.

The carnival featured a variety of exciting games and activities organized by the teachers for students and their parents which includes Spin the Wheel, Throw the Ring, Selfie Points, Search Gifts in Sand, and Blindfold Object Placement. These engaging activi-

ties provided wholesome entertainment and fostered stronger bonds between children and their families.

Advocate Gupta expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Principal and the management for organizing such a vibrant and joyful event. He praised the school's commitment to fostering creativity, unity, and festive cheer within the community.

Gupta commended the school for its dedication to holistic development and the meticulous planning of events that inspire positivity and togetherness. He encouraged the school to continue organizing such programs that blend happiness and learning, further enriching the lives of students and their families.

MLA Billawar Meets Defence Minister, MoS PMO, Seeks Developmental Projects for Constituency



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: In a significant development, MLA Billawar, Satish Sharma, met with the Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, and the Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh, in Delhi. During the meeting, Sharma submitted a memorandum highlighting key developmental projects for his constituency.

Key Demands:

Widening of Dhar-Udhampur Road: Satish Sharma emphasized the strategic importance and growing traffic on this 133 km stretch, seeking its widening to facilitate smooth connectivity.

Upgradation of Sub-District Hospital Billawar: He demanded better healthcare facilities for his constituents, seeking upgradation of the existing hospital.

Establishment of Primary Health Centre at

Katli: A new primary health centre was sought to cater to the medical needs of the local population.

Trauma Centre at Ramkot: Sharma requested the establishment of a trauma centre to provide timely medical assistance in emergency situations.

Sports Stadiums at Phinter and Ramkot: Two sports stadiums were sought to promote sports and youth development in the region.

Both the Defence Minister and the MoS PMO gave a patient hearing to Sharma's demands and assured that all matters have been forwarded to the concerned authorities for appropriate action. This development is expected to bring significant benefits to the people of Billawar constituency.

Festivals foster communal harmony & strengthen societal bonds: Arvind Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA West Constituency, today participated in a vibrant program organized by the Christian community to mark the joyous occasion of Christmas.

Addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta extended warm greetings to the Christian community and highlighted the importance of festivals in fostering communal harmony and strengthening societal bonds. "Christmas is not just a festival; it is a reminder of the values of love, compassion, and selfless service that Jesus Christ preached. Let us all imbibe these values and work towards building a society rooted in peace and mutual respect," he said.

The senior BJP leader also highlighted the symbolic significance of Santa Claus, drawing an inspiring analogy. He urged the gathering to see their parents as the real-life Santas who fulfilled all

their wishes and needs during childhood. "Santa Claus brings joy and gifts during Christmas, but our parents are the true Santas in our lives, tirelessly working to ensure our happiness and fulfilling our dreams when we were young. Now, it is our responsibility to care for them, respect them, and make their lives comfortable," he said, striking an emotional chord with the audience.

Arvind also reiterated the Central Government's initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote inclusivity and ensure that all communities feel an integral part of India's growth story. "The BJP stands firmly with all communities and is dedicated to ensuring that every citizen has the opportunity to celebrate their traditions freely and joyfully," he added.

The event concluded with the exchange of greetings and distribution of gifts among the children, bringing smiles to many faces.

JKBS announces its new executive body

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at its meeting held at Shahzadpur, elected its new executive body with Dilay Ram Kaith as Chairman; Hav. Des Raj as Deputy Chairman; Racoohpal Kaith as President; Sub. Baldev Chand Sandhu, Tilak Raj Bassa and Birender Kaith as Vice Presi-

dents; R.L.Kaith as General Secretary; Hans Raj Loria, Darshan Kumar Bassa and Guchan Bhardwaj as Joint Secretaries; Sub. Maj. Ram Paul Lakhotra as Treasurer; and Ujjagar Singh as Organising Secretary.

Those who were elected executive members were Captain Kamal Dass Kaith, Captain Om Parkash Kaith, Sub. Maj. Mang

Lal, Sub. Maj. Ram Pal Motan, Bishan Lal Sandhu, Krishan Lal Sandhu, Bachan Lal Kaith, Mohinder Lal, Chaman Lal, Bhushan Lal, Ajay Kumar, Jeet Raj, Krishan Lal, Baba Ram, Seema Devi, Joginder Kaith, Joginder Sargotra, Rashpal Sargotra, Ravi Kumar, Bishan Lal Tugga, Om Parkash Targotra, Rajinder Kumar, Daya Ram,

Karan Kumar, Naresh Kaith, Ram Dass, Bittu Kumar, Jagdish Kaith, Banty Lal, Dev Raj Tugga, Ram Dass Nandan, Dhian Chand Lakhotra, Subash Lakhotra, Subash Nandan, Master Dhani Ram, Mangal Dass, Dev Raj Nandan, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra, Numberdar Sat Pal, Ganesh Lal, Yash Paul, Ashok Kumar Tugga, Pinky Devi and Puja Devi.

Sham Lal Sharma Felicitates ISPL Players, Inspects Stadium Projects, and Promotes Youth Empowerment Through Sports

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: In a significant event at the Bhalwal playground, MLA Jammu North and Former Minister Mr. Sham Lal Sharma honored Ishant Sharma and Varun Kumar, two young players selected for the prestigious Indian Street Premier League (ISPL). The program was chaired by former Sarpanch Shri Rajdev Singh Ji and witnessed the presence of Divisional Sports Officer Shri Baljinder Singh, SDPO Domana Shri Mudassar Choudhary, XEN Sports Council Sanjeev Sharma, former President of Yuva Rajput Sabha Rajan Singh Happy, Mandal President Shri Rakesh Singh, Shri Narendra Singh, Kuldeep Singh, and other dignitaries.

Following the felicitation ceremony, Mr. Sharma inspected the ongoing construction of two outdoor stadiums aimed at bolstering sports infrastructure in Jammu North. The Bhalwal Outdoor Stadium is being developed with a budget of ₹3 crores, and the Mishriwala Outdoor Stadium is being built with a budget of ₹2 crores.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the work and ensure it meets high-quality standards while emphasizing the importance of timely delivery to provide the youth with opportunities to engage in sports. Mr. Sharma expressed his commitment to completing these projects on time, stating that they would play a pivotal role in nurturing local talent and encouraging youth participation in sports.

Mr. Sharma also interacted with local youth and sports enthusiasts during his visit, urging them to take full advantage of the upcoming facilities. He encouraged the youth to engage actively in sports and assured them that the administration is committed to providing the best infrastructure and opportunities. He emphasized that initiatives like these would not only enhance the region's reputation in sports but also help



in identifying and promoting talented individuals at state and national levels. He reiterated that empowering youth through sports is a vital step toward building a progressive and drug-free society.

Additionally, Mr. Sharma highlighted the need for community involvement in maintaining and supporting sports infrastructure. He called on local organizations, schools, and residents to join hands with the administration in fostering a culture of sportsmanship and teamwork. By ensuring the active participation of all stakeholders, he stated, the youth of Jammu North can lead by example and bring laurels to the region. The event concluded with a pledge to prioritize youth empowerment and establish Jammu North as a hub for sports excellence.

FROM PAGE 3

In view of intense cold in Kashmir, CM Omar Abdullah cancels all programmes in Jammu

The situation has been compounded by frequent electricity cuts in the valley "In light of the severe cold spell in the Kashmir valley & the resultant difficulties with water & electricity supply, I have decided to cancel my forthcoming programmes in Jammu & station myself in Srinagar for the next week to personally monitor the functioning of the Power department & other important departments," the chief minister posted on his X handle.

Abdullah said he was on his way back from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan where he had gone to attend the GST council meeting.

"I'm on my way back from Jaisalmer as I type and will be back in Srinagar tomorrow morning," he said.

Abdullah said his decision to cancel his programmes in Jammu will cause some inconvenience to the organisers and promised to make it up to them later.

"I do appreciate that cancelling my programmes in Jammu will cause some inconvenience to the organisers & I regret the same. However under the circumstances this is the right thing to do & I will make it up to the people/organisations whose programmes have been affected," he added.

Boosting Kashmir's connectivity: Indian

Railways plans to launch two new trains by next month

This train will serve the shorter Katra-Baramulla route.

The Vande Bharat train is designed with specialized features to handle Kashmir's harsh winters. These include silicon heating pads for water tanks to prevent freezing and toilets equipped with warm air systems. Additionally, for the first time in Indian Railways, the loco pilot's front glass has been designed with embedded heating elements to prevent frosting in sub-zero temperatures.

The Vande Bharat service is expected to significantly reduce travel time. It aims to cover the 246-km distance between Katra and Baramulla in just 3.5 hours, compared to over 10 hours by bus. On the railway network, Baramulla is located 57 km beyond Srinagar.

"Once the Katra-Baramulla Vande Bharat becomes operational, likely by late next month, passengers will be able to seamlessly journey from New Delhi to Katra in the existing Vande Bharat and then transfer to the new service to reach Srinagar or Baramulla," an official told.

J&K Police attaches properties worth Rs 1.28 Crore under NDPS Act

residential house situated at Nowgam Srinagar worth Rs 63.7 lakh belonging

to Muhammad Ayoub Beigh, resident of Nowhar Chadoora, involved in case FIR No. 47/2024 U/S 8/15 of NDPS Act of Police Station Chadoora.

In another operation, police in Magam attached a two-wheeler Scooty and a double-storied residential house situated at Badran Magam worth Rs 18.84 lakh belonging to Irfan Ahmad Lone, aka Raja, and Ghulam Mohammad Lone, residents of Badran Magam, involved in case FIR No. 120/2024 U/S 8/21 of NDPS Act and 121(1) BNS of Police Station Magam.

Police have reiterated their commitment to eradicating the drug menace and have urged the public to come forward with any information about drug trafficking or related activities.

"Cooperation from citizens is essential to safeguarding communities and ensuring a drug-free society. The identity of the informers will be kept protected", they said.

Suspected member of Kashmir militant outfit arrested in Bengal's South 24 Parganas

suspected members of terrorist outfit Ansar-al-Islam Bangladesh, who were planning to target the 'Chicken's Neck' connecting West Bengal's Siliguri with the northeastern states. Two of the eight arrested were from Murshidabad district and part of a group of eight people apprehended by Bengal, Kerala and Assam police.

J-K people face immense hardships

due to administrative shortcomings: JKCSF

facied by households. "Such measures will not only provide immediate relief but also ensure long-term water security in the region", it said.

Similarly, ensuring a scheduled and reliable power supply, especially during the harsh winter months, is critical to alleviate the suffering of residents. With proactive measures like expanding renewable energy sources and improving existing power distribution systems, the administration can address the growing demand for electricity in an effective and sustainable manner. These steps, coupled with public awareness campaigns on water conservation and energy efficiency, can go a long way in restoring normalcy and addressing the growing outcry among the people, statement said.

The JKCSF hoped that these matters receive the urgent attention they deserve, bringing much-needed relief to the masses.

Aga Ruhullah to protest outside CM's House Tomorrow on reservation policy

and "dignified" protest outside chief minister's official residence on Gupkar road to demand rationality in the reservation policy.

In a post on X, Aga Ruhullah, as per news agency said that he urged everyone to wait till December 22 to give the elected government time to address the issue.

"Today marks the date I had committed to stand with those whose voices demand

rationality in the reservation policy. In my response to a post on X (Twitter) by a concerned citizen, I urged everyone to wait until 22nd December to give the elected government time to address this issue. I also said that if the matter was not resolved by then, I would join you in protest outside the HCM's residence or office," he said.

Ruhullah added that the deadline ends tonight, and he stands by his commitment, and tomorrow, he will join the people in a peaceful and dignified attempt at 2 pm outside chief minister's official residence to demand answers on their issues from the government.

"Over the past month, I've observed a range of reactions to the formation of the sub-committee. To those who believe that the issue remains unaddressed in a satisfactory manner: I stand by my commitment. Tomorrow, I will join the people in a peaceful and dignified attempt to demand answers on their issues from the government." he said. He requested all those voluntarily coming to maintain civility and focus on raising genuine demands for a rational reservation policy. "To those who seek to exploit this issue for political gains: I welcome you to step out tomorrow and step away from rhetoric. Show your sincerity where it matters—the streets. Calls for revocation of reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir have been getting louder with the National Conference leader and MP Aga Ruhullah earlier promising to join the outcry. The policy introduced by lieutenant governor-led administration, before the assembly elections early this year, had squeezed the general category to 40%, which form the majority of the population, and increased reservation for reserved categories to 60%.

GST Council postpones decision to cut tax on insurance

Rate panel defers report submission

JAISALMER, Dec 22 (Agencies): A GST Council meeting postponed a decision on reducing taxes on health and life insurance, while the much talked-about GoM recommendation of rate rejig in 148 items was not tabled before the Council.

Some members of the Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, felt that more deliberations were required before a final decision could be arrived at with regard to insurance taxation.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, who heads the panel on GoM on insurance, said one more meeting is required to take a call on taxation of group, individual, senior citizen's policies.

"Some (Council) members said more discussions required. We (GoM) will meet in January again," Chaudhary told reporters here.

Besides, the report of the GoM on rate rationalisation, which had recommended tweaks in 148 items, was not tabled before the Council.

"We will submit the GoM report on rate rationalisation in next meeting of Council," said Chaudhary who is the convenor of the panel.

The ongoing Council meeting will also deliberate on bringing



Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in Goods and Services Tax fold.

Several proposals of Fitment Committee, comprising officials from the Centre and states' GST departments would come up for review before the Council.

One of the proposals include cutting taxes on food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato, to 5 per cent (without input tax credit), from the current 18 per cent (with ITC).

It is likely to have proposed a rate hike on sale of used EVs as well as small petrol and diesel vehicles to 18 per cent from the current 12 per cent. This hike would bring used and old smaller cars and EVs at par with old larger vehicles, according to sources.

Also, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST compensation cess is likely to get a six-month extension till June 2025, to submit their report. The compensation cess regime comes to an end in March 2026, and the GST Council has set up a panel of ministers, under Union Minis-

ter of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide the future course of the cess.

The GoM on insurance had recommended 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, GST on premiums paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh is proposed to be exempted.

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

The GST rate rationalisation GoM report, which has suggested rate tweaks in 148 items, was not tabled before the Council and would be taken up in next Council meeting.

The GoM earlier this month had arrived at a consensus to hike tax on sin goods, like aerated beverages, cigarettes,

tobacco and related products, to 35 per cent from the present 28 per cent.

Currently, GST is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Luxury and demerit goods are taxed at highest bracket of 28 per cent, while packed food and essential items are at the lowest 5 per cent slab.

The GoM had also decided to propose rationalising tax rates on apparel. As per the decision, ready-made garments costing up to Rs 1,500 would attract 5 per cent GST, those between Rs 1,500-10,000 would attract 18 per cent. Garments costing above Rs 10,000 would attract 28 per cent tax.

Currently, garments costing up to Rs 1,000 attract 5 per cent GST, while those above that attract 12 per cent. The GoM also proposed hiking GST on shoes above Rs 15,000/pair from 18 per cent to 28 per cent. It also proposed hiking the GST rate on wrist watches above Rs 25,000 from 18 per cent to 28 per cent.

The GoM had proposed reducing GST on packaged drinking water of 20 litre and above to 5 per cent from 18 per cent, and reducing tax rate on bicycles costing less than Rs 10,000 to 5 per cent, from 12 per cent. Also, GST on exercise notebooks would be reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

Paytm Money launches 'Pay Later' Margin Trading. 3 things to know



NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Wealth Tech app, Paytm Money, has launched the 'Pay Later' Margin Trading Facility (MTF), enabling investors to trade stocks with minimal upfront investment.

Through this facility, users can purchase stocks by paying only a fraction of the total amount, with the remaining funded by the platform.

LIMITED-TIME OFFER DETAILS

The introductory offer features a nominal interest rate of 1% per month, valid until March 31, 2025. Investors can choose from nearly 1,000 MTF-enabled stocks, making trading more accessible and

cost-effective while allowing them to leverage market opportunities effectively.

SEAMLESS ACTIVATION AND ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY

The activation process for 'Pay Later' is designed to be simple and user-friendly. Investors can activate the feature through their account settings within minutes or enable it while placing orders for eligible stocks by selecting the 'Margin' option.

This streamlined process empowers retail investors across India, making it easier to participate in the stock market without committing large sums of capital upfront.

By democratising stock

market participation, Paytm Money ensures greater financial accessibility for traders and investors.

INNOVATIVE FEATURES AND IMPROVED EXPERIENCE

To complement the 'Pay Later' feature, Paytm Money offers additional tools such as 'Margin Pledge,' enabling traders to use existing stock holdings for leverage. The platform has also expanded its services with the launch of BSE Futures & Options (F&O) trading, giving users access to SENSEX and BANKEX Option contracts.

Further enhancing the user experience, Paytm Money recently rolled out a redesigned app featuring a modern interface, personalised dashboards, and smarter tools. The revamped app aims to simplify investing, improve portfolio insights, and optimise transaction flows for stocks and F&O trading, catering to the evolving needs of today's investors.

Housing sales, supply decline in top nine cities in Q4CY24: PropEquity

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): In a less favourable development for the real estate sector, housing supply in the top nine cities is projected to decline by 33 per cent, while housing sales are expected to drop by 21 per cent in the October-December quarter of CY2024 (Q4CY24), according to real estate consultancy firm PropEquity.

Housing sales fell to 108,261 units in Q4CY24, compared to 137,225 units in the same period last year. However, sales saw a 5 per cent increase from 103,213 units recorded in Q3CY24 (July-September).

Similarly, housing supply dropped to 85,765 units in Q4CY24 from 127,936 units in the corresponding period last year. Despite this decline, supply rose by 7 per cent from 80,284

units in Q3CY24.

The top nine cities covered in the report include Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR. Among these, only Delhi-NCR defied the national trend.

Housing supply in Delhi-NCR surged by 59 per cent to 11,223 units in Q4CY24 from 7,072 units in the same quarter last year. Similarly, sales increased by 25 per cent to 12,915 units in Q4CY24 from 10,354 units in the corresponding period last year.

On a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis, housing sales fell the most in Hyderabad (47 per cent), followed by Kolkata (33 per cent), Mumbai (27 per cent), Pune (24 per cent), Thane (16 per cent), Navi Mumbai (13 per cent), Bengaluru (13 per cent), and Chennai

(9 per cent).

On a quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) basis, housing sales increased in six cities—Delhi-NCR (20 per cent), Bengaluru (14 per cent), Hyderabad (9 per cent), Thane (7 per cent), Kolkata (2 per cent), and Mumbai (0 per cent)—but declined in three cities—Chennai (10 per cent), Navi Mumbai (4 per cent), and Pune (4 per cent).

"The Y-o-Y basis drop is due to the high base effect, as 2023 was a peak year for both sales and launches. A closer look at the numbers reveals that despite the drop, the supply-to-absorption ratio in 2024 remains the same as 2023, which indicates that the fundamentals of the real estate sector are strong and healthy," said Samir Jasuja, CEO & Founder, PropEquity.

'National Pension System assets under management to touch Rs 15 lakh crore by fiscal-end'

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): The assets under management (AUM) of the National Pension System are expected to touch Rs 15 lakh crore by the end of current fiscal year, Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority Chairman Deepak Mohanty said.

At a media interaction following the official launch of the Association of NPS Intermediaries, Mohanty also said the take-up rate by the employees in the corporate sector remains a challenge.

This Association of NPS comprises stakeholders including pension fund managers, points of presence (bank and non-bank), central record keeping agencies, trustee banks, custodians, aggregators, annuity service providers, pension agents, retirement advisors, and other industry participants.

The association aims to represent the interests of all intermediaries in the NPS ecosystem, promote NPS as a reliable, flexible, and tax-efficient retirement product, focus on subscriber welfare by ensuring smooth and transparent processes within the system and also to collaborate with regulators and

policy-makers to improve the NPS framework.

"The total subscribers (in the pension sector) at this moment are more than 8 crore (including 6.4 crore in Atal Pension Yojana), out of which in NPS there are about 1.6 crore subscribers and the corpus what people are contributing to the pension system is almost Rs 14 lakh crore, and given that situation, our expectation is that by the end of the year, it should Rs 15 lakh crore," Mohanty said.

Of the 1.6 crore NPS subscriber base, 62 lakh are from the private sector and 18 lakh from the corporate sector.

"So, that is the big challenge. We have about 18,000 corporates, including big corporates, who have joined NPS, but the take up rate by employees is less partly because there are so many things (and) partly, because of lack of awareness that we are trying to expand," he said.

The launch of the Association of NPS Intermediaries is a significant milestone for the pension sector, he said adding, "I am confident it will further strengthen and redouble our efforts in creating awareness

to expand pension coverage in India through collective efforts and feedback mechanism."

He noted that the pension potential for NPS is very high as 80 per cent of the workforce in the country is in the informal sector.

He said there are different ways of expanding NPS with expanding the intermediary base among one of them, and added that PFRDA has requested the sponsor banks—of RRBs that they should provide NPS as they being in the semi-urban and rural areas are doing well in case of Atal Pension Yojana.

"So, we are expanding the intermediary base and to target younger cohort of population, we are collaborating with the digital companies by giving them POP (point of presence) licence so that they can reach the younger cohort and those who are digitally savvy...Other thing would be awareness, that we do the outreach camp and as I was mentioning that we have also set up an association.

"The need is quite huge to enhance the understanding about this pension scheme and the regulator alone or government alone cannot do that. So,

collectively we are trying to... reach out to various segments of the population," Mohanty said.

Stating that NPS is giving "very good" returns, he said that the annual return in the equity scheme from the inception is 14.4 per cent adding that in the mix of equity and debt, the central government NPS is giving a return of 9.6 per cent from the beginning, which are quite competitive.

Earlier addressing virtually the launch event, Nagaraju Maddirala, Secretary, Department of Financial Services said, "This association will serve as a vital platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in the NPS ecosystem. It will play a pivotal role in addressing challenges and unlocking opportunities to expand pension coverage in India."

Rama Mohan Rao Amara, MD of State Bank of India; Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson of LIC; Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO of Axis Bank Ltd and Animesh Mishra, Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner, EPFO, also addressed the launch event.

Virus causing gut infections could play role in development of Alzheimer's: Study

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): A virus that can cause infection in the gut and from there travel to the brain, could be important in the development of Alzheimer's disease, according to a study.

Existing antiviral drugs may then be looked at for treating or preventing this form of Alzheimer's disease, researchers, including those at the Arizona State University, US, said.

Most humans are thought to have been exposed to cytomegalovirus (HCMV), one of the nine viruses known to cause herpes (painful blisters on the skin), during the first few decades of their lives. The virus is usually transmitted through bodily fluids and spreads only when it is

active.

Published in Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, the study found that in some people, the herpes-causing virus may remain active in the gut, from where it can travel to the brain via the vagus nerve, which connects the gut and the brain.

Once in the brain, the virus can alter the immune system and contribute to changes in cells associated with Alzheimer's disease, the researchers explained.

The researchers noted that the herpes-causing virus is recognized by immune cells in the brain, called microglia, which activate a specific gene called 'CD83.'

The virus could then contribute to biological



changes in the brain, which are known to be involved in the development of Alzheimer's disease — a neurodegenerative disorder that progressively deteriorates brain function, such as memory and cognitive abilities, as one ages.

"We think we've identified a biologically unique subtype of Alzheimer's that may affect 25-45% of people with the disease," said Ben Readhead, first author and research associate professor at Arizona State University.

"This subtype includes the hallmark amyloid plaques and tau tangles — microscopic brain abnormalities used for diagnosis — and features a distinct biological profile involving the virus, antibodies, and immune cells in the brain," Readhead added.

For the study, the researchers analyzed spinal fluid from Alzheimer's patients and found antibodies produced specifically in response to the herpes-causing virus. They also

found evidence of infection in the intestines and brain tissue of these individuals caused by the same virus.

Furthermore, the team observed the herpes virus within the vagus nerve of the patients, suggesting this could be the pathway through which it travels to the brain.

In another group of Alzheimer's patients, the researchers were able to replicate the association between the gut infection and CD83(+) microglia.

A previous study by the researchers conducted a post-mortem analysis of the brains of Alzheimer's patients and found that these patients were more likely to harbor CD83(+) microglia specifically.

One in every 127 people globally had autism in 2021, study estimates

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): A study has estimated that one in every 127 people globally, or 6.18 crore individuals, had autism in 2021, with the neurodevelopmental condition featuring among the top 10 causes of non-fatal health burden in youth aged under 20 years.

The disorder is associated with repetitive behaviour and affected social skills. Signs, which can begin to show as early as 12 months of age, include poor non-verbal communication, such as avoiding eye contact and not responding to their name.

Published in the Lancet Psychiatry journal, the results showed that globally, autism cases among men were over twice of those in women -- 1,065 cases for every one lakh men and 508 for every one lakh women.

The estimates come from the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) Study, the largest and most comprehensive ones to assess health loss around the world over time, according to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, Univer-

sity of Washington, US, which coordinates it.

"An estimated 61.8 million individuals (one in every 127 people) were on the autism spectrum globally in 2021," the authors wrote.

Regions such as high-income Asia Pacific, including Japan, revealed the highest prevalence (1,560 per one lakh population), while Tropical Latin America and Bangladesh reported the lowest, researchers said.

The findings underscored the importance of early detection and support to autistic young people and their caregivers globally, the authors said.

They also called for efforts to improve the accuracy of the study's findings, including a better understanding of how autism prevalence differs with geography.

"The work presented here can guide future research efforts, and importantly, decisions concerning allocation of health services that better address the needs of all autistic individuals," the authors wrote.

'A carrom ball that bowled everyone'; PM Modi writes to Ashwin

Says his jersey no. 99 will be sorely missed

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin who retired from international cricket.

The PM said the latter's "jersey no. 99 will be sorely missed".

Concluding his 14-year international career after the Gabba Test ended in a draw, Ashwin has left behind a rich legacy as one of India's greatest match-winners.

In his letter, Modi described Ashwin's retirement as a surprising twist and equated it to an unexpected carrom ball instead of the anticipated off-breaks.

"The announcement of your retirement from international cricket surprised fans in India and across the world. At a time when everyone was looking forward to many more off-breaks, you bowled a carrom ball that bowled everyone. However, everyone understands that this must have been a hard decision for you as well, especially after the outstanding career you have had playing for India," the letter read.

"Please accept my heartiest congratulations on a career that has been full of brilliance, hard work and putting the team above everything else.



"As you bid farewell to international cricket, jersey number 99 will be sorely missed. Cricket lovers will miss the sense of expectation they felt when you took to the crease to bowl - there was always a feeling that you were weaving a web around the opponents that would trap a victim any moment. You possessed an uncanny ability to outwit batsmen with good old off-spin as well as innovative variations, as the situation demanded," the letter continued.

"Often people are remembered for some wonderful shot that they played. But you have the unique distinction of being remembered for both a shot

and a leave in the legendary match of the WT20 in 2022. Your winning shot elicited great cheers. The way you left the ball before it, allowing it on its way to becoming a wide ball, showed your presence of mind.

"Even during moments of adversity, your sincerity and commitment came to the fore. We all remember the way you flew back to contribute to the team even when your mother was hospitalised and the time you kept playing against South Africa even when you couldn't get in touch with your family during the floods in Chennai.

"As one observes your career, your flexibility and adaptability stand out. The way you tailored

your approach to suit various formats of the game was an asset to the team. I wonder if your education as an engineer helped you in the meticulous and detail-oriented approach that you are famous for. Many analysts and peers have praised your sharp cricketing brain. I am confident that such knowledge will be of use to youngsters.

"The wit and warmth that you bring to your conversations have been appreciated by fans. I hope that you will continue to post 'Kutti Stories' on cricket, sports and life in general.

"As an ambassador of the game, both on and off the field, you have made the nation and your family proud. I take this opportunity to congratulate your parents, your wife Prithi and your daughters as well. Their sacrifices and support, I am sure, have been crucial to your growth as a cricketer and as a person. I hope that you get to spend more time with them, something that you would have looked forward to all these years.

"May you find ways to continue contributing to the game that you dearly love. Once again, heartfelt congratulations on an illustrious career and best wishes for the future," it concluded.

G Trisha, spinners star as India win U19 Women's Asia Cup title



KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Agencies): G Trisha stood tall to hit a fine 52 while spinners took seven wickets collectively as India beat Bangladesh by 41 runs to become first-ever winners of the inaugural U19 Women's Asia Cup at the Bayuemas Cricket Oval on Sunday. Trisha, who was a member of the Indian team winning the first-ever U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2023, hit five fours and two sixes in her 47-ball knock on a challenging pitch as the side made 117/7.

In reply, left-arm spinner Aayushi Shukla picked 3-17 and became the leading wicket-taker of the competition, while fellow left-arm spin

bowlers Parunika Sisodia and Sonam Yadav took two wickets each to dry the run flow of Bangladesh after the power play and dismiss them for 76 in 18.3 overs to win the title.

Pushed into batting first, Trisha became the key for leading India's charge once G Kamalini and Sanika Chalke fell early. She struck a balance between playing elegant shots and rebuilding India's innings through a 41-run stand with captain Niki Prasad (12).

After the duo and Ishwari Awasare fell, a calm Mithila Vinod stepped up to hit a cameo of 17 and take India past the 110-mark, with Bangladesh's Farjana Easmin taking 4-30.

In defence of the modest total, Joshitha VJ and Sonam Yadav struck to leave Bangladesh two down in the power play.

Fahomida Choya and Juairiya Ferdous tried to get Bangladesh's chase on track with 18 and 22, respectively. But with Indian spinners stemming the run flow by bowling more dot balls and the required run rate rising, the duo couldn't break free from the shackles of pressure and gave their wickets to them.

From 64/5 in 14.2 overs, Bangladesh eventually slumped to 76 all out, giving India an emphatic win. Trisha was named Player of the Final and also took Player of the Tournament award, as India will be pleased with how they emerged triumphant in the all-Asian event ahead of their defence of the U19 Women's T20 World Cup, whose second edition begins next month in Malaysia.

Brief Scores: India 117/7 (G Trisha 52; Farjana Easmin 4-30) beat Bangladesh 76 in 18.3 overs (Juairiya Ferdous 22; Aayushi Shukla 3-17) by 41 runs.

"You don't need to do that": IPL great recalls Jasprit Bumrah's send-off to Ab De Villiers

MELBOURNE, Dec 22 (Agencies): Former Australia cricketer Michael Hussey shared his experience the first time he faced a young Jasprit Bumrah in the Mumbai Indians nets during his brief stint with the franchise in 2014 and Hussey revealed that he couldn't have foreseen the meteoric rise of the wiry pacer, but he wasn't entirely surprised either. The former Australian batting maestro reflected on his initial encounter with Bumrah, the doubts surrounding his unconventional bowling style, and the stern advice he offered to the young pacer early in his career.

"I actually played a year with him in the IPL when I was with the Mumbai Indians," Hussey told Willow Talk. "He was just a young kid coming through. I remember facing him in the nets and literally couldn't get bat on the ball. I felt like I was using a toothpick."

The Aussie great was left awestruck by Bumrah's unique action and sharp pace. "I couldn't even see the ball, let alone pick it coming out of his hand. His action is so different, so deceptive. My first impression? I honestly didn't think he'd even make it to the crease. His run-up was staggered and awkward. I remember thinking, 'Who is this guy?' And then suddenly, woof—the ball whistles past my eyebrows at 145kph!"

At the time, Bumrah was seen as a white-ball specialist with limited potential for Test cricket. Hussey recalled the conversations swirling in Indian cricket circles back then.

"In India, there was so much scepticism. People said his action and run-up would be too hard on his body, that he wouldn't last in Test cricket," Hussey said. "They thought he was made for white-ball cricket alone. But even back then, I could see his skills and ability. I knew that if he had the desire to play

Test cricket, he could succeed."

Hussey was full of admiration for Bumrah's achievements in the longest format of the game. "Isn't he doing it bloody well at the moment? It's just phenomenal to see how he's grown."

Hussey also shared an anecdote about a game-changing moment early in Bumrah's IPL career. It was a match between the Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2014 when Bumrah dismissed the legendary AB de Villiers. "He burst onto the scene in the IPL and bowled brilliantly. I remember one game where he got AB de Villiers out. Obviously, AB is one of the greatest, and Bumrah gave him a big send-off. AB wasn't happy," Hussey recalled.

The send-off didn't sit well with Hussey either. After the game, the veteran took the young bowler aside for a word of advice. "I told him, 'Mate, you don't need to do that. You have so much skill and talent. Just getting the wicket is the biggest statement you can make. If you want respect in the game and from your peers, you don't need send-offs.'"

Hussey admitted it was an uncharacteristic moment for Bumrah, who he described as one of the most humble and down-to-earth cricketers he's met.

"He's such a great guy. That send-off was out of character for him. He's always smiling, always calm, and consistent in his behaviour. He doesn't get too emotional. It's one of the reasons he's such a phenomenal bowler and such a joy to watch."

Looking back, Hussey marvelled at how far Bumrah had come since those early days. "He's unbelievable. Watching him grow into one of the best bowlers in the world has been incredible. From a kid in the nets who terrified us to one of the most respected cricketers globally, it's been a joy to witness."

Boxing Day Test: Fans wait for Kohli's 'Kingly' outing at MCG

MELBOURNE, Dec 22 (Agencies): "Kohli, Kohli..." the chants from 90000 fervent fans still reverberate in the ear when you step into the fabled MCG, even two years after the former Indian skipper pulled off a stunning heist against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup 2022.

Back then, Virat Kohli's unbeaten 82 off 53 balls helped India snatch a victory from the jaws of defeat, and now he is back at the G, looking for another redemption act.

Kohli made a bright beginning to the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia with a second innings hundred at Perth.

But since then he has hit the snooze mode, producing just 26 runs over the next four innings across Adelaide and Brisbane Tests.

However, Kohli's travails with the bat notwithstanding, his popularity off the field has not diminished one bit and a quick tour of MCG will make you understand that fact.

You will be greeted with Kohli's pictures at the ticket counter of the Australian Sports



Museum. Then there are images of him kissing the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after securing the series win on these shores for the first time in the 2018-19 series, besides a team celebration picture after the third Test at the MCG, with the caption "Kohli's Conquerors." The MCG tour guide David might have his personal favourite in star pacer Jasprit Bumrah, but repeatedly mentions Kohli in his chat while terming the upcoming Boxing Day Test as a "blockbuster."

"This is the biggest Test in Australia and what can be more exciting than the India vs Australia match. I am eagerly waiting for it," he told PTI Bhasha.

"In the first Test in Perth, Virat played a

brilliant innings, which he and the Indian team needed very much. He is very popular here but we hope that his bat remains silent here," he added.

But then he can't stop talking about Bumrah, the tormentor in chief of Australian batsmen.

"Bumrah is my favorite, who took nine wickets at MCG in 2018 helping India win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. In this series too, he did excellent captaincy along with excellent bowling in Perth."

"Looking at his form, he will be a trump card for India but I hope that he does not take five wickets in an innings here again," said David.

Kohli's MCG connect is well-chronicled too. In 2011-12, Kohli came

in at No. 7 making 11 runs and took two catches.

Three years later, he made a 169 and shared a 262-run alliance with Ajinkya Rahane, and his 54 in the second innings helped India draw the match.

In 2018, he was leading the side and made an important 82 in the first innings and took important catches of Mitchell Marsh and Aaron Finch in the second essay.

Overall, Kohli has scored 316 runs at an average of 52.66 in three Tests on this historic ground which includes a century and two half-centuries.

The 35-year-old is 133 runs behind Sachin Tendulkar (449 in 10 matches), who has scored the most runs for India at the MCG, and 53 runs behind Rahane (369 runs in six matches).

Gujarat-born Saloni is settled in Perth, and he has come here to watch the Melbourne Test.

"For the first time, I watched a Test from the stadium in Perth and I am very happy that Virat scored a century in that match."

"I am very excited

about the remaining matches. It is going to be a very good match in Melbourne," she said.

"I like Virat's aggression. It is fun to watch him on the field. He also takes very good catches and his fitness is unmatched," she noted.

Australian fan Crayon Matthews said his team will have to be wary of Kohli.

"I am really excited for the Melbourne Test. Virat Kohli is an amazing player. He has played so well for India for so long. "He will go down as one of the greatest that has ever played, not only in India but in the world. Australia will have to be cautious of him," said Matthews.

Historically too, MCG holds pride of place in Indian cricket history. It was here India won their first Test on Australian soil during the 1977-78 tour.

India under Bishan Singh Bedi won that match by 222 runs, aided by Sunil Gavaskar's 118 and leg-spin maestro BS Chandrasekhar's 12-wicket haul.

So, can Kohli and India add one more glorious chapter here?

Gambhir Problems: He wants his team but will he get that?

MELBOURNE, Dec 22 (Agencies): Transitions are never easy. More so when a dressing room is dotted with superstars, who are in the Twilight Zone of their glittering careers.

And it's for this reason, India's head coach, Gautam Gambhir, finds himself caught between a rock and a hard place.

Indian cricket's big transition has started with Ravichandran Ashwin's retirement.

And Gambhir might have to be the 'Harbinger of Doom' for some of the megastars if the currently tied Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia does not end up being decisively in India's favour in Melbourne and Sydney.

While Ashwin took the hard call himself, anyone with a basic understanding of Indian cricket would know that Gambhir's decision to include Washington Sundar at the senior pro's expense was the biggest trigger.

Skipper Rohit Sharma wasn't even in Perth when the decision was made.

There are four big names — Virat Kohli, Rohit, Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Shami — in the Indian dressing room right now.

Shami isn't playing this series but not being able to even join the team hasn't actually left him in a good space.

While the senior selection committee chaired by Ajit Agarkar will have a say, the names in question are big enough to warrant a respectable discussion before being given the final nudge.

But unlike his predecessor Rahul Dravid, nuance isn't exactly Gambhir's biggest forte.

To be fair to Gambhir, Dravid didn't have to deal with a transition this huge but he did actually tell Ishant Sharma and Wriddhiman Saha that their days in national colours were over.

Neither Ishant nor Saha were as big stars as the quartet mentioned above and they walked away quietly.

The focus has been squarely on seniors

and especially skipper Rohit and Virat for their underwhelming form.

However Gambhir, whose appointment as head coach created a lot of buzz, is also very much under the lens.

Eight Tests since his arrival have thrown up four defeats, a draw and three victories. These are not results that the fiery opener would have envisaged.

The celebrations after saving a follow on in Brisbane were mistaken for joy.

Anyone familiar with the dynamics of competitive sport would know that the high-fives were more a display of relief.

Will his position as head coach become untenable if India doesn't qualify for the World Test Championship final? The answer is a "No" at this point.

Will it be untenable if India doesn't win the Champions Trophy?

Perhaps not as both the ongoing series and the next 50-over ICC event will comprise a core that has been there for a considerable period of time.

Is the BCCI ready to give Gambhir a free hand to create a team of his own where he would be the master planner with the likes of Jasprit Bumrah (possible next Test skipper) and Suryakumar Yadav (T20 skipper) executing his strategy?

It can't happen right away but it's not too far either.

Those who know Gambhir insist that his heart is in the right place even when he takes harsh or seemingly risky calls. Nitish Reddy and Harshit Rana were his choices and they have not been bad.

But the Indian dressing room, where player power has always prevailed, requires a lot of patience from a coach to earn the trust of players.

John Wright, Gary Kirsten and Ravi Shastri were able to earn that trust but Greg Chappell and Anil Kumble, despite being legends, failed to click.

Gambhir's situation is more like what Duncan Fletcher endured in 2011, when he took over an ageing team.

By the time the 2014 England away series concluded, India under Fletcher's stewardship had lost 11 Tests (seven in England and four in Australia).

Shastri was appointed as the Cricket Director to oversee Fletcher, which was basically aimed at sidelining the Zimbabwean.

The world remembers Gambhir for being a hero in two World Cup finals and the brain behind KKR's three IPL trophies — two as captain and one as coach. But a lesser known fact about Gambhir is that in 2017, he relinquished Delhi Capitals' captaincy midway through IPL for Shreyas Iyer.

He dropped himself from the playing eleven when he was unable to handle the pressure.

The temperamental left-hander was nearly 37 then.

The world will know in the coming days if Guru Gambhir is able to withstand the pressure of international coaching and also get the team of his choice.

Symposium on "How to Pass Senior Life with Grace and Happiness"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22 :An interactive session on "Blissful Living for Seniors" was organized by Vichar Kranti Manch International, Indian Yoga Association, and Sarv Uthan Trust at Channi Himmat, Jammu.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, expressed his views, highlighting that senior life is a golden phase, bringing wisdom, experience, and joy. With a positive approach, it can be lived with grace, happiness, and fulfillment. He emphasized fulfilling duties toward family, society, and self to lead a balanced and meaningful life.

Key Points Discussed:
Duties Toward Family: Be a Mentor: Share life lessons and guide younger generations.

Stay Connected: Build emotional bonds through quality time and celebrations.

Foster Values: Instill cultural and moral values to uphold family legacy.

Avoid Over-Interference: Provide advice without imposing decisions.

Support Financially (if possible): Assist with educational needs or family activities.

Duties Toward Society:



Volunteer: Join social organizations to support education, healthcare, or conservation efforts.

Mentorship: Guide younger professionals or students.

Community Service: Participate in cleanliness drives, tree planting, or aiding underprivileged groups.

Promote Harmony: Mediate conflicts and foster understanding in the community.

Duties Toward Self: Physical Health:

Exercise regularly through yoga or light activities.

Eat a balanced diet. Schedule regular medical check-ups.

Mental and Emotional Well-being:

Stay positive and prac-

tice gratitude. Rediscover hobbies like gardening or painting.

Maintain social connections to reduce loneliness.

Practice mindfulness through meditation or deep breathing.

Financial Security: Plan finances wisely and avoid debt.

Maintain an emergency fund for unforeseen expenses.

Speakers' Insights

Mr. Ashok Gupta, Vice President VKMI: Highlighted the importance of lifelong learning, reciting a poem on the topic.

Prof. Virender Gupta: Suggested avoiding worries and setting goals for social service.

Mr. Suresh Gupta:

Advised pursuing hobbies for personal joy.

Mr. C.M. Sharma, Vice President VKMI: Advocated for adaptability, spiritual growth, and resilience.

Mr. Narinder Wadhwa: Recommended listening to music for peace and concentration.

Mr. Vipul Gupta: Stressed teaching ethical and moral values to children.

Mr. Makhn Lal Pampori: Emphasized keeping traditions alive and embracing guru parampara (teacher-student tradition).

Mr. O.P. Bholia: Encouraged positivity in life.

Mr. Ashok Khajuria: Underlined the importance of discipline.

Mr. Rakesh Verma:

Discussed digital tools for convenience, like digital parking.

Dr. Goutam Mengi: Concluded the session with a message to seek comfort within, limit desires, and prioritize family time.

The session ended with Dr. Jain's Vote of Thanks, followed by a practical demonstration of laughter exercises by Mr. Ashok Khajuria.

Balancing Life for Blissful Living

The symposium emphasized achieving balance across all aspects of life:

Spiritual Growth: Cultivate inner peace through meditation or prayer.

Gratitude: Cherish life's blessings and small joys.

Adaptability: Embrace change with an open mind, from technology to family dynamics.

Celebrate Milestones: Acknowledge achievements, big or small.

Conclusion

Senior life, when lived with purpose and positivity, can be the most rewarding phase. By fulfilling duties toward family, society, and self, seniors can create a legacy of love, wisdom, and happiness.

Your golden years are an opportunity to shine brighter than ever—embrace them with joy, gratitude, and grace!

Prof. Umesh Rai congratulated on reappointment as Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: In a commendable gesture of appreciation, a delegation led by Shri Avinash Choudhary, Chairman of the Border Welfare Organization and a resident of the Boys Hostel, met with Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, to extend their congratulations on his reappointment. The occasion not only celebrated Prof. Rai's continued leadership

but also underscored his notable contributions to student welfare and inclusivity at the University.

The delegation took the opportunity to discuss their vision for the Boys Hostel, lauding the Vice Chancellor for his steadfast commitment to improving its infrastructure and ensuring a supportive living environment for its residents. A particular highlight of their discussion was the recent steps taken

to enhance accessibility for specially-abled students. Prof. Rai's approval of modifications to the hostel premises to enable smooth and unrestricted mobility for these students reflects the University's progressive stance on inclusivity and equal opportunities.

Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Rai reassured the delegation of the University's dedication to fostering an environment conducive to academic and personal growth. He reiterated his resolve to prioritize student welfare and infrastructural development, aligning with the broader goals of the institution.

This interaction serves as a testament to the collaborative spirit between the University administration and its stakeholders. By addressing the needs and aspirations of its students, the University of Jammu continues to set benchmarks in creating a holistic, inclusive, and nurturing educational ecosystem. Prof. Rai's reappointment heralds a continuation of these efforts, further bolstering the University's reputation as a forward-thinking institution committed to excellence.

Shivlok Prasthan Divas celebrated on 25 Dec dablhar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22: Kalash pati sharma Along with Mahant Rajesh Bittu ji and Rajeev Sharma Addressing The Press Conference Today Mahatma Shyam Giri Maharaj who departed for Kailash Dham on 25 December 2023. In his memory, Shivlok Prasthan Divas will be celebrated on 25 December this year at the

Panchvati temple in village dablhar Tehsil RS Pura. While talking to the media, the members said that Mahant Shyam Giri Maharaj ji was a retired teacher, he has been honored with the Governor Award as well as the President Award. He told that Mahant Shyam Giri Maharaj ji has built about eight temples along with his household, one of which is Panchvati temple which is in RS Pura.

This Shiv bati temple was very close to the heart of Mahant Giri ji Maharaj, that is why we are organizing this occasion in this temple itself. On this day, a Bhandara will be organized here, there will be a Sant Sangam Samagam and thousands of devotees will participate in it. He told that some social work will also be done on this day like medical camp and other schemes will be started. He informed the devotees that a 150-year-old Shivaling is also installed there, go and see it and make your life blessed. He invited all the devotees on this occasion and appealed to them to participate in the Havan, Langer Prasad and Sant Sammelan.

Modi govt builds on Vajpayee's legacy, strengthening India's global position: Rohiin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 22 : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary and Media Prabhari Jammu South Rohiin Chandan has been praising the legacy of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the current leadership of PM Narendra Modi. According to Chandan, Vajpayee had a profound impact on India during his tenure as Prime Minister, and Modi has brought a fresh perspective to the country's development. Rohiin believes that Modi's working style has been instrumental in demonstrating to the people of India how development can be achieved. In 2015, Vajpayee ji was honored with India's highest civilian honor—the Bharat Ratna—by the then President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.

Rohiin highlights the significance of Jammu and Kashmir in the Modi-led government's agenda, a legacy that was initiated by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. From 2014 to 2024, J&K has remained a top priority, with the government working tirelessly to promote development and progress. Chandan emphasized that the people of the country have faith in the ideology of the Modi government, which has been instrumental in launching numerous schemes and projects to benefit the public.

He expressed that the Modi-led government has been building on the foundation laid by Mr. Vajpayee, who changed the narrative on the Kashmir issue and made terrorism a key concern globally. He said Vajpayee's far-sightedness helped other countries realize that

India was not the sponsor of terrorism but rather a victim of it. His legacy continues to inspire the Modi government, which has been working to strengthen India's position on the world stage.

PM Modi has often spoken about the importance of Vajpayee's contributions to India's development, including making the country a nuclear power. The Modi government has been following in Vajpayee's footsteps, with a focus on promoting development and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. The region has seen significant investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, with the government launching various schemes to benefit the local population, Chandan said.

He added that the people of J&K have been benefiting from the various schemes launched by the government, including initiatives to promote entrepreneurship, education, and healthcare. The government has also been working to improve the region's infrastructure, with a focus on building better roads, bridges, and other critical facilities. Several projects are in the pipeline, including initiatives to promote tourism and create jobs for the local youth.

Chandan's statement highlights the BJP's commitment to following in the footsteps of its iconic leaders. The party has been working tirelessly to implement the vision of Vajpayee and Modi, with a focus on progress and development. The Modi government has been implementing various initiatives and policies aimed at transforming India into a major economic power.

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