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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

MeT predicts light rains, snow over higher reaches in Kashmir from tonight

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Sunday predicted light rains and snow over few higher reaches in Kashmir division today during late evening of December 8 and December 9 morning.

From December 8-9, there is a possibility of generally cloudy weather conditions with light rains over few areas of plains and hilly areas of Jammu division; and light rains and snow on few higher reaches of Kashmir division during late evening of December 8 and December 9 morning, the officials said.

They said from December 10-11 the weather conditions likely to remain dry. On December 12, there will be generally cloudy with light snow over isolated higher reaches, the officials said, and added from December 13-17 there will be dry weather conditions likely.

Mehbooba seeks age relaxation for SI recruitment in J&K

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday hoped the Jammu and Kashmir government will grant age relaxation to candidates for police sub-inspector posts as recruitment has been delayed since 2019.

The former chief minister said age relaxation is a legitimate demand. "Countless JKPSI aspirants stare at a bleak future owing to recruitment delays since 2019 due to corruption & exam cancellations. Age relaxation is a legitimate demand & I hope it's granted immediately," Mehbooba said in a post on X.

Bihar family follows Google Maps to go to Goa, ends up stranded in Karnataka forest

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): A family from Bihar, on their way to Goa for a holiday, had to ensure a harrowing night in

Amit Shah attends BSF's 60th foundation day parade in Jodhpur, pays floral tribute

JODHPUR, Dec 8 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday paid floral tribute to the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel who lost their lives in the service of the nation as he attended the 60th Foundation Day Parade of the BSF in Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

BSF celebrates its Raising Day on December 1 – commemorating the establishment of the paramilitary force on December 1, 1965.

Shah also felicitated BSF jawans – who killed three terrorists of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen(HM) in an operation. Many dignitaries including senior officials of Border Security Force were present on this occasion.



He will also unveil the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Circuit House, On Armed Forces Flag Day

on Saturday, Shah paid tribute to the armed forces for their "valour and patriotism" and urged people to contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

In a post on X, he wrote, "Tributes to the immortal martyrs of our armed forces on Armed Forces Flag Day. With their valour and patriotism, our martyrs have created everlasting sagas of supreme sacrifice to protect the honour of our nation."

He further appealed to the public to contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for the welfare of the forces and their families. Shah was also felicitated by the Sainik Welfare and Resettlement, Gujarat State, with

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Congress demands debate in Parliament on full gamut of India-China ties



NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Attacking the government over its statement in Parliament on India-China ties, the Congress on Sunday asked whether the Modi government has agreed to a "new normal" over the "old normal" prevailing prior to April 2020 and demanded that Parliament must be given an opportunity to debate the full gamut of the relationship between the two countries.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said a discussion in Parliament on India-China relationship should focus on both

strategic and economic policy, especially since our dependence on China has increased economically, even as it unilaterally changed the status quo on our borders over four years back.

In a statement, Ramesh said the Congress has studied the recent suo motu statement made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in both Houses of Parliament titled "Recent Developments in India's Relations with China".

It is unfortunate, but typical of the Modi government, that MPs were

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Policeman shoots dead colleague before committing suicide in Udhampur

JAMMU, Dec 8 (Agencies): A policeman allegedly shot dead his colleague with an AK-47 assault rifle before turning the weapon on himself to commit suicide in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district early Sunday, officials said.

The two policemen along with another colleague were travelling from north Kashmir's Sopore to the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC)

Talwara in Reasi district of Jammu region when the incident took place.

The bullet-riddled bodies of the two cops were seen lying inside a police van near the Kali Mata temple in Rehembal area of Udhampur around 6.30 am.

Officials said the head constable opened fire at the driver over some argument before committing suicide. A selection grade con-

stable, who was also travelling in the vehicle, escaped unhurt and is being questioned, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, Amod Ashok Nagpure said the accused used his AK 47 assault rifle in the firing.

"They were posted in Sopore and belonged to Kashmir. The accused shot dead his colleague

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Search Operation underway after villagers report suspicious movement in Kathua

JAMMU, Dec 8 (Agencies): A massive search operation is underway in Kandi area near the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district after local villagers reported suspicious movement, officials said on Sunday.

The joint search opera-

tion by police, Army and CRPF was launched in several forward villages of Hiranagar sector late Saturday night, the officials said.

"We got information about movement of some three to four suspected persons and

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Gujarat court acquits former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in custodial torture case



RAJKOT, Dec 8 (Agencies): A court in Gujarat's Porbandar has acquitted former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a 1997 custodial torture case, citing that the prosecution could not "prove the case beyond reasonable doubt".

Additional chief judicial magistrate Mukesh Pandya on Saturday acquitted Bhatt, the then superintendent of police (SP) of Por-

bandar, in a case registered against him under the IPC sections pertaining to causing grievous hurt to obtain confession and other provisions by giving him the benefit of the doubt due to lack of evidence.

Bhatt was earlier sentenced to life imprisonment in a 1990 custodial death case in Jamnagar and 20 years in jail in a 1996 case relating to planting drugs to frame a Rajasthan-based lawyer in Palanpur. He is currently lodged in the Rajkot Central Jail.

The court held that the prosecution could not "prove the case beyond reasonable

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4 of a family die in suspected food poisoning incident in Rajouri

RAJOURI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Four members of a family, including two children died while two others are still under doctor's observation after a suspected food poisoning case was reported in Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

They said a case of suspected food poisoning claimed four lives, including two children, and left two others in a critical condition in Badhal Gorla area of Rajouri district.

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Drug peddler arrested in Budgam, contraband substance recovered

SRINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): In continuation of the efforts to eradicate the drug menace from the society, Budgam Police arrested one drug peddler in the jurisdiction of PP Soibugh and seized contraband substance.

A Spokesperson said that Police Post Soibugh received information through reliable sources

that one person namely 'Manzoor Ahmed Bhat S/o Ab Kareem Bhat R/o Nadigam' has concealed contraband substance in his residential house.

"Upon the receipt of the information a special team was constituted under the supervision of Dysp Hqr Budgam led by IC Police Post Soibugh who along with independent witnesses

raided the residential house of the accused. During the search, 14 Kgs of Charas in powder form were recovered from the said house which was seized and the accused was arrested on the spot", he said.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 464/2024 U/s 8/20 of NDPS Act was registered at Police

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Gupshup

Restaurant & Homestay / Guest House
Air-Conditioner Rooms with attach Bathroom
Location like Dalhousie

Room No: 1	RESTAURANT
Room No: 2	
Room No: 3	
Room No: 4	

Situated at Ban, Bantalaab, Old National Highway Road Nagrota, Jammu.
Contact for Kitty Parties, Birthday Parties and other parties
Contact: 9086072548. Email: gupshupjammu@gmail.com

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound sorrow and grief, we inform you about the sad demise of our uncle **Shri Triloki Nath Aga** at our residence H.No. 21 & 22, Kailash Vihar Phase-1st Gole Gujral Camp Road, Talab Tillo Bohri, Jammu on 4-12-2024. **10th Day Kriya** on 13-12-2024 will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education at 10 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Nancy Aga - Wife
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Jagar Nath Aga & Smt. Pushpa Aga
Sh. Jawahar Lal Aga & Smt. Shyama Aga
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Phoola Bhat & Lt. Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Ajay Aga & Smt. Archana Aga
Grand Children: Aavishi & Pavit



SHRI TRILOKI NATH AGA

CHOUBARSI

Choubarisi of our beloved **Sh. Madan Lal Sharma S/o Lt. Gushu Ram Sharma**, will be performed on 09th December (Monday), 2024 at 12:30 PM at our residence R/o Chandan Vihar Lower Roopnagar, Muthi, Jammu (J&K).

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Smt Channo Devi (Wife)
Bhabhi's & Brother's
Smt Soma Devi & Late Sh T R Sharma
Smt Bimla Devi & Sh Ganesh Dass Sharma
Smt Sudesh & Sh Sham Lal Sharma (MLA, Jammu North, J&K)
Daughter In Law & Son
Dr. Shalu Sehgal & Sh Satish Sharma (Cabinet Minister, J&K)
Daughter's & Son In Law's
Smt Vandana & Sh Satish Sharma (DySP JKP)
Smt Ritu & Sh Susheel Sharma
Grand Childrens: Divyansh, Sehaj, Sahana, Medhansh, Shivaay and Kyra.
CONTACT - 9419112333, 9419132072, 9906002167



Sh. Madan Lal Sharma
(Former MP and Former Minister J&K)

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Dr Balraj Kapoor (Amrit Medical Hall Poonch)**, S/o Late Sh. Sarvanand Kapoor, R/o CS Vasant Vihar, Akhnoor Road, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 29th Nov, 2024.

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 9th December 2024 (Monday) at Gita Mandir, Bakshi Nagar Jammu on 2:45 to 3:45 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Prem Kapoor - Wife
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt Monika & Dr Naveen Kapoor
Smt Namrita & Dr. Nagesh Kapoor
Dr. Shivali & Dr. Amrit Kapoor
Smt. Sonali & Sh. Gorav Kapoor
Daughter & Son-in-law
Dr. Meenakshi & Sh. Sanjeev Dabur
And Grandchildren



Dr Balraj Kapoor

Phone Number:
9419800124, 9469295191,
9419110571

OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo** fondly called Daddy Ji, Bada-Daddy, Baji, Jija-Sabab (originally Gurguri Mohalla Alikadal/Broadway Shivpora Srinagar, presently at Vihar Mumbai) on 30th November, 2024 at 3.15 PM. The Cremation was performed on 02.12.2024 at 10 am at Cremation Ground Vihar Mumbai.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Bhayander Ghat Mumbai on Monday, 09.12.2024 at 09.00 am.

Grief Stricken

Tickoo's, Pandita's, Kaul's, Bhat's, Kashkari's, Mattoo's, Dhars, Babu's, Razdan's, Muji's
Brothers and Bhabhis
Smt. Nirmala and Sh. Bushan Lal Tikku
Smt. Sheela and Sh. M.K Tikku
Sons and Daughter in laws
Sh. Sanjay and Smt. Urmila Tickoo
Sh. Kuldeep and Smt. Sunita Tickoo
Sh. Virender Kaul (Son in law)
Smt. Jyoti and Sh. Sunil Kaul (Daughter and Son in law)
Ankit, Diya, Rahul, Rishi, Ishan, Riya, Bhagesh, Rushil
Mob. No. 9810448886, 9892039377, 9818193778



Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, it is to inform the demise of **Mr Vijay Kumar Nakhasi S/o Late Shri Madsudan Nakhasi & Late Smt. Rupa Nakhasi**, originally from Baghe-Jogi-Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar, currently R/O Pune, A1-301 Nyati Evara Near Corinthian club, Undri Pune-411060.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 13/12/2024 at 8 AM.

ASSEMBLY will be held at Alandi Temple Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Usha Nakhasi - Wife
Vivek Kaul & Shikha Kaul - (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Nehel Nakhasi & Sonam Nakhasi - (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sarla Zutshi - (Sister)
Brother-in-law & Sister
Puran Bushan Sumbli & Vijay Laxmi Sumbli
Kuldeep Dhar - (Brother-in-law)
Dilip Munshi & Rita Munshi (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)
Vijay Munshi (Sister-in-law)
Vinod Watal & Indra Watal (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)
Preetam Baira & Veena Baira (Sambandhi)
Shyela Kaul & Tavish Nakhasi (Grand children)
SAMAST PARIVAR: NAKHASI'S, ZUTSHI'S, SUMBLI'S, DHAR'S, MUNSHI'S, WATTAL'S, KAUL'S, BATRA'S
MOBILE NO-9764215935



MR VIJAY KUMAR NAKHASI

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Jatinder Saini S/o Late Smt. Satya Devi & Late Sh. R.P. Saini R/o 47/3, Greater Kailash, Jammu**. **Kriya** will be performed on 8th of December, 2024 Sunday at 11:30 AM at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Shiv Mandir Sec-3, Trikuta Nagar from 3 PM to 4 PM on 11th of December, 2024 (Wednesday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Poorima Saini - Wife
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Ritu & Puneel Saini
Ms. Vanshika Saini - **Daughter**
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Mitra & Ashok Saini
Smt. Nirmal & Devinder Saini - **Bhabhi & Brother**
Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law
Smt. Arti & Rajneesh Kohli
Smt. Shaveta & Vikram Kohli
Baby Amayra - **Grand Daughter**



SH. JATINDER SAINI

Mob.No: 9796250294
9654361700

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sudden and sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Abhimanyu Gupta**, son of Late Sh. Wazir Chand Gupta, resident of H.No.71, JMC Main Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 28th November 2024.

"The UTHALA" will be held on Monday, 9th December 2024, at 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Samriti Bhawan, Geeta Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, near Karan Hotel.

"Grief-Stricken"

Smt. Swam Kanta Gupta (Wife)
Sh. C.P. Gupta (Brother)
"Daughters-in-law & Sons"
Sheela & Vinod Gupta
Neeraj & Navinder Gupta
Neha & Yoginder Gupta
"Grandchildren"
Rishket, Udhav, Prema, Kanak, Soumit & Krishna
Contact:
9795231666
9419186045
9419125787



Sh. Abhimanyu Gupta

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dr Ripu Daman Sharma R/o 603E, Sainik Colony, Jammu**. **Fifth Day** will be performed at Ram Mandir Sainik Colony, Sec-D on 09-12-2024 at 12.00 noon.

Grief Stricken

Sharma Family

Mob: 9419113883, 9419316622



Dr Ripu Daman Sharma (Retd DFO)

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **SH. SURAJ PRAKASH BADYAL S/O LATE SH. RAM RATTAN BADYAL** on 29th November 2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 8th Dec, 2024 (Sunday) at our residence ANAND RAT-TNAKAR, PURKHOO at 11:00 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 9th Dec, 2024 (Monday) at our residence ANAND RATTNAKAR, PURKHOO at 1:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

BADYAL PARIVAR PURKHOO
(9796963535, 9541640266, 9419184412, 9469212043)



SURAJ PRAKASH BADYAL

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Swarna Gupta W/o Late Sh. Sat Paul Gupta (Rajouri wale Blood Bank Jammu) H. No N/27, Sec No 3, Upper Roop Nagar Jammu**. May God Grant noble soul at Higher place in heaven.

The **UTHALA** will be performed on 09-12-2024 Monday from 3 to 4 PM at Chand Kaur Gurudwara Opposite Fortune Hotel, Jammu.

Om Shanti.....

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters in Law
Rohit Gupta & Lakshmi Gupta
Ajay Gupta & Divya Gupta
Daughter & Son in Law
Shwanti Gupta & Pankuman Gupta
M/s Gupta Medicos, Main Stop Janipur
M/s Gupta Medicos, Upper Roop Nagar



SMT SWARNA GUPTA

All Gupta Family
MOBILE NO: 9419255803,
7889311216, 7780922660

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Jai Kishori Karihaloo (Tathi Ji) W/o Late Sh. Jawahir Lal Karihaloo**, originally resident of 104-Karan Nagar, Kak Sarai, Srinagar, Kashmir; At present H.No.-61, Lane No.-1, Sector-1 Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 30th November 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on Monday the 9th of December 2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly shall be held at Muthi Ghat, near office of Director School Education, Jammu at 11:30am.

Grief Stricken:

Meena Sultan (Sister-in-Law) W/o Late Dr. Charman Lal Sultan (Brother)
Shama & Ashok Kumar Koul (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Ranjna & K. Loberoi (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Anjha & Sanjay Karihaloo (Daughter-in-Law and Son)
Nitisha & Rajat Raina (Grand Daughter-in-Law & Grandson)
Lalita & T.K Kishor (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Sushma & Vinod Karihaloo (Daughter-in-Law & Son)
Rawab, Kakroos, Sultans, Rainas, Tuttoos, Shais, Dudas & Chand.
RELATIVES & FRIENDS
Phone: 9419130166, 7006488481



Smt. Jai Kishori Karihaloo (Tathi Ji)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Shri Moti Lal Gulla**, son of Late Shri Thakur Joo Gulla, originally from Vicharnag, Srinagar, and presently residing at Bohri Patta, Jammu on 2nd December 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 11th December at Akhnoor Gath, with the assembly at our residence, Bohri Patta Chungi at 11.30 am.

Grief Stricken:

Gulla, Mantoo, Rayu, Sahoo, Mattoo and Mawa
Mobile: 9350885290, 7889931370



Shri Moti Lal Gulla

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Bimla Bakshi (Bullo) W/o Lt. Sh. Manohar Lal R/o H.No. 118, Sector No.6, Lane No.10, Narak Nagar, Jammu**, expired on 28-11-2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 07-12-2024 (Saturday) at our home at 11 AM.
KRIYA will be performed on 08-12-2024 (Sunday) at our residence.
UTHALA will be performed on 11-12-2024 (Wednesday) at Ram Mandir, Sector-8 Narak Nagar, Jammu from 4 PM - 5PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Ashok Vaid & Smt. Munisha Vaid
Sh. Ravi Bakshi & Smt. Veena Bakshi
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sh. Ajai Mehta & Smt. Reeta Mehta
Grand Children: Manika Vaid, Palak Bakshi, Akshay Vaid, Raghav Vaid
Contact No: 8082159317, 6005178315



SMT. BIMLA BAKSHI (BULLO)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, it is to inform the demise of **Mr Vinod Raina S/o Late Smt. Mohini & Late Shri B L Raina R/o 15/11 Railway Road Narak Nagar Jammu** at present in Flat N 8 - 504, Royal Nest Apartments, Tezhzone 4, Noida Extension U P attained moksha on 02/12/2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 11/12/2024 at Choti Ganga Nehar, Murad Nagar Ghat at 9am. Assembly will be held at Royal Nest Apartments.

Grief stricken-

(Brother & Sister in law
Chand Raina & Purnima
(Son & Daughter in law)
Vimash & Sugam
Vaihar Raina (Son)
Rita Rajinder Kaul (Sister)
Sunita Kaw & BL Kaw (Sister & Brother in law)
Mobile No-9419195904,9768672678,9055013893



Mr Vinod Raina

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Raina R/o Mattan, Anantnag, A/P Flat No. 08, Block no 147, Jangne No 23, Jagati Colony, Nagrota Jammu**.

MOURNING will be observed at community hall lane No 19/20 Back side.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 11.12.24 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Asha ji (Wife)
Phoola ji (Babhi)
(Younger Brother & Babhi)
Smt & Shri Roop Krishna Raina
Sh. Shrawan Kumar Raina & Smt. Karun Raina (Son & Daughter in Law)
Smt & Shri Rakesh Muzsa (Daughter & Son in Law)
Smt & Shri Sandeep Tickoo (Daughter & Son in Law)
Smt & Shri Dalip Pandita (Daughter & Son in Law)

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
Raina's, Pandita's, Bhat's
Contact number 7780952378, 9797617215, 9419146199



Sh. Roshan Lal Raina

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt Maya Devi W/o Late (Sh) Rattan Lal Kotwal R/o Udra na Bhaderwah**, who left us for her heavenly abode on 28th November 2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 7th Dec, 2024 (Saturday) at our residence, Udra na, Bhaderwah at 9:00 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 11th Dec, 2024 (Wednesday) at our residence at 01:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Suman Kotwal & Smt. Kamlesh Kotwal
Sh. Sudhir Kotwal & Smt. Uttama Kotwal
Sh. Susheel Kotwal & Smt Sapna Kotwal
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Sudha Kotwal & Sh. Vipin Kotwal
Smt. Anu Radha & Sh. Ranash Kotwal
Smt. Manu Rani & Bikram Singh Manhas
Brothers & Sister-in-law
Smt. Dayawanti Kotwal W/o Late (Sh Kishori Lal Kotwal)
Sh. Karar Singh Kotwal
All Nephews and Nieces, All Grandsons and Granddaughters
Grand Daughter and Grandson-in-law



SMT MAYA DEVI

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Omashori Dass W/o Late Maheshwar Nath Dass** originally from Bomai, Sopore (Kashmir) on 02-12-2024 presently residing at H.No. 111, Lane 4/C, Anand Nagar Bohri, Jammu-180002 (behind Baldev Hardware).

Tenth Day will be performed on 10-12-2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

Grief Stricken

Smt Vijay & Sh Rattan Lal Dass -Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt Nirmala & Sh Kuldeep Kr Dass -Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt Pamy & Sh Sunit Kr. Dass -Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt Dulari & Sh Omkar Nath Pandita -Daughter & Son-in-law
Sh Rajinder Pandita -Son-in-law
& Samast Dass & Pandita Parivaar



Smt Omashori Dass

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JP Nadda slams Telangana government, targets Congress for 'decades of injustice'



HYDERABAD, Dec 8 (Agencies): Union Minister JP Nadda, during his visit to Telangana, slammed the state government's track record, accusing it of governance lapses over the past year. Taking a hit at Congress, he said that the BJP in the state is committed to exposing what he described as the grand old party's "injustices and falsehoods."

"I have come to Telangana to highlight the failures of the state government and expose the deception of the Congress Party," Nadda said. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of Telangana BJP President G Kishan Reddy and other party leaders in addressing public concerns.

Nadda added that the Telangana BJP would continue fighting for issues concerning farmers, women, youth, and labourers. "The BJP will work to serve as the heartbeat of Telangana and propel the state towards development. A bright future for Telangana is possible only under BJP governance," he said.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BJP AND CONGRESS

Nadda drew comparisons between the BJP and Congress, accusing the Congress of using power for personal gain. "The Congress Party has misled the people for 70 years with false

promises. The BJP, on the other hand, works for the development of the nation," he said.

He emphasised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that Modi is the first leader in 60 years to be elected Prime Minister three times. "Despite strong opposition, Narendra Modi returned to power for a third term," Nadda said.

The BJP leader highlighted the party's increased vote share in parliamentary elections and its governance in 19 states, in addition to six NDA-led states. "When the BJP comes to power in Telangana, the lotus will bloom, and it will stay there permanently," he said.

SUCCESS IN OTHER STATES

Nadda pointed to BJP's victories in states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, among others. "In states like Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, where BJP and Congress faced off for 64 seats, the BJP won 62," he said.

He also highlighted the BJP's performance in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the party had won the highest number of seats there. "The Congress cannot win on its own, even with the support of local parties," he claimed.

CRITICISM OF CONGRESS GOVERNANCE

Nadda accused Congress of failing to deliver on promises made in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. He questioned the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh over its unfulfilled commitments, including restoring the old pension scheme and providing Rs 1,500 per month to women.

In Karnataka, he criticised Congress for not fulfilling promises made to Anganwadi workers, dairy farmers, and the poor. In Telangana, he alleged that the Congress failed to deliver on promises such as Rs 12,000 for auto drivers and Rs 15,000 for farmers.

"Congress leaders, including Revanth Reddy, have made promises that remain unfulfilled. Welfare schemes like Shadi Mubarak have not reached the intended beneficiaries," Nadda said.

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER PM MODI'S LEADERSHIP

Highlighting BJP's achievements, Nadda praised Prime Minister Modi for prioritising Telangana's development. "Under Modi's leadership, Rs 1.60 lakh crore has been allocated to Telangana, with grants worth Rs 1.12 lakh crore, and significant investment in infrastructure projects, including three Vande Bharat trains and five Bharatmala projects," he said.

Nadda urged the Telangana BJP to intensify its campaign against Congress's "falsehoods" and reach out to the public. "The BJP fulfils promises, unlike the Congress," he added.

IAF gets virtual reality based system to train crew on aircraft refuelling operations

VR-based system allows trainees to don head-mounted device and experience realistic virtual environment featuring aircraft and its subsystems

CHANDIGARH, Dec 8 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force (IAF), in collaboration with Chitkara University, near Chandigarh, has developed an advanced Virtual Reality (VR) system to train newly inducted Agniveers on the process of refuelling aircraft.

The VR-based system allows trainees to don a head-mounted device and experience a realistic virtual environment featuring aircraft and its subsystems. It eliminates the need for physical aircraft, enabling trainees to practice the complex process.

The system provides training in a compressed timeframe, which is advantageous as the initial term of Agniveers is just four years, thereby reducing the overall time utilised for training.

The first such system has been developed



for training aircrew to refuel the helicopters. It can also be modified to impart training on other aircraft in the IAF's inventory.

"Aircraft refuelling is a complex activity that includes movement and parking vehicles in an aircraft's vicinity, operat-

ing pumping equipment, blending anti-freeze additives, ensuring proper earthing and filling the correct volume of fuel. There are several technical, environmental and safety factors involved," Dr PK Khosla, a former DRDO-TBRL scientist and now pro-

vice chancellor of the university, who along with Dr Amanpreet Kaur headed the project team, said. It took about six months for team to complete the project. "The system has been handed over to the IAF," added pro chancellor Dr Madhu Chitkara.

VR solutions are highly engaging, error-tolerant and foster faster learning without risking damage to actual equipment or aircraft. Such systems aids can be developed for imparting training on a vast array of subjects.

The development process involved close collaboration with defence experts to map the intricate details of helicopter refuelling operations. Every component, from fuel couplings to control panels, was meticulously modelled in 3D.

Advanced haptic feedback systems, that is devices which create the illusion of substance and force within the virtual world, and motion-tracking algorithms were incorporated to enhance realism to provide trainees with a near-physical experience that significantly improves skill acquisition and retention.

Not just Military, 'Civilian Army' of experts also needed to protect Nation's Interests: SC Judge

GANDHINAGAR, Dec 8 (Agencies): A nation growing "economically, politically, in the rule of law and in good governance" requires not only the "military in dress" but also a "civilian army" of experts to diligently and intelligently look after its interests both within and outside, Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant said here on Sunday.

The field of law does not demand perfection but perseverance, curiosity and a commitment to the ideals of fairness and equity, he said while addressing the valedictory session of the international moot court competition at Rashtriya Raksha University.

"A nation growing eco-

nomically, politically, democratically, in rule of law, in good governance, requires not only the military in dress but a lot of military elements in civilian dress also," Justice Surya Kant said.

"Whether you are a law graduate, an expert in criminal law or international law, whether you are a professor or a scientist or an engineer, or holding any other responsible position, you become part of that civilian army which very carefully,

Arvind Kejriwal slams BJP's slogan, says wants to end welfare schemes in Delhi



NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (Agencies): Delhi BJP's new slogan, "Ab Nahi Senge, Badal Ke Rahenge," has stirred up political tensions, drawing a sharp response from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal, followed by a quick rebuttal from BJP's Delhi President Virendra Sachdeva.

Arvind Kejriwal, the former Chief Minister of Delhi, criticised the slogan, saying that the BJP wants to terminate his government's popular welfare schemes, including free electricity and water services. Kejriwal argued that the BJP's call for change threatens the continuation of these schemes, which have been pivotal in the AAP administration's public support.

In a swift response, Virendra Sachdeva dismissed Kejriwal's fears as unfounded and accused him of spreading false information. According to Sachdeva, the slogan has rapidly gained traction among Delhi's populace, unsettling Kejriwal and prompting him to make baseless claims. He clarified that the BJP has no plans to discontinue existing welfare schemes.

Sachdeva emphasised that the popularity of the slogan reflects widespread dissatisfaction with the current AAP government's leadership. He accused Kejriwal and his associates, including Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain, of being mired in corruption.

In an official statement, the BJP highlighted that the slogan has resonated with the youth and women in Delhi, who now seem determined to replace what they called an ineffective and corrupt administration.

While assuring the continuation of welfare schemes, Sachdeva hinted at imminent legal actions against corruption in the current government.

Elections to 5 Punjab MCs, 44 councils to be held on Dec 21

CHANDIGARH, Dec 8 (Agencies): Elections to five municipal corporations, 44 municipal councils and by-elections to some urban civic bodies in Punjab will be held on December 21.

The counting of votes will take place the same day.

The filing of nominations will begin from Monday, said State Election Commissioner Raj Kamal Chaudhuri here on Sunday. The last date for filing the nominations is December 12. Scrutiny of nominations will be held on December 13. December 14 is the last date of withdrawal of nominations and allotment of symbols.

Unlike the recently held panchayat polls, which were held through ballot paper, the urban civic polls will be held using EVMs. The five MCs that go to the polls are Amritsar, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Ludhiana and Patiala.

With this, the model code of conduct has been imposed in the state. The expenditure limit for candidates contesting the polls has been fixed. For municipal corporations, the expenditure limit is Rs 4 lakh and for municipal Council it is between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3.6 lakh, said Chaudhuri.

The election gains significance as the embat-

led Shiromani Akali Dal has announced its decision to contest the polls, after having stayed away from the panchayat polls held last month, becoming the fourth player in the political arena.

It is equally important for the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, which is contesting the polls under its new state president Aman Arora. The Congress, which draws its strength from urban voters, too, is expected to go all out to woo voters and try and retain its majority in the urban civic bodies, while the BJP will be testing the success of its urban voter outreach.

The result of these polls, which unlike the panchayat election, will be contested on the party symbols, will prove who the urban voters see as their political leaders.

A total of 1,609 polling locations and 3,717 polling booths have been identified by the State Election Commission. Of these, 344 are declared hypersensitive and 665 sensitive polling locations.

As many as 20,486 personnel of Punjab Police and Home Guard jawans will be deployed for these elections besides 500 patrolling parties and 283 Striking Reserves.

The total voters who will exercise their franchise in these polls is 37.32 lakh.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No:- No- No 770-253-2024-25- DRM-FZR (to be opened on date 30.12.2024) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date 30.12.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Two Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
05.12.2024	16.12.2024	30.12.2024

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1.	253-2024-25-DRM-FZR	Through Bridge Sleeper Renewal (TBSR) H-Beam 808 Nos on Various Bridges of SSE/PWAY/JAT section Br. No (197-DN-210-DN-216-DN-224-DN-238-DN & 237A-DN) & SSE/PWAY/KTHU section Br. No (50-DN, 57-DN, 16-DN, 14-DN & 92-DN) & SSE/PWAY/PTK section (Br.No 2-DN, 9-DN & 280-Si.) in the Jurisdiction of DEN-IIFZR.	3,26,90,180.80	60 Days	09 Months

NOTE:- Contractors are advised to go through the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids. No. 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR, Date: 06.12.2024 3757/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION CHENANI
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 51 of 2024-25 Dated: 06-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage basis for the below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money @2% of Advertised Cost	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	Providing structural and architectural consultancy for Construction and installation of 130 mtrs. (425 feet) High Flag Mast at Patnitop (Under Capex Budget 2024-25)	2.50	600/- (only treasury challan will be accepted)	5000/-	30days	14-07-2024 after 1200 Hrs

Position of AAA = **Accorded**
Position of funds = **Available**

1.	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	06-12-2024
2.	Period of downloading of bid documents	06-12-2024 from 1800Hrs.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	06-12-2024 from 1800Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	13-12-2024 upto 1800 Hrs.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-07-2024 after 1200 Hrs.
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Bidders shall upload EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani. The Earnest Money Deposit (2% of the Advertised Cost of the tender) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR before evaluation of technical bids.
- Cost of tender document:** Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt issued after date of issuance of e-NIT under MH 0059-Rev mentioning the name of work otherwise will not be accepted for which the tender fee was deposited in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Chenani. Copy of receipt of cost of tender document should be uploaded on official website www.jktenders.gov.in upto the specified bid submission date and time.

No:-EE/C/7744-50
Dated: 06-12-2024

-sd-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Chenani

EDITORIAL

PRESERVING
INDIGENOUS
CULTURES

Indigenous cultures are the living expressions of unique histories, languages, traditions, and ways of life that have been passed down through generations. These cultures, often rooted in harmony with nature, hold invaluable wisdom about sustainable living, social cohesion, and spiritual depth. However, in an increasingly globalized and industrialized world, indigenous communities face numerous challenges, including loss of land, assimilation pressures, and climate change. Preserving these cultures is not only about safeguarding heritage but also ensuring a diverse and inclusive global society.

Indigenous cultures offer unique perspectives on living in balance with the environment. Their traditions and practices often emphasize respect for natural resources, biodiversity, and ecological conservation. For instance, many indigenous groups around the world have long practiced sustainable agriculture, forestry, and water management, providing models for tackling modern environmental crises.

Beyond environmental and linguistic significance, indigenous cultures enrich global art, music, cuisine, and spirituality. Their diversity adds layers of richness to humanity's collective identity, fostering a deeper appreciation for the variety of human experience.

Indigenous communities face significant threats that endanger their ways of life. Among the primary challenges is the loss of land, which is integral to their identity and survival. Deforestation, mining, urbanization, and large-scale agricultural projects often encroach upon indigenous territories, forcing displacement and disrupting traditional practices.

Globalization and modernization also pose challenges, as younger generations often migrate to urban areas, distancing themselves from their cultural roots. This can lead to the erosion of traditions, customs, and languages, as they adopt mainstream lifestyles and values.

Climate change is another pressing threat. Rising temperatures, shifting weather patterns, and natural disasters disproportionately affect indigenous communities, many of whom live in fragile ecosystems. The destruction of these environments undermines their traditional knowledge and practices, further exacerbating cultural loss.

Political marginalization compounds these challenges. Indigenous groups often lack representation in decision-making processes, leaving their voices unheard in matters that directly impact their lives. This systemic exclusion not only hinders their development but also jeopardizes their cultural preservation.

Preservation efforts must be multifaceted, involving governments, NGOs, academia, and indigenous communities themselves. Several strategies can help safeguard indigenous cultures:

Governments must recognize and enforce indigenous peoples' rights to their ancestral lands. Legal frameworks, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), provide guidelines for protecting their autonomy and cultural heritage. Empowering indigenous communities with control over their territories enables them to sustain their traditions and livelihoods.

Language revitalization programs are critical to preserving cultural identity. Initiatives such as bilingual education, language documentation, and digital tools for learning indigenous languages can engage younger generations. For example, Maori immersion schools in New Zealand have successfully increased the number of fluent speakers among the younger population.

Indigenous communities should lead preservation efforts, ensuring that initiatives align with their values and aspirations. Collaborative projects that incorporate traditional knowledge into modern solutions—for instance, using indigenous agricultural techniques to combat climate change—can reinforce cultural pride while addressing contemporary challenges.

Documenting indigenous art, music, rituals, and oral histories helps preserve them for future generations. Museums, cultural centers, and digital platforms can play a vital role in sharing this heritage with the world. However, such efforts must prioritize ethical practices, ensuring that indigenous communities retain control over their cultural narratives.

Promoting awareness about indigenous cultures in mainstream education fosters respect and appreciation among broader populations. Curricula that include indigenous history, contributions, and struggles can help dismantle stereotypes and encourage inclusivity.

Supporting indigenous artisans, farmers, and entrepreneurs can help sustain cultural practices. Fair-trade initiatives, eco-tourism, and cultural festivals provide opportunities for indigenous communities to share their heritage while earning livelihoods. Modern technology offers innovative ways to preserve and promote indigenous cultures. Digital archives, language apps, and virtual reality experiences can make cultural knowledge accessible to younger audiences. Social media platforms also enable indigenous voices to reach global audiences, raising awareness about their traditions and challenges.

The preservation of indigenous cultures is not solely the responsibility of those who live them—it is a shared global duty. Governments must enact policies that protect indigenous rights, while individuals can support by learning about and respecting their heritage. Non-profits, businesses, and academics must collaborate with indigenous communities to ensure their inclusion in decision-making processes.

Don't airbrush history, but respect context & fact too

By: Pavan K. Varma

Recently, I spoke at the launch in Delhi of Vikram Sampath's new magnum opus, Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum (1760-99), a 900-page biography of this controversial figure. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar, who was the chief guest, spoke well, at a function hosted by Bhaswati Mukherjee, president, India Habitat Centre, in association with the Prabha Khaithan Foundation. The moderator was Lipika Bhushan. I simultaneously greatly admire Vikram Sampath and envy him. My admiration is based on his remarkable scholarship as a historian, his meticulous research, the quality of his prose, and his attempt at objectivity in spite of his own ideological inclinations often to the contrary. I envy him because of his prolificacy, and the amazing speed with which he produces one voluminous book after another. As an author myself, I often joke with him that he gives me a severe inferiority complex! Vikram has also written a masterly biography of the legendary singer of the gramophone record era, Gauhar Jan, as also an excellent two-volume biography of the great freedom fighter, Veer Savarkar. I quoted from Sampath's work on Savarkar in my book, The Great Hindu Civilization. While paying tribute to Savarkar's courage and sacrifices for India's freedom from British rule, Sampath has not written a panegyric or qaseeda. To quote him: "As the intellectual fountainhead of the ideology of Hindutva, Savarkar is undoubtedly one of the most contentious political thinkers... Accounts of his long and stormy life have oscillated

from glorifying hagiographies to reproachful demonisation. The truth, as always, lies somewhere in between (Emphasis mine). I was slowly to discover that Savarkar was a bundle of contradictions and a historian's enigma." For someone, like Vikram, who is one of the few truly erudite Hindutva-leaning ideologues, to write this requires not only courage but honesty.

Unfortunately, this kind of honesty is becoming rather rare. Those who blindly idolise Savarkar overlook the fact that he never joined the RSS, was a professed atheist, an uncompromising rationalist who opposed even cow worship and a strong advocate of reform within Hinduism, whose ills, including caste discrimination and gender disparity, he called the Saat Bediyan, or Seven Fetters, that needed to be broken. Actually, Savarkar's short tract on Hindutva, much quoted by his often-uninformed protagonists today, was written in a specific historical context of the times then, and later, he himself put in perspective what he had advocated. Unfortunately, his uncompromising struggle against bigoted Hindu orthodoxies is hardly ever highlighted.

But Vikram in his majestic biography has the courage to do so. This same historical objectivity informs his book on Tipu Sultan. Tipu has been at the centre of acrimonious controversy in recent times. There are those, including the Congress Party, who see in him a staunch freedom fighter against British rule; others, especially in the BJP and large parts of southern India, see him only as a bigoted Muslim sultan who massacred thousands of Hindus. Both points of view are valid, because as Vikram is the

first to admit, history cannot be seen only in black or white polarities. To argue that his anti-colonial credentials are diluted because he was willing to take the help of the French to fight the British, is silly, because there were many Hindu royal families then who also willingly colluded with the British, and it would be wrong to judge them, or their descendants, solely on this account. Similarly, it cannot be denied that Tipu, in terms of faith, was a bigot, who mercilessly converted and killed Hindus and Christians, and destroyed their places of worship. It is counter-productive and dishonest to gloss over this fact, because air-brushing history, ultimately — and legitimately — leads to a backlash. I have written about being truthful to history, in the context of the destruction of Hindu temples, the pillage, conversion, proselytisation and desecration of leading centres of Hindu learning, during the Turkic invasion of the 12th century, and thereafter, during Islamic rule in wide parts of India. In fact, in my book cited above, I quote the globally recognised chronicler of civilisations, Will Durant, who wrote: "The Mohammedan conquest of India is probably the bloodiest story in history..." Yet, I have always also maintained that endlessly excavating past atrocities, serves little purpose in our new quest, as a constitutional and secular republic, to build a cohesive and united country, unique for its proven ability to be a vibrant multi-religious, multicultural and multiethnic nation. Proof of this lies in the fact that much before the current controversies about temples and mosques gained momentum, India had already

developed — not without occasional frictions — a syncretic culture, where Hindu and Muslim traditions had coalesced into a gangajamuni tehzeeb. The problem arises when we seek to assess the legacy and history of a historical personality solely through one or the other prism: Savage bigot or valiant opponent of the British. Historical memories of either of these labels cannot be erased or forgotten, but they become larger than life, and hence distorted, when political parties, for short-term electoral dividends begin to exclusively focus on only one or the other. Those who play the minority vote bank card valorise Tipu selectively, while those playing the Hindu majoritarian card demonise him wholly. This not only prevents the writing of objective history, but arouses visceral emotions, all happily grist to the myopic ambitions of politicians, where people's emotions are manipulated and people themselves are used as cannon fodder to win elections. But Vikram Sampath, always the true historian, retains his objectivity. At the end of his book, he writes: "The jury is still out on Tipu Sultan, his legacy, his characterisation and his contributions..." To emphasise this point Sampath quotes the scholar Narasingha Sil's assessment: "It is time we arrived at a reasonably realistic assessment of Tipu Sultan..." There is no irreconcilable contradiction in the fact that he fought the British valiantly, and was also an Islamic fanatic. History is full of greys. The problem is that those who know less, think they are always right. And those who do know, like Vikram, rarely have his conviction to try and be historically balanced.

Work and Study- An Overview

By: Vijay GarG

Work while you study is not a new concept. This concept has been a success in western countries for quite a long time but is a new concept in our country. In western countries, there are almost 60% of students who support their higher education themselves. Though it is not possible to contribute the whole amount of your higher education fees, still working while you study can help a student to contribute at least something to their education. Though it may not be a big amount for many, still the amount of pleasure and satisfaction involved is something that overpowers all the other facts. Working while you study can be in two ways:

Work-Study Option in College
Part-time Job

The first option is to opt for the work-study program. If you participate in a work-study program you can receive funds and hourly wages for your service provided on campus, which can be in any form depending upon your capability. There are many different opportunities for work-study, so there's a good chance for students to find something related to their major. Students may be either employed by the college or university itself, a national, state, or local public agency; a private non-profit organization; or a private for-profit organization. There are also chances that students may be asked to work for community learning programs that also give in some sort of inner satisfaction along with some earning experience.

Another option to earn while you study can be an off-campus part-time or a full-time job. Though the students enrolling for a full-time course cannot go for a full-time job, yet they can manage a part-time job that is a rage among youngsters these days. This part-time job may vary from having job-related to your major subjects or a skill related job. These days a lot of part-time jobs are available in call-centres across the country which had entered the Indian market like a revolution and gained a huge popularity in a short time. Other jobs for college students can be of taking tuition classes, online jobs etc. Architecture courses

Typical Work-Study Jobs

Work-study jobs are not difficult to get and perform. These include in the form a range of activities that can be easily performed in by students. Though there are not many colleges in India that are providing a work-study option to students, still the concept is getting popular in India too. If you get a work-study job on campus, then your college will usually be your employer. Typical jobs for students include working in the library or bookstore, serving other students in the dining hall, and assisting with college events. Off-campus work usually benefits the public in some way and should relate as closely as

possible to your course of study. You may also look for a job of tour guides.

The student may be working alongside other fellow students not in the work-study program. In fact, in all respects, your employment will appear the same as any other job. Only the college and your employer will know you're a work-study student. The only difference between a regular part-time job and a work-study job is that part of your salary may be covered by the government, the state, your college, or some other organization. There is also an option available for the students who decide to leave their work-study job before the end of the school year, or who can't find a work-study job can convert their work-study aid into a loan. Though, this may vary from college to college.

The Pros and Cons of Working while Studying in College

For some students, working in college is a necessity; there are students from probably not so well-off families who decide to support their educational expenses while for others it is simply a desire. Some students from financially strong families also decide to work to become financially independent. Many students have to work while they are in college, simply because, if they don't, they can't afford to do the course in the first place. However, those who do have a choice are faced with a difficult decision, because there are just as many pros to working while in college as there are cons. It is, therefore, necessary to weigh up both sides of the argument before coming to a final decision. Whatever the reason, however, it's important to know the pros and cons of working while in college before agreeing to take a job, these may include the following aspects:

Advantages of Working while Studying in College

More Money to Enjoy Life: It is a fact that almost 50% of the student enrolled in the work-study program to gain some bucks and become financially independent. Apart from needing money to fund college in the first place, a little bit of extra money is something that every student desire. There are a lot of things that everyone wants to spend on during their college life, which may include spending on treats and travelling in the holidays can make life an awful lot easier. It isn't impossible to live life on a tight budget, but it's a lot more fun with some ready cash to hand. And to spend on your own earned money gives immense pleasure.

Professional Development: Working while you study gives you a brief idea about professional life. Any on-campus job can provide students with the opportunity to learn professional skills such as communication (verbal and written), teamwork, time management, and customer service while also providing opportunities to build a professional network. Students tend to gain some good working experience and learn professional behaviour side by side.

A lot of students try to enter the job market after graduation with very little experience outside of their academic life and may sometimes face rejection due to lack of experience. Working for a living, even on a part-time basis, develops certain skills that are needed in professional life, but that can't be learned through study - simple things like how to communicate with different people and how to behave at a job interview. This makes the transition to work after graduation much easier and in an effective manner.

Freedom from Debts: A lot of students have to opt for loans to carry on their higher education, which they have to repay on completion of their course. Most of the students who take loan usually spend years after they have graduating paying off their debts that also includes in a certain amount of interest rate. This puts an awful lot of pressure on their shoulders because it is hard to think of moving on with their lives, buying a home and starting a family until the debt has been paid off. If students opt for a work-study program, they can effectively contribute in paying away their debt during their course duration or most of the times not even need educational loans.

Puts more Value to your Resume: Most of the companies these days prefer employees with some prior professional experience; in that case, some prior work experience during your college time makes your resume shine brightly among the others. Employers are often faced with a glut of resumes from college graduates and are always looking for someone that stands out not only in the terms of grades but experience as well. Someone with work experience as well as good grades is likely to do just that, especially if the experience is in a relevant field. It also shows commitment, which is always going to impress an employer. Most of the times candidates with some prior experienced are preferred more over some random fresher.

Better Time Management: Balancing your study and your job gives you a practical experience of managing your time effectively and one who is successfully able to strike a balance between the two also tends to master the art of good time management which is really important for every professional.

Disadvantage of Studying While Studying in College

Distracts from Studying: One downside to working in college, however, is the potential for students to work so much that their jobs interfere with their college goals and academic progress. You need to put in your time for both your study and job as well and sometimes students are not just able to cope well. Commitment to a job does mean that students have less available free time. This may not be a problem if they are organised and cut down on their social life to make time for studying, but many students tend to give in to peer pressure and sacrifice their study time instead. Hence need is for a better time

management.

Might be Really Tiring: There can be sometimes time clash between your two priorities. It is also possible that juggling with two priorities may sometime render a student really tired and probably not enough energy to revise well his topics. There are only 24 hours in the day for everyone and trying to hold down a job while studying can be extremely tiring, especially around exam time, when employers may be reluctant to let them have time off. In time, this may be too much for students to take and stress may cause them to burn-out.

Hamper Growth: It is evident that most of the students come to college with a hope to get a highly paid job later on in their lives, for which they will expect to have to work hard. From that point of view, college years may be their last chance to study and have fun before beginning the daily grind of work, therefore working in college can be unnecessarily exhausting. Sometimes working in a part-time job may change their focus and few students focus much on their present job while not really looking at the bigger picture. Hence it is very important to strike a balance between the two.

Tips to Balance Work and Studies

There are a lot of students opting for work while studying. There are many who really need this, while there are some who just do it for leisure and to become self-dependent. Students who work and study seem to enjoy the best of everything. They get their education and at the same time are able to keep their jobs and get a paycheck. Work while studying has advantages of its own. However, it isn't as easy as it sounds and studying at the same time as working is probably one of the hardest things you'll ever do in life. Here are some tips to help you:

Good time management. Strike a correct balance with two and make a good time-plan.

Self-motivation and stay connected to friends for the required help with studies.

Set up your priorities and work accordingly. Have time for fun and recreational activities too.

Do not sideline your studies. Remember studies should be the first priority.

Enjoy what you do.

Reward yourself for your success which would be a motivation for yourself.

**(Vijay GarG Retired
principal Educational
Columnist Street kour
Chand MHR Malout
Punjab)**

Syrian government appears to have fallen in stunning end to 50-year rule of Assad family

BEIRUT, Dec 8 (Agencies): The Syrian government appeared to have fallen early Sunday in a stunning end to the 50-year rule of the Assad family after a lightning rebel offensive.

The head of a Syrian opposition war monitor said President Bashar Assad had left the country for an undisclosed location, fleeing ahead of insurgents who said they had entered Damascus after a remarkably swift advance across the country.

Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said the government was ready to "extend its hand" to the opposition and hand over its functions to a transitional government.

"I am in my house and I have not left, and this is because of my belonging to this country," Jalili said in a video statement. He said he would go to his office to continue work in the morning and called on Syrian citizens not to deface public property.

He did not address reports that Assad had left the country.

Rami Abdurrahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights told The Associated Press that Assad took a flight Sunday from Damascus.

State television in Iran, Assad's main backer in the years of war in Syria, reported that Assad had left the capital. It cited Qatar's Al Jazeera news network for the information and did not elaborate.

There was no immediate statement from the Syrian government.

An Associated Press journalist in Damascus reported seeing groups of armed residents along the road in the outskirts of the capital and hearing sounds of gunshots.

The city's main police headquarters appeared to be abandoned, its door left ajar with no officers outside. Another agency journalist shot footage of an abandoned army checkpoint where uniforms were discarded on the ground under a poster of Assad's face.

Residents of the capital reported hearing gunfire and explosions. Footage broadcast on opposition-linked media showed a tank in one of the capital's central squares while a small group of people gathered in celebration. Calls of "God is great" rang out from mosques.

It was the first time opposition forces had reached Damascus since 2018, when Syrian troops recaptured areas on the outskirts of the capital following a yearslong siege.

The pro-government Sham FM radio reported that the Damascus airport had been evacuated and all flights halted.

The insurgents also announced they had entered the notorious Saydnaya military prison north of the capital and "liberated" their prisoners there.

The night before, opposition forces took the central city of Homs, Syria's third largest, as government forces abandoned



it.

The city stands at an important intersection between Damascus, the capital, and Syria's coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartus — the Syrian leader's base of support and home to a Russian strategic naval base.

The government denied rumors that Assad had fled the country.

Sham FM reported that government forces took positions outside Homs without elaborating. Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said Syrian troops and members of different security agencies withdrew from the city, adding that rebels entered parts of it.

The insurgency announced later Saturday that it had taken over Homs. The rebels had already seized the cities of Aleppo and Hama, as well as large parts of the south, in a lightning offensive that began Nov. 27. Analysts said rebel control of Homs would be a game-changer.

The rebels' moves into Damascus came after the Syrian army withdrew from much of southern part of the country, leaving more areas, including several provincial capitals, under the control of opposition fighters.

The fall of Damascus would leave government forces in control of only two of 14 provincial capitals: Latakia and Tartus.

The advances in the past week were by far the largest in recent years by opposition factions, led by a group that has its origins in al-Qaida and is considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the United Nations.

In their push to overthrow Assad's government, the insurgents, led by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group, or HTS, have met little resistance from the Syrian army.

The rapid rebel gains, coupled with the lack of support from Assad's erstwhile allies, posed the most serious threat to his rule since the start of the war.

The U.N.'s special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, called Saturday for urgent talks in Geneva to ensure an "orderly political transition." Speaking to reporters at the annual Doha Forum in Qatar, he said the situation in Syria was changing by the minute. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whose country is Assad's chief inter-

national backer, said he feels "sorry for the Syrian people."

In Damascus, people rushed to stock up on supplies. Thousands went to Syria's border with Lebanon, trying to leave the country. Lebanese border officials closed the main Masnaa border crossing late Saturday, leaving many stuck waiting.

Many shops in the capital were shuttered, a resident told news agency, and those still open ran out of staples such as sugar. Some were selling items at three times the normal price.

The UN said it was moving noncritical staff outside the country as a precaution.

Assad's status
Syria's state media denied social media rumors that Assad left the country, saying he was performing his duties in Damascus.

He has had little, if any, help from his allies. Russia is busy with its war in Ukraine. Lebanon's Hezbollah, which at one point sent thousands of fighters to shore up Assad's forces, has been weakened by a yearlong conflict with Israel. Iran has seen its proxies across the region degraded by regular Israeli airstrikes.

US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday posted on social media that the United States should avoid engaging militarily in Syria.

Separately, President Joe Biden's national security adviser said the Biden administration had no intention of intervening there.

Pedersen said a date for talks in Geneva on the implementation of a U.N. resolution, adopted in 2015 and calling for a Syrian-led political process, would be announced later. The resolution calls for the establishment of a transitional governing body, followed by the drafting of a new constitution and ending with U.N.-supervised elections.

Later Saturday, foreign ministers and senior diplomats from eight key countries, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Egypt, Turkey and Iran, along with Pedersen, gathered on the sidelines of the Doha Summit to discuss the situation in Syria.

In a statement, the participants affirmed their support for a political solution to the Syrian crisis "that would lead to the end of military activity and protect civilians." They also agreed on the importance of strengthening international efforts to increase aid to the Syrian people.

The insurgents' march Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said insurgents were in the Damascus suburbs of Maadamiyah, Jaramana and Daraya. Opposition fighters were marching toward the Damascus suburb of Harasta, he added.

A commander with the insurgents, Hassan Abdul-Ghani, posted on the Telegram messaging app that opposition forces had begun the "final stage" of their offensive by encircling Damascus.

HTS controls much of northwest Syria and in 2017 set up a "salvation government" to run day-to-day affairs in the region. In recent years, HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani has sought to remake the group's image, cutting ties with al-Qaida, ditching hard-line officials and vowing to embrace pluralism and religious tolerance.

The shock offensive began Nov. 27, during which gunmen captured the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, and the central city of Hama, the country's fourth-largest city.

Opposition activists said Saturday that a day earlier, insurgents entered Palmyra, which is home to invaluable archaeological sites had been in government hands since being taken from the Islamic State group in 2017.

To the south, Syrian troops left much of the province of Quneitra, including the main Baath City, activists said.

Syrian Observatory said government troops have withdrawn from much of the two southern provinces.

The Syrian army said in a statement that it carried out redeployment and repositioning in Sweida and Daraa after its checkpoints came under attack by "terrorists."

The army said it was setting up a "strong and coherent defensive and security belt in the area," apparently to defend Damascus from the south.

The Syrian government has referred to opposition gunmen as terrorists since conflict broke out in March 2011.

Diplomacy in Doha
The foreign ministers of Iran, Russia and Turkey, meeting in Qatar, called for an end to the hostilities. Turkey is a main backer of the rebels.

Qatar's top diplomat, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, criticized Assad for failing to take advantage of the lull in fighting in recent years to address the country's underlying problems. "Assad didn't seize this opportunity to start engaging and restoring his relationship with his people," he said.

Sheikh Mohammed said he was surprised by how quickly the rebels have advanced and said there is a real threat to Syria's "territorial integrity." He said the war could "damage and destroy what is left if there is no sense of urgency" to start a political process.

"Failing to serve": South Korea's interior minister resigns over martial law fiasco



SEOUL, Dec 8 (Agencies): South Korea's interior minister resigned on Sunday following the declaration of martial law that plunged the country into turmoil, local media reported. Lee Sang-min said he was stepping

down "in grave recognition of responsibility for failing to serve the public and the president well", according to the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper.

President Yoon Suk Yeol accepted his resignation, the paper said.

Lee and Yoon are among those being investigated for alleged insurrection following the declaration of martial law on Tuesday.

Yoon, who narrowly survived an impeachment motion in parliament on Saturday, was forced to rescind martial law after lawmakers voted down his decree.

Earlier on Sunday, Police arrested Kim Yong-hyun, who was defence minister at the time of the martial law operation.

Kim had already been handed a travel ban.

Toll from Hague building explosion rises to five

THE HAGUE, Dec 8 (Agencies): At least five bodies have been pulled from the wreckage of an apartment block in The Hague, authorities said, as recovery efforts stretched into a second day on Sunday.

Elite rescue teams picked through the debris throughout the night, searching for victims of a huge explosion and fire that destroyed at least five homes early on Saturday morning.

It remained unclear how many people could still be buried under the rubble.

Police are still investigating possible causes for the explosion and blaze.

"Unfortunately, a fifth deceased person has just been recovered

from the rubble," the fire service said in the early hours of Sunday.

"This brings the total number of victims to 10. Four of them were taken to hospital, one was examined on-site by the ambulance service," they added.

One of those in hospital was pulled alive from the wreckage some 12 hours after the blast.

City mayor Jan van Zanen said he was preparing for the "worst-case scenario" with only a slim chance of finding anyone else alive after such a long time buried.

He said two of the four in hospital were in serious condition, the other two were recovering well.

Police have appealed for witnesses to come

forward. They are especially interested in a car seen speeding away from the scene shortly after the blast at 06:15 am (0515 GMT) on Saturday.

The three-storey building consisted of shops on the ground floors and five two-storey apartments, authorities said, with living rooms on the second floor and bedrooms on the top.

Residents told local media the apartment block was mainly inhabited by elderly people and families with children.

Around 40 residents of other blocks near the collapsed building have been evacuated. Some have been taken away by bus to an unknown location.

Taiwan reports 14 Chinese warships and 4 balloons near the island

TAIPEI, Dec 8 (Agencies): China sent 14 warships, seven military aircraft and four balloons near Taiwan between Saturday and Sunday, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry, as Beijing ramps up pressure on the island it claims as its own.

China's military activities come amid speculation Beijing might organize military drills around the island in response to Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te's recent visit to Pacific allies, including U.S. stops in Hawaii and Guam.

China claims Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy of 23 million people, as its own territory, and bristles at other countries' formal exchanges with Taiwan. The United States, like most countries, doesn't recognize Taiwan as a country but is its main unofficial backer and sells it arms.

The Chinese government has pledged to annex Taiwan, through military force if necessary, and sends ships and military planes near the island almost daily.

The 14 warships, seven military planes and four balloons were reported over 24 hours between 6 a.m. on Saturday and 6 a.m. on Sunday, accord-

ing to Taiwan's Defense Ministry. The ministry said six of the aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial demarcation zone between Taiwan and China.

One of the balloons brushed over the island's northern tip, according to the ministry.

Lai on Friday called on China to refrain from threats and said Beijing's military exercises "will not be able to win the respect" of neighboring countries.

Lai's first overseas trip since taking office in May included visits to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau, three of the 12 countries that have diplomatic ties with Taiwan. The rest of the world, including the U.S., has official ties with China.

Lai's stops in Hawaii and Guam — from where he had phone calls with U.S. Congress leaders — angered China, which opposes U.S. arms sales and military assistance to Taiwan.

There was widespread speculation China might organize war games around Taiwan in response to the visit, though it was unclear when they might start.

Farming project in South Africa helping deaf people build skills, find jobs

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 8 (Agencies): At the Westonaria agricultural park near Bekkersdal, east of Johannesburg, farm workers are busy tilling the soil and planting tomatoes and lettuce. Despite the hive of activity, there is silence around the park.

Most people here are deaf and communicate using sign language.

They are members of the Voiceout Deaf farming collective, started by entrepreneur Matebogo Victoria, to create a platform where deaf people can develop their skills in agriculture and find sustainable work.

Victoria, who has a hearing disability herself, understood perfectly the challenges faced by deaf people when competing for opportunities with their counterparts who do not face the same challenge.

While studying at the Tshwane University of Technology in the country's capital, Pretoria, Victoria had to attend classes with a hearing partner, as the university could not make the lectures accessible for her.

It is an all-too-common challenge for deaf people, according to Victoria.

"The government does not have facilities for communication (for deaf people). A lot of deaf people did not finish school. They cannot afford to travel far to reach schools, so normally they decide to leave school early," said Victoria.

Across South Africa, there are 44 schools for the deaf, offering sign language as a subject and using it as a medium of instruction.

Most are based far from where the students live, which sometimes leads to them dropping out of school as families struggle to afford the transportation costs.

Victoria, who used to work for Standard Bank, decided to leave her corporate job and start Voiceout as a way of allowing deaf people to gain agricultural skills.

"I make things simple for them, it is like a family when they are here. They become very much happy when they are here but when they go outside of this space, it becomes difficult for them," she said.

For Sibongile Maake, the opportunity to learn agriculture in a space where co-

workers can easily communicate with her in sign language was transformational.

It has also afforded her an opportunity to earn a living and rely less on the welfare disability grants that are paid out by the government. "I'm happy working here, it's (a) pleasure working here in the farm. I'm working slowly but surely and I am learning while also getting a salary. I can do things for myself, I can afford myself," said Maake. Another worker, who said in sign language his name was John, said the challenges of communication reduced his chances of getting a job but the Voiceout Deaf project became a lifeline for him.

"Communication is always a barrier, so coming here at the farm is very much better because they are able to communicate in my own language so it makes life much easier for me," said John.

He and other workers are responsible for various activities at the farm including cleaning, ploughing, planting and harvesting the produce. The demand for their vegetables was so great that Voiceout Deaf

has taken on two other farms, where John and his colleagues also work.

The project is breaking even: the farms currently supply some of the local supermarkets and chain stores with fresh produce.

In other South African provinces like Limpopo and North West, provincial governments are looking at farming as a source of training and employment for disabled people. The farming sector is emerging as a solace for those with disabilities who also face the dire levels of unemployment in Africa's most developed economy.

As she goes around giving instructions monitoring activities on the farm, which consists of 10 greenhouses, Victoria laments how difficult it often is for people using sign language to understand the jargon of developed industries.

The Pan South African Language Board is responsible for setting the country's standards for sign language. A constitutionally mandated body responsible for promoting the development and use of South African

languages, it recently scored a victory by having Parliament approve sign language as South Africa's 12th official language.

However, the board sometimes struggles to keep up with fast-evolving business language, Victoria says.

"The difficulty is that sign language has not developed to an extent that it covers technical jargon used in various sectors. It is the same in agriculture. There are certain technical words used that are there in spoken language but not in sign language," she explains.

But beyond changing official attitudes, Victoria wants to inspire change in the farmers themselves.

"We need them (the deaf farmers) to think out of the box about agriculture. They need to be empowered to understand that agriculture is involved in the production of other products like toothpastes, perfumes, medicines. This is where we have to improvise and find ways to communicate with them in the simplest way possible," said Victoria.

Malavika Mohanan: It's inspiring that every part of India has its unique textile

Actor Malavika Mohanan, known for her performances in films like *Beyond the Clouds* (2017), *Petta* (2019), and *Master* (2021), is now set to make her Telugu debut in *The RajaSahab*. She seamlessly blends her acting prowess with a distinct sense of style. But ask her to define her personal style and the 31-year-old admits it's challenging to describe it. "I dress according to where I'm going, how I'm feeling, how my body is feeling on that particular day", she says, adding, "But on a broad level, if I had to describe it, I would say classic with a touch of go."

For Malavika, fashion is a tool for self-expression. "She adds, 'You can communicate so much using fashion — your personality, your mood. If I am in Kerala, I'm automatically inclined to wearing a lot more of the traditional textiles from the region. In Rajasthan, I find myself going for block prints and a lot of silver jewellery.'"

While Malavika's fashion choices evolve depending on the geographical location, one constant remains: her preference for pieces that are versatile and built to last. "We live in a world where fast fashion is normalised. But I find myself opting for more basic wear that stays with me for a very long time. I don't really get rid of it quickly," she shares, adding, "I have pieces from my mom that she's had for the last 30 years that I feel will never go out of style. It looks beautiful now and it will look beautiful even 10 years down the line."

She adds, "Also, for me, timeless glamour is about embracing elegant simplicity - a perfectly tailored outfit, a statement piece of jewellery, and a strong sense of self."

Her approach to sustainability is also rooted in repurposing old garments. "Sometimes, if there's something my mom has had for 5 or 10 years and she's not using it, I get something made out of it. For example, I might get a nice pair of pants made from an old sari," she shares,



adding, "In fact, my grandmother has a habit of taking old saris and making beautiful tote bags out of them. So, there's always some form of playing with fabric going on at home."

And while she acknowledges the role trends plays in fashion, she doesn't feel the need to follow them blindly. "We end up wearing a lot of trending stuff anyway, especially when we're getting styled. But I don't feel the need to buy something just because it's being sold," she says, adding, "What I end up buying is more classic stuff. I get to wear the trendy stuff too. It's a perfect mix."

Her style philosophy leans more towards understated elegance: "I'm not a maximalist person, even though I like it on certain people. I don't feel it suits me unless it's a one-off day. But I like having one statement element to my look. I find that doing lipstick for me most days works."

Drawing inspiration from iconic fashion moments

Malavika finds inspiration in the bold women of fashion history, especially those who broke societal norms and defined their own style. Designer Coco Chanel, who revolutionised

women's fashion by introducing tailored trousers and a minimalist aesthetic, is one of her biggest inspirations. "At a time when women's style was dominated by ultra-feminine, tight corsets, elaborate feathers, and a maximalist aesthetic, she (Coco Chanel) redefined the norms. She popularised tailored trousers for women and ushered in a minimalist, chic revolution that transformed fashion as we know it," says the actor.

Malavika also draws inspiration from Gayatri Devi, the late Maharani of Jaipur, who embraced a unique look combining chiffon sarees and pearls—a style that has since become a timeless Indian classic. "I admire her unique look, which has become a timeless Indian classic."

Beyond these global icons, Mohanan cherishes the fashion influences Indian culture has had on her. "Most of us are opting for a more modern culture. But Indian street style, especially traditional street style, inspires me a lot. Every part of India has its own uniqueness in terms of textile, art, and handloom, and that is what inspires me."

Fashion staples for timeless

glamour

When it comes to building a capsule wardrobe, Malavika says she "a black sari" is something she would opt for because "you can wear it for a cocktail party, any Indian occasion, and you can dress it up or down - makes it a key item in any woman's wardrobe".

Another essential for her is a classic, well-structured bag. As someone who is passionate about bags, Malavika says, "a day bag that doesn't scream any brand name, which is elegant and subtle, is something that goes with most outfits you wear" is her go-to. She also swears by a pair of perfectly tailored black trousers, a staple she often opts for when travelling. "You can wear it with blouses, shirts, with blazers, you can mix and match and layer it. If it's well-fitted, it always gives you that sexy chic look pretty quick."

Other wardrobe essentials include a well-fitted blazer, a white gunji, and a white shirt. "In a place like Bombay, a white crop top and a white gunji are always in my bag," she says. She also shares her love for a white chikankari kurta paired with palazzo pants, perfect for a relaxed yet elegant airport look.

When it comes to jewellery, Malavika believes in subtle elegance. "I find a lot of the heavy jewelry my mom has just sitting in the locker, which I only use once a year. So I would rather invest in lighter pieces—something like a lovely tennis bracelet or light stackable bracelets that go with most of the things we wear nowadays."

Off-duty style: Comfort meets versatility

Ask her about her current off-duty wardrobe and she says it's something she can travel in or get ready in. "I prefer my outfits to be loose, like a cool tee with trousers or a really nice shirt with trousers. So if I'm done with work and I'm setting out with friends or catching up with someone, I can always jazz it up automatically, so it works both ways," she wraps up.

Sumukhi Suresh on the risk of doing stand-up comedy in today's time



Sumukhi Suresh is currently touring with her stand up special *Hoemonaal*, and she did her recent show in Mumbai. The comedian admits that while being a stand-up comic has its perks, it also has become a dangerous profession to be in today. She says, "It is risky for sure, but it's the law of the land now if you are going to take the risk of saying something that's not usual. When I went to Bangalore, a 60-year-old man put a complaint against me for being vulgar in a public place, which was hilarious. He was like ye aise kaise baat kar sakti hai stage pe."

However, she is not perturbed by it. "There

is a range of complaints doing rounds, agar sabko respond karein to kaise chalega. Main to apne agle set ko public nuisance and vulgar bolne wali hun," she quips, adding that even with such fears, the comedy industry is thriving. "More comics have come in the picture and now, being a comic is not your USP anymore. You have to make sure the audience gets a good experience on your live show. Also, the amount people in India spend for a show is equal to a movie ticket, so you have to make sure you give them a film worth of entertainment. It's definitely become more challenging and excit-

ing," she says.

Sumukhi Suresh also asserts that even though Instagram is also filled with a lot of comedy creators and influencers, and there is stiff competition from everywhere, but she isn't fazed by the, "There is a competition on Instagram, but stand-up comics are writers as well. And we are fundamentally looked at to take opposing views. We are negators, who challenge every conversation. The characteristic of a comedian is different from other comedy creators. Of course, you have to play the game that everyone plays when you come on Instagram. But as live comedians, we don't get a leeway. People will forget an Instagram reel in 30 seconds, but we have to sit with our audience for one-and-a-half hours. So, the pressure is much higher."

Being a female comic, Sumukhi admits that often she is trolled for doing jokes on "women issues" including periods and bras. And she explains the conditioning behind it: "Fundamentally what happens is that a lot of boys are raised funny and to laugh, jaise wo bakchodi karte rehte hain apne gang mein. But ladkiyon ki bakchodi utni baahar aayi nahi hai, par hum log bhi waise hi hain with each other. If a female comic is funny on stage, boys go like isse better to main hun. So, karo. Ladkon ko to opportunity har nukkad pe milta hai. And boys also keep talking about engineering only, so how much are they going to talk?"

Aanchal Singgh: Labels of art house and commercial have become diluted on OTT for good

Actor Aanchal G Singgh, who has been getting a positive response for her character's emotional growth in the second season of *Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein* (YKKA), feels that OTT has been a game changer in terms of blending genres that can otherwise restrict a project.

"On digital, be it web series or short film, the audience gets to see something different. So, it's beneficial for both artistes and audiences. But, cinema has a different perspective and even if you try to do anything different on the big screen, woh bolte hain ki 'Commercial nahin, art cinema hai'," the 32-year-old shares.

She continues, "On OTT, ab art house aur commercial — sab dilute ho gaya hai (for good). People are [more] interested in storytelling. So now it's more about, 'I want to watch this person's story', and not, 'I want to see this celeb on screen.' So, I feel that is very important."

Regardless, the actor shares that she "doesn't want to restrict herself to one specific medium." about her future plans, she shares, "I have been focused on YKKA



season 2 for a very long time and I had to wait for a long time for it to release. So, it took a lot of patience. But now I am going to sit down

and decide [future projects].

There are interesting things that are happening, but I haven't said yes to anything."

My relationship with NSD like Dronacharya and Eklavya: Manoj Bajpayee

After being rejected four times by the National School of Drama (NSD), Manoj Bajpayee says he developed a Dronacharya-Eklavya relationship with the premier acting institute because he considered it an absentee mentor that shaped his success.

A monthly stipend of Rs 2,500, a roof over his head, free food from canteen and being surrounded by the best in the world of acting, as a 22-year-old, there was no better place than NSD, the "Satya" actor said.

But it was not to be despite four attempts.

"My relationship with NSD is very much like what Eklavya had with Guru Dronacharya. That they didn't ask for my thumb is a different matter. They have rather welcomed me. They call me to hold workshops with the students. There is mutual respect. The National School of Drama is among the best institutions in the world," Bajpayee said in an interview.

According to the actor, who started in theatre before going on to become a big name in arthouse and mainstream movies, institutes such as NSD, Pune's Film and Television Institute of India and Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute are world class institutes.



"I don't understand why they don't get their due," he said.

He said he never complained about NSD's rejection even when it happened the first time.

"On the contrary, I thought I wasn't good enough and had many flaws, because NSD can never go wrong," he said.

But the first time he failed, it really broke him. Bajpayee, who was then studying in Delhi University, said he shut himself in his rented room in Mukherjee Nagar. His friends intervened and helped him come out of his shock.

"It was a bad time in my life where I was absolutely clueless about what to do next. My first aim was to enter NSD. That I'll work with the best of the best in India for three years, I'll be in the campus all of 24 hours. Where I didn't have to think about food, lodgings. I'll get a scholarship, I think at the time

it used to be around Rs 2,500. I've heard it is Rs 15,000 today."

The actor, known for hits such as "Satya", "Shool", "Zubeida", "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Aligarh" and the OTT series "The Family Man", said the other three attempts he made to enter the institute "didn't shake him up" the way it did the first time.

He had gradually found a "foothold" through plays held at Mandi House, the nerve centre of Delhi's theatre scene at the time, over the years.

"I only did theatre all day long for three years. I can confidently say I used to work 18 hours a day. I remember I had malaria, I was so beligerent and passionate to learn this craft that I went to the rehearsal despite being down with malaria. I fainted near a tea store outside Hindu College.

"I woke up after some students there sprin-

kled some water on my face... I was working so hard, there was a drive to learn, there was a lot of passion for this work. I didn't lose any time," he said.

The dream to get into the premier Delhi institute of performing arts probably took shape when he was in high school and read about the many stalwarts who had studied at NSD, Bajpayee said, recalling how this dream inspired him to leave his village and land in Delhi.

"I wanted to get into acting right from childhood. My parents used to take us to the theatre to watch films. As I would watch films, I started feeling that I don't want to do anything else other than this (acting).

"At the time, I think I was in Class 5 or 6. I started taking part in elocution contests. I developed a special love for poems. I loved reciting poems because such activities didn't often take place in small towns. Elocution contests in school would be a big deal and it used to be organised biannually."

He said he found it easy to excel in these competitions because of his love for "poems and languages".

The Delhi years were challenging though he does not like to call them a "struggle". Instead, he sees those days as the period that shaped who

he would become later.

"Hunger is a big thing when you come from an ordinary family. You depend a lot on your friends and they hold your hand and travel the way with you. I borrowed shoes, chappals and they would also share their clothes with me. I was doing all this but in that age, you don't think much about it. You don't think that you are going through some trouble because age is on your side," the actor said.

"You have a life to live. So I was enjoying that phase. If I didn't have money to buy a bus ticket, then I would go to Yamuna Vihar on foot. And I would learn my lines from the play during that journey. And if I would get tired, I would stop at Chandni Chowk or ISBT," he said, describing his hangout places in old and north Delhi around Delhi University.

Eklavya, a character from the Indian epic *Mahabharata*, made a statue of Dronacharya after the guru declined to train him in archery. Drona, who found Eklavya's skills better than his own students, realised that his promise to make Arjuna the greatest archer in the world won't be possible with Eklavya. He asked Eklavya for his right thumb as 'guru dakshina' and Eklavya happily complied.

DDC Member Suresh inaugurates roads worth Rs 38 lakh in Chowki Chowra Block

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 8: District Development Council (DDC) member and BJP leader, Pandit Suresh Sharma, today inaugurated several newly constructed roads in Block Chowki Chowra of Chhamb. The projects, completed at a cost of Rs 38 lakhs, include the Ghar Sanodi road in Panchayat Ghar, Chiral road in Panchayat Majur, Rameen Makhyan road in Panchayat Keneri, Keneri School road, and Buddh Chadheyai road. Addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma emphasized the government's commitment to connecting every village with paved roads. He assured the people that the ongoing efforts will ensure no village or locality remains inaccessible. He acknowledged the challenges faced by some villages in the Chowki Chowra area that still lack proper road connectivity and informed the

people's that projects under NABARD and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been sanctioned to address these gaps. "These projects will soon be visible on the ground, providing significant relief to the people," Sharma said.

Highlighting the BJP government's focus on rural development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Suresh Sharma outlined several welfare schemes such as the Kisan Samman Nidhi, free ration distribution, and more, which are directly benefiting the underprivileged. He also mentioned the extensive infrastructure development across the country, including ring roads, expressways, national highways, bridges, and tunnels, which have brought immense benefits to citizens.

"Our aim is to replicate this development in rural areas by creating a robust network

of roads. This will not only improve connectivity but also enhance the quality of life in villages," Sharma added.

The local residents expressed their gratitude to Suresh Sharma for the road construction projects, which they believe will significantly improve accessibility and development in their area. They also urged the administration to prioritize addressing their other needs. Sharma assured them that their demands would be given due importance as part of the ongoing development initiatives.

This event marks another milestone in the region's journey toward better infrastructure and enhanced connectivity. On this occasion Ex Sarpanch Chuni Lal, Ashu Sharma, Chaman Lal, Ex Panch Parshotam Lal, Mohan Lal, Baba Kali, Cpt Jagdish Raj, Pawan Kumar, Sahil Sharma, Fazzi Ram, Mukesh Sharma, Sachin Kumar, Puran Chand and others were present.

Black bear captured in south Kashmir's Churat village

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 8: On Sunday, a black bear was captured alive by a Wildlife Department in kund mord area of churat village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Reports suggest that on receiving information about the black bear along human habitation, a team of experts from Control Room Dooru led by Wildlife incharge Mushtaq Ahmad reached on spot to tranquilize the black bear.

Wildlife officials told top News J&K Correspondent Gh Nabi Khanday

that a trap was laid in the area and the bear was finally captured without causing any injury to anyone. The bear has been shifted to natural habitation.

Meanwhile, the locals of the area applauded the wildlife department for their efforts, especially wildlife warden south Suhail Ahmad Wagay, Range Officer Bringi Fayaz Ahmad Wani and Incharge Control Room Dooru Mushtaq Ahmed Mir for immediate redressal of the problem.

Efforts by local leaders, Govt officers hinder construction of Rattle hydro Electric Power Project in Drabshalla: Ajeet

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 8: Senior National Conference leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said efforts by some local leaders and some government officers to hinder the construction of the prestigious rattle hydro electric power project in Drabshalla.

Bhagat said the construction of the Rattle Hydro Electric Power Project in Drabshalla. It has come to my notice that certain local Some leaders and some state government officers are attempting to obstruct the ongoing construction of this prestigious project for their personal interests.

The Senior NC leader said it is worth recalling that a similar situation occurred in 2014 when certain Some local leaders forcibly entered the project site and com-

pelled the management of the then L&T Company to suspend work. Consequently, GVK, the principal employer of the Rattle Hydro Electric Power Project at that time, had no choice but to abandon the project. Unfortunately, the current scenario appears to be repeating itself due to similar interference by some local leaders and some government officers.

Bhagat said the Chief Operating Officer of the executing agency, Mega Engineering Company, which is the contractor for the Rattle Hydroelectric Power Project Corporation Limited, has publicly stated that some local individuals and certain Some government officers are harassing the company for their personal gain. This undue pressure is forcing them to consider abandoning the project once again.

Local residents of Balnai repair Rajpura to Balnai Road

Top News Report

MANDI, Dec 8: A local residents of panchayat Balnoi have taken it upon themselves to repair the dilapidated road which connecting via Budha Amarnath to Rajpura, Balnai, Maharkote, Panchayat.

Despite repeated pleas to the local administration, the residents' cries for help fell on deaf ears. Frustrated with the inaction, the residents decided to take matters into their own hands.

"We had no choice but to take matters into our own hands," said Bashir Ahmed trantry a local resident.

"The administration has been sleeping on the job, and we couldn't wait any

longer. We pooled our resources and started the repair work ourselves."

The residents, with the help of local laborers, have been working tirelessly to repair the road. They have filled potholes, cleared debris, and even laid down new gravel to make the road motorable. The road, which connects Budha Amarnath to balnai, is a vital link between the three panchayat, Viz Rajpura, Balnai, Maharkote and is used by thousands of people every day.

However, the road has been in a state of disrepair for a long time, with potholes and cracks making it difficult for vehicles to play.

Meanwhile the students

are suffering the most, as they have to travel long distances on this road to reach their schools & colleges.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished," said Mohd Afzal another local resident. "We hope that our efforts will inspire the administration to take action and complete the remaining work."

The residents' initiative has been widely praised, with many commending their spirit of self-reliance and community service.

The locals of three panchayat rajpura, Balnai, Maharkote has been urged the DDC poonch Vikas kundal (IAS) to take necessary steps to prevent any further incidents on this road.

KDP of DPAP raises demands for welfare of displaced Kashmiri Hindus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 8: The Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (KDP) of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has raised several urgent demands for the welfare of displaced Kashmiri Hindus residing in migrant and transit camps.

Led by President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and Youth President Naveen Gosani, the leaders have called for the immediate implementation of directives regarding the establishment of Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the camps, as mandated by the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner's circular issued on November 4, 2023.

They emphasized that forming RWAs through elections would provide structured representation and facilitate better coordination with government agencies for development works. Additionally, they demanded the enforcement of Government Order No. 81 JK(DMRRR) of 2023, issued on December 28, 2023, to allocate over 300 constructed shops in the camps, which remain unused. Special priority was requested for shopkeepers from Muthi Camp, whose shops were recently demolished by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA).

The KDP Wing also highlighted the worsening living conditions in camps, including deteriorated buildings, poor sanitation, and inadequate maintenance of infrastructure such as parks, lanes, and drainage systems.

They urged the formation of a high-level committee for an on-site assessment and resolution of these issues. In Jagti Camp, they raised concerns about frequent power curtailments that leave the area in darkness, compromising security.

They demanded the removal of these curtailments, installation of streetlights and CCTV cameras, and deployment of additional armed personnel for night patrolling to address rising incidents of theft and drug-related activities.

The leaders expressed gratitude for recent visits by senior officials, including the Chief Secretary, to Jagti Camp, and acknowledged assurances given to improve living conditions and enhance security. However, they stressed the need for timely action to fulfill these commitments.

Lastly, they appealed for the community to unite in pursuing a one-time comprehensive resettlement and rehabilitation in the Kashmir Valley, emphasizing that 35 years of displacement have become unbearable.

Aryans celebrates 76th Birthday of its Founder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 8: Continuing its old tradition, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh today organized various activities to celebrate the 76th birthday of Aryans Group's Founder, Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria.

On the occasion, three functions were organized. The Young Achiever award ceremony was held to honour Aryans Faculty members. Continuing 15 years old tradition, a celebration was also held with the special children at the "Institute for the Blind", Sector-26, Chandigarh. At the same time, Aryans Institute of Nursing also organized a function.

Dr. Anshu Kataria while addressing all, said that Aryans Group of Colleges is always putting a step forward for the benefit of needy and deserving students under the vision and values of Prof Roshan Lal kataria. Under his guidance, various scholarship programs are also being launched every year for the students belonging to every state.

Dr. Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans Group said that with the blessings of our Founder, not only Aryans Group but the faculty and students are also performing well in every sphere including academics, innovations, placements etc.

Born and brought up

of Muktsar, Prof Roshan Lal Kataria is the founder of Aryans Group of Colleges. Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria did his MA (Economics) from Dehradun in 1973. He started his career in Economics lecturer from Government College, Muktsar, Govt. College, Zira & DAV School, Muktsar. He also worked in Chandigarh for more than 10 years for spreading awareness regarding UGC/NET examination.

The functions were attended by Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria himself; Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group; Mrs. Rajni Kataria, Co Founder Aryans Group; Dr. Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans Group, Aryan Kataria, CEO, Aryans Group etc.

FROM PAGE 1

Amit Shah attends BSF's 60th foundation day parade in Jodhpur, pays floral tribute

a miniature flag.

Till 1965 India's border with Pakistan were manned by the State Armed Police Battalion.

BSF was established in 1965 following the India-Pakistan war to enhance border security.

Initially BSF was raised with 25 Battalions and with the passage of time, was expanded as per the requirement of nation to fight against militancy in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, North east region etc.

At present BSF is holding 192 (including 03 NDRF) Battalions and seven BSF Arty Regiments guarding International Border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In addition, the BSF is also performing Anti-Infiltration role in Kashmir Valley, Counter Insurgency in North East region, Anti Naxal Operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh states and security of Integrated Check Posts along Pakistan and Bangladesh International Border.

Congress demands debate in Parliament on full gamut of India-China ties

not permitted to seek any clarifications, he said.

While "fully appreciating" the sensitive nature of many aspects of India-China border relations, he said the Congress has four pointed questions on the statement issued by the Modi Government.

Ramesh noted that the statement claims that "the House is well aware of the circumstances leading up to the violent clashes in Galwan Valley in June 2020", and pointed out that it is an unfortunate reminder that the very first official communication to the nation on this crisis came on June 19, 2020 when the PM provided a clean chit publicly to China and falsely stated "Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai".

"Not only was this an insult to our fallen soldiers but it also weakened India's position in subsequent negotiations. Whatever prompted the PM to make this assertion?" Ramesh said.

"On October 22, 2024 Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi restated

India's longstanding position: 'As far as we are concerned, we want to go back to the status quo of April 2020... thereafter we will be looking at disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of the LAC'.

However, the Ministry of External Affairs statement following the 32nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) on 5 December 2024 stated that 'the two sides positively affirmed the implementation of the most recent disengagement agreement which completed the resolution of the issues that emerged in 2020,' Ramesh pointed out.

Does this not reveal a shift in our official position, he asked.

The EAM's statement in Parliament stated that in a few other places where friction occurred in 2020, steps of a temporary and limited nature were worked out, based on local conditions, to obviate the possibility of further friction", he noted.

Ramesh claimed that this clearly refers to so-called "buffer zones" to which our troops and livestock herders are "denied access" that they previously had.

"These statements taken together suggest that the MEA is accepting a settlement that does not return the LAC to the April 2020 status quo as desired by the Army and the nation. Is it not clear now that the Modi government has agreed to a new status quo and agreed to live with the 'new normal' after the 'old normal' prevailing prior to April 2020 was unilaterally disturbed by China?" Ramesh said.

Why has the Chinese government yet to corroborate any details about the disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, he asked.

"Have traditional grazing rights for Indian livestock herders been restored? Will there be unfettered access to our traditional patrolling points? Have the buffer zones ceded during previous negotiations been taken back by India?" he said.

The Congress reiterates the demand it has been making for the past few years—that Parliament must, to reflect a collective national resolve, be given an opportunity to debate the full gamut of the India-China relationship, he asserted.

"This discussion should focus on both strategic and economic policy, especially since our dependence on China has increased economically, even as it unilaterally changed the status quo on our borders over four years back," Ramesh said.

His remarks come days after Jaishankar said India is committed to remaining engaged with China to find a fair and mutu-

ally acceptable settlement of the boundary issue. However, he made it clear that its ties with Beijing will be contingent upon strictly respecting the sanctity of the LAC and adhering to the pacts on border management with no attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday in which he articulated three key principles for engagement with China, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said the disengagement of troops has been achieved in "full" in eastern Ladakh through a step-by-step process, culminating in Depsang and Demchok.

India now expects the commencement of talks on remaining issues that it had placed on the agenda, he added.

Jaishankar had said the conclusion of the disengagement phase now allows "us to consider other aspects of the bilateral engagement in a calibrated manner, keeping our national security interests first and foremost".

Jaishankar made the statement in Rajya Sabha the next day.

Policeman shoots dead colleague before committing suicide in Udhampur

before killing himself," the officer said, quoting the preliminary information.

Earlier the police said in a statement that, "Today, at about 6.30 am, Police Station Rehembal received an information that two policemen from Sopore travelling towards STC Talwara in a department vehicle have suffered bullet injuries due to firing.

"Initial investigation reveals that it is a case of fratricide and suicide. Senior police officers have reached the spot and investigation is underway," it said.

Search Operation underway after villagers report suspicious movement in Kathua

responded immediately by mobilising the available resources. The area was also kept under aerial surveillance," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Shobit Saxena said.

He said the operation is underway but there was no trace of the suspected persons so far.

4 of a family die in suspected food poisoning incident in Rajouri

The victims are undoing treatment at Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri.

The exact cause of the suspected food poisoning is yet unclear, while investigations are underway.

Gujarat court acquits former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in custodial torture case

doubt" that the complainant was forced to confess to the crime and made to surrender by voluntarily causing pain using dangerous weapons and threats.

It also noted that the sanction required to prosecute the accused, who was then a public servant discharging his duty, had not been obtained in the case.

Bhatt and constable Vajubhai Chau, against whom the case was abated after his death, were charged under Sections 330 (causing hurt to extort confession) and 324 (causing hurt with dangerous weapons) of the Indian Penal Code on the complaint by one Naran Jadav for causing him physical and mental torture in police custody to extract confession in a Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and Arms Act case.

A first information report was filed against Bhatt and Chau in a Porbandar city B-division police station on April 15, 2013, following the court's direction on Jadav's complaint before a magistrate court on July 6, 1997.

Drug peddler arrested in Budgam, contraband substance recovered

Station Budgam. Further investigation of the case was set into motion.

Public at large in District Budgam is requested to come forward and report the incidents of drug peddling for safeguarding our youth. The identity of the informers will be kept protected.

Bihar family follows Google Maps to go to Goa, ends up stranded in Karnataka forest

the Bhimgad forest in Karnataka's Belagavi district after relying on Google Maps for directions.

Ranjit Das and his family were driving towards Goa when the navigation app suggested a route through the Shiroli and Hemmadaga areas. Unaware of the impending ordeal, they followed the instructions, which led them 7-8 kilometres deep into the dense Bhimgad forest. The incident occurred late on the night of December 4, NDTV reported.

It said with no mobile network in the area, the family reportedly found themselves stranded and unable to call for assistance. Forced to spend the night in their vehicle, they remained isolated in the unfamiliar and potentially dangerous terrain.

The next day, Mr Das walked nearly four kilometres in search of mobile connectivity, the report said.

Finally regaining network coverage, he contacted emergency services through the helpline number, 112. Responding to his call, the local police arrived and rescued the family.

Khanapur police inspector Manjunath Nayak reportedly said that after Mr Das regained mobile connectivity and contacted emergency services.

"The Belagavi police control room passed the information to the Khanapur police, who used GPS coordinates to locate the family and reach them with the help of villagers," Mr Nayak was quoted as saying in media reports.

He further mentioned that the family was fortunate to find mobile connectivity, as the forest is home to diverse wildlife, with a recent bear attack in the area leaving a farmer seriously injured.

This isn't the first time Google Maps has come under scrutiny for inaccurate information. In late November, the authorities launched an investigation into Google Maps after three men died when their car drove off an incomplete bridge while following a route suggested by the app. The incident occurred as the group was heading to a wedding in Uttar Pradesh. Police reported that the driver, relying on Google Maps, drove the car off the bridge and into a river.

Before that, in August 2024, an X user, Ashish Kacholia, shared his experience after he missed a flight from Bengaluru to Mumbai due to the app's flawed prediction. Mr Kacholia, who was travelling from HSR Layout to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), a journey of over 50 kilometres, noted that Google Maps estimated a travel time of 1 hour and 45 minutes. But the trip took him three hours, causing him to miss his flight.

Natrang presents new Dogri play 'Chetta'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 8: Continuing its rich tradition of showcasing meaningful and impactful theatre, Natrang today presented a new Dogri play, 'Chetta', at its weekly Sunday Theatre series at Natrang Studio Theatre.

The play was based on a Dogri story of the same name, written by renowned writer Joginder Chhatrapal, was skillfully adapted by Dimple Sharma and directed by Pawan Verma.

Joginder Chhatrapal received Sahitya Akademi Award for this work in the year 2016. On the occasion Director Natrang Balwant Thakur informed that in its new endeavour of showcasing the outstanding works of celebrated Dogri Sahitya Akademi Awardees, today's play was the second of the series after brilliantly staging Madan Mohan Sharma's 'Diary Kuse Lok Nath Di'.

This initiative is aimed at promoting Dogri through the powerful medium of theatre.

Chetta is a poignant and thought-provoking narrative that delves into the mental and emotional struggles of old age, shedding light on the challenges faced by the elderly, including societal indifference and insensitivity.

The play resonates deeply with the audi-



ence, encouraging a heightened sense of empathy and awareness.

The story follows an elderly, retired schoolteacher who is determined to attend the wedding of a friend's daughter in a distant village.

Struggling with memory loss and ridiculed by his family for his forgetfulness, he embarks on the journey alone, carrying a simple gift of a saree and a bag of rajma beans.

The narrative poignantly explores his mental fog, the ridicule he faces from his family and society, and his internal struggle with feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. Moments of anguish are intertwined with past memories, including incidents where his failing memory caused him shame and humiliation.

As the old man waits at the bus stand for his

friend Abrol, he is haunted by memories of being taunted by his family. Unable to remember essential details, such as the name of his destination or his friend's phone number, he faces further challenges at the ticket counter.

His struggles evoke both sympathy and frustration with society's lack of understanding toward dementia. When his friend Abrol finally arrives, a brief moment of relief is overshadowed by sarcastic remarks and added pressures, deepening the protagonist's sense of humiliation.

Chetta not only tells a moving story but also sparks important conversations about the emotional and social toll of aging. Its impactful presentation underscores Natrang's commitment to using theatre as a medium to address significant social issues. The production fea-

tured an exceptional cast who brought the story to life with their powerful performances. Neeraj Kant, a seasoned theatre artist, portrayed the storyteller with depth and authenticity, captivating the audience with his compelling narrative style.

Mohd. Yaseen delivered a remarkable performance in the dual roles of BR Damle and Abrol, showcasing his versatility and mastery of his craft. The central character of the old schoolteacher was powerfully performed by Pawan Verma, whose nuanced portrayal of a man grappling with dementia was both heart-wrenching and profoundly relatable. The cast was further supported by Gopi Sharma as a passerby and Aryan Sharma as the ticket agent.

The play's lighting and sound were expertly executed by Brijesh Avtar Sharma.

NHM employees pin hopes on J&K Govt for resolution of long-pending demands

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 8: The All JK NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division, has expressed optimism about the recently newly formed Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his council of ministers. They are hopeful that the government will address their long-pending demands, including the regularization of NHM employees, salary hike and other key issues.

In a statement released to the media, the association reiterated its commitment to engaging constructively with the government. The employees urged the leadership to prioritize resolving the issues that have burdened NHM staff across the Union Territory for more than two decades.

Highlighting their plight, the association's Chief Spokesperson Jammu Division, Dr. Hamid Parray, emphasized the urgency of regularizing National Health Mission (NHM) employees. He also called for the immediate implementation of the all the employees benefits for the NHM employees of the Jammu and

Kashmir, which would ensure fair compensation for their services.

"The time has come for the government to honor the years of dedicated service rendered by NHM employees and provide them with the dignity and stability they deserve," Dr. Parray stated.

The association pointed out that their demands align with principles of justice, equity, and inclusive growth. They expressed confidence in the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Ms. Sakina Masood Itoo, hoping they will take decisive steps to fulfill commitments made to NHM employees.

"The workforce is the backbone of governance and public service delivery. We believe this government has the potential to set a strong example by addressing these long-standing issues," the statement noted.

The NHM Employees Association headed by its President Dr Vikas Sharma and his dedicated team has assured that advocacy efforts will continue until all legitimate demands are met, paving the way for a brighter, more secure future for NHM employees across Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Employees Joint Action Committee Gool holds meeting to discuss issues



Iqbal Bhat, Shanaz Akhter Asha Workers Association, Azahar Hussain and Shahnawaz Akhter Health Department, Shabir Ahmed Bhat, Trsool Singh, NYC Employees Association Ryaz, Ghulam Quidar Horticulture, Mushtaq Ahmed Dar, Shabir Ahmed bhat, Shahnawaz Manas and many others.

Top News Report

GOOL, Dec 8: The J&K Employees Joint Action Committee convened a crucial meeting at Dak Bungalow, Gool, to discuss pressing issues affecting employees. Jalil Ahmed Sheikh, Tehsil President EJAC Gool, organized the meeting.

Prominent attendees included Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, Provincial President EJAC and State President NMOPS/ JKTF; Fyaz Ahmed Mir, District Sr Vice President EJAC Ramban, Irfan Shan, Provincial Spokesperson NMOPS.

The committee advocated for reinstating the old pension scheme, replaced by the National Pension System (NPS) in 2010.

The committee sought regularization of daily wage workers, who have been working for the government without job security for many years.

The committee demanded a clear job

policy for workers lacking job security despite years of government service besides complete service benefits to seasonal teachers which include the regularization of their services and complete benefits at par with other General Line teachers.

The meeting showcased the unity and solidarity of employees from various associations in Tehsil Gool.

Attendees included Tehsil President NMOPS Gool Atta ul Rehman, General Secretary NMOPS Gool Mohd Pervaiz, Tehsil President AWWHA Jabeena begum, President AAYA's Gool Zahida Begum, Tehsil President PHE Union Gool Ghulam Nabi, Tehsil President PDDEU Mohd Altaf Manas, President Seasonal Teachers Association Gool Liqyat Ali, Zonal President REK Gool Salauddin, Spokesperson EJAC GOOL Shabir Ahmed Bhat, Ex Zonal President JKRETTF Asif

UTHALA



SMT. SUDARSHAN GUPTA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved
Smt. Sudarshan Gupta W/o Lt. Shri Parshotam Lal Gupta.
Uthala will be performed on 09-12-2024 (Monday) at Kali Farm House,
Behind Sainik School Nagrota, from 2 PM to 3PM

-: GRIEF STRICKEN :-
SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
 Mr. Dinesh Gupta & Mrs. Sunita Gupta
 Mr. Rakesh Gupta & Mrs. Neelam Gupta (USA)
 Mr. Rajesh Gupta & Mrs. Renu Gupta
 Sr. NC leader
 Editor-in-Chief 'News Till Date'
GRAND CHILDREN
 Ms Shweta Gupta
 Ms Aprajita Mahajan (Pixie) Bollywood Actress/Director
 Mr Rajat Gupta (USA)
 Mr. Deepak Mahajan & Mrs. Sampati Mahajan
 Mr Anuj Gupta & Mrs. Hulika (USA)
 Mr. Arjun Mahajan & Mrs. Deepti Mahajan Bollywood Actor/Producer
 Mrs. Saru Singh Malhotra & Mr. Harsumeet Singh (USA)
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