

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Snowfall disrupts Smart City Bus operations in Srinagar, outskirts

SRINAGAR, Dec 28 (Agencies): The recent snowfall has severely affected the operation of Smart City buses in Srinagar.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the operation of Smart City buses in Srinagar city and its outskirts was affected, with all the buses remaining missing from roads, leaving people to suffer.

Similarly, officials from Srinagar Smart City Limited, speaking with KNO, said that the Smart City bus operation in the city was affected.

He said that as the snowfall occurred heavily during the night, the Pantha Chowk station was out of electricity, due to which the buses could not be charged. "Now, as the situation is under control, we managed to charge a few buses, and hopefully, they will be operational on roads by evening," he said.

It is worth mentioning that the snowfall has led to the cancellation of all flights, closure of major roads.

### 70 percent roads cleared in Ganderbal district: Executive Engineer R&B

SRINAGAR, Dec 28 (Agencies): Officials on Saturday said that snow clearance operations in Ganderbal district are going on in full swing.

Er. Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Ganderbal, said that approximately 70% of the roads have been cleared so far. "Snow clearance efforts are also being carried out on some PMGSY roads in the Lar area," he added.

"We are working at a good pace, and snow clearance is continuing effectively," Er. Manzoor said, adding, "We have deployed around 55 machines, including JCBs and tractors, along with manual labor to ensure timely clearance."

Continues

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## Former PM Manmohan Singh cremated with full State Honours

NEW DELHI, Dec 28 (Agencies): The mortal remains of former prime minister Manmohan Singh were consigned to flames at the Nigambodh Ghat here on Saturday amid the chanting of religious hymns. The funeral pyre was lit by his eldest daughter Upinder Singh.

The last rites were performed in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other top leaders and foreign dignitaries.

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Mauritius Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful were among the foreign dignitaries who paid their tributes to Singh.

Besides President Murmu and Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home



Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Leaders of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi were among the top leaders who paid their last tributes to the former prime minister.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and the three services chiefs also paid their last respects to Singh.

The procession carrying Singh's mortal

remains reached the crematorium at around 11.30 am, where the last rites will be performed shortly.

Draped in the Tricolour, the flower-bedecked casket was placed at a raised platform, where leaders cutting across party lines laid wreaths on Singh's mortal remains.

Earlier, the final journey of Singh began from the AICC headquarters

suraj chand rahega, tab tak tera naam rahega" slogans rent the air.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, also accompanied the procession alongside Singh's relatives.

Singh's mortal remains were taken to the AICC headquarters from his residence on 3, Motilal Nehru Road a little before 9 am.

The mortal remains were kept there for about an hour, with several top Congress leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, paying tributes, among others.

Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur and one of their daughters also laid a wreath on his body.

Singh passed away on Thursday night at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences due to

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## Stranded tourists find shelter in Mosque amid heavy snowfall in Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Dec 28 (Agencies): In a heartwarming display of Kashmiri hospitality, locals in Gund, on the Srinagar-Sonamarg highway, opened the doors of a mosque to shelter a group of travellers stranded due to heavy snowfall.

A dozen tourists from Punjab found themselves caught in the snowfall on Friday while returning from the Sonamarg area, officials said

Their vehicles became

stuck in the snow and with no nearby hotels and local houses too small to accommodate the group, Gund residents opened the doors of the Jamia Masjid, allowing the tourists to stay there for the night, officials added.

"It was the best possible solution as the mosque has a hamaam, which stays warm throughout the night," said Bashir Ahmad, a local resident.

A video of the

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## CM Omar Abdullah chairs meeting to review snow clearance, restoration of power & water supply across J&K



GANDERBAL, Dec 28 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah convened a video conference meeting with all district across Jammu and Kashmir to review snow clearance operations and restoration of essential services following heavy snowfall in the Kashmir Valley.

The meeting held at

the video conference hall in Ganderbal, was attended in person by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir, ADC Ganderbal, and other senior district officials. Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, and Deputy Commis

sioners from all districts participated via video conferencing.

The snowfall, which began yesterday, has disrupted normal life in many districts across the valley.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners presented updates on snow clearance, restoration of power and water supply and emergency response to deal with inclement weather.

The Chief Minister directed Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise snow clearance operations, emphasizing the need to obtain photographic evidence of cleared areas to ensure thorough

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## Shutdown in Katra over ropeway enters 4th day, JCCI extends support

REASI/JAMMU, Dec 28 (Agencies): The shutdown against a proposed ropeway project in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district entered its fourth day on Saturday, with protesters continuing a hunger strike for the release of several people detained by police in Katra.

The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) has extended its support to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti and urged the administration to resolve the issue with talks.

A shutdown of all com-



mercial activities in the area was announced earlier in the week by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti.

On Friday night, the Samiti extended the bandh by 72 hours.

All shops, restaurants,

and business establishments have been shut since Wednesday.

The bandh has disrupted normal life in one of the busiest towns in the country, where thousands of pilgrims arrive

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

**BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH** JI ON 29/12/2024 AT 10.00 AM 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

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and heavy hearts, we share the sad news of the passing of **Sh. Dharni Dhar Sharma** (Former, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha and Chairperson, Dharmik Yuvak Mandal), 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. Sukha 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. Kulbhusan Sharma  
Smt. Dev Bala & Late Sh. Ashok Sharma  
Smt. Jagriti & Sh. Ved Bhushan Seth  
**Grand Children:** Vedant Sharma  
**Contact Numbers:** 9149639597, 9419200222, 9622100222

**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. Shalini & Varinder Singh Slathia - Daughter-in-law & Son  
Janu Slathia (Son)

Priyanka Slathia and Arun Jammal - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Veerdev Singh Slathia & Harsh Dev Singh - Nephew  
**Grand Children:** Saanvi Slathia, Aditya and Advit Jammal

**TENTH DAY**

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



**Sh. Aneel Bhusan 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 Lata Zalpuri W/o Lt. Yugesh Raman Zalpuri (Sister-in-Law)  
Priyanka Zalpuri & Akhil Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Pritisha Zalpuri & Kaamil Nakhasi (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Nisha & Chetram (Family Members)

Kanhaiya, Anshu, Aarav & Ridit (Grand Children)  
**Samast Zalpuri, Wali, Koul Parivar**  
**Contact No:** 9622360918, 959658861

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Chamam Lal Bhan** S/o Late Gopi Nath Bhan, originally a resident of Malvar, Habbakadal, Srinagar, at present H. No. 390-A, Daily Excelsior Lane, Indra Colony, Janipur, Jammu.



**SH. CHAMAN LAL BHAN**

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 29/12/2024, Sunday, at Mata Bhadrakali Asthan, Phallian Mandal, Tethwal. Subsequently, assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near the Director of Education at 11am.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN:**

Phoola Bhan - Bhabhi  
Roopa Misri - Sister  
Prana & Bhusan Lal Bhan - Bhabhi & Brother  
Munni & Ramesh Bhan - D.I.L & Son  
Veena & Sunil Bhan - D.I.L & Son

Rajni & Roshan Lal Bhan - Daughter & S.I.L  
Asha & Satish Dhar - Daughter & S.I.L  
Meera Bhan - D.I.L  
Renu & Rakesh Bhan - D.I.L & Son  
Sonia & Vikas Bhan - D.I.L & Son

**Grand Children:** Sheela, Pankaj, Neha, Deepika, Anamika, Akshay, Yogita, Nikita, Ananya, Sahil, Sujal, Jargo, Jyoti, Jugnu  
**SAMAST PARIVAR: BHAN, MISRI, DHAR, RAINA, KATOCH'S.**  
**CONTACT NO:** 9419390880, 7006368613, 6005716499

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Raj Rani** W/o Late Prem Nath Bhat of Zangalpora Devar, Kulgam at present H.No. 33/2, Dine Nagar, Bari Near Rama Event on 22/12/2024.



**Smt. Raj Rani**

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 30/12/2024 (Monday) at Akhnour 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  
Doly Bhat and Ram Krishan Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Daughter & Son-in-law

Pinkay Pandith and Pradman Krishan Pandith  
**Grand Children:** Shweta Bhat, Kavita Bhat, Anan Raina, Amit Raina, Swati, Suraj, Sumit  
**Mobile:** 7006893175, 8825080131, 7780849501, 9419209111

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Charan Dass (Retd Asstt. Postmaster)** R/o House No. 487 F, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu Near Park.



**Sh. Charan Dass (Retd Asstt. Postmaster)**

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 30-12-2024 Monday at our residence 487 F, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu near park.

**SATSANG** timing 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Darshna Devi Wife  
Son & Daughter-in-law  
Mr. Vikas Dogra & Smt. Sunana  
Mr. Sukhdev & Smt. Sushma Devi  
Mr. Deep Kumar & Smt. Pooja Devi  
Mr. Vipin & Smt. Sonam

Smt. Sudha & Vijay Kumar - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Deepika & Sh. Romesh Kundra - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Sonika & Sh. Sanjay Kundra - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Laxmi Rani & Sh. Mohinder Paul - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Sh. Musli Ram & Smt. Binia Devi - Brother & Bhabhi  
Sh. Mangal Dasa & Smt. Sanksh Devi - Brother & Bhabhi  
**CONTACT NO:** 9419273092, 7051339041

**BANGOTRA FAMILY**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to be inform to all near & dear that **Smt. Dulari Raina** W/o Late Trikali Nath Raina R/o Devi Angan Hari Parthab Srinagar, Kashmir, Present at L-47A, Opp SBI Patra Dabli Road, New Delhi-110045.



**SMT. DULARI RAINA**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Modi Nagar Ganga Ghat Chhota Haridwar, Muradnagar Ghaziabad, 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: Mayan Raina, Rudraksh Raina, Samastra Raina  
**Brothers-in-law & Sister**  
Sh. Kashi Nath Raina  
Sh. Durga Nath Raina & Smt. Pushpanjali Raina  
**Sister-in-law**  
Shreela Ji  
**& SAMAST RAINA PARIVAR**  
**MOB:** 7838725960, 9910377972, 9873101391

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanta Nehru** W/o Late Bhusan 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. 9910085421  
Pawan Nehru & Purnimosh Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob. 941919135 / 7006488031  
Pradman Krishan Koul & Bhawana Koul (Son-in-law & Daughter) Mob. 9910022089  
Vijay Nehru (S/O of Late Hardev Nath Nehru) & Neelam Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Krishna Nehru W/o Late Pan Nath Nehru (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Anjali Nehru W/o Late Ashok Nehru (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Asha Koul W/o Late Bhusan Lal Koul (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Binia Lidhoo W/o Late M.K. Lidhoo (Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Nirrita Pandita W/o Sh. S.C. Pandita (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)  
Sh. Vinod Koul S/o Late Dina Nath Koul (Nephew)  
**Grandchildren:** Ayushman, Anubhav, Amisha, Anshuman, Archit

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Vishal Sharma** S/o Sh. M.C. Sharma & Lt. Smt. Indra Sharma (R/o Village Muchrota, Shiva, Teh & Distt Doda presently at H.No. 71, High Court road Janipur, Jammu) on 20th Dec. 2024.



**Mr. Vishal Sharma**

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday (29th Dec. 2024) at Rajpura Chungi (Kali Mandir near AG Office) at 10.00 am.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt. Roma Sharma - Wife  
Miss Vyomika & Aaradhya - Daughters

**Sisters & Brother-in-laws**

Mrs. Archana Sharma & Harbans Raina  
Mrs. Madhve Sharma & Sarabjeet Singh  
**Ph. No:** 7006361435, 9596978485

**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 Akhnour 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 Akhnour 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. Chamam 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**

With profound grief and anguish we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Raina** S/o Late Gopi Nath Raina resident of Bungalow No-19, Sai Shradha Pisoli Pune-60 (originally Gogjibagh Srinagar) left for his heavenly abode on 25-12-24 at 07:30 pm.



**Sh. Roshan Lal Raina**

**Shradanjali Prayers** will be performed on Friday 3rd January 3pm, at his residence in Pune

**In Grief :**

Lalita Raina (Wife)  
Rohit & Anjul (Son & Daughter in Law)  
Rakesh & Fabienne (Son & Daughter in law)  
Luca, Ariv, Noah & Arsh (Grandchildren)  
**Raina's, Ambardar's, Badam's & Lago's**

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



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

**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. Aular Krishna Bagati  
Smt. Lovely & Sh. Bhaskar Nath Bagati

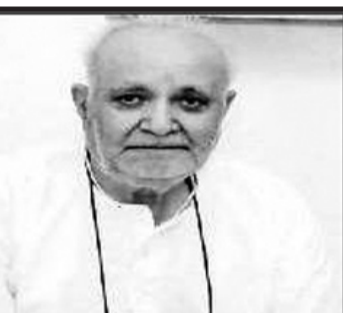
**Sisters and Brothers in Law**

Smt. Jaya W/o Late Sh. Bhusan Lal Kachroo  
Smt. Sheela W/o Sh. Ashok Ji Thusoo  
Smt. Shama 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. Billoo Ji Padroo

Smt. Girja & Sh. Sanjay Pandita - Daughter and Son-in-law  
Smt. Sumita & Dheeraj Pandita - Daughter and Son-in-law  
**Son & Daughter in law**  
Smt. Rumeela & Sh. Kewal Bagati (Ph. 8825018308, 9797596776, 9682125864)  
**Grand Children:** Shivesh, Dilsha, Suvani, Ayush, Koshika, Parth and  
**Samast Bagati Parivar**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **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. Jawaharilal 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. Dwarka Nath Raina and Late Smt. Parmeshwari Raina (originally from Maharajganj, Srinagar), R/o 32A JD Block, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034.



**Shri Om Prakash Raina**

Lovingly remembered as Omji / Bhai Ji, he departed for his eternal abode on Friday, 20th December 2024.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 29th December 2024, 9:30 a.m. at Shivanth 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 Shibhan Dhar (Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Bindu Seli (Sister-in-law)  
**Contact:** Shalini: 9425210003  
Asha: 9873182193 / 9619993836

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Bachan Singh (Retd. PDD)** S/o Late Pt. Arjan Das R/o Basti Gobindpura Simbal Morh, R.S. Pura Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 21.12. 2024.



**S. Bachan Singh (Retd. PDD)**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEPARTED SOUL**

**ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB:** on 28.12.2024 (9.00 AM) Saturday at our residence.

**BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB:** on 30.12.2024 Monday (9.30 AM) at our residence.

**KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAAS:** 10.30 AM - 12.30PM at Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha Basti Gobindpura Simbal Morh, R.S. Pura.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sdr. Pritam Kour (Wife)  
**Sons and Daughters in law**  
S. Manpreet Singh (Vicky) and Sdr. Gursharan Kour.  
S. Kamaljeet Singh (Bunty) J.E. and Sdr. Harvinder Kour.  
S. Kulwinder Singh (Shunty).

**Daughters and Sons in law**

Sdr. Manmeet Kour and S. Kulwant Singh.  
Sdr. Jagmeet Kour and S. Paramjeet Singh.  
**Mobile:** 7006172269, 9419111799, 9419646300

**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 Akhnour 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. Pankajam Ji (Bubby)  
Sh. Rajinder Raina & Smt. Aruna Ji (Bunty)  
**Grand-Son-in-law & Grand Daughter**  
Mr. Anurag Rawat &

## Post snowfall, CM Omar Abdullah inspects facilities at Ganderbal hospital

**Takes stock of facilities, services available to patients during inclement weather**

### Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Dec 28: Following heavy snowfall across the Kashmir Valley, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday visited District Hospital Ganderbal and assessed the facilities and services available to patients during the inclement weather.

During his visit, the Chief Minister inspected various units of the hospital and reviewed the availability of essential medicines, staff on duty and the functionality of the central heating system.

The Medical Superintendent briefed the Chief Minister on



the hospital's preparedness to ensure patient care, confirming that the central heating system is fully operational.

However, he also highlighted

challenges such as a shortage of medical staff and ambulances in the district.

In response, CM Omar Abdullah reiterated his government's

commitment to enhancing healthcare services across Jammu & Kashmir and addressing critical gaps to meet public needs.

He assured that steps would be taken to resolve the issues raised by the hospital administration. Chief Minister directed the hospital authorities to strictly enforce the duty roster for medical and paramedical staff to ensure uninterrupted services to avoid inconvenience to patients.

During his visit he was accompanied by his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and other concerned officers.

## Powerlifting Association of J&K meets Dy CM



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The Power Lifting Association of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Rakesh Kumar, General Secretary and Commonwealth Medalist, met Surinder Choudhary, the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, today.

During the meeting, the association presented him with a trophy in recognition of his exceptional dedication, passion, and relentless service to society.

The association expressed immense

pride and gratitude in honouring Choudhary for his outstanding contributions to the welfare of society. This recognition highlights his unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and tireless efforts in uplifting the community.

Choudhary has consistently championed causes that deeply resonate with the aspirations of the people, focusing on social harmony, youth empowerment, and holistic development across various sectors.

His leadership has left an indelible impact, inspiring countless individuals to work towards the betterment of society and pursue their dreams with determination.

Today's recognition also highlighted Sh. Choudhary Ji's pivotal role in promoting sports and youth development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Powerlifting Association acknowledged his continuous support and encouragement in nurturing talent and fostering physical fitness, reflecting his commitment to creating a healthier, more vibrant future for the state.

The association's heartfelt appreciation underscored the importance of his leadership in inspiring positive change and fostering a thriving sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir.

## BBAJK honours Physique Sports Medalist Vikas Khajuria

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: Under the banner of J&K Sports Council and the Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir (BBAJK), Vikas Khajuria was honoured on Saturday for his remarkable achievement in winning the silver medal at the 1st National Physique Sports Championship, held from December 21 to 22, 2024, in Gurgaon, Haryana.

Vikas Khajuria, who trained under coach and trainer Rajesh Dutta of BBAJK, was presented with a certificate and the silver medal by Rajesh Dutta himself.

Dutta expressed his pride in Vikas's achievement and emphasized the broader importance of such events, not just for showcasing talent but for promoting sportsmanship and healthy activities among the



youth of J&K.

"The championship aimed to foster sportsmanship and encourage the youth of J&K UT to engage in positive activities, steering them away from social evils, particularly the growing issue of drug addiction," said Rajesh Dutta.

He further stated, "Drug addiction is a serious concern in our society, and events like the

Bodybuilding Championship offer a vital platform to engage young people in constructive pursuits, helping them avoid harmful habits. It is our collective responsibility to promote sports and build a healthier, brighter future for our younger generation."

Vinay Sharma, Vice President of BBAJK, highlighted the significance of Vikas's achievement,

calling it a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir.

"This outstanding performance showcases the exceptional talent and determination of J&K's athletes on the national stage," he said. Sharma also appealed to the youth to take up sports and work towards a "Nasha Mukht" (drug-free) nation.

The event concluded with a congratulatory address by Sachin Singh Jamwal, who praised the efforts of the Association in organizing the event and providing a platform for youth engagement through sports.

The gathering celebrated Vikas Khajuria's success and reaffirmed the commitment of the Body Building Association to encourage healthy, productive activities for the youth of the region.

## Safar-E Shahdat: Vishesh Shahidi Samagam organized at Gurudwara Shri Teg Bahadur Sahib

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: A solemn and heartfelt Vishesh Shahidi Samagam was organized at Gurudwara Shri Teg Bahadur Sahib, Jiby Nami Dogri Sanstha (Regd.), to pay tribute to the Sahibzade of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj. The event, commemorating the supreme sacrifice made by the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, was a significant occasion for reflection and reverence.

The Gurbani recitations were performed by Bhai Parvinder Singh "Apple" and his party, along with Kulpreet Kour. The melodious tunes were beautifully enhanced by Chander



Dhari Kesar on the violin and Harpreet Singh on the tabla, creating a spiritually enriching atmosphere for all attendees.

Prominent members of the community and the NDS (Nami Dogri Sanstha) were present at the event, paying their respects and reflecting on the sacrifices made by the Sikh Gurus and their families in the service of righteousness and justice.

Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron of NDS, Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary of NDS, Mrs. Jetinder Kour, renowned singer Vigyan Bharti, Executive Member S. Achhar Singh, and Devinder Bakshi.

The event was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the Sikh Gurus and their families in the service of righteousness and justice.

## Religious faith hurt by ropeway project, Hindu leaders in silent mode: Shiv Sena

**Shrine Board has no right to hurt religious faith of Hindus**

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: Leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit have demanded the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board to cancel the ropeway project and immediately release the Sangharsh Samiti members taken into police

custody.

According to a press release issued from the state central office of the party, state chief Manish Sahni has accused the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board for spoiling the nature of the yatra, making the devotees do an incomplete yatra and

hanging the sword of unemployment on thousands of people.

Along with this, Sahni also questioned the silence of the state MLAs and MPs of BJP and said that, there is a fear of the religious faith of crores of Hindus being affected by the

ropeway project and the yatra being incomplete, but the so-called Hindu leaders are in silent mode.

Sahni has demanded the cancellation of the ropeway project from Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha (Chairman

of the Shrine Board).

## MRM convenes workers meet to highlight public issues



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: A meeting of workers of "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" Jammu and Kashmir was convened by its Organiser for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UT's Gulshan Kumar here today.

The Convener J&K and Ladakh UT's Mir Nazir, Legal advisor J&K and Ladakh UT Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad also attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the organisational issues. A joining program was also held on this occasion.

Expressing his views, Adv. Malik said that MRM is the organisation that has a vision and capability to bring about Social and Economic transformation in the country.

"The agenda of this organisation is to carry all the sections of the society together which is a step towards accomplishing equitable development of all the regions, religions and castes," he claimed.

While addressing the District Presidents of J&K and Ladakh UTs, Malik emphasized the need to further strengthen their respective district bodies to effectively

serve the people. He urged them to actively bring public grievances to the government's attention while upholding the values of mutual brotherhood—a core principle of the MRM manifesto.

Advocating for unity and social harmony, he called on all members to reaffirm their commitment in fostering the brotherhood for the greater good of the society.

On the occasion, several grievances were presented before the dignitaries, highlighting pressing issues faced by the community.

The organizer Gulshan Kumar and convener

Mir Nazir assured the attendees of their commitment to address these concerns at appropriate fora.

They also expressed their resolve to take up the matters with higher authorities to ensure timely redressal of the grievances by effective administrative intervention.

The whole program was organized by its legal advisor J&K, Ladakh UT's Adv Malikzada Mohd Shahzad.

The participants were also served lunch during an impressive organisational function which was hosted in Guest House Gandhi Nagar.

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## EDITORIAL

## RISE OF NATIONALISM

Nationalism, a political ideology that emphasizes the interests, culture, and identity of a particular nation, has seen a resurgence in recent years. Once a driving force behind the independence movements in the 18th and 19th centuries, nationalism today manifests in various forms, ranging from cultural pride and unity to aggressive isolationism and xenophobia. This resurgence has significant implications for global peace, cooperation, and diplomacy.

Nationalism first gained prominence in the 19th century during the formation of modern nation-states in Europe. It was a response to imperialism and the desire for self-determination, with movements like those in Italy and Germany seeking to unify fragmented regions under a single national identity. In the 20th century, nationalism played a pivotal role in the formation of countries and the collapse of empires, particularly after World War I and World War II. However, the aftermath of these wars also saw the rise of international organizations like the United Nations, designed to foster global cooperation, peace, and the reduction of nationalism's most destructive tendencies, particularly in the form of war.

Today, the rise of nationalism is being driven by a variety of factors, including economic insecurity, cultural shifts, and dissatisfaction with globalization. The modern version of nationalism often emphasizes the interests of the nation over international cooperation, and sometimes even at the expense of human rights and democratic values. This growing sentiment is both a reaction to and a consequence of globalization, which has brought about new challenges and inequalities.

One of the major catalysts for the resurgence of nationalism is the economic disruption caused by globalization. While globalization has led to economic growth in many parts of the world, it has also created significant disparities, particularly in advanced economies. The outsourcing of jobs, deindustrialization, and the rise of income inequality have left many working-class citizens feeling disenfranchised and disconnected from the globalized economy. In response, nationalist leaders capitalize on these frustrations by promising to bring jobs back to the domestic economy, protect national industries, and challenge international trade deals that they view as detrimental to the nation's interests.

Nationalism is also fueled by fears of cultural erosion due to immigration and the perceived loss of national identity. As more people migrate across borders in search of better economic opportunities or to escape conflict, nationalism has often been mobilized to preserve the traditional cultural and religious values of the native population. In countries like the United States, the UK, and parts of Europe, immigration has become a flashpoint for nationalist movements. These movements argue that unchecked immigration undermines national cohesion, fosters cultural dilution, and threatens social stability.

Populist leaders have emerged as the faces of the new wave of nationalism, using rhetoric that capitalizes on public discontent with the political establishment. Figures like Donald Trump in the United States, Viktor Orbán in Hungary, and Narendra Modi in India have promoted nationalism as a tool to consolidate political power. These leaders often portray themselves as champions of the common people, fighting against a global elite that they claim has neglected the needs of ordinary citizens. Their appeal lies in their ability to tap into national pride while promising to protect citizens from external threats, including immigration, trade imbalances, and foreign influence.

Nationalism's resurgence is also linked to a growing skepticism towards international organizations like the European Union, the United Nations, and even multilateral trade agreements. Critics argue that these organizations often prioritize global cooperation over national interests, leaving countries vulnerable to decisions made by distant bureaucrats. Brexit, the UK's decision to leave the European Union, is a prominent example of how nationalist sentiment can lead to the rejection of international cooperation in favor of sovereignty and self-determination.

By: Sunil Mahala

In this era of digital revolution, the screen time of children is continuously increasing, which is having a negative impact on both the health and future of children. It would not be wrong to say that in today's changing times, mobile, internet, social networking sites have become an integral part of every person's daily routine. In fact, today with affordable data plans and increasing internet facilities, a large number of youth in the country are constantly turning towards digital media. Social media platforms like Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook have become virtual public spaces, and through this the youth exchange their thoughts and experiences. Today social, direct communication has reduced a lot. These platforms of the virtual world provide connectivity to everyone, on the other hand they also contribute to increasing screen time. Today, due to social media, the screen time of our youth has increased a lot. This is affecting not only their health but also the career of the youth. It would not be wrong to say that due to increasing screen time, on one hand the mind of children is getting distracted from studies, on the other hand, children are also becoming victims of stress and depression today. Excessive use and application of social networking sites is also continuously reducing our relationships and social interactions.

The growing addiction to screen time is leading to lack of sleep and depression. Today, the screen time of children is increasing not only in India but all over the world. This is reducing the concentration of children and increasing their irritability, but now many countries of the world, including India, are taking many initiatives to ban children from using social networking sites. In this sequence, it is worth mentioning that Australia has banned the use of social media by children below 16 years of age. For this, the Australian Senate

has recently passed a bill. In the US state of Florida also, children below 14 years of age cannot use social media. Not only this, today there is strictness on the use of social media by children in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Britain, Ireland, Canada, Nigeria, Brazil, Cambodia, Vietnam, South Korea and New Zealand, European Union and many other countries. In Sweden, there is a complete ban on mobile use for children below two years of age. The screen time for children from 2 to 5 years and 6 to 12 years is fixed. However, it is a very good initiative that recently, realizing the addiction of children in India to continuous screen time for hours, the innovation of 'Mobile Vrat' has been started. It is worth mentioning that mobile fast or digital fasting sets the limit of smartphone usage for people in a day or a week. In digital fasting (mobile fast), people use technology only according to the prescribed time. In fact, this fasting usually includes phones, tablets or laptops.

However, it would not be wrong to say that today not only children but everyone watches unnecessary content on mobile for hours. For example, numerous content including political, religious, educational knowledge and news, entertainment are being watched and listened to on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Whatsapp. For the information of the readers, let me tell you that recently in Mumbai, the religious leaders of the Bohra community, while giving a message to the people of the community, have said that children below the age of 15 years should be kept away from mobile. Its effect is being seen in many parts of the country and news of this effect is continuously coming from the media. Similar effect was also seen recently in the Bohra community of Rajasthan. It is worth noting that in some villages of Kota, Durgapur, Udaipur of Rajasthan, parents take away mobile phones from their children after 7 pm. Not only this, the parents themselves are also trying to stay away from mobile phones (reduce

screen time) for two hours in the evening. A similar experiment done in Saundla village of Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra has become a topic of discussion in the media these days. Here, children observe 'mobile fast' from 7 to 9 pm every day. By the way, for the information of the readers, let me tell you that mobile fast has also been given the name of e-upwas or digital fasting. Not only this, digital fasting is also known as digital detox, dopamine fasting, unplugging from technology and digital sabbath etc. Jain society has already started mobile fast or digital fasting during Prayurshna a long time ago.

It would not be wrong to say that today mobile fast/mobile fast is the need of the hour. Today we have created a small world around smartphones, laptops, computers, internet and this habit of ours is not right at all, because it is giving rise to many problems including health and social problems. In today's fast-paced life, mobile fasting is very important, because stress and depression surround man from all sides. Man does not have time for himself today, man is lost in this world of matter and has become materialistic. It would not be wrong to say that by including digital fasting in our routine, we can give social strength to our relationships. We are able to do any productive work, our health also remains good. Mobile fasting gives us time for better works. Mobile fasting will keep both our body and mind healthy and good.

In our Sanatan tradition and culture, fasting is considered an important part of the lifestyle, so why should we not adopt mobile detox in our lives today? However, if we talk about figures, Deloitte's 2022 Global TMT study states that India will have 100 crore smartphone users by 2026, which is a very large number in itself. It can be guessed how many people in India will be using smartphones today. According to a report, India is among the countries with the highest data usage in the world today. People in India spend

more time on smartphones on average than in other countries. According to the report, the trend of watching videos on smartphones has increased significantly in India and it will increase up to four times by 2025. Data traffic in India increased by 31 percent in 2021 and the average mobile data consumption has reached 17 GB per user per month. Not only this, a study conducted by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Rohtak on the use of social media by youth has revealed that the average screen time of a man is 6 hours 45 minutes, while the average screen time of a woman is 7 hours 5 minutes. The study also revealed that about 60.66 percent of youth use social media platforms, which is most commonly used in the evening. Entertainment related content has the highest viewership of more than 50 percent. In the end, I would say that increasing screen time reduces our physical activity, which increases the risk of weight gain and obesity, which is considered to be a major factor in many serious chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, etc. Exposure to mobile or other screens at an early age can affect the mental and physical development of children, problems of concentration, stress, depression can occur. Therefore, we should ensure digital fasting while working towards protecting the health of children and their future.

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## Mistakes to Avoid while Preparing for CBSE/ICSE/State board Exam 2025

By: Vijay Garg

Here are the top 10 mistakes that students often make during their exam preparation, along with practical strategies to avoid them.

CBSE/ICSE/STATE Board Exam holds immense importance in the academic journey of every student in India. As the gateway to future educational and career opportunities, the CBSE/ICSE /State Board Exam 2025 demands meticulous preparation and strategic planning. As the countdown to this crucial examination begins, it is essential for students to not only dive into their textbooks but also navigate their preparation journey wisely. Avoiding common mistakes can make a significant difference in your performance.

here are the top 10 mistakes that students often make during their exam preparation, along with practical strategies to avoid them.

1. Procrastination and late start  
One of the most common mistakes students make is delaying their study schedule. Starting early is essential as it allows for a gradual and thorough understanding of the syllabus. Create a timetable, set realistic goals, and stick to your study plan. Starting early also provides ample time for revision and practice, boosting your confidence before the exam.

2. Ignoring certain subjects  
Another mistake students often commit is neglecting certain subjects or chapters. Every subject carries weight in the CBSE/ICSE /State exams, so ignoring one can significantly impact your overall score. Allocate time wisely to each subject based on its complexity and your proficiency.

Seek help from teachers or classmates if you find a particular subject challenging.

3. Overlooking previous years' papers

Practicing previous years' question papers is crucial for exam preparation. It helps you understand the exam pattern, time management, and the type of questions likely to be asked. Ignoring this valuable resource deprives you of insight into the exam structure, making it difficult to tackle the questions effectively.

Solve as many of last year's papers as possible and analyse your performance to identify weak areas.

4. Relying solely on one study material

Depending entirely on one study material is a grave mistake. Each book or resource offers a unique perspective and depth of knowledge. Explore a variety of textbooks, reference guides, and online resources to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topics. Diversifying your study materials enhances your grasp of different concepts and problem-solving techniques.

5. Focus on memorising  
Memorising without understanding is a common pitfall. Cramming information might help in the short term, but it does not promote a deep understanding of the subject matter. Focus on understanding the underlying concepts.

Use techniques like mind maps, flashcards, and summarization to comprehend and retain information effectively. Understanding ensures a solid foundation, making it easier to answer diverse and complex questions in the exam.

6. Neglecting health and well-being

Your physical and mental well-being significantly impact your exam performance. Lack of sleep, poor diet, and inadequate exercise can impair your concentration and memory.

Prioritise a balanced diet, regular exercise, and sufficient sleep during your preparation period. Incorporate relaxation techniques such as meditation or yoga to manage stress and maintain focus. A healthy body and mind enhance your ability to absorb and retain information.

7. Ignoring revision and practice

One of the biggest mistakes students make is underestimating the power of revision and practice. Merely reading the material is not enough; consistent revision reinforces the learned concepts and boosts memory retention.

Devote time to regular revision and solve sample papers and mock tests to enhance your problem-solving skills. Revision also helps in recalling information during the exam, leading to better performance.

8. Getting distracted

In today's digital age, distractions are everywhere. Social media, games, and messaging apps can divert your attention, wasting precious study time. Create a distraction-free study environment.

Turn off notifications, use website blockers, and designate specific study hours without interruptions. Inform your friends and family about your study schedule, seeking their support in maintaining a focused study atmosphere.

9. Ignoring time management  
Effective time management is key to success in any exam. Many students fail to practice time-bound mock tests, lead-

ing to poor time management during the actual exam. Practice solving papers within the allotted time to improve your speed and accuracy.

Divide your study time wisely among different subjects and topics. Prioritise topics based on their importance and your proficiency level, ensuring balanced coverage of the entire syllabus.

10. Panicking during the exam  
Lastly, panicking during the exam is a common but detrimental mistake. Anxiety can cloud your judgment and hinder your ability to think clearly. To combat this, practice relaxation techniques, deep breathing, and positive visualization. Remind yourself of your preparation and stay confident in your abilities. Manage your time wisely during the exam, answering questions you are most confident about first. Stay calm and focused throughout the examination period.

Understanding and addressing these mistakes can not only elevate your confidence but also optimise your study efforts, ensuring a more effective and fruitful preparation period. Remember, studying smart is as important as studying hard. By avoiding these mistakes and staying focused, you can face the CBSE /ICSE/STATE Board Exam 2025 with confidence.

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

## Dogri Sanstha Jammu releases Inderjeet Kesar's Dogri novel 'Dohri'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: Dogri Sanstha Jammu released Inderjeet Kesar's Dogri novel 'Dohri' in a simple but impressive function organized at Writers' Club, K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu.

On this occasion, Prof. R.D.Sharma, former Vice Chancellor, Jammu University was chief guest, Retired Maj Gen. S.K. Sharma was special guest whereas Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function.

Prof. R.D Sharma, the Chief Guest while addressing the august gathering said that Dogri Sanstha has been doing commendable effort in promoting mother tongue Dogri and regional cultural heritage since its formation in 1944.

He said that it's the duty of all individuals to contribute to this noble cause as Dogri is facing

a threat like many other mother tongues all over the world. We have to realize that our mother tongue and cultural traditions are in fact our existence and we have to preserve it at all costs.

He congratulated veteran dogri writer Inderjeet Kesar in enriching the language and literature with colossal contributions and welcomed his another creative literary work in the form of a novel.

Speaking on the occasion, Retired Maj. Gen. S K. Sharma said that Dogri is a sweet language and we should try our level best to preserve and promote it.

It needs devotees like Inderjeet Kesar who believe in working for a cause, which is in fact a common cause for all of us. He hoped that others would also follow him and enrich mother tongue with quality literature.

Prof. Lalit Magotra while extending grati-

tude to the author Inderjeet Kesar said that he has been a writer, working with a mission to contribute more and more which is an inspiration for others also.

Although, at present he is more inclined to writing novels, he has also given beautiful poetry, travelogues, essays, children's literature thus enriching literature written in mother tongue. On this occasion, the author Inderjeet Kesar also shared his literary journey with the audience.

A detailed paper on the novel was presented by Ashok Khajuria, the program was conducted by Promila Manhas and Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary, Dogri Sanstha Jammu presented vote of thanks. The function was attended in large numbers by litterateurs, literature lovers and family members of the author.

## SMC steps up snow clearance operations in Srinagar to ensure smooth connectivity

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 28: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has intensified its snow clearance operations across the city following recent snowfall.

Efforts are being made to ensure that essential routes and internal road links remain accessible.

Commissioner Owais Ahmed said, "Since yesterday, our main teams have been deployed, and both our personnel and machinery are working tirelessly to clear the snow on Srinagar roads. Priority roads have already been cleared, and we are actively working to clear all roads in Srinagar."

He said that to handle the heavy snow, the SMC has deployed approximately 40 snow clearance machines.

"Special focus has been placed on critical routes, particularly those leading to hospitals and other essential areas. Additionally, internal road links are being cleared manually by the corporation's teams to ensure smooth access for residents".

He said that the administration remains committed to minimizing disruptions caused by the weather. The Commissioner assured that all resources are being utilized to restore normalcy in Srinagar at the earliest.

## First snowfall of season brings joy to tourists in Patnitop, Nathatop & Sanasar

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: Jammu and Kashmir's popular tourist destinations Patnitop, Nathatop, and Sanasar experienced their first snowfall of the season today.

The snowfall began early in the morning, creating a magical ambience.

Munish Gupta, a hotelier in Patnitop, expressed his delight, saying, "The snowfall has brought a festive vibe to the area. It's the first snow of the season, and the atmosphere feels truly magical."

Anjali Kapoor, a tourist from Delhi, shared her excitement: "We had been eagerly waiting to experience snowfall,

and it's been absolutely worth it. The views from Nathatop are breathtaking, and the snow has made it even more special."

Local businesses are optimistic about the season. Another hotelier commented, "With the arrival of snowfall, we anticipate a significant increase in tourist footfall. We are hopeful that the upcoming New Year celebrations will be grand and draw even more visitors to this beautiful destination."

The snowfall is expected to provide a much-needed boost to tourism in the areas, with many travelers planning trips to enjoy the snow-clad hills.

## Fire breaks out in Firdous Abad Batamallo

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 28: A fire broke out today in Firdous Abad Batamallo area of Srinagar, damaging a residential house partially.

Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) personnel swiftly responded to the blaze and were on the job to contain it.

The fire caused par-

tial damage to the affected house, though no injuries have been reported so far.

The F&ES team worked tirelessly to bring the fire under control and prevent it from spreading to nearby structures.

Authorities have initiated an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

## Snow clearance in full swing in Kulgam: 43% of roads cleared, efforts on to restore electricity

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 28: Following heavy snowfall, extensive snow clearance operations are underway across Kulgam district with all available resources deployed to ensure connectivity and essential services.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of the Mechanical Engineering Department (MED), Khurshid Abdullah, said that the snow clearance machinery has been significantly augmented.

"A total of 25 snow clearance machines are currently in operation, covering 585 kilometers of 162 roads in the district," he said.

"Our operations prioritize 74 major roads (Priority-1) spanning

430.57 kilometers and 88 other link roads (Priority-2) covering 154.66 kilometers. So far, we have cleared 43% of the roads. Out of 74 Priority-1 roads, 40 have been cleared, covering 223.89 kilometers. For the Priority-2 roads, 30 have been cleared, spanning 35.57 kilometers. Efforts are ongoing to clear the remaining snow as quickly as possible," Abdullah said, adding that he is personally monitoring the situation on the ground.

On the electricity front, Executive Engineer (Exen) of the KPDC Kulgam, Abdul Hameed Akhoun, told KINS that all 33kV lines and 72 feeders of 11kV in the district are currently down.

"Restoration of 33kV

lines is a prerequisite for recharging the 11kV lines. However, the essential power line for Kulgam hospital is 75% operational, and our teams are working diligently to restore power at the earliest," Akhoun assured.

In addition, a district administration official confirmed that food supplies for upper reaches have been stocked for four months in advance.

To address medical emergencies, 4x4 ambulances have also been strategically positioned in these areas.

Authorities have reassured residents that all necessary efforts are being made to address the challenges posed by the snowfall and to restore normalcy in the district.

## Essential services restoration in full swing amid heavy snowfall in Bla District

### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Dec 28: In response to the snowfall, the District Administration of Baramulla has made significant progress in restoring essential services, including road connectivity, power supply, and drinking water.

Restoration efforts are being carried out across the district to ensure a swift return to normalcy for residents.

Efforts were on to restore all major roads, including the Srinagar-Uri National Highway, Gulmarg, Tangmarg, and other key routes for vehicular movement.

"Salt was applied early in the morning to clear icy patches, ensuring

smoother and safer travel.

Efforts are ongoing to clear link roads in rural and urban areas, with plans to have them fully cleared by this evening," one of the officials of the district administration, said.

He said that the restoration of the power supply is progressing well, with 80% of the 11kV feeders now fully restored. Restoration teams are working around the clock to achieve 100% restoration of power supply in the affected areas.

Drinking water supply has been partially disrupted in several areas due to freezing conditions. Restoration teams

are actively addressing these issues, and full restoration is expected soon to ensure access to clean drinking water.

The health sector remains fully operational, with necessary measures in place to ensure that essential medical services continue without interruption. Emergency teams are on standby to address any immediate healthcare needs.

The District Administration is committed to resolving any remaining issues swiftly and ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents. Cooperation from the public is encouraged to aid in the restoration efforts.

## DPS Jammu bags top positions in VVM State level exam

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: Students of Delhi Public School Jammu participated in prestigious Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2024 -25 State Level Exam (VVM) organized by Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on 15th Dec. 2024 held at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. Out of total 131 students who appeared from various schools across J&K for this prestigious exam, 31 students were from DPS Jammu who bagged top 9 positions out of total 18 selections in State Level Exam i.e. 50% of total selections were from DPS Jammu.

It is noteworthy that VVM Exam is a national level digital based Science Talent Search Examination meant for educating and popularizing Science among school students.

Syed Hansa (VI-H) 2nd position, Paras Gupta (VII-B)-1st position, Mohd. Umair Malik (VII-F)-2nd position, Chirag Luthra (VIII-C)-1st position, Mhotsav Gandotra (VIII-J) 2nd position, Taransh Mahajan (IX-

D)-2nd position, Tarini Gupta (X-J)-2nd position, Danish Talwar (XI-A) 1st position and Manaswin Mahajan (XI-A)-3rd position.

Further, Syed Hansa Paras Gupta, Mohd. Umair Malik, Chirag Luthra, Mhotsav Gandotra, Taransh Mahajan, Tarini Gupta & Danish Talwar will now represent J&K at a National level exam to be held in May-2025. All the winners were given cash prizes, Certificates of Merit and Mementoes whereas all the participants were given Certificates of participation and Mementoes.

The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC-Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, Director-S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated the winners, participants and their parents.

They also applauded their teachers in-charge, Navneet Kaur and Dr. Paramjeet Singh, VVM Coordinators. They also extended their best wishes to them for the upcoming National Level Exam.

# Movement Kalki's protest continues for 69th Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The protest led by Movement Kalki, demanding the declaration of Mother Cow as the 'National Mother', stricter cow protection laws, the construction of cowsheds, and the formation of a Sanatan Board, has entered its 69th day. Despite facing adverse weather conditions, including last night's heavy rainfall, the protesters have shown unwavering resolve to continue their fight until their demands are met.

The torrential rain created significant hardships at the protest site located at Amphalla Chowk, soaking essential items such as blankets, mattresses, and other belongings. Despite these challenges, the protesters remained determined and continued their

activities, including the Aarti of Mother Cow in the rain. By morning, they had rallied together to dry the soaked materials and continued with their demonstration.

Sunita Kundal, a board member of Movement Kalki, emphasized the resilience of the protesters, stating, "Rain, cold, or any other challenge cannot break our spirit. We will not end our protest until Mother Cow is declared as the National Mother."

Monika Sharma, another member of the movement, expressed frustration with the government's inaction, questioning why the significance of Mother Cow is not being recognized officially. "Is Mother Cow only the responsibility of Movement Kalki members? Why doesn't the government recognize



her significance? We urge the government to provide adequate facili-

ties for the protesters so that this movement can continue without

obstacles," she remarked. Karnail Chand, a senior board

member, issued a stern warning to the government, stating, "If any protester falls ill or faces any difficulty at the protest site, the government will be held accountable. Despite the challenges, our members stood strong throughout the rain, and we will not retreat from our mission."

Other key members at the protest site included Karnail Chand, Sapna Kohli, Pawan Narang, Pritam Sharma, Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli, Monika Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, and Mela Ram. They worked tirelessly to dry and arrange the soaked belongings, maintaining the protest's spirit.

Movement Kalki has appealed to the public to support their cause, urging them to stand with the movement to achieve the goal of declaring Mother Cow as the National Mother.

## Alvida 2024: Meet the stars who created a lasting impact

In 2024, several Bollywood actors made a mark on both the big screen and streaming platforms with their captivating performances. Whether playing lead roles or others, they proved their mettle across diverse roles. From heartwarming tales to hard-hitting dramas, these seven actors truly owned the screen in 2024.

**Period drama:** Richa Chadha, Heeramandi

Richa Chadha left audiences spellbound with her powerful performance as Lajjo in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus Heeramandi. Playing a pivotal role in this lavish period drama, Richa brought depth, grace and intensity to her character. Her commanding screen presence and emotionally charged scenes made her one of the most talked-about actors of 2024. Her performance on OTT drew comparisons to some of the finest portrayals in Indian period dramas.

**Comic timing:** Abhishek Banerjee, Stree 2

Abhishek Banerjee once again proved why he's one of Bollywood's most versatile actors with his standout per-



formance in Stree 2. Known for his impeccable comic timing, Banerjee added more layers to his character, Jana, blending humour with an undercurrent of fear and mystery. His ability to hold the audience's attention makes him a true star in both theatrical releases and OTT content.

**Flying high:** Akshay Oberoi, Fighter

With Fighter, Akshay Oberoi showcased his acting prowess like never before. Playing a complex and layered character of a fighter pilot opposite Bollywood superstars, Oberoi managed to shine with his nuanced portrayal. His intense screen pres-

ence and the emotional depth he brought to his role earned him widespread acclaim. While Fighter was a big-screen spectacle, Oberoi also maintained his OTT presence with memorable roles, proving his ability to adapt to different formats.

**Cop story:** Ravi Kishan, Laapataa Ladies

Ravi Kishan, known for his charismatic and larger-than-life persona, delivered a standout performance as a cop in Laapataa Ladies. His role in this feminist comedy-drama was humorous and thought-provoking. Kishan's impeccable dialogue delivery and natural charm elevated the

film's comic elements, making him a show-stealer once again. His ability to switch between serious and comic roles with ease has made him a consistent performer in both cinema and OTT.

**Being versatile:** Pratik Gandhi, Madgaon Express

Pratik Gandhi continued his streak of powerful performances in Madgaon Express, where he played a pivotal role. Known for his ability to portray morally complex characters, Gandhi once again captivated viewers with his performance. His role was central to the film's gripping storyline, and his presence on OTT platforms this year has

only solidified his status as a versatile actor who can shine on any platform.

**Witty character:** Vir Das, Call Me Bae

Stand-up comedian-actor Vir Das made waves on OTT with his role in Call Me Bae. Playing a flamboyant and witty character, his comic flair was on full display but he also brought emotional depth to his role, surprising viewers. His ability to blend humour with poignant moments made him a standout performer. His transition from stand-up comedy to narrative storytelling on OTT continues to win him new fans and critical acclaim alike.

**Screen presence:** Tilotama Shome, Tribuvan Mishra CA Topper

Tilotama Shome delivered a gripping and emotionally charged performance in the Hindi web series Tribuvan Mishra CA Topper. She was praised for her portrayal of the complex character, Bindu. Her powerful screen presence drew audiences into her world, making her one of the most captivating performers of 2024 on OTT platforms.

## Manoj Bajpayee praises crime reporters



In a recent discussion, Manoj Bajpayee, who was recently seen on the ZEE5 film Despatch, engaged with crime reporters and spoke

openly about the challenges they face. "The greed, the fear, the basic needs, the family—how much conflict a journalist of this nature goes

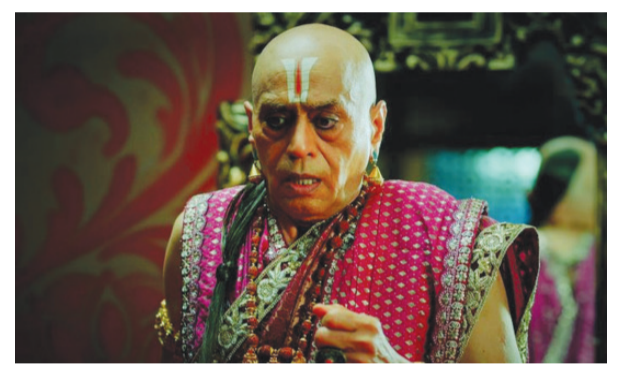
through. A journalist is a human being and goes through a lot of personal conflict. In any field, a person deals with greed and fear, but the level of conflict a journalist faces on a day-to-day basis is significant. This is something we should discuss and bring to the table."

He added, "While playing the role of a crime journalist in the film, I realised that doing the job is one thing but knowing the risk of losing one's life is another. I salute all the reporters."

## Pankaj Berry reprises his role in the show Tenali Rama

Sony SAB's show Tenali Rama has returned with an exciting new story. The show also marks the return of the clever and witty Raj Guru Tathacharya,

played by the talented and seasoned actor Pankaj Berry. The much-loved and iconic character is known for his shrewdness and cunning nature, and is seen engaging in his trademark battle of wit with Tenali (played by



Krishna Bharadwaj). Pankaj said, "Tathacharya is full of wit, mischief and charm, making him both a chal-

lenge and a joy to portray. Bringing his quirks and humour to life has been a rewarding experience."

## Farah Khan to host Celebrity MasterChef

This new year, get ready for the ultimate culinary showdown on Sony Entertainment Television. The highly anticipated show MasterChef India promises to be more exciting than ever, returning as Celebrity MasterChef—Ab Unn Sabki Seeti Bajegi.

The ultimate foodie and entertainer, Farah Khan has been roped in as the host of Celebrity MasterChef - Ab Unn Sabki Seeti Bajegi on Sony Entertainment Television. Known for her straightforward feedback, Farah Khan will be the toughest critic in the kitchen. She doesn't mince words, even when it comes to celebrities! With her sharp comments and witty one-liners, she will keep the contestants on their toes, making them accountable for every



dish they create.

Shared Farah, "I've always been an avid foodie. I enjoy experimenting with recipes, exploring new cuisines and adding my own twist. I've channelled my love for food by starting my own digital cooking channel. When I was approached to host Celebrity MasterChef, I jumped at the opportunity. Not only do I adore the format, but I've also had the pleasure of being friends with our fabulous Chef Judges—the talented Ranveer Brar and Vikas Khanna. I was part of the MasterChef family when it first came to India, and I'm well acquainted with most of the incredible celebrities that we have this season, so it's going to be a wild ride! As host, I'm excited to bring the heat to the MasterChef kitchen."

## Actress Deep Sehgal has impressed with the film Je Jatt Vigarh Gya

Emerging as a fresh face in the Punjabi film industry, Deep Sehgal has captured hearts with her charm and talent. Her debut movie, Je Jatt Vigarh Gaya, has generated a buzz, and Deep's excitement is palpable. And she is as thrilled about her story—from a simple, middle-class background to the big screen.

**Dream role**  
Talking about her breakthrough role in Je Jatt Vigarh Gaya, she says, "I've done movies before in side roles, but I was looking for a project where I could play a lead role. When Manish sir, the director, narrated the story and offered me the part, I was excited and asked him when we could start. I loved it, and, as you know, the first lead role is always special."

**Persistence pays**  
Coming from a middle-class family, Deep faced countless obstacles, but it was her persistence that kept her going. "Talking about this makes me very emotional. With everyone talking about the movie now, it brings back memories. I recently shared a reel on Instagram showing my journey and was so overwhelmed. When you dream about something and it finally happens, it's incredible. Coming from a middle-class family, without a godfather in the industry or any support, it's been a tough journey. Standing here today, surviving, and progressing on pure hard work and self-belief, it feels like if you keep going, eventually, even God helps you along."

After her initial experiences in side roles, she knew she wanted more—roles where she could truly showcase her talent. "In 2019, I decided I wanted something big—I wanted to



show the world I can act. In smaller roles, you're limited in what you can express. I wanted to work on my skills, so I moved to Mumbai, started doing workshops, and enrolled in Anupam Kher's Academy. I knew that once I enhanced my skills, I would gain the confidence to get the role I dreamed of. And when I got Je Jatt Vigarh Gaya, I gave my cent percent to it."

**Challenges, choices and reality**  
When asked about her decision to move away from catalog shoots and music videos, Deep reflects on the struggle of balancing survival with her long-term goals. "When you're just starting, there's a lot of pressure. I had to look for ways to survive, but I didn't want to do any-

thing that lacked value. You know how Punjab makes a lot of music videos—there are so many people involved, but I felt it wasn't taken seriously. So, I didn't get into it. Instead, I did a lot of catalog shoots. I'd have 14-hour shifts, sometimes changing 80 outfits in a single day. I always kept in mind that once I did a movie, I wouldn't go back to catalog shoots."

**Outsider's struggle**  
As an outsider in the industry, Deep has witnessed the struggles of newcomers firsthand. She believes that everyone aiming for something extraordinary must face challenges, regardless of the field. "I think anyone wanting to do something different from your regular nine to five jobs should be ready to face struggles. Nothing comes without effort and in my experience, it's essential to go through challenges. But I've always felt that if I had done something else, like a business, I would still have had to struggle. Hard work is crucial, and I deeply respect Diljit Dosanjh. He's been in this industry for 20 years, putting in extreme hard work, and it's truly inspiring."

The journey is never easy, but Deep's belief in destiny shines through. "If I question why it took eight years to get here, there could be countless reasons. Maybe I wasn't ready before, or, maybe, it was destiny."

**A journey of destiny and dedication**  
Her parents' initial apprehension about her career choice is another chapter of her journey. "It was tough at first. Coming from a simple family, it was hard for them to understand. But slowly, they began to support me. Parents just want their kids to be safe and happy, and I think all parents are understanding if you know how to explain your dreams to them."

## Actor Hardik Thakkar talks about his show Swipe Crime...

Hardik Thakkar, who is currently seen in Versatile Motion Pictures' Swipe Crime on Amazon MX Player, is excited about how the show has captured the attention of viewers. He shared, "The name immediately intrigued me. Swiping, which is associated with dating apps like Tinder, and the crime element, were obvious from the start. It sparked my curiosity about what's going to happen next."

The show delves into the world of dating apps and social media, themes Hardik believes are highly relevant today. "Most young people are on dating apps, trusting strangers without knowing the risks involved. While these platforms can connect people with genuine intentions, there are always predators. The show helps viewers understand these risks and become more aware. I think that will go a long way in preventing crime."

In the fast-paced world of social media, Hardik stressed that there's more at stake than just online presence. "As an actor, your



craft is what truly matters. Social media can help you get work, but

the ability to deliver and uphold your ethics is crucial," he said.

## SC gives Punjab govt time till Dec 31 to shift fasting farmer leader Dallewal to hospital

**Punjab government said it is facing huge resistance from protesting farmers who have encircled Dallewal and are preventing him from being taken to hospital.**

NEW DELHI, Dec 28 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Saturday gave the Punjab government time till December 31 to persuade farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been fasting for over a month, to shift to hospital.

In an unprecedented hearing, a vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan pulled up the Punjab government for allowing the situation to escalate and not complying with its earlier directions to provide medical assistance to Dallewal.

Expressing helplessness, the Punjab government said it is facing huge resistance from protesting farmers who have encircled Dallewal and are preventing him from being taken to hospital.

Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh told the bench that a team of experts visited the protest site and tried to persuade Dallewal to shift to



hospital and take medical help.

"He (Dallewal) has refused any kind of medical aid, including (IV) drips, saying that it will undermine the cause of movement," he said.

This infuriated the bench which blamed the Punjab government for not doing enough to contain the situation and said the farmer leaders who are not allowing Dallewal to be taken to the hospital are involved in the criminal offence of abetment

to suicide.

The top court allowed the Punjab government to seek any kind of logistics support from the Centre if the situation warrants, and hoped that the state government will comply with its direction of shifting Dallewal to hospital.

The bench said Dallewal is under some kind of "peer pressure" and those farmer leaders who are not allowing him to be shifted to a hospital do not

seem to be his well-wishers.

"Are they interested in his life or something else? We don't want to say much and only hope that the Punjab government will comply with our directions," the bench said.

On Friday, the top court expressed concern over the condition of Dallewal and directed the Punjab government to ensure he is given medical assistance.

It had issued a notice to the Punjab Government on a contempt petition against its chief secretary and the director general of police (DGP) for non-compliance of an order directing that medical aid be provided to Dallewal.

Dallewal has been on an indefinite fast at the Khanauri border since November 26 to press the Centre to accept farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops.

## Working to stop AAP: Arvind Kejriwal attacks BJP and Congress after probe order



NEW DELHI, Dec 28

(Agencies): Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday attacked the BJP and the Congress after the Lieutenant Governor ordered a probe into the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) proposed welfare schemes based on a complaint by Congress's Sandeep Dikshit. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal accused the two parties of attempting to stop the AAP's schemes for women and the elderly ahead of the Delhi elections.

"BJP lacked the courage to act directly and instead got Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit to file the complaint. Congress and BJP are working together to stop AAP," said Kejriwal. This is the first time that Kejriwal has targeted both the Congress and BJP.

"I had said that after winning the election, we will give Rs 2,100 to women and free treatment to the elderly above 60 years of age. Both these schemes were so beneficial for

the public that lakhs of people have registered for them already. This made the BJP nervous," said AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal in the press conference on Saturday.

The Lieutenant Governor raised the following issues:

AAP's announcement of providing Rs 2,100 to eligible women voters.

Allegations of intelligence officers from Punjab operating at the residences of Congress candidates in Delhi.

Claims of cash being transferred from Punjab to Delhi ahead of the elections.

The AAP chief responded to these allegations and accused the BJP of attempting to sabotage AAP's welfare schemes. "The BJP is contesting this election just to stop everything. If they win, they will discontinue all your schemes. If you vote for BJP, you will have to leave Delhi," Kejriwal said.

Dismissing the allegations, Kejriwal asserted that the welfare

schemes, such as the Mahila Samman Card and Sanjeevani Yojna, are electoral promises, not implemented programs. "What is there to investigate? These are promises we've made for after we win the elections," he said, urging Delhi residents to continue registering for these initiatives.

Kejriwal further alleged that BJP leaders sent "goons" to disrupt AAP's registration camps and involved the Delhi Police to halt the registration process.

"BJP doesn't want the welfare of women and the elderly. They are anti-women and don't want them to progress," he claimed, adding that the BJP would make Delhi unlivable if they came to power.

In the press conference, he said that he is ready to go to jail again for the "people of Delhi."

Kejriwal said, "If they send me to jail, I'll go again, but I'll keep fighting for you." He encouraged residents to "trust their Kejriwal" and continue registering for AAP's proposed welfare schemes.

The allegations and counter-allegations come amid heightened political tension in Delhi as parties ramp up their campaigns ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, scheduled to be held before February 2024.

## Truck driver, helper killed after rear-end collision with stationary heavy vehicle

BHUBANESWAR/ BHAWANIPATNA, Dec 28 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, two persons were killed after a coal-laden truck rammed into the rear part of a stationary heavy vehicle near Pastikudi village on National Highway-16 within Bhanwanipatna Sadar police limits in the wee hours of

Saturday.

Police said the stationary truck was parked on the roadside and after the collision both the heavy vehicles caught fire.

The driver and helper of the truck transporting coal succumbed on the spot. The stationary truck was carrying rice and its driver had ille-

gally parked the vehicle on the highway.

The two trucks burst into flames after the crash, said the police. Odisha Fire and Emergency Service personnel rushed to the spot to douse the blaze and recovered the bodies of the two deceased persons.

Police said the identi-

ties of the deceased are yet to be established. The driver of the illegally parked truck managed to flee and police have launched a manhunt to nab him, said sources. Bhanwanipatna Sadar police have registered a case in this connection and further probe is underway.

The accident comes

at a time when Transport department has launched a five-month special drive since October to check violations like illegal parking, over speeding and drunk driving, which are the major reasons behind road mishaps and fatalities arising out of them, especially during winters.

## Two held for recent grenade attack on police station in Amritsar

CHANDIGARH, Dec 28 (Agencies): Punjab Police has arrested two persons for allegedly carrying out a grenade attack on the Islamabad police station in Amritsar recently, officials said on Saturday.

The attack was carried out in the early hours of December 17, though no one was injured in the incident.

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Saturday said the special operation cell in Amritsar busted a narco-terrorism module being operated by controllers from abroad.

"Gurjeet Singh from Dande in Amritsar and Baljit Singh from Chhapa in Tarn Taran have been arrested. The arrested persons carried out a grenade attack on Islamabad Police Station on December 17, 2024," the DGP said in a post on X.



So far, 1.4 kg of heroin, one hand grenade and two pistols have been recovered, he said.

"Further investigations are on to uncover the entire network," the DGP added.

After an explosion-like noise was heard at the Islamabad police station on December 17, Punjab Police had dubbed it as an "attack" with the DGP ordering strict action against the perpetrators.

The explosion-like noise was heard in the early hours of the day, causing panic in the

area. Some locals put the time at around 3.15 am.

The DGP visited Amritsar the same day where he held a meeting with police officers to review the law and order situation and directed the officers concerned to ensure professional policing and take strict action against the perpetrators.

A few grenade attacks on police stations have been reported from the state in recent times, though no one was injured in those incidents.

## Rajasthan girl, 3, in borewell for 6th day, mother pleads for rescue

**Dhole Devi, Chetna's mother, was seen making tearful appeals to the authorities on Saturday.**

JAIPUR, Dec 28 (Agencies): Hapless mother of 3-year-old Chetna, who fell in a borewell on Monday afternoon in Kotputli, Rajasthan, is pleading with the administration to bring her daughter out to safety.

Dhole Devi, Chetna's mother, was seen making tearful appeals to the authorities on Saturday. "For God's sake, take my daughter out," she pleaded in despair. The ordeal has left her emotionally shattered as rescue efforts continue around the clock.

Chetna's uncle, Shubhram, said on Saturday that the officials are unresponsive. "If you ask too many questions, they say, 'The Collector ma'am will inform you; she's currently resting,'"



he said. So far, the District Collector has not visited the family, he complained.

Chetna's mother is in deep distress, crying uncontrollably, desperately requesting the girl to be brought out, he added.

The child is trapped at a depth of 150 feet, and

her family, along with the entire community, is anxiously awaiting her rescue.

In Kotputli, a relentless rescue operation has entered its sixth day to save three-year-old Chetna who fell into a 700-foot-deep borewell on December 23. Rescue teams

have made progress, completing the welding of the casing pipe by Saturday morning. The next phase involves digging an 8-foot horizontal tunnel at a 90-degree angle, which officials hope will allow them to bring out Chetna soon.

The welding of the casing pipe has been

finalised, enabling the team to focus on creating the horizontal tunnel. Fans, lights, oxygen, and cutter machines have been sent down the borewell to facilitate the operation. For safety reasons, the administration has restricted media access to the site.

The delay in implementing alternative rescue plans has sparked criticism among people as they argue that the simultaneous execution of Plan B alongside Plan A could have expedited the process, potentially avoiding the prolonged rescue timeline.

Despite these challenges, rescue teams remain committed to bringing Chetna back safely, with hopes for a positive outcome.

## NDA govt created 'unnecessary controversy' over Manmohan Singh's cremation, memorial: Ashok Gehlot

JAIPUR, Dec 28 (Agencies): Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday accused the NDA government of creating an "unnecessary controversy" over the cremation and memorial of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Gehlot claimed that it was under public pressure that the BJP government announced plans to build a memorial for Singh in the future.

Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Thursday night. He was 92. "The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has cre-

ated an unnecessary controversy over the cremation and memorial of a great personality like Dr Manmohan Singh," Gehlot said on X.

The former Rajasthan chief minister further stated that the people of the country have expressed their displeasure over this step of the government, and then, under the pressure of public sentiment, the BJP government announced to build a memorial in the future.

"The Government of India is conducting the cremation of a respected personality at Nigam Bodh Ghat instead of any special place. In 2010, after the death of former Vice President Bhairon

Singh Shekhawat, without any demand from the BJP, the Congress government spoke to his family and immediately allotted a special place for his last rites in Jaipur, and a memorial was built there," Gehlot said.

After the death of Bal Thackeray in Maharashtra in 2012, the Congress government allotted a special place in Mumbai's Shivaji Park for his last rites, he noted.

The former CM said that while Congress has always given respectful farewells to leaders of all parties, such behaviour by the BJP toward Manmohan Singh is "unfortunate".

## UP: Grandfather, father, uncle arrested for rape after minor girl found two months pregnant

AURAIYA, Dec 28 (Agencies): A girl's grandfather, father and uncle have been arrested here for allegedly raping the minor over a period of several months, leading to her pregnancy, police said on Saturday.

Additional Superintendent of Police Alok Mishra said the girl, accompanied by a woman relative, had approached the local Bidhuna police station with the complaint on Friday following which an FIR was lodged



and investigation was launched.

"She said her grandfather, father and uncle had been sexually exploiting her for the last several months.

The girl was taken for medical examination and prime facie it has come to light that she is

two-month pregnant," Mishra said.

"The accused have been arrested and were produced in a local court which has remanded them in judicial custody," he added.

The officer said the FIR was lodged under sections 64 (f) (rape

by a relative, guardian or person in a position of trust or authority, 65 (1) (rape of girl below 16 years of age), 232 (threatening any person to give false evidence), among others of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Charges have also been invoked under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Mishra said.

He said further investigations and legal proceedings in the case are underway.

## 'True statesman, kind, dedicated public servant': Biden pays tribute to Manmohan Singh

Recalls their shared belief in US-India relationship as one of most consequential in world

WASHINGTON, Dec 28 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden on Saturday paid heartfelt tributes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, describing him as a "true statesman," "kind and humble person," and "dedicated public servant."

Dr Singh, who served as India's 14th Prime Minister and was widely regarded as one of the nation's most distinguished economists, passed away on Thursday night at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. He was 92.

Acknowledged as the 'Architect of India's economic reforms,' Dr Singh led the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government as Prime Minister for two consecutive terms from 2004 to 2014, leaving a lasting legacy on India's economic and diplomatic landscape.

In an official statement issued by the White House, President Biden said, "Jill and I join the people of India in grieving the loss of former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh."



He emphasised that "the unprecedented level of cooperation between the United States and India today would not have been possible without the Prime Minister's strategic vision and political courage."

President Biden credited Dr Singh for key milestones in Indo-US relations, including the landmark US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement and the establishment of the Quad between Indo-Pacific partners.

He added that Dr Singh charted pathbreaking progress that will continue to strengthen our

nations and the world for generations to come.

"He was a true statesman. A dedicated public servant. And above all, he was a kind and humble person," Biden stated.

Recalling his personal interactions with Dr Singh, Biden mentioned their meetings during his tenure as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2008 and as Vice President during Dr Singh's official visit to the US in 2009.

"He also graciously hosted me in New Delhi in 2013," Biden said, noting their shared belief

in the US-India relationship as one of the most consequential in the world.

Expressing his condolences, he added, "During this difficult time, we recommit to this vision to which Prime Minister Singh dedicated his life. Jill and I send our deepest condolences to former First Lady Gursharan Kaur, their three children, and all the people of India."

Earlier on Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had also expressed his sorrow, calling Dr Singh "one of the greatest champions of the US-India strategic partnership."

Blinken highlighted Dr Singh's pivotal role in advancing the US-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and his contribution to India's rapid economic growth.

"The United States offers our sincere condolences to the people of India for the passing of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh," Blinken stated, adding, "We mourn Dr Singh's passing and will always remember his dedication to bringing the United States and India closer together."

## Chinese workers found in 'slavery-like conditions' in Brazil taken to hotels as probe gets underway

CAMACARI, Dec 28 (Agencies): Dozens of Chinese workers found by authorities in poor condition at a construction site in Brazil for electric vehicle automaker BYD have been taken and placed in hotels in the country's tropical northeast region.

Local prosecutors alleged that the laborers are victims of human trafficking who were living in "slavery-like conditions" under contractor Jinjiang Group, but offered no evidence to back up their claims.

It's unclear if the Chinese workers were in Brazil without proper papers and working permits.

The Bahia state Labor Prosecutor's Office could not comment when reached by agency, saying an investigation

was underway.

The prosecutor's office revealed on Monday the discovery of the 163 workers and their circumstances, and urged the company to place them at local hotels in Camacari, a city of 300,000 residents located about 1,600 kilometers (997 miles) north of Rio de Janeiro.

A video from the prosecutor's office showed the construction site, with beds without mattresses and rudimentary cooking facilities.

The Chinese automaker BYD, which stands for Build Your Dreams, is one of the world's largest producers of electric cars. Earlier this week, it said it would "immediately terminate the contract" with the contractor and was "studying other

appropriate measures."

BYD did not reply to a request from agency for comment and it was not immediately clear if Brazilian prosecutors had raised charges in the case.

But in a statement, BYD said it objected to reports about poor conditions at the site in Brazil, where it is building a factory, saying the allegations were a smearing campaign aimed at China and Chinese brands.

The facilities where the Chinese workers were found is expected to start production next year.

The Local residents in Camacari said many of the Chinese workers had come and already left the town. Their whereabouts were not clear and it was also unknown who was handling them at this point.

## Donald Trump to make history with two state visits hosted by Britain's royal family

WASHINGTON, Dec 28 (Agencies): US President-elect Donald Trump is poised to make history as the first elected politician to receive two state visits from the British royal family. According to a report by The Telegraph, Downing Street and the Foreign Office are preparing to extend an invitation to Trump for another state visit once he returns to the White House in January.

The move is seen as an attempt to strengthen ties between the UK and the US, with British diplomats hopeful that Trump's admiration for the Royal Family will play a significant role in fostering a closer relationship between the two nations. A senior Whitehall source revealed to the Telegraph that Trump's affection for the royals is well-known, citing the fact that he had a personal photo album made of his previ-

ous state visit to the UK in 2019.

During that visit, Trump was treated to a lavish three-day state visit, which included dining with the late Queen Elizabeth II and a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Portsmouth. The visit was seen as a significant moment in Trump's presidency, with the Queen herself telling Trump, "I hope you come to this country again soon." Trump responded by praising the Queen, calling her a "Great, great woman."

Trump's relationship with the Royal Family appears to be warming up, with a recent meeting in Paris. The two shared a warm handshake, and later spent 40 minutes in private at the UK Ambassador's Residence in Paris, dis-

cussing various global issues and the UK-US relationship.

Trump even praised Prince William, saying he's "doing a fantastic job." The President-elect also shared fond memories of the late Queen. The meeting was seen as a significant moment in Trump's relationship with the Royal Family, with many hoping that it will mark the beginning of a closer relationship between the US and the UK.

The potential state visit is expected to take place in 2026, although no official date has been confirmed. If it goes ahead, Trump will become the first elected politician to receive two state visits from the British royal family. The visit will likely be seen as a significant moment in Trump's presidency, and will likely be closely watched by diplomats and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic.

## South Korea's Yoon authorised 'shooting' during martial law bid: Prosecutors

SEOUL, Dec 28 (Agencies): South Korea's suspended president Yoon Suk Yeol authorised the military to fire their weapons if needed to enter parliament during his failed bid to impose martial law, according to a prosecutors' report seen by agency on Saturday.

The 10-page summary from former defence minister Kim Yong-hyun's prosecution indictment report, which was provided to the media, also says Yoon vowed on December 3 to declare martial law three times if necessary. Yoon, who was stripped of his duties by the National Assembly this month, is under investigation for his short-lived attempt to scrap civilian rule, which plunged the country into political turmoil and led to his impeachment.

Yoon's lawyer Yoon Kab-keun dismissed the prosecutors' report, telling agency it was "a



one-sided account that neither corresponds to objective circumstances nor common sense."

As lawmakers rushed to parliament on December 3 to vote down Yoon's martial law declaration, heavily armed troops entered the building, scaling fences, smashing windows and landing by helicopter.

According to the prosecution indictment report, Yoon told the chief of the capital defence command, Lee Jin-woo, that military forces could shoot if necessary to enter the National

Assembly.

"Have you still not got in? What are you doing? Break down the door and drag them out, even if it means shooting," Yoon told Lee, according to the report.

Yoon also allegedly told the head of the Defense Counterintelligence Command, General Kwak Jong-keun, to "quickly get inside" the National Assembly since the quorum for the martial law declaration to be lifted had not been met.

"So quickly get inside the National Assembly and bring out the people

inside the chamber, and break down the doors with an axe if necessary and drag everyone out," the report quotes Yoon as saying at the time.

After lawmakers rushed inside parliament and voted 190-0 to nullify Yoon's declaration in the early hours of December 4, the report says Yoon told Lee, "Even if it's lifted, I can declare martial law a second or third time, so just keep going."

The report also included screenshots of senior defence officials' messages from the day of the martial law declaration.

It said there was evidence that Yoon had been discussing declaring martial law with senior military officials as early as March.

The declaration followed a budget tussle between Yoon's party and the opposition.

Days later, Yoon said in a speech that he apologised for the "anxiety and inconvenience"

and promised that there would not be a second declaration of martial law.

Ex-defence minister Kim was arrested this month over his role in the failed martial law bid.

Opposition Democratic Party lawmaker Kang Sun-woo said in a statement on Saturday that "the prosecution has laid bare the undeniable ugly truth about Yoon Suk Yeol, the treasonous ringleader", adding that he must be "arrested immediately".

South Korea's Constitutional Court held its first preliminary hearing on the validity of Yoon's impeachment on Friday, with the suspended president's legal team attending.

The court will also decide the fate of Yoon's replacement, Han Duck-soo, who was impeached Friday over his refusal to complete Yoon's impeachment process and bring him to justice.

## Ukrainian troops struggle to hold kursk as russian counteroffensive intensifies

KYIV, Dec 28 (Agencies): Five months after their shock offensive into Russia, Ukrainian troops are bloodied and demoralized by the rising risk of defeat in Kursk, a region some want to hold at all costs, while others question the value of having ventured in at all.

Battles are so intense that some Ukrainian commanders can't evacuate the dead. Communication lags, poorly timed tactics have cost lives, and troops have little way to counterattack, according to seven front-line soldiers and commanders who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive operations.

Since being caught unaware by the lightning Ukrainian incursion, Russia has amassed more than 50,000 troops in the region, including some from its ally North Korea. Precise numbers are hard to obtain, but Moscow's counter-attack has killed and wounded thousands, and the overstretched Ukrainians have lost more than 40% of the 984 square kilometers (380 square miles) of Kursk they seized in August.

Russia's full-scale invasion three years ago left it holding a fifth of Ukraine, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has hinted

that controlling Kursk could help force Moscow to negotiate an end to the war. However, five Ukrainian and Western officials in Kyiv, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters, fear that gambling on Kursk will weaken the entire 1,000-kilometer (621-mile) front line, and Ukraine is losing precious ground in the east.

"We have, as they say, hit a hornet's nest. We have stirred up another hot spot," said Stepan Lutsiv, a major in the 95th Airborne Assault Brigade.

The Border Raid that Became an Occupation

Army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi has said that Ukraine launched the operation because officials believed Russia was about to launch a new attack on northeast Ukraine.

The operation began on August 5 with an order to leave Ukraine's Sumy region for what they thought would be a nine-day raid to stun the enemy. It turned into an occupation that Ukrainians welcomed as their smaller country gained leverage and embarrassed Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Gathering his men, one company commander told them: "We're making history; the whole world will know about us because this hasn't



been done since World War II." Privately, he was less certain. "It seemed crazy," he said. "I didn't understand why."

Shocked by the success, largely because the Russians were caught by surprise, the Ukrainians were ordered to advance beyond the original mission to the town of Korenevo, 25 kilometers (16 miles) into Russia. That was one of the first places where Russian troops counterattacked.

By early November, the Russians began regaining territory rapidly. Once in awe of what they had accomplished, the troops' opinions

are shifting as they come to terms with losses. The company commander said half of his troops are dead or wounded.

Some front-line commanders said conditions are tough, morale is low, and troops are questioning command decisions even the very purpose of occupying Kursk.

Another commander said that some orders his men have received don't reflect reality due to communication delays. Delays occur especially when territory is lost to Russian troops, he said.

"They don't understand where our side is, where the enemy is,

what's under our control, and what isn't," he said. "They don't understand the operational situation, so we act at our own discretion."

One platoon commander said higher-ups have repeatedly turned down his requests to change his unit's defensive position because he knows his men can't hold the line.

"Those who stand until the end are ending up MIA," he said. He also knows of at least 20 Ukrainian soldiers whose bodies have been abandoned over the last four months because the battles were too intense to evacuate them without more casualties.

No Option to Retreat as Russia Doubles Down

Ukrainian soldiers said they were unprepared for the aggressive Russian response in Kursk and cannot counterattack or pull back.

"There's no other option. We'll fight here because if we just pull back to our borders, they won't stop; they'll keep advancing," said one drone unit commander.

The agency requested comment from Ukraine's General Staff but did not receive a response before publication.

American longer-range weapons have slowed the Russian advance,

and North Korean soldiers who joined the fighting last month are easy targets for drones and artillery because they lack combat discipline and often move in large groups in the open, Ukrainian troops said.

Zelenskyy said 3,000 North Korean soldiers had been killed or wounded. But they appear to be learning from their mistakes, soldiers added, by becoming more adept at camouflaging near forested lines.

One clash took place last week near the Vorontsovo tract, a forested area between the settlements of Kremenne and Vorontsovo.

Until last week, the area was under Ukraine's control. This week, part of it has been lost to Russian forces, and Ukrainian troops fear they will reach a crucial logistics route.

Eyeing frontline losses in the eastern region known as the Donbas where Russia is closing in on a crucial supply hub some soldiers are more vocal about whether Kursk has been worth it.

"All the military can think about now is that Donbas has simply been sold," the platoon commander said. "At what price?"



## ISRO's year-end mission to seek two satellites' merger in Space: Dr Jitendra

### Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Dec 28: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS, PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh informed here today that (Indian Space Research Organisation) ISRO's year-end mission scheduled for 30th December is going to be a historic one as it will seek the rare feat of docking or merging or joining together two satellites in Space. The project has been named "Space Docking Experiment" (SpaDeX), he said.

The whole nation looks forward with bated breath as ISRO is set to achieve a significant milestone in Space technology, said the Minister in the Department of Space.

In an exclusive media interview, Dr Jitendra Singh elaborated that the upcoming SpaDeX mission aims to dock two satellites in Space, a challenge only mastered by a few countries. This ambitious project will take place on Decem-

ber 30, 2024, under the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) and the indigenous technology used for this mission is called the "Bharatiya Docking System".

"SpaDeX" will mark a milestone, showcasing India's expertise in spacecraft docking technology.

This mission, said Dr Jitendra Singh, will mark India's entry into the exclusive league of nations capable of mastering space docking. A unique approach, the PSLV rocket, will launch two satellites equipped with the 'Bharatiya Docking System' to demonstrate this complex feat, he added.

The success of this mission is vital for India's future space ambitions, said the Minister. Docking technology is key for long-term missions like "Chandrayaan-4" and the planned Indian space station. It is also crucial for the eventual manned "Gaganyaan" mission.

In the near vacuum of Space, the handout said, ISRO will attempt to dock two satellites orbiting at speeds of 28,800 km/h. This is a challenging task, as both satellites must be carefully manoeuvred to reduce their relative velocities to a mere

0.036 km/h. The two satellites, designated 'Chaser' and 'Target', will merge to form a single unit in Space.

ISRO's achievement will place India among the world's space leaders, marking a step towards greater space exploration and innovation. SpaDeX is a significant milestone that paves the way for more complex space missions in the coming years. ISRO's SpaDeX mission is set to launch on Dec 30, 2024, will demonstrate India's Spacecraft Docking technology, marking a crucial step in space exploration and satellite servicing capabilities.

India is preparing for a key step in space exploration. ISRO will launch the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) on December 30, 2024. The mission will use PSLV-C60, lifting off at 21:58 IST from Sriharikota. SpaDeX marks a milestone, showcasing India's expertise in spacecraft docking technology.

SpaDeX will deploy two identical satellites, SDX01 and SDX02. Each satellite weighs around 220 kilograms and will orbit 470 km above Earth. Key objectives include Performing precision ren-

dezvous and docking manoeuvres, Validating power transfer between docked spacecraft and Operating payloads post-undocking, with a two-year lifespan.

This mission is essential for future endeavours, including satellite servicing and building India's space station, Bharatiya Antriksh Station.

SpaDeX will also use PSLV's fourth stage, POEM-4, for experiments. The stage will carry 24 payloads from academic institutions and startups. These experiments will utilise the microgravity environment in orbit.

SpaDeX will demonstrate docking and undocking capabilities between satellites. This includes transferring power and operating scientific payloads. The mission will simulate a sequence of manoeuvres, starting with a far rendezvous phase at 20 km and ending with docking at 3 metres.

This capability is vital for India's lunar and interplanetary missions. Docking technology enables multi-launch missions and supports future human spaceflight. Only the US, Russia, and China have mastered such advancements so far.

## Week-long celebration of Dogri Manyata Diwas concluded at Linguistics Dept CLUJ

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The Department of Linguistics & Literature, School of Humanities & Liberal Arts, Cluster University of Jammu concluded a week-long celebration to commemorate the Dogri Manyata Diwas on the 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, and 27th of December, 2024 under the patronship of Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekhar, to commemorate the introduction of Dogri Language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The various activities were organized in collaboration with the Department of MIL MAM College, Department of Dogri Jammu University, the Department of English, SHLA, and the School of Social Sciences.

A Dogri Cultural Exhibition was held on the 26th of December on the premises of SHLA with the School of Social Science and

the Department of Hindi MAM College.

The students of Linguistics, School of Social Sciences and MAM College participated and showcased the Cuisines, Wedding items, traditional Dogri attire, Ornaments, Handicrafts, Utensils, and Cultural artifacts.

The chief guest of the event was Eminent environmentalist and Voice of Dogras Om Prakash Vidyarthi, who introduced the students to neologisms and newly created words of science in Dogri Language while reciting poetry and appreciating the different facets of Dogri culture in the exhibition.

On 27th December, one day seminar on Career Prospects in Linguistics and Language in the Corporate sector was organized with two resource persons Seema Bhat Senior Linguist at OLA Krutrim AI department, and Vibhuti Tyagi, CEO, SUV Translation. The speakers highlighted the Career prospects

in the languages and services, threw role on opportunities available in Dogri and other languages in the corporate sector, and demonstrated how one can be an entrepreneur in the Language services market.

The week-long celebration concluded with the Prize distribution ceremony which was presided by the patron of the whole event VC of CLUJ Prof K. S. Chandrasekhar, Controller of Examination, and Dean SHLA also graced the occasion.

While addressing the students, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekhar urged the students to adopt and promote the Dogra culture and Dogri Language so that its customs and traditions can be preserved.

The first prize of the Essay Writing Competition was won by Bhawani Manhas, GCW Gandhinagar, the Second prize was scored by Himanshi Sharma, Department of Linguistics and Literature, CLUJ, and the third prize went to

Ritika Sharma, GDC Akhnoor.

The first prize in the Sentence Comprehension Competition was won by Chakshu Sharma, GGM Science College, the Second prize was won by Janvi Sharma, Department of Linguistics and Literature, CLUJ, and the third prize scored by Sheetal, Department of Linguistics and Literature, CLUJ.

Ritika Sharma, GDC Akhnoor, won the first prize in the poetry recitation competition. Himanshi Sharma, Department of Linguistics and Literature, CLUJ, scored the second prize, and Sumeet Kumar, GGM Science College, won the third prize.

The program ended with the Head of the Department of Linguistics and Literature, Dr. Reena Salaria, voting thanks to the guests, juries and Participants.

The whole program was coordinated by Dr. Neha Garg, Shiwali Sharma, and Saqib Ishfaq faculty of Department of Linguistics and Literature.

## GDC RS Pura commemorates martyrdom of Char Sahibzaade

### Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 28: Department of Punjabi under the aegis of 1QAC commemorated the unparalleled sacrifice of the four brave sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, known as the Chaar Sahibzaade, on the occasion of Bal Veer Diwas.

This day serves as a reminder of their courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to their faith and principles in the face of tyranny and oppression.

Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, MLA Jammu South was the Chief guest on the occasion. He highlighted the martyrdom of the Chaar Sahibzaade and emphasized that it remains one of the most poignant chapters in Sikh history. Their bravery and sacrifice at such tender



ages continue to inspire generations worldwide.

He further emphasized on the need to organize educational programs, seminars, and community service initiatives to ensure that their sacrifice is remembered and their values are passed on to future generations.

In this connection a series of activities like Quiz competition, Poetry Recitation Competition, Screening of movie "Chaar Sahibzaade" and Guest lecture were

organized. Students from different colleges participated in the quiz competition.

Jagveer Singh from GDC Marh, Gurtaaz Kour from SPMR College of Commerce and Manmeet Kour from GGM Science College, Jammu stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

The quiz competition was coordinated by Prof. Rajinder Singh, HOD Punjabi. Dr. Akriti Parihar and Prof. Vijeeta Anand were instrumen-

tal in conducting the quiz.

There was huge participation of students in poetry recitation competition. Gursimar Kour, Chan Deep Kour from GDC RS Pura clinched 1st an 2nd position and Mohd. Ayub from GGM Science College stood 3rd. Dr. Snober from GDC Ramgarh, Dr. Rajinder Kour from Govt. College of Educa-

tion, Jammu were the jury members.

Dr. Jatinder Kour from GGM Science College was the observer for the entire programme. Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Savleen Kour played a significant role in managing the competition.

Dr. Arvinder Singh Aman, Retd Special Secretary, JK Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, the Resource Person of the Seminar called upon individu-

als and communities to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the Chaar Sahibzaade and draw inspiration from their indomitable spirit.

He further reiterated that their story is not just a part of Sikh history but a universal symbol of courage, sacrifice, and commitment to justice.

Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College in her speech called upon the students to unite in honoring the memory of the Chaar Sahibzaade and strive to uphold the values they stood for.

Prof Harpreet Kour anchored the programme which was attended by the entire faculty of the College. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof Rajinder Singh, Organizing Secretary of the programme.

## Police Station Devsar provides timely assistance amid snowfall, slippery roads



### Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 28: In a display of prompt action and commitment to public service, Police Station Devsar responded to distress calls during the recent heavy snowfall in the region.

Earlier today, a distress call was received reporting that two female patients, Tahera Banoo (wife of Mohd Ayoub Shah) and Rubeena (daughter of Mohd Ramzan), both

residents of Banimulla, were stranded in the snowbound area of Chamgund. The patients urgently required transportation to their homes in Banimulla for essential medical treatment.

Despite strenuous efforts to clear the road from Chamgund to Banimulla, the relentless snowfall and treacherous conditions rendered the path impassable. Acting swiftly, the officers at Police Station Devsar, led by the undersigned, coordinat-

ed with local authorities and utilized a JCB to clear the road.

Braving the adverse weather, the police party, along with the JCB, successfully transported both patients to their residential address in Banimulla.

This timely intervention highlights the unwavering dedication of Police Station Devsar in serving the community, even in the face of challenging weather conditions.

Police Station Devsar urged the public to remain cautious and follow safety measures during severe weather conditions. In case of emergencies, the public is encouraged to contact local authorities for immediate assistance. Locals thanked to SSP Kulgam and SHO Rishi Kumar.

## FROM PAGE 3

## Former PM Manmohan Singh cremated with full State Honours

age-related medical complications. He was 92.

Considered the architect of India's economic reforms, Singh served as the prime minister for 10 years between 2004 and 2014.

A seven-day national mourning is being observed throughout the country as a mark of respect to the former prime minister during which the national flag will be flown at half-mast across the nation, the Union Home Ministry has announced.

## Stranded tourists find shelter in Mosque amid heavy snowfall in Kashmir

tourists spending the night inside the mosque has since gone viral.

The tourists expressed their gratitude to the locals for their help. "We were stuck in the snow, and you came to our rescue. We are extremely thankful to all of you," one of them said.

Another tourist added, "Everyone should visit Kashmir to experience its hospitality. Everyone here is kind and it is safe to visit. Please come to this paradise on earth."

Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq praised the gesture and said it was heartening to see Kashmiris open their mosques and homes to stranded tourists amidst heavy snowfall.

"This gesture of warmth and humanity reflects our longstanding tradition of hospitality and helping others in times of need," he said on X.

Elsewhere, heavy snowfall also left many tourists stranded along the Srinagar-Jammu highway and at tourist destinations like Doodhpathri.

However, not all the stranded tourists were complaining. "The car ignition isn't working due to the cold, and we have to push it. But it's fine; we're enjoying it," said a tourist from Haryana as he waited for clearance at Qazigund to head home.

Police and civil administration have begun reaching out to stranded tourists, providing hot drinks and other necessities to keep them warm.

## CM Omar Abdullah chairs meeting to review snow clearance, restoration of power & water supply across J&K

removal and prevent freezing road conditions as temperatures drop.

He called for a proactive approach, urging officials to deploy adequate manpower and machinery on the ground.

District administrations were instructed to provide two-hourly updates to the CM's office and the Chief Secretary's office to keep the government apprised of the situation.

The Chief Engineer of Public Health Engineering (PHE) informed the CM that 90% of the water supply across the valley has been restored, with efforts underway to address the remaining 10%. The Divisional Commissioner of Jammu reported that power and water supply in Jammu districts remain unaffected, while the Chief Secretary confirmed steady progress in restoring electricity feeders and assured that district hospitals are functioning smoothly.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of ensuring 100% attendance of doctors and paramedical staff at all district and sub-district hospitals to effectively manage emergencies.

Special instructions were issued to the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to coordinate with airport authorities to assist stranded tourists and to provide transportation, if required.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir assured that sufficient stocks of essential commodities, including food and other civil supplies, are available in all districts.

Commending officials for their efforts, the Chief Minister urged them to remain vigilant, proactive, and responsive to the needs of the people during this challeng-

ing period.

He emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and uninterrupted services to mitigate the impact of the snowfall on the public.

## Shutdown in Katra over ropeway enters 4th day, JCCI extends support

every day to pray at the Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine.

"We extended the strike last night. It will continue for the next 72 hours until the government shelves the ropeway project," the Samiti spokesperson said.

Five men are sitting on a hunger strike demanding the release of 18 members of the Samiti, detained during a protest march against the ropeway project.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary in Jammu termed the decision to construct the ropeway a "wrong decision" and urged the Lieutenant Governor to engage with the protesters to resolve the issue.

"If the people of Katra do not want a ropeway, which will take away the livelihood of 40,000 people, the Shrine Board and LG Sahib should listen to them and address their concerns," he said.

JCCI President Arun Gupta, who led a team to meet the protesters in Katra today, said development projects that harm the local population should not be pursued.

"It is time to hold talks with the people

protesting in Katra and resolve the issue amicably," Gupta said.

The 18 detained included two Samiti leaders — Bhupinder Singh and Sohan Chand.

The face-off began last month when the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board announced a plan to build a ropeway to facilitate access to the temple for senior citizens, children, and others who find it challenging to climb the 13-km-long track to the cave shrine.

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

Since the bandh, the Shrine Board has made special arrangements for the boarding and lodging of pilgrims arriving in the town.

Special langars set up by the Shrine Board at Katra Railway Station, Banganaga, and Tarakote are offering tea and milk to pilgrims, ensuring the yatra continues smoothly on both tracks.

## 70 percent roads cleared in Ganderbal district: Executive Engineer R&B

monitoring is in place to ensure efficient operations, with an eye on potential icing and freezing. "If required, salt will be spread, as it was done last night," he added.

# YRS stands in solidarity with Katra residents, condemns arrests of peaceful protesters

*Serves 24-hr ultimatum to release detained persons*

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) on Saturday held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu to express strong support for the people of Katra who are protesting against the proposed installation of a ropeway from Katra to Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan. The Sabha condemned the administration for arresting individuals who were peacefully protesting for their genuine demands.

Addressing the media, Raghubir Singh, Chairman of YRS, criticized the actions of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the administration.

He stated, "The people of Katra, who have been peacefully fighting for their rights, were unjustly detained. These individuals are innocent and are only advocating for their livelihoods and religious sentiments. The Shrine Board, instead of honoring those who donated large portions of their land for the sacred shrine, is harassing them."

Singh issued a stern ultimatum to the government, demanding the release of all detained



protesters within one day. He warned, "If our demand is not met, YRS will march to Katra in full support of the protesting residents."

Vikram Singh Vicky, President of YRS, echoed similar sentiments and criticized the Shrine Board for its repeated experiments under the guise of development.

"Since the Shrine Board's establishment in 1986, it has prioritized commercial ventures over the welfare of pilgrims and locals. Helicopter and battery car services, initially introduced for the benefit of the elderly and physically challenged, are now largely being utilized by affluent individuals while those in real need are left struggling," Vicky remarked.

He extended YRS's full sup-

port to the Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Sangharsh Samiti, a committee recently formed to spearhead the agitation, and urged the LG administration to release the 18 detained individuals immediately. "If our demands are not addressed within 24 hours, YRS will mobilize the people of Jammu and march to Katra in solidarity with the protesters," he added.

Former YRS President, Rajan Singh Happy, highlighted the neglect faced by the youth of Katra, who have been fasting for three days without any support from local leaders or elected representatives. He appealed to political and social leaders of Jammu to rise in support of the Dogra community and the Katra residents.

Rajan Singh also emphasized

the spiritual and economic implications of the proposed ropeway project.

"The holy pilgrimage traditionally involves darshan at Kol Kandoli Nagrota, Deva Mai, Ban Ganga, Charan Paduka, Adhkuwari, Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, and Bhairon Bhawan. The ropeway bypasses these sacred sites, undermining the sanctity and beliefs of Hindus. Furthermore, the livelihood of thousands of families dependent on the pilgrimage is at stake. Instead of bringing prosperity, the project threatens to displace local workers who have long served the shrine," he said.

The YRS concluded the press conference with a resolute stand, vowing to support the people of Katra in their rightful struggle and demanding immediate action from the administration.

Other prominent present on the occasion include Rajinder Singh (Chief Patron, YRS), Pushvinder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Meshra Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Balbir Singh Kaku, Rajesh Singh Billu (Core Committee Members) and team member of the state body.

# Week long AICTE ATAL FDP on Green Hydrogen concluded at SMVDU Katra



## Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 28: A week's long virtual faculty development programme has been concluded at SMVDU sponsored by AICTE on 'Green Hydrogen Generation and Opportunities in India'. The programme was registered by 215 participants across 21 states in India.

The valedictory ceremony was started with the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy, coordinator of the programme.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. R. Velraj, Former Vice Chancellor, Anna University, Chennai.

Prof. Velraj emphasized on solar hydrogen as future fuel and big competition to electric vehicles (EV).

Prof. Mamdud Hos-

sain from Robert Gordon University, U.K. were the guest of honor during the event. Prof. Hossain emphasized the green hydrogen has global market to meet the sustainable development goals on climate action and clean energy, also he expressed his interest for the collaborative research work in this domain.

Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean Students Welfare and Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs were also present during the ceremony and congratulated the organizing team for successfully organizing the week long programme.

The Faculty development programme was coordinated by Prof. (Dr.) Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy and co-coordinated by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Assistant

Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU.

There were 11 speakers from India and one international experts from UK in the programme. There were a total of 13 technical sessions by different experts during the programme.

All the speakers had praised the initiative and congratulated the participants for the successful completion of the programme. The speakers also highlighted the importance of such courses in capacity building of the country's energy sector.

Parasu Pravalika anchored the valedictory ceremony. The valedictory ceremony ended with the vote of thanks from Dr. Rajiv Kumar Co-coordinator of the programme.

# SPF pays tribute Dr. Manmohan Singh

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: A solemn meeting of the Sikh Progressive Front (SPF) was held under the Presidentship of Balvinder Singh, during which heartfelt tributes were paid to the former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on his demise. Dr. Singh, a world-renowned economist and statesman, was remembered for his unparalleled contributions to India's growth and development.

The members lauded Dr. Singh's instrumental role in shaping India's economic landscape through the landmark economic liberalization reforms of the early 1990s. As Finance Minister, he laid the foundation for India's integration into the global

economy. His tenure as Prime Minister, spanning ten years, was marked by his courage, exemplary statesmanship, and exceptional administrative acumen. Speaking on the occasion, the members remarked that Dr. Singh was a man of profound wisdom and few words, but his actions spoke volumes. They highlighted his historic achievement in securing the Indo-US Nuclear Deal, which underscored his commitment to strengthening India's energy security and global standing.

Dr. Singh's honesty, integrity, and unwavering dedication to the nation's welfare made him a beacon of inspiration. His efforts in fostering international relations, ensuring social justice, and implement-

ing visionary economic reforms have left an indelible mark on the nation.

Prominent SPF members present at the meeting included Manjit Singh (General Secretary), Rajinder Singh Sudan (Joint Secretary), Surinder Singh Wazir (Vice President), Tejinder Singh (Member, DGPC Jammu), T.P Singh, Iqbal Singh, Janak Singh, Harmohinder Singh (President, Displaced Kashmiri Sikhs Conference), Satinder Pal Singh, and Paramjit Singh.

The Sikh Progressive Front expressed deep sorrow over the loss of such a towering figure, emphasizing that Dr. Manmohan Singh's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

# KDP Wing of DPAP demands separate annual budgetary plan for Kashmiri displaced people

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), through its leadership including President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and others, has raised a crucial demand for the allocation of a separate annual budget specifically for the Kashmiri Displaced People.

This demand is directed to both the Central Government and the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint statement, the leaders highlighted the enduring hardships faced by the Kashmiri Hindu community, which has been living in exile for over 35 years since the genocidal displacement from their home-

land in the Kashmir Valley.

They expressed concern over the fact that the community has remained entirely dependent on 100% funds allocated by the Central Government, primarily through the Security and Relief Measures Head.

These funds have been provided on a piecemeal basis, covering various expenses such as salaries for the Prime Minister's Package employees, construction and renovation of buildings, and other essential needs, including medical, educational, and food support.

The leaders emphasized that prior to their displacement in 1989, Kashmiri Hindus were an integral part of the Jammu and Kashmir state's society, enjoying full rights as citizens, including equal access

to the state's budget.

However, since the displacement, the community has been denied these rights by both the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite their ongoing contribution to the Indian nation, the community has been cut off from the state's budgetary support and continues to rely solely on the Central Government's funding.

The statement also raised concerns regarding the funds transferred by the Central Government in 1996, 1997, and 1998 for the ex-gratia payments to the owners of gutted houses in the Kashmir Valley.

While the funds were released to the State Government for payment, only a fraction of the assessed value was paid to the displaced people.

The whereabouts of the remaining funds, amounting to crores of rupees, remain unclear, and the leaders have called for an investigation through the Comptroller General of India.

They are demanding a special audit of the funds allocated for the security and relief measures from 1990 to 2024, to ensure transparency and accountability.

The KDP Wing of DPAP further urged the Central Government, particularly the Honorable Finance Minister, to allocate a fixed annual budget specifically for the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community.

They have requested that 5% of the total annual budget be earmarked under the "Displaced People Security and Relief Measures" head. Additionally, they seek that the UT Gov-

ernment of Jammu and Kashmir also allocate a reasonable percentage from its own budget to address the needs of the displaced community and the Kashmiri Pandits still residing in the valley.

The leaders expressed their deep concern over the prolonged exile and the perceived neglect of the displaced Kashmiri Hindus, who feel marginalized in their own homeland.

With the community now having lived in exile for 35 years, they have called on the Central Government to take immediate action to ensure their rightful place as citizens of India and to provide justice for their ongoing suffering. The leaders placed their hope for a just resolution in the hands of the Central Government and the Almighty.

# Panun Kashmir reaffirms resolve for Justice, Homeland at 33rd National Convention

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The 33rd National Homeland Day Convention, hosted by Panun Kashmir at the historic Kangra Fort in Barnai, Jammu, was a powerful reaffirmation of the Kashmiri Hindu community's commitment to justice, recognition, and their dream of a secure homeland. The event, themed "Kashmiri Hindus Caught Between Jihad and Denial of Genocide," brought together political leaders, intellectuals, human rights activists, and artists to collectively voice the community's struggles and aspirations.

The convention, marking 33 years since the Margdarshan Resolution, was a poignant reflection on the pain and resilience of the Kashmiri Hindu community. The event began with a Ganesh Stuti and lamp lighting ceremony, followed by speeches and cultural performances that highlighted both the past suffering and the community's ongoing fight for jus-



tice.

Dr. Ajay Chrungeo, Chairman of Panun Kashmir, condemned the ongoing denial of the genocide faced by Kashmiri Hindus, reiterating the importance of the Margdarshan Resolution, which calls for the creation of a separate Union Territory for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Hindus. Former DGP Dr. SP Vaid emphasized the persistent threat of jihadist violence targeting Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir, urging the government to take decisive action against

terror groups. Colonel R.S.N. Singh highlighted the broader challenges facing Hindus across India and the need for a unified national strategy to combat extremism.

Nitin Dhar, a young leader, passionately spoke about the plight of displaced Kashmiri Hindus, calling on the youth to take up the cause. Kulshi Pandita, a prominent women's leader, addressed the emotional and psychological toll of exile, while Dr. Abhinav Pandya stressed the need to dismantle global

terror-financing networks fueling the violence.

Advocate Sanjay Raina spoke about the legal aspects of the community's struggle, emphasizing the fundamental right of Kashmiri Hindus to return to their homeland. The event also featured soulful performances by Rajesh Khar and Party, which transported the audience to a time before the exodus.

Two key resolutions were adopted: one condemning the denial of the genocide and demanding a separate Union Territory for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Hindus, and another urging the government to enhance relief measures, security, and employment opportunities for displaced Hindus.

The convention concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Tito Ganju, reaffirming the collective resolve to continue the fight for justice and a secure homeland. The event left the community more united and determined in their mission for justice and recognition.

# For blissful life attain divine knowledge from Satguru: Behan Niramal



## Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 28: Sant Nirankari Mission organized the Zonal Mahila Samagam at Samba, a spiritual congregation aimed at celebrating the vital role of women in fostering love, unity, and spiritual awakening. This remarkable congregation brought together women from across the region, showcasing their dedication to the mission's core values of humanity, selfless service, and spiritual enlightenment.

The Zonal Mahila Samagam was Presided over by Behan Nirmal Manchanda Ji Gyan Pracharak and Sanyojak Gurugram Haryana. Speaking at the Sama-

gam, she said that the overwhelming participation at this Mahila Samagam is a testament to the strength and resolve of women to lead by example, fostering spiritual and social well-being for all with unique example of women empowerment. Today women through their inspirational discourses, devotional songs, and poems promoting peace, harmony and love.

It is all with the grace of Satguru that we live a blissful life after attaining the Divine Knowledge. While being spiritually enlightened, one must remain connected with the Unchangeable Almighty God Nirankar to lead a unshakeable

life. It is important to remain in society of Noble and Pious Saints. Satguru manifests our lives with all good virtues and teaches us way of living free from ego and hatred.

She further elaborated that in order to live a peaceful life, one should remain devoted in the holy feet of Lord Masted Satguru who bestows us with firm faith in God Nirankar and sense of Brotherhood and to practise all such human trait living a peaceful life with fellow beings.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu welcome all and said that the Samagam drew a record-breaking participation of over 5000 women devotees from various cities and towns, making it one of the largest women's spiritual gatherings in the region. KC Bhagat Sanyojak Samba presented vote of thanks.

## 4th Test, Day 3: Gutsy Nitish Reddy's maiden ton keeps India afloat vs Australia

**Nitish Reddy, an unknown entity in red ball cricket before the start of Border-Gavaskar series, virtually bailed India out with his dogged maiden Test century in Melbourne on Saturday**

MELBOURNE, Dec 28 (Agencies): Nitish Reddy, an unknown entity in red ball cricket before the start of Border-Gavaskar series, virtually bailed India out with his dogged maiden Test century in Melbourne on Saturday, severely denting Australia's hopes of winning the Boxing Day contest. Reddy's unbeaten 105 took India to 358 for nine, still 116 runs short of Australia's first innings score of 474 as rain brought an early end to the third day's play. With the flat MCG deck not offering much to the bowlers, saving the Test match shouldn't be a big deal for India. Reddy, easily India's 'find of the series', played a pivotal role in visitors' fightback.

Reddy's combative spirit and the invaluable 127-run stand he shared with Washington Sundar (50 off 162 balls) proved to be the turning point for the hosts.

Reddy's innings was termed as one of greatest Test knocks by the legendary Sunil Gavaskar given the situation as India were in a precarious position after Rishabh Pant's dismissal courtesy a rash shot had left India tottering at 191 for six.

The young Andhra batter could have been stranded on 99 when Jasprit Bumrah got dismissed, leaving Reddy with last-man in Mohammed Siraj, who walked in to another round of boos and faced three deliveries from home skipper Pat Cummins.

Both Reddy and his father Muthyala's expressions changed with each ball but Siraj survived to allow Reddy savour the moment he must



Reddy's batting was based on a stable core, playing the ball late and only going for the drive when the ball was pitched up. He wasn't defending unnecessarily and 10 fours and a six was a testimony to that.

A picture-perfect straight drive off Scott Boland was the moment of the series for India as Reddy balanced his helmet with the bat and took a knee, expressing his gratitude towards the Indian dug-out which gave him a standing ovation.

A decade back, when his father Muthyala left a secured job to open a micro-finance (lending) business and incurred losses, the Reddy family was advised not to give wings to young Reddy's cricketing dreams but they were unrelenting.

Sitting in the stands near the boundary, Reddy's father broke down when his son achieved the milestone.

As Indian fans clicked selfies with him it must have reminded of the day when his son received the best U-16 cricketer award from the BCCI in 2017, and an impressive Reddy was seen clicking selfie with his idol Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma while leaving the hotel premises.

Reddy's batting was based on a stable core, playing the ball late and only going for the drive when the ball was pitched up. He wasn't defending unnecessarily and 10 fours and a six was a testimony to that.

If the morning was more about Rishabh Pant's inexplicable shot selection, the afternoon session belonged to Reddy, whose attacking game put the pressure right back on Australia.

There were plenty of boundaries and a six off Nathan Lyon but none more gorgeous than the off-drive off Cummins.

Reddy has been by far India's most consistent batter in the series and the maiden Test century couldn't have come at a more opportune time and that too at an iconic venue.

Washington, at the other end, grew in confidence and trusted his defence apart from punishing the loose deliveries. It did help that the drop-in surface at the MCG has got better for batting as the match progressed.

The second new ball did very

little for Australian bowlers and the Indian duo ran very well between the wickets. With Mitchell Starc's back acting up a little, the two batters looked to reduce the deficit further.

In the morning it was all about Pant's shot selection that hurt India.

The third day's MCG track is perhaps the best to bat on with green grass making way for a brownish tinge and an old Kookaburra hardly doing anything.

Had Pant stuck around, there was no way he wouldn't have scored big.

Pant did start well and got a few boundaries but then the urge to play the falling lap pull over long-leg brought about his dismissal.

When he tried it for the first time off Scott Boland, who came round the wicket, Pant was hit in the naval area and seemed to be in pain.

He got up but didn't realise that Cummins had placed one fielder at deep fine-leg and one at deep third man for both the conventional and reverse lap shot.

Without learning his lessons or caring about success percentage, Pant tried a similar shot but the extra bounce meant that the top edge flew to third man for a regulation catch.

"If there was a word called 'worstest', then this was one such shot," former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar said on air.

But Reddy showed steely resolve as he started with a punchy off-drive off Lyon and also jumped down the track to loft him over for a straight six during a splendid recovery act.

## Deepti stars as India whitewash West Indies 3-0



VADODARA, Dec 28 (Agencies): Senior off-spinner Deepti Sharma did the star turn with career-best figures of 6/31 before doing her bit with the bat as India completed a 3-0 whitewash of the West Indies with a five-wicket victory in the final Women's ODI here.

Having bowled out West Indies for 162 after Deepti's superlative performance and pacer Renuka Singh's (4/29) excellent show with the new ball, India recovered after a top-order wobble to reach the target of 163 in 28.2 overs.

India were in a spot of bother at 73/4 but Deepti (39 not out in 48 balls) used all her experience to see the team through with plenty of overs remaining.

Swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh was unbeaten on an 11-ball 23 when the winning runs were scored.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who eased nerves with two boundaries after last match century Harleen Deol's (1) dismissal left India at

23/2, blazed away to a 22-ball 32 before getting bowled by Afy Fletcher.

During her breezy knock, Kaur smashed seven boundaries and looked good for a big one before getting dismissed.

Smriti Mandhana (4) departed early as Ashmini Munisar completed a strange one-handed catch after appearing to have misjudged what should actually have been a straightforward catch off the bowling of Aaliyah Alleyne.

Enjoying a good run of form in recent times, vice-captain Mandhana did not get to the pitch of the ball on the day and paid the price.

One-down batter Deol followed suit, nicking for a Deandra Dottin delivery way outside off-stump and got a faint edge that was taken by wicketkeeper Shemaine Campbelle.

Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues chipped in with 29 off 45 balls.

Earlier, Renuka tormented West Indies with a fiery opening spell before Deepti got into the act to bowl out the

visitors cheaply. Thakur and Deepti were relentless with the ball, taking all 10 wickets between them.

Thakur's accurate line and length dismantled the top order, while Deepti deceived the West Indies batters with flight and guile, recording her third ODI five-wicket haul and second six-wicket performance.

West Indies fought back with a 97-run partnership between Chinnelle Henry (61) and Shemaine Campbelle (46), helping them to cross 160. Without this stand, the visitors might have been bowled out for less than 100. Both batted really well and were aggressive against the spinners.

Apart from Henry and Campbelle, only Aaliyah Alleyne (21) reached a double digit score as West Indies' batting woes continued.

Opting to bat first, West Indies' innings struggled from the onset as Thakur dismissed both openers -- Qian in the very first ball -- and Hayley Matthews, who scored a century in the last match, for ducks.

She then claimed the wicket of the dangerous Deandra Dottin (5). From there, the show belonged to Deepti as she took control by spinning a web. West Indies lost wickets at regular intervals, ending their innings in the 39th over and denting their chances of securing a consolation win.

## MCC President Fred Oldfield reflects on awarding Sachin Tendulkar with Honorary Cricket Membership

MELBOURNE, Dec 28 (Agencies): The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) President Fred Oldfield on Saturday reflected on legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar being honoured with Honorary Cricket Membership of MCC. Oldfield confirmed that Tendulkar accepted the membership. He added that they couldn't be more pleased that the former cricketer is a part of the honoured group. Earlier on Friday, MCC honoured Indian legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar with Honorary Cricket Membership in regard to his contributions to the sport during his playing days. Speaking to ANI, Oldfield said that MCC awards honorary life memberships to cricketers who have made outstanding contributions to cricket.



Oldfield said that MCC awards honorary life memberships to cricketers who have made outstanding contributions to cricket not only for the country but for the world. Recently, we invited Sachin Tendulkar to join that cohort and he has accepted it. We couldn't be more pleased that he is part of that honoured group," Oldfield told agency.

The Melbourne Cricket Club was established on November 15, 1983, by Frederick Powlett, Robert Russell, George B. Smyth and broth-

ers Alfred and Charles Mundy, as per the official MCC website.

Speaking of Tendulkar, the 'Master Blaster' is celebrated for his unparalleled skill and mastery in cricket, entertaining fans worldwide from 1989 to 2013. The Maharashtra-born player made his Test debut on November 15, 1989, at the age of 16, and played his first ODI on December 18 of the same year.

With 34,357 runs in 664 international appearances at an aver-

age of 48.52, Tendulkar remains the highest run-scorer in international cricket. He has 100 centuries and 164 half-centuries to his name, records unmatched in the sport's history. Tendulkar was the first cricketer to achieve a double century in ODIs and played a record 200 Test matches.

In ODIs, he amassed 18,426 runs at an average of 44.83, including 49 centuries and 96 half-centuries. In Tests, he scored 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78, with 51 centuries and 68 fifties. Tendulkar was also a part of India's ICC Cricket World Cup-winning team in 2011, achieving his lifelong dream after his World Cup debut in 1992.

From 2008 to 2013, Tendulkar represented the Mumbai Indians in the IPL, winning the tournament in 2013.

## Olympic heartbreak, no net gain for badminton

CHENNAI, Dec 28 (Agencies): Ever since Saina Nehwal's medal at the London Olympics in 2012, badminton has seen a massive transformation. The most popular recreational sport turned into a professional one as well. And it was visible everywhere. Take Chennai, for example. Suddenly every locality has a badminton academy with photos of Saina, PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and the double exponents, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, embossed on the walls; symbolising the rise of the game not just in the country but worldwide. Be it Olympics, World Championships or Thomas and Uber Cup, Indian shuttlers were making their presence felt with medal-winning performances.

Yet, as this year's Olympics approached, everything seemed to have dried up and touched its nadir at the Paris Olympics. For the first time since 2012, the country failed to capture an Olympic medal. At the BWF World Tour, none of the Indian singles players had managed to pocket a title until the recent Syed Modi International tournament. Barring Lakshya in a couple of events, it was largely an ordinary journey for most shuttlers in the singles department.

The heroics of Anmol Kharb and Ashmita Chaliha during India's historic victory at the Badminton Asia Team Championships at the start of the year was perhaps the biggest highlight.

Paris debacle Among the losses in Paris, Lakshya's was

the hardest to digest. He came agonisingly close. One game up and leading in the second against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, Lakshya fizzled out. Having returned with the gong in the previous three editions of the Games, this was a big blow for the country. Lakshya, despite blowing hot and cold in the build-up to Paris, showed why he's the best hope for the country going forward.

The toughest setback was perhaps the early exit of Satwiksairaj and Chirag, the men's doubles specialists who seemed to be following the textbook going into the Games. And they were playing at the Porte de La Chapelle Arena, a familiar venue where they had previously won twice (French Open) before. Earlier this year, they had reclaimed the World No 1 ranking and there was genuine buzz surrounding them. It would have been hard to bet against them. All that dissipated following their exit at the quarterfinal stage.

Sindhu's struggles Sindhu is synonymous to the sport and has been a huge influence to many in the country. It's senseless to question her commitment, something that has fetched her countless medals over the years. However, there have been question marks in regards to her future. After her return from injury, she has toiled at the highest level. In the past, Sindhu would generally find a different gear in marquee events. Her decline is a genuine concern going forward. That is something that the Badminton Association of India (BAI), the governing body of the

sport, has taken cognisance of and have been scratching their heads to find someone who can follow Sindhu and Saina's footsteps.

"When Sindhu is injured, we want other players to step up. That's our goal and we have been putting in programmes in place to help youngsters. We are hopeful that we can have multiple entries in each category," Sanjay Mishra, BAI secretary general, had told this daily earlier.

With that in mind, the BAI, in association with BWF (world body), brought in more international tournaments in the country so that the youngsters can get much-needed exposure. They have also focussed on coaching programmes in order to boost the talent pool. But that could be a process that takes patience.

As was evident in the recent Syed Modi International tournament, there's a clear gap between Sindhu, Lakshya and rest of the aspiring shuttlers who have been looking to establish their names at the highest level in the last few years or so. A coach from the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy felt that there's no decline in talent but the youngsters need to step up. As of BWF rankings (12/24/2024), Lakshya, at No 12, is the only Indian in the men's singles top-25. Sindhu, at No 15, is the only Indian in the women's equivalent.

"A couple of years back, it seemed like we were progressing very well. But off late, it doesn't seem like that. We're definitely struggling. We need to get better, start performing

better," the coach noted.

"I don't think there's any other country that has this much talent. If you look at the boys' category, there are players like Sathish Kumar, Kiran George, Ayush Shetty, Rithvik Sanjeevi... on their day they can beat anybody. I won't say the top-10 or top-15 but against the top-30. They have the potential to beat them. The girls, a couple of them have done well recently, but the others need to step up," the coach added.

System reboot In a diverse country like India, the system still struggles to cater to shuttlers, who could have the potential but don't have the means to grow as a professional. Take the case of Tamil Nadu Badminton Association. With a lack of private sponsors, the federation barely manages to conduct the state competitions with the support of BAI. "As a TN federation, we don't work with any sponsors as it is very difficult to find one," VE Arunachalam, TNBA secretary and EC member of BAI, said.

"There is no money at the grassroots. When you become world champion or become World No 1, that's when you get crores and crores in your account. But to come to that level, there should be a system where young players are funded. With prize money of Rs 20,000, 30,000, how can a player survive?," he stated.

That is the reality that needs to be addressed. Come 2025, Indian shuttlers, especially youngsters, will be hoping for better days.

## It was a stupid shot, Pant let team down: Gavaskar

MELBOURNE, Dec 28 (Agencies): The legendary Sunil Gavaskar on Saturday lashed out at Rishabh Pant for his "stupid" shot, saying the wicketkeeper-batter had let the team down by throwing his wicket away when India needed him the most.

With India desperately looking for a partnership on the third day of the fourth Test against Australia at the MCG, Pant went across and attempted to scoop Scott Boland to fine leg, only to get a big leading edge for Nathan Lyon to complete a simple catch

at deep third man. Pant tried to play a similar shot in the previous ball too but failed to connect and was hit in the naval area.

The batter seemed to be in pain as he lay on the ground.

"Stupid, stupid, stupid. You have got two fielders there and you still go for that (shot). You missed the previous shot and look where you have been caught. You have been caught at deep third man. That is throwing your wicket," a furious Gavaskar said while commentating.

"Not in the situation



that India was, you have to understand the situation as well. You cannot say that that's your natural game. I'm sorry, that is not your natural game. That is a stupid shot. That is letting your team down badly," the

batting great said on air.

"He should not be going in the dressing room. He should be going in the other dressing room." Former India coach Ravi Shastri termed it a "very risky shot".

## Faculty of Agriculture SKUAST-K hosts National Conference on "Mathematics in Daily Life"

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 28: The Division of Agriculture Statistics & Economics at the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura SKUAST-Kashmir organized a one-day National Conference cum Awareness Programme on "Mathematics in Daily Life" to honour the 137th birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The event began with a welcome address by the Dr. Fehim J. Wani, who highlighted the enduring contributions of Ramanujan to the field of mathematics and its practical relevance in everyday life.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, delivered special remarks, underscoring the importance



of nurturing mathematical thinking among students and researchers for solving real-world challenges.

Prof. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Head of Division & Organizer of the event, introduced the programme, providing an overview of its objectives and the significance of mathematics in diverse aspects of life.

The conference featured an array of

insightful lectures: Prof. W.M. Shah, Former Dean & Head Department of Math, CUK, Kashmir presented a thought-provoking session on "Mathematics in Kashmir," exploring the region's rich mathematical heritage. Professor Rahul Gupta, Registrar, University of Jammu discussed the "Relationship between Mathematics and Statistics" and their interplay in data-driven

decision-making.

Prof. Parmil Kumar, Head Department of Statistics, University of Jammu elaborated on "Mathematics in the Modern World," showcasing its applications in technology, science, and innovation. Prof. D.S.Hooda, Former Pro VC, Kurekshetra University delivered an inspiring lecture on the "Importance of Mathematics" and its trans-

formative potential in society.

The event also featured words of wisdom from the Javid Ahmad Najar, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, who encouraged participants to adopt mathematics as a critical tool for innovation and intellectual growth.

The conference concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Sajad Saraf who expressed gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for their contributions to making the event a success.

The programme served as a tribute to Srinivasa Ramanujan's unparalleled legacy and a platform to inspire a deeper understanding and appreciation for the role of mathematics in everyday life.

## Two-month basic soft skills training inaugurated at SMVDU

### Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 28: The SMVDU Skill Hub Centre inaugurated its Two-Month Training Program on Basic Soft Skills for Unemployed Youth. The program aims to empower unemployed youth with essential skills to enhance their employability and contribute to their personal and professional growth.

This training program, a part of SMVDU's University Social Responsibility (USR) initiative, is open to unemployed youth with a minimum qualification of 10th pass. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion, along with job placement support.

Such programs showcase SMVDU's dedication to creating a positive societal impact through skill develop-



ment and education.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, and Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, SMVDU, and Dr. Yatheshth Anand, HOD, School of Mechanical Engg. Katra.

They emphasized the significance of such initiatives in fostering skill development and upliftment of the local community.

The Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar lauded the initiative as a testament to the university's commitment to empowering youth and fostering societal progress through skill development and

education.

He expressed confidence that the program would significantly enhance the participants' employability and overall personal growth.

The program is being coordinated by Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Associate Professor and Coordinator, SMVDU Skill Hub Centre, who highlighted the program's objectives and the university's commitment to community service.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Er. Deepak Byotra, Superintendent, Central Workshop.

## J&K Students Association remembers Dr. Manmohan Singh for his efforts

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Saturday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who passed away at the age of 92. The association hailed Dr. Singh's exceptional contributions to student-centric policies, particularly for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, describing him as a visionary leader whose impact will resonate for generations.

Association said that Dr. Manmohan Singh played a historic and transformative role in conceptualizing and implementing the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) for students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Introduced in 2011 during his tenure as Prime Minister, the scheme aimed to provide opportunities for 5,000 meritorious students annually to pursue higher education in premier private and government institutions across India.

Khuehami said, "Dr. Singh envisioned this scholarship not merely as financial aid but as a pathway to empower the youth of J&K through education. It was a transformative step aimed at fostering economic self-reliance

and intellectual development.

The PMSSS has since become a lifeline for thousands of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. By covering tuition fees, boarding, lodging, and other essential expenses, the scholarship has enabled students to study diverse fields, including engineering, medicine, humanities, and social sciences. Over 50,000 students have benefited from this initiative to date, bridging geographical, social, and economic gaps.

"Dr. Singh's vision ensured that students from the marginalized and conflict-affected regions of J&K could access quality education and realize their full potential. His efforts continue to shape a generation of empowered youth contributing meaningfully to the nation," Khuehami said.

He further emphasized that the scholarship has been instrumental in promoting mobility and interaction between students of J&K and their peers across the country, fostering mutual understanding and unity.

Khuehami also recalled another significant initiative by Dr. Singh - the Himayat Scheme, also known as the Skill Empowerment and Employment Scheme for Jammu and

Kashmir (SEE-J&K). Launched to train and employ over one lakh youth from poor families, the scheme has been a game-changer in enhancing the employability of the region's youth. Dr. Singh allocated over ₹300 crores for this programme, underscoring his commitment to the upliftment of the region's underprivileged.

The Association said that, "Dr. Manmohan Singh was an epitome of grace, intellect, and calm leadership. He symbolized dignity in public life and served as a beacon of hope for generations. His integrity, humility, and quiet strength inspired millions and set a benchmark for leadership rooted in values and purpose," it said.

The association described Dr. Singh as a statesman par excellence, a visionary economist who transformed India's economy, and a compassionate leader who always prioritized the welfare of the marginalized.

Expressing condolences to Dr. Singh's family and admirers, the association stated, "Dr. Manmohan Singh's legacy will continue to inspire us all. His contributions to education, empowerment, and nation-building are immeasurable, and his absence will be deeply felt."

## JK PSC postpones veterinary assistant Surgeon written test

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has announced the postponement of the written test for the position of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, which was initially scheduled for December 29, 2024.

According to an official notice released today, the exam will now be held on January 12, 2025.

The notice, issued by Dr. MajadJhangir, Deputy Controller of Examinations at JKPSC, stated that all eligible candidates who had registered for the exam should note the updated date.

Candidates are advised to prepare accordingly and stay updated on further communications from the commission.



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## Teachers Training on EWS held

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 28: A Teacher's Training of the Teachers of the Govt. Schools of Jammu & Samba was held on Saturday at Tawi Conference Hall, Udheywala, Jammu.

National Development Foundation Jammu organised the training in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K, the Directorate of School Education Jammu, and UNICEF India.

Sunny Kumar, Programme Manager NDF and Nisha Pandita, Addl. Programme Officer NDF sensitised the teachers on the Early Warning System, which is a mechanism for understanding the students who are at risk of dropping out. Around 50 participants, both teachers and NDF staff, participated.

Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, President National Development Foundation and Member Selection Committee under Juvenile Justice Rules, interacted with the teachers and called upon them to involve School Management Committees, Parents and students to ensure no student drop out.

He appealed to the teachers to implement the low-cost and no-cost strategies explained to them in today's training to understand the early signs of the students who are at risk of dropping out and strategies on how to prevent them from dropping out.

He said that the New Education Policy focuses on the universalisation of education for all children by improving the quality of education and ensuring an Inclusive and Equitable Education System.