

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Amid her battle with breast cancer, Hina Khan makes a comeback with Grihalaxmi**



**Naqvi warns against 'pseudo-secular syndicate' subverting 'sanatan sanskar'**

**South Korea's opposition controlled National Assembly votes to impeach acting leader**

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## BRIEFLY

### LG Sinha expresses grief over demise of Former PM Manmohan Singh

JAMMU, Dec 27 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday expressed grief over the demise of former prime minister Manmohan Singh, saying that he made extremely significant contributions to India's growth.

Sinha died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, on Thursday night. He was 92.

"My heartfelt condolences to the family members and admirers. May God give them the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss. Om Shanti," Sinha said on X.

"As Prime Minister, he took bold steps for nation building. In his passing away, the nation has lost a towering politician and a distinguished luminary," he added.

### Three residential houses, ICDS centre gutted in fire incident in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Dec 27 (Agencies): Three residential houses, an Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) centre and two cowsheds were gutted in a fire incident in Jammu Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

A fire-fighter Irfan Ahmad Dar was injured during the operation who was promptly shifted to a nearby health facility for treatment, the Fire and Emergency officials said.

They said the fire broke out during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday in a residential house at Village Marsari in Chokibal area and engulfed other nearby houses causing damage to three two storied residential houses, an ICDS centre and two cowsheds.

As soon as the fire occurred several fire tenders were rushed from the nearby fire stations of Kralpora, Tangdhar and Kuwara to douse the leaping flames.

Eyewitness said the Army and locals rescued the civilians from the area and extended every possible help to the civil administration to control the fire.

The cause of the fire is stated to be due to the electricity short circuit, they said.

## Manmohan Singh's life will serve as lesson to coming generations: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday described his predecessor Manmohan Singh's death as a big loss to the nation, asserting that his commitment to the people and the country's development would always be respected.

In a video message, Modi recalled Singh's life journey after his family's migration to India, leaving behind everything following Partition, as he noted that his numerous achievements since then were no mean feat.

His life will always serve as a lesson for the future generations on how someone can rise



above deprivation and struggles to attain the heights of success, he said.

Modi said Singh, who passed

away at 92 on Thursday, would always be remembered as a decent human being, scholar, economist and a leader dedi-

cated to reforms.

Noting that he served in various capacities in the government, the prime minister said Singh was Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor during challenging times and put the country on a new economic path as finance minister in the government headed by PV Narasimha Rao.

Modi said, "As prime minister, his contribution to the country's development and progress will always be remembered."

He was also effusive in praising Singh's personal virtues, noting that his life was a reflection of

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### V-P Dhankhar's Jammu tour rescheduled due to State Mourning for Former PM Manmohan Singh



NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Agencies): Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's proposed visit to Jammu on Friday has been rescheduled due to the State mourning announced by the

central government following the passing of former prime minister Manmohan Singh.

Dhankhar was scheduled to address the convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. His office said the programme had been "rescheduled".

The Union Government has declared a seven-day mourning in honour of former prime minister Singh, who passed away here at the age of 92 late on Thursday.

### Manmohan Singh's Death: J&K Govt Announces 7-Day Mourning

JAMMU, Dec 27 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has declared a seven-day state mourning from December 26, 2024, to January 1, 2025, to honor the former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who passed

away on December 26. During this period, the National Flag will be flown at half-mast at all official locations, and no official entertainment events will take place. The General Administration Department has issued directives to ensure compliance with

these measures.

The decision, communicated by Commissioner/Secretary Sanjeev Verma, reflects the state's respect for the late leader. Citizens have been requested to observe the guidelines during the mourning period.

### Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra crosses 93 lakh mark this year: Official

JAMMU, Dec 27 (Agencies): Creating yet another record, the yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has crossed 93 lakh mark this year, said an official.

Nestled in Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, over 93 lakh yatis have paid obeisance at the Shrine this year, Anshul Garg,

Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, posted on X.

He further posted that special langars set up by Shrine Board at

Katra Railway Station, Banganga and Tarakote offering Tea and Milk to the pilgrims, as Yatra continues smoothly through both the tracks.

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### Manmohan Singh's biggest legacy was his effort to keep India Untied: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Dec 27 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Friday expressed grief over former prime minister Manmohan Singh's demise, saying his biggest legacy was that he tried to keep India united and spread love across the nation.

"Singh was an excellent economist. His biggest achievement was that he tried to keep India united. He opened the economy. Today, when we talk of a trillion-dollar economy, it is because of Singh," Abdullah, who was Singh's cabinet colleague, told reporters here.

Singh wanted friendly relations with our neighbours and "God willing,



that time will come", said Abdullah, who was the Minister for Renewable Energy in the second United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. He noted that the economy was opened during the rule of Rajiv Gandhi and Narasimha Rao and said that today we can happily see that our economy is progressing.

"I was a minister in his

cabinet, and for the first time in India, someone recognised renewable energy. On behalf of my family and my party, I pay my tributes to Singh and hope that we, and others, complete the work he left unfinished and take this country forward while maintaining brotherhood," he said.

Remembering Singh's efforts for peace and prosperity in Jammu

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### Shutdown in Katra against ropeway project enters third day, more people join hunger strike



REASI/JAMMU, Dec 27: The shutdown in Katra against the proposed Vaishno Devi ropeway project entered its third day on Friday, with more people sitting on the hunger to demand the release of those detained during earlier demonstrations.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti called for a 72-hour shutdown, which began on Wednesday. It announced that all activities in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra would remain suspended during the bandh. Women and chil-

dren have now joined the six protesters who began a hunger strike on Wednesday night, demanding the release of 18 Samiti members detained during a protest march against the project earlier that day.

Last month, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board decided to move forward with a Rs 250-crore passenger ropeway project between Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat along the 12-kilometre track to the shrine after shelving the project in the past due to similar protests.

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**BHOG & ANTIM ARDASS**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **LATE SDN. BALBIR KOUR** W/O LATE COL. AMARJIT SINGH R/O H.No. 108, LANE NO. 13, SEC. 6, GURU NANAK NAGAR, JAMMU ON 23/12/2024.



**LATE SDN. BALBIR KOUR**

**PROGRAMME**

**ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** JI AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 27/12/2024 AT 10.00AM.

**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH** JI ON 29/12/2024 AT 10.00AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

**KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS** AT GURUDWARA BALA PRITAM TRIKUTA NAGAR FROM 11.00 AM TO 12.30 PM.

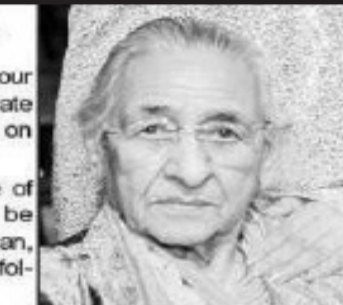
**Grief Stricken**

**SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW**

S. SUKHWINDERJEET SINGH (LOVELY) AND PARVINDER KOUR  
DR. GURVINDERJEET SINGH (JKAS) AND RUPINDER KOUR  
**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**  
SDN JASVINDERJEET KOUR AND S. SURINDER SINGH  
MOB. 9419170742, 7006741957

**Bhog & Antim Ardass**

With profound grief we regret to inform that our beloved mother, **Smt. Swaran Kaur** W/o Late Mehta Suchet Singh, left for her heavenly abode on 19 Dec 2024.



**Smt. Swaran Kaur**

To seek Guru's blessings for the eternal peace of the departed soul, **Shri Akhand Path Sahib** shall be performed at our residence, Manmeet Bhawan, 55/7, Lane No.3, Nanak Nagar, Jammu as per following program.

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib:** 26 Dec, 10 AM

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib and Antim Ardass:** 28 Dec, 10 AM to 12 Noon

Followed by **Guru Ka Langar**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Surjeet Kaur (Daughter)  
Comdt. Parwinder Singh (ret'd) (Son)  
Smt. Rajinder Kaur (Daughter)  
Col. MP Singh (Son)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Daya Krishen Koul** S/o Lt. Sh. Niranjan Nath Koul of Budgam Kashmir, A/P House No. 80-B, Lane -12 Bhawani Nagar Janipur Jammu. .



**Shri Daya Krishen Koul**

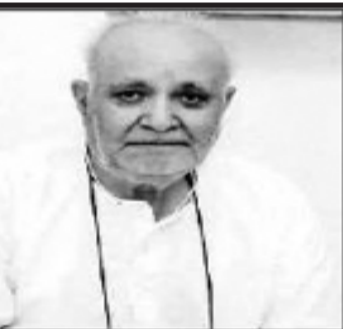
**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 28th December, 2024 (SATURDAY) at Muthi Ghat, Jammu at 10.30 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Bimla ji Koul- **Bhabi**  
Smt.Seema ji Koul- **Bhabi**  
**Brother & Bhabi**  
Smt. & Sh. Chand Krishan Koul  
Smt. & Sh. Suneel Kaul- **Son & Daughter in Law (7889582580)**  
Smt. & Sh. Anil koul- **Son & Daughter in law**  
Smt. & Sh. Rakesh Matoo- **Daughter & Son in law**  
Smt. & Sh. Jawahar Lal Khar- **Sister & Brother in Law**  
Smt. & Sh. Ramesh Thusoo- **Sister & Brother in Law**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dwarika Nath Pandita** S/o Late Sarwanand Pandita, originally from Rajhat, Baramulla, Kashmir on 22nd December 2024 at his residence 1218, Sector 17, Faridabad.



**Sh. Dwarika Nath Pandita**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Nashik, Maharashtra on 31st December 2024.

**IN GRIEF**

Sanjogta Pandita and Pawan Ji Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt. Santosh Pandita (Bhabi)  
Smt.Veena Pandita and Sh. Jawahar Lal Pandita (Bhabi and Brother)  
Smt. Raj Dulari Pandita and Sh.Bushan Lal Pandita (Bhabi and Brother)  
Mrs.Pummy Pandita and Mr. Ajay Pandita  
Mrs.Ritika Pandita and Mr. Anmol Pandita  
Miss Tapasya Pandita  
**SAMAST PANDITA AND BHAT PARIVAR**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we announce the sad demise of **Shri Om Prakash Raina** S/o Late Pt. Dwarika Nath Raina and Late Smt. Parmeshwari Raina (originally from Maharajganj, Srinagar), R/o 32A, JD Block, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034. Lovingly remembered as Onji / Bhai Ji, he departed for his eternal abode on Friday, 20th December 2024.



**Shri Om Prakash Raina**

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 29th December 2024, 9:30 a.m. at Shivnath Nadi Mahamara Ghat, Durga, Chhattisgarh.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY**

Smt. Savita Raina (Wife)  
Smt. Shalini and Dr. Anand Chhabra (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Dr. Nancy and Dr. Sunil Dhar (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt. Durga Raina (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Asha and Shri Daleep Kr Thusoo (Sister and Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Asha Dhar (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Uma Kak (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Usha and Shri Shishan Dhar (Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Bindu Seli (Sister-in-law)  
Contact: Shalini: 9425210003  
Asha: 9873182193 / 9619993836

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Keemta Shori Dhar** W/o Late Sh. M.L. Dhar on 24-12-2024 originally from Batapora Shopian, presently residing at H.No: 53/2, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu.



**SMT. KEEMTA SHORI DHAR**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 01-01-2025 at Akhnoor and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

(**Son & Daughter-in-law**)  
Sh. Ravinder Kumar Dhar & Smt. Sarojni Dhar  
Sh. Shashi Bhushan (Pintoo) & Smt. Pinki ji  
(**Son-in-laws & Daughters**)  
Sh. Sanjay Bagati & Smt. Pankajna Ji (Bubby)  
Sh. Rajinder Raina & Smt. Aruna Ji (Bunty)  
**Grand-Son-in-law & Grand Daughter**  
Mr. Anurag Rawat & Mrs. Meghna Dhar (Megha)  
**Grand Children:** Akash, Suraj, Himanshu, Simran, Aryan & Bhavesh  
**Rsvp: Samast Dhar Parivaar**  
Mobile: 9086171893, 8803914064, 9419103083

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and heavy hearts, we share the sad news of the passing of **Sh. Dharni Dhar Sharma** (Former, President Sanatan Dharma Sabha and Chairperson, Dharmik Yuwak Mandali), beloved son of Late Pt. Manorath Ram Sharma R/o H.No.1, Amar Manorath Market, Purani Mandi, Jammu at present at H. No. 23, Sec-6, JDA Colony, Upper Roopnagar, Jammu, left for his heavenly abode on 24th Dec. 2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 01-01-2025.



**SH. DHARNI DHAR SHARMA**

**IN GRIEF:**

Smt. Suksha Sharma - **Wife**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Shreedhar Sharma & Shifali Sharma  
Vasudhar Sharma & Riya Sharma  
Devdhar Sharma - **Son**  
**Brothers & Sisters-in-law**  
Late Sh. Shakti Prakash & Late Smt. Krishan Kanta  
Late Sh. Ram Krishan Sharma & Late Smt. Kanta  
Late Sh. Narayan Sharma & Smt. Sushela  
**Sisters & Brothers-in-law**  
Late Smt. Vimla & Late Sh. Hira Lal  
Late Smt. Shanti Devi & Late Sh. Swami Dayal  
Smt. Pawan Bala & Sh. Kulbhushan Sharma  
Smt. Dev Bala & Late Sh. Ashok Sharma  
Smt. Jagriti & Sh. Vad Bhushan Seth  
**Grand Children:** Vedant Sharma  
**Contact Numbers:** 9149639597, 9419200222, 9622100222

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pitty Pandita (Pyari)** W/o Late Shri Jagar Nath Pandita on 21.12.2024 (Saturday), originally resident of Hakcherpora (Hatmulla) District & Tehsil Kupwara, presently at Lane No.17, Block No. 84, Flat No. 19 Mini Township Jagti Colony Nagrota, Jammu.



**Smt. Pitty Pandita (Pyari)**

The **MOURNING** is being observed at Lane 17 Community Hall, Mini Township Jagti near BSNL Tower.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on Monday, 30.12.2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly will take place at 11:00 AM, Lane 17 Community Hall, Mini Township Jagti near BSNL Tower.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**SAMAST, PANDITA, BHAT PARIVARS**

**CONTACT NOS:** 9419250786, 9419250781, 9469650834, 9622320893

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **SH. RATTAN LAL BHAT** S/o Lt. Sh. Nand Ram Bhat originally from Sagam, Anantnag, Kashmir at present H.No.29D Laxmi Nagar, Muthi.



**SH. RATTAN LAL BHAT**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat Jammu on 29.12.2024 (Sunday) prayer assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 11.00 AM on the same day i.e. 29.12.2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt.Nana Kumari (Wife)  
Smt. Mohan Rani Bhat W/o Lt. B.L.Bhat (Bhabhi)  
Smt.Nancy Bhat W/o Lt. Chaman Lal Bhat (Bhabhi)  
Sunny Bhat and Akshaya Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-Law)  
Renuka and Ashish Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-Law)  
**Grand Childrens:** Tisha, Jayashnavi and Adhiraj  
**MOBILE NUMBER:-** 9419149390, 9814647111, 6005628616, 7889418130, 9419121606

**OBITUARY AND TENTH DAY**

It is with deep sorrow that we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Karmayogi Sh. Omkar Nath Bagati (Tathya)** S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ji Bagati, late resident of Tekipora, Lolab, Kashmir, who left us on 22nd of December, 2024. He breathed his last peacefully at his Jammu residence H.No 38, Lane No 2, Anand Nagar Bohri.



**Karmayogi Sh. Omkar Nath Bagati (Tathya)**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 31st December, 2024. Tuesday and assembly shall be held at our residence at 11.00 AM.

**Grief Stricken:-**

**Brothers and Bhabhis**  
Smt. Jaikishori & Sh. Sohan Lal Bagati (9622274996)  
Smt. Gudi W/o Late Sh. Hira Lal Bagati  
Smt. Priya W/o Late Sh. Aakar Krishna Bagati  
Smt. Lovely & Sh. Bhaskar Nath Bagati  
**Sisters and Brothers in Law**  
Smt. Jaya W/o Late Sh. Bushan Lal Kachroo  
Smt. Sheela W/o Sh. Ashok Ji Thusoo  
Smt. Shera W/o Pyarey Lal Kachroo  
Smt. Nirmala W/o Sh. Hira Lal Bhat  
Smt. Baby W/o Sh. Krishan Ji Pandita  
Smt. Lovely W/o Sh. Biloo Ji Padroo  
Smt. Gija & Sh. Sanjay Pandita - **Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Smt. Sumita & Dharam Pandita - **Daughter and Son-in-law**  
**Son & Daughter in law**  
Smt. Rumeela & Sh. Kewal Bagati (Ph. 8825018308, 9797596776, 9682125864)  
**Grand Childrens:** Shivesh, Dilisha, Suvani, Ayush, Koshika, Parth and  
**Samast Bagati Parivar**

**UTHALA**

"Your unexpected departure served as a poignant reminder about life's brevity and our plans' uncertainty. However, your memories and blessings are always with us. We feel your presence everywhere and miss you deeply." With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bharat Bhushan Kalsotra (Kukla)** S/o Late Sh. Mangat Ram Kalsotra R/o Ward No.8, Near Pandav Mandir, Udhampur.



**Sh. Bharat Bhushan Kalsotra (Kukla)**

**SATSANG** will be performed on Saturday (28/12/2024) from 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm. **UTHALA** will be performed at 4:00 pm at Shiv Mandir, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Shobha Rani (Wife)  
(**Sons & Daughters-in-law**)  
Aman Kalsotra & Rashmi Gupta  
Arjun Kalsotra & Shriya Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Eklta Mahajan & Puneet Pargal  
Padma Devi W/o Late Sh. Karan Chand Gupta (Sister) (Brother & Sister-in-law)  
Kuldeep Kalsotra & Kamlesh Gupta (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)  
Ramesh Chander & Karanjan Gupta  
Subash Chander & Aarti Gupta  
**M/S LAJPAT RAI MANGAT RAM**  
**M/S PARIDHAN KENDRA**  
**MUKHERJEE BAZAR UDHAMPUR**  
**CONTACT NO:-** 99059-97270, 99060-49360

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With heavy hearts and profound grief, we announce the untimely passing of our beloved **Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina** s/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Raina. A pillar of strength, wisdom, and love, he departed this world, leaving an irreplaceable void in our lives. Formerly of Memender, Shopian, he was residing at H.No. 6, Lane 2, Anant Vihar, Lale-De-Bagh, Jammu.



**SH. MAHARAJ KRISHAN RAINA**

The **Tenth Day** rituals to honor his memory and bid him a heartfelt farewell will be observed on Sunday, 29th December 2024, at Akhnoor Ghat. We humbly invite family and friends to join us for the assembly at Muthi Ghat near the Director School, Muthi, at 11:00 AM to pray for his eternal peace.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN:-**

**Raina Parivar**  
Along with the Mahanoori, Pandit, Munjal, and Koul families, who share in our pain over this profound loss. His love, guidance, and warmth will remain forever etched in our hearts. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**TENTH DAY / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved and revered **Sh. Surinder Singh Slathia** S/o Lt. Sh. Madan Singh Slathia R/o H.No. 51, New Plot, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 19/12/2024.



**Sh. Surinder Singh Slathia**

**10th Day** will be performed on 27/12/2024 (Friday) at present address our residence at Sec. 1, H.No. 167, Shaikha Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu at 10.00 am.

(13th) **Uthala** also will be performed on 30/12/2024 at our same residence at 2.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

(Mother)  
Smt. Rano Devi W/o Late Sh. Madan Singh Slathia  
Smt. Asha Devi (Wife)  
Smt. Reenu & Sh. Narinder Singh Slathia - **Sister-in-law & Brother**  
Smt. Shailee and Varinder Singh Slathia - **Daughter-in-law & Son**  
Jannu Slathia (Son)  
Priyanka Slathia and Arun Jammal - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Veerdev Singh Slathia & Harsh Dev Singh - **Nephew**  
**Grand Children :** Saanvi Slathia, Aditya and Advil Jammal

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Aneel Bhushan Zalpuri** S/o Late Sh. Prem Nath Zalpuri, original R/o Habbakadal Srinagar, currently residing at 14A, Roop Nagar Enclave B Jammu



**Sh. Aneel Bhushan Zalpuri**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 30-12-2024 (Monday) at 9 am, at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of Education, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Raj Kumari Zalpuri (Wife)  
Prem Nath Zalpuri W/o Lt. Yugesh Raman Zalpuri (Sister-in-Law)  
Priyanka Zalpuri & Akhil Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Pritisha Zalpuri & Kaamil Nakhas (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Nisha & Chetram (Family Members)  
Kanhaiya, Anshu, Aarav & Ridit (Grand Children)  
**Samast Zalpuri, Wali, Koul Parivar**  
Contact No: 9622360918, 9596568661

**UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Mansha Sharma** W/o Late Shri Durga Dass Sharma R/o 258/1 Channi Himmat on 18-12-2024.



**Smt. Mansha Sharma**

**Uthala** will be performed on Saturday 28th December 2024 from 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM at Panj Mandir Sector 2, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. BD Sharma & Smt Vandana  
Er. R.C. SHARMA (KAS) & Prof. Sudha  
Dr. Yashpal Sharma & Dr. Poonam  
Dr. Ashok Sharma & Dr. Jyotsana  
Er. Anil Sharma & Smt Rashmi  
**Daughters and Sons in Law**  
Smt Sarishtha W/o Late Shri Des Raj sharma  
Smt Vijay & Sh. S.D Sharma (SBI)  
Smt Prabha & Sh. C.S Raina (JKB)  
Smt. Kamlesh & Sh. Ashok Khajuria  
Smt. Anju & Prof Arun Sharma  
**All other Family members & Friends.**

**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 Zargalpora Devsar, Kulgam at present H.No. 332, Dina Nagar, Barri Near Rama Erent on 22/12/2024.



**Smt. Raj Rani**

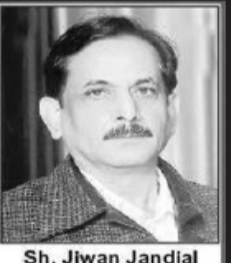
The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 30/12/2024 (Monday) at Akhnoor Ghat and the Assembly will be held at our residence at 11.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Pan Nath Bhat and Lalita Pandita (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
**Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law**  
Suraj Bhat and Mehak Pandita  
Daly Bhatard Ram Krishan Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Daughter & Son-in-law  
Prikey Pandit and Pradman Krishan Pandith  
**Grand Children :** Shaveet Bhat, Kavita Bhat, Anun Raina, Amit Pandit, Swati, Suraj, Sumit  
Mobile: 7006803175, 8825080131, 7780805061, 9419206111

**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. Shambu Nath Jandial (Father)  
Mrs. Jyoti Jandial (Wife)  
Mr. Sarvesh Jandial (Son)  
Brij Jandial and Sonika Mahajan (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Gopal Jandial and Ruchi Jandial (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Contact No. 941997220, 9419160526

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to be informed to all near & dear that **Smt. Dulari Raina** W/o Late Trikali Nath Raina R/o Devi Aangan Hari Parthal Srinagar Kashmir, Present at L-47A, Opp SBI Patra Dabli Road New Delhi-110043.



**SMT. DULARI RAINA**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Modi Nagar Ganga Ghat Chotta Haridwar, Muradnagar Ghaziebad. Later Assembly will be held 29th Dec at above mentioned New Delhi address at 1 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Ashwini Raina - **Son**  
Bharti Raina - **Daughter-in-law**  
Ashok Raina - **Son**  
Aarti Raina - **Daughter-in-law**  
**Grandsons :** Mayya Raina, Rudraksh Raina, Sansaika Raina  
**Brothers-in-law & Sister**  
Sh. Kashi Nath Raina  
Sh. Durga Nath Raina & Smt. Puspbanjali Raina  
**Sister-in-law**  
Sheela Ji  
& **SAMAST RAINA PARIVAR**  
MOB: 7836725960, 9910377972, 9873101391

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanta Nehru** W/o Late Bushan Lal Nehru, originally resident of Aragam Bandipora Kashmir residing at H.No. 163, Lane 6, Kabir Colony, Talab Tillo, Jammu at present H.No. 421, Sector 21-D, Faridabad Near Housing Board on 22-12-2024 at Faridabad.



**Smt. Shanta Nehru**

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 30-12-2024 (Monday) at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar U.P. Assembly will be held at our Faridabad residence on 30-12-2024 (Monday) at 2 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sanjay Nehru & Anjali Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob. 9910805421  
Pawan Nehru & Purpoo Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob. 941919135 / 7005488031  
Indrera Krishna Koul & Shweta Koul (Son-in-law & Daughter) Mob. 9910228093  
Vijay Nehru (S/o of Late Harshay Nath No Huj) & Neelam Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. Krishna Nehru W/o Late Prem Nath Nehru (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Anjali Nehru W/o Late Ashok Nehru (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Asha Koul W/o Late Bushan Lal Koul (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Bimla Lchoo W/o Late M.K. Lchoo (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Nirmala Parvata W/o Sh. S.C. Parvata (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)  
Sh. Vinod Koul S/o Late Dina Nath Koul (Nephew)  
**Grandchildren:** Ayushman, Anubhav, Amisha, Anshuman, Ansh

**DISCLAIMER**

JDA mandated to create Water Park at Sidhra

CS for early completion of paperwork to execute project on ground

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a meeting to discuss the suitability of different ways and means to establish the Water Theme Park along River Tawi here at Sidhra, Jammu.

Those who attended this meeting includes Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; VC, JDA and other concerned officers.

In the beginning the Chief Secretary took note of the status of land identified by the Department around Sidhra Golf Course on the banks of River Tawi. He enjoined upon the Housing Department to ascertain that the land is free from



all encumbrances especially seeking NoC from the Forest Department.

He advised the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) to use this prized land as their equity in the project so that it would be a source of regular income for the authority. He asked them to invite EoI for creating a

thematic Water Amusement Park at this site in a PPP mode as per the formulated plan.

Dulloo also underscored the need of taking this matter to the respective Board of Directors (BoD) of JDA for the same is empowered to take decisions about further course of

action.

He observed that this park would be a new addition to the tourist attractions in Jammu along with Tawi Lake Front, Zoological Park and other amenities created here. He made out that such amusements together with creation of better infrastructure

is going to increase the tourist footfall here besides making Jammu a tourist destination in its own right.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur while presenting details apprised the meeting that a chunk of land measuring 92 Kanal and 3 Marlas at village Dwara (Sidhra

area, adjacent to Golf Course) along the river Tawi has been identified by JDA for development of this Water Park.

She added that the proposed site is approximately 04 Kms from the National Highway and is suitable for this project. The "Land Use" status as per Master Plan 2032 is 'Recreation Use' and

cost of the land is estimated at Rs.129.36 Crores, the meeting was informed.

It was further given out that in response to the EOI floated earlier, an offer was received which is under consideration for appointment of transaction advisor for framing RFP.

About the proposed

footfall, it was revealed that as per preliminary estimates the Park is going to attract around 20 lakh visitors annually taking the percentage of pilgrims coming for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine or Amarnathji Yatra including the locals and those coming to visit other tourist places.

Congress pays tributes to Dr. Manmohan Singh



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Congress on Friday paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in a condolence meeting held at Congress HQ, Jammu.

The meeting paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and remembered him for his honesty and excellent economic policies. It was a tribute to Dr. Singh's approach to the problems facing our country that he remained committed as Prime Minister

to India's religious, cultural, linguistic and regional diversity and regarded the federal structure as the core and defining feature of our constitution and our national policy.

While paying floral tributes Tara Chand, former Dy. CM and Working President JKPC, said that Dr. Manmohan Singh had introduced several schemes and programmes that ensured the directive principles of State policy were implemented. He introduced programmes and schemes like MNREGA, Right to Information, Right to Education, Right to

Food, Forest Rights Act, and the Urban Renewal Mission, among others. 'He created a high growth potential economy on one hand, and built a safety net for the vulnerable on the other hand'.

Former Minister and Working President PCC Raman Bhalia said that Dr. Manmohan Singh was a great statesman, par excellence, great economist and veteran politician who believed in the pluralistic strength of this nation.

He practiced and preached unity in diversity during his life and even

taught those who had a different philosophy in life. He was a great asset to the nation and he was liked by one and all from different sections and ideologies.

Two minute silence was observed on the occasion to pray for peace to the departed soul and to give strength to his family, relatives and admirers to bear the loss.

Senior leaders who attended the condolence meeting included Th. Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma (Mian), Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Th. Manmohan Singh-DCC President Jammu, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, AP Singh Lucky, Neeraj Gupta, Gurdarshan Singh, Sanjeev Panda, Sahil Sharma, Michael Wazir, Bhavishya Sudan, Ricky Dalotra, Vijay Shastri, Farooq Ahmed Sheikh, Th. Hoshiyar Singh, Nasir Masih, Sandeep Dogra, Keval Krishan Jogi, H.S. Bagi, Rakesh Sharma, Anirudh Sawhney, Latish Sharma, Narinder (Happy) and others.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH  
TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 236 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:- 24-12-2024 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Call  
For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
<b>Under PRI Grant</b>									
1	P/Work/R/Wall Nr. Zulfikar W.No. 7 Pyl. Kotan kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call	REW Division Poonch	1.00	200	2000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 31-12-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/Demanded
2	Construction of Tr. Road Moh. Dheri upto the H/o Qasim W.No 3 Pyl. Jugal Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.30	200	2600	30 days			
3	Construction of Boundary Wall of Graveyard Nr. Masjid W.No. 03 Pyl. Gohlad Reelhan Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		2.76	200	5520	30 days			
4	Construction of Road Moh. Malkan W.No. 02 Pyl. Gohlad Malikpur Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.40	200	2800	30 days			
5	Construction of Water Tank at W.No. 05 Near Sher Dil Pyl. Goh Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
6	Construction of P/Work Nr. Arif Khan and Others W.No 6 Pyl. Goh Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.20	200	2400	30 days			
7	P/Work/R/Wall of Graveyard W.No. 2 Takia karbarstan Pyl. Kotan Kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.10	200	2200	30 days			
8	Construction of Graveyard Moh. Mello W.No. 9 Pyl. Kotan Kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.10	200	2200	30 days			
9	Construction of Graveyard Moh. Bakerwala W.No. 5 Pyl. Kotan Kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.10	200	2200	30 days			
10	P/Work/R/Wall Nr. Manzoor Khan W.No.9 Pyl. Kotan Kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.20	200	2400	30 days			
11	Construction of P/Work Near Manzoor W. No 10 Pyl. Kotan kandi Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.29	200	2580	30 days			
12	Construction of Protection Work Nr. Graveyard at W.No 2 Nr L/o Mohd Rashied Ch. Moh. Bhatta Kass Pyl. Sakhi Maidan Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.39	200	2780	30 days			

13	Construction of Compound Wall Nr. Zairat Mohalla Dullian W.No. Pyl. Sakhi Maidan Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call	REW Division Poonch	1.49	200	2980	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 31-12-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/Demanded
14	Construction of Cattle Shed at Moh. Chouana Nr. Ataf Chouan and others Pyl. Sakhi Maidan Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		0.99	200	1980	30 days			
15	Construction of P/Work/R/Wall/C/Wall Graveyard Nr. Yusuf Barwal Dama W.No.2 Pyl. Khanater Duprian Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.48	200	2960	30 days			
16	Construction of P/Work/R/Wall/C/Wall H/o Khurshid Barwal and others Pyl. Khanater Duprian Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.62	200	3640	30 days			
17	Water Tank Moh. Milawa Dala Pyl. Khanater Duprian Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
18	Protection Wall Near Graveyard W.No 5 Pyl. Khanater Duprian Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.98	200	3960	30 days			
19	Protection Wall Near Graveyard Nr. M/S W.No. 1 Pyl. Khanater Duprian Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.98	200	3960	30 days			
20	Water Tank Moh. Bata Wali Pyl. Khanater kalsan Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
21	Toilet Bathroom Near Masjid Handi W.No.6 Pyl. Khanater kalsan Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
22	Water Storage Tank Chahan Lower Muree Pyl. Khanater Bela Chowana Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
23	Tractor Road W.No.6 Moh. Mohra Pyl. Khanater Duprian Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
24	Water Storage Tank Chahan Khatore W.No. 5 Pyl. Khanater Bela Chowana Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2024-25 3 <sup>rd</sup> call		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
<b>Under SSY</b>									
25	RCC Culvert W.No.01 Moh. Farozalan Pyl. Nar Block Balakote Under SSY Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
<b>Under SBM</b>									
26	Construction of CSC Nr. Masjid Asha Beera W.No. 6 Pyl. Jhullas Upper Block Poonch Under SBM Year 2024-25 1 <sup>st</sup> call	3.00	200	6000	30 days				
27	Construction of CSC Nr. Masjid Moh. Ahmdia Pyl. Dara Dullian Lower Block Poonch Under SBM Year 2024-25 1 <sup>st</sup> call	3.00	200	6000	30 days				
28	Construction of CSC Nr. Masjid Moh. Bakiri W.No. 6 Pyl. Dara Bagyal Block Poonch Under SBM Year 2024-25 1 <sup>st</sup> call	3.00	200	6000	30 days				
<b>Under BDC Grant</b>									
29	Construction of P/Work/R/Wall/C/Wall W.No. 01 Pyl. Gahutta Central Blok Mendhar Under BDC Grant Year 2024-25 1 <sup>st</sup> call	2.00	200	4000	30 days				
30	Construction of Culvert and Allied Works Mustafa Nagar to Peer Muti Road to Moh. Bama Mustafa Nagar Upper Pyl. Gohlad Mustafa Nagar Upper Block Mendhar Under BDC Grant Year 2024-25 1 <sup>st</sup> call	3.00	200	6000	30 days				

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in Local Panchayat works.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-12-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-12-2024 to 30-12-2024, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-12-2024 from 1800 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	30-12-2024 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (In case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	31-12-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

19. As per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/PS/M/719 dated 22-09-2020, no bidder will be allowed to withdraw his bid once he participated in the tendering process what so ever case may be.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION: -

1. Position of A.A.A : Accorded
2. Position of T.S. : Accorded
3. Position of Funds : Partially Available/Demanded

No:-XEN/REW/P/3579-89

Dated:- 24-12-2024

DIP/J-8581/24

Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing  
Poonch

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## EDITORIAL

**Dr. Manmohan Singh:  
Architect of Economic  
Transformation**

**D**r. Manmohan Singh, the 14th Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014, remains one of the most respected and significant figures in India's political and economic history. Known for his calm demeanor, intellectual acumen, and economic foresight, Dr. Singh played a pivotal role in shaping India's modern economy and positioning the nation on the global stage. He is remembered not just for his tenure as Prime Minister, but for his earlier contributions as Finance Minister, where he was the architect of the 1991 economic reforms that transformed India's economy.

Born on September 26, 1932, in the small village of Gah, in what is now Pakistan, Singh was educated at prestigious institutions both in India and abroad. He earned a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Oxford and later studied at Cambridge University. His academic background laid a strong foundation for his work in public service, where he would become one of India's most revered economists.

Dr. Singh's most significant contribution came in the early 1990s when he took on the role of Finance Minister under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. At a time when India was facing a severe economic crisis, with high inflation, a balance of payments crisis, and dwindling foreign reserves, Dr. Singh's reforms were nothing short of revolutionary. The liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, which Dr. Singh spearheaded, is often seen as the turning point that reshaped India's economic landscape.

The reforms included deregulating industries, reducing import tariffs, privatizing state-owned enterprises, and encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI). These policies opened up the Indian market to global competition and integrated India into the global economy. Dr. Singh's role was critical in persuading political leaders to embrace these difficult, yet necessary, reforms.

His policy shift laid the groundwork for sustained economic growth, ushering in an era of rapid industrialization, growth in the services sector, and increased foreign investment. Under his leadership, India's GDP grew consistently at rates above 6%, and the country's middle class began to expand, which fueled both domestic consumption and investment.

Dr. Singh's term as Prime Minister was marked by significant achievements, as well as challenges. His leadership during this period was characterized by stability, pragmatism, and a focus on economic growth, but also by challenges, particularly related to coalition politics and corruption scandals.

His tenure saw India's economy grow at an average rate of 8-9% annually, lifting millions out of poverty and making India one of the world's fastest-growing economies. The Indian economy achieved remarkable growth in sectors like information technology, telecommunications, and pharmaceuticals. The reforms he had laid the foundation for in the 1990s continued to yield fruit during his tenure.

Additionally, Dr. Singh's government focused on expanding social welfare programs, notably Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGA), which aimed to provide job security for rural families, and initiatives like the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). His government's approach combined economic liberalization with a social safety net, balancing growth with the welfare of the most vulnerable in society.

One of the most notable achievements during Dr. Singh's tenure as Prime Minister was India's nuclear deal with the United States, signed in 2008. This agreement marked a significant shift in India's global positioning, as it gained access to nuclear technology while simultaneously reaffirming its status as a major player on the world stage. The deal was hailed as a diplomatic triumph for India and a testament to Dr. Singh's diplomatic skills.

Dr. Manmohan Singh's legacy is one of a visionary economist who played an instrumental role in shaping India's modern economy. His contributions as Finance Minister in 1991, as well as his tenure as Prime Minister, transformed India into a key global economic player. His efforts in liberalizing the economy, while ensuring that the benefits of growth reached the common man, cemented his position as one of India's greatest leaders.

Dr. Singh was a man of integrity, deeply committed to public service, and dedicated to improving the lives of ordinary Indians. His humility, dedication to work, and unwavering commitment to India's progress have earned him a lasting place in the hearts of many Indians.

In remembering Dr. Manmohan Singh, we acknowledge not just his economic achievements, but also his values of humility, service, and nation-building, which continue to inspire future generations of leaders and policymakers in India.

By:- Omkar Dattatray

**I**t is apt to start this write up with the dogri quote, "Methe de Dogri ni boli Ta Khand methe Log Dogre" meaning Dogra language is so sweet and sweeter than that are the Dogras. India is a mosaic and repository of hundreds of languages and dialects and it is a country of rich cultural legacy, traditions, customs and rituals. Every language is holy and essential to communicate and express ideas. Different languages are preserved, protected and are the means of transmitting ideas and education, besides being the vehicles of interaction and communication. Dogri is one fine language which is mostly talked, written, understood and communicated in the Jammu region of the Jammu and Kashmir. It is the pleasant and most sweet language used and understood by the Dogras and other People residing in Jammu region. It is pertinent to mention that dogri language had been enlisted in the eight schedule of the constitution of India on August 18, 2003 through the 92nd Amendment Act and on 22nd December Dogri was officially added and recognized as a scheduled language. The 8th schedule of our constitution names 22 languages which are indeed some of the major languages of India to mark this multilingualism. But the constitutional recognition to dogri language had been possible only after the strenuous struggle of Dogras for the last over 70 years. Dogri Maanta Diwas or Dogri Manta Diwas is observed since 22 December 2003 every year to commemorate the inclusion of Dogri language in the Eight Schedule of the constitution of India. Various function at the government level and private level have been organized on 22nd December to commemorate the inclusion of Dogri language in the constitution of the country. LG, Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people of J&K, Dogri speaking folks of the UT in particular. The LG observed that a language is a cultural identity, heritage, and

promotion of any language needs our collective efforts. The growth and development of the culture of any linguistic group is directly related with the promotion and preservation of its language and cultural legacy and language is the distinctive identity and individuality of any community and so efforts should be made to promote, preserve and develop languages and Dogri language is no exception. On this solemn occasion of Dogri Manita Diwas, we should not only take pride in dogri language but resolve to promote, preserve and transmit it to our future generations. Let us make it a habit to talk in our mother tongue dogri and encourage children who are our future leaders to talk in dogri language. LG has said the development of any region shall also be measured with the development of local culture, literature, and language. To achieve the desired results on the ground, the government is making determined efforts for the promotion of Dogri and other local languages of J&K. He further stressed that not only government, but every stakeholder must come together for the promotion and preservation of Dogri language and heritage and must pay attention to use of local languages for the protection of the cultural identity. Pertinently, Dogri has already been included in the official languages of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Dogri Language is being taught as a elective subject at plus two level. On Dogri Maanta Diwas, a special program was organized at Shiv Sena office wherein Shiv Sainiks raised placards with slogans "No Hello, No Namaste -only Jai Duggar." While addressing the gathering, Shiv Sena, J&K President Manish Sahni stressed the need to communicate in mother tongue. On the occasion of, 20th Dogri Maanta Diwas, various organizations held special programmes to commemorate the day. In a function in this regard Nami Dogri Sanshan -NDS former deputy chief Minister Kavinder Gupta was the chief guest while senior journalist Nishikant Khajuria presided over

the event. Nidhi Dogra Sharma, Patron Dogri Samaj Trust Mumbai and daughter of the late Girdari Lal Dogra, was the guest of honor and Parveen Sharma, Chairman of the Citizens Co-operative Bank Ltd. Jammu was the special guest. Prof Anuparma Sharma, Patron NDS, Capt Lalit Sharma Convener NDS, and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, president NDS, shared the dais. On this occasion, four senior journalists, namely Surinder Sagar, Ritesh Gupta, Rajinder Kitchloo and Jangh Singh Verman were felicitated for their outstanding services in the field of journalism in general and for propagating the cause of Dogri language and culture in particular. In his address, Kavinder Gupta stressed the need to encourage all, particularly children to start speaking Dogri in their homes. Nishikant Khajuria said that new generation has started associating with Dogri and our rich heritage. Moreover functions on this day were organized by educational institutes, degree colleges, Jammu university, MVDU and other institutes where light was thrown on the importance of Dogri Maanta Diwas and the need to communicate in Dogri language and to preserve and promote dogri and Dogra culture. The biggest function to commemorate Dogri Maanta Diwas was held at Abhinav Theatre which was attended by Dr Jatindra Singh MOS, PMO, Scienc, Space technology, Personnel and Pensions etc. and a galaxy of thinkers and Dogri intellectuals and lovers of Dogri language and all stressed the need and importance of promotion, preservation and transmitting dogri to the young generation. On this occasion Dr Singh said, drawing strength from the rich Dogra legacy. He called upon the youth of the dogra community to come out of the old mindset of sarkari Naukri and take the advantage of the startup system envisioned by Prime Minister Modi and be part and parcel of a bright future and career. The MoS further said it is time now to make a mark in global world of which India has already become an essential

part after 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over. Addressing a programme organized to observe "Dogra Diwas" commemorating the inclusion of Dogri language in the Indian constitution and the "International Dogra Legacy Excellence Awards 2024" Dr Jitendra Singh said there was a rich Dogra legacy from the earlier times which has even after partition, produced some internationally acclaimed icons like the famous Space Scientist and Founder ISRO Prof Satish Dhawan and renowned singer of the Indian Sub-Continent Malika Pukhraj or musicians like Shiv Kumar Sharma and Ustad Allah Rakha, though this may not be a very widely known fact in some sections. He added while celebrating the legacy gives us inspiration and confidence, nevertheless to keep the legacy alive for posterity and prosperity. It is equally important to carry it forward to next generation and destination in today's context, would imply Dogra contribution in making of Viksit Bharat of 2047. He observed that in the last 10 years during the Modi rule, there has been the resurgence of Dogra pride and it is mainly attributable to some of the long awaited decisions taken by this government including declaring of holiday on the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, observing the Accession Day of J&K and inclusion of dogri as an official language. Exhorting Dogra community especially youth to be part of mainstream growth story of India. He said there is no dearth of talent or potential in Dogra youth but what is required is to change of mindset and liberation from the obsession for "Sarkari Naukri." Let me conclude this article with a dogri song Bhala Sipahiya Dorgariya. Jai Hind, Jai Duggar and Jai Dogri.

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

**Across cultures and ages: The beauty of unexpected friendships**

By: Vijay Garg

**T**he unexpected joy of forging meaningful friendships in middle age defies the common belief that the best opportunities for connection are behind us. Your hat is fantastic. It makes you look more Bavarian than any of us, the concierge quipped as I entered the venue for the coffee-and-cake event at a resort in southern Germany. Although he was stretching the truth — I have neither blonde hair nor blue eyes — I accepted the compliment with a coy smile. "Danke schön," I said, tipping my woolen hat. Just then, another guest remarked, "That's a pretty pin on your hat," pointing to the delicate hand-crafted Edelweiss flower. A cherished gift from my friends, Wolfgang and Amelie, the pin symbolised a friendship that began just a year ago, in this very Bavarian town of Schliersee. The Wolfgangs — a handsome, warm-hearted couple — are a testament to the unexpected joy of friend-

ships made in middle age. Our bond didn't begin with shared childhoods or decades of history but with a simple "hello" and an open heart. The modest origins of our connection and the way it blossomed over the past year defy the notion that meaningful friendships are reserved for youth. Our paths crossed serendipitously during an evening walk. A casual exchange of pleasantries evolved into deeper conversations about life, culture, and shared interests. What began as polite conversation in an Alpine countryside ended with an exchange of coordinates and it continued with texting in the months after. It is widely held that the friends we make in our formative years are the ones who stay, while those forged later in life are fleeting, superficial, or driven by necessity. This belief may hold some truth; adulthood brings with it obligations, scepticism, and wariness. We become cautious in extending ourselves. The innocence of youthful camaraderie gives way to guarded

interactions, and we convince ourselves that the window for profound friendship has closed. Yet, the Wolfgangs remind me that this window is not sealed shut — it merely takes a little more effort to open. Friendships formed in middle age are special not despite our life experiences, but because of them. We bring to these connections a deeper sense of self-awareness, empathy, and appreciation. There's no rush to impress or to conform. The pressures of youthful identity-building are gone. In their place, we find sincerity, authenticity, and the willingness to value people for who they truly are. They remind us of the universality of human warmth and curiosity. Meeting someone from another country — someone whose life, traditions, and language are different — can feel like discovering an entirely new world. And when such encounters lead to genuine friendship, they break down the invisible walls that geography and culture often build around us.

There is also a profound joy in the intentionality of these connections. In our younger years, friendships are often born of proximity — classmates, neighbours, or college roommates. As adults, friendships require deliberate effort. This intentionality infuses middle-aged friendships with a depth and resilience that can be even more rewarding than the bonds of our youth. I think back to the pin on my hat — that delicate Edelweiss — and I see it as a metaphor for these kinds of friendships. The Edelweiss, a rare Alpine flower, thrives in challenging conditions. It symbolises courage, devotion, and the willingness to climb new heights. Like the flower, friendships made in middle age might take more effort to cultivate, but they are hardy, resilient, and precious. A year after that first meeting, I found myself once again in Schliersee last month, sharing coffee and cake with the Wolfgangs, laughing over our language blunders and cultural quirks. It is never too late to make friends.

## Bali Bhagat slams Congress for deliberately excluding PoJK from India's map

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former Minister, has strongly condemned Congress for deliberately displaying a distorted map during its centenary celebrations of the 1924 Belagavi session in Karnataka. The map shown at the event outrageously depicted Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as part of Pakistan, a move that has sparked wide-

spread outrage across the nation. He called this display a serious insult to India's sovereignty and an act of treason, undermining the country's territorial integrity.

In a statement issued here today, Bali Bhagat pointed out that Congress has a long history of such actions, particularly under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, which led to India losing significant territory to China.

The exclusion of PoK from India's map further reflects the party's disregard for the nation's territorial unity. He reminded the public that Parliament has unanimously passed a resolution recognizing PoJK as an integral part of India, and such actions by Congress only serve to weaken the nation's stance on its sovereignty.

The senior BJP leader also accused Congress leaders of visiting Paki-

stan and seeking support from its leaders, a move he described as a national crime. He emphasized that these actions reflected the same divisive mindset that led to the painful partition of India in 1947. He demanded strict action against those responsible for displaying the erroneous map and called for Congress to clarify its position on India's territorial sovereignty.

In his appeal to the public, Bali Bhagat urged the people of India to remain vigilant against any attempts to undermine the country's unity and integrity. He reaffirmed the BJP's unwavering commitment to protecting India's sovereignty and ensuring that the country's territorial integrity remains intact. The BJP, he said, will continue to safeguard the nation from forces that seek to divide and weaken it.

## Baaghi urges Union Govt to restore Statehood to J&K

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: AAP Leader & Social Activist Gurmeet Singh Baaghi has strongly urged the Union Government to restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that this move would help resume democratic activities and ensure that Jammu and Kashmir gets its fair share in all aspects.

In a statement, Baaghi reminded the government of the promise made in the Parliament to restore statehood to J&K, highlighting the dissatisfaction of the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the BJP.

According to Baaghi, this dissatisfaction is one of the main reasons why the people of J&K are demanding the restoration of statehood.

Baaghi expressed concerns over the contradiction in the government's stance. While the central government has committed to restoring statehood to J&K, it has failed to take any concrete steps toward fulfilling this promise.

This, Baaghi argued, shows that the Gov-

ernment of India is not sincere about addressing the concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Baaghi also criticized the government's failure to deliver on its promise of employment for the youth.

Despite the government's frequent announcements and big statements about providing jobs, Baaghi claimed that nothing tangible has been seen on the ground, accusing the BJP of making false promises and "jumlas" that have failed to bring about any real change.

The situation, according to Baaghi, has led to the alienation and disempowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that the policies of the government have severely hampered the normal life of residents, leaving them struggling to get their grievances addressed.

Baaghi stressed the urgent need to restore statehood to win back the trust of the people and ensure that their rights and interests are respected once again.

## Batwal community expresses shock over wrestler Darshan Lal's demise

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: The Batwal community has expressed deep shock over the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Pehalwan Darshan Lal, who belonged to Sargotra clan of Batwal community and hailed from Sarora Village of Marh Block.

R.L.Kaith said, Darshan Lal was a pehlwani wrestler and strongman. Besides, he was most kind and considerate person. He would always think

about others' welfare and promote justice and fairness because he viewed everyone as a deserving and worthy human being.

Others who spoke on Darshan Lal were his elder brother Lieutenant Raj Kapur (Retd), younger brother Suraj Parkash and his very close relative Banty Lal.

Community members extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

## NMC President mourns demise of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) President Subash Shastri mourned the demise of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh and said "Nation lost a great economist in the world. As a Finance Minister and Prime Minister, he made India stand on the world platform

in terms of economy. His economic policies were pro employees and constitution of 7th pay commission was the example of that. His contributions to the nation will be remembered for long. His life is an example for future generations regarding how can we rise above struggles and achieve greater heights"

## IIM Jammu, Yes Bank forge partnership to Boost Innovation and Entrepreneurship in J&K



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and Yes Bank have entered into a strategic partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27th Dec 2024 at The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development (CEISD), Jagti Campus.

This collaboration aims to foster a vibrant ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship, emphasizing areas such as agribusiness, IT/ITeS, sustainability, and urban technology.

The MoU was signed in the presence of key representatives from both organizations, including Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson, Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu (Jammu Campus), Er. Ankush

Varma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu, (Srinagar Campus) Shri Rajat Sood, Regional Segment Head, Government Banking, YES BANK, Jagdeep Jaggi, AVP, Govt. Banking, Yes Bank, Sumer Pachnanda, Senior Manager, Government Banking, YES BANK. The MoU sets the stage for comprehensive collaboration between the two institutions.

The agreement focuses on promoting entrepreneurial activities, knowledge exchange, and curated banking solutions for startups incubated at IIM Jammu.

This partnership between IIM Jammu and YES BANK aims to drive innovation and foster a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The MoU focuses on key areas of collaboration, including knowledge advisory support for preparing feasibility and detailed project reports to establish or upgrade incubation centers and laboratories, with the goal of secur-

ing government funding and support.

YES BANK will also provide mentorship and advisory support to startups incubated at IIM Jammu, conducting workshops and sessions tailored to various entrepreneurial domains.

Additionally, the partnership emphasizes ecosystem connect and outreach by assisting in validating potential use cases and market linkages for innovative ideas and technologies.

It also includes the organization of knowledge sessions on mutually agreed topics to strengthen the innovation ecosystem.

The MoU further outlines curated banking and digital product offerings, enabling YES BANK to evaluate and support startups with transaction and digital banking products, enhancing their financial capabilities and promoting growth. This partnership signifies a joint effort to drive innovation and create a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

## BJP Mahila District President Kishtwar inaugurates Amritsari Naan Kulcha Stall



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 27: BJP Mahila District President Kishtwar, Anjali Singh Chauhan, along with District Spokesperson Seema Bhagat and the Mahila Morcha team, inaugurated the newly opened Amritsari Naan Kulcha Stall near Boy's Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar. The stall, which has been started by Vineet Thakur, is a new addition to Kishtwar's local food scene and aims to provide quality food

while creating employment opportunities for local youth.

The event was attended by several prominent women leaders from the BJP, who came to show their support and celebrate this entrepreneurial initiative. Vineet Thakur was appreciated by the team for his efforts, and he was congratulated for this significant venture.

While interacting with the media, Anjali Singh Chauhan expressed her admiration for the youth like Vineet Thakur, call-

ing them role models for others.

She highlighted that these young entrepreneurs not only start their own businesses but also create job opportunities for others, thus contributing to the community's economic growth.

She urged other youth to take inspiration from such initiatives, avoid the negative influence of drugs and smoking, and focus on self-employment to build both wealth and respect in society.

Anjali Singh Chauhan also emphasized the importance of youth-driven initiatives in strengthening the local economy and creating a positive impact on society.

## Uday Bhanu Chib pays tributes to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

### Top News Report

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Dec 27: Uday Bhanu Chib, National President of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), today paid his heartfelt tributes to the former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, at his residence.

During his visit, Uday Chib recalled the immense contributions of Dr. Manmohan Singh

to the Congress party and the nation.

He highlighted Dr. Singh's legacy as a visionary leader, his significant role in steering India's economic reforms, and his unwavering commitment to national progress and unity.

Chib expressed his deep respect for the former Prime Minister, acknowledging his

integrity, wisdom, and dedication to public service.

"Dr. Manmohan Singh was not just a leader but a true statesman whose work continues to inspire us," he added.

The IYC President further extended condolences to Dr. Singh's family, recognizing his pivotal role in shaping India's growth trajectory over the years.

## LFO-BHF & Talla Jewellers organizes Blood Donation Camp at SMGS Hospital



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), in collaboration with Talla Jewellers, successfully organized a Blood Donation Camp at SMGS Hospital, Jammu. The camp aimed to support thalassaemia-affected children, emphasizing the importance of saving lives through blood donations.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 40 volunteers, with 16 units of blood

collected. This contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of children battling thalassaemia.

On speaking with Kashish Gupta, CEO of Talla Jewellers, she said, "We are honored to collaborate with LFO-BHF for such a noble cause. Every drop of blood donated today will help give hope and life to a child in need."

Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO of LFO-BHF, stated, "This camp is a testament to the power of community action.

We are grateful to all the donors and volunteers who came forward to support this life-saving initiative and appreciated Sahil Kumar the activity incharge for successful completion of the camp"

Following the blood donation camp, LFO-BHF and Talla Jewellers also organized a Christmas Celebration at SMGS Hospital, Jammu.

The event brought joy to thalassaemia-affected children through the distribution of toys and eatables, along with fun activities that created memorable moments for these brave young warriors.

The members present at the blood donation camp included Abhinandan Sharma, Navya, Shubam, Karan, Radhika, Manvi, Dhruv, and many more.

## Divisional level capacity building workshop for FLOs on KS Documentation held

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: One-day Divisional level capacity-building workshop for Field Level Officers (FLOs) HADP, of the Jammu Division was held today at Baba Jitto, Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The workshop focused on enhancing the skills of the officers in audiovisual fieldwork documentation of achievements and the KS Documentation and Output Tracking App. This initiative aims to streamline documentation and tracking of agricultural progress and successes under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the region.

The programme was presided over by the Director Agriculture



Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, who emphasized the importance of efficient documentation and real-time tracking of agricultural activities to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective policy implementation.

In his address, the Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, highlighted the

role of technology in modernizing agricultural practices and the need for officers to be well-versed in the latest tools for documenting achievements and outputs.

He noted that the KS Documentation and Output Tracking App will empower officers to effectively capture and showcase the progress

of various agricultural schemes and initiatives in the Jammu Division.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Satish Sharma, also addressed the gathering, underlining the significance of capacity building for the officers.

He encouraged the participants to make the most of the training and adopt innovative prac-

tices in the field to bring about transformative changes in the agricultural sector.

Sandeep Dogra, SMS/ KS Documentation Member gave a detailed presentation on the KS Documentation and Output Tracking App, explaining its features, functionalities, and how it can enhance documentation efficiency and accuracy. He highlighted how the app supports tracking of agricultural activities, ensuring that progress is documented and monitored in real-time.

Nipun Sharma and Adikansh Sharma, Technical Experts, also gave an in-depth presentation and conducted a hands-on workshop on audiovisual documentation, providing participants

with practical skills for capturing field-based achievements through video and audio media.

The programme was attended by Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Deputy Director Central, Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, Agriculture Chemist, Alok Pandotra, Deputy Director Trainings, Jograj Singh, Agriculture Economist and Dharmesh Vaid, SMS-DL.

As a culmination of the workshop, certificates were presented to the participants by the Director Agriculture Jammu, recognizing their participation and successful completion of the training session. Rajeev katoch, Programme Officer conducted the proceedings of the programme.

## Manmohan Singh dies: Kapil Sharma, Kamal Haasan, Madhuri Dixit, Diljit Dosanjh pay heartfelt tributes

Several Bollywood celebrities shared heartfelt condolences for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who died at the age of 92 on Thursday. AIIMS New Delhi announced that he breathed his last on Thursday night, succumbing to age-related ailments.

Bollywood pays tribute Taking to X, actor-comedian Kapil Sharma shared a throwback picture from one of his meetings with Manmohan Singh. "India has lost one of its finest leaders today. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms and a symbol of integrity and humility, leaves behind a legacy of progress and hope. His wisdom, dedication, and vision transformed our nation. Rest in peace, Dr. Singh. Your contributions will never be forgotten," he wrote in the caption.

Tamil actor-director Kamal Haasan also shared a picture of Manmohan Singh on his X handle and wrote, "India has lost one of its most eminent statesmen and scholars. The passing of Dr. Manmohan



Singh marks the end of an era in Indian polity. A man of quiet dignity, he reshaped the nation through his visionary economic and social policies. Few have influenced the nation's trajectory with such far-reaching impact. His policies, both as Finance Minister and Prime Minister, empowered millions, strengthening the fabric of Indian democracy and uplifting the most vulnerable. His governance was marked by a deep commitment to inclusivity and social justice, ensuring that India's progress reached every corner of society. His legacy will endure in the annals of Indian history, forever remembered as a leader who quietly but profoundly changed the course of

the nation. My sincerest condolences to his family and to the nation on the loss of one of its finest sons."

Madhuri Dixit also shared a picture of Manmohan Singh on her Instagram Stories along with a note stating, "Dr. Manmohan Singh's journey and service to the nation reflect true wisdom and grace. His leadership reminds us that quiet determination can move mountains. A remarkable leader and an even more remarkable human being. My deepest condolences to his family and countless loved ones. Om Shanti."

Actor Sunny Deol, too, paid his heartfelt condolences over the death of Manmohan Singh. In an Instagram Story, he remembered Manmo-

han Singh with a picture of the former prime minister and acknowledging him as a "visionary leader."

"I'm deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Manmohan Singh, a visionary leader who played a pivotal role in shaping India's economic liberalization. His wisdom, integrity & contributions to the nation's growth will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences. #RIPDr ManmohanSingh," Sunny wrote.

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh shared a picture of Manmohan Singh on his Instagram Stories as well, along with the caption, "Oh Waheguru (folded hands emoji)."

Swara Bhasker also shared a picture on X

of Manmohan Singh presenting an honour to Swara, who is dressed in a white saree. "The demise of #ManmohanSingh ji who (looking back) presided over India's actual 'Acchey Din' feels like the end of an era when India was actually (more) democratic, when Indians were free(er) of fear & intolerance and when Indian public discourse had more decency. Farewell Dr. Singh. You gave India more than you got credit for. (blue heart and folded hands emojis)."

More about Manmohan Singh

Singh retired from Rajya Sabha earlier this year after serving for 33 years in the house. Manmohan Singh, born in Punjab in 1932, served two terms as Prime Minister of India – from 2004 to 2014.

He took the oath of office for the first time in 2004, after Congress' win in 2004 Lok Sabha election against Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA. He served his second term from 2009 to 2014. He was then succeeded by PM Narendra Modi in 2014.

## Diljit Dosanjh goes trekking, balances work with fun in nature's lap



Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh knows how to balance work and fun. The actor-singer, who has been winning hearts owing to his Dil-Luminati Tour, went on trekking.

Recently, he took to his Instagram and shared pictures and videos from his trekking. In the pictures and the videos, the actor-singer can be seen having a gala time.

He wrote in the caption, "Let's Go".

Earlier, Diljit addressed the "conspiracy" that has been alleged against him over the spelling of the Indian state of

Punjab. The actor-singer took to his X, formerly Twitter, and spoke about the same. He penned a long note in which he also spoke about how English is a very tricky language, and can particularly cause trouble to those whose first language is not English.

He wrote, "Punjab. If I mistakenly didn't put up India's flag after writing 'Panjab' in a tweet then it becomes a conspiracy. In a tweet from Bengaluru, I forgot to mention the Indian flag after writing 'Panjab', it became a conspiracy".

He further mentioned, "If you write 'Panjab'

instead of 'Punjab', it will remain 'Panjab'. Panj Aab - 5 Rivers. Bravo, those who create conspiracy around the usage in a language of the Englishmen. You know what, I will write 'Panjab'. How many times do we prove that we LOVE INDIA. Bring something new, or is creating conspiracy is what you get paid for? #Vehley".

Prior to that, the actor-singer declared that he won't organise live shows in India until the concert infrastructure in the country is sorted so that it makes it worthwhile for the attendees as well. Several clips of the actor-singer have gone viral on social media in which he could be seen talking about the need to improve the infrastructure for live shows in India.

Meanwhile, Diljit is set to conclude the India leg of Dil-Luminati tour in Ludhiana on December 31. The singer announced the new show on Monday through his Facebook account.

## Folk notes combine with contemporary music in Gippy Grewal's song Jutti Kasuri

Celebrating India's rich and diverse musical heritage with a series of regionally inspired releases, Tips Music Limited and Legacy Collective have joined forces to launch a ground-breaking cross-cultural project titled Legacy Collective Roots.

The project features four carefully selected folk songs from Punjab, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, each highlighting the unique musical heritage of the region. These traditional tracks have been reimagined with a modern sound, blending the soul of folk music with contemporary appeal, which resonates with modern audiences.

The series kicked off with the high energy Punjabi folk song Jutti Kasuri, featuring the charismatic Gippy Grewal and the talented Dhanashree Verma, and was released on December 19. The track is composed by the dynamic duo Akshay and IP Singh,



with vocals by Gippy Grewal and Rashmeet Kaur. Director Sneha Shetty Kohli has carefully crafted a song that merges traditional Punjabi musical elements with modern pop sensibilities.

Gippy, who is both starring in and singing the track, shared, "Jutti Kasuri is more than just a song—it's a celebration of Punjabi energy and spirit. We've created something that will make people dance,

smile and feel the true essence of Punjab. This track is a perfect fusion of traditional vibes and modern music that I'm sure will connect with audiences across generations." Music composers Akshay and IP added, "Our goal was to seamlessly blend traditional Punjabi linguistic nuances with a modern musical narrative, ensuring that the track's playful spirit connects with a wide range of listeners."

## Meet the celebs who aced their fashion game on the global stage

A dreamy saree with intricate flowers, a vintage watch for chocker...2024 saw some enthralling fashion statements. Right from seasoned fashionistas like Jennifer Lopez to social media influencer Nancy Tayagi, the red carpet looks around the world were an eclectic mix of sheer and volume, silver and gold to classic black and white, with a dash of powder pink! Here's are some of the iconic looks from year coming to close.

Alia shines at Met Gala

The biggest fashion night of 2024, Met Gala, was aced by our very own Alia Bhatt, who trumped the Garden of Time theme. Her pastel green saree by Indian couturier Sabiyasachi was stunningly layered with intricate floral details, beaded elements and a 23-foot train! Adorned with a maang tikka, she won the world with her winsome smile.

Priyanka, Nick rock Trust Priyanka Chopra to always bring her best fashion game



forward. Amongst the many memorable looks through the year, it was her recent appearance at the Red Sea Film Festival with her husband Nick Jonas in tow. Her Oscar De La Renta strapless hourglass silver gown, with an intricately folded rose, wowed the fashion police. The gown accentuated Priyanka's stunning figure, while Nick looked dapper in a tuxedo.

Lopez brings pink to the party Jennifer Lopez has

been a delight on the red carpet for so long and she continued her streak in 2024 as well. Her Golden Globe Awards' look was refreshing in her favourite colour — pink. The Nicole+Felicia custom-made gown, with corseted bodice and a long train, was adorned with giant roses, and accessorised with large pink morganites on the ears and hand from Boucheron jewels.

Jessica's silver dream At the Vanity Fair Oscar party, Jessica

Alba pulled a silver dream in a Tamara Ralph metallic sequin gown with off-the-shoulder sleeves. The rosette buds along the plunging neckline and silhouette were the mainstay of her voluptuous look, accessorised with a champagne-coloured clutch.

Nancy creates history India had its shining moment on the world stage when fashion influencer Nancy Tyagi showed up at Cannes Film Festival in a pink ruffled floor-length dress. She created the

voluminous gown from scratch, using 1,000 metres of fabric in 30 days. Nancy created history of sorts where a self-styled social media influencer rubbed shoulders with the who's who of the fashion world in her 20-kg dreamy gown.

Swift weaves midnight magic

Taylor Swift won 2024's biggest music night, the Grammys, in a show-stopping black-and-white strapless Schiaparelli gown with a high-high slit. Black opera gloves, accessorised with custom-made Lorraine Schwartz vintage watch turned into a choker, Swift carried 300 carats of Lorraine Schwartz diamonds in six chains on her necklace, each an ode to music.

Paris shimmers Paris Hilton's bejeweled look at the Vanity Fair Oscars Party was something to die for. Looking ravishing in Sabina Bilenko sheer gown, with stunning gloves and shimmery trail, her choker stunned too.

## Salman Khan's bodyguard Shera excited to celebrate 59th birthday of his 'maalik'

Salman Khan is busy celebrating his 59th birthday today on December 27. In order to mark the occasion, his loyal bodyguard of several years – Shera – shared a picture with the actor to wish him.

Shera's picture with Salman Shera took to his Instagram handle on Thursday late night and shared a picture with Salman from the actor's midnight celebration. Salman looked dapper in a black T-shirt and a brown jacket. Shera stood next to him, with his arm on Salman's shoulder. Shera captioned the post, "Mere MAALIK ka birthday

hai (It's my boss' birthday) (celebration emoji) love MAALIK (red heart emoji)." He also added the hashtags – Happy birthday, birthday, blessed, Shera, and maalik.

The midnight birthday celebration of Salman Khan was attended by his close friends and family members. His brothers – actors Arbaaz Khan and Sohail Khan – were seen arriving in their respective cars. Arbaaz was accompanied by his wife, makeup artiste Sshura Khan. The two celebrated their first wedding anniversary recently.

Music composer Sajid Khan of Sajid-Wajid



fame took to his Instagram handle to share an inside glimpse of Salman's birthday celebration. In the video, Salman can be seen cutting his birthday cake along with his niece Ayat, the daughter of his sister Arpita Khan and actor Ayush Sharma.

Salman's Sikandar teaser launch postponed

On the work front, Salman will be next seen in AR Murugadoss' action thriller Sikandar. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and also starring Rashmika Mandanna, Sikandar is slated to release in cinemas next Eid.

The makers were scheduled to drop the film's teaser on the

occasion of Salman's birthday, but decided to postpone it by a day in the light of the death of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"In light of the passing of our esteemed former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Ji, we regret to announce that the release of the Sikandar teaser has been postponed to 28th December 11:07 AM. Our thoughts are with the nation during this time of mourning. Thank you for understanding. - #TeamSikandar," posted the official X handle of the production house, Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

## Amid her battle with breast cancer, Hina Khan makes a comeback with Grihalaxmi



Popular TV actress Hina Khan, who is cur-

rently fighting breast cancer, is making a

powerful return to the screen with Grihalaxmi. Despite her ongoing battle with cancer, the actress has decided to keep moving forward. The upcoming gripping drama, centered on power and survival, also stars Chunky Pandey, Rahul Dev and Dibyendu Bhattacharya. The makers of the show have unveiled its teaser. Grihalaxmi tells a compelling story of resilience and will stream on Epic On. On June 28, Hina Khan confirmed that she had been diagnosed with stage three breast cancer.

## President Droupadi Murmu pays last respects to former PM Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday paid her last respects to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his residence in Delhi. During her visit, she offered condolences to his family members.

In her condolence message, President Murmu said, "Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh Ji was one of those rare politicians who also straddled the worlds of academia and administration with equal ease. In his various roles in public offices, he made critical contributions to reforming Indian economy. He will always be remembered for his service to the nation, his unblemished political life and his utmost humility. His passing is a great loss to all of us. I pay my respectful homage to one of the greatest sons of Bharat and convey my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and admirers."

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar and his wife, the second lady of India, Sudesh Dhankar on Friday paid their final respects to the former Prime Minister. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi also paid their final respects to the former PM who died on Thursday night in AIIMS, Delhi.



In his condolence message the Vice President said, "Deeply pained to learn about the passing of Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, former Prime Minister and a distinguished economist who transformed India's economic landscape. A Padma Vibhushan awardee and architect of India's economic liberalisation in 1991, he boldly steered our nation through a critical transition, opening new pathways for growth and prosperity. As the Vice-President of India, I had the privilege to engage in meaningful, insightful interactions with Dr. Singh at his residence. His profound understanding of economy, gentle demeanor and unwavering commitment to India's progress will forever be etched in my memory."

Singh, renowned for introduc-

ing the 1991 economic liberalisation reforms as the Finance Minister of India, will be cremated near Rajghat, at the location where the last rites of Prime Ministers are performed.

Several politicians and personalities from all walks of life have been expressing their sorrow over the demise of former PM Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday night said that condoled the demise of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh saying that India mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished leaders.

Manmohan Singh passed away at AIIMS, Delhi, on Thursday evening at the age of 92 due to age-related medical conditions. He had a sudden loss of consciousness at home after which he was rushed to

the AIIMS Delhi.

Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932. Apart from being an economist, Manmohan Singh served as Reserve Bank of India governor from 1982-1985. He was the 13th PM of India with his tenure from 2004-2014 and was the longest-serving PM after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

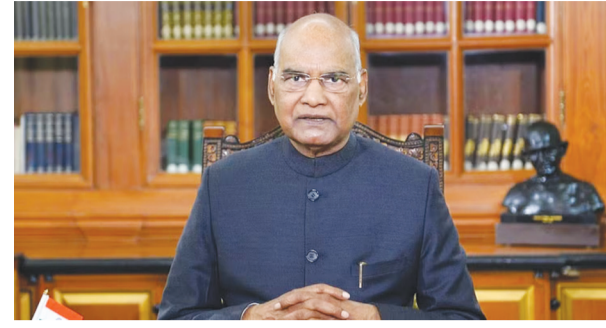
Serving as the finance minister of India in PV Narasimha Rao's government, Singh has been given credit for economic liberalisation in the country in 1991. The reforms made the Indian economy more accessible to foreign investors, which increased FDI and reduced government control. It greatly contributed to the country's economic growth.

Manmohan Singh's government also introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which later came to be known as MGNREGA.

The Right to Information Act (RTI) was passed in 2005 under the Manmohan Singh government, which made the transparency of information between the government and the public better.

He retired from the Rajya Sabha earlier this year after serving for 33 years.

## Manmohan Singh gave new direction to country's economy: Ram Nath Kovind



KOLKATA, Dec 27 (Agencies): Former President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday paid glowing tributes to former prime minister Manmohan Singh, saying that he took over the reins as Union finance minister at a time when the country faced a crisis on the economic front.

Describing the death of Dr Singh as his personal loss, Mr Kovind said at a programme in

the city that Dr Singh embodied humility and humbleness.

"Never heard an offensive, unparliamentary word from him," Mr Kovind said.

Dr Singh gave a new direction in the economy to the country and steered the country at a critical juncture, Mr Kovind said, adding that "Manmohan Singh will be remembered as 'adhunik nirmata sudharak' (modern reform-

er who built up the economy)." Dr Singh took over the helms at a crucial time for Indian economy and steered the nation on the economic front, Mr Kovind said.

Stating that for him it was a personal loss no less than losing a near and dear one, Mr Kovind said he has many memories to cherish about Dr Singh.

Mr Kovind described Dr Singh "as a confluence of spirituality and science," who embodied the values and ethos of Bharat.

Dr Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, died in Delhi on Thursday night at the age of 92. He was the prime minister during 2004-14.

## Manmohan Singh's Reforms Inspired Countless Young Economists: Gita Gopinath

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Agencies): Condolence messages from economists mourning the death of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh poured in on Friday, with IMF Deputy Director Gita Gopinath stating that the economic reforms he ushered in as finance minister in 1991 had inspired countless young economists like her.

"Dr. Manmohan Singh's 1991 budget unshackled India's economy, significantly enhancing the economic prospects for hundreds of millions of Indians. His visionary reforms inspired countless young economists like me. Rest in peace, Dr. Manmohan Singh," Gita Gopinath said on X.

Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), said that his generation of Indians was the creation of the economic reforms introduced by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Rao



in 1991.

"As I have said before, the two most significant years of the twentieth century for India were 1947 and 1991 -- one brought political freedom and the other economic freedom. Manmohan Singh will always be remembered for announcing the Great Liberalisation..." Sanyal said.

Condolence messages also came in from industrialists for the former Prime Minister and former finance minister who had played a key role in opening up the Indian economy and breaking away from the erstwhile licence-permit raj that had shackled industry.

JSW Group chairman and MD, Sajjan Jindal,

said; "Saddened by the passing of Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, former Prime Minister of India and the visionary leader behind India's economic liberalisation. A statesman of humility and wisdom-India owes him a debt of gratitude."

The US-India Business Council expressed deep condolences following the passing of Dr Singh, highlighting his significant contributions to strengthening the relationship between the United States and India.

USIBC praised Dr Singh for his pivotal role in the 2008 Civil Nuclear Agreement between the two countries and economic reforms that shaped modern bilateral ties.

## Supreme Court slams Punjab govt for ignoring its medical aid order for farmer leader Dallewal

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday expressed concern over the life and safety of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on an indefinite hunger strike, and directed the Punjab government to take all measures to ensure that he was given medical aid.

A vacation bench of Justice Surya Kant and

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia issued a notice to the Punjab government on a contempt petition against its chief secretary for non-compliance with a top court order regarding medical aid to Dallewal.

"If there is a law and order situation, you have to deal with it with iron hands.

Somebody's life is at stake. You need to take

it seriously. Medical aid has to be given and the impression is that you are not following it," the bench said.

The apex court directed the state government to file a compliance report by Saturday when it would again hear the matter.

Dallewal has been on an indefinite fast at the Khanauri border point since November



26 to press the Centre to accept the farmers' demands, including a

legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops.

## Man who set himself on fire near Parliament, dies during treatment

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Agencies): A 26-year-old man who set himself on fire near the Parliament on Dec 25 died during treatment at RML hospital here on Friday, officials said.

On Wednesday, Jitendra from Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat tried to immolate himself near the new Parliament building after pouring a petrol-like substance on his body.

The fire was extinguished with the help of

security personnel deployed near the parliament.

He was then taken to RML hospital and admitted to the burn wards.

According to initial investigations, the man took the extreme step due to a dispute with some people back home in Baghpat.

His family has been facing two cases of assault with another family in their village due to which he was upset, police said.

According to the hospital authorities, he suffered 95 per cent of burn injuries and expired at 2.23 am on Friday.

The cause of death was burn shock due to inhalational burns, resulting from 95 per cent of second-degree deep dermal burns, the authorities stated.

A police officer said that Jitendra's body had been handed over to his family after the post-mortem.

## Surat man kills wife and son, attacks parents before bid to end his life



SURAT, Dec 27 (Agencies): A 34-year-old man stabbed his wife and son to death, attacked his parents and tried to end his own life using a knife over a domestic issue in Surat city of Gujarat on Friday, police said.

As per the preliminary probe, the man - Smit Jivani - was disturbed after the family of his uncle, who passed away recently, cut off ties with his family and asked him never to visit their house, Deputy Superintendent of Police Vipul Patel said.

Jivani stabbed his wife Hiral (30), son Chahat (4), mother Vilasben and father Labhubhai at their residence in Sarthana area of Surat city on Friday morning, said Patel.

"After attacking his family members with a knife, Jivani tried to end his own life by slitting his neck. While Hiral and Chahat died in the attack, Jivani and his parents were injured and the three of them are undergoing treatment at a hospital here," he said.

"We have found that Jivani was mentally disturbed after the family of his deceased uncle snapped ties and asked him and his family not to visit their house," the DySP said, adding that a thorough probe will be conducted to know the exact reason behind the incident.

## Naqvi warns against 'pseudo-secular syndicate' subverting 'sanatan sanskar'

PRAYAGRAJ, Dec 27 (Agencies): BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi here on Friday warned against a "syndicate" subverting the "sanatan sanskar and culture."

He said there is a "pseudo-secular syndicate" that is always trying to take a "political ride on a communal riot."

The former Union minister made the remarks while addressing a press conference during his three-day visit to Prayagraj.

Naqvi said, "Prime Minister Shri Narendra



Modi has demolished the deceit of communal polarisation with the commitment to all-embracing empowerment. Modi has strengthened the pride

and prestige of Bharat even amid the turmoil across the world."

He added, "Those who were trying to tarnish Bharat's image have been defeated. Every

citizen of Bharat feels proud that the entire world is looking at Modi Ji as a 'trouble-shooter' during the global crisis."

On the detractors of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his ways of dealing with criminals, Naqvi said the UP government is committed to security and harmony by cracking down on rioters and anarchists.

These "Samanti Sultans," who cry over action against muscle-men and rioters, are unable to digest this fact, he added.

## Three of family killed in road accident in UP's Bijnor

BIJNOR, Dec 27 (Agencies): Three members of a family were killed in a road accident at Bijnor on Thursday after a van rammed the motorcycle

they were travelling on, police said on Friday.

The deceased were identified as Ravindra (35), his wife Sheetal (30) and their daughter Ayushi. They were trav-

elling on a motorcycle from Kiratpur to Bijnor going to get medicine for Ayushi who was unwell, police said.

"The van's tire burst near the village of Budh-

pur Nain Singh, causing the vehicle to lose control and collide with the bike," Station House Officer (SHO) of Kiratpur, Rakesh Kumar, said.

## 2 dead, many injured after bus falls off bridge into drain in Punjab's Bathinda



BATHINDA, Dec 27 (Agencies): At least two people died, and several others were injured after a bus fell into a drain in Punjab's Bathinda on Friday.

The accident happened on Kot Shamir Road in Bathinda, when the bus fell into the drain while crossing a bridge.

Rescue personnel are

present at the spot and are carrying out rescue operations.

Recently, four people died and over 24 were injured after a bus fell into a gorge near Uttarakhand's Bhimtal town on Wednesday (December 25). The bus, headed to Haldwani from Almora, lost control and fell into a 1,500-ft deep gorge near Bhimtal.

## UK honours legacy of India's 'reluctant prime minister' Manmohan Singh

In January 2023, Singh was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by National Indian Students and Alumni Union in the UK

LONDON, Dec 27 (Agencies): India's "reluctant prime minister" and the "architect of economic reforms" is how sections of the UK media have been honouring the legacy of Dr Manmohan Singh, the former prime minister who passed away aged 92 in New Delhi on Thursday.

British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron took to social media to pay tribute to "a great Prime Minister, Finance Minister and global statesman who advanced India's interests through bold economic reforms and played a key role in putting India in its rightful place on the world stage and stabilising the global economy after the financial crisis".

"The UK will always be proud of his invaluable partnership with three UK Prime Ministers, and proud of him as an alumnus of two of our great universities. My thoughts and wishes are with his family and the people of India," she said. Singh's tenure overlapped with Labour prime ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown and Conservative David Cameron, who later wrote in his memoir that he "got on well" with this "saintly man" who was robust on the threats India faced.

"On a later visit he told me that another terrorist attack like that in Mumbai in July 2011, and



India would have to take military action against Pakistan," notes the former UK PM in 'For the Record', published in 2019.

Manoj Ladwa, founder and chairman of UK-based policy and events platform India Global Forum, described the former PM as a "towering statesman and visionary economist".

"His transformative reforms in the 1990s not only shaped India's future but also helped spark my own commitment to fostering stronger UK-India ties. As an alumnus of Oxford and Cambridge, he symbolised the deep cultural and academic connections between our nations. His legacy will inspire generations," he said.

The Guardian newspaper referenced Singh's "trademark sky-blue turbans and homespun white kurta pyjamas" in its

obituary.

"Singh, called India's 'reluctant prime minister' due to his shyness and preference for being behind the scenes, was considered an unlikely choice to lead the world's biggest democracy. But when Congress leader Sonia Gandhi led her party to a surprise victory in 2004, she turned to Singh to be prime minister," the newspaper notes.

"He served a rare full two terms as prime minister in India's tumultuous politics and is credited with spurring the rapid economic growth that lifted tens of millions of Indians from poverty," it adds.

The BBC, in its obituary, hailed Singh as one of India's longest-serving prime ministers who was considered the "architect of key liberalising economic reforms, as premier from 2004-2014 and

before that as finance minister".

"In his maiden speech as finance minister he famously quoted Victor Hugo, saying that 'no power on Earth can stop an idea whose time has come'.

That served as a launchpad for an ambitious and unprecedented economic reform programme: he cut taxes, devalued the rupee, privatised state-run companies and encouraged foreign investment. The economy revived, industry picked up, inflation was checked and growth rates remained consistently high in the 1990s," reads the report.

In January 2023, Singh was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union in the UK during their annual India-UK Achievers Honours in London.

"The India-UK relationship is indeed especially defined by our educational partnership. The founding fathers of our nation, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr BR Ambedkar and Sardar Patel, studied in the UK and went on to become great leaders, leaving a legacy which continues to inspire India and the world. Over the years, countless Indian students have had the opportunity to study in the UK," Singh said in his acceptance message at the time.

## North Korean soldier captured in Russia-Ukraine war: Seoul

SEOUL, Dec 27 (Agencies): South Korea's spy agency said Friday it had confirmed that a North Korean soldier sent to back Russia's war against Ukraine had been captured by Ukrainian forces.

Pyongyang has deployed thousands of troops to reinforce Russia's military, including in the Kursk border region where Ukraine mounted a shock border incursion in August.

"Through real-time information sharing with an allied country's intelligence agency, it has been confirmed that one injured North Korean soldier has been captured," South Korea's National Intelligence Service said in a statement.

The soldier was captured by the Ukrainian army, a South Korean intelligence source told agency, adding that the location where he was seized was not known.

Friday's confirmation came days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that nearly 3,000 North Korean soldiers had been "killed or wounded" so far as they joined Russian troops in combat.

South Korea's intelligence service had previously put the number of killed or wounded

North Koreans at 1,000, saying the high casualty rate could be down to an unfamiliar battlefield environment and their lack of capability to counter drone attacks.

Pyongyang's soldiers were also being "utilised as expendable frontline assault units", lawmaker Lee Seong-kweon said, speaking last week after a briefing by South Korea's spy agency.

Dangerous expansion North Korea and Russia have strengthened their military ties since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

A landmark defence pact between Pyongyang and Moscow signed in June came into force this month, with Russian President Vladimir Putin hailing it as a "breakthrough document".

North Korean state media said Friday that Putin sent a New Year's message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying "the bilateral ties between our two countries have been elevated after our talks in June in Pyongyang".

Ukraine's allies have called Pyongyang's growing involvement in Russia's war in Ukraine a "dangerous expansion" of the conflict.

Seoul's military believes that North Korea was seeking to modernise its conventional warfare capabilities through combat experience gained in the Russia-Ukraine war.

NATO chief Mark Rutte had also said that Moscow was providing support to Pyongyang's missile and nuclear programmes in exchange for the rotation or additional deployment of soldiers" and supplying "240mm rocket launchers and 170mm self-propelled artillery" to the Russian army.

Pyongyang's involvement in Russia's war against Ukraine had prompted warnings from Seoul.

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol, currently suspended, said in November that Seoul was "not ruling out the possibility of providing weapons" to Ukraine, which would mark a major shift to a long-standing policy barring the sale of weapons to countries in active conflict.

## Japan's 'Black Widow' death row inmate, Chisako Kakehi, dies

Chisako Kakehi was sentenced to death for the murder of three men, including her husband, and the attempted murder of another man.

TOKYO, Dec 27 (Agencies): A Japanese death-row inmate, dubbed the "Black Widow" after she used cyanide to kill her elderly lovers, has died in a detention centre at age 78, officials said on Friday.

Chisako Kakehi was sentenced to death for the murder of three men, including her husband, and the attempted murder of another man about a decade ago in a case that gripped Japan.

"Her death was confirmed at a hospital on Thursday" after she was found lying in her cell at the Osaka detention centre, a justice ministry official told AFP.

The cause of death has yet to be determined, he said. Japanese media said it could be from an undisclosed illness.

Kakehi's death sentence was upheld in 2021, with Supreme Court judge Yuko Miyazaki saying she had "used cyanide on the men after making them trust her as a life



partner".

"It's a calculated, cruel crime based on a strong intent of murder," Miyazaki said.

Kakehi reportedly amassed one billion yen (\$9 million at the time) in insurance payouts and inheritance over 10 years but subsequently lost most of the money through unsuccessful financial trading.

She had relationships primarily with elderly or ill men and met some through dating agencies, where she reportedly stipulated that prospective partners should be wealthy and childless.

The poison was found in the body of at least two of the men she was involved with and police reportedly found traces of cyanide in the rubbish at her Kyoto home.

Her partners' deaths were not investigated immediately because police initially determined they died from illnesses, with no autopsies being performed on most.

Her arrest only came after police discovered her most recent husband, 75-year-old Isao Kakehi, died from cyanide poisoning. Police then began looking into the earlier cases and found a pattern.

## Climate change added 41 days of dangerous heat around world in 2024

WASHINGTON, Dec 27 (Agencies): People around the world suffered an average of 41 extra days of dangerous heat this year because of human-caused climate change, according to a group of scientists who also said that climate change worsened much of the world's damaging weather throughout 2024.

The analysis from World Weather Attribution and Climate Central researchers comes at the end of a year that shattered climate record after climate record as heat across the globe made 2024 likely to be its hottest ever measured and a slew of other fatal weather events spared few.

"The finding is devastating but utterly unsurprising: Climate change did play a role, and often a major role in most of the events we studied, making heat, droughts, tropical cyclones and heavy rainfall more likely and more intense across the world, destroying lives and livelihoods of millions and often uncounted numbers of people," Friederike Otto, the

lead of World Weather Attribution and an Imperial College climate scientist, said during a media briefing on the scientists' findings. "As long as the world keeps burning fossil fuels, this will only get worse."

Millions of people endured stifling heat this year. Northern California and Death Valley baked. Sizzling daytime temperatures scorched Mexico and Central America. Heat endangered already vulnerable children in West Africa. Skyrocketing southern European temperatures forced Greece to close the Acropolis. In South and Southeast Asian countries, heat forced school closures. Earth experienced some of the hottest days ever measured and its hottest-yet summer, with a 13-month heat streak that just barely broke.

To do its heat analysis, the team of volunteer international scientists compared daily temperatures around the globe in 2024 to the temperatures that would have been expected in a world without climate change.

The results are not yet peer-reviewed, but researchers use peer-reviewed methods.

Some areas saw 150 days or more of extreme heat due to climate change.

"The poorest, least developed countries on the planet are the places that are experiencing even higher numbers," said Kristina Dahl, vice president of climate science at Climate Central.

What's worse, heat-related deaths are often underreported. "People don't have to die in heat waves. But if we can't communicate convincingly, but actually a lot of people are dying; it's much harder to raise this awareness," Otto said. "Heat waves are by far the deadliest extreme event, and they are the extreme events where climate change is a real game changer."

This year was a warning that the planet is getting dangerously close to the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warming limit compared to the pre-industrial average, according to the scientists. Earth is expected

to soon edge past that threshold, although it's not considered to have been breached until that warming is sustained over decades.

The researchers closely examined 29 extreme weather events this year that killed at least 3,700 people and displaced millions, and found that 26 of them had clear links to climate change.

The El Niño weather pattern, which naturally warms the Pacific Ocean and changes weather around the world, made some of this weather more likely earlier in the year. But the researchers said most of their studies found that climate change played a bigger role than that phenomenon in fueling 2024's events. Warm ocean waters and warmer air fueled more destructive storms, according to the researchers, while temperatures led to many record-breaking downpours.

Jennifer Francis, a climate scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Cape Cod who wasn't involved in the research,

said the science and findings were sound.

"Extreme weather will continue to become more frequent, intense, destructive, costly, and deadly, until we can lower the concentration of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere," she said.

Significantly more climate extremes could be expected without action, the United Nations Environment Programme said in the fall, as more planet-warming carbon dioxide has been sent into the air this year by burning fossil fuels than last year.

But the deaths and damages from extreme weather events aren't inevitable, said Julie Arrighi, director of programmes at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and part of the research.

"Countries can reduce those impacts by preparing for climate change and adapting for climate change, and while the challenges faced by individual countries or systems or places vary around the world, we do see that every country has a role to play," she said.

## Pakistan-based LeT's deputy leader Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki dies

Makki had been keeping low profile after being sentenced in terror financing

LAHORE, Dec 27 (Agencies): Mumbai alleged mastermind Hafiz Saeed's brother-in-law and banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) deputy chief Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki died of heart attack here on Friday.

According to the JuD, Prof Abdul Rahman Makki had been ill for the past few days and was undergoing treat-

ment following high diabetes at a private hospital in Lahore.

"Makki suffered a cardiac arrest early this morning.

He breathed his last in the hospital," a JuD official said.

Abdul Rahman Makki, who is the brother-in-law of JuD chief Hafiz Saeed, was handed down six months' imprisonment in terror financ-



ing in 2020 by an anti-terrorism court.

Makki, deputy chief of JuD, had been keeping

a low profile after being sentenced in terror financing.

The Pakistan Muttahida Muslim League in a statement said that Makki was an advocate of Pakistan ideology.

In 2023, Makki was designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations, subjecting him to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

## South Korea's opposition-controlled National Assembly votes to impeach acting leader



SEOUL, Dec 27 (Agencies): South Korea's opposition-controlled National Assembly has voted to impeach the

country's acting leader, Han Duck-soo.

The assembly approved the impeachment motion in a 192-0

vote on Friday. Governing party lawmakers boycotted the vote.

Han, the No. 2 official in South Korea, has been the caretaker leader after President Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached by the assembly over his short-lived imposition of martial law earlier this month.

Han's impeachment further deepens South Korea's political crisis and damages its international image.



### Karra expresses grief over demise of Dr Manmohan Singh

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: President Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Tariq Hameed Karra has expressed deep shock over the sad demise of Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and said that country has lost a great son, it's greatest economist, a great statesman, most humble and gentleman Prime Minister.

In a condolence message, Karra said that

Dr Singh has made immense contributions to the country in different capacities especially in the field of economy, as the Finance Minister in a most difficult period and twice as Prime Minister. He brought great honour to the nation as a great economist and as a Prime Minister for ten years. He will always be remembered as a great, humble, honest and capable Prime Minister of the country.

During UPA 1 & 2 under his prime ministership, J&K received huge

financial package and economic boost and all round infrastructure development in every sphere besides major political initiative for peace and normalcy.

Meanwhile JKPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma has conveyed heartfelt condolence to the family on behalf of entire rank and file of the party & prayers for peace to the departed soul.

The party has cancelled all sorts of functions of the party during the period of mourning.

### KP community leaders raise concerns over NAFSA Form, Demand immediate redressal of long-standing issues

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: A meeting of prominent Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community social activists, both from camps and non-camp areas, was convened today at Muthi Camp, Jammu, under the leadership of senior KP leader M.K. Yogi. The meeting saw active participation from a large number of community activists who came together to discuss pressing issues faced by the community in exile.

The focal point of the meeting was the growing discontent over the mandatory filing of the NAFSA form, which has caused widespread distress within the community. In a statement issued by Shri M.K. Yogi, he highlighted the unnecessary burden placed on the already displaced and unsettled community. "The Relief Commissioner already possesses comprehensive data on migrants and relief holders. Forcing the community to file this form only adds to their discomfort and reflects a lack of sensitivity towards their current plight," Yogi said.

He urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to immediately exempt the community from filing the NAFSA form until their permanent rehabilitation in their native places in the Kashmir Valley is achieved. Other prominent speakers, including Bharat Kachroo, Ravinder Koul, Ashok Kumar Dhar, Sunil Pandita, Kuleep Kashmiri, Rakesh Kumar Suri, and Mohal Lal Raina, echoed similar sentiments. They appealed to the Union Territory (UT) administration and the Relief Commissioner to show empathy and provide relief by discontinuing the form-

filing requirement. The speakers emphasized that the temporary ration cards currently in use are sufficient until the community is permanently settled with dignity and honor.

Senior activist Vinod Pandita also addressed the gathering, highlighting several unresolved issues plaguing the Kashmiri Pandit community. He called for the creation and advertisement of 10,000 new posts for educated KP youth, enhancement of monthly relief assistance from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per month, and immediate compensation for damaged and gutted properties. Pandita also stressed the need for compensation for overaged educated youth, effective implementation of the defunct Migrant Property Act, and the urgent passage of the Temples and Shrines Bill to protect the cultural heritage of the community.

Additionally, Pandita demanded the provision of at least one government job per family to address the rising unemployment among displaced and educated KP youth. He urged the administration to act promptly and provide tangible solutions to these long-standing problems.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Vinod Pandita, who appreciated the participants for their unwavering commitment to the community's cause. The leaders resolved to continue advocating for their rights and to work collectively for the betterment of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

This gathering underscored the urgent need for the government to address the grievances of the displaced community and take concrete steps to ensure their rehabilitation and welfare.

### Kavinder expresses grief over passing of former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta expressed deep sorrow and grief over the passing of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

In his statement, Kavinder Gupta said, "Dr. Manmohan Singh was a visionary leader, known for his integrity, intellect, and dedication to the nation. His leadership during one of the most critical phases of India's economic transformation has left an indelible mark on the nation's progress. As the country's longest-serving finance minister, he played

a pivotal role in shaping the economic policies that propelled India onto the global stage."

Kavinder said, "Dr. Singh's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by his commitment to democracy, secularism, and inclusivity. His humility and statesmanship made him a respected figure, both in India and across the world. His contributions to the growth and development of the nation will always be remembered."

The former deputy Chief Minister extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

### Admission in Sainik School Nagrota to be done online

#### Top News Report

NAGROTA, Dec 27: All India Sainik School Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2025 will be conducted on 19th January 2025 by National Testing Agency (NTA). Candidates can apply online on Registration link for AISSEE-2025

https://aissee2025.nta-online.in

Process for admission into Sainik Schools has been made online for Academic Year 2025-26 through a dedicated portal has also been made available for AISSEE-2025 https://exams.nta.ac.in/

AISSEE/

Guidelines are uploaded on AISSEE portal and are available at Information Bulletin for AISSEE-2025 https://exams.nta.ac.in/AISSEE/images/aissee-2025-ib.pdf.

For latest updates please visit AISSEE portal https://exams.nta.ac.in/AISSEE/.

### All J&K Electric Department Lineman and Workers Union holds meeting

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: A meeting of the All J&K Electric Department Lineman and Workers Union, Jammu, was held under the chairmanship of Aishaq Hussain, the President of the union. The meeting was attended by all the office bearers and workers of the union.

During the meeting, Aishaq Hussain addressed the gathering and expressed his sincere gratitude to the Managing Director of Jammu Power Development Corporation (JPDC), Jammu for fulfilling a long-pending demand of the union by providing Tool Kits to the linemen working in the J&K UT.

He also appreciated the provision of Ex-gratia relief to linemen who sustained injuries or lost their lives while carrying out their duties. This gesture, according to Hussain, was a significant step toward recognizing the sacrifices

made by the workers.

In his address, Aishaq Hussain expressed optimism about the newly elected government headed by Sh. Omar Abdullah. On behalf of the union, he extended his best wishes to the new government and hoped that it would fulfill the union's long-standing demands.

Specifically, he hoped that the government would approve a 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) for the linemen of JPDC Ltd. and take steps to regularize daily-rated workers who have completed more than 7 years of service in the department.

Other notable attendees of the meeting included Anil Singh Salathia, Vijay Gupta, Kartar Nath, and several other union members. The meeting concluded with a collective hope for positive changes under the new government's leadership.

### SMVDU postpones 10th Convocation due to demise of Former PM Dr. Manmohan

#### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 27: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) deeply mourned the passing away of former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Dr. Singh's remarkable contributions to India's

economic and political landscape, along with his unparalleled vision for inclusive growth, will always be remembered.

As a mark of respect to the departed leader, the 10th Convocation of the University, scheduled for today 27.12.2024,

has been postponed.

The University expressed its heartfelt condolences to Dr. Singh's family, friends, and the entire nation during this moment of profound loss. The new date for the 10th Convocation will be announced in due course.

### Security forces launch search operation in Heewan Baramulla

#### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Dec 27: Security forces launched a joint search operation early this morning in the Heewan village area of Baramulla district.

The operation involves the 46th Rashtriya Rifles (RR), Special Operations Group (SOG) Baramulla, and the 53rd Battalion of the CRPF.

All entry and exit points in the area

have been sealed off as part of the operation.

Officials said the search is aimed at addressing any potential threats in the area.

"Additional security personnel have been deployed to ensure the area is completely secured. Further updates will be provided as the operation continues,"

## Dogra Kranti Dal stages protest against CEO MC Udhampur

#### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 27: Under the leadership of Vishal Singh, Executive Member of Dogra Kranti Dal NGO, volunteers staged a massive protest against the CEO of Municipal Council Udhampur also burnt effigy.

Addressing the protesters, Vishal Singh strongly criticized the actions of the CEO, stating that poor street vendors are being harassed



and their carts are being seized, depriving them of their livelihood. He condemned this injustice, urging the CEO to stop targeting the underprivileged who earn their daily bread through hard

work.

"Not only are their fruit and vegetable carts being confiscated, but the seized goods are not being returned to them," Vishal Singh revealed, highlighting the plight of

the affected vendors.

He further pointed out the deteriorating condition of the city, emphasizing that street lights are non-functional, garbage is piling up, and the overall sanitation of Udhampur is being neglected. Despite these pressing issues, the Municipal Council continues to focus on actions that harm the weaker sections of society, rather than addressing the real problems

plaguing the city.

"The administration must prioritize resolving civic issues instead of snatching away the means of survival from the poor," said Vishal Singh.

The Dogra Kranti Dal has demanded the immediate transfer of the CEO and warned that if corrective measures are not taken promptly, larger and more aggressive protests will be organized.

## FROM PAGE 3

### Manmohan Singh's life will serve as lesson to coming generations: PM Modi

#### PM Modi

his honesty and simplicity. Modi said despite being educated at the world's prestigious institutes and occupying leading positions, the former prime minister and Congress leader never forgot the values of his normal background.

His humility, sobriety and intellect defined his life as a distinguished parliamentarian. Modi said, praising Singh's commitment to discharging his duty as MP by coming to Parliament in a wheelchair when he became frail in the last few years.

Singh rose above partisan politics to remain accessible to everyone, Modi said and recalled that he would often have discussions with him on numerous national and international issues when the Congress leader was prime minister during 2004-14 and he was the Gujarat chief minister.

When he became prime minister in 2014, Modi said he would speak to him, noting that they had spoken on Singh's birthday.

### Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra crosses 93 lakh

### mark this year: Official

The CEO earlier had said that of over 95 lakh devotees had visited the Shrine in 2023 and for the third consecutive year, the number of devotees (arriving at the Shrine) has crossed 90 lakh.

### Manmohan Singh's biggest legacy was his effort to keep India Untied: Farooq Abdullah

and Kashmir, the NC chief said his government took the biggest step of trying to bring back Kashmiri Pandits and address their difficulties in Jammu.

"Over 3,000 Kashmiri Pandits returned here, and their children were provided jobs. Colonies like Jagati were established for them so they could live comfortably until they return to their homes," he added.

Abdullah said not many like Singh are born and while they do a lot of work, they also face criticism.

"I pray to God to give strength to his family — his wife and children — to bear this pain. They should not forget that the sacrifices Singh made for this country will never go to waste," the former Union minister said.

He added that both the present government and future governments should learn from Singh's example.

To a question on whether the Congress party would find it difficult to fill his void, Abdullah said finding such a leader would be very difficult, not just for the Congress party, but for the whole country.

"There are not many like him. There was no other Gandhi, no other Nehru or Shere-Kashmir (Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah)," he said.

### Shutdown in Katra against ropeway project enters third day, more people join hunger strike

The project will facilitate access to the temple for senior citizens, children and others who find it difficult to climb the track to the cave shrine, it had said.

The Samiti, which represents shopkeepers, pony operators and palanquin owners, argues that the ropeway would destroy the livelihoods of local business owners and has demanded that the project be scrapped.

With black flags displayed across the town, shops, restaurants, and other business establishments remained closed for the third day, and vehicular movement was at a standstill, following the Samiti's call for protest.

The bandh has disrupted normal life in

one of India's busiest pilgrimage hubs, which is visited daily by thousands of devotees seeking blessings at the cave shrine.

"The bandh is part of our 72-hour-long shutdown against the ropeway project. It is going on peacefully. The committee will decide on the next course of action soon," said a spokesperson for the Samiti.

Criticising the administration for its lack of engagement, the spokesperson said, "The administration is indifferent to the plight of people, including women and children, holding peaceful protests. Our simple demand is to shelve the project, as it threatens the livelihood of Katra residents, most of whom rely on the pilgrimage economy." He further claimed that instead of initiating dialogue, the administration resorted to force, including the detention of Samiti leaders during a peaceful protest.

"They are creating an unnecessary crisis with their approach," he stated.

Shiva, a participant in the hunger strike, had to be hospitalised after his condition deteriorated.

"Our hunger strike will continue until the detained individuals are released. If someone falls ill, another person will replace them," said another participant in the hunger strike.

Eighteen protesters, including Samiti leaders Bhopinder Singh and Sohan Chand, were detained by police during Wednesday's march and taken away from the protest site.

The proposed Rs 250-crore ropeway project will connect Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat, leading to the cave shrine in Reasi district.

In Jammu, the Shiv Sena Dogra Front (DFSS) extended its support to the pilgrims, who are facing hardships due to the bandh, and urged that the issue be resolved amicably.

"We stand with the pilgrims and support better facilities. If needed, create two ropeways instead of one. Provide more amenities for accommodating pilgrims during the yatra," said DFSS President Ashok Gupta.

Gupta added that the pilgrimage had significantly boosted Katra's economy, and the bandh was causing inconvenience to devotees. "Yatra, business, ponywalas are all dependent on pilgrims. They should not be put to inconvenience," he said.

"For the past three days, pilgrims have faced immense difficulties. If the authorities fail to address this, we will use our vehicles to ferry pilgrims to the temple and provide them with food," he said.

However, many pilgrims expressed dissatisfaction over the closure of eateries and the unavailability of local transport, which caused significant inconvenience during their journey to the cave shrine.

To lessen the impact of the bandh, the Shrine Board has arranged boarding and lodging for pilgrims arriving in the town.

Special langars at the Katra railway station, Banganga and Tarakote are providing tea and milk to ensure the yatra continues smoothly on both tracks.

## CUJ Class of 2025 secures 50+ Job Offers in Top Companies

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ), renowned for its remarkable campus placements, celebrated another milestone as over 50 students from the Class of 2025 secured placements with leading multinational companies.

Prominent recruiters this year included Planet Spark, Script Space, Bestseller, HDFC Life, Ease My Trip, Travel Land, Truvia Global, Homeyhuts, Avisoft, Synthimed Labs, Flipkart, TCS, and Godrej. Students from diverse academic backgrounds such as MBA-HR, Mathematics, Economics, Botany, B.Voc., Zoology, and Environmental Science participated in the



placement drive, showcasing the university's multidisciplinary talent. The placement season recorded the highest package at Rs 6.6 LPA, with an average package of Rs 3.63 LPA. These impressive figures reflect the quality education and profes-

sional grooming provided by CUJ under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Organized by the Training & Placement Office, the placement drive aimed to equip students with opportunities in

sectors like insurance, banking, sales, tourism, research, and human resources. Recruiters assessed students on various hiring parameters, providing them with not just job offers but valuable industry insights as well.

Speaking about the success of the drive, the Training & Placement Cell commended the students' dedication and emphasized the importance of leveraging campus placements for a promising start to their careers. This achievement underscores CUJ's commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry, ensuring its students are well-prepared for the challenges of the professional world.

## APSCC condoles demise of former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Condoiling the demise of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh the All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said that Dr. Singh was always concerned about the peace in Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that the former Prime Minister will always be remembered for his liberal economic policies that took India out of the morass in the early 1990s.

In his condolence message, Raina said

that Dr. Singh always believed in a dialogue and advocated for the same while dealing with the Kashmir issue. He said that Dr. Singh always tried his best to bring in all stakeholders under a single roof so that the Kashmir problem is resolved.

"It was during the time of Dr. Singh that separatists were invited for a dialogue in order to solve the Kashmir issue.

He also initiated dialogue with Pakistan and wanted to have cordial relations with our immediate neighbour," said the APSCC Chairman. Raina said in the

present day context the visionary leadership of the former Prime Minister will be missed by all especially by the peace loving people of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said Dr. Singh laid the foundation for economic vibrancy in India and it was only after this that India has become an economic super power.

The APSCC Chairman extended his condolences to the bereaved family.

He prayed for peace to the departed soul and forbearance to the bereaved family.

## Snowfall starts in south Kashmir districts

### Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Dec 27: Light snowfall has begun in South Kashmir, covering areas like Kulgam, Qazigund, Kokernag, Achabal, Anantnag, Shopian, and the Jawahar Tunnel.

While light snow is falling now, the weather department expects more snow in higher altitudes and intermittent snow in the plains.

The authorities have advised residents to stay cautious as roads may become slippery, particularly in hilly and rural areas. Efforts are underway to ensure road safety and manage any snow-related dis-

ruptions.

The Jammu and Kashmir Meteorological Department has already issued a weather forecast for the coming days, predicting varied conditions across the region.

27-28th Dec: Generally cloudy weather is expected, with light rain over the plains of Jammu and light snowfall over the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal Range. Light snowfall is also anticipated in the middle and higher reaches, particularly in South and Central Kashmir, starting this evening and continuing through the night.

29-31st Dec: The

weather is expected to remain generally dry, with cloudy skies on the 31st.

1-2nd Jan: Expect generally cloudy weather with light snow in isolated areas. 3-5th Jan: The weather will remain generally cloudy, with light snow at scattered places. A cold wave is expected at isolated locations during 30th and 31st December.

Due to fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperatures, and icy conditions over important passes and higher reaches, tourists, travelers, and transporters are strongly advised to follow official traffic and weather advisories.

## GDC Mahanpur organizes Awareness Programme on J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027

### Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Dec 27: Psychological cum Career Counseling Cell and NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur organised an Awareness Programme on "J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027" on Friday. The programme was organised in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The Awareness Programme was organised by Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan (Physical Director/PTI), Convener of Psychological cum Career Counseling Cell under the supervision of Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) San-



geeta Sudan.

The programme was initiated by Dr. Sapna Devi, HOD Hindi. It commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries. Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan gave the Welcome Address and welcomed the Guests of the programme.

The Chief Guest of the Programme was Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College and Mr. Dheeraj Handoo was the Resource Person of the Programme.

Dheeraj Handoo, an official of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Insti-

tute (JKEDI), delivered the Power Point Presentation. In his Presentation, he presented in detail about the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027.

Moreover, he also highlighted how the policy aims to establish a dynamic startup ecosystem by fostering the

creation of 2,000 new startups in J&K by 2027.

The Resource Person, Dheeraj Handoo, and his colleague, Raghuveer Singh were presented with mementos, as a token of appreciation by Convener and senior faculty members of the College.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS PO. Moreover the faculty members present in the awareness programme were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Prof. Nisha, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Prof. Divya and Prof. Samiksha.

Over 40 students participated in the programme.

## Sculptor Ganesh Sharma conferred "Leonardo Da Vinci" Renowned Artist of the year award -2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Well known Eminent Senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma Conferred prestigious "Leonardo Da Vinci" Renowned Artist of the year award - 2024" by Kala Kunj Foundation, Bihari, Rajasthan.

A very nice impressive award ceremony event was organized by "Kala Kunj Foundation" at Kala Sankul, Sanskar Bharti New Delhi on

25th of December 2024.

Eminent Internationally acclaimed Sculptor Artist Naresh Kumawat graced the event as Honored Chief Guest, Guest of Honour Meetu Pareek (Business Head of Rani Arts), Suman Singh, President of Ek Anokhi Pehal (NGO), Shree Laxman Kumar, International Artist, Vijay Pal, President of Color Canvas. The great national electronics media also attended the event show.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma the only Sculptor Artist from Jammu



and Kashmir UT, selected for this prestigious great honor/award. The other Honored Eminent artists from different states of the country

also attended the function.

President of Kala Kunj Foundation, Rajni Sharma thanked all the guests for joining

the Felicitation Ceremony, congratulated distinguished Artists and extended the warm wishes for the new year-2025.

It is mentioned here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma is working and promoting the art and culture from more than forty five years. Participating regularly in major international art exhibitions and group shows. He has received so many great honors and awards at State, National and International levels.

## Rain hits Jammu plains, snowfall in higher areas

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Light rain has been recorded in Jammu plains since this afternoon, leading to cold weather across the city.

The rain, which started in the afternoon, continued as this report was filed.

In addition to the rain, several areas in the Jammu region witnessed snowfall, adding a wintry touch to the higher altitudes.

Snowfall was reported in parts of Doda,

Ramban, and Kishtwar districts, where temperatures dropped further.

Meanwhile, South Kashmir also experienced snowfall in various regions, including Bijbehara, Shopian, Kulgam, and parts of Pulwama district.

These areas are now covered in a fresh white blanket, much to the delight of locals and tourists alike.

The weather department had earlier predicted snowfall in higher altitudes and favorable conditions for snow in

parts of South Kashmir, which has now come true.

The authorities have urged people to remain cautious, especially while traveling, as slippery roads and reduced visibility may pose challenges in snow-affected areas.

The ongoing rain and snow have brought a much-anticipated winter feel to the Jammu and Kashmir, with residents welcoming the weather despite the accompanying cold wave.

## Residents of Waripora village protest against Jal Shakti Department Quazigund

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 27: The residents of waripora village of kund area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday staged a protest against the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Quazigund over the issue of non-availability of drinking water in the area.

Scores of the residents assembled on Road and raised Slogans against Jal Shakti department Quazigund failing to provide drinking over in their area.

Protestors blocked Kund Quazigund road alleged that matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned



Department but no improvement has been witnessed so far which forced us to hit streets.

The residents told Top News JK correspondent Gh Nabi Khanday that we are demanding clean drinking water for their survival as the area is facing acute shortage of drinking water facilities from last one month.

The protesters appealed to higher authorities to look into the matter and to

redress the problem at the earliest so that people can feel some sort of relief.

Later Station House Officer (SHO) Kund along with Supervisor Jal Shakti Department reached the spot and assured protesters to bring their grievance to higher authorities for redressal of the grievance.

After his assurance protesters dispersed off peacefully.

## Nitish Mahajan inaugurates Art Exhibition on Basholi Art at Rainbow Public School

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: The Indian Art Centre, renowned as the promoter of the esteemed Basholi Art, organized a vibrant art exhibition today at Rainbow Public School, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 15 schools across the region, showcasing the creative prowess of young artists.

Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge of BJP's Social Media Department, J&K, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event also saw the presence of notable guests of honor, includ-



ing Ved Verma and Prof. Sharad Sharma, both prominent social activists and Principal of Rainbow Public School, Krishan Kishore Khajuria.

M.K. Wadhwa, Chairman of the Indian Art Centre, spearheaded the initiative, emphasiz-

ing the significance of fostering artistic talent among the youth.

Addressing the gathering, Nitish Mahajan applauded the remarkable talent displayed by the students and personally felicitated them with trophies to recognize their artistic

achievements.

He expressed his admiration for the budding artists and highlighted the immense talent that exists in Jammu & Kashmir, urging for more platforms to nurture and showcase their potential.

The senior BJP leader also commended the relentless efforts of M.K Wadhwa and the Indian Art Centre in promoting Basholi Art and encouraging young talent. "Art is not just a medium of expression but a reflection of our culture and heritage. Initiatives like these ensure that our rich traditions are preserved while inspiring the youth to pursue their creative passions," he

remarked.

The exhibition underscored the importance of blending art and education, leaving an indelible mark on the participants and attendees alike.

Rainbow Public School's Principal, Krishan Kishore Khajuria, expressed his gratitude to the Indian Art Centre for choosing their school as the venue for such a meaningful event, emphasizing the role of art in holistic education.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to promoting Basholi Art and creating opportunities for the youth of J&K to excel on platforms that celebrate their talent and creativity.

## India collapse after Jaiswal's terrible run-out

Despite his fluent spell Jaiswal was run out with India ending day two at 164/5

MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (Agencies): A familiar collapse unfolded after Yashasvi Jaiswal's inexplicable run-out as India stared down the barrel at 164/5 against a menacing Australia on day two of the fourth Test here on Friday.

Jaiswal, who was quite fluent during his 118-ball stay that yielded 82 runs, was way short of his crease after a mix-up with Virat Kohli (36) while attempting a quick single, handing Australia the breakthrough that could prove decisive.

India are still 310 runs behind Australia's first innings score of 474 and would need another 111 runs to avoid a follow-on that should never have been a consideration on a placid batting track.

It was 153 for 2 at one stage and in four overs, another three wickets fell with Gautam Gambhir's plan of sending a night watchman in Akash Deep turning out to be one of the many poor calls that the head coach has taken in this game.

In a space of barely five minutes, cricket showed its fickle nature as Jaiswal pushed towards mid-on and called for a quick single with an assured Kohli (36) at the other end. Kohli took a step and half before retreating.

Pat Cummins swooped the ball and threw at the striker's end with a frustrated Jaiswal seen telling his idol "my call".

This moment will be one for posterity as Kohli looked down



and perhaps felt that he could have at least said a loud "No" to allow Jaiswal to sprint back.

The run-out broke his concentration and for the first time after 85 balls, he poked a delivery bowled in the corridor of uncertainty and it was the end.

Scott Boland repeated the dismissal that has been a norm for quite a while now. Akash Deep didn't have the technique to survive and the day ended in Australia's favour just like it started.

The Jaiswal-Kohli pair had added 102 runs and looked comfortable just like they did in the Perth second innings. The ball hardly did anything after Rohit Sharma (3) played a poor shot and KL Rahul got a ripper from Pat Cummins.

Jaiswal was in regal form, as he cut, pulled, drove and lofted the Australian bowlers stamping his authority as the next megastar of Indian batting.

Kohli, at the other end, endured boos for Thursday's run-in with debutant Sam Konstas and battled his demons.

This was after Steve Smith's 34th Test hundred ensured a very good total for hosts.

Starting the day at 311 for 6, Smith added 112 and 44 runs with Cummins (49) and Mitchell Starc (15) respectively, leaving the visitors searching for back-up plans.

Jasprit Bumrah (4/99 in 28.4 overs) was once again brilliant despite the first spell thrashing from Konstas but Mohammed Siraj's ordinary showing (0/122 in 23 overs) was the primary reason for batters not being under any pressure.

Smith, who was unbeaten overnight on 68 off 111 balls, took another 56 deliveries in the second morning to complete a Test ton which placed him on even keel with the legendary

Sunil Gavaskar (34).

The century came with a push drive through the vacant cover region and celebrations were pretty muted with a just vigorous head nod for his teammates in the dug-out.

Smith, who had a torrid run till the second Test of this series, played both days in contrasting styles. On Thursday, he was ready to be patient and waited for deliveries at the expense of looking ugly.

On Friday, the same batter was walking down the track to force the bowlers to alter their length. He was ready to pull and hook, getting two sixes off Bumrah and Siraj respectively.

Despite a significant drop in temperature and some nip in the air, Indians failed to make use of the semi-new Kookaburra, with lines going all awry and length being short enough to be punished. Cummins was allowed to settle down and hit seven boundaries.

The Indian ploy of playing two spinners backfired with Ravindra Jadeja (3/78 in 22 overs) and Washington Sundar (1/49 in 15 overs) never looking penetrative.

For a change, Siraj didn't try and sledge an in-form batter, something that he did in Adelaide with some disastrous results.

But that didn't soften the Australian supporters, who constantly booed him and Kohli as and when the ball went to them.

## Indian cricket team wears black armbands in memory of Manmohan Singh



MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (Agencies): The Indian cricket team sported black armbands on the second day of the fourth Test against Australia to

honour former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who died in New Delhi.

Singh, a two-time former prime minister from 2004 to 2014, died

at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Thursday after losing consciousness at his home owing to age-related ailments. He was 92.

"The Indian team is wearing black armbands as a mark of respect in the memory of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh, who passed away," the BCCI said in a statement.

## World Championships Rapid and Blitz: Erigaisi looks to qualify for Candidates

NEW YORK, Dec 27 (Agencies): Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi will have to tackle obstacles to retain his chances of becoming the first Indian to enter the 2026 Candidates' tournament when he opens his campaign at the World Rapid and Blitz chess tournament here. Erigaisi, who currently trails Fabiano Caruana of the United States in the list of players slated to qualify from 2024, will have a tall order to win the World Rapid chess championship that gets underway.

It may be noted here that the last time an Indian won the crown here was in 2019 when Koneru Humpy triumphed and in 2017 Viswanathan Anand had defied all odds to win the title.



World's top-rated Magnus Carlsen will be back to defend his title in the faster version of the game as the top seed in both rapid and blitz.

For Erigaisi to eclipse Carlsen as well as Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura of the United States is easier said than done.

## Manchester United just have to survive: Ruben Amorim on Boxing Day loss vs Wolves

MANCHESTER, Dec 27 (Agencies): Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim admitted his team must shift to "survival mode" after a 2-0 loss to Wolverhampton Wanderers compounded their Premier League woes. United suffered their fourth loss in five matches to languish in 14th place, just eight points clear of the relegation zone.

The Portuguese manager, who replaced Erik ten Hag six weeks ago, pointed to limited time to train with his players as a key reason for the team's struggles. Amorim has become the first United boss since Walter Crickmer in 1932 to lose five of his first 10 games across all competitions.

"I manage, but I didn't train [the players]," Amorim said. "They need time to adapt to the new style of play. Without results, it's even harder for them to believe in the process. Right now, we just have to survive and win time to work on the team. It's a long journey."

Wolves took the lead through Matheus Cunha's 58th-minute



corner, which curled over United goalkeeper André Onana and into the net-a strikingly similar mistake to one made during United's Carabao Cup exit against Tottenham.

Wolves manager Vitor Pereira, who has now overseen back-to-back wins since succeeding Gary O'Neil, credited tactical planning for the goal. "We analysed their weaknesses," Pereira said. "Cunha is a special player who made the difference."

United's task was made even harder when captain Bruno Fernandes received a second yellow card two minutes after halftime. Despite their numerical disadvantage, Amorim noted moments of promise but admitted the team lacked potency even before the red card.

"With 10 men, we were near the goal, which is a positive, but we lost," he said.

Marcus Rashford was left out for a fourth consecutive match, with Amorim reiterating that the forward is not in his plans. The England international has reportedly sought a "new challenge," and Amorim's post-match comments suggest little chance of reconciliation.

"It's always the same reason," Amorim said. "If he's not here, you can make your mind up."

When asked about qualifying for European competitions, Amorim dismissed such aspirations, stressing the need to focus on rebuilding. "We have to work on a lot of things-on and off the pitch. Let's focus on each game and make use of every training session," he said.

## Will Rohit drop himself before Sydney Test or await big call till end of series?

MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma seems to have nothing left in the tank. "Tough times for him," the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said while on air with broadcasters '7Cricet'.

"There will be a second innings and two more in Sydney. Questions will be asked if he doesn't score in those three innings," Gavaskar said on air as he saw it.

After yet another cheap dismissal off a Pat Cummins' short ball, questions are mounting on when the 38-year-old Indian captain will finally call time on his Test career.

But will Rohit allow all these questions to fester? The national selection committee chairman Ajit Agarkar is in Melbourne and it won't surprise anyone if it comes out that the two former teammates have had some discussions on the future as India copes with a tough transition.

Only 155 runs in eight Tests at an average of 11.07 in 14 innings is very poor by all standards and not scoring runs after tinkering a set opening combina-



tion hasn't done him any good.

The common belief is that if India do not qualify for the World Test Championship, then Sydney will be the final destination of his cricketing journey in whites.

Will the skipper be more pragmatic and, for the sake of the team, drop himself from the playing eleven for the Sydney Test? If so, he will allow an in-form KL Rahul to continue with a rampaging Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Current national head coach Gautam Gambhir, during his playing time in the IPL, once dropped himself from after a horrendous first phase, knowing that his days as a T20 opener were behind him.

There is a growing feeling that Indian cricket

consider using a similar tactic for senior players. If Ravichandran Ashwin could be nudged into retirement and clearly told that he is not even among the top two spinners in overseas conditions, then shouldn't the Indian skipper be told that he is perhaps no longer an automatic choice in the Test top six?

However, there is an ODI Champions Trophy to be played in another seven weeks and the skipper is still a force to reckon with in that format. Although current form is a huge factor and it does affect confidence, he might just come good in the ODIs if the Test responsibility is off his shoulders.

Rohit was never comfortable with the idea of

batting in the middle-order and he realised after three innings that it has not worked. As a result, Shubman Gill was dropped from the playing eleven to allow Rohit to go back to his familiar opening position.

But just like his pull shots aren't coming off anymore, the strategic moves are failing too.

The biggest difference between Rohit and Virat Kohli, despite both going through a lean patch, is how they are looking at the crease.

Kohli is still a picture of intent and gives the feeling that there could be a big knock around the corner and in fact, a hundred did come in the Perth Test's second innings.

On second day at the MCG, he looked solid, trying to leave as many deliveries in the channel but not forgetting to punish the half-volleys. But Rohit has been a walking wicket, a trifle lost and looking completely out of place.

No one could have put it as concisely as former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting, whose technical analysis has always been spot on.

"That's just a lazy, not switched on, not up for the moment type of shot," Ponting said while analysing his dismissal on air for 7Cricet.

"He's been known as one of the best hookers and pullers of the ball since he's made his debut but that's just not there. It's nothing."

"It's not committed, not really looking to be aggressive, he's just looking to tap it on the head," added possibly the best horizontal bat shot-maker, of his generation.

In captaincy and batting, it is about making good decisions and the Indian skipper is not being able to do that at this point.

"It (ball) might have held in the wicket yes. It might have seemed away from him a fraction. But if you're going to survive against this Australian attack, you've got to be switched on."

"You've got to be making good decisions. If you're not, they'll knock you over every time," Ponting said.

As things stand, the skipper needs to make a quick decision. His team is possibly waiting for it.

## Kohli not let off lightly, says Gavaskar; Ponting disagrees

MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (Agencies): Virat Kohli was not extended any special treatment, asserted Indian great Sunil Gavaskar but some former Australian players felt the batting superstar got away lightly for his physical altercation with debutant Sam Konstas in the ongoing Boxing Day Test here.

Kohli was fined 20 per cent of his match fee and handed a demerit point for a brief face off with Konstas on Thursday during which the two players bumped shoulders and exchanged words. The run-in was initiated by Kohli but the 19-year-old Konstas insisted that their physical contact was accidental. The showdown remained a talking point even on Friday with Gavaskar slamming the Australian media for going after Kohli and demanding harsher punishment for him.

"You can't hang a man for picking someone's pocket," Gavaskar remarked, dismissing claims that Kohli was let off lightly.

"That's a slap on the wrist. All these players are highly paid professionals. Any fines will have to be a deterrent. Yes, you could say that the degree of punishment maybe light because of what we see and experience but that's the maximum punishment decided by the ICC," he pointed out on Star Sports after the first session.

"So, it's not that he's been done any favour. If the final punishment would have been say 10 percent you could have said then there's a favour done," he added.

Criticising the Australian media, Gavaskar said, "The Australian media acts like their 12th or 13th player, targeting anyone they perceive as a threat to their team."

"They are asking that Kohli should be

hanged for a minor offence and he's got away because he is Kohli but that's not it."

However, former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting argued that the punishment was insufficient. "Personally, I don't think it was harsh enough. There have been precedents; things have happened in the past, and it generally has been 15-25 per cent fine, but let's have a look at the enormity of the incident," Ponting said on Channel 7. "It was the most watched day of cricket throughout the whole year all around the world. Imagine if that now happens in a grade game. What's gonna happen? I think people are gonna think that's almost acceptable now," he added.

The view was shared by Mark Waugh while doing commentary for 'Fox Sports'. "You can't change direction and shoulder charge. It is just not on. Virat Kohli will look

back on that and say, 'I've done the wrong thing'. I think the penalty is extremely lenient," he insisted.

He warned that such incidents have the potential of flaring if not dealt with strictly.

"If you put this situation where there might be a volatile crowd for example, and players are more volatile on the field it could end up in a place you don't want to see on a cricket field. I think he is lucky not to get away with a suspension and if he has got a fine it should have been at least a 75 per cent fine. It has to be a deterrent. 20 per cent is nothing. There is no doubt Sam Konstas rattled the Indians," he said, referring to Rs 3 lakh fine that Kohli would be paying from his Rs 15 lakh match fee.

Former Australia coach Justin Langer, however, criticised the Australian media for being "brutal".

"The media, whether in Australia or elsewhere, can be brutal. This is target high-profile individuals, and this is no different. I've experienced it firsthand, it's not about India or Kohli specifically; it's just how the media operates now," he said.

Gavaskar, meanwhile, cited three similar incidents in the past one year to highlight consistency in penalties.

"Last December, Ireland's Josh Little was fined 5 per cent of his match fee for physical contact with a batter in a game refereed by Andy Pycroft, the same referee in this match."

"Jasprit Bumrah was reprimanded for physical contact with England's Ollie Pope, and Nepal's Arjun Kumar faced penalties for a repeat offense. Kohli has received the maximum punishment (under the rules)," he recalled.

## Sikh Sangat of Block Bhalwal to take out Vishal Nagar Kirtan on Dec 29

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: The Sikh Sangat of Block Bhalwal, Marh, and the surrounding rural areas of Jammu, along with adjoining regions, is preparing to celebrate the 358th birthday of the 10th Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. This significant occasion will be commemorated with a "Vishal Nagar Kirtan" (grand procession) on 29th December 2024 (Sunday). The entire Sangat is invited to participate and seek the blessings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji during this auspicious event. The Nagar Kirtan will commence at 10:30 AM from Gurdwara Singh



Sabha Batehra (Bhalwal) and will conclude at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar Dyaran (Bhalwal), Jammu, around 2:30 PM.

Throughout the procession, Shabad Gurbani will be sung by Ragis and religious preachers, offering a sacred atmosphere for

all participants. This event is an opportunity for the Sangat of Jammu District to come together in devotion and unity, while celebrating the life and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

In addition to the procession, every year, the Sangat pays obeisance on this pious occasion,

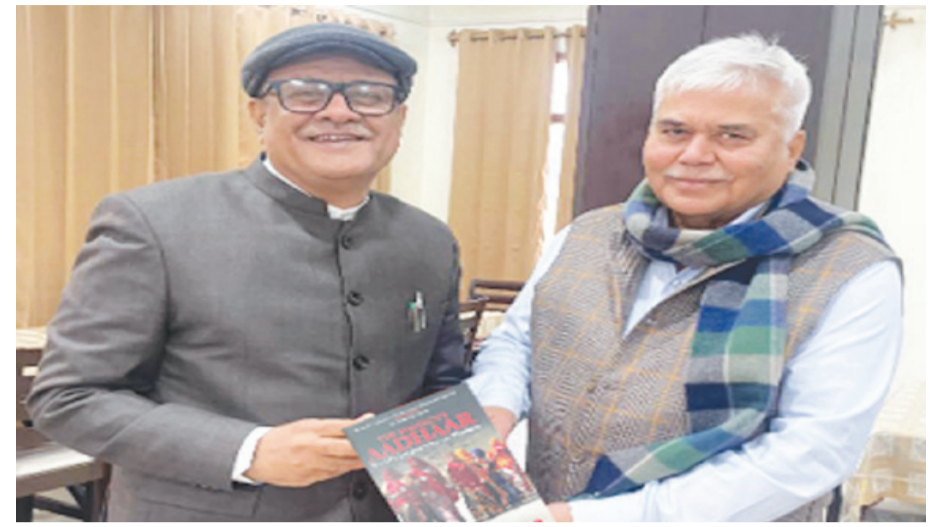
singing hymns and expressing their reverence to the Guru. This year, the Sangat is warmly invited to join in this religious celebration, which promotes unity in diversity and strengthens the bonds of the community.

The pre-conference for this event was

attended by several dignitaries and members of the Nagar Kirtan Committee, including Mohinder Singh (Ead Spe Member), Kulwant Singh, Mohinder Singh (Tremy Porter), Gurparshad Singh, Tajinder Singh, and President Sukhyal Singh Retal, the AEE Nagar Kirtan Committee. Their presence reflects the importance of this event in fostering community engagement and devotion.

On this auspicious day, the Sangat is encouraged to join in the Nagar Kirtan to experience the spiritual atmosphere, receive Guru Ji's blessings, and contribute to the unity and collective faith of the community.

## Dr. Ram Sewak presents his book to VC SMVDU



### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 27: Dr. Ram Sewak Sharma, a distinguished bureaucrat and former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), presented his seminal book 'The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform' to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), during his visit to the university campus.

The book chronicles the journey of building Aadhaar, a monumental initiative that has become the world's largest biometric identification system, impacting over 1.3 billion Indians.

Dr. Sharma shares insights into the technological, administrative, and policy challenges

that were overcome to implement this transformative project, which has revolutionized identity verification and enabled digital inclusion across India.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, while receiving the book, expressed deep admiration for Dr. Sharma's visionary leadership and the remarkable success of Aadhaar. "Aadhaar is not just a technological achievement but also a testament to the innovative spirit of India."

This book will serve as an inspiration and a valuable resource for academicians, policymakers, and technologists alike," Prof. Kumar said.

The event was followed by a deep engagement in a lively discussion about the future of digital identity and its role in nation-

building. Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of technology-driven governance and the need for continuous innovation to ensure inclusive growth.

Dr. Sharma's visit to SMVDU is part of his ongoing efforts to share knowledge and inspire the next generation of leaders in technology and public policy.

The 'Making of Aadhaar' has been widely acclaimed for its in-depth analysis and candid portrayal of one of the most ambitious projects in India's history.

The university library will soon include copies of the book to encourage students and researchers to delve into the intricate processes behind creating scalable and impactful solutions for societal challenges.

## Ropeway project destroyed nature of pilgrimage, an attack on faith of religious sentiments: Shiv Sena

Police forcefully stopped Shiv Sainiks from entering Katra



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: Destroying the mythological form of the world famous Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra under the guise of ropeway and encouraging devotees to undertake an incomplete journey is a big mockery of religious faith, which should not be tolerated by Hindus at all, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

Shiviks Sain who were going to join the protest against the ropeway project in the Holy city of Katra were forcibly stopped by the police near the Numai police post about 2km before

Katra and forcefully sent back to Jammu.

Sahni said that the voice of Hindus cannot be suppressed by using the police force. The Shrine Board will have to give up its stubborn attitude of ruining the nature of the pilgrimage in the name of the ropeway. Manish Sahni said in his address that they have no objection to development and facilities, but if under the guise of these, the Holy form of the pilgrimage is tampered and an attempt will be made to distance the devotees from the real form of the pilgrimage, it will not be tolerated at all.

Sahni said that the ropeway facility will

spoil the nature of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra. The devotees who take advantage of this facility will not be able to get the privilege of visiting the Holy Banganga, Charan Paduka, Ardhkumwari etc.

Along with this, the business of the shopkeepers on the traditional route along with those who have been providing services with mare, pithu, palanquin etc. for decades will be affected by this project. Sahni said that the ropeway project is being set up on Tarakot road, about two kilometers away from the main market and traditional route of Katra. Sahni also raised questions on the silence

maintained by the leaders of the BJP, who claim to be the well-wishers of Hindus, on saving the form of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra.

He said that temples are being searched from other religious places but here, under the guise of a ropeway, a bulldozer is being run on the form of the Yatra of our own religion.

Sahni has appealed to all Hindu organizations, saint community and every Hindu who worships Shri Mata Vaishnodevi to raise their voice to save the pilgrimage. Among others present were Vikas Bakshi, Balwant Singh, Rajesh Jandial, Bharat Mahajan, Rohan Malwal, Surinder Kumar, Arun Kumar.

## Dogra Sadar Sabha pays homage to Dr. Manmohan Singh



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 27: An urgent meeting of the Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K was convened today under the chairmanship of its President, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister of J&K.

During the meeting, the Sabha paid rich tributes to the departed noble soul, Lt. Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, former Prime Minister of India, whose passing away has deeply saddened the nation and especially the Dogras of Jammu.

Lt. Dr. Singh was instrumental in giving impetus to the struggle of the Sabha in getting Dogri Language included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and moreover he participated in the cel-

ebrations conducted by Dogra Sadar Sabha at Jammu after Dogri Language was included in the constitution of India.

In recognition of Dr. Singh's exemplary contributions to the country and as a mark of respect to his enduring legacy, it was unanimously decided to postpone the 120th General Council Meeting of the Sabha, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow, 28th December 2024.

Now the meeting will be rescheduled at a later date, and the new date will be communicated to all members and stakeholders in due course.


The Sabha extends its deepest condolences to the family of Lt. Dr. Manmohan Singh and to the people of India, as we mourn the loss

of one of the nation's most respected leaders. His vision, leadership, and dedication to the service of the nation will always remain an inspiration for all.

Prominent among those present to pay their Homage were

Col. Karan Singh, G.A Khwaja, Brig. M.S Jamwal, Adv. Ghambhir Dev Singh, Amanat Ali Shah, Narinder Singh Jamwal, Dr. Nasib Singh Manhas, Ravi Singh Slathia, Vidya Sagar Sharma and Kapil Slathia.

For further updates and information on the rescheduled meeting, members are requested to stay in touch with the Sabha's official communication channels.



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