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BRIEFLY

Minimum temperature improves across J&K, Srinagar records minus 3.6

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): Due to nightlong cloud cover, minimum temperature improved across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday with Srinagar city recording minus 3.6 as the minimum temperature.

The Meteorological (MeT) department said the improvement in minimum temperature will continue for another two days after which another spell of extreme cold is likely to occur in Kashmir.

Despite improvement in night temperature, life remained adversely affected due to frozen water taps, slippery roads, shortages of electric power, etc., in the Valley.

Accepting the gravity of the situation, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has cancelled all his engagements outside and decided to remain stationed in Kashmir to address the problems of the people.

"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 CM wrote on X.

The 40-day-long period of harsh winter cold called the 'Chillai Kalan' started on December 21 and will end on January 30.

Most water bodies including rivers, streams and lakes have already started freezing. This has made moving the boats in these water bodies a challenging job.

Srinagar had minus 3.6, Gulmarg minus 4.8 and Pahalgam minus 5 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 6.7, Katra town 7, Batote 2.7, Banihal minus 1.7 and Baderwah minus 0.7 as the minimum temperature.

Rajouri mysterious deaths: Woman who lost her three children dies; toll 9

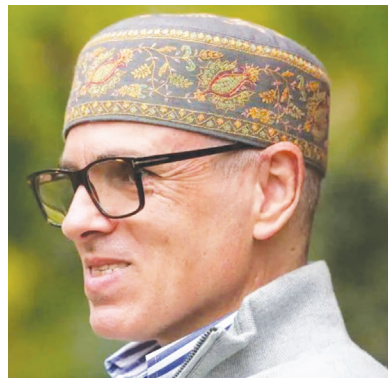
SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): The number of deaths from an unknown illness in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district has risen to nine, with a

Turn to page 9

Omar Abdullah Quotes Rudyard Kipling While Expecting Trust & Patience from Party Leaders

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): Irked by the protest of his party's Lok Sabha member, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, against reservations despite the assurance given by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah that it would be rationalised, the latter quoted Rudyard Kipling as he expected patience and trust from his party leaders and supporters.

After Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi led the anti-reservation protest at the Chief Minister's Gupkar residence in Srinagar city, Omar Abdullah said on X, "If you can keep your head when all about



you are losing theirs and blaming it on you. If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too."

"If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated, don't give way to hating. And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise: If you can dream—and not make dreams your master. If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same; If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken, Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

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Reservation row: MP Ruhullah leads protest in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): Senior National Conference leader and Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah on Monday led a protest against the existing reservation policy outside the chief minister Omar Abdullah's official residence in the Gupkar area of Srinagar.

PDP leaders Waheed



ur Rehman Parra and Iltija Mufti among others also reached the spot to

join the protest.

As per details available with news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Aga Ruhullah started the protest march from Burn Hall school and reached outside CM's residence, demanding rationality in reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir tourism Legislators including, Sheikh Khursheed, and

Turn to page 9

Grenade attack in Gurdaspur: Three KZF members gunned down in encounter



PILIBHIT/CHANDIGARH, Dec 23 (Agencies): Three suspected Khalistani terrorists allegedly involved in the grenade attack in Gurdaspur were killed

in an encounter with police in Pilibhit early Monday, with Punjab's Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav terming it as a major breakthrough against

a Pakistan-sponsored terror module.

The gunfight between members of the Khalistan Zindabad Force and joint team of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Police took place in Puranpur area of Pilibhit.

DGP Yadav said the three have been identified as Varinder Singh alias Ravi (23), Gurvinder Singh (25), and Jashanpreet Singh alias Partap Singh (18).

They are residents of police station Kalanaur and are accused of attacking the Bakshi-wala Police Station in Kalanaur in Punjab's

Turn to page 9

FFMA, SRS pay tributes to Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan on 135th Birth Anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Freedom Fighters Association Memorial Association (FFMA) and Shri Ram Sena (SRS) on Monday celebrated 135th Birth Anniversary of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan, first Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir State and third Chief Justice of India at Dogra Shourya Sthal Amphalla, under the Chairmanship of Rajiv Mahajan.

While paying tributes to Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan, Rajiv Maha-



jan (Chairman Freedom Fighter Memorial Association (FFMA) and UT President of Shri Ram Sena (SRS) appreciated the contribution of Justice Mahajan as

a member of Redchiff Committee which played major role in connecting J&K with rest of India through Gurdaspur.

Rajiv threw light on the contribution of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan for which not only the people of Jammu but entire nation feel proud of him as he had worked for the welfare of the communities irrespective of caste, creed, religion and region.

Mehar Chand Mahajan was the third Chief Justice of India. His contributions for both on and off

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Face covering by women advocates violates BCI dress code: J&K High Court



JAMMU, Dec 23 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has categorically held that women advocates cannot appear before the court with their faces covered, citing clear provisions under the Bar Council of India (BCI) rules.

These observations arising from proceedings before Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Rahul Bharti, emphasised that the Bar Council of India (BCI) rules governing the dress code for advocates do not permit such attire and stressed the

importance of maintaining decorum and professional identification in courtrooms.

The matter was triggered when a woman identifying herself as advocate appeared before the court wearing a face cover. Upon being requested to remove it for identification, she insisted that it was her fundamental right to appear in such a state of attire. This led the court to direct the Registrar General of the High Court to confirm the legal and rule position regarding the dress code for advocates.

Upon submission of

the report to this effect the court scrutinized the legal framework under the BCI rules, specifically Chapter IV (Part VI), which prescribes the dress code for advocates appearing before courts.

The court noted that according to these provisions, women advocates may wear black full-sleeve jackets or blouses, white bands, sarees, or other subdued traditional attire, along with a black coat. However, there is no mention or allowance for the inclusion of face coverings as part of the prescribed courtroom attire, the court pointed.

"It is nowhere stated in the rules that any such attire (face cover) is permissible for appearing before this court.", Justice Kazmi remarked.

Underscoring the practical and legal challenges posed by advocates appearing with covered faces Justice Bharti in another order emphasised that the court

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OBITUARY

With profound grief & heavy heart it is informed that our mother Karamyogini **Smt. Meenawati Koul** W/o Lt. Gopi Nath Koul of village Wuyan District Pulwama Tehsil Pampore presently at Green field Enclave Near Temple H.No 3/3 Talab Tillo Camp Road Jammu Proceeded Towards Vaikunthdham on 21-12-2024 (Saturday-09:45AM).



Smt. Meenawati Koul

IN GRIEF
Smt. Mohan Rani Koul W/o Lt. T.N Koul (Dev Rani)
Sons and Daughter's in law
Sh. Mohan Lal Koul & Smt. Khema Koul (94692-67843)
Sh. Omkar Nath Koul & Smt. Dulani Koul (70069-65838)
Sh. Roshan Lal Koul & Smt. Prana Koul (94192-08383)
Daughters & Son's In-law.
Smt Anita Bhat & Sh. Vinod Kumar Bhat (91496-59342)
Smt. Sunita Kitchloo & Sh. Ashwani Kitchloo (88034-24222)
All Grand Children/Great Grand Children

BARKHI

It has been a year since you left us, but not a day passes without your presence in our thoughts and hearts.



SH. KAMAL GUPTA

Barkhi of our beloved **Sh. Kamal Gupta** shall be performed on 24th of December, 2024, Tuesday at 12 Noon at our residence Jasrotia Enclave, Near R M Public School, Sainik Colony Ext, Chowadi Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-

Smt. Suresh Gupta (Bhabhi)
Brother-in-law
Kumar Shah (Rajouri Wale)
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sanjay Gupta & Ritu Gupta (8800921888)
Suksham Gupta & Ritu Bharti (9419229742)
Sandeep Gupta & Manu Gupta (9419620281)
Grand Children: Sana, Shikhar, Krishna, Siddhangana, Aadya

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With heavy heart & profound grief, we are sorry to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Vidya Devi (Bobo Ji)** W/o Late Sh. Om Parkash Pakhetra resident of Ward No.4, Ramnagar, who breathed her last on 15th Dec, 2024.



SMT. VIDYA DEVI (BOBO JI)

Tenth Day will be performed on 24th Dec, 2024 (Tuesday) at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon at Brahmin Sabha Ramnagar.

13th Day/Kriya
Kriya will be performed on 27th Dec, 2024 at our residence W.No.4, Ramnagar at 12.00 Noon onwards. **Rasam Pagri** on 27th Dec at 4.00 PM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Ashok Gupta & Smt. Sneha Lata
Sh. Kulbeer Gupta (Billa Shah) & Smt. Sushma Gupta
Sh. Pardeep Gupta & Smt. Anju Gupta
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Swarn Lata & Late Sh. Kishor Gupta
Smt. Rama Gupta & Kulbeer Gupta
Deeply Remembered By:-
All Grand Children
M/s Om Pharmaceuticals (Jammu)
Malgotra Medical Shop (Ramnagar)
Contact No: 9419273939, 9419281654

OBITUARY

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT DULARI RAINA** W/O LATE TRILOKI NATH RAINA, ORIGINALLY A RESIDENT OF DEVI ANGAN HARI PERBHAT SRINAGAR, KASHMIR, AND PRESENT RESIDING AT, L-47A, OPP. SBI, PALAM DABRI ROAD, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE NEW DELHI PIN : 110045, ON 20TH DECEMBER 2024.



SMT DULARI RAINA

IN GRIEF

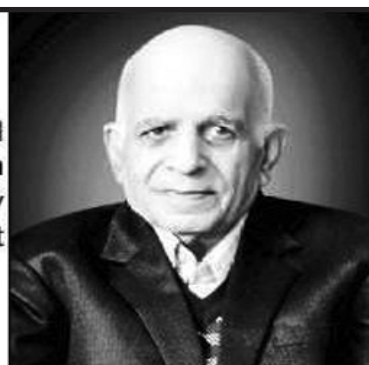
RAINA'S, SHARMA, DHAR, KALA'S, RAZDAN

CONTACT :- 78 38725960, 9873101391

CHOUBARSI

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

CHOUBARSI of Our respected **DADDY Ji Sh. Mohan Krishan Gupta Ji** will be held on 24th day of December 2024 (Tuesday) at 12:00 NOON.



SH. MOHAN KRISHAN GUPTA Ji
[Retd. Dy. Registrar Co-op. Societies J&K]

Fondly remembered & missed by :

Daughters-in-law and Sons
Ekta Goel and Neeraj Goel Advocate
Indu Goel and Anil Goel,
Monica Goel and Pankaj Goel,
Daughter & Son-in-law:
Meenakshi & Bhupesh Gupta
Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-law :
Dr. Palak Goel and Dr. Nikhil Gupta
Grandsons and Grand Daughters : Paras, Pranav, Preetika, Ramit and Prakriti GOELS, Aneesh & Shiviy Mahajans
Great Grandson : CUTE DAIVIK GUPTA
9419284280, 9419351550, 9205125124, 9419351560, 9697080680

CHOUBARSI

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

CHOUBARSI of our beloved **Smt Santosh Gupta** W/o Late Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta will be performed on Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024 at our residence H. No 233/2 Adarsh Enclave, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu at 12.00 Noon.



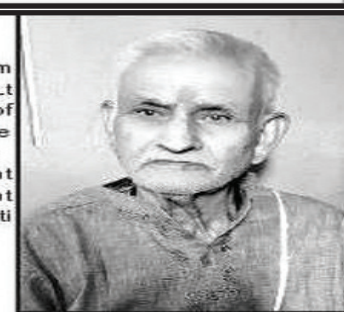
Smt Santosh Gupta

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:

Son & Daughter in Law
Rajiv & Monika Gupta
Brother in Law & Sister in Law
Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta & Swarn Kanta (Samba)
Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law
Aksha & Ankush Gupta
Divyam Gupta -Grand Son
MOBILE NO: 9419196489, 6005325743

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 Rafiabhad 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. Dulani & Sh. Prem Nath Pandita
Smt. Jaishori Pandita & Sh. Makhan Lal Pandita
Lt. Smt. Lajwanti Pandita & Sh. Chuni Lal Pandita
Smt. Kamla Thusoo & Lt. Sh. J.N Thusoo - **Sister**
Grand Children: Deepika, Kashvi, Eshita, Harshita, Divyanshi, Charlen, Est Harsh, Daksh, Vasu, Rudraksh
Mob: 6006967906, 9906197577, 8899548132

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 Children's and Smast Raina Pariwar
9419193383, 9419116443, 9419280062, 9419117970

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 PARIWAR
MOB: 9419206241, 7889767088

ADH BARKHI

MISSING YOU WITH SILENT TEARS IN OUR EYES

ADH BARKHI of Late **Smt. Sushma Gupta** W/o Dr. S.P. Gupta will be performed on 24.12.2024 at 26 Gupta Niwas Nitco Lane Talab Tillo Jammu at 10 AM onwards.



LATE SMT. SUSHMA GUPTA

Deeply Remembered By
Dr. S.P. Gupta (**Husband**)
Daughter-in-Law & Son
Dr. Procheta and Dr. Rahil Gupta
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Dr. Ankita and Dr. Abhishek Dhawan
Master Atharv (**Grand Son**)
Devrani and Devars
Sushma and Radha Krishan Gupta
Sunita and Bishan Datt Gupta
Shalini and Subash Gupta
Bhawana and Sh. G.L. Gupta
Mob. No. 9419157087, 9419197878

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Babita Dogra** W/o Sh Parshotam Lal R/o 161/128 Pacci Dhakki Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 19th of December, 2024.



Smt Babita Dogra

Tenth Day will be performed on 24-12-2024 (Tuesday) from 12:00 Noon at Dogra Brahmin Sabha, Parade Jammu.

Uthala will be performed on 27-12-2024 (Friday) from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Dogra Brahmin Sabha Parade, Jammu.

Grief Stricken
Sh Parshotam Lal - **Husband**
Shivani & Munish Mami - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Shigra Dogra - **Daughter**
Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law
Tilak Raj & Santosh Kumari
Suraj Parikash & Santosh Kumari
Subhash Chander & Shakti Devi
Naresh Dogra & Savita Dogra
M/s Girdhari Tea Stall, Pacea Danga, Jammu
Mobile: 9419703272, 9622912338

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of **Mithun Prashar** (J&K Bank) S/o Late Sh. Ram Murti Sharma, R/O Bhagwati Nagar, Kathua who left us for heavenly abode on 21st December, 2024.



Mithun Prashar
(J&K Bank)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Anita Sharma (Mother)
(Chachi & Chachu)
Smt Savita Sharma & Pawan Kr Sharma
Smt Savita Sharma & Kewal Krishan Sharma
Smt. Priya Sharma (Wife)
(Bhabhi and Brother)
Smt. Indu and Sh. Ankur Prashar
Smt. Megha Prashar and Sh. Ranbir Singh (Sister and Brother in Law)
Master Ayan Prashar (Son)
9602202905

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 & Himanshu - **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 demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Raj Rani** W/o Late Prem Nath Bhat of Zangalpora Devasat, Kulgam at present H.No. 332, Dina Nagar, Barri Near Rama Event on 22/12/2024.



Smt. Raj Rani

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 30/12/2024 (Monday) at Akhnoor Ghat and the Assembly will be held at our residence at 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Prem Nath Bhat and Lalita Pandita (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law)
Suraj Bhat and Mehak Pandita
Doly Bhat and Ram Krishan Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Daughter & Son-in-law)
Pinkay Pandith and Pradman Krishen Pandith
Grand Children : Shaweta Bhat, Kavita Bhat, Anni Raina, Amit Pandith, Swati, Suraj, Sumit
Mobile : 7006093175, 8825080131, 7780949501, 9419209111

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 Batoria (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Uday Vir and Aryaveer (Grand sons)
Jamwal and Salathia Families

10TH DAY KRIYA

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



Karamyogi 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. Bimla and Sh. Pyaray Lal Bhat
Smt. Kaki and Sh. Bheem Ji Bhat
Smt. Pinky and Sh. Bal Krishan Pandita
Grand Children: Sakshi, Sonali, Babli, Rakesh, Vimal, Menika, Viboti, Mega.
Contact: 9419149997, 9469807767, 9103890965.

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CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us for heavenly abode. We remember you and miss your presence in every moment of our lives.



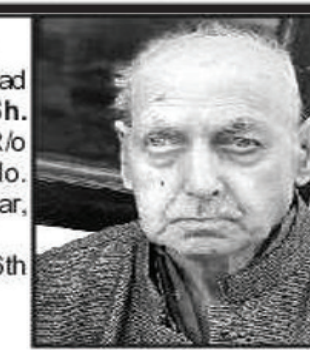
Smt. Suman Dutta

CHOUBARSI of **Smt. Suman Dutta** W/o Late Sh Rajesh Dutta will be performed on 27th December at Shakti Palace on degree college road near Birla Park Kathua.

Deeply Missed and Remembered by:
Pooja and Saurabh Dutta (7006533007)
Sheetal and Abheek Dutta (8283818420)
Shakuntla Dutta

10TH DAY KRIYA

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



Karamyogi 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. Bimla and Sh. Pyaray Lal Bhat
Smt. Kaki and Sh. Bheem Ji Bhat
Smt. Pinky and Sh. Bal Krishan Pandita
Grand Children: Sakshi, Sonali, Babli, Rakesh, Vimal, Menika, Viboti, Mega
Contact: 9419149997, 9469807767, 9103890965.

Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association urges Govt to redress long-standing issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association (J&K UT) convened a press conference under the leadership of General Secretary D.K. Chauhan to address critical issues faced by paramilitary personnel and ex-servicemen.

The press conference was attended by prominent members of the association, including Ashok Kumar Verma (Chairman), Kuldeep Singh (President), Harbans Lal (Vice President), Noor Mohammad (President, District Samba), Yash Pal, Gurdeep Singh, Bachan Lal Bhagat, Kamlesh Kumari, Warem and others.

During the press conference, the association highlighted the systemic discrimination faced by central paramilitary forces since 2014. Despite their unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation under challenging conditions, their demands remain unaddressed, Chauhan said.

Unlike the Indian Army, paramilitary forces have not been granted One Rank One Pension (OROP), leading to significant disparities in post-retirement benefits, he said and criticized



the government for failing to ensure regular pension revisions for retired personnel.

He said that paramilitary forces do not receive medical benefits on par with their Army counterparts, despite facing similar risks and hardships.

"Personnel martyred in the line of duty are not accorded martyr status, which denies them and their families the respect and benefits they deserve," Chauhan said and lamented the lack of priority given to paramilitary forces who serve tirelessly on international borders, maintain law and order, and operate in terrorism affected regions like Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattis-

garh, and the Northeast.

He accused the central government of treating paramilitary forces with "step-motherly" indifference. While these forces work 24/7 throughout the year, their contributions are undervalued, and their service conditions remain stagnant, he said.

The association also expressed disappointment with the Director Generals (DGs) of paramilitary forces, accusing them of failing to advocate for the welfare of their personnel. Additionally, the association criticized the lack of action from local political leaders. They appealed to J&K MPs Jugal Kishore Sharma and Dr. Jiten-

dra Singh (MoS PMO) to raise their concerns in Parliament. However, the response from these MPs remains pending.

The association also urged local MLAs to bring the issues of paramilitary personnel to the government's attention, emphasizing the need for political intervention at both state and central levels.

In a gesture of unity, the association extended its respect and support to farmers who have been fighting for their rights. They criticized the government for ignoring the legitimate demands of farmers, drawing parallels with their own struggle for recognition and justice.

The Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association vowed to continue its fight for justice, demanding equal treatment for paramilitary forces.

The association called on the government to recognize the sacrifices of paramilitary personnel and address their long-standing grievances.

The press conference concluded with a collective appeal to the government, urging immediate action to ensure the welfare and dignity of paramilitary forces who serve the nation with unmatched dedication.

Balbir honoured for his distinguished social services

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: In an impressive function of "Dogra Legacy Excellence Award-2024", held at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, Balbir Ram Rattan, a distinguished social and political figure of Jammu, was honoured with Nation Building Award and Duggar Sanskriti Samman.

Balbir Ram Rattan presented Duggar Sanskriti Samman memento by Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust (PCCCT) and Nation Building Award Certifi-

cate by American University for Peace, Scientific Research and Sustainable Development (AUPSRSD).

He was selected for this honour for his consistent efforts to educate the people about the life, teachings and message of the great Indian saints, Guru Ravidass in particular, while serving as National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth and Indian Branch General Secretary of British Ravidassia Heritage Foundation.

His exemplary tenure



PCC remembers Madan Lal Sharma on death anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Rich tributes were paid to former Member Parliament and veteran Congress leader Madan Lal Sharma on his 4th death anniversary, on Monday at PCC HQ Shaheed Chowk, Jammu.

Working President JKPC Raman Bhalla chaired the meeting which was attended by senior leaders of PCC, DCC and frontal wings of the party.

Floral tributes were paid to the veteran leader in the meeting and the senior leaders remembered his contributions in different capacities to the party and the people during his public life spread over to around five decades. He was a humble personality and always remained associated with the people at the grass root levels especially poor and the downtrodden. They described him as a great leader of the party who

was liked by one and all because of his humbleness and qualities of leadership. He saw many ups and downs in his public life but remained a determined soldier of the people and the party. Prominent among those who paid tributes include Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved ahajan, Th. Manmohan Singh, Arvind Singh Micky, Nizamud-din Bhat (MLA Bandipora), Shashi Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Vijay Shastri, A.P. Singh Lucky, Rajesh Sharma, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Rajeev Saraf, Sandeep Dogra, Praveen Singh, Bimla Slathia, Th. Hoshiyar Singh, Anuradha Sharma, Rashida Begum, Bharat Bhushan, Ranjeet Singh Manhas, Sat Paul Sapolia, Ram Prakash Magotra, Jugal Sharma, Anuradh Rakesh Sharma, Manjeet Singh Bedi, Raj Kumar Sodhi, Ranjit Chopra, Narinder Sharma (Happy) and others.

KDP Wing of DPAP demands easing out of procedures in relief organisation working

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), led by President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Publicity Secretary Charanjeet Singh, Mahila President Daizy Dhar, and Mahila Working President Renu Razdan, has expressed serious concerns over the cumbersome procedures in the Relief Organisation. In a joint statement, the leaders called for immediate reforms to simplify the processes and alleviate the hardships faced by displaced migrants.

The leaders emphasized the need for a Citizens' Charter to be issued and published by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants). This charter

should clearly outline the responsibilities of each section within the organisation, including Camp Commandants and Zonal Officers. Such a document would ensure clarity in procedures for obtaining certificates, handling deletions, additions, bifurcations, and other related tasks. The current lack of fixed procedures leads to prolonged delays, often lasting months, causing unnecessary hardship for the displaced community.

The Relief Organisation must streamline its procedures and implement time-bound resolutions to ensure efficiency. Although online services are available, the absence of proper supervision often leads to incomplete or ineffective outcomes. To improve accessibility, the leaders demanded that Camp Comman-

dants and Zonal Officers be empowered to handle minor tasks such as the deletion of names in case of deaths and the inclusion of newborns at the zone level. Additionally, Zonal Officers should conduct visits to camp jurisdictions twice a week to directly address grievances and resolve issues promptly.

The leaders also suggested that the Deputy Commissioner (Relief) be empowered to conduct public darbars in camps for on-the-spot resolution of minor submissions. This approach would significantly reduce delays and improve the overall efficiency of the Relief Organisation. They also urged the authorities to issue proper notifications before introducing any new forms or formats, as the community has been burdened with

repetitive paperwork over the past 35 years without any tangible results.

Another pressing issue raised was the need for adequate police deployment in Jagti Camp, as promised by the Hon'ble Chief Secretary during his recent visit. This measure is essential to ensure the safety and security of camp residents. Additionally, the leaders expressed concern over the unscheduled power cuts in the camp and urged the authorities to reduce curtailment hours to provide uninterrupted electricity.

The statement highlighted several pending commitments, including the election of the Resident Welfare Association and the allotment of shops in Jagti Camp. Despite assurances from the Relief and Rehabilitation Com-

missioner, these promises remain unfulfilled and require immediate action. Similarly, the leaders demanded the initiation of infrastructure repairs and renovations in the camp, which have been delayed despite repeated assurances. They also called for the repair of lanes, by-lanes, and the main road up to Kandoli, along with the installation of streetlights and CCTV cameras to enhance safety.

The leaders urged the displaced community to remain united and steadfast in their efforts to secure their constitutional and fundamental rights as A-class citizens. They reaffirmed their commitment to working tirelessly for the welfare of the displaced community and appealed to the authorities to act swiftly to mitigate their sufferings.

15th Sub-Junior State Speedball Championship concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The two-day 15th Sub-Junior State Speedball Championship concluded today at Crescent Public School, Janipur, Jammu, leaving a significant mark on the sports calendar of the region. Organized by the J&K Sports Speedball Association, the championship witnessed the participation of around 150 players from various schools across Jammu Province, showcasing their skills and competitive spirit.

Prominent schools that participated in the event included Dogra Hr. Sec. School, S.D. Tara Puri School, Crescent Public School, APS Sunjuwan, APS Dhar Road (Udhampur), Nanda Sports Club, Jammu Sanskriti School, RMP School, Crescent Public School (Chak Bhawal), and Sainik Cooperative High School (Tikri). The event brought together young athletes eager to demonstrate their talent



and determination. Pankaj Bhagotra, RTO Jammu graced the occasion as the chief guest, delivering an inspiring speech emphasizing the role of sports in shaping young minds and fostering teamwork and discipline.

He lauded the efforts of the J&K Sports Speedball Association for organizing such a grand event and providing a platform for budding talent.

The presiding guest, Arshad Choudhary

(Chairman, Crescent Public School), along with special guests, including Ashwani Jajra (President, Special Olympics J&K), Munish Gupta (Vice President, JKOA), Vikas Gupta (Vice President, JKOA), Aastha Nanda (Member, JKPSA), and Suchta Singh (Event Director, JKPSA), added to the event's prestige.

The championship concluded with Army Public School, Udhampur, emerging as champions, while Army Public

School, Sunjuwan, secured the second position. Crescent Public School claimed the runner-up trophy, demonstrating exceptional performance throughout the tournament.

Individual accolades were awarded to outstanding players. Keshav Bhogal (RMP School) was recognized as the best player in the Super Solo category, while Samarth Sharma (APS Dhar Road) received the

award for Single Event Best Player. Arya Rajput (APS Dhar Road) was named Best Girl Player, and Gurvansh Choudhary was declared Open Best Player.

The event's success was made possible by the dedicated referees, including Sandeep, Sahil, Vishal, Amer, Yogant, Kalish, Suchit, Shivang, Suryansh, Anju, Shrishti, and Vinita Pandita.

The championship concluded with a vote of thanks by Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of the J&K Sports Speedball Association, who expressed gratitude to all participants, guests, and organizers.

The 15th Sub-Junior State Speedball Championship was a celebration of talent, determination, and sportsmanship, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees and paving the way for the winners to represent the region at the national level.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar celebrates Dogri Manta Din



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Department of Dogri of Government College for Women (GCW), Bhagwati Nagar, organized a vibrant celebration of Dogri Manta Din to honor and promote the rich heritage and cultural essence of the Dogri language under the patronage of Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and esteemed resource persons.

Dr. Tarsem Kumar, a prominent scholar and linguist, was the resource person for the occasion. The program was presided over by the Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol, who applauded the efforts of the Dogri Department in preserving and promoting the language. Dr. Poonam Kumari, Head of the Department of Dogri, expressed her gratitude to all attendees and highlighted the significance

of Dogri Manta Din in strengthening cultural identity and pride.

In his keynote address, Dr. Tarsem Kumar spoke about the evolution and significance of the Dogri language, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to preserve its legacy. Principal Dr. Meeru Abrol encouraged students to take pride in their linguistic heritage and contribute to its promotion.

The students of the college presented colourful cultural programme on the occasion.

The students of 1st sem performed beautiful traditional Dogri dance and the students of 5th sem sang melodious Dogri culture folk songs.

The occasion also witnessed captivating Dori poems adding to the richness of Dogri Culture.

The event was graced by the presence of faculty members, including Prof. Nisha Bhagat, Prof. Anju Bala, Prof. Gagan Jyoti, and Dr. Kamal Deep Singh, who actively contributed to the success of the program.

The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Gagan Jyoti, acknowledging the dedication of all participants and organizers. The event was a resounding success, leaving attendees inspired to work towards the preservation and promotion of Dogri language and culture.

EDITORIAL

Preserving
Cultural Heritage

India, with its vast and diverse history, stands as a beacon of rich cultural heritage. Spanning thousands of years, the country's heritage is a confluence of traditions, languages, art forms, rituals, and philosophies that have evolved through centuries. The challenge of preserving this heritage, however, has grown more urgent in modern times, as urbanization, globalization, and the fast-paced nature of contemporary life threaten to overshadow the timeless cultural practices and values that define India.

Cultural heritage is not just a reflection of a nation's history; it is an embodiment of its identity, values, and wisdom passed down through generations. India's heritage is marked by a unique blend of religious practices, classical music and dance forms, art, literature, festivals, architecture, and indigenous knowledge systems. These elements of culture offer insights into the moral, social, and philosophical frameworks that have guided Indian society for centuries.

Take, for instance, the profound influence of classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, and Kathakali, which are not only artistic expressions but also spiritual practices that link the performer with divine forces. The ancient art of Yoga, which has become globally recognized, is another integral part of India's cultural legacy, promoting holistic well-being and a deep connection to the mind, body, and spirit.

India's religious diversity further contributes to its cultural richness. From the temples of Varanasi and the monasteries of Ladakh to the gurdwaras of Amritsar and the churches of Goa, religious structures are not only places of worship but also masterpieces of architecture that narrate stories of devotion, philosophy, and history.

While India's cultural heritage is diverse and resilient, it faces significant threats in today's fast-changing world. One of the most prominent challenges is the erosion of traditional practices due to urbanization and modernization. As cities expand, rural communities, which have been custodians of many of India's ancient traditions, are increasingly disconnected from their cultural roots. Migration to urban areas in search of better opportunities leads to the loss of local customs, rituals, and crafts.

The proliferation of digital media and global pop culture also contributes to the marginalization of traditional Indian art forms. Younger generations, particularly in urban areas, are often more influenced by Western culture, leading to a decline in interest in traditional music, dance, and languages. In the age of social media, where instant gratification is prioritized, the slow and meditative processes of cultural learning and practice are being overshadowed.

Moreover, the preservation of heritage sites is an ongoing concern. India's rich architectural heritage, including temples, forts, palaces, and stepwells, is under threat due to neglect, environmental degradation, and inadequate conservation efforts. The influx of tourism, while beneficial to the economy, often leads to the destruction of delicate structures due to overcrowding and improper handling.

Preserving India's cultural heritage requires a concerted effort from both the government and the public. The government has already made strides in this direction through initiatives like the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which works to protect and restore heritage sites across the country. The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) program, launched by UNESCO, is also focused on safeguarding oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, and other forms of intangible heritage. India's inclusion in the World Heritage Sites list is a testament to the country's efforts to protect its cultural landmarks.

In addition to these institutional efforts, the role of individuals and communities cannot be overstated. Cultural preservation begins at the grassroots level, with families and local communities passing down their traditions and knowledge. Schools and educational institutions should play an active role in instilling a sense of pride in India's heritage by including subjects related to history, art, and culture in their curricula. Workshops, festivals, and cultural events can help revive interest in traditional arts and crafts.

The digital age offers new avenues for preservation as well. By using technology to document and share cultural practices, art forms, and heritage sites, India can ensure that its cultural legacy is accessible to future generations. Digital archives, online exhibitions, and virtual tours can make India's rich heritage accessible to a global audience, while also encouraging youth to connect with their roots.

135th birth anniversary, CJI Mehr Chand Mahajan who as Prime Minister played key role in J&K's accession

By: PRABHU RAZDAN

The 135th birth anniversary of Mehr Chand Mahajan, who donned many hats falls on December 23, 2024. Who is Mehr Chand Mahajan? His role as Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Justice of India, head of Punjab Border Commission and much more. Let's discuss.

Mehr Chand Mahajan, an eminent Indian jurist and politician, was born on December 23, 1889, in the village of Tikka Nagrota in district Kangra, Punjab Province – then British India now in Himachal Pradesh.

His father Brij Lal was an advocate and was practicing in Dharamshala. Mehr Chand Mahajan studied Chemistry in Lahore and later switched to Law. He started practicing in Dharamshala for an year and shifted to Gurdaspur where he practiced for four years between 1914 and 1918. He then practiced law in Lahore from 1918 to 1943. He Served as president of the High Court Association Lahore from 1938 to 1943. Mahajan later became judge of Punjab High Court during pre-independence.

Mehr Chand Mahajan's son Vikram Chand Mahajan was a politician and three time MP and Union Minister representing Kangra Parliamentary Constituency from Congress party between 1967 to 1971, 1972 to 1977, 1980 to 1984.

Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir After National Conference govt assumed office in Jammu and Kashmir in 1996 and in commemoration of the country's Golden Jubilee of Independence, the department of information headed by its Director KB Jandial took onerous project of publishing a book on 50 years in J&K.

I was fortunate to receive one copy of this masterpiece from none other than the Director himself almost 26 years ago when I was working for a leading English daily.

The book, which mainly focuses on the 50 years journey of Jammu and Kashmir before and after the partition, apart from delving deep-- from politics to partition to accession with India etc-- slightly sheds light on Mehr Chand Mahajan who served as Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir around the period of Independence, partition of India and J&K's accession with India.

RC Kak and Maj General Janak Singh had earlier served as Prime Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir. Before his appointment as Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Mahajan was a Judge in Punjab High Court during pre-independence era.

Though there are other books like Mehr Chand Mahajan's own autobiography "Looking Back" and Vidhya Dhar Mahajan's book titled "Chief Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan" which gives insight on life, work and profile of Mehr Chand Mahajan and

his contributions towards the boundary demarcation, legal field, politics and the society at large, the book released by J&K Government 26 years ago carries eyewitness account of horrors of partition from an eminent journalist Sati Sahni dealing with the period between June 3 and November 3, 1947--from the time Mountbatten Plan for Independence was announced and up to the day the Emergency administration was established in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sati Sahni writes, "Major General Janak Singh, who was made Prime Minister on August 11 was not able to gear up the administration to meet the explosive situation. The Maharaja replaced him on October 15, 1947 by Mr Mehr Chand Mahajan. The situation all along the Pakistani border had become warlike. Telegrams were exchanged between Kashmir Government and the Pakistani Government accusing each other of creating trouble for the other".

That Justice Mahajan is credited with having played a key role in the State's accession to India becomes evident while going through the book.

"The Indian Government after receiving reports of Pakistani attack considered the fast developing situation and on October 25 sent Mr VP Menon, Secretary of the Ministry of States to Srinagar to take stock of the situation and report back. He met the Prime Minister Mr Mahajan and called on the Maharaja to leave for Jammu same evening along with his family in view of the enemy advance towards Srinagar. Mr Menon returned to New Delhi on October 26, along with Mr Mahajan. They conveyed to the ministers in New Delhi the desire of Maharaja Hari Singh to make his state part of Indian Dominion and seek assistance for defence of his state and its people. Same day both of them were flown to Jammu to complete the document of Instrument of Accession..." Sahni writes.

Justice Mahajan was also the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir from October 15, 1947 to October 30, 1947 till Sheikh Mohd Abdullah replaced him on March 5, 1948. "The Maharaja did not do away with the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Mr Mehr Chand Mahajan. However, they did not function in the face of popular response to the Emergency Administration. On March 5, 1948, Sheikh Abdullah was made the Prime Minister", Sahni writes.

Punjab boundary Commission As on June 3, 1947, British declared independence under Mountbatten Plan. Sir Cyril Radcliff chaired two committees on division of India from Punjab and Bengal side. Where as Radcliff was a lawyer from England with no previous knowledge or experience of cartography, Mehr Chand Mahajan was made head of boundary commission on Punjab border. Though Mahajan had studied in

Lahore, practicing there and also serving as Judge of Lahore High Court, even then he seemed to be helpless in retaining Lahore for India because the four member commission--two from Indian National Congress (Mehr Chand Mahajan, Teja Singh from Indian National Congress and Din Mohd and Mohd Munir from Muslim League) were not ready to part with the historic cities like Amritsar and Lahore. It was Radcliff whose decision mattered the most.

Even then Mahajan's involvement in the commission was marked by intense negotiations and debates over territorial claims. He represented India's interests with great zeal, ensuring that the rights and aspirations of Indian citizens were safeguarded. His efforts were particularly significant in securing areas like Gurdaspur for India, which had strategic and symbolic importance.

Despite his best efforts, Mahajan was deeply troubled by the violence and displacement caused by the partition. He viewed the commission's work as a necessary but painful step in the process of India's independence, and he remained committed to mitigating its adverse effects on affected communities. The boundary award was announced on August 17, 1947 which resulted into deaths of a million people and displacement of over 12 million on both the sides.

Role towards Judiciary Mahajan's tenure as a judge of Supreme Court of India from 1948 to 1954 and later as Chief Justice of India from January 4, 1954 to December 22, 1954 was marked by several landmark judgments that have had a lasting impact on Indian jurisprudence.

One of his most notable contributions was his focus on upholding fundamental rights. As a judge, he frequently emphasized the importance of balancing individual freedoms with societal welfare. His judgments often highlighted the principles of equity, justice, and good conscience, making him a key figure in shaping India's post-independence legal framework.

One of his most impactful judgments was in State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan (1951).

This case dealt with the issue of caste-based reservations in educational institutions. Champakam Dorairajan, a Brahmin woman, challenged the State of Madras' order that reserved seats in government colleges on the basis of caste, which restricted her admission opportunities.

Judgment: The Supreme Court, with Mehr Chand Mahajan as part of the bench, struck down this reservation order, ruling that it violated Article 15(1) of the Indian Constitution, which prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. This judgment reaffirmed the constitution-

al principle of equality and ensured that no discriminatory practices could override fundamental rights.

The judgment also exposed the need for affirmative action to uplift historically disadvantaged communities, leading to the First Amendment of the Indian Constitution (1951), which added Article 15(4), enabling the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes.

Notable judgment on freedom of speech Justice Mahajan's significant contributions to the legal landscape in India regarding freedom of speech came through the landmark case of Brij Bhushan v. State of Delhi (1950).

The case revolved around the pre-censorship order issued by the Delhi government against the magazine Organiser. The government sought to regulate the publication of material critical of Pakistan, following communal tensions post-Partition. The magazine challenged the restriction, claiming it infringed on their fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution.

Judgment: The Supreme Court, with Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan as a part of the bench, struck down the pre-censorship order as unconstitutional, ruling that such restrictions were not in line with Article 19(1)(a) and could not be justified under the reasonable restrictions provided in Article 19(2).

The judgment was among the first to uphold freedom of speech as a fundamental right, ensuring the press's autonomy and independence in a democratic setup.

It clarified that censorship could only be imposed under specific circumstances mentioned in Article 19(2), such as concerns for public order, security, or morality, and pre-censorship was not permissible without a clear justification.

Mahajan Sabha of Faridabad in Haryana has been organizing functions to commemorate the birth anniversaries of this towering figure. This year – 135th anniversary celebrations were also organized where life of Mehr Chand Mahajan was celebrated and homage paid to him. On the invitation of President of the Sabha Dr Akhil Mahajan, I too got the opportunity to speak a few words where I made a suggestion for raising demand for bestowing Bharat Ratan upon Mehr Chand Mahajan and some within the audience took to social media urging the government for the same. Mr Dipak Thukral and Satinder Duggal were among others speakers who threw light on life and personality of Mehr Chand Mahajan. This gesture of Bharat Ratna demand would be the best tribute to remember contributions of this great human being who donned many hats when the pre and post independent India was facing tough times.

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 2024 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 Jatindra 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 GatiShakti 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 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 government 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 2024 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. Jatinder 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 mahayagya 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)

Shiv Sena demands complete stop to relations with unbridled Bangladesh

3 attacks in three days, 8 idols broken, priest killed, 2200 attacks in 2024'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded the Modi Government at the Centre to take strict cognizance of the ongoing attacks on Hindus and religious places in Bangladesh, and take strict steps like a complete stop to relations.

In a press conference held at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that attacks on Hindus and religious places in Bangladesh are not stopping.

In the last three days, 3 temples have been vandalized, idols broken and a Hindu priest has been killed by fundamentalists in the Kasimpura area of



Dinajpur district, he said.

Sahni added that these cruel acts of Bangladesh cannot be tolerated.

He said that Bangladesh's love for Pakistan is awakening

and following in its footsteps, nefarious and cowardly acts are being carried out.

Sahni said that the figures released by the Central Government in the Lok Sabha are

terrifying.

In the year 2024, till 8 December, 2,200 attacks have been registered on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has crossed all limits of cruelty, he added.

Sahni said that the Modi government at the Centre, which claims to be a well-wisher of Hindus, should teach Bangladesh a lesson and prove its claim to be solid.

Sahni has demanded a ban on all trade, diplomatic, political and sports relations with Bangladesh.

On the occasion, Meenakshi Chhibber (President Women's Wing), Rohan Malwal (President Jammu City) were present.

Heritageans participate in 68th School National Swimming Competition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Heritage School celebrated the participation of its talented swimmers in the prestigious 68th School National Swimming Competition held in Rajkot, Gujarat, held

from November 24 to 30, 2024.

This event brought together the finest young swimmers from across the nation, competing at the highest level of school sports.

Representing the school with commend-

able dedication and skill were Krishang Badial of Class IX A, Tegmeet Kour of Class IX D, Vamika Parmar of Class XI C, Aditee Bargotra of Class XI A and Azhan Mushtaq of Class XI B..

The Heritage fraternity congratulated these young athletes on their achievements and wishes them continued success in their swimming journeys. Their dedication and hard work inspire their peers, and they remain a source of pride for the entire school community.

MSS Charitable Trust pays tributes to Mehr Chand Mahajan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Neeraj Gupta, President Mahajan Sewa Sangh along with the members of MSS paid tribute to the first Prime Minister of J&K and 3rd Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India Mehr Chand Mahajan on his birth anniversary at Court Road Chowk, Janipur, here.

The people present on the occasion were senior and respectable members from various sections of society, women and children were also present on the occasion.

Gupta said that Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan was born on December 23rd, 1889, in Kangra, Punjab (now Himachal Pradesh).

He was the first Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir during 15 October 1947 - 5 March 1942 (142 days) the reign of Maharaja Hari Singh and played a key role in the accession of J&K to India. He was also the third Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India and also a social activ-



ist and writer who work for the welfare of people of India. He played a key role in the Kashmir accession to India. He had written three famous books titled "Preserving Unity of India", "Increase Food Production", "Kashmir's Accession to India".

Gupta said that it is very unfortunate that we have no time to remember our heroes who had sacrificed and contributed their life for the

welfare of the people and the country.

He said that Govt. should declare holiday on the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister of J&K.

The people who were present on the occasion included R. K Gupta Gen Secretary MSS, Krishna Gupta, Advocate Monika Gupta President Women Wing MSS, Anmol Gupta, Anil Gupta, Arun Gupta Apurav Gupta .

Dimple leads protest demanding immediate restoration of J&K statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir held a strong protest rally on Janipur High Court Road against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government and Home Minister Amit Shah for their non-committal stance on restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood within a defined timeline. The protest, led by Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, highlighted the lack of progress on the issue during the recent Parliament session, which was overshadowed by debates on unrelated controversies.

Addressing the protesters, Sunil Dimple criticized the BJP government for allowing the Parliament session to focus on the Adani controversy, Ambedkar debates, and constitutional issues, while neglecting Jammu and Kashmir's pressing concerns. He alleged that during a recent meeting between Home Minister Amit Shah and



former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Shah remained non-committal on the timeline for restoring statehood.

Dimple demanded that the Prime Minister and Home Minister implement the Supreme Court's orders for the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, in line with the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh at the time of accession. He further accused the BJP government of causing immense suffering to the people and youth of Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 and the

region's downgrade to Union Territory status.

Highlighting governance issues, Dimple criticized the existence of dual power centers in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it was detrimental to the region's stability and welfare. He demanded the unification of PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan into Jammu and Kashmir as part of the statehood restoration process. He also called for the reinstatement of the state subject system and the cancellation of all domicile laws imposed post-abrogation.

Dimple alleged that the BJP-led government, through CAPD

(Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution), had canceled over 1,27,000 ration cards, depriving poor and backward communities in remote areas of essential benefits. He called this move a conspiracy to deny the people their right to double rations, 12 free LPG cylinders per year, and 200 units of free electricity, which had been previously promised.

Urging former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take a personal interest in the issue, Dimple demanded that Abdullah's government prevent the cancellation of ration cards and fulfill its manifesto promises. He

criticized BJP leaders for claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had never committed to a specific timeline for restoring statehood, despite the Supreme Court's directives to expedite the process.

Dimple announced plans to convene an all-party meeting in Jammu to strategize for the restoration of statehood, special status, and Articles 370 and 35-A. He accused the BJP government of being unwilling to address these demands and called for united action from all political factions.

He reiterated the demand for the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions and the reintroduction of the state subject system.

Prominent leaders who participated in the rally included Surinder Sharma, Bramu Sharma, Sanjay Sethi, Kala Kumar, Kali Das, Akbar Khan, Sjaifi, Nazir Khan, Bishan Das, and many others.

Delegation of JKTF meets with MLA Shagun Parihar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 23: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF), led by Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma, met with MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar to discuss several pressing issues affecting teachers in the region.

The delegation urged MLA Parihar to address the long-pending issue of releasing the list of masters.

The JKTF requested MLA Parihar to facilitate the adjustment of newly promoted masters in various schools.

The delegation sought MLA Parihar's intervention in resolving issues related to ATD and transfer policy for Teachers appointed under ReTs Scheme and regularization of left out ReTs.



The JKTF delegation emphasized the need to reinstate the old pension scheme, citing the inadequacies of the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

During the meeting, MLA Shagun Parihar took immediate action and called the Director of School Education Jammu to inquire about the status of adjustments for newly promoted masters and vacant posts of Headmasters and ZEOs in far-flung

areas. The Director assured MLA Parihar that all pending issues would be addressed on a priority basis.

Sharma highlighted the shortcomings of the NPS, stating that employees retired under this scheme receive a minimal pension of Rs 1500-2000 per month and said that the NMOPS is continuously advocating for the reinstatement of the old pension scheme since

2016.

MLA Shagun Parihar assured the delegation that she would raise her voice in the assembly to support the reinstatement of the old pension scheme.

The delegation include Rakesh Kumar, Beer Singh, Ashok Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Deepak Raj, Maroof Ahmed Zargar, Imtiaz ul Haq, Rifat Hussain Malik, Suresh Kumar, Jeevan Lal, Beeni Parshad, Girdhari Lal and others.

Saroori felicitates Paris 2024 Paralympics bronze medallist Sheetal Devi

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 23: Former Minister G.M Saroori visited the native village of Sheetal Devi, Loidhar, in Kishtwar district to felicitate her for winning a bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Saroori praised Sheetal Devi for her extraordinary dedication, hard work, and outstanding performance, which has brought pride to the nation and inspired the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

During his interaction with Sheetal Devi, Saroori said, "Your remarkable achievements have not only made Jammu and Kashmir proud but have elevated the entire nation's spirit. Your dedication and performance at the international level are a source of inspiration for the younger generation."

He emphasized the importance of such



accomplishments, which highlight the immense talent and potential of the region's youth.

Sheetal Devi's achievement has created a wave of joy and celebration in her hometown. The villagers organized a special reception to honor her, with elders and young people expressing their admiration and gratitude for her bringing laurels to the region. Gifts and best wishes were showered upon her during the event.

Several notable figures accompanied G.M. Saroori during the visit, including Ali Mohammad Naik, Tariq Hus-

sain Wani, Mehraj Din, Kailash Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Ghulam Mohammad Wani, and others.

They extended their congratulations to Sheetal Devi and lauded her for setting a benchmark for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Saroori further said that Sheetal Devi's journey to the Paralympics podium is a story of perseverance and determination.

He said that overcoming numerous challenges, she proved that with hard work and focus, one can achieve greatness.

Saroori said her success serves as a beacon of hope for young ath-

letes who aspire to excel in sports despite hardships.

Saroori urged the government to take significant measures to promote sports in Jammu and Kashmir and provide better facilities to aspiring athletes.

He highlighted the need for infrastructural development and support to encourage more youngsters to participate in national and international competitions.

Saroori said that Sheetal Devi's accomplishment has brought immense pride to Jammu and Kashmir and India. Her hard work and dedication are a testament to the potential of the region's youth.

Saroori wishes her good luck for her future endeavors and hopes that Sheetal Devi's success will undoubtedly inspire generations to dream big and achieve their goals on global platforms.

Aditi Govitrikar, who plays a mother in the Netflix series *Mismatched 3*, is in a happy space

For over two decades, Aditi Govitrikar has enthralled audiences with her grace and talent. An actress who has effortlessly transitioned between the world of films, television, web shows and modelling, Aditi's career is a testament to her adaptability and passion for the craft.

Recently seen in Netflix's popular series *Mismatched 3*, where she plays a mother, she continues to showcase her acting prowess. About the series, she says, "Both the earlier seasons received immense love and recognition, so there was a lot of anticipation for this season."

For Aditi, there is always a learning from every role and this one was no different. "I deeply related to my character's journey of rebuilding her life after personal challenges and becoming a successful hotelier. Her resilience mirrors my own experiences. What I've learnt from her is the importance of nurturing relationships—her bond with her two sons and her ex-mother-in-law is especially touching and has inspired me in many ways. Every character has a story to tell and in a way inspires me as an actress."

Aditi had some memorable moments during the shooting of

Mismatched 3 and was delighted with the production team that took extreme care of all the artistes. "The energy on the sets was vibrant and youthful. We shared jokes and often



ended our days with informal gatherings, where we would chat and enjoy each other's company. It created a warm, supportive environment that I'll always cherish."

Parallel profession

While she is known for her performances on the silver screen, her ground-breaking achievement was when she became the first Indian to be crowned Mrs World! A doctor by profession, Aditi won the Gladrags Megamodel contest in 1996, something that changed the entire trajectory of her life. "Interestingly, I wasn't motivated by a specific desire to become a model—

it was more about exploring something new and gaining experience. Participating in the Gladrags Megamodel contest was initially just for fun, but winning it opened up an entirely new world. Modelling and acting offers started pouring in almost immediately, and I found myself at the start of an exciting 'parallel' career path."

Aditi does not have any specific role models, rather, "I draw inspiration from everyone I meet, as I believe every individual has a unique strength or quality. Even negative experiences with people have taught me valuable lessons about

what to avoid. Over time this approach has helped me grow, both personally and professionally."

Regarding the industry, Aditi believes the perception of married women in Bollywood has evolved significantly. "When I started, even being in a relationship was something women often concealed because the industry preferred single actresses. Today, married women, even with children, are leading major projects, which reflects a positive and much-needed change."

There has also been a shift in the types of roles offered to women, as more variety and depth is perceptible. "Absolutely. There has been a remarkable shift in the diversity of roles for women. Films like *The Buckingham Murders*, where Kareena Kapoor plays a cop, or *Jaane Jaan*, are great examples. These roles are complex, empowering and a refreshing change in the industry."

Aditi, who would love to romance George Clooney on screen, is excited about the coming times. "I am thrilled about *Marvelous Mrs. India Season 3*, a platform I've created to celebrate married, separated, divorced and widowed women of Indian origin. It's incredibly close to my heart and I'm excited about the journey ahead. Registrations are open and we are looking forward to a bigger and better season." Raring to go!

Shruti Haasan exits Adivi Sesh's *Dacoit* due to 'uncomfortable work conditions'



Actress Shruti Haasan has stepped away from Adivi Sesh's upcoming project *Dacoit*, citing 'uncomfortable work conditions' as the reason for her exit. Earlier, several reports suggested that Shruti walked out of *Dacoit* due to a scheduling conflict with her other project, *Coolie*. However, an insider revealed, "Shruti shot

the teaser of the film last year and post that the shoot, dates were being pushed every now and then. There were portions which were re-shot multiple times. The other actor in the film was involved too much in the script and at times there were two people directing the film, which got very confusing." "Shruti, despite being interested in showcas-

ing a new side to her acting and working with the original director, wasn't comfortable with the over-involvement of the co-star. It made the workplace uncomfortable for her," the source added.

On December 17, the makers of *Dacoit* introduced Mrunal Thakur as part of the cast, unveiling a special poster and teaser to mark the announcement. However, the news immediately sparked curiosity among fans, who were eager to understand the reasons behind Shruti's departure from the film. The newly released poster featuring Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur quickly went viral.

Reports suggest that Haasan left the film due to creative differences and on-set inconveniences that influenced her decision. Some sources indicated that her departure was caused by scheduling conflicts. Director Shanel Deo's *Dacoit: A Love Story* is an action-packed drama starring Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur. The duo will portray estranged lovers who embark on a series of robberies, a journey that ultimately transforms their lives.

Pooja Bhatt marks 8 years of sobriety: Gratitude, gravitas, grace

Actor-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt on Monday marked eight years of sobriety, saying she is grateful towards life.

The '90s star, known for films such as "Daddy", "Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin" and "Sadak", shared the life update on her official Instagram page.

Bhatt shared her selfie, which she captioned as: "8 years sober today. Gratitude. Gravitas. Grace." In the post, she also shared a quote by Scottish writer Johann Hari.

"You're not alone, we love you," has to be at every level of how we respond to addicts socially, politically and individually."

"For one hundred years now, we've been singing war songs about addicts. I think all along we should have been singing love songs to them... because the opposite of addiction is not sobriety. The opposite of addiction is connection, Johann Hari," she wrote.

Bhatt, daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, has been vocal about her struggles with alco-



hol. She previously said she quit drinking because she thought she had fallen into the "trap of addiction myself and the only way to get

out of it was to acknowledge it to myself".

The actor will next feature alongside Suniel Shetty in an upcoming project from Lionsgate India.

Adios 2024: Hindi dubs, horror.coms and sleeper hits, the year gave cinephiles enough reasons to cheer

As we take stock of 2024's theatrical releases, there are heart-warming realisations, epic disasters and reasons to cheer as well as reflect. Spectacle is the new name of entertainment as films like *Kalki 2898 AD* proved. As the year saw its first major big-ticket release, *Fighter*, starring Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, its reassuring box-office status led us to believe that superstar vehicles can still run, if not fly. However, as the year passed by post-Covid reality and the changing landscape of entertainment hit home. Clearly, superstars by themselves are no guarantee of success. Of course, none of the three Khans had any release this year. Nor did we see any films of the new marquee superstars, Ranbir Kapoor and Ranveer Singh.

Tepid Akshay

Forever in work drive, Akshay Kumar kept his date with the silver screen. Only he grabbed more eyeballs with his cameo in *Stree 2* than his major releases! Even fairly decent ones such as *Sarfira* and *Khel Khel Mein* drew a blank. Yet another nail in his stardom was driven by the failure of *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*. Not only did the film directed by Ali Abbas Zafar and produced by Vashu Bhagnani tank, it also led to a spat between the director and producer.

Shining Rajkumar

Rajkumar Rao had a field day and the fine actor of *Newton* turned out to be the rajkumar of box-office too! After 10 consecu-

tive flops, he could boast of a hit in *Srikanth*, a biopic on visually impaired industrialist, and a true-blue blockbuster in *Stree 2*. The sequel to his successful 2018 film, *Stree 2* turned out to be the highest-grossing Hindi film of 2024. His other outing *Mr and Mrs Mahi* was a moderate hit.

When FTII alumna Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine as Light* created history by winning Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, one thought we had found our film for the Oscars.

On hindsight, as yet another beautiful film *Laapataa Ladies*, India's official selection at Oscars, failed to make it to the long-list, perhaps, we can agree with Hansal Mehta that the now Golden Globe-nominated Kapadia film stood a better chance. Sadly, its tryst with box-office too was overshadowed by the tornado of the year—*Pushpa 2*, which refused to buckle under mixed reviews or its lead superstar Allu Arjun's dramatic arrest.

Moments to cheer

Jukhega nahi... Hindi dub of Allu's *Pushpa 2* continues to dominate the box-office like a colossus. Other Telugu films, be it the dystopian sci-fi *Kalki* or NT Rama Rao Jr's *Devara*, with Saif Ali Khan as antagonist, too brought cheer in a year that otherwise saw revenues dipping by a solid 18 per cent. As the year ends with upcoming *Baby John*, produced by Jawaan-maker Atlee, the north-south alchemy is here to stay and further ignite the box-office.

Horror with a message

Horror.coms too set the box-office on fire. With *Stree 2* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, both Amar Kaushik and Anees Bazmee proved that it is very much possible to marry entertainment with woke messaging. But yet another master of meaningful and engaging cinema, Neeraj Pandey failed to drum in any dum in his *Ajay Devgn* and *Tabu*-starrer *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*. For once, critics and audiences were on the same page and rejected the love story.

Strangely enough, the implausible love story between a robotics engineer and female robot in *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* captured the charm of romance and found its way on to the hit list. In a year of many disappointments, like *Ajay Devgn*'s much-anticipated *Maidaan*, *Dinesh Vijan*'s *Maddock Films* learnt how to navigate its way amidst changing tastes and dwindling attention spans. With *Stree 2*, *Munjya* and *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*, they mastered the formula of making successful films by controlling costs. In 2024, *Maddock Films* generated Rs 1,300 crore at the box-office.

No propaganda at all

On the face of it, the number of hits, especially sleeper hits like folktales inspired *Munjya* and *Article 370*, dismissed by some critics as government's mouthpiece, ensured Bollywood was still breathing and very much alive. Not all films fired by ruling

government's ideology found its bhakts though. Despite a stellar Pankaj Tripathi, *Main Atal Hoon* was anything but steadfast. The fate of acclaimed director Shoojit Sircar's *I Want to Talk*, never mind the positive reviews, was no different. Then there were films like *Kill* that may not have made a killing in terms of revenue, but with its breakeven action it truly caught the imagination of niche viewers. Many films like *Vasan Bala's Jigra* and *Hansal Mehta's The Buckingham Murders* struggled at the box-office. Even *Kabir Khan's* inspirational *Chandu Champion* did not inspire much confidence in the trade circles.

Audience remains keen

The good news is many like those coming from the stable of *Dharma* productions, be it *Vicky Kaushal* and *Tripti Dimri's Bad Newz*, did think out-of-the-box, and tried to normalise pregnancy out of wedlock and one-night stand with a light touch. And the real good news, though audiences didn't flock to theatres for every single release, big or small, they didn't forsake the cine-going experience outright.

The year 2024 was also a requiem for the past, what with many iconic films such as *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*, *Veer-Zaara*, and gems like *Tummbad* and *Laila Majnu* re-releasing in theatres. But then as someone said, "A fresh start isn't a new place, it's a new mindset", tentpole filmmakers will have to shift the thinking goalpost.

Aarti Bhagat talks about playing Manjiri in *Jamai No. 1*

Aarti Bhagat, who is seen in *Parth Shah* and *Prateek Sharma's Jamai No. 1*, believes the unexpected twists will keep the audience hooked.

The actress plays the role of Manjiri in the show.

She shared, "I could relate to her a lot. She is sweet, simple, responsible and has this witty side to her."

Manjiri is very similar to me in real life.

She's someone who is has a sweet nature, but knows how to handle situations.

She's the kind of person who holds the family together."

Aarti pointed out that the show has a fresh storyline, "The way it is written and portrayed makes it relatable for modern audiences while still keeping the essence of traditional drama intact."



Shanaya Sharma on her role in the film *Ajab Gajab Ishq*

Emerging star Shanaya Sharma is all set to charm audiences in the upcoming romantic comedy film *Ajab Gajab Ishq*. Directed by Dhananjay Kumar Singh, the movie promises a refreshing mix of humour, romance and drama. Scheduled for a May 2025 release, *Ajab Gajab Ishq* is already creating a buzz.

Shanaya plays the parallel lead role. She shared, "This film is very special to me because



it allowed me to explore a fun and unique character. I can't wait for the audience to experience the laughter, emotions and surprises *Ajab Gajab Ishq* has to offer." Produced by Gagan Verma, the film promises to bring a fresh perspective to the romantic comedy genre. Shanaya first gained recognition with her performances in television serials like *Chandra Nandini* and *Fear Files: Darr Ki Sachchi Tasveerein*.

Record government jobs provided in last one and a half years: PM Modi

Noting that a large number of recruits are women, Modi said that it is the endeavour of his government that they become self-dependent in every field.

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that his government has provided nearly 10 lakh permanent government jobs to youths in the last one and a half years which he asserted, is a record.

Addressing recruits at a Rozgar Mela through a virtual event, where over 71,000 people were given appointment letters in several central government departments. Modi said never before in the tenure of any previous government jobs were provided in such a "mission mode", adding that the young population has come in his government at the centre of policies and programmes.

PM Modi said, "The country is exploring and encouraging 'Yuva Pratibha' (Youth Talent) to ensure true development



across all fields. From space to defence, from tourism to wellness, today India is touching new heights in every sector."

Noting that a large number of recruits are women, Modi said that their achievements will serve as an inspiration for other women. "Our aim is to empower women to become

self-reliant in every field," he added.

The government's decision to grant 26-week maternity leave to women has helped them a lot in their careers, adding that women are the majority owners of the house constructed under the 'PM Awas Yojana'.

The PM also dwelt upon

how the National Education Policy has taken steps for the development of youngsters emphasizing the use of mother tongues in primary education.

"The government has ensured that language is not a barrier by ensuring that youngsters can take recruitment exams in 13 Indian languages", he claimed.

Noting that former Prime Minister Charan Singh, whose birth anniversary fell on Monday, stood for the development of rural India and the country's progress, Modi said his government has followed this by creating job and self-employment opportunities in villages.

Notably, over 29 % of the 71,000 recruited belong to the OBC category while the Schedules Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 15.8 and 9.6 % respectively.

Rahul Gandhi meets kin of man who died in judicial custody after Parbhani violence



PARBHANI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday met the family of Somnath Suryavanshi, who died in judicial custody following violence in Maharashtra's Parbhani city earlier this month.

Parbhani witnessed violence after a glass-

enclosed replica of the Constitution near Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's statue outside the railway station in the city, located in Marathwada region, was vandalised on the evening of December 10.

Suryavanshi, a resident of Shankar Nagar in Parbhani, was among more than 50 persons

arrested in connection with the violence.

He died on December 15 at a state-run hospital where he was rushed after complaining of chest pain and uneasiness while he was in judicial custody and lodged at the Parbhani district central prison, as per police.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered a judicial probe into the Parbhani violence.

Fadnavis said in the state assembly recently that Suryavanshi had told a magistrate that he was not tortured and the CCTV footage also doesn't show any evidence of brutality.

State BJP chief and revenue minister Chandrashekar Bawankule has termed Gandhi's visit as a "drama".

Turned dreams of people into source of income: Priyanka slams govt over GST on exam forms

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday attacked the BJP over levying GST on examination forms, saying the government had turned the dreams of parents who saved every penny to prepare their children for exams into a source of income.

The Congress general secretary shared an examination form of the Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow, that showed 18 per cent GST was being charged.

"The BJP cannot provide jobs to youngsters but it is definitely rubbing salt on the wounds by charging 18 per



cent GST on examination forms. GST is being charged on every government job form, including Agniveer," Priyanka Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

"After filling the form, if the paper is leaked due to the failure of the government or if there is corruption, then this

money of the youngsters is wasted," she said.

Parents sacrifice their lives and save every penny to educate their children and prepare them for the exams but the BJP government has turned their dreams into a source of income, Priyanka Gandhi said.

BJP targets me with chargesheets, but lacks Chief Minister face: Arvind Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Hours after the BJP released a 'chargesheet' accusing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of corruption and false promises, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal hit back, saying that the saffron party lacks a clear agenda for the upcoming assembly elections and does not have a Chief Minister face.

Highlighting AAP's work in electricity, water, women's travel, and infrastructure, Kejriwal criticised the BJP for the city's deteriorating law and order and said the party has to tell people in Delhi what they have done for them.

"BJP has no agenda to contest elections. They should tell the people



of Delhi what they have done for Delhi in 5 years," the former Chief Minister said.

"AAP has done a lot of work for Delhiites in terms of electricity, water, women's travel, roads and many other things. What work have these people done? The law and order situation in Delhi has collapsed. They have not done

any work. Now that they have come for elections, they are issuing chargesheets against me. They do not have a Chief Minister face," he added.

The BJP also accused AAP of failing to improve Delhi's healthcare, education, and infrastructure despite central funds, alleging misuse of public money on advertisements.

It also alleged that AAP was supporting "anti-national" forces, questioning India's surgical strikes, and receiving backing from "Khalistani elements" during the Punjab elections.

"scams".

"What kind of a party is this which came to power promising to give a corruption-free government but was involved in eight to nine scams related to the liquor policy, Delhi Jal Board, DTC, Waqf Board," BJP leader Anurag Thakur said, while releasing the chargesheet.

Even if he takes the oath as Chief Minister...he can't sign files, attend meetings, go to the CM office, as per the Supreme Court's instructions. So, what will the Chief Minister do?," he asked.

The elections for the 70-member Delhi Assembly are due to be held in February next year.

Meanwhile, Congress also attacked Kejriwal, saying that the AAP chief will not be able to run the government.

"He can't always become a Chief Minister. For him, I don't think it is possible to even become an MLA. In New Delhi, the fight will be between Congress and BJP," Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit said.

Five killed, several injured in road rage in Bihar's Purne

PURNEA, Dec 23 (Agencies): At least five persons were killed and six others injured after a speeding pick-up van rammed them in Bihar's Purne district.

The incident happened on Sunday night when a speeding pickup van driven by Sonu Kumar rammed into a group of 11 people standing near the Panchayat Bhawan in Dhakwa village, Purne district. The vehicle initially hit a child, leading to a dispute between Sonu and the villagers.

Following the argument, Sonu allegedly drove his vehicle in a drunken and enraged state, deliberately running over the people.

The injured were rushed to a hospital where five persons lost their lives during treatment. They have been identified as Jyotish Thakur, 50, Sanyukta Devi, 45, Amardeep, 6, Akhilesh, 11, and Manisha, 11.

Six others, including Rajesh Muni, Abhinandan Muni, Shalu Kumar, Poonam Devi, Twinkle Kumari, and Nikki Devi, received severe injuries. Two remain in critical condition at Purne Medical College Hospital.

The injured were initially taken to Dhamdaha Sub-divisional Hospital but were later referred to Purne Medical College Hospital due to



their critical conditions. A case has been registered against Sonu Kumar based on the written complaint from the villagers. Police are conducting raids to arrest Sonu, who fled the scene.

Preliminary investigation suggests Sonu was intoxicated at the time of the incident and was driving at a fast speed. Residents have accused Sonu of intentionally targeting the group due to the earlier dispute.

The police officials sent the bodies of the deceased for post-mortem examinations on Monday morning.

Ranjan Kumar, the in-charge of the Dhamdaha Police Station, said, "On the written application of the local people, we have registered an FIR under relevant sections of rash and negligent driving against Sonu Kumar. We are continuously raiding to arrest Sonu Kumar. He has fled from the village. Information has been received that the accused has committed such a big incident over a small dispute. A complaint has been received that he was in a state of intoxication."

'Uttar Pradesh leading in ease of doing crime': Akhilesh



LUCKNOW, Dec 23 (Agencies): Targeting the ruling BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said the state is now leading in "ease of doing crime".

In a post on X, Yadav highlighted two bank

robberies in Lucknow and Saharanpur

"UP has become the number one in 'ease of doing crime'. Today's episode is Lucknow's Overseas Bank, where valuable things were stolen by breaking open the locker. Yesterday a bank was looted in

Saharanpur," he said in a Hindi post.

In a separate post, the SP chief shared the CCTV footage of the theft in Saharanpur.

On Sunday, a few lockers in the Chinhat branch of Indian Overseas Bank, Lucknow were found broken and their contents missing.

Bank manager Sandeep Singh said that he suspected the thieves entered the building by making a hole in the wall the bank shares with an empty plot of land. Prima facie, it seems four people must be involved in the job, police said.

3 returning from birthday party shot dead in parking lot of Haryana hotel

CHANDIGARH, Dec 23 (Agencies): Three people, including a woman, were shot dead by unidentified assailants in the parking lot of a hotel in Haryana's Panchkula, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday night.

The victims were identified as Vicky and Vipin, both from Delhi, and Nia

from Hisar, said Station House Officer, Pinjore, Inspector Sombir.

Police said the trio was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the parking lot of the hotel.

"The three had come to attend a birthday party when the incident took place," Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime), Panchkula, Arvind Kamboj told

agency over phone.

Vicky, aged around 30, had a criminal background and faced some cases, he said.

"We are scanning CCTV footage and gathering other clues," he added.

The motive behind the killing was not immediately clear.

Police have not ruled out old enmity.

3 killed, 6 hurt as truck runs people over on Pune footpath

PUNE, Dec 23 (Agencies): Two toddlers and a man were killed and six people injured as a truck ran over people sleeping on a footpath in Maharashtra's Pune city in the wee hours of Monday, police said.

The incident took place at 12.55 am on the footpath in Wagholi area where several people were sleeping, they said.

The victims comprised labourers and their families hailing from Amravati. The labourers had



come to Pune a couple of days back in search of jobs, the police said.

The truck driver, Gajanan Totre (26), was arrested and his medical test was being done

to ascertain if he was under the influence of alcohol, an official said.

"There were many people sleeping on the footpath near Kesnand Phata area, most

of them labourers," a senior police official said. The deceased have been identified as Vaibhavi Pawar (1), Vaibhav Pawar (2) and Vishal Pawar (22), the police said. The injured - Janki Pawar (21), Rinisha Pawar (18), Roshan Bhosale (9), Nagesh Pawar (27), Darshan Vairal (17) and Aalisha Pawar (47) - were admitted to the Sassoon General Hospital, they

added.

Pune Additional Commissioner of Police (East Region) Manoj Patil said the truck driver lost control over the vehicle near Wagholi police station and rammed it into several people sleeping on the footpath.

"We arrested the truck driver from the spot. A case has been registered against him and a medical test is under way to verify if he was drunk," the official said.

North Korea preparing for additional troop deployment, suicide drone supply to Russia: Seoul

No specific signs of provocation detected from the North, aims to expand their military cooperation with Russia: JCS

SEOUL, Dec 23 (Agencies): North Korea appears to be preparing to deploy additional troops and military equipment to Russia (including suicide drones) in support of Moscow's war against Ukraine, South Korea's military said on Monday.

According to the South's spy agency, the assessment came as North Korea is believed to have sent thousands of troops to fight for Russia in its war against Ukraine, with the number of casualties estimated to be around 1,100, Yonhap news agency reported.

"A comprehensive assessment of multiple intelligence shows that North Korea is preparing to rotate or increase the deployment of troops (in Russia), while currently supplying 240-millimetre rocket launchers and 170 mm self-propelled artillery," the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

"There are also some signs of (the North) moving to manufacture and supply suicide drones, first unveiled during Kim Jong-un's on-site inspection in November," the JCS said, attributing the move to the North's efforts to gain practical warfare experience and modernise its conventional weapons system.



Last month, the North's state media reported that Kim observed an on-site test of various types of suicide attack drones and called for the full-scale production of weapons that are increasingly becoming important in modern warfare due to their cost-effectiveness.

The military is monitoring the situation, following signs, that the North has expressed its intent to provide loitering munitions to Russia, a JCS official told reporters.

The JCS said no specific signs of provocation have been detected from the North, adding that the country is focusing on expanding its military cooperation

with Russia and stably managing its domestic environment ahead of a key year-end plenary party meeting.

The military, however, did not rule out the possibility of the North staging a surprise military provocation timed around the major political event, such as launching an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) tipped with a hypersonic warhead.

In April, North Korea said it successfully launched a new IRBM tipped with a hypersonic warhead, a claim that Seoul assessed as "unsuccessful," although it acknowledged that Pyongyang appears to have

made some progress in its hypersonic weapons program.

Going forward, the JCS projected the North to continue with "grey zone" provocations next year, such as launching trash-carrying balloons and carrying out GPS jamming attacks.

"As the North has to concentrate on supporting Russia next year, it is likely to feel burdened by (the possibility of) causing military tension or conflicts that could lead to the creation of a new war front," the JCS said.

"But the need for cooperation on information sharing with the US as well as establishing a firm readiness posture is vital as there is also the possibility of the North attempting various provocations, such as an intercontinental ballistic missile launch or a nuclear test to enhance its bargaining power against the US"

The JCS also noted that the North's construction activities to reinforce border security are still underway, unveiling photos of North Korean troops testing electric barbed-wire fences with what appeared to be goats.

Since April, the North has mobilised thousands of soldiers to reinforce roads and install anti-tank barriers.

South Korean acting president faces impeachment threat over Yoon probe delay



SEOUL, Dec 23 (Agencies): South Korea's main opposition party threatened on Monday to impeach acting president Han Duck-soo if he failed to proclaim a law to launch a special counsel investigation into President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed bid to impose martial law.

Prime Minister Han has taken over from the suspended Yoon, who was impeached on Dec. 14 and faces a Constitutional Court review on whether to oust him.

With a majority in parliament, the opposition Democratic Party passed a bill this month to appoint a special counsel to pursue charges of insurrection, among others, against the conservative Yoon and to investigate his wife over a luxury bag scandal and other allegations.

The party, which has accused Han of aiding Yoon's martial law attempt and reported him to police, said it would "immediately initiate impeachment proceedings" against the acting president if the legislation was not promulgated by Tuesday.

"The delays show that the prime minister has no intention of complying with the constitution, and it is tantamount to admitting that he is acting as a proxy for the insurgent," Democratic Party floor leader Park Chan-dae told a party meeting, referring to Yoon.

Han is a technocrat who has held leadership roles in South Korean politics for 30 years under conservative and liberal presidents. Yoon appointed him prime minister in 2022.

Han's office could not

immediately be reached for comment. He has previously said he had tried to block Yoon's martial law declaration, but apologised for failing to do so.

Park also accused Yoon of hampering the Constitutional Court trial by repeatedly refusing to accept court documents.

"Any delay in the investigation and impeachment trials is an extension of the insurrection and an act of plotting a second one," Park said.

A joint investigative team including police and the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials has made a second attempt to call Yoon in for questioning on Dec. 25, though it was unclear whether he would appear.

Woo Jong-soo, investigation chief of the national police agency, told parliament on Monday that police had tried to raid Yoon's office twice but the presidential security service denied them entry. Woo said his team sent a request to preserve evidence, including a secure phone server.

Australia approves extradition of ex-US Marine for allegedly training Chinese pilots

NEWCASTLE, Dec 23 (Agencies): Former U.S. Marine Corps pilot Daniel Duggan will be extradited from Australia to the United States over allegations that he illegally trained Chinese aviators.

Australia's Attorney General Mark Dreyfus approved the extradition on Monday, ending the Boston-born 55-year-old's nearly two-year attempt to avoid being returned to the U.S.

Duggan, who served in the Marines for 12 years before immigrating to Australia and giving up his U.S. citizenship, has been in a maximum-security prison since he was arrested in 2022 at his family home in the state of New South Wales. He is the father of six children.

Dreyfus confirmed in a statement on Monday

he had approved the extradition but did not say when Duggan would be transferred to the U.S.

"Duggan was given the opportunity to provide representations as to why he should not be surrendered to the United States. In arriving at my decision, I took into consideration all material in front of me," Dreyfus said in the statement.

In May, a Sydney judge ruled Duggan could be extradited to the U.S., leaving an appeal to the attorney general as Duggan's last hope of remaining in Australia.

In a 2016 indictment from the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., unsealed in late 2022, prosecutors said Duggan conspired with others to provide training

to Chinese military pilots in 2010 and 2012, and possibly at other times, without applying for an appropriate license.

Prosecutors say he received payments totaling around 88,000 Australian dollars (\$61,000) and international travel from another conspirator for what was sometimes described as "personal development training."

If convicted, Duggan faces up to 60 years in prison. He denies the allegations.

"We feel abandoned by the Australian government and deeply disappointed that they have completely failed in their duty to protect an Australian family," his wife, Saffrine Duggan, said in a statement on Monday. "We are now considering our options."

After Panama Canal, Trump now wants US to buy Greenland: 'Absolute necessity'

WASHINGTON, Dec 23 (Agencies): After Donald Trump demanded the return of the Panama Canal under the US's control, the President-elect has now said that he wanted to buy and control Greenland, asserting it was an "absolute necessity". Greenland is a part of the North American continent but is controlled by Denmark.

"For purposes of national security and freedom throughout the world, the United States of America feels that the ownership and control of Greenland is an absolute necessity," Trump wrote on Truth Social. While Greenland has autonomous self-rule, it is still a part of the Kingdom of Denmark.

The 78-year-old Republican leader made the statement while announcing PayPal co-founder Ken Howery as the US's Ambassador to Denmark.

Trump's renewed interest in Greenland is not new as the President-elect had made his desire known to control the territory during his first term from 2017 to 2021.

In 2019, Trump indicated that



he wanted to purchase Greenland as he was mostly drawn to the country's natural resources and geopolitical relevance. His desire, however, drew severe backlash from leaders in Denmark, with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen saying that "Greenland was not for sale".

"Greenland is not for sale. Greenland is not Danish. Greenland belongs to Greenland. I strongly hope that this is not meant seriously," Frederiksen said in 2019 during a visit to the island.

In response, Trump cancelled a meeting with Frederiksen in

Denmark over her remarks on the proposed Greenland deal.

The US has its own space force base, Pituffik Space Base (earlier known as Thule Air Base), on the northwest coast of Greenland.

Greenland lies in the North Atlantic Ocean and is the world's largest island that is not a continent. Given its strategic location, it is close to the Arctic and some countries, including Russia, are vying for control of the territory.

Although Greenland is a part of the North American continent, geopolitically, it has ties

to Europe. It has received EU funding since it is classified as an overseas territory associated with the bloc via Denmark, Axios reported.

TRUMP'S REMARKS ON PANAMA CANAL

Trump's remarks on Greenland came after he threatened Panama to return control of the Panama Canal to the US if Latin American country continued to charge what he described as "ridiculous" passage fees for American vessels.

Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino sharply rebuked Trump, saying his country's independence was non-negotiable and defended the passage rates Panama charged, asserting they were not set "on a whim", Reuters reported.

The US completed the construction of the canal in 1914 and managed it until December 31, 1999. On that date, control of the canal was officially handed over to Panama, a sovereign country, based on treaties signed in 1997. The US is the largest user of the canal.

Japan's former Emperor Akihito marks his 91st birthday

WASHINGTON, Dec 23 (Agencies): Japan's beloved former Emperor Akihito marked his 91st birthday on Monday, as he continues to pursue his lifetime research into goby fish, care for his wife and pray for peace.

Akihito, who abdicated in 2019 and handed over the Chrysanthemum throne to his son, Emperor Naruhito, now holds the title of Emperor Emeritus.

Akihito has since receded from official duties and enjoys his time quietly while caring for his 90-year-old wife, former Empress Michiko, who broke her leg bone in October and is still recovering, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

Akihito's daily routine includes reading newspapers in the morning and evening, and



watching the news with Michiko over meals, the IHA said.

The former Emperor was to celebrate his birthday on Monday with his relatives and other guests.

This year, Akihito has been particularly concerned about people who were affected by a fatal New Year earthquake and heavy rains in autumn in Japan's northcentral region of Noto, the IHA said.

Akihito continues to

actively research the classification of Japanese freshwater goby fish at a palace laboratory and his residence, officials said.

Under Japan's Constitution, the emperor is a symbol without political power. Wartime militarist governments worshipped the emperor as a living god and fought the war in his name until Akihito's father renounced that status after the country's 1945 war defeat.

Akihito during his three-decade reign embraced an identity as peacemaker and often made reconciliatory missions and carefully scripted expressions of regret on the war.

Palace officials said Akihito continues to observe a moment of silence on days marking key events of the war, including the end of the Battle of Okinawa, the anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the day Japan surrendered.

The former emperor's daily life is "still deeply connected with his wartime memories," the palace said. Akihito and Michiko are currently rehearsing passages from a book on the Battle of Okinawa as part of their daily routine, the IHA said.

Christmas ceasefire could spearhead Ukraine peace process: Hungarian FM

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 23 (Agencies): A Christmas ceasefire between Moscow and Kiev, proposed by Hungary, could serve as an excellent platform towards a long-term peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto told RIA Novosti.

"We were right and we are right, that this war doesn't have a solution on the battlefield, just around the negotiating table, but in order to be able to sit around the negotiating table with the target of finding a long-term solution for peace, you need to have the necessary circumstances, meaning ceasefire. I think that Christmas, which is approaching, could have meant or could



have provided a great platform for that, even if just for a couple of days. We could have saved lives of hundreds of thousands, and we would have been able to create a good example," Szijjarto said.

He noted that Hungary's task was to make a proposal, but the next steps were up to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "It's up to his responsibility, and let the Ukrainian people judge his decision," the Hungarian foreign minister added.

Pandas An An and Ke Ke celebrate their 1st Christmas in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Dec 23 (Agencies): A pair of five-year-old pandas, named An An and Ke Ke, celebrated their first Christmas early in a Hong Kong park Monday, munching on special treats and looking cute for the cameras.

An An, the male panda, was presented with an ice slab that had "Merry Christmas" written on it with sweet potato and carrots while Ke Ke, his female companion, got a snowman garnished with slices of carrot and apple in a special press event before visitors streamed to the park.

China sent the pair to Hong Kong in late September in a bid to boost tourism in the city. They were quarantined for a couple of months before they made their debut to enthusiastic visitors at the city's Ocean Park theme park, joining four other pandas.

An An is described as intelligent and active while Ke Ke is known to have a gentle temperament and is a good climber.

Pandas are widely seen as China's unofficial national mascot, as they are only found in China's southwest and their population is under threat from development. The Chinese government actively breeds pandas and raises them as part of a national program. It also loans the animals out in an international program with overseas zoos as part of Beijing's soft-power diplomacy.

Hong Kong's Ocean Park has been hosting pandas since 1999, when the first pair, An An and Jia Jia, arrived in the financial hub shortly after the former British colony returned to China.

Congress, Nehru mistreated Baba Saheb on multiple occasions: Sat Sharma

Top News Report

RAJOURI, DEC 23: Congress and the then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru mistreated Baba Saheb on multiple occasions. The Documents and the facts exposing the hatred of Congress for Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar are in the public domain.

This was stated by Sat Sharma, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, when he along with Adv. Vibodh Gupta, party's General Secretary addressed a meeting of party workers regarding active membership at Party Office Rajouri.

While addressing the workers' meeting, Sat Sharma highlighted the BJP's efforts to give honour to the chief architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. BR Ambedkar.

He said that Congress refrained from conferring the Bharat Ratna to B.R. Ambedkar for several decades while conferring the award to their own selves. The Union government backed by the BJP finally ensured the highest civilian award to the great visionary.

Sat Sharma accused the Congress of being factually opposed to

Dr. Ambedkar and his vision. He said that the Congress party ensured that Dr. Ambedkar was defeated in the Lok Sabha elections more than once to end his political career and weaken his ideology.

Sharma said that Congress refrained from the display of Baba Saheb's portrait in Parliament and refused the creation of a memorial for Ambedkar in his birthplace, Mhow. Now, the BJP created "Panchteerth" and created multiple memorials in Dr. Ambedkar's honour and propagated his ideology and life works in the society.

He further said that the PM Modi-led government declared January 26 as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) to honour Dr Ambedkar. He added that the Congress played with the sentiments of the common masses for decades by misusing the government systems to propagate false information. Now, the people are well informed and they have rejected the divisive and deceiving politics of the Congress party.

The party president said that the BJP has won the hearts of people with its good works

under the leadership of PM Modi and the family of BJP is growing every single day. He congratulated the active members of the party and asked them to ensure the propagation of the party's ideology to the remote areas in the region.

Sat Sharma also attacked the NC party for a U-turn on its poll promises and said that they had deceived the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Vibodh Gupta spoke on the BJP's proactive approach to the socio-economic welfare of the people living in the remote areas of the region. He said that while the parties like Congress, NC, and PDP enjoyed the power corridors for decades together and amassed wealth for their future generations, they did nothing for the welfare of the people.

Dinesh Sharma, Ch. Talib, Ch Zulfikar, Iqbal Malik, Manzoor Naik, Pushpinder, Jugal Sharma, Subhash, Rajesh, Sanjay Dutt, Kapil Saryal, Abdul Qayum, Dev Raj Sharma, Bharat, Sanjay Sharma, Atam Parkash, Qaramat and others were among the senior leaders present in the meeting.

Our youngsters are in distress, we hope for fair & time-bound rationalization of merit process: Iltija Mufti



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti said on Monday that they are hopeful the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will ensure the rationalization of the merit process in a time-bound manner.

A protest against the current reservation policy, led by senior National Conference leader and Member of Parliament Agha Ruhullah, was held outside Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's official residence in the Gupkar area Srinagar.

Joining the protest,

PDP leader Iltija Mufti stressed the need to address the challenges faced by the youth.

"A group of five students will meet the Chief Minister, and we hope he assures them of a fair and time-bound rationalization of the merit process," She told reporters.

Highlighting the struggles of young people, Mufti added, "Our youngsters are in distress due to unemployment and a lack of opportunities. Their future must be protected, and their issues should not be ignored or treated lightly."

She added that while broader issues like statehood and Article 370 remain important, they urge the government to prioritize immediate problems such as education and job opportunities for the youth.

MRM welcomes Tanveer Fatima, holds workers meeting at Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: While welcoming newly joined prominent Figure and Socio-political activist from Kashmir Valley Tanveer Fatima, Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh UT's Legal Advisor Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad convened workers meeting at Jammu on Monday.

The meeting was attended besides others by the Organiser J&K, Ladakh UT's Gulshan Kumar and Convener J&K, Ladakh UT's Mir Nazir.

Tanveer Fatima, a prominent personality from Kashmir Valley joined MRM during an impressive organisational function in its head

office at Jammu.

On the occasion, Fatima was nominated unanimously as the Convener (Mahila Wing) for Kashmir Province.

Expressing her views, Tanveer Fatima observed that MRM is the sole organisation which envisages a vision apart from the required capability to bring about Social and Economic transformation in the country.

"The agenda of this organisation is to carry all the sections of the society together to realise the much sought after dream of equitable development of all the regions, religions and castes," Fatima claimed.

Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad, while expressing dismay, said that

other organisations play divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir.

"But in today's world, there is no space for fake and vote bank politics as people are mature enough to understand the motivated designs," Malik further asserted.

Malik said that MRM is the sole organisation that is committed to serving the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Shahid Kalas (Co-Convener Jammu Province), Rayees Ahmed Sheikh (Secretary Jammu Province), Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Co-Convener Jammu Province) and others.

Distt Admin G'bl organizes workshop on Good Governance practices & vision 2047



Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Dec 23: As part of the ongoing Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore campaign, under Good Governance Week, the District Administration Ganderbal on Monday organized a comprehensive workshop at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The workshop focused on discussing good governance practices and preparing a visionary document for the district's holistic development, aligned with the goals of Vision 2047.

During the workshop, panelists from the departments deliberated on key areas crucial for the district's sustainable growth. They shared insights and proposed strategies on a wide range of subjects.

The subjects that were deliberated thoroughly

during the workshop included roadmap for achieving 100% literacy in the district by 2047, development of small-scale industries and promoting entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, revival and sustainable management of natural springs and water bodies, developing sustainable irrigation practices for agriculture, promoting ecotourism as a sustainable livelihood opportunity, transforming Ganderbal into an agricultural innovation hub with focus on organic farming, Social Infrastructure and Healthcare, empowering women and marginalized communities through targeted social schemes.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad while highlighting the purpose of the

workshop, emphasized the importance of adopting innovative approaches and community-driven solutions to achieve sustainable development goals. He said that the Vision 2047 document will serve as a blueprint for transforming Ganderbal into a model district that balances development with sustainability.

Highlighting the significance of the ongoing Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore campaign, the ADC directed all departmental representatives to prioritize the prompt and satisfactory resolution of grievances within a stipulated time frame.

The Vision 2047 document will act as a strategic guide for the district administration, with clearly defined goals and actionable steps. It aims to position Ganderbal as a model district excelling in education, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

The workshop concluded with an open discussion, where participants shared their perspectives and pledged their commitment to collaboratively working towards the outlined goals.

BJP committed to address public concerns, ensure holistic development: Randhawa

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Vikram Randhawa, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, today initiated the much-needed protection work for the Landoi Choi Nalah, which runs through the backside of houses No. 38A/B to 41B/B in Gandhi Nagar 2nd Extension. This significant development project, aimed at safeguarding the local area and improving the infrastructure, is being undertaken with an estimated costs of Rs. 26.52 lakh.

Addressing the gathering during the foundation stone ceremony, Vikram Randhawa expressed his commitment to ensuring the welfare of the residents of Bahu Constituency. He emphasized that the protection work was vital for preventing soil erosion, mitigating flood risks, and enhancing the overall safety of the area.

"This project is a testament to the continuous efforts of the BJP-led government to address the concerns of the people and provide them with the infrastructure they need to lead a better and safer life. The development work will significantly improve the drainage and water flow

management in the area, ensuring that the local residents are protected from any potential flooding or erosion hazards," he said.

He asserted that the project includes strengthening and reinforcing the embankments of the Landoi Choi Nalah to prevent damage to nearby residential properties, particularly during the monsoon season. The work is expected to be completed within the stipulated time frame and will provide much-needed relief to the residents who have been facing issues due to the unprotected Nalah.

Randhawa also assured that similar developmental works would continue to be prioritized across Bahu Constituency. He reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government remains committed to creating a more resilient, developed, and secure environment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present included Rahul Kumar, Ex Councillor Ward 20, Sandeep Gupta District Secretary, Satbir Singh Ward President and others.

PMKVY 4.0 to enhance craft skills of registered artisans

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Kashmir, on Monday urged registered artisans to opt for training for skill upgradation under the auspices of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0, the Centre's flagship skill programme.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesperson from the Handicrafts & Handloom Department, stated that 04 crafts have been selected under PMKY 4.0 under which artisans shall be trained in enhancing their employability skills to further boost the famed handicrafts and handloom sector of Jammu & Kashmir. These crafts include Papier Mache, Copperware, Zari & Stone Carving. "Apart from this, artisans shall also be sensitized in Merchandising to boost

sales," he said, adding that 650 artisans shall be trained in the first tranche and provided stipend.

Highlighting the need for enhancing skills and business acumen of artisans on stand-alone basis, the spokesman advised the interested artisans to approach the Coordinator at the Craft Development Institute, Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar, for registration. "While 04 courses shall be imparted at CDI Srinagar, 1 program shall be organized at EDI Pampore for stone craft in District Pulwama," he added.

The last date for receipt of registrations at CDI shall be December 31.

The spokesperson further stated that PMKY 4.0 training shall involve 60 hours of lectures and 12 hours of advance skill training, spread over 12 days.

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encounter

stated. In his interim order Justice Bharti stated, "This court has no basis/occasion to confirm her actual identity both as a person and as a professional."

The court further warned the petitioners that their case could be dismissed for non-prosecution if proper representation was not ensured.

Reservation row: MP Ruhullah leads protest in Srinagar

Waheed ur Rehman Parra also joined the protest. PDP leader and Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti also arrived at the spot.

Earlier in the day, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said that he will also join the protest if allowed by the authorities.

Aga Ruhullah, an MP from Srinagar had on Sunday urged people to join the protest in a peaceful and dignified manner outside chief minister Omar Abdullah's residence.

Calls for revocation of reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir have been getting louder with student association, several leaders and political parties extending support to the protest.

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%.

Grenade attack in Gurdaspur: Three KZF members gunned down in

Gurdaspur district. No one was injured in the Bakshiwala incident which took place recently.

Amitabh Yash, Additional Director General (Law and Order), Uttar Pradesh Police said the trio was involved in the grenade attack on a police checkpoint in Gurdaspur.

"The three sustained serious injuries in the encounter and were immediately rushed to CHC Purnapur for treatment," he said.

The ADG told agency that the three suspects later succumbed to their injuries. Two AK-47 rifles, two Glock pistols, and a huge cache of ammunition were seized from them, he said.

In a post on X, the Punjab police chief said, "In a major breakthrough against a #Pak-sponsored Khalistan Zindabad Force(KZF) terror module, a joint operation of UP Police and Punjab Police has led to an encounter with three module members who fired at the police party."

He said this terror module is involved in the grenade attacks at police establishments in border areas of Punjab.

"The encounter has taken place in the jurisdiction of PS Purnapur, Pilibhit, between the joint police teams of Pilibhit & Punjab and the three module members are involved in the grenade attack on a police post in #Gurdaspur," he said.

Later in another post on X, DGP Yadav said, "This module is controlled by Ranjeet Singh Nita, the chief of KZF, and operated by Jaswinder Singh Mannu, based in #Greece, a resident of village Agwan. It is further controlled by Jagjeet Singh, based in the #UK and serving in the #British Army. Jagjeet Singh used the identity of Fateh

Singh Baggi".

Investigations are underway to expose all the connections and members of the module and more recoveries and arrests are likely, he said.

"I thank the Uttar Pradesh Police for the excellent support given in our inter-state operation," Yadav said.

"This is a classic example of inter-state cooperation in which police forces of UP and Punjab worked together. The information was received by us and a joint operation was launched against the perpetrators," Yadav said in the video message.

Prior to Bakshiwala, a blast had occurred at Islamabad police station in Punjab's Amritsar earlier this month. However, no one was injured in the incident.

The Amritsar incident had taken place a fortnight after a hand grenade was lobbed at a police post in Nawanshahr.

FFMA, SRS pay tributes to Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan on 135th Birth Anniversary

the Bench, will always remain a philosophical stimulus for the legal fraternity. Law Reports are a testimony of his work as a judge. He authored many famous decisions and landmark cases. Justice Mahajan made his name as an accomplished lawyer, a respected judge, and an influential politician, he added.

Rajiv Mahajan, while paying his tributes, said that Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan has worked on various important assignments during his life, but his position as

Prime Minister of J&K was a formidable challenge for him.

The biggest challenge and achievement of Mahajan's career was during the few months that he was the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir from October 15, 1947 to March 1948.

Others were present on the occasion Ved Gandotra (Chief Patron of Association), Prof. SS.Balwal (President of FFMA Association), R.C Puri (Retd. KAS, Vice Chairman of FFMA), Karnail Chand (Working President), Pritam Sharma (Vice President), Sdr. Rimple Singh (General Secretary), Ravinder Mittal (Finance Secretary), (Kamal Sharma, K.L Verma, Ram Rattan Raina, and others.

Rajouri mysterious deaths: Woman who lost her three children dies; toll 9

woman breathing her last today due to the mysterious disease, prompting authorities to order a probe to ascertain the cause of her death. Jammu and Kashmir tourism Reports said the woman, a resident of Badhaal village, died after sudden medical complications with initial symptoms not resembling with earlier deaths.

They said the district administration has ordered an immediate probe to ascertain the cause of her death.

The woman had earlier lost her two sons and a daughter to the 'mystery' illness.

A Biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) mobile laboratory has been dispatched to Rajouri to expedite testing and identify the illness, officials said.

Omar Abdullah Quotes Rudyard Kipling While Expecting Trust & Patience from Party Leaders

If you can make one heap of all your winnings And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss, And lose, and start again at your beginnings And never breathe a word about your loss; If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew To serve your turn long after they are gone, And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!' If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch. If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you If all men count with you, but none too much; If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son."

Face covering by women advocates violates BCI dress code: J&K High Court

requires clear identification of advocates to maintain the sanctity of judicial proceedings. By refusing to comply with the request to remove her face cover, the individual had rendered herself unidentifiable, thereby compelling the court to decline her appearance as an advocate, the court

MP Mian Altaf inaugurates Chawalgam-Shopian road

Locals hailed PMGSY Kulgam for speedy completion of project



Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 23: Member of Parliament (MP), Anantnag Rajouri parliamentary constituency Mian Altaf Larvi on Monday inaugurated a newly upgradation of TO1 Chawalgam to DB Shopian via Nilloow road under PMGSY.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Amir Khan, Chief Engi-

neer PMGSY, Executive Engineer PMGSY, AEE PMGSY and others were present on the inauguration ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the MP Larvi appreciated the PMGSY Department for completing the project within the stipulated time frame. He highlighted the importance of creation of road infrastructure for improving mobility.

An official from PMGSY told Top News JK Correspondent Gh Nabi Khanday that the 7.6 kms of TO1 Chawalgam to DB Shopian via Nilloow road under PMGSY was executed by unique construction company.

Locals of the area who had all the praise for the PMGSY led by its AEE Manzoor Ahmad for speedy completion of project in a record time.

2nd JWC meeting held at District Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 23: In compliance to the directions of the Worthy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, the 2nd Joint Working Committee (JWC) meeting was held on Monday in district Kishtwar.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner/Additional District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal.

At the outset, the Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Kishtwar, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal presented before the chair the profile of the department in the district and various M-PACS, Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies already registered in the district.

He further submitted the prog-



ress achieved since the 1st Joint Working Committee (JWC).

The ADDC, Kishtwar emphasized the utilization of already existing M-PACS, Dairy and Fishery Cooperatives/Societies to serve the public to achieve the vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi".

The ADDC further directed to register One M-PACS in block

Mughalmaidan in this financial year. He further emphasized the convergence of beneficiaries of line departments to register new M-PACS, Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies.

The ADDC, Kishtwar enjoined upon the Department of Fisheries, Kishtwar to register 3 new Fishery Cooperative/Societies and the Department of Animal

Husbandry, Kishtwar to register 8 new Dairy Cooperative/Societies in the underserved/uncovered Gram Panchayats.

The Chair further instructed the Branch Manager, Jammu Central Cooperative Bank, Kishtwar to open bank accounts of newly registered dairy and fishery cooperatives/societies to streamline the financial infrastructure of the Cooperatives/Societies.

The meeting was also attended by AD Fisheries, Kishtwar, CAHO, Kishtwar, Assistant Registrar of the District and Branch Manager, JCC Bank, Kishtwar.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair by The Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Kishtwar.

GDC Akhnoor celebrates Dogri Manta Divas



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 23: The Department of Dogri at Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor celebrated Dogri Manta Divas with grandeur and cultural fervor, reaffirming its commitment to promoting the Dogri language and heritage.

The event featured

a distinguished lineup of local Dogri poets, including Heena Choudhary, a Sahitya Academy Awardee, Roshan Bral, Chairman of the Dogri Bhasha Academy, Arushi Sharma, a young and promising Dogri poet, along with renowned literary figures Jugal Chanan and Kewal Kumar Kewal.

The program com-

menced with a ceremonial welcome for the dignitaries, followed by thought-provoking poetry recitations that celebrated the essence and beauty of the Dogri language.

Each poet shared their unique perspective and experiences, leaving the audience inspired and captivated.

In a gesture of appre-

ciation, the participating poets were honored with shawls and mementos for their significant contributions to Dogri literature. Additionally, outstanding students who actively participated in the event were also recognized and felicitated.

Approximately 100 students attended the program, actively engaging in the celebrations.

To ensure their comfort and participation, refreshments worth Rs 25 per student were provided during the event.

Principal of GDC Akhnoor, Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat expressed her gratitude to the poets and students for their involvement, emphasizing the importance of such programs in fostering a sense of pride and identity

among the younger generation.

She highlighted the critical role of regional languages in preserving the cultural fabric of society.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sikandya Devi who commended the poets for enriching the program and the students for their enthusiastic participation.

The event was compared and organized by Prof. Gopal Singh (Assistant Professor Dogri).

The celebration of Dogri Manta Divas at GDC Akhnoor was a resounding success, serving as a platform to inspire the youth to embrace and promote the vibrant Dogri language and cultural.

J&K Medical Council issues strict notice against unregistered medical practitioners

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: The Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council has issued a stern notice to all private clinics, poly-clinics, infertility centres, rehabilitation centres, de-addiction centres, hospices, domiciliary care providers, mobile clinics, and other clinical establishments across Jammu and Kashmir, warning against the engagement of unregistered allopathic medical practitioners.

The council expressed serious concern over reports of practitioners operating without proper registration, terming it a breach of professional ethics and conduct. "Such actions violate

ethics and pose a risk to patient safety," the notice stated.

The council directed all proprietors and managers of these establishments to ensure that only practitioners with valid permanent or additional qualification registration from the J&K Medical Council are allowed to practice or perform any procedures, surgeries, or therapies.

They have been advised to immediately inform unregistered practitioners to apply online for registration through the official website of the J&K Medical Council. Failure to comply with these directives will lead to strict disciplinary action under the Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics Regulations, 2002.

Business leader Rahul Sahai honored in Tbilisi, Georgia

Top News Report

TBILISI, Dec 23: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu Chapter and a prominent business leader from Jammu and Kashmir, was honoured with the Business Leadership Award by the Dainik Jagran Group at a grand ceremony in Tbilisi, Georgia. Accompanying him was his wife, Rupika Sahai, Director of the Sahai Group of Companies, who was also recognized for her contributions to the business landscape.

The award acknowledged Rahul Sahai's exceptional leadership, his transformative impact on the business and industrial sector of J&K, and his role in fostering growth and innovation.

As a stalwart in the region's business community, Sahai has served as Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K Council, Chairman of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), and now leads the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu Chapter.

In his speech, Rahul Sahai dedicated the award to the



memory of his late father, Ram Sahai, and expressed gratitude to his family, especially his wife Rupika and daughters Riddhi and Akaiasha, for their unwavering support.

He acknowledged the sacrifices made by his family due to the demands of his leadership roles and thanked his colleagues, friends, and co-chairs from various organizations for their consistent encouragement.

Rahul Sahai said "I am deeply humbled to receive this recognition. This award is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the collective efforts of my family, colleagues, and the

people of Jammu & Kashmir. My heartfelt thanks go to the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, and Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, for their visionary leadership and unwavering support of the industrial fraternity," Sahai remarked.

Sahai also highlighted the strength of India's growing economy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reflected on the success of the G20 meeting held in Kashmir.

He extended an invitation to business leaders from India and Georgia to visit J&K to explore mutually beneficial business

opportunities.

The ceremony also paid tribute to the 11 Indians who tragically lost their lives in a Georgian ski resort, emphasizing the importance of resilience and community.

Several prominent Indian personalities were recognized for their contributions across various sectors. Notable awardees included Dr. Rupesh K. Singh, Associate Vice President, Adani Group, Acharya Manish, Founder of Jeena Seekho, Life Careers Ltd, and MD of HIMS, Mrs. Geeta, Geeta University.

The event was attended by dignitaries from the Georgian government, adding an international dimension to the celebration.

The Business Leadership Award is a testament to Rahul Sahai's relentless pursuit of excellence, his leadership of the Sahai Group of Companies, and his dedication to fostering industrial growth and community development in J&K. His recognition highlights the rising global prominence of Indian business leaders and serves as an inspiration for entrepreneurs in Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

GDC Marheen celebrates Dogri Manta Diwas



Top News Report

MARHEEN, Dec 23: Department of Dogri, Hindi, IQAC and Cultural Committee of GDC Marheen celebrated Dogri Manta Diwas with Inter College Debate Competition. The programme was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Padma Shree Mohan Singh, Guest of Honour Dr. Sushma Rani and Special Guest Kudeep Kippi.

In their address they described the origin, history and importance of Dogri language in our life.

On the occasion, Debate competition was organized in which seven students of different colleges were actively participated.

Sonal Tapa of GDC Marheen, Sanjana Sharma of GDC Ghagwal and

bagged 1st and 2nd position and 3rd position was taken by two students namely Nikhal Singh of GDC Kathua and Neha Devi of GDC Marheen. Trophies and Certificates were given to all the winners and participants.

The competition was organized under the supervision of Prof. Anoop Sharma (Convener, IQAC), Dr. Shalu Rani (HOD, Department of Dogri) and Dr. Munisha Devi (Convener, Cultural Committee).

All the Guests were the Jury members. The proceedings of the programme were presented by Prof. Manu Saini, and Prof. Amitika. Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Suman, Prof. Naresh, Prof. Diksha, Prof. Arpana, Prof. Meenu and Prof. Saquib also managed the programme. Formal Welcome Address and Vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Anoop Sharma and Dr. Shalu.

SMVDU showcases excellence at Jammu Mahotsav 2024

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 23: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly participated in the two-day Jammu Mahotsav, organized by the Ladakh Jammu Kashmir Economic Growth & Development Dialogue (LEAD) at GGS Science College, Jammu.

The university effectively showcased its academic and extracurricular achievements at a specialised Stall, attracting a large number of visitors. Visitors were provided with detailed information

about the university's various programs, including its undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral offerings, along with insights into the admission procedures.

Faculty and scholars at the stall highlighted the university's achievements and its proactive efforts in fostering holistic development through academic excellence and societal outreach.

The stall garnered significant attention for SMVDU's community development initiatives, such as Vikalp, a program where university students teach underprivileged children.



Additionally, the active contributions of the National Service

Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) were show-

cased, highlighting their impact on both the university and the surrounding community.

NSS at SMVDU actively engages in community service through initiatives like cleanliness drives, health camps, and skill development programs, while NCC fosters discipline, leadership, and patriotism through drills, camps, and awareness campaigns.

The Technology Business Incubation Center (TBIC), the university's incubator for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, was another major highlight of the stall. SMVDU was represented

by faculty members, namely Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. Varun Dutta (NCC Coordinator), Dr. Rajiv Kumar (NSS Coordinator), Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Kirti, alongside dedicated PhD scholars Kalpana, Manish, Neha Gupta, and Vikas.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, commended the efforts of the university team and extended his best wishes to the organizers of LEAD and Jammu Mahotsav for their initiative in promoting regional growth and collaboration.

A year of turbulence: Mirabai and Indian weightlifting's unfulfilled dreams

Despite a remarkable return, Chanu was unable to capture a medal at Paris. Will she bounce back or is it time to set sights on a new contender?

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Not many sports are inseparably linked with an individual, but Mirabai Chanu has been that name in Indian weightlifting for several years now. 2024, was no different as she carried the weight of the nation's aspirations for Olympic glory once again.

However, this time those dreams ended in heartbreak for her and the sport that has struggled to find a worthy successor to her.

Chanu, who etched her name in history by ending India's 21-year Olympic medal drought in the sport with a silver at the Tokyo Games, embarked on a quest this year to achieve an extraordinary feat—a second consecutive Olympic medal in weightlifting.

While no other Indian lifter came close to qualifying for the Paris Games, Chanu secured her spot with an underwhelming 184kg (81kg + 103kg) at the Phuket World Cup, while making a remarkable return from a six-month injury layoff.

Her journey to Paris was fraught with challenges.

At 29, Chanu faced an uphill battle against an injury-ravaged body, sub-optimal preparation,



and an intensely competitive field. Despite these odds, her indomitable spirit and resilience elevated expectations.

The year began on a difficult note, with Chanu still recovering from the debilitating hip injury sustained during the Asian Games.

She was locked in a race against time to regain her peak fitness ahead of the Paris Games.

Even as she stepped onto the stage in Paris, whispers persisted on whether she was fully fit to be in the medal hunt.

Though she was briefly in contention during her event, her performance ultimately fell short. This left her with a fourth-

place finish—a bitter pill for a nation that had pinned its hopes on her.

Post-Olympics, Chanu continues her rehabilitation, opting out of the year-end World Championships to focus on recovery.

Looking Ahead
While Chanu has repeatedly declared that her journey is far from over, with an elusive Asian Games medal next on her bucket list, questions linger about how much her injury-plagued body can endure.

By the time the 2026 Asian Games in Japan arrive, she will be 32 -- a daunting prospect for any athlete in a physically demanding sport like weightlifting.

Beyond Chanu, the future of Indian weightlifting appears uncertain.

The numbers in the national camp often swell only ahead of Commonwealth events, where India traditionally excels, but those who shone at the 2022 Commonwealth Games have since faded into obscurity.

A case in point is Jeremy Lallinnunga, who rose to prominence with solid performances at the junior, youth and the Commonwealth level before fading into relative oblivion due to injury and disciplinary issues.

A glimmer of hope lies in 21-year-old Gyaneshwari Yadav, who delivered a commendable fifth-place finish in the 49kg category at the World Championships in Chanu's absence.

However, the gap between her 186kg total and the gold medalist's 217kg lift highlights the considerable ground she must cover. Fortunately, time is on her side for now.

As the spotlight dims on Chanu's Paris campaign, Indian weightlifting finds itself at crossroads, caught between the towering legacy of its brightest star and the uncertain promise of its next generation.

Rohit should change tactics, be more aggressive batting at No. 6: Ravi Shastri



MELBOURNE, Dec 23 (Agencies): With skipper Rohit Sharma struggling to decipher a way to score runs in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, former India coach Ravi Shastri said the stylish batter should go in with a clear mindset, change his tactics, and attack the bowlers.

Rohit missed the opening Test Down Under to be with his family for the birth of his second child. He was expected to reclaim the opener's spot, but KL Rahul's impressive 77 in India's win at Perth prompted a rejig of the batting order with Rohit moving down to No. 6.

The change, though, has not been fruitful for Rohit, as he has managed 10, 3, and 6 runs in the last three

innings, while Rahul has encashed on the opportunity by notching up a fine 84 in the first innings at Brisbane in the third Test.

"I would like to see Rohit Sharma's tactics change a bit because he can still be extremely dangerous at that number (six)," Shastri opined on ICC Review. "I think he's got to be very clear in his mindset to go out there and take the attack to the opposition and not worry about anything else," the cricketer-turned-commentator added.

"The last thing you want is for him to be in two minds about whether to defend or attack.

In his case, it should be attack. He picks up length quickly; he

should take the opposition on at that number.

"Because if he gets away in the first 10-15 minutes, in any way, he's not got past that 15-20 minutes, half an hour. So why don't you play a natural game, go and take the attack to the opposition, and take it from there?"

Shastri felt it's the best way for Rohit to get back into form and win games for India, adding that the best No. 6 batters in the world are those who have the ability to counter-attack.

Shastri backed Rahul to retain the opener's slot in the fourth Test following his two half-centuries so far in the five-Test series.

"I would have asked him (Rohit) to open in the last Test match (Brisbane), but then the way Rahul has batted, he was a joy to watch, and the way he's batting, I believe he struck a purple patch," Shastri said.

"It could be a position he might just want to keep and enhance the way he's playing because his technique was faultless," said Shastri.

Race to Women's ODI World Cup: New Zealand in danger after 0-2 defeat vs Australia

WELLINGTON, Dec 23 (Agencies): The race to qualify for the Women's ODI World Cup 2025 is heating up with less than a year left for the tournament to begin. India, being the hosts, have already qualified, but nine more teams are still fighting for direct qualification.



Australia, led by Alyssa Healy, topped the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 after beating New Zealand 2-0 in the recent three-match series.

The Aussies finished with 39 points from 24 matches. India, who are currently placed third, can reach a maximum of 37 points if they win their remaining two ODIs against the West Indies and three ODIs against Ireland. The White Ferns, however, are in danger as they are placed sixth and don't have fate in their hands any more, having played all 24 of their matches.

The top six teams will

secure direct qualification for the ODI World Cup next year. The four teams at the bottom of the Women's Championship would fight for the remaining two spots along with two other teams from the ODI rankings.

Bangladesh, placed at No.7, have three matches left and have a realistic chance of going past New Zealand. West Indies are at No.9, but can break into the top six.

New Zealand's horror streak

On December 23, New Zealand slumped to their 15th defeat in a row to Australia in Women's ODIs. The last time they defeated their Trans-

Tasman rivals was back in February 2017. On Monday, the White Ferns lost the third and final ODI by 75 runs at the Basin Reserve in Wellington.

Amelia Kerr picked up four wickets, but Australia put up a decent score of 290 in 49 overs on the back of Phoebe Litchfield's 50 and Ash Gardner's 74. Rosemary Mair and Sophie Devine took three and two wickets respectively.

Annabel Sutherland, who recently scored back-to-back ODI hundreds, and Alana King picked up three wickets apiece to help Australia bowl their opponents out for 215 in 43.3 overs.

Momentum on their side, India eye series win against West Indies

VADODARA, Dec 23 (Agencies): Coming off one of their biggest wins in terms of runs, India will look to guard against complacency when they take on West Indies with an aim to bag the three-match series in the second Women's ODI here on Tuesday.

India will be entering the game on the back of a massive 211-run victory over the visitors in the series opener in which, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led team, ticked almost all the boxes.

Every match the teams play in the coming months will be significant as the ICC World Cup is scheduled to be held in the country next year.

India, who have never won a women's World Cup, are desperate to end their ICC title drought at home and they are aware that a strong build-up is extremely important for them to head into the mega event as one of the contenders along-



side the 'usual suspects', Australia and England.

Though India have not begun their preparations for the big tournament in earnest, having suffered a 0-3 whitewash in Australia, they bounced back in style, albeit against a much weaker opposition in the West Indies.

In between the ongoing ODI series and the one against Australia, India registered a 2-1 victory in a T20I rubber knock off the team from the Caribbean islands. Their first home series win in the shortest format in over five years. However,

India before the series opener was the fitness of Kaur, who missed the last two T20Is with a knee niggle, but with her clean hitting and running between the wickets, the skipper has laid all concerns to rest.

Mandhana, who led India in Kaur's absence and struck three fifties in a row in the T20Is, was again in her element in the first ODI and made a classy 91 off 102 balls while laying the foundation for an imposing total.

The left-handed opener will be keen to continue in the same vein in the remaining one-dayers as well.

Play of the Match in the first ODI, Renuka Singh will be high on confidence having returned a five-for and she will once again look to inflict maximum damage on the Windies with the new ball.

As far as the West Indies are concerned, they will have to lift their game several notches.

With the likes of Hayley

Matthews, Deandra Dottin, Shemaine Campbell and Afy Fletcher, the squad's senior players with years of experience, will need to lead from the front.

Teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice captain), Pratika Rawal, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Renuka Singh Thakor.

West Indies: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbell (vice captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilla Connell, Nerissa Crafton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Shabika Gajrani, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Rashada Williams.

The match begins at 1.30 pm.

Ready with plan to tackle Bumrah, says Sam Konstas

MELBOURNE, Dec 23 (Agencies): Few years ago, Christmas Eve meant playing backyard cricket with his brother. But now, 19-year-old Australian Sam Konstas is devising plans to tackle the world's most destructive fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah, in the Boxing Day Test against India.



how his Christmas Eve used to be few years back.

"Used to play backyard cricket with my brother and loads of food and they are coming over soon for Christmas," he said.

"It is amazing to get an opportunity at my age and it's a dream come true to represent my country," he added.

The entire Konstas family will be in attendance at the 'G' for his biggest day.

"It's a special day for me with my parents coming in. Plan is pretty simple, to back myself and savour it really," he added.

Tennis player Mark Philippoussis was the first renowned Australian international sportsperson of Greek heritage and Konstas

could become the second one considering how big a melting pot the country's sporting teams have been over the years.

"It's a special feeling I think and sacrifices that they (parents) have made to take me to games of cricket and experiencing the highs and lows. Just to give back something to them is special," Konstas was a touch emotional speaking about how the family reacted.

He had played at MCG for New South Wales when local hero Scott Boland got him out.

"It is a different wicket from when I have played earlier. Bowler friendly but playing at the MCG on sell out Boxing Day is a dream come true." His game has reminded a lot of people of Shane Watson and with two good innings against India A and the senior team, including a hundred in a pink ball practice match, he is ready to be the aggressor.

"I don't look too much on social media but would take that as a compliment," he seemed a bit shy as he spoke.

"I have learnt a lot from Shane Watson and I like to take the game on and put pressure on the bowlers. He is a legend of the game, and hopefully, I can do that this week on my debut."

Real Madrid move up to 2nd with 4-2 win against Sevilla



MADRID, Dec 23 (Agencies): Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe netted the opener and set up another goal as the hosts beat mid-table Sevilla 4-2 to move up to second place in LaLiga and close the gap on Atletico Madrid

to one point going into the winter break.

Mbappe scored with a thunderbolt from outside the box in the 10th minute. Federico Valverde put the reigning champions two goals ahead from long range 10 minutes later. Rodry-

go fired home in the 34th from a cross by Lucas Vazquez. Sevilla pulled one back a minute later when Isaac Romero headed home but Brahim Diaz restored the home side's three-goal cushion in the 53rd minute when he finished off a clever move after Mbappe and Vazquez combined to set him up.

Sevilla got a late goal when Dodi Lukebakio was put through in the 85th but Real saw the game out to move two points clear of Barcelona, who are third on 38 points having played a game more than the top two after losing 2-1 to Atletico.

LG inaugurates IGNCA Regional Centre at Jammu

Folk tradition of Jammu has been source of values, ideals that have sustained society through ages: Sinha



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) Regional Centre at Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated IGNCA, artists, writers, researchers, art lovers, innovators and students on the occasion.

He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Ram Bahadur Rai, President IGNCA, for dedicating IGNCA's Regional Centre to Jammu.

"The folk tradition of Jammu has been the source of values and ideals that have sustained the society through the ages and I believe the IGNCA's regional centre will create a framework for nurturing the virtues of culture for nurturing the virtues of culture for enhancing quality of life.

This centre will foster the promotion and preservation of our rich art and cultural heritage and

help the growth of time-tested traditional wisdom and knowledge," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the intelligentsia to work with organisations like IGNCA for promotion of J&K's rich artistic heritage and also preserving and propagating Vedic oral tradition.

"Our civilisational heritage represents a culture that is all-embracing and based on the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the world as one family. This Mantra continues to be of great significance to the world even today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a cultural resurgence.

He said, in the future, the IGNCA Centre at Jammu will further strengthen government's efforts for the promotion, development and enrichment of folk

traditions.

Emphasising the role of enlightened citizens and stakeholders to develop artistic mindset in the new generation, the Lieutenant Governor said the creative potential of the youth will benefit other sectors of the society.

He called for committed efforts for dissemination of works of great thinkers and writers like Yogini Lalleshwari, Nund Rishi, Habba Khatoon, Parmanand, Dattu, Thakur Raghunath Singh, Pandit Hardutt, Gangaram, Padma Sachdev, especially to the younger generation.

In this era of rapid change, it is also our collective responsibility to ensure that the articles, monographs, books on regional literature, folk music, drama genre and Pahari art become a part of every household, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also applauded the IGNCA and J&K Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT)

for organising Toycathon.

He said the Toycathon provides an opportunity to our youngsters to participate in grassroot innovation and lead them to design and develop toys based on local cultural ethos and life of local heroes.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the revolution taking place in UT of J&K in education sector, in the past few years. "I am proud that Jammu Kashmir is leading the country in implementing the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020", he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the students who excelled during the District/School level competitions under Toycathon 2024.

He also released several publications of IGNCA, and visited the stalls put up by different school students exhibiting innovative and creative toy designs, and clay models prepared by artists from various states.

Sakina Ittoo, Minister for School/Higher Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare; Dr Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary IGNCA; Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary Culture and School Education; Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education; Prof. (Dr) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director SCERT J&K; senior officials; Teachers, Artists and students were present.

Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vice Chancellors of several Universities and Heads of various educational institutions were also present on the occasion.

Quality education imperative for honing intellectual capacity of youth: Dy CM

Attends annual day of Sainik School Nagrota



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Underscoring the importance of imparting quality education, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Monday, said that it imparts a sense of discipline besides honing the intellectual capacity of youth.

"Education not only brings discipline but also supports spiritual growth of youth making a nation developed and prosperous," maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at the annual day of Sainik School Nagrota here today.

Complimenting the school for imparting quality education for decades, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the institution has been contributing immensely in shaping future of our younger generation. He

said that the pass outs of the institution have created a niche for themselves in various spheres of life.

While asking the youth to contribute their best in pursuing academic pursuits, the Deputy Chief Minister said that they should not get carried away by the tendencies that are detrimental to their health and future. He said that instead, they should channelize their energies and time in making their nation developed and prosperous.

The celebration commenced with a ceremonial Guard of Honour presented to the Chief Guest in the distinctive style of Sainik School Nagrota, reflecting discipline and precision.

The Deputy Chief Minister also inaugurated the art, photography and science exhibition in the academic block,

showcasing the creativity and scientific acumen of the cadets.

Cultural programme presented at the School Auditorium was a vibrant spectacle, featuring a variety of performances that highlighted the talent and diversity of the students. The highlight of the event was the presentation of Cock House Trophy, which was awarded to Sindh House for securing the overall Championship in both junior and senior categories.

In his address, Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia, the Principal presented the school's annual report. He highlighted the remarkable achievements of the school during the Academic Session 2024-25, underscoring its commitment to academic excellence, holistic development and fostering patriotism among cadets.

NDA to organize job fair in Ramgarh Constituency

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Nations Development Association (NDA) is set to organize a Job Fair in Ramgarh Constituency, Samba District, Jammu and Kashmir, scheduled for February 2025. This event is designed to provide employment opportunities to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir by bringing together both Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and local industries.

The job fair will cater to

individuals with various qualifications, offering a platform to connect with potential employers across diverse sectors, including technology, manufacturing, hospitality, and more.

Sushil Singh Charak, Chief Functionary and Founder of NDA, urges all youth in the region to take advantage of this important opportunity to explore career paths and expand their professional networks.

He also emphasized

that local industries, factories, educational institutions, private organizations, NGOs, and companies from various sectors are invited to participate in the event.

Interested organizations and individuals seeking further information or wishing to participate can contact 94191 81814 or connect via social media platforms: facebook.com/sushilingsinghchck, x.com/sushilingsinghchck, and instagram.com/sushilingsinghchck.

Chairperson DDC, DC Kulgam release Dr Gowhar's book 'Zero Waste Management Technologies'

Book released during ongoing 'Veshow Literary Festival-2024'

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 23: Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parray and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan on Monday jointly released the book 'Zero Waste Management Technologies,' written by Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar.

The book was released today, on the first day of the two day 'Veshow Literary Festival, 2024' organized by District Administration Kugam in collaboration with Govt. Degree College Kulgam.

Dr. Dar is an Assistant Professor and Head Department of Environmental Science from

Government Degree College Kulgam of J&K's Higher Education Department (JK-HED).

The book highlights cutting-edge research on the zero waste management and the associated effects of waste on the environment. Predominantly, it focuses on the challenges of dealing with the amassed production of waste and the cumulative impact of increasing waste on the biosphere.

Furthermore, it explores innovations in waste reduction, recycling, and repurposing, from a global perspective, examining the diverse cultural, social, and economic factors influencing the adoption of zero waste strategies

worldwide.

In addition, it discusses the challenges, and opportunities inherent in promoting a unified global effort toward sustainable resource management.

Whether a business owner, environmental enthusiast, or simply curious about sustainable living, this book is a roadmap to a cleaner and healthier planet.

The luminaries present on the occasion included Prof. Syed Eazaz Hussain Rizvi, Principal GDC Kulgam; Prof. Shad Ramzan, Prof. Majrooh Rashid.

Dr. Dar, who has more than 90 publications to his credit, was extended warm commendations at the moment.


Power Shutdown

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out minor repairs including replacement of damaged clamps/conductor in the 132 KV Bays of Transformer Bank-I & II along with 132 KV ICT Ckt-I, the 220/ 132 KV Transformer

Bank-I of Grid Station Pampore and 132 KV ICT Ckt-I shall remain off on 24 December, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

Also, 220/132 KV Transformer Bank-II of Grid Station Pampore shall remain off on 26 December, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM.



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