

# early TIMES

Explaining Truth Believe in Possibilities

Vol: 24 | No.: 354 | Jammu | WEDNESDAY, December 24, 2025 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹ 3.00

## Winter vacations announced for colleges

EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday announced the schedule for winter vacations in all Government Degree Colleges

TURN TO PAGE 4

## Police seek vigilance clearance for promotion of inspectors

EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters has initiated the process for promotion of Inspectors of the General Executive Cadre

TURN TO PAGE 4

## Kashmir parts get fresh snowfall

EARLY TIMES REPORT

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Parts of Kashmir were hit by fresh snowfall and rain, with the minimum temperature remaining above the freezing point at most places in the valley, officials said on Tuesday.

TURN TO PAGE 4

## Fog delays over 270 flights

EARLY TIMES REPORT

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: At least 10 flights were cancelled and more than 270 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport due to fog and low visibility conditions on Tuesday.

An official said 6 arrivals and 4 departures have been cancelled for the day.

TURN TO PAGE 4

# Arunachal Police arrest 2 more from Kupwara; 5 Kashmiri men held for Pak-linked spying

SANJAY PANDITA  
EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: In a major counter-espionage breakthrough with serious national security implications, the Arunachal Pradesh Police have arrested two more Kashmiri men, taking the total number of arrests in a Pakistan-linked spying racket to five. All the accused are residents of Kashmir and are alleged to have been operating under the directions of Pakistani handlers.

Senior police officials said the latest arrests—Aijaz Ahmed Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Ganai—were made from Kupwara district of Kashmir on December 18. The duo was subsequently brought to Itanagar, where they are currently lodged in police custody for sustained interrogation.

With these arrests, investigators believe they have exposed a well-organised espionage network operating from within Arunachal Pradesh, using seemingly innocuous cover activities to gather and transmit sensitive information to hostile elements across the border. “The accused, during their repeated visits to different parts of

Arunachal Pradesh, allegedly collected sensitive and strategic information from locals and other

The case first came to light on November 21, when Arunachal Pradesh Police arrested Nazir Ah-



The latest arrests—Aijaz Ahmed Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Ganai—were made from Kupwara district on December 18.

Investigators have exposed a well-organised espionage network operating from within Arunachal Pradesh.

The accused used to gather and transmit sensitive information to hostile elements across the border.

The five arrested individuals were allegedly part of a covert spy network that had penetrated Arunachal Pradesh under the guise of petty trade.

sources and shared it with their Pakistani handlers,” a senior police officer told the media, describing the case as a grave threat to national security.

mad Malik and Sabir Ahmed Mir, both residents of Kupwara district, following specific and credible intelligence inputs pointing towards

TURN TO PAGE 4

# From Washington to Budgam: NIA court attaches US-based separatist Fai's property

SANDEEP BHAT  
EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: An NIA court in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district has ordered the attachment of immovable property belonging to US-based Kashmiri separatist Ghulam Nabi Shah alias Dr Fai under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), nearly eight months after he was declared a proclaimed offender in a terror-related case.

As per the court order, the District Collector, Budgam, has been directed to take immediate possession of Dr Fai's land located in Wadwan and Chattabugh villages, while the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Budgam, has been asked to provide necessary assistance for executing the order.

The attachment has been ordered in connection with FIR No. 46 of 2020, registered at Police Station Budgam under Sections 10, 13 and 39 of the UAPA. The court took the step after the accused repeatedly failed to

appear before the investigating agency despite the issuance of proclamation notices and arrest warrants.

Dr Fai was declared a

30-day period. A native of Wadwan village in Budgam, he is currently residing in the United States, where he is accused of evading arrest



The District Collector, Budgam, has been directed to take immediate possession of Fai's land located in Wadwan and Chattabugh villages,

The SSP Budgam, has been asked to provide necessary assistance for executing the order.

The court took the step after the accused repeatedly failed to appear before the investigating agency.

Fai, a native of Wadwan village in Budgam, is currently residing in the United States, where he is accused of evading arrest and obstructing the legal process.

proclaimed offender on April 26 this year by the Special Judge, NIA Court, Budgam, after he failed to surrender before the Jammu and Kashmir Police within the stipulat-

and obstructing the legal process.

Ghulam Nabi Fai is the founder of the Washington-based Kashmir American Council (KAC),

TURN TO PAGE 4

# Ahead of New Year, surveillance stepped up along Mata Vaishno Devi route

EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Surveillance has been stepped up along the route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi to manage the expected New Year pilgrim rush, with focus on high-footfall and congested stretches, officials said on Tuesday.

A multi-tier security grid has also been put in place in and around the shrine, comprising personnel from the Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and shrine board security, supported by Quick Response Teams (QRTs), they said.

A high-level meeting chaired by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) representatives of secu-



According to officials, emphasis was laid on strict regulation of the yatra through RFID-based access control, ensuring that only pilgrims possessing valid RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) cards are permitted to proceed.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, and attended by senior officials of the board, dis-

trict administration, representatives of security agencies and other stakeholders, reviewed

TURN TO PAGE 4

# Joint security exercise held in Srinagar to counter potential threats

EARLY TIMES REPORT

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Security forces on Tuesday carried out anti-sabotage operations around vital installations in Srinagar city with the aim to strengthen security measures and counter any potential threats.

“Police, in close coordination with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), conducted Area Security/Anti-Sabotage (AST) operations around major vital installations and sensitive locations in the North Zone of Srinagar, with the aim of strengthening preventive security measures and countering any potential threats,” a Srinagar police spokesman said.

He said the purpose of the joint security exercise is to reinforce the overall security grid, enhance operational preparedness, and ensure the safety and security of critical



“During the operation, thorough checking and sanitisation of the identified areas were carried out, along with a comprehensive review of existing security arrangements.”

infrastructure as well as the general public.

“During the operation, thorough checking and sanitisation of the identified areas were carried out, along with a comprehensive review of existing security arrangements,”

TURN TO PAGE 4

# 'Jan Bhagidari' cornerstone of people-centric security: Prez Murmu

EARLY TIMES REPORT

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: Asserting that community participation strengthens

them and termed “jan bhagidari” as the cornerstone of people-centric security.

Addressing an event or-

and communication, and it has the potential for

Protecting people from misinformation is a very challenging task.

This task must be carried out continuously and very effectively.

Need to create active social media users who consistently present fact-based narratives in the national interest.

There are numerous examples of alert citizens helping professional forces with their inputs in averting security crises.

both creation and destruction.

“Protecting people from

TURN TO PAGE 4

# Northern Railway introduces 'scratch rake' to curb fog delays

EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Amid fog-related disruptions over the past many days, the Northern Railway's Jammu Division has ar-



ranged 'scratch rake' to minimize delays in train operations and to ensure passenger convenience during winter months, an official said on Tuesday.

The significant deci-

sion has been taken on the directions of Divisional Railway Manager, Vivek Kumar, the official said.

With this facility, it has been decided to

provide a scratch rake or additional rake for Train No. 12414 (Jammu Tawi-Ajmer) and Train No. 22478/22477 (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi-Katra) to

TURN TO PAGE 4

# Health Department refers 480 Medical Officer Posts to JKPSC

EARLY TIMES REPORT

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: The Health and Medical Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir has formally referred 480 posts of Medical Officers to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Commission for direct recruitment, as per official communication issued on Tuesday.

According to an official letter issued from the Civil Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir, the referral has been made under the Jammu and Kashmir Health and Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service Rules notified vide SRO 325 of 2013.

TURN TO PAGE 4



The referral has been made under the Jammu and Kashmir Health and Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service Rules notified vide SRO 325 of 2013.

The requisition form for filling up the posts has been forwarded to JKPSC for initiating the recruitment process.

The department has also requested the Public Services Commission to incorporate specific conditions in the advertisement to avoid any future legal complications.

Selected Medical Officers will be required to serve mandatorily in peripheral and far-flung areas of UT in the interest of equitable healthcare delivery.

TURN TO PAGE 4

national security, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said people need not be passive observers of what happens around

organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) here, she also said that social media has transformed the world of information

of what happens around

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of Sh Dwarka Nath Pandita (Darvesh) S/o Lt Sh Arjan Nath Pandita (Darvesh) originally resident of Waterkhani, Kupwara, Kashmir presently at House No 06, Lane No 02, Patta Bohri, Jammu. He left for his heavenly abode on 16th December, 2025.



Sh Dwarka Nath Pandita (Darvesh)

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 25th December, 2025, Thursday at Akhnoor Ghat. Assembly shall take place at Muthi Ghat near office of Directorate of Education, Jammu at 11:30 AM

Grief Stricken Son's & Daughters-in-law Sh Ravinder Pandita & Smt Desha Pandita Sh Kishore Pandita & Smt Titli Pandita Sh Raj Kumar Pandita & Archana Pandita

Bhabis & Brothers Smt Dhan Jigri W/o Late Sh Jagar Nath Pandita Smt Aasha Ji W/o Late Sh Badri Nath Pandita Smt Shubna Ji W/o Sh Saroop Nath Pandita

Sisters & Brothers-in-law Smt Sheela Ji W/o Late Sh Brij Nath Pandita Smt Dura Ji W/o Sh M K Pandita Smt Piti Ji W/o Late Sh Chaman Lal Pandita Smt Vijay Ji W/o Late Sh Roshan Lal Pandita

Grand Son's Mr. Rohit, Mr Aashish, Mr Huney & Mr Chetan

SAMAST DARVESH PARIVAR, ALL RELATIONS & FRIENDS Mob: 9419391031, 9419686925, 9419262909

BHOG

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of S. Krishan Singh Aval (Jagbir Press Poonch) S/o Late S. Jaswant Singh Aval R/o H.No 47 Ward No. 07 Mohalla Kama Khan Poonch who left us for heavenly abode 20-12-2025



S. Krishan Singh Aval

ARAMB SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB at our residence at 9:30 am on 24-12-2025 (Wednesday)

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB at our residence at 9:30 am on 26-12-2025 (Friday) ANTIM ARDAS will be performed at Gurdwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji near Hospital Poonch from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

S. Gurcharan Singh Aval (Brother) & Sdn Rupinder Kour Aval (Bhabhi) Late S. Jagbir Singh Aval (Bhabhu) (Brother) & Sdn. Inderjeet Kour Aval (Bhabhi)

Son & Daughter in Law S. Inderpal Singh Aval & Sdn. Parveen Kour Aval Daughter & Son in Law Sdn. Rasneet Kour (Rasna) & Baljeet Singh (Sonu)

Kids: Ustat, Sifty, Aas, Samrath & Ronak 8493882764, 9797383883, 90552 92537, 9797296939

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform of the unfortunate demise of our beloved father, Pran Nath Wali (Ex-Executive Director LIC and Ex-President KPA, Mumbai) residing at Bangalore and originally from Ganpathyar. His life was full of true love, compassion and kindness.



Pran Nath Wali (Ex-Executive Director LIC and Ex-President KPA, Mumbai)

Tenth day kriya will be held on 25th December 2025 at Srirangapatnam.

GRIEF STRICKEN Vinod Wali (Son 7760975118) and Sunita Wali (Daughter in law 9611638038) Indu Wali Raina (Daughter 8757909439) and Roshal Lal Raina (Son in law 7033534818) Vivek & Shweta, Shruti & Vikrant and Sidharth & Aditi (Grandchildren) Mohan Lal (Brother), Ashok (Nephew) and Wali family Dembis (in laws)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the untimely demise of Smt Santosh Jan W/o Sh. Surinder Kumar Jan R/o Shallyar Habba Kadal, Sinragar A/p Flat No 356 Advocate Enclave, Sector 49-A Chandigarh-160047 who left for heavenly abode on 18-12-2025.



Smt Santosh Jan

10th Day Kriya will be held on 25-12-2025 (Thursday) at 9 am at Shani Mandir, Ghaggar River, Sector 21 Panchkula Haryana.

GRIEF STRICKEN Cryste Jan & Binny Jan -Daughters Pranav -Grand Son Jan Family and Bhat's, Koul's, Trisal's, Kaw's, Raina's Mob No: 9888493434, 9004651754, 8699422215

10TH DAY KRIYA

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR Bushan Lal Koul Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Though we cannot see you, you are always by our side.



Shri Bushan Lal Koul

With profound grief and a heavy heart, we inform you that our beloved Shri Bushan Lal Koul, Son of Late Shri Thakur Dass Koul, Resident of Adlach, Magam, at present residing at Ward No. 65, Upper Barnai, near Barnai Talab, left for his heavenly abode on 15 December 2025.

To pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul, we request your presence to perform the 10 day rituals, which will be performed on 24 December at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY Wife - Asha Koul Son & Daughter-in-law: Jyoti Koul & Sunil Koul Son & Daughter-in-law: Nikita Koul & Anil Koul Son & Daughter-in-law: Isha Koul & Suman Koul Grand Children: Shivam, Jatin, Niyana, Rehanshi & Kanishk Contact: 7006032079, 9763719740 & 7006676656

INFORMATION

I Kewal kumar F/O Naitik Gupta do hereby inform that I have applied for correction of percentage of my son in school records from Naitik Gupta S/O Kewal Kumar Gupta & Shivali Gupta To Naitik Gupta S/O Kewal Kumar & Shivali. Objection if any be communicated to ZEO Marh within one Week.

KEWAL KUMAR

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (JE DIVISION) R. S. PURA.

Jagdish Singh S/o Lt. Shonka Ram R/o village Satrayan Khurd tehsil R S Pura Jammu (Petitioner)

VERSUS Ramesh Singh S/o Lt Shonka Ram R/o Satrayan Khurd, tehsil Suchetgarh, Jammu & Another (Respondents)

IN THE MATTER OF: Petition Under /section 372 of Indian Succession Act 1925 for issuance of succession certificate in favour of the petitioner for Rs 6,47,324/- lying in bank account of J&K Grameen Bank B/O Satrayan Camp, bearing Account No:303504010003226 in the name of Lt. Smt Maya Devi W/o Lt. Shonka Ram R/o Village Satrayan Khurd, tehsil Suchetgarh, Jammu who died on 26-09-2025 at home.

PROCLAMATION Whereas, the petitioner has/have filed the above titled petition. Now, the public at large, is hereby informed through the medium of this proclamation that if anybody has any objection (s) to the matter, he/she shall file objection (s) in person or through counsel or through any authorized agent within a period of 15 days. After expiry of this date, no objection shall be considered and appropriate orders shall follow. If the date fixed will be holiday, then the case will be taken up on the next working day Given under my hand and seal of this court

Sd/ Munsiff/R.S.Pura

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (JE DIVISION) R. S. PURA.

Tarsem Paul S/o Lt. Jagdish Lal R/o Kothey Gagian, tehsil R S Pura Jammu (Petitioner)

VERSUS Shakutala Devi W/o Sat Pal R/o Draftey, tehsil R S Pura Jammu & Others (Respondents)

IN THE MATTER OF: Petition Under /section 372 of Indian Succession Act 1925 for issuance of succession certificate in favour of the petitioner with respect to amount Rs 1,13,750/- lying in Account No:9972/89 New 809700014158 of Jammu Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. of branch R S Pura of Lt. Koushalya Devi W/o Lt. Jagdish Lal R/o Kothey Gagian, tehsil R S Pura Jammu who died on 01-06-2023 at home Excluding the Respondent

PROCLAMATION Whereas, the petitioner has/have filed the above titled petition. Now, the public at large, is hereby informed through the medium of this proclamation that if anybody has any objection (s) to the matter, he/she shall file objection (s) in person or through counsel or through any authorized agent within a period of 15 days. After expiry of this date, no objection shall be considered and appropriate orders shall follow. If the date fixed will be holiday, then the case will be taken up on the next working day Given under my hand and seal of this court

Sd/ Munsiff/R.S.Pura

NOTICE

I, Nusrat Begum (Old Name) W/O Khalil Ahmed R/O Dhanoie, Koti, Tehsil Bani District Kathua JK has changed my name from Nusrat Begum (Old name) to Nusrat Bano (new name). I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Nusrat Bano (New Name).

NOTICE

I Kanchan Devi D/o Bachan Lal R/o Hno 177pkH sector 2 Durga Nagar Talab Tiloo Jammu have applied for the correction of my father Name Which has been wrongly written in Diploma in Textile Design Under Roll No 1st semester Roll no 1613-23DI -17075 2nd Semester Roll No 1613-23M2-29978 3rd Semester 1613-23N3-37978 4th Semester Roll no 1613-24M4-44607 5th Semester Roll No 1613-24N5-54236 6th Semester Roll No 1613-25M6-67766 Registration No 16-13-R22-5716 as Bachan Spolia instead of correct name Bachan Lal Now I am applying for the necessary correction objection if any may be conveyed to the J&K Board of Technical education Jammu within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I, Raj Kumar Sharma S/o Surinder Kumar have applied for Surrender of my Domicile certificate vide No DOM/0202/06/July 2020/13062092 issued on August 29,2020 as I have to apply afresh for the same in migrant category to comply with the residing rules. Objections if any may kindly be conveyed to Tehsildar Bishnah, Jammu within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Ashok Kumar Thaker S/o Sh Shadi Lal R/o Village Matta tehsil & district Kishtwar have applied for necessary corrections in my name which has been wrongly written in my Aadhar Card bearing No:648337623643 and PAN card bearing No:BDUPK9394K as Ashok Kumar instead of my correct name as Ashok Kumar Thaker. Objections if any may kindly be conveyed to concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I, Mohammad Altaf Roy S/o Mohammad Maqbool Roy R/o Dudwagan Bona Gund, Verinag J&K UT have applied for necessary corrections in the names of my children which have been wrongly entered in their Aadhar Cards as Luqmaan Altaf Roy instead of correct name as Babar Altaf and Mohd Auwanzaib Altaf instead of correct name as Avrangzeb Altaf Roy. Objections if any may kindly be conveyed to concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I, have applied for getting NOC (Renewal) from JMC for running of 3 FE Bistro Restaurant at Greater Kailash Jammu. If any objection will be submitted within seven days from the publication of this notice

Parvinder Singh Jaggi S/o Parshotam Singh Jaggi R/o HNo 154, Gurah Bakshi Nagar Jammu Mob: 9419142100

NOTICE

I, Army No. 16130412N Rank SPR Name Nevuri Harish "F" COY Unit- 54RR(Madras) C/O 56 APO Pin- 934554 want to change and correct my father's name from Nevuri Bhoomiaiah to Nevuri Bhumaiha, Father DOB from 01/01/1977 to 01/01/1971 and Village name from Narsinghapur to Narsinghapur in my service records. Objection if any may convey it to concerned authorities.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS LOHAI MALHAR PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform public in general that the following persons had filed their petitions before this court (Tehsildar Lohai Malhar) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.

Table with columns: S.No, Name of applicant, Sex, Father's Name, Mother's Name, DOB, POB. Row 1: Pooja Devi, Female, Prethu Ram, Janto Devi, 25-04-2006, At Home Badnota, Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua UT J&K

Therefore, through the medium of this notice public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above mentioned details of the petitioners/applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in this news paper

No:-JC/TLM/2025-26/193 Dated:-23/12/2025 Sd/- Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st Class Lohai Malhar HQ. Machhedi

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS LOHAI MALHAR PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform public in general that the following persons had filed their petitions before this court (Tehsildar Lohai Malhar) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.

Table with columns: S.No, Name of applicant, Sex, Father's Name, Mother's Name, DOB, POB. Row 1: Sanjay Sharma, Male, Ajeet Sharma, Seema Devi, 24-07-2020, R/o Malhar Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua UT J&K

Therefore, through the medium of this notice public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above mentioned details of the petitioners/applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in this news paper

No:-JC/TLM/2025-26/ Dated:-/ / Sd/- Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st Class Lohai Malhar HQ. Machhedi

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS LOHAI MALHAR PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform public in general that the following persons had filed their petitions before this court (Tehsildar Lohai Malhar) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.

Table with columns: S.No, Name of applicant, Sex, Father's Name, Mother's Name, DOB, POB. Row 1: Nisha Devi, Female, Romesh Kumar, Indro Devi, 10-04-2007, R/o At Home Najole, Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua UT J&K

Therefore, through the medium of this notice public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above mentioned details of the petitioners/applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in this news paper

No:-JC/TLM/2025-26/190 Dated:-23/12/2025 Sd/- Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st Class Lohai Malhar HQ. Machhedi

REMEMBRANCE



S. MOHAN SINGH (Ten Years Since We Lost You)

Ten years have passed, yet your absence still speaks louder than time. You lived quietly, but your life carried weight—measured not in words, but in character, restraint, and grace. Without seeking recognition, you earned respect; without authority, you commanded regard. You taught us that dignity needs no display, that strength lies in humility, and that a life lived honestly becomes its own legacy. Your memory remains a silent guide, shaping our thoughts and reminding us of what truly matters.

With folded hands, we remember you today and pray for eternal peace for your departed soul.

IN EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE: Guvinder Kaur Sudan & Rajinder Singh Jagi

TENTH DAY / KRIYA



With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Karnathia (Raju) s/o Lt. Sh. Krishan Kumar Karnathia R/o 12/16 Geeta Bhawan Gali, Chabutra Bazaar, Udhampur, who left us heavenly abode on 16th December, 2025.

Tenth Day will be held on 25th December 2025 (Thursday) 11 am - 12 pm at Mahajan Hall Sheela Mandir Gali, Chabutra Bazaar, Udhampur. Kriya will be performed on 26th December 2025 (Friday) at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 11 am onwards.

Grief stricken: Smt. Raj Kumari Sharma (Mother) Smt. Jyoti Sharma (Wife) Mr. Sarthak Sharma (Son) Miss Anmol Sharma (Daughter) (Bhabhi & Brother) Smt. Jaishita Sharma & Sh. Shishupal Sharma (Sisters & Brothers-in-law) Smt. Varsha Prasher & Sh. Sanjay Prasher Smt. Rashi Khajuria & Sh. Ashok Khajuria (Nephew & Niece) Sumukhi Sharma and Sarvagya Sharma

8899010651 | 8492851081 | 8899908651

KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Kanta Devi W/o Late Sh. Devinder Sawhney R/o 178 Pacci Dhakki Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 13th Dec 2025.



Smt. Kanta Devi

Kriya shall be performed on 24th Dec 2025 at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

Rasam Pagri/ Uthala shall be performed at Mandir Baba Shri Banwari Dass Ji Ka Thakur Dwara, Gali Higher Secondary School Mubarak Mandi, Jammu on 24th Dec 2025 from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN Daughter: Usha Arora W/o Late Hari Om Arora Daughter-in-law & Sons Nitu & Vijay Sawhney Anita & Ajay Sawhney Ritu & Sanjay Sawhney Ajay Boutique Patel Bazar Purani Mandi, Jammu Abrols, Suris, Nargotras, Uppals

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh. Sat Paul Sharma S/o Late Sh. Ram Dhan R/o Village Parnalla Tehsil Billawar Distt Kathua on 15th of December, 2025.



Sh. Sat Paul Sharma

10th Day shall be performed at our residence on 24th of December, 2025 (Wednesday) and assembly will be held at above mentioned address at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt Darshana Devi (Wife) Son's and Daughter-in-law Smt Anu & Sh Anil Sharma Smt Priya & Sh Dheeraj Sharma Smt Anu & Vishawbandhu Daughter & Son-in-law Smt. Bandhna & Kewal kumar Mob. 9711173510, 7006009668, 8082041544

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Shri Kuldeep Sharma (Pyasa Ji) H/o Late Smt. Kaki Sharma originally resident of Akura (Amantnag) and presently residing at H.No.350-B, Lane No.4, Near Krishna Palace, Sector-1, Durga Nagar, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 15.12.2025.



Shri Kuldeep Sharma (Pyasa Ji)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 24th December, 2025 at Muthi Ghat, Near Director School Education at 10:30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN Mr. Kapil Sharma & Mrs. Priya Sharma (Son and Daughter-in-Law) Mr. Ravi Sharma & Mrs. Komal (Son-in-law & Daughter) & Samast Sharma Parivaar Mob No. 7006469446

KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Geeta Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Vidya Parkash Gupta R/o H.No. 68, W.No. 2, Adarsh Colony, Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 11th Dec. 2025.



Smt. Geeta Devi

Kriya will be performed on 23rd Dec. 2025 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 12 Noon.

Rasam Pagri will be performed at our residence on 24th Dec. 2025 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta - Devar Smt. Santosh Gupta - Jethani Smt. Asha Devi - Devrani Sons & Daughters-in-law Sushil Gupta & Suman Gupta Sunil Gupta & Girja Gupta Daughter & Son-in-law Manju & Sh. Brij Mohan Puri Mob. No.: 94695-64801

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved father Late Shri Rattan Lal Malla, who left for his heavenly abode on 16th Dec.



Late Shri Rattan Lal Malla

He was a loving father, a kind soul, and a respected member of the family whose presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He leaves behind his grieving family members and relatives. 10th Day rituals will be performed on 25th Dec 2025 at Muthi Ghat near Director Education from 9:30 am onwards.

May his noble soul rest in eternal peace. GRIEVING FAMILY Mrs Phoola Malla - Wife Late Mr DN Malla and Asha ji - Brother and Sister-in-law Mr PN Malla and Usha ji - Brother and Sister-in-law Mr BL Malla and Mohini ji - Brother and Sister-in-law Late Nancy Koul - Sister Mrs Apama Wangu & Shankar Wangu - Daughter and Son-in-law Kanishka and Devansh Wangu- Grand Childrens House Address 15/1 Rehari Colony, Lane opposite Ram Sham Shop (Contact: 9591974698, 9796024006)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh. Romesh Kumar Pandita (Kuku Ji) S/o Lt. Sh. Kashi Nath Pandita R/o Ranipora Kulgam, Kashmir on 16-12-2025 at present H.No. 403/B, Lane No. 4, Suryavanshi Nagar, Muthi Jammu near Uma Devi Temple.



Sh. Romesh Kumar Pandita (Kuku Ji)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25-12-2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate School Education at 10:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Nancy Pandita - Wife Son & Daughter-in-law Pankaj Raina & Shiveta Raina Meenakshi & Kunal Ji Kothedar - Daughter & Son-in-law Shivani & Harish Ji Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law

# MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa Holds High-Level Review Meeting on Water Scarcity

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: Hon'ble MLA Bahu Constituency Ch. Vikram Randhawa today chaired a high-level review meeting of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department at the PWD Guest House, Gandhi Nagar, to address the growing issue of drinking water scarcity in Bahu Constituency.

The meeting was attended by the senior officials from PHE department including XEN PHE, AEE, JE's, along with all Mandal Presidents of Bahu Constituency, who actively participated and shared ground-level feedback.

During the meeting, Mandal Presidents highlighted area-specific prob-



MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa chairing a meeting at Jammu

lems and suggested concrete measures including augmentation of existing water supply schemes, replacement of worn-out pipelines, installation of additional tube wells, regular tanker services in scarcity-hit localities, and strict monitoring of water distribution schedules.

Taking serious note of the concerns raised, Ch.

Vikram Randhawa directed the PHE department to incorporate these suggestions into the planning and execution of ongoing and upcoming projects. He emphasized that public representatives are directly connected with the people and their inputs must be given due priority.

The MLA said that in-

puts and suggestions given by Mandal Presidents reflect the real situation on the ground and must be implemented without delay. He warned that accountability will be fixed if negligence, delay, or casual approach is found in addressing public grievances.

Reviewing ongoing and upcoming PHE proj-

ects, Ch. Vikram Randhawa instructed officials to fast-track all pending schemes, ensure transparency in execution, and maintain continuous coordination with public representatives. He emphasized that summer preparedness is non-negotiable and residents should not be made to suffer due to administrative slackness.

Reiterating his commitment to the people, the MLA stated that he will personally monitor the progress of water supply works and take up the matter at the highest level if required. "The people of Bahu Constituency will not be allowed to suffer for want of drinking water," he asserted.

# Drug Peddler's Property Worth Rs 1 Crore Attached In Srinagar

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached property worth 1 crore of a notorious drug peddler here, alleging it was acquired through the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking, officials said.

The attached property attached under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act comprises a double-storey residential house built on 12 marlas of land,

situated at Sultan Mohalla, Saidakadal, belonging to the accused Nisar Ahmad Bota, they said.

The accused is involved in a case registered at Rainawari police station, the official said.

During the course of the investigation, it was established that the said property had been acquired through illicit proceeds generated from drug trafficking activities.

Consequently, the property was attached under Section 68-F of the NDPS

Act, a police spokesman said.

He said the attachment proceedings were conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed legal procedure and in the presence of two independent witnesses.

As per the attachment order, the owner has been restrained from selling, leasing, transferring, altering, or creating any third-party interest in the said property until further orders, the police said.

# Arvind Gupta launches development works



MLA Arvind Gupta kick starting development work.

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, on Tuesday inaugurated lane and drain construction works in Ward No. 24, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the local residents. The development initiative is aimed at improving sanitation, drainage, and overall civic infrastructure in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta said that the work was started in keeping with the commitments he had made to the people during his interactions with them. He added that development

at the grassroots level remains his top priority.

The MLA stated that proper drainage and well-constructed lanes are essential for preventing waterlogging, maintaining cleanliness, and ensuring a better quality of life for residents.

He assured the public that similar development works would be taken up in other parts of Jammu West in a phased manner, keeping in view the needs and demands of the people.

Arvind Gupta also appealed to residents to cooperate with the executing agencies so that the work could be completed

within the stipulated time frame and to the desired quality standards.

He reiterated his commitment to transparent governance and accountable use of public funds.

Former Corporator Anu Bali, Mandal President Kushyant Prajapati, Senior Leader Atul Bakshi, Mandal General Secretary Mohit Vaid, and Senior Leader Vinoo Khanna, Sanjeev Sharma, Rekha Sharma, Sudesh Gupta, Amreek Singh, Bhuvnesh Gupta, Arti Khajuria, Pardeep Sharma, Sonu Manhas, Indresh, Pawan, Kaka, and several others were present during the inauguration. They welcomed the initiative and thanked the MLA for addressing the civic issues of the ward.

Residents expressed satisfaction over the commencement of the works and hoped that the project would bring long-term relief from drainage problems and improve the overall living conditions in the area.

# Thana Diwas Organised at Police Station Akhnoor



Police officers during Thana Diwas celebrations at Akhnoor.

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: A Thana Diwas programme was organised today at Police Station Akhnoor and was attended by prominent citizens of the area, including former Sarpanches and Panches. The programme was chaired by SSP Jammu Shri Joginder Singh, JKPS, accompanied by SP Rural Jammu Shri Brijesh Sharma, JKPS.

During the programme, the SSP Jammu distributed 10 wheelchairs to specially abled persons namely Suram Chand, Isher Dass, Sohan Lal, Amro Devi, Bhagwan Dass, Raman Kumar,

Rekha Devi, Mukesh Kumar, Prem Nath and Nisha Devi. Additionally, two wheelchairs were provided under the banner of All J&K Disabled Welfare Trust, Akhnoor, as part of the Civic Action Programme.

On the occasion, Appreciation Certificates and gifts were also presented to volunteers who rendered commendable services during the recent floods in Akhnoor Sub-Division.

The recipients included Ramesh Singh (S/o Daler Singh), Sandokh Singh, Ramesh Singh (S/o Avtar Singh), Nasib Lal, Showket, Deepak Kumar, Daljeet Singh, Uttam

Singh, Joginder Singh, Balwinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Ashok Singh, Kashmir Singh, Pawan Singh, Daler Singh (S/o Mangal Singh), Neeraj Sharma, Kali Dass and Kulbir Singh.

The programme was attended by SDPO Akhnoor, SHOs of Akhnoor, Gharota and Khour Police Stations, IC PPs and ICBPPs of Sub-Division Akhnoor.

During the interaction, local people raised issues such as traffic congestion in Akhnoor town, drug menace, and other miscellaneous public concerns. The SSP Jammu emphasized the importance of community participation in maintaining peace and law & order, assured the general public that their grievances would be resolved at the earliest, and directed the officers present on the spot to take the issue of traffic congestion seriously.

The general public appreciated the efforts of Jammu Police in organising such effective public outreach programmes.

# Security Forces Intensify Checks In Srinagar Ahead Of Christmas, New Year

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Security forces have stepped up security arrangements across Srinagar ahead of the upcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations, officials said on Tuesday.

Police and Central Reserve Police Force personnel have intensified vehicle checking and surveillance at several key locations in the city, including tourist and public movement zones such as the Dal Lake area.

Officials said the measures are aimed at preventing any possible security breach and ensuring the safety of inhabitants

and visitors during the festive period.

Police personnel from the police station Nishat, along with CRPF units, were seen conducting thorough checking of vehicles and monitoring movement at prominent entry and exit points.

Officials said a high level of vigilance is being maintained across the city, with increased patrolling, checkpoints, and deployment of additional personnel at sensitive locations.

The focus, they said, remains on maintaining law and order while allowing normal activities to continue without disruption.

# NC felicitates newly appointed District President Jammu Rural "A" and Block Presidents.

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23 : Provincial President JKNC, Jammu, Mr Rattan Lal Gupta felicitated newly nominated District President Jammu Rural "A" Mr Subash Chander Bhat who has been nominated as District President Jammu Rural "A". On this occasion four newly nominated Block Presidents namely Tharu Ram, Block President Nagrota, Mohd Majeed, Block President Dansal, Ajay Singh, Block President Mathwar and Sukhdev Singh, Block President Bhalwal were also felicitated. On this occasion Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh (Aman) Provincial President Jammu YNC, Shamim Begum DDC Dansal were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu raised serious concern



Newly appointed District president of NC being felicitated during a function.

over the ongoing dual power structure in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it is creating unnecessary hurdles in the effective functioning of governance. He said, "People are suffering due to confusion and lack of accountability." He strongly reiterated for restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and an end to the dual power structure, which he termed as undemocratic and detrimental to public welfare. He directed the newly

nominated District President to constitute District Committee Jammu Rural "A" to strengthen the party to face forthcoming urban local body and Panchayat Elections within fortnight.

Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, while speaking on the occasion, said that the best performance of Omar Led government in Jammu and Kashmir emphasized the achievement of the Omar Led government including free

travel for women in government-operated buses, enhancement of marriage assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, provision of 200 units of free electricity per month for AAY households, and doubling of the monthly free ration quota from 5 kg to 10 kg per person for AAY families, enhancement of pension of Old age, widow and handicapped persons from Rs 1000 to Rs 1500, Rs 2000 (Senior Citizen) Per month. The newly appointed

District President Jammu Rural "A" and Block Presidents, while thanking the party high command and senior leaders Farooq Abdullah, CM Omar Abdullah, General Secretary Ali Mohd Sagar, Ajay Sadhotra and Rattan Lal Gupta for reposing faith in them, expressed their commitment to stand by the party's principles and work diligently to strengthen the organization across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present included: Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Nar Singh President Labor Wing, Nitish Gowsami, Vishal Parihar Vice Presidents YNC Jammu, Hameed Choudhary Central Zone President YNC, Sahil Keri District President Jammu Urban YNC, Aman District President YNC Billawar, Jasin Malik District President YNC Samba, Muzamil Malik and others.

# Samba Police Work Out Theft Case

▶▶ 2 Accused Arrested, Stolen Items Recovered



Thieves in police custody at Samba.

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

SAMBA, Dec 23: Samba Police has worked out a theft case registered at Police Station Vijaypur, arrested two accused persons and recovered stolen items from their possession.

On 20.12.2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Vijaypur by one person namely Panikaj Verma S/o Girdhari Lal R/o village Patti tehsil Bari Brahmana district Samba regarding theft of inverter-battery,

speakers, soundbars and other items from his shop situated at Rahya Morh during the intervening night of 19/20.12.2025.

Acting upon the complaint, a case FIR No. 143/2025 u/s 331(4)/305 BNS was registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a Police team of PS Vijaypur after relentless efforts, apprehended two suspects who upon sustained questioning confessed

their involvement in the instant case. The arrested accused have been identified as Harpreet Singh @ Kaka S/o Darshan Singh R/o Sukarpura Dera Dor district Gurdaspur (Punjab) and Harpreet Singh S/o Bachan Singh S/o village Ahmedabad tehsil Dhaliwal district Gurdaspur (Punjab).

On the disclosure of said accused persons, stolen items were recovered from their possession. Further investigation of the case is going on.

# Workers' Unions To Hold Strike In February Against New Labour Codes, SHANTI Bill And GRAM G

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: A joint platform of central trade unions have decided to hold a nationwide strike in February against the government's move to change legislations related to workers, the nuclear energy sector, and rural jobs. The trade unions are opposing the four new labour codes notified by the government in

November and the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, passed by the Parliament during the Winter Session, which was concluded on December 19.

Also, the unions are against the passage of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, which replac-

es the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), 2005 and seeks to provide rural workers with an employment guarantee of 125 days per financial year.

Members of the farmers' body Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and NCCOEEE (National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers) have extended their support to the gen-

eral strike. "Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) and Sectoral Federations/ Associations resolve to call a general strike on 12th February 2026 against the Labour Codes and the multi-

pronged attack by the central government on the people's rights and entitlements," the forum of 10 workers' unions said in a statement on Tuesday.

## Arunachal Police arrest 2 more from Kupwara; 5 Kashmiri men held for Pak-linked spying

espionage activities. Shortly thereafter, another suspect, Shabir Ahmed Khan, also from Kupwara, was arrested from Itanagar, tightening the noose around the suspected spy ring.

Nazir Ahmad Malik was initially detained from Ganga village, and based on crucial disclosures made during his interrogation, police arrested Sabir Ahmed Mir from Abotani Colony in the Itanagar Capital Region on the same day, officials said.

According to investigators, the five arrested individuals were allegedly part of a covert spy network that had penetrated Arunachal Pradesh under the guise of petty trade. "Based on intelligence inputs, it is clear that a spying network was operating in the state, and these five individuals were active members of that network," the official said.

Police revealed that most of the accused posed as blanket vendors, travelling extensively across towns and remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh. Under this cover, they allegedly gathered information related to infrastructure, movement patterns, and local vulnerabilities, which was then passed on to Pakistani operatives.

The operation to bust the espionage module was led by Itanagar Superintendent of Police Jummur Basar, with close coordination from central intelligence agencies. Senior police and intelligence officials are now jointly interrogating the accused to uncover the full extent of the network, including possible local facilitators and cross-border links.

"Further arrests cannot be ruled out as the investigation progresses," the official said, adding that digital devices and communication channels used by the accused are being forensically examined.

In the wake of the arrests, Arunachal Pradesh Police issued a strong advisory to the public, urging citizens to carry out proper police verification before allowing anyone to stay in their homes on rent or any other arrangement.

"People should not allow unknown individuals to stay in their houses without thorough verification, as such negligence can pose serious security risks," the police cautioned.

Meanwhile, police clarified that another individual earlier detained from Miao in Changlang district was released after investigations found no evidence linking him to the espionage activities.

The arrests have sent shockwaves across the region, underscoring growing concerns over foreign-sponsored espionage and the exploitation of civilian cover to undermine India's internal security.

## From Washington to Budgam: NIA court attaches US-based separatist Fai's property

which investigating agencies say is backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and has been used to propagate Pakistan's narrative on Kashmir at international platforms. He migrated to the US in the early 1980s for higher studies and became a US citizen in 1990.

Police records indicate that the case against him pertains to offences related to membership of an unlawful association, involvement in unlawful activities, and providing support to a terrorist organisation. The 77-year-old separatist also serves as the Secretary General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice.

Meanwhile, on November 10, Budgam Police carried out multiple search operations at locations linked to Dr Fai's associates as part of a broader crackdown aimed at dismantling separatist networks and Pakistan-backed terror ecosystems in the region. Officials said the action was intended to disrupt the financial, logistical, and ideological support extended by the accused to anti-national activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Ahead of New Year, surveillance stepped up along Mata Vaishno Devi route

the arrangements to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage for the devotees, officials said.

During the meeting, the CEO directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen the Yatra management and security measures, particularly along the route and at the shrine, they said.

According to officials, emphasis was laid on strict regulation of the yatra through RFID-based access control, ensuring that only pilgrims possessing valid RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) cards are permitted to proceed.

Vaishya also directed the deployment of additional handheld RFID scanners and adequate manpower at key checkpoints to avoid any lapses, they added.

The meeting was informed that a joint round-the-clock monitoring is being undertaken, with special focus on high-footfall and congested locations, to ensure real-time surveillance, prompt response and enhanced situational awareness.

The representative of the fire and emergency services was tasked with deploying fire tenders at strategic points along the track and conducting a comprehensive fire safety audit of the shrine area to further strengthen safety mechanisms, officials said.

The CEO underscored the importance of strict adherence to prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) and reiterated the need for meticulous compliance across all aspects of disaster preparedness.

He also emphasised converting the existing sound system installed along the track into a fully functional public address system to facilitate timely dissemination of important announcements.

Additionally, the concerned agencies were directed to ensure proper verification of individuals employed in private establishments and service operators on the route, in order to safeguard the sanctity of the shrine area and the safety of pilgrims, officials said.

They said special emphasis was laid on addressing traffic bottlenecks caused by unauthorised parking, particularly in the Banganga area and the Tarakote Marg.

The need for strict regulation and coordinated enforcement was highlighted to ensure smooth vehicular movement, the officials said.

Security agencies briefed the meeting on the multi-tier security grid in place, comprising personnel from the Police, CRPF and shrine board security, supported by QRTs for swift action.

The deployment of advanced surveillance tools for real-time threat assessment was also highlighted, the officials said.

## Joint security exercise held in Srinagar to counter potential threats

the spokesman said.

Similar security drills have been conducted on some areas of Anantnag district.

Police had carried out anti-sabotage operations in Maharaja Bazaar and Amira Kadal areas in the vicinity of Bakshi Stadium, which is the main venue for Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations in the valley.

## 'Jan Bhagidari' cornerstone of people-centric security: Prez Murmu

misinformation is a very challenging task. This task must be carried out continuously and very effectively. There is a need to create a community of active social media users who consistently present fact-based narratives in the national interest," Murmu said.

She said there are numerous examples of alert citizens helping professional forces with their inputs in averting security crises.

"People need not be passive observers of what happens around them. They should become alert and active partners in the security of their own surroundings and also of regions beyond it. 'Jan Bhagidari' is the cornerstone of people-centric security," she said.

Murmu said that due to legacy-burden carried over from the pre-Independence period, some people may feel a sense of distance with respect to government servants in general and police forces in particular.

"In developed societies and countries, people generally look at police personnel as a friendly person who can be trusted for help. Our civil police and internal security agencies have to work with the spirit of serving the people," she said.

The president was addressing the IB centenary endowment lecture on the subject 'People-Centric National Security: Community Participation in Building Viksit Bharat'.

The event was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and IB chief Tapan Kumar Deka, among others.

Noting that the country has launched an effective campaign against the drug menace through public participation, Murmu said similar efforts should be

made to tackle the problem of radicalism.

She said that the most complex challenges to national security are non-traditional and digital in nature.

"Most of these problems originate from cutting-edge technologies. In this context, there is a need to develop technologically competent communities. The growing problem of digital fraud requires vigilance at the household, institutional, and community levels," Murmu said.

She said digital platforms can empower citizens to report phishing, digital fraud, and online abuse.

"They can provide real-time data to relevant agencies. By analyzing such real-time data, predictive policing models can be developed. Vigilant and competent communities of citizens will not only be less susceptible to cybercrimes but will also act as a firewall against such crimes," the President said.

Murmu said that by placing citizen welfare and public participation at the heart of our strategy, we can empower our citizens to become effective sources of intelligence and security.

"This transformation, driven by public participation, will help address the complex, multifaceted security challenges of the 21st century," she said, adding that through public participation, "we will all move rapidly towards building a vigilant, peaceful, secure and prosperous India".

She said that tensions in the border areas, terrorism and militancy, insurgency and communal radicalization have been traditional areas of security concern.

Murmu said the country's internal security scenario is also affected by international developments.

"The world is witnessing geo-political tensions, economic volatility and trade disruptions. These phenomena also have implications for internal security. Many of our security threats are unique to our national context. In such situations, our solutions must be tailored to address our specific concerns. Community engagement holds the key to resolving such situations," she said.

The president said that adverse effects of climate change on limited natural resources increase the potential for conflict among people.

"This is also a cause for security concern. Therefore, there is a need to promote public participation in environmental protection," she said.

Murmu also congratulated the security agencies for their determination to eradicate left-wing-extremism by March 31, 2026.

"Earlier, left-wing-extremism was acknowledged as the 'biggest internal security challenge'. Left-wing-extremism is now close to total eradication. In 2014, as many as 126 districts were Naxal-affected. Now only eleven districts remain affected. Today, only three districts remain in the category of most-affected districts," she said.

Murmu said she was confident that through public participation, "we all will move forward" rapidly towards building a vigilant, peaceful, safe and a prosperous India.

## Northern Railway introduces 'scratch rake' to curb fog delays

compensate for delays in their departure and arrival, the official said. He said the step would ensure that passengers reach their destinations on time.

The scratch rake or additional rake is a solution for trains that are delayed by seven hours or indefinitely, the official said, adding that by using these scratch rakes, the punctuality of delayed trains can be maintained.

Regarding the initiatives taken to improve passenger amenities in the Jammu division, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal said the main objective of introducing scratch rake is to ensure comfortable and timely travel to passengers during the foggy weather in winter. "Trains often get delayed due to fog. The operation of these scratch rakes or additional rakes will be beneficial for passengers and will also help in the timely operation of trains.

"Such additional measures will also help in meeting the increasing demand of passengers in the future. This successful operation is a testament to the efficient management of the railways and its understanding of passenger needs," Singhal said.

## Health Department refers 480 Medical Officer Posts to JKPSC

The requisition form for filling up the posts has been forwarded to JKPSC for initiating the recruitment process.

The breakup of the 480 Medical Officer posts includes 192 posts under Open Merit, 38 under Scheduled Caste, 48 each under Scheduled Tribe One, Scheduled Tribe Two and Backward Area categories, 39 posts under Other Backward Classes, 48 under Economically Weaker Sections, and 19 posts under ALC IB category.

The department has also requested the Public Services Commission to incorporate specific conditions in the forthcoming advertisement to avoid any future legal complications. As per the conditions, selected candidates will not be permitted to continue postgraduate courses or tenure positions such as Senior Residency, Registrarship, or Demonstratorship after selection. However, candidates will be given a one-time option to either accept the Medical Officer appointment or continue with their ongoing postgraduate or tenure engagement.

Further, the letter states that upon appointment, selected Medical Officers will be required to serve mandatorily in peripheral and far-flung areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the interest of equitable healthcare delivery.

The communication has been issued by the Health and Medical Education Department to the Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Commission, requesting acknowledgment and necessary action.

## Winter vacations announced for colleges

across the Union Territory.

As per an order issued by the Higher Education Department, Government Degree Colleges falling under the Winter Zone in both Kashmir Division and Jammu Division will observe winter vacations from December 24, 2025, to February 14, 2026.

Meanwhile, Government Degree Colleges of the Jammu Division falling under the Summer Zone will remain closed for winter vacations from January 1, 2026, to February 10, 2026.

The order has been issued in the interest of administration and will be applicable to all Government Degree Colleges in the respective zones. The directions have been issued with the approval of the competent authority.

## Police seek vigilance clearance for promotion of inspectors

as Deputy Superintendents of Police under the promotion quota and has sought vigilance clearance for a total of 95 Inspectors.

In an official communication issued from Police Headquarters Jammu, the Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone and Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone have been asked to furnish vigilance clearance or non-involvement certificates for the concerned officers.

## Kashmir parts get fresh snowfall

North Kashmir's ski resort of Gulmarg was among the places in the higher reaches that received intermittent snowfall through the night. It continued till the morning, they said.

Shopian district, Mughal Road and Gurez in Bandipora also received snowfall. The plains of the valley received intermittent rain.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar on Monday night was recorded at 2.7 degrees Celsius, down from 4 degrees Celsius the night before and 5.1 notches above the season's normal, according to the officials.

Other places in the valley also registered above-normal minimum temperatures ranging from 3.8 to 5.6 degrees Celsius.

The tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, in south Kashmir, recorded sub-zero temperatures, with the mercury settling at minus 2.2 degrees Celsius and minus 0.2 degrees Celsius.

In south Kashmir, Qazigund recorded a low of 3.2 degrees Celsius and Kokernag 2.8 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of 2.4 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy weather with the possibility of rain at isolated places. The weather is likely to remain dry over the next few days, it said.

## Fog delays over 270 flights

Over 270 flights have been delayed and the average delay time for departures is 29 minutes, as per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

"Visibility at the airport is improving, however, flight departures for certain destinations may experience delay," Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital handles around 1,300 flight movements daily.

# DC Reasi inaugurates first SMILE Shelter Home at Katra

### EARLY TIMES REPORT

**REASI, Dec 23:** In a significant step towards social rehabilitation and inclusive development, the Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today inaugurated the SMILE Shelter Home under the SMILE Beggary Scheme, here at Didi Bhangal- Katra.

The initiative aims at comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging and marks the first such Shelter Home in the Jammu Division and the second in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir after Srinagar.

The Shelter Home has been established under the SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Beggary Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. The scheme is being implemented by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the inauguration marks the formal beginning of a focused and structured effort to address the issue of beggary in Katra and across



DC Nidhi Malik during inaugural function of SMILE Shelter Home at Katra.

the district. She noted that while surveys and preparatory work had been conducted

earlier, the opening of the Shelter Home signals a new phase of coordinated action on

the ground. Emphasizing the importance of sustained implementation, she stated that

meaningful change would be achieved through the dedicated efforts of field staff and volunteers, supported by active monitoring from the district administration. She also appreciated the role of Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society in making the Shelter Home operational.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Shelter Home facilities, including residential rooms and common areas and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made for the beneficiaries. She also reviewed the ongoing development activities

being conducted at the centre. Representatives of Prayas Sansthan informed that the inmates are being imparted training in tailoring, cutting, and LED bulb manufacturing, aimed at equipping them with practical skills for self-employment and ensuring a dignified livelihood.

Among those present on the occasion were DDC Member Jagjeevan Lal; Amod K. Kanth, IPS (Retd.)-Founder & Mentor, Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society, Chief Education Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and other district officers.

# Shrine Board reviews yatra preparedness ahead of New Year

EARLY TIMES REPORT

**KATRA, Dec 23:** In view of the anticipated heavy influx of pilgrims during the New Year-2026, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today reviewed comprehensive arrangements to ensure a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage for devotees.

The review meeting, convened as per the directions of the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), was presided over by Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB. The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Shrine Board, District Administration, representatives of security agencies and other key stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen Yatra management and security measures, particularly along the track and at the Bhawan. Emphasis was laid on strict regulation of the Yatra through RFID-based access control, ensuring that only pilgrims possessing valid RFID cards are per-



CEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting at Katra.

mitted to proceed. He also instructed for the deployment of additional handheld RFID scanners and adequate manpower at key checkpoints to avoid any lapses.

The CEO was informed that a comprehensive training programme has been conducted at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), SGC Katra. Accordingly, joint round-the-clock monitoring is being undertaken, with special focus on high-footfall and congested locations, to ensure real-time surveillance, prompt response and enhanced situational awareness.

The representative of the Fire and Emergency Services was tasked with deploying firefighting ve-

hicles at strategic points along the track and conducting a comprehensive fire safety audit of the Shrine area to further strengthen existing safety mechanisms. The CEO underscored the importance of strict adherence to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reiterated the need for meticulous compliance across all aspects of disaster preparedness.

The CEO also emphasized converting the existing Bose sound system installed along the track into a fully functional Public Address System to facilitate timely dissemination of important announcements. Additionally, the concerned agencies were directed to ensure proper verification of in-

dividuals employed in private establishments and service operators on the track, in order to safeguard the sanctity of the Shrine area and the safety of pilgrims.

Special emphasis was laid on addressing traffic bottlenecks caused by unauthorized parking, particularly in the Banganga area and the Tarakote Marg. The need for strict regulation and coordinated enforcement was highlighted to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Security agencies briefed the meeting on the multi-tier security grid in place, comprising personnel from the Police, CRPF and Shrine Board security, supported by Quick Response Teams (QRTs) for swift action. The deploy-

ment of advanced surveillance tools for real-time threat assessment was also highlighted.

The meeting concluded with clear directions to all concerned to ensure seamless coordination, heightened vigilance and a safe, secure and spiritually enriching pilgrimage experience for all devotees visiting the Holy Shrine during the New Year period.

The meeting was attended by the Addl. CEO, SMVDSB; SSP, Reasi; Jt. CEO, SMVDSB; SDM, Katra and Bhawan; SP, Katra; Commandant, CRPF; Asstt. CEOs, SMVDSB; SDPOs, Katra and Bhawan; ACF, SMVDSB; and representatives of the Fire and Emergency Services and other allied agencies.

# Suresh inaugurates development works worth Rs 10 lakh in block Maira Mandrian

EARLY TIMES REPORT

**JAMMU, Dec 23:** Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) Member Pandit Suresh Sharma today inaugurated various development works worth 10 lakh in Block Maira

ki Choura and Maira Mandrian have been executed by keeping public demands and local requirements at the forefront. He further said that under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,

The local residents expressed their gratitude to Suresh Sharma for initiating these development works. He, in turn, assured the people that similar projects will continue to be sanctioned in the coming days.



DDC Suresh Sharma inaugurating development works in Maira Mandrian.

Mandrian, undertaken from his District Development Council fund.

The development works include the construction of a lane in Panchayat Barui and the construction of a waiting shed at Baba Kali Veer Devsthan along with lane construction in Maira Mandrian.

Addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma stated that over the past five years, development works in Block Chow-

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing all-round development, ushering in a new era of progress.

He emphasized that several welfare schemes aimed at the upliftment of the poor are being implemented to ensure that no area remains deprived of basic amenities. "It has been our consistent effort to ensure inclusive development, and this pace of work will continue in the future as well," he assured.

On the occasion, BJP leader Dr. Ramlal Sharma, Sarpanch Milkhi Ram, Rashpal Sharma, Suraj Prakash, Subedar Satyapal, Akshay Magotra, Hansraj, Praveen Kumar, Subhash Malhotra, Diwan Chand, Subedar Ramesh Chandra, Jameet Raj, Sunil Shastri, Titaru Ram, Ravi Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Jyoti Prakash concerned department officials, and other prominent citizens were present.

# FFMA celebrates 136th birth anniversary of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan

EARLY TIMES REPORT

**JAMMU, Dec 23:** Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) today celebrated the 136th Birth Anniversary of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan, first Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir State and third Chief Justice of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajiv Mahajan, Chairman of Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA), emphasized the people to follow the path shown by Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan for the betterment of the society. He said life and death is part and parcel of human birth and in this cycle of birth and death the great souls which come to existence, we should look up to them and our ideals in order to make some contribution towards the society and our country, for the better future of this world. He further said that it was Mehar Chand Mahajan's genius to become Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 during the reign of erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh.

Paying rich tributes to Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan on his 136th Birth Day Anniversary, Chief Patron Ved Gandotra of

Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) said that contribution of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan in uniting Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and his philanthropic service to the society would always remain alive. He said Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan played a crucial role in advising Maharaja for taking decision regarding accession of J&K State with India and appealed to follow the path shown by him. He called upon the people to adopt the pathway shown by the great personality who always lived truthful life, worked hard and lent helping hand to the poor, needy and strengthened values of brotherhood for the upliftment of the society.

He recalled the contribution and services of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan and referred to him as a visionary and Karamyogi. Rajiv said that such functions are a good gesture for the betterment of the society. "Justice Mahajan was an active member of various social organizations," he said and appealed to Mahajan Biradari members to follow on the path shown by Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan.

# MLA Dr Rajeev Bhagat launches development works worth Rs 49 Lakh in Bishnah

EARLY TIMES REPORT

**BISHNAH, Dec 23:** Accelerating the pace of infrastructure development in the Bishnah Assembly Constituency, Member of the Legislative Assembly Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat today kick-started a series of vital development works valued at approximately 49 lakh. These projects, executed by the Public Works Department, focus on enhancing road connectivity and improving drainage systems across various sectors of the constituency.

The development drive commenced with the macadamization of the link road extending from the main road at Taraf Brahmana to Krail Manhasan.

The technical breakdown of this road project includes Wet Mix Macadam 500 meters 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam 550 meters and 25 mm thick SDBC (Semi-Dense Bituminous Concrete): 950 meters.

Additionally, Dr. Bhagat inaugurated the con-



MLA Dr Rajeev Bhagat inaugurating development works in Bishnah.

struction of a crucial drain from the residence of Kamal Kishore (near RK Traders) to Dhhinday Morh at village Chak Avtara on the Bishnah-Kunjwani road.

To further boost internal connectivity, the construction of a link road from the residence of Gurmeet Singh to Lakhbir Singh in Ward No. 7, Baba Fareed Nagar, Sehora, was also officially started.

During the inauguration, Dr. Bhagat was accompanied by Shri Rafiq Ahmad, Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD Sub Division Bishnah, along

with his technical team.

The MLA emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality standards and directed the executing agency to ensure the timely completion of these projects to avoid public inconvenience.

"Infrastructure is the backbone of a prosperous constituency. My priority is to ensure that every corner of Bishnah has modern facilities and well-maintained roads," Dr. Bhagat stated while addressing a gathering of locals.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participa-

tion from local leaders and residents. Prominent among those present included Abhishek Jamwal (Mandal Pardan Bishnah Rural), Arjun Singh (General Secretary), Ramesh Kumar (Vice President), Vijay Singh (former Sarpanch), and Bodh Raj (former Panch), along with Ashwani Kumar, Gopal Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Paramjeet Kour, Sarabjeet Singh, Manmeet Singh, Ravi Kumar, Simmy, Mohan Lal, Mandep Singh, Lakhvir Singh, Karanjit Singh and other local dignitaries.

# IIT Jammu Scholar Secures Second Place at IEEE MAPCON 2025

EARLY TIMES REPORT

**JAMMU, Dec 23:** Ms. Dharishti Thappa, an M.Tech scholar from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, has brought laurels to the Institute by securing Second Place in the prestigious Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition at the IEEE Microwaves, Antennas and Propagation Conference (MAPCON) 2025.

sis (3MT) competition is a globally recognized academic platform originally developed by the University of Queensland, Australia, which challenges research scholars to present their work concisely and engagingly to a non-specialist audience.

The award ceremony was graced by eminent dignitaries and global experts, including representatives from DRDO, ISRO, and leading uni-



Dignitaries posing for group photograph.

The conference was held at the Lulu International Convention Center, Grand Hyatt, Bolgatty, Kochi, Kerala.

Her award-winning presentation, titled "Small Sheet, Strong Signal," impressed the judges and audience with its clarity, innovation, and effective communication of complex research within the three-minute format.

The Three Minute The-

versities from India and abroad.

Ms. Dharishti's achievement highlights her academic excellence and reflects the strong research culture and mentorship at IIT Jammu.

This accomplishment is a proud moment for IIT Jammu and reinforces the Institute's growing presence in high-impact international research platforms.

# KVK Poonch organises awareness programme on Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Bill, during Kisan Samman Diwas

EARLY TIMES REPORT

**POONCH, Dec 23:** Kriishi Vigyan Kendra, Poonch working under the aegis of Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) in coordination with Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, Poonch today organized an awareness programme on Viksit Bharat-G RAM

G Bill, 2025 during Kisan Samman Diwas at its office campus.

The programme was conducted as per the directives of ICAR-ATARI and as desired by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister (HAM) to create awareness among the farming community regarding the provisions and objectives of the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Bill, 2025, on 23rd December 2025, coinciding with Kisan Samman Diwas, celebrated

on the birth anniversary of Late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh Ji, former Prime Minister of India. Speaking on the occasion through live telecast, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister (HAM) Sh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji said that Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Bill, 2025 aims at bolstering rural economy in the form of enhanced statutory employment guarantee from earlier 100 days to 125 days, data-driven planning by

Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP), timely wage payment with hardly any scope for misappropriation of funds.

To facilitate adequate availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons, the act empowers States to notify an aggregated pause period aggregating to sixty days in a financial year, he elaborated.

The bill focuses on the four key priority areas

like water scarcity, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and above all, climate resilience, he said.

Prior to the live telecast, Chief Scientist & Head Dr. Ajay Gupta through virtual mode thanked the farmers and extended his earnest gratitude to Assistant Planning and Marketing Officer, Poonch and his team for active participation and making this programme a grand success. During the event,

Dr. Mushtaq Guroo, KVK Poonch gave a detailed lecture on importance of Kisan Diwas and said that farmers are truly the backbone of any nation and it becomes our collective responsibility to honour and appreciate all the responsible farmers for their contributions to society.

During the programme, Assistant Planning and Marketing Officer, Poonch, Charan kamal Singh gave a detailed

talk on the different schemes of government pertaining to Horticulture and Planning for the better livelihood and economic prosperity of farming community. More than 100 farmers including men and women from different parts of district Poonch turned up at KVK premises for participation in this programme.

The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Ramandeep Kour.

earlyTIMES  
Explaining Truth Believe in Possibilities

## Prez Murmu's Message

While addressing an event organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in New Delhi President Droupadi Murmu called on the citizens to become active observers of what's happening around them and termed "jan bhagidari" as the cornerstone of people-centric security.

During the past few years, citizens have been actively participating in the government activities that touch their skin and are meant for them. They no longer shy away from approaching the officials to get their issues settled and grievances redressed.

There are numerous examples of alert citizens helping professional forces with their inputs in averting security crisis.

People have become alert and active partners in the security of their own surroundings and also of regions beyond it. 'Jan Bhagidari' has become the cornerstone of people-centric security.

From identifying unusual movements to alerting authorities about threats in public spaces, citizen inputs have often served as the first line of defence. Such cooperation has proved invaluable in an era where security challenges are complex, decentralised and fast-evolving.

President Murmu during her address recalled that due to legacy-burden carried over from the pre-Independence period, people for a long time felt a sense of distance with respect to government servants in general and police forces in particular.

She urged the people to look towards the developed societies and countries where people generally look at police personnel as a friendly person who can be trusted for help.

President Murmu asked the civil administration, police and internal security agencies to work with the spirit of serving the people.

Her remarks underline an important truth of modern governance: security is no longer the exclusive domain of uniformed forces, but a shared responsibility between the state and its citizens.

Equally important was her message to the civil administration, police and internal security agencies to work with the spirit of serving the people. Security institutions must see citizens not as passive subjects, but as partners deserving respect and empathy. Friendly policing, community outreach, and responsive governance can go a long way in building confidence and narrowing the trust deficit.

In essence, jan bhagidari is not a slogan but a philosophy that strengthens democracy and security alike. When citizens are alert, empowered and engaged, and when institutions respond with sensitivity and service-oriented zeal, the foundation of people-centric security becomes unshakable. President Murmu's call is thus both a reminder and a roadmap—for a safer nation built on trust, participation and shared responsibility.

# Consumer Protection: The Backbone of a Resilient and Ethical Economy

LALIT GARG

National Consumer Day is not merely a date associated with consumers; it is a reminder of a fundamental truth—that the consumer lies at the very heart of a nation's economy, social balance, and moral health. A consumer is the individual who spends the earnings of hard work in the marketplace with trust, necessity, and hope. Yet today, this very consumer is the most deceived, misled, and insecure. Fraud, dishonesty, adulteration, and substandard products have shaken the foundations of consumer rights. This situation is no longer confined to economic exploitation alone; it is inflicting deep and lasting damage on the mental, physical, and health-related lives of consumers. Therefore, while observing Consumer Day, it is essential not only to shape an ethical and healthy market but also to ensure the effective protection of consumer interests.

Today's marketplace has become far more complex, fast-paced, and aggressive than before. Consumers are confronted with an abundance of choices, yet they suffer from a lack of information and transparency. Flashy advertisements, attractive packaging, and misleading claims push consumers to decision points where they often fail to recognize real quality and safety. As a result, they are compelled to consume goods and services that harm their health, mental peace, and financial stability. Adulterated food, counterfeit medicines, inferior construction materials, and ever-evolving forms of digital fraud clearly demonstrate that violations of consumer rights are no longer exceptions but are fast becoming common practice.

It is deeply ironic that at a time when India is progressing toward becoming the world's third-largest economy, the Indian consumer continues to struggle for quality and safety. The true meaning of economic growth is not merely an increase in gross domestic product; it also lies in how honestly and safely the benefits of development reach the common citizen. If consumers are denied safe, high-quality products that meet international standards, such development remains incomplete and hollow. Violations of consumer rights do not only strike at the pocket; they also weaken a nation's confidence and moral strength.

When consumers are repeatedly deceived, distrust toward both the

market and the system takes root. This distrust gradually transforms into mental stress, anxiety, and a sense of insecurity. Illnesses caused by adulterated food and fake medicines bring not only physical suffering but also impose a long-term financial burden on families and society. In this way, the violation of consumer rights does not remain limited to an individual; it evolves into a social and national problem. It would not be an exaggeration to say that consum-



er exploitation is an assault on the collective conscience of the nation.

Consumer protection laws enacted by the government, standard-setting institutions, and grievance redressal mechanisms are significant in themselves, but their effectiveness will be proven only when they move beyond paper and are visible on the ground. What is needed today is stronger governance, more active monitoring, and a more sensitive administrative approach. Consumer protection cannot be the responsibility of a single department or ministry; it must be a priority of the entire governance system. Until adulteration, fraud, and misleading trade practices invite swift and strict action, discussions on consumer rights will remain confined to formal speeches.

If we look at advanced economies across the world, it becomes evident that consumer rights there are not merely laws but an integral part of culture. Product quality, safety standards, transparent information, and speedy justice are mandatory conditions of the marketplace. India too must move in this direction. To survive in global competition, cheap production alone is not enough; high quality and consumer satisfaction are indispensable. Indian consumers

must feel that they are no less safe or respected than consumers anywhere else in the world.

This year's theme of National Consumer Day emphasizes safety, quality, and trust—an inherently thought-provoking triad. Safety is not limited to products alone; it encompasses the protection of consumers' lives and health. Quality is not just about goods; it reflects the quality of the system that delivers justice and dignity to consumers. Trust is not merely in the mar-

ketplace but also in governance and the rule of law. If these three elements are not strengthened, the message of Consumer Day will remain incomplete. This day, advocating consumer interests, provides an important opportunity to reinforce awareness of consumer rights, responsibilities, and protection. It reminds us that consumers are not just buyers; they are the soul of the market, its driving force and momentum.

In the changing economic landscape, ensuring the quality, transparency, and accountability of products and services has become even more critical. Consumer protection laws have provided a strong foundation, but without effective implementation, speedy justice, and public awareness, consumer empowerment remains incomplete. Therefore, National Consumer Day should not be viewed as a mere formality but as a sustained public movement.

The challenges of digital marketing have emerged as one of the greatest tests for consumer interests today. Misleading advertisements, fake reviews, data privacy violations, hidden conditions, and algorithm-based price discrimination on online platforms are rendering consumers helpless.

Alongside the convenience of digital transactions, the risks of cyber fraud and misinformation have also increased. In such a scenario, it is imperative to enhance digital literacy among consumers, fix the accountability of platforms, and develop swift grievance redressal mechanisms so that technology becomes an aid to consumers rather than a tool of exploitation.

The "Jago Grahak Jago" (Wake Up, Consumer) campaign needs to be given a truly revolutionary form today. It must move beyond slogans and advertisements to include practical training, integration into school and college curricula, local languages, and digital platforms. At the same time, consumer-related laws must be made more flexible, simple, and widely accessible so that ordinary consumers can seek justice without fear or complexity. Fast-track courts, online hearings, and effective mechanisms for collective complaints will strengthen consumer confidence. Only when laws are sensitive and awareness is widespread can consumer empowerment be realized in its true sense.

Today, there is a pressing need to make consumer rights a part of national consciousness. Making consumers aware, informing them of their rights and responsibilities, and assuring them that the system stands with them is a moral responsibility of governance. At the same time, the business community must understand that injustice done to consumers for short-term gains ultimately threatens their own long-term survival. A healthy economy is one in which trust forms the foundation of the relationship between consumer and producer.

Ultimately, it is clear that the protection of consumer rights is not merely an economic necessity but a national obligation. Respect for the consumer is respect for the nation, and consumer safety is national security. As India advances toward new heights of development, it is essential that this progress does not come at the cost of consumers' health, mental peace, and trust. National Consumer Day conveys this very message: only an empowered consumer can lay the foundation of a strong nation. To strengthen this foundation, governance, society, and the market must all fulfill their respective responsibilities with honesty and integrity. Only then can we build a New India—a strong, empowered, and prosperous India.

Dr. Vijay Garg Retired Principal Malout Punjab

## The journey of accidents on unsafe roads the issue of security on roads in the country

DR. VIJAY GARG

Now serious concern Has become a subject of. Whether it is national highways, express- they or contact routes, a large number of people are falling victim to accidents every day. This apprehension always remains that it is not known when, on which path to accident. The question is, why is it becoming so risky and dangerous to travel in vehicles or on foot on all roads? Whether it is a big vehicle or two wheel, no one is safe to travel on any? The most dangerous pedestrians have started persecuting the passengers. The government and administrative staff are all well aware of this reality of the road. Are. But even if the measures are still effective to prevent Namgar accidents It has happened. The situation of road safety in India is very worrying. According to government data, 4.61 lakh road accidents were recorded across the country in the year 2023, out of which more than 1.72 lakh people died prematurely. This is when only two percent of the road system in the country are national highways, which is responsible for 30-35 per cent deaths. This figure shows that national high-

ways play the highest role in all types of road accidents across the country. The concern is that despite all the protective rules, laws and awareness campaigns, the number of accidents on highways continues to increase instead of decreasing. Among the reasons that have increased road accidents, poor road engineering is also included, including blind turns, oblique bends and lack of necessary safety signs. Apart from this, speed over the limit, fatigue and distraction of drivers is also a big reason. Weak enforcement is also a cause of accidents on the highway, including lack of traffic management and not being able to follow rules due to limited speed cameras. Along with this, ignoring the guidelines of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, lack of adequate light, fog, careless driving and sudden brake failure was also causing accidents For road safety, not only the development of mere infrastructure is necessary, but according to time, changes in security rules and broad public awareness are also required 5. In the last ten years, the Union Ministry of Roads and Transport and National Highways Authority have taken all kinds of steps to reduce road accidents, but it

has not reduced the accident. Under these steps, instructions to the central states for removing encroachment from the road and improvement of roads, indicators and lanes include measures such as accelerating the identification and correction work of 'black spots'. The government has decided to make progress full driver conscious mechanics i.e. ADAS mandatory in all trucks and buses. Similarly, in the new model of vehicles till October 2027, automatic emergency breaker system, 'Diver Drogeness Alert' and 'Lane Departure Warning' systems It will be necessary to apply. From the year 2028, all old models will also have to make these arrangements. However, due to the increasing number of vehicles on the highways, these steps are proving insufficient. It is obvious that in the field of road safety, there will be more improvement to prevent practical accidents other than mere policy reforms. Until the policy, law and implementation were equally looked at Will go, till then the roads will not be able to become completely safe and fearless. Maharashtra has set an example in the field of road safety. Under this, a special highway police force has been formed. More than two thousand person-

nel are deployed in this force, who constantly patrol and monitor the major national and state highways of the state. This model of Maharashtra can become a nazir for other states. If the Central Government implements it at the national level, the increasing number of road accidents has been curbed to some extent. In other states, this responsibility can be played well by state police and traffic police units. Security needs in all since independence Can Police or security Forces were formed, but the traffic security force could not be formed at the central level. The question is that when the government is unable to spend the amount set in the budget for road safety, So Improvement How to expect? Road safety experts believe that the 'speed management guidelines' should be implemented on national highways as soon as possible. If this is not done, all the efforts being made in the field of road safety will be incomplete. Safety should be prioritized in view of the rapid road accidents. Under this, some special kind of steps need to be taken immediately. First of all, the government should form a National Road Safety Board as soon as possible. Due to which coordination can be

established between all types of policy, technical and institutional agencies related to road safety. Secondly, the country's. There is a need to prepare A National Speed Management Guidelines for the country, under which speed monitoring camera-based enforcement and automatic punishment system can be improved. Thirdly, regular joint review system should be implemented between the Highway Authority, State Transport Department and state governments to monitor the progress of road safety plans, 'black spot' improvement works and enforcement activities. Due to this, road safety across the country. Better monitoring will be done and less increase in accidents Karan.

Under which the speed monitoring camera-based enforcement and automatic punishment system can be improved. Thirdly, regular joint review system should be implemented between the Highway Authority, State Transport Department and state governments to monitor the progress of road safety plans, 'black spot' improvement works and enforcement activities. Due to this, road safety across the country. Better monitoring will be done and less in-

crease in accidents Will also help in doing. Road safety is actually a matter related to life security, family security, social security and national security. Therefore, the more perseverance, seriousness and priority it is given, the better. The most important thing is that Every person of the country will have to travel. Travel-Security. This will require better driving training, not to drive drunk and fully follow traffic rules and laws. The racing tendency to overtake a vehicle has to be abandoned, which not only puts his life at risk, but also plays the life of another. As much as your safety is necessary, the other's security is also. Breaking negligence or road rules and moving forward is to invite the accident. Wearing helmets in two-wheelers and wearing seat belts in four wheelers and following the speed limit can reduce the horror of accidents. It is very important to understand that road accidents in the country cannot be controlled only by efforts at government level. All this can be possible only with the collective efforts of governance, administration and society.

Dr. Vijay Garg Retired Principal Malout Punjab

# PGIMER Reinforces the power of clinical photography in Health Awareness at 4th Photography Workshop

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

CHANDIGARH, Dec 23 : "Clinical photography is not merely documentation; it is a powerful bridge between medical science and society, enabling awareness, education, and empathy," said Prof. Vivek Lal, Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh, while addressing as Chief Guest\* to the participants at the 4th Photography Workshop organized by the Department of Clinical Photography, PGIMER, today

Highlighting the growing relevance of visual communication in healthcare, Prof. Lal emphasized that clinical photography and medical videography play a critical role in patient education, public health awareness, research dissemination, and myth-busting related to diseases. He commended the department for consistently setting benchmarks in medical visual communication through innovation, creativity, and ethical



sensitivity.

The workshop focused on the theme of Health Awareness and Patient Education, underlining how accurate, compassionate, and evidence-based visuals can significantly enhance understanding of diseases and counter widespread misconceptions. A key highlight was a technical

session conducted in collaboration with Canon, which showcased advanced camera technologies, imaging techniques, and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in medical and clinical imaging.

A specially curated Health Awareness Videography Masterclass sensitized participants to the responsibility of healthcare

visual storytellers in creating content that is scientifically accurate, culturally sensitive, and impactful. The session reinforced how well-crafted visuals can empower patients, improve compliance, and strengthen public trust in healthcare systems.

The Department of Clinical

Photography, PGIMER, under the leadership of Prof. Parmjeet Singh, Head of the Department, has earned national and international recognition for producing award-winning healthcare awareness films. Notably, films created by students of the department have received nominations and awards at prestigious national science film festivals, reflecting the department's strong academic, technical, and creative excellence.

The workshop featured an expert interaction with Dr. Rajeev Kumar, National Film Award-winning director, who shared valuable insights into visual storytelling for healthcare communication, stressing the importance of narrative clarity, ethical representation, and emotional resonance in medical films.

Sh. Brij Lal, Senior Course Coordinator, B.Sc. Medical Animation

and Audio Visual Communication, along with Dr. Abhijeet Singh, Senior Medical Photographer, highlighted the department's multidisciplinary approach in training students to become skilled professionals capable of translating complex medical information into accessible visual narratives.

Adding a practical dimension to the workshop, a photowalk at the Garden of Silence, Sukhna Lake, has been scheduled, offering participants hands-on exposure to composition, light, observation, and storytelling in a serene natural environment.

The workshop reaffirmed PGIMER's commitment to advancing health communication, patient awareness, and evidence-based visual education, positioning clinical photography as an indispensable tool in modern healthcare delivery and public health advocacy.

# DBU celebrates RCI approvals with Gratitude Ceremony



**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

MANDI GOBINDGARH, Dec 23: The Faculty of Education, Desh Bhagat University, organised a Gratitude Ceremony to commemorate a landmark academic achievement the grant of approvals from the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) for prestigious programmes including B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.), M.A. Clinical Psychology, ISITEP Senior Secondary Level ID, and M.Ed. Special Education (Hearing Impairment).

The ceremony was held to express sincere gratitude to the visionary leadership of Desh Bhagat University, whose unwavering support made this milestone possible. The event began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a floral welcome and traditional lamp-lighting in the presence of the Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh, Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tajinder Kaur

and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Harsh Sadawarti. Cultural performances by M.A. Clinical Psychology students added vibrancy to the occasion, reflecting creativity and holistic well-being.

A key highlight was the Sunboard Unveiling Ceremony, officially launching the newly approved programmes. The achievement stands as a testament to the leadership of Dr. Precious Sheoran.

With these approvals, Desh Bhagat University proudly becomes the first institute in Punjab to receive RCI approval for this comprehensive range of programmes.

The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and felicitation of dignitaries. In their addresses, the university leadership applauded the dedicated efforts of the Faculty of Education and encouraged continued excellence in service of society and mental health care.

# National Conference on "Emerging media, sustainable future" concluded

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

AMRITSAR, Dec 23: The National Conference on "Emerging media and sustainable future" was successfully concluded at Guru Nanak Dev University. The final day witnessed extensive discussions, paper presentations on media's role in sustainability, technology innovation and policy frameworks.



The day began with a plenary session on "Media and Sustainability". Prof. (Dr) Vasudha Sambyal chaired this session in which Dr. Amit Verma, Assistant Professor Manipal University Jaipur, Dr. Simran Sidhu, HOD Journalism, Doaba College, Jalandhar, Mr. Ashni Kumar Manager PR and marketing, Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala were the invited speakers who shared academic and practical perspectives on sustainability communication and public engagement.

Another Technical session was chaired by Dr. Amit Verma, Manipal University. Ms. Shahnaz Jolly Kaura, Programme Executive, Doodardshan, Chandigarh and Mr. Sat Singh, senior journalist, BBC and Times of India, Chandigarh were invited speakers. A Photography Exhibition based on pre conference competition winners were announced in which Harshit Vasudeva bagged first prize, Manjot Singh and Sathi Arora bagged second and third position respectively. Certificates were provided by Dr. Vasudha, Dr. Palwinder Singh Bhatia, Dr. Deepika Saraf.

Dr. Priyanka Bassi, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, BBKDAV College for women, Amritsar chaired the technical session.

Dr. Aman Jyoti, Amit Kumar, Harleen Duggal, Gurmeet Kaur, Vaishalli, Juzar Singh, Jagdeep Singh, Vanchaspoti Dubey, Dr. Mangla Sahni, Jagdip Singh Walia were few amongst paper presenters from various universities. The conference concluded with a Valedictory session summarizing key academic outcomes and emphasizing stronger collaboration between media, academia and industry by Dr. Sanah Absar. Event ended with high tea.

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

KULGAM, Dec 23: Continuing its citizen-centric governance initiative under the ongoing "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" campaign, the district administration Kulgam organised public outreach and grievance redressal programmes at multiple locations across the district.

A large number of residents actively participated and projected their grievances and demands. Officers from the concerned departments patiently listened to the issues raised by the public and assured time-bound and effective redressal.

Special emphasis was laid on awareness generation regarding various welfare and beneficiary-oriented schemes and on-the-spot service delivery.

The outreach camps provided an effective platform for resolving long-pending issues while further strengthening trust and coordination between citizens and the administration. Meanwhile, training sessions were also organised for farmers, and awareness programmes were conducted where-in resource persons briefed participants about departmental schemes and initiatives.

# HSM releases Hindi poetry collection 'Tawi Ki Dhara-2'

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: poetry collection of twenty Hindi poets of Jammu, titled 'Tawi Ki Dhara', compiled & edited by Dr. Chanchal Dogra and Naresh Gulati was released by Hindi Sahitya Mandal (HSM), Jammu in a book release function organized by HSM at K L Saigal Auditorium, Writers' Club, Cultural Academy, Jammu, today. Eminent Urdu Ghazal writer Pritpal Singh Betab, a Retired IAS was the chief guest on this occasion whereas a veteran writer Dr. Ratan Lal Shaant presided over the programme. Sh. Vijay Saraf Meenaghe, a renowned painter and Hindi poet shared the dais.

A large number of intellectuals, writers and artists attended the programme.

The programme started with the introduction and invitation of the dignitaries on the dais by acting General Secretary Manto Dutta Sharma. Formal welcome was extended by Sh. Vijay Saraf Meenaghe on behalf of Dr. Chanchal Dogra, President, HSM. A paper on the content and critical evaluation of the released book 'Tawi Ka Dhara' was presented by Prof. (Dr.) Raj Kumar.

It may be mentioned that Hindi Sahitya Mandal has already published and released 'Tawi Ki Dhara-1' during the year. The released poetry collection has the poetry of twenty seven Hindi poets of Jammu, some of the residing outside Jammu. The poets whose poems have been published in the book, are- Rakesh Abrol, Sanjiv Bhasin, Dr. Raj Kumar, Rajeshwar Singh Raju, Vijay Saraaf Meenaghe, Shyam Judeja, Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Naresh Khajuria, Dr. Adarsh, Dr. Agni Shekhar, Brij Mohan, Dr. Pawan Khajuria, Rajneesh Gupta, Dr. Ratan Lal Shaant, Kunwar Shakti Singh, Maharaja Krishan Santoshi, Arun Jandyal, Baldev Bal



Dignitaries releasing Hindi poetry 'Tawi Ki Dhara-2'

neel, Sunil Sharma, Manjeet Singh Kaamra, Pyasa Anjum, Pritpal Singh Betab (all residing in Jammu), and Bhuvanpati (Virginia), Darshan Kumar Vasani (Chandigarh) and Naresh Gulati (Ahmedabad).

Select Hindi poets- Shyam Judeja, Sanjiv Bhasin, Rakesh Abrol and Vijay Saraaf Meenaghe presented their poems in the programme.

While speaking on this occasion, Dr. Ratan Lal Shaant appreciated the initiatives of Hindi Sahitya Mandal organizing and conducting such nice literary events.

He also expressed his concern related to the lowering of number of audience in such rich literary programmes.

He said where writers and poets of different languages,

musicians and artists are invited, there will always be a positive output. He said that Hindi Punjabi, Urdu and Dogri are the major languages of the region and should be given due importance. He said that the intricacies of use of these languages need to be taken care of.

In her address, Sh. Pritpal Singh Betab complimented Hindi Sahitya Mandal for publishing collection of Hindi poets of Jammu in its series of book publications. He opined that such kind of books should contain the composite work of male and female poets.

He emphasized that Hindi and Urdu languages are intermingled and used in the same manner. He also recited his Ghazals on this occasion.

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# DC Srinagar reviews progress of ABHA ID Generation, Enrolment of Senior Citizens

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

SRINAGAR, Dec 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of key health initiatives being implemented in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed Medical Zone-wise progress of the enrolment of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs, the status of enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Vay Vandhana Card, an expansion of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and the implementation of Tuberculosis (TB) control measures.

At the outset, the DC

emphasized the importance of achieving universal coverage under the ABHA ID initiative to ensure seamless access to digital health services. He directed the Officers to intensify awareness campaigns and expedite the registration process across all Medical Zones/Blocks in the district so that citizens are benefited from the Government initiatives.

While reviewing the enrolment status of senior citizens under the Vay Vandhana Card scheme, the DC instructed the concerned health functionaries to ensure saturation of eligible beneficiaries, enabling them to avail cashless healthcare services at empanelled public and private hospitals under the AB-PMJAY framework.

On the occasion, the DC

emphasized the importance of digital health records, and directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum coverage through intensified awareness drives, field-level mobilisation and coordinated efforts among health functionaries.

The DC directed the Health Functionaries to ensure considerable progress in ABHA ID generation and Vay Vandhana enrolment in the coming days across all medical zones and blocks to ensure that citizens benefit from digital health services.

The DC called for improved inter-departmental coordination and real-time monitoring to address implementation gaps and ensure that the benefits of these flagship health schemes reach every eligible citizen.

# FCR directed DCs to review 328 schemes of Rs 528 Cr priority works, revert HQ in 3 days

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

CHANDIGARH, Dec 23: Financial Commissioner, Revenue and Disaster Management, Dr. Sumita Misra, on Monday directed all Deputy Commissioners to urgently review 328 flood control schemes of Rs. 528 Cr priority works while prioritizing firstly protection of abadi deh, and secondly agricultural fields and to revert Headquarters in 3 days.

The directions were issued while she was chairing the meeting of the 55th Haryana State Technical Advisory Committee on Floods (HSTAC). Dr. Misra said these works must be completed before the onset of the next monsoon, and instructed district administrations to ensure strict monitoring of execution, quality control, and adherence to timelines at the field level.

Centralised Deployment of Dewatering Pumps  
The Financial Commissioner also directed Deputy Commissioners to take inventory and ensure that all dewatering pumps are fully functional for deployment in a centralised and strategic manner so that adequate pumping capacity remains available in all vul-

nerable pockets of each district, ensuring comprehensive and timely response during heavy rainfall and water logging situations. DCs should have the inventory readily available of dewatering machinery well in advance.

While reviewing the progress of existing projects, the Committee was informed that 378 flood protection schemes amounting to Rs. 642 crores which have been completed during the current financial year. At present, 231 schemes are under execution, while 48 schemes are yet to commence.

Urban flood mitigation measures were also reviewed during the meeting. The Public Health Engineering Department informed that 30 storm water drainage projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 525.95 crore are currently under execution, while 23 projects were completed last year, aimed at addressing chronic waterlogging in urban areas. She further directed that the last year's vulnerable points should be thoroughly reviewed.

For the next monsoon, the State has allocated Rs. 460 crore for flood-related works, including supplementary provisions.

# Angel Gupta of Humanity Public School wins 2nd prize at Dogri Maanta Diwas celebration

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU/SAMBA, Dec 23: Dogra Sadar Sabha established in 1904, stands as the oldest secular organization of Jammu & Kashmir, dedicated to preserving, promoting and strengthening the cultural, linguistic, intellectual, and social legacy of the Dogra community. In continuation of this mission, Dogra Sadar Sabha, Jammu, organised a one-day programme to commemorate Dogri Maanta Diwas-2025, on the theme:

The programme was held on 20th December, 2025 at the Dogra Hall, Dogra Sadar Sabha Bhawan, Near Zanana Park, Jammu.

Angel Gupta, a student from class 9th of Humanity Public School, Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana achieved a proud milestone by securing the Second Prize in the competition by present-



Dignitaries during Dogri Maanta Diwas celebration in Humanity Public School Samba.

ing a speech in Dogri on enriching dogri language and its literary importance at the Dogri Maanta Diwas celebration, organised for showcasing the school's commitment to promoting regional language, culture, and heritage.

The event was organized to honor the rich legacy of the Dogri language and literature. Angel of Humanity Public School participated with great enthusiasm

and presented a captivating performance highlighting Dogri culture, traditions, and values.

Her confident expressions, cultural depth, and dedication impressed the judges and audience alike. She was accompanied by school teachers, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar and Ms. Sonali Katal from high wing along with 20 students from class 8th and 9th. Angel was also hon-

oured in the school assembly by the Principal, Mr. Gaurav Charak, and Vice Principal, Mrs. Anku Charak along with Academic Incharge, Mr. Akashdeep Raina and High Wing Incharge, Ms. Namrta Sharma.

Principal, Mr. Gaurav Charak expressed immense pride in Angel and congratulated her mentor Ms. Aarchi Chib for her guidance and continuous support. He appreciated the stu-

dent's efforts and emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting regional languages like Dogri among the younger generation. He said that this achievement reflects the school's dedication to holistic education and cultural awareness.

Angel remains committed to nurturing talent and encouraging students to excel not only academically but also culturally.

# Heritagean wins Inter-District Badminton Championship

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Param Raina of class XI D Heritage School, delivered an outstanding performance and clinched the Gold Medal at Inter-District Badminton Championship, organised by Youth Services and Sports, held at Srinagar on 9th and 10th December 2025.

Displaying remarkable skill and agility, Param outplayed strong contenders from across the district to secure the top position.



Students, staff posing for photograph.

Param Raina has been selected to represent the district at the School National Badminton Championship, scheduled to be held in Delhi later this month.

The school fraterni-

ty extends its heartfelt congratulations to Param Raina and wishes him continued success and an exceptional performance at the upcoming School National.

# GGM Science College Jammu hosts comprehensive election awareness programme

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu today organized a Comprehensive Election Awareness Programme with the objective of strengthening electoral literacy and reinforcing democratic values among students. The programme was held under the overall guidance of Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College, Jammu, and under the supervision of Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Nodal Officer for Election Awareness, Jammu Division.

The initiative was organized in collaboration with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, under the guidance of Mr. Salam Din (JKAS), Deputy Election Officer, and supervised by Mr. Mohd Basharat, Data Entry Operator. The awareness programme

formed part of the larger mandate of the Election Commission of India to encourage informed, ethical, and responsible participation of youth in the democratic process. The sessions focused on sensitizing students about the importance of voting, voter registration procedures, ethical electoral practices, and the crucial role of young citizens in sustaining a vibrant democracy.

A major highlight of the programme was the deployment of an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Van on the college campus, which attracted enthusiastic participation from students. Through engaging audio-visual presentations, interactive displays, and expert-led discussions, students were educated about voting rights, the electoral process, and the significance of free and fair elections. The interactive format enabled students to actively engage, ask ques-

tions, and clarify doubts. While interacting with students, Dr. Ashaq Hussain emphasized that educational institutions play a pivotal role in nurturing informed and responsible voters. He stressed that youth participation forms the backbone of democracy and urged students to not only exercise their right to vote but also motivate others to participate actively in elections.

Faculty members and students appreciated the initiative, describing it as informative, engaging, and particularly relevant for first-time voters.

The programme concluded with students taking a pledge to uphold democratic values and contribute positively to nation-building through active civic engagement. GGM Science College, Jammu continues to remain committed to promoting constitutional values, social responsibility, and civic awareness among its students.

# DPS Jammu students excel at Inter Division Baseball Competition

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Students of Delhi Public School, Jammu brought laurels to the school and made their parents proud by securing the Runner-Up Trophy at the UT-Level Inter-Division Baseball Competition 2025, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports. The competition was held at Khel Gaon, Nagrota, on

All the winners were felicitated with merit-cum-participation certificates in recognition of their performance.

The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K. Ajatshatru Singh Ji; Distinguished PVC-Kuwarani, Dr. Ritu Singh Ji; and Hon'ble Director, Sh. S.S. Sodhi Ji, along with

# Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School hosts Silverzone Olympiad "Excelencia 2025"

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu, is proud to announce the conduct of the Silver zone Olympiad, "Excelencia 2025", scheduled to take place on Saturday, 15 November 2025, within the school premises.

This prestigious event aims to foster academic excellence, critical thinking, and healthy competition among students.

The Olympiad will feature a range of subjects, including Mathematics, Science, English, GK, Analytical Reasoning, and Social Science, catering to students from classes 1st to 12th. A total of

260 students from the school have registered to participate in this event, showcasing their skills and knowledge.

"We are thrilled to host Excelencia 2025, providing a platform for students to demonstrate their academic prowess and learn from one another," said Sh. Rameshwar Mengi Ji, Worthy Principal of Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School.

"This event aligns with our commitment to promoting academic excellence and nurturing young minds."

The Olympiad will comprise a written examination for each subject, scheduled from 09:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Winners will be awarded certificates and trophies.



DPS students displaying certificates.

December 18, 2025.

The following students represented the school with remarkable skill and sportsmanship:

- Vasu Sawhney (Class XI-H)
- Pratik Sharma (Class IX-D)
- Ananmay Sharma (Class IX-A)

the Principal, Ms. Ruchi Chabra, and the staff, congratulated the students and their parents for their brilliant display of sports skills.

They also extended their best wishes to the students for continued success in all their future endeavours.

# Delegates attending felicitation ceremony of ADKUF

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: Today P L Koul Swadeshi assumed as President of one of the oldest socio cultural religious body of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, All Displaced Kashmiri United Form (ADKUF) at an impressive function held at its Durga Nagar head office. This ceremony attended by different representatives of various Kashmiri Pandit organizations, in which he was declared elected unopposed by election authority, B.B.Raina, Anil Bhan and Naveen Handoo.

This emotionally charged event managed by a well known educationist, P.K.Raina started with National Anthem, was addressed by prominent personalities of the community.

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Indian Red Cross Society, J&K actively participated in the National Immunization Day (Pulse Polio Campaign) held on 21st December 2025, reaffirming its continued commitment towards child health and national public health initiatives. The campaign aims to protect children below the age of five years from the debilitating effects of polio and to sustain India's hard-earned polio-free status.

As part of the campaign, the Indian Red Cross Society established two Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) booths, one at Red Cross Bhawan, Jammu and another at Red Cross Building, Srinagar. These booths served as important vaccination points where parents and caregivers brought their children to receive the life-saving drops. Team Red Cross including Dr. Rita Kumari,



A view of Pulse Polio Campaign.

Dr. Manpreet Kour, Medical Officers assisted by Sh. Balbir Singh, Sup. Lab Technician, Sh. Joginder Kumar, Pharmacist, Smt. Mohna Devi, FMPHW and Sh. Raj Pal, chowkidar in coordination with health department officials, ensured smooth conduct of the vaccination process and proper guidance to beneficiaries.

To further strengthen the campaign and leave no child unprotected, extensive house-to-house vaccination and follow-up activities were conducted on

22nd and 23rd December 2025. Teams of trained Red Cross volunteers and frontline health workers visited residential areas, identified children who had missed the dose on National Immunization Day.

During the outreach activities, volunteers also engaged with parents and guardians, sensitizing them about the importance of repeated polio vaccination and addressing myths and misconceptions related to immunization. The community response remained encouraging, re-

flecting growing awareness and trust in public health programs.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, IRCS J&K, appreciated the dedication and tireless efforts of Red Cross staff and health workers. He stated that protecting every child from polio is a shared responsibility and emphasized that continued vigilance, active community participation, and coordinated efforts are essential to ensure that no child is left behind.

The Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir, continues to play a vital role in supporting government-led health initiatives through volunteer mobilization, awareness generation, and last-mile outreach. The Society remains steadfast in its mission to serve humanity and contribute towards building a healthier, safer, and polio-free future for all children.

# Neev PLW Public School celebrates annual function

## EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Dec 23: The Annual Function of Neev PLW Public School, run by Women's Welfare Organisation, Patiala Locomotive Works was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the school premises with active participation of students, staff, and members of WWO, PLW.

Shri Rajesh Mohan, Principal Chief Administrative Officer, PLW, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Mrs Archana Mohan, President, PLW WWO. Both dignitaries appreciated the school's efforts in nurturing young minds and promoting holistic development.

The function was organised on the

theme of Women Empowerment, given by Mrs Archana Mohan. The theme highlighted the importance of respecting every girl and ensuring her safety and education. She urged everyone to take a pledge to be a voice for every silenced girl and support every woman, so that every girl's birth is celebrated and she is respected in the society. The mes-

sage was widely appreciated by all.

Cultural performances with power messages on women empowerment by the small children of Neev PLW Public School added great impact to the theme of the programme. The School Annual Report highlighting academic and co-curricular achievements was also presented by the Headmistress.

# MCM pays 'Pushpanjali' to Mehr Chand Mahajan on his 136th Birth Anniversary



## EARLY TIMES REPORT

CHANDIGARH, Dec 23: Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women organised 'Pushpanjali', a solemn and heartfelt floral tribute to the great visionary and jurist Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan, on the occasion of his 136th birth anniversary. Born in 1889, Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan was a distinguished jurist and statesman who served the nation with exemplary integrity and foresight. As the third Chief Justice of India, he played a pivotal role during the formative years of the Indian judiciary and earned widespread respect for his unwavering commitment to constitutional values, judicial independence, and the rule of law.

The commemorative programme was

marked by a dignified floral offering, followed by reflective deliberations on his inspiring life, ideals, and enduring legacy. The gathering also observed a moment of silence as a mark of reverence, collectively reaffirming respect for his invaluable contribution to the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma reflected on the rich legacy of Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan, stating that his life stands as a timeless reminder that truth and justice are not merely ideals but profound responsibilities. She further added that his visionary principles continue to inspire institutions like MCM to nurture ethical, informed, and conscientious citizens committed to nation-building.

# CLUJ organises workshop on LOCF, revised Postgraduate Programme Structure

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) today organized a one-day workshop on the Learning Outcomes-Based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) and the revised structure of One-Year and Two-Year Postgraduate Programmes at the Conference Hall of GGM Science College, Jammu.

The workshop was conducted in accordance with UGC guidelines and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, as part of preparatory measures for the implementation of revised one year and two year postgraduate programmes from the Academic Session 2026-27. The programme was presided over by the Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, while the Prof. Mohammad Mobin, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Srinagar inaugurated the workshop as Chief Guest.

Earlier, the workshop commenced with a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Dean, Academic Affairs who outlined the objectives of the programme. She emphasized that the transition to one-year and two-year post-



Dignitaries during workshop organized by CLUJ.

graduate programmes necessitates clarity in learning outcomes, assessment strategies, and a thoughtful curriculum design, and expressed confidence that the workshop would help faculty align academic practices with national educational reforms.

Prof. Renu Nanda, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Jammu and Prof. J. N. Baliya, Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu were the Resource Persons.

In her address, Prof. Renu Nanda, highlighted that the curriculum structure of the revised postgraduate programmes must be student-centric, engaging,

and meaningful, with a strong emphasis on competencies, skills, and holistic development, in consonance with the vision of NEP 2020. Deliberating on the Learning Outcomes-Based Curriculum Framework, Prof. J. N. Baliya underscored that Outcome-Based Education focuses on clearly measurable knowledge, skills, and attitudes that learners are expected to attain by the end of their educational journey. He further stressed that the LOCF of every programme should comprehensively include the vision and mission, graduate attributes, qualification descriptors,

programme learning outcomes, and course learning outcomes, ensuring coherence, transparency, and academic rigor.

In his address as Chief Guest, Prof. Mohammad Mobin emphasized the need for academic rigor, flexibility, and coherence in postgraduate curricula under NEP 2020. He noted that the LOCF provides a robust framework to ensure comparability, quality, and transparency in higher education, while empowering institutions to design programmes responsive to learners needs and societal demands.

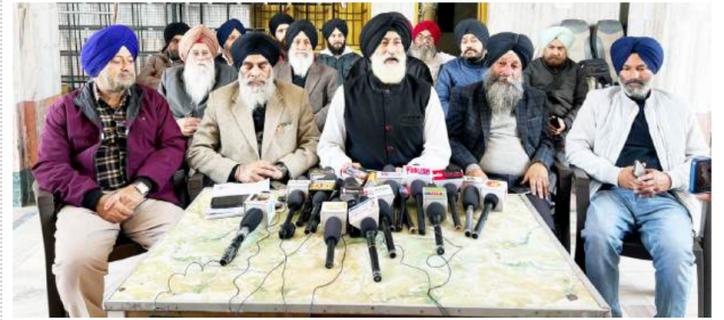
In his presidential address, Prof. K. S. Chan-

drasekar underscored the significance of outcome-based education in transforming higher education, noting that LOCF is central to ensuring academic flexibility, skill orientation, interdisciplinary learning, and global competitiveness, in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Deans and Principals of constituent colleges, Directors of various university wings, Financial Advisor, Conveners of Boards of Studies, Heads and Coordinators of Postgraduate Programmes, and faculty members of PG schools and colleges.

The workshop was effectively coordinated by Prof. Zubair Kales, Dean, Faculty of Education. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Sugandha while Dr. Rajesh Kumar Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, presented the formal vote of thanks. The workshop concluded with an interactive session, reaffirming the University's collective commitment to strengthening postgraduate education under the NEP framework

# DGPC Jammu to organise seminar, screening of animated movie "Chaar Sahibzaade"



Vice President S Balvinder Singh addressing media persons in Jammu.

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: S Balvinder Singh Vice President DGPC Jammu along with S Surjit Singh Gen Secretary, S Tejinder Singh & S Harjeet Singh both members DGPC shared with media that to commemorate the supreme and unparalleled martyrdom of the four Sahibzadas, the revered sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj DGPC Jammu, is observing Safar-e-Shahadat Week from 21st December to 28th December 2025 in different Gurudwaras of Jammu District. Their extraordinary sacrifices continue to inspire humanity with the eternal values of faith, courage, righteousness, and resistance against injustice.

As part of these week-long commemorations, DGPC Jammu has planned a series

of awareness and educational programmes across various Gurudwaras in the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, with special emphasis on sensitising the younger generation about the historical significance, moral strength, and spiritual legacy of the Sahibzadas.

In this connection, a one-day seminar and screening of the acclaimed Punjabi animated film "Chaar Sahibzaade" will be organised on 25th December 2025 in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Jammu.

The seminar will be addressed by eminent scholars and academicians, including Dr. Harjod Singh Ji from Punjabi University, Patiala; Dr. Sewak Singh Ji from

Anandpur Sahib; and Dr. Harsimran Singh, Assistant Professor, University of Jammu. The speakers will highlight the supreme sacrifices, bravery, and timeless moral values exemplified by the Sahibzadas.

The seminar will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, followed by a lunch break from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. The screening of the animated movie will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by tea thereafter.

The DGPC, Jammu, has appealed to people from all walks of life—especially students, youth, academicians, and civil society members—to participate in large numbers and pay homage to the Sahibzadas, whose martyrdom remains a timeless beacon of truth, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to justice.

# Indian Army conducts Lecture on Women Empowerment at Gursai Moori

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

POONCH, Dec 23: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote social awareness and strengthen community engagement, the Indian Army organised an informative lecture on Women Empowerment at Government High School, Gursai Moori, District Poonch, on 23 December 2025.

The initiative aimed to educate young students about gender equality, inspire confidence among girl students and reinforce the vital role of women in nation-building. The lecture was attended by 107 students and 10 faculty members, reflecting strong participation from the school community.

During the session, emphasis was laid on empowering women through education, skill development and equal opportunities. Students were sensitised to the significant contributions made by women in diverse fields such as defence, education, administration, science and sports. The speakers highlighted that a truly progressive and inclusive society can only

be achieved when women are respected, supported and encouraged to realise their full potential.

Special focus was placed on gender sensitisation, safety awareness, self-confidence and the importance of challenging outdated stereotypes. The troops motivated students particularly girl students to pursue their aspirations fearlessly and take an active role in shaping the nation's future.

The lecture witnessed enthusiastic participation, with interactive discussions and queries related to career guidance, personal development and women's rights. The school administration expressed sincere appreciation to Indian Army for conducting such a meaningful and impactful programme that broadened the perspectives of young minds.

The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to supporting educational institutions through awareness initiatives and community-centric programmes. The lecture on Women Empowerment at Government High School, Gursai Moori, stands as a significant step towards nurturing a confident, informed,

# Jammu & Kashmir Kabaddi team shines at 6th National Kabaddi Championship held at Bhopal

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

JAMMU, Dec 23: Winner team received warm welcome by Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Bahu Fort along with all Sabha's Organisations of Bahu Fort Jammu in the premises of Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj Bahu Fort Jammu.

While speaking on this occasion Sham Lal Basson Gen Secy SGRD Sabha Bahu Fort said that the Kabaddi tournament was organised by Academy of Unity on 6th Dec 2025 in the premises of playground of Govt Higher Sec School Bahu Fort on the eve of Mahaparinirvan Divas of Bharat Rattan Baba Saheb Dr B R Ambedkar and the selected teams (One male and one female) departed from Jammu on 16th Dec for Bhopal to compete 6th National Kabaddi Championship on in presence of Sham Lal basson SHO Ashwani Kumar, Baldev Raj Nargotra, Bahadur Lal, Bishan Dass. Both the teams performed excellently under the supervision of Sunil kumar-coach and Ajay Kumar team manager. Male team



Winners posing for group photograph along with trophy.

included Danish (Captain) Lovedeep, Prince, Aslam, Rudher, Vansh, Sahil, Aryan Aryan Sagotra, Manav ana Manik. This team won Gold Medal/Winning Trophy.

Female team included Payal (Captain), Tania Simran Parachi, Arti and Chiki. This team received bronze medal. Kudos to both teams for representing J&K with pride. Rousing reception was given to both teams at Jammu. Victory rally was organised by prominent persons of bahu fort jammu which started from Gurudwara SGRD ji. While covering Sheikh nagar,

Gorkh Nagar and Kalka Colony it concluded again at Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj Bahu Fort jammu. Refreshment was served to all participants.

While addressing the gathering Sh Ashwani Kumar- SHO Police Station Bagh E Bahu appreciated the efforts of both the teams and extended congratulations to coach Sunil kumar, event manager Ajay Bhagat and parents of players. He said such type of activities will keep the youths away from drug addiction. Everybody knows that drug-addiction is global

problem now and we are committed to eradicate it with the co operation of all sections of society.

Kulbir Singh (Bittu Bawa), Baldev Raj Nargotra, Bahadur Lal, Bishan Dass ( Retd SP) also addressed the gathering and congratulated to both teams, organisers and parents of players. They said that other youths of Jammu in general and youths from Bahu Fort Jammu in particular will be get inspirations from these teams. The parents of these teams were much excited to see the performance of their children at National level

# MSSCT paid tributes to first Prime Minister of J&K Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

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

The people who were present on the occasion senior and respectable members from various sections of society, women and children were also present on the occasion. Mr. Gupta said that Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan was born on December 23rd, 1889, in Kangra, Punjab (now Himachal Pradesh).

He was the first prime minister of Jammu & Kashmir during (15 October 1947 - 5 March 1948 (142 days) the reign of Maharaja Hari Singh and played a key role in the accession of J&K to India.

He was the Indian National Congress nominee on the Radcliffe Commission that defined the boundaries of India and Pakistan.

He was also the third Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India and also a social activist and writer who worked for the welfare of people of India. He played a key role in the Kashmir accession to India. He had written three famous books titled "Preserving Unity of India", "Increase Food Production", "Kashmir's Accession to India". Mr. Gupta said that it is very unfortunate that we have no time to remember our heroes who had sacrificed and contributed their life for the welfare of the people and the country.

He said that the Govt. should declare holiday on the birth anniversary of the first prime minister of J&K. The people who were present on the occasion included R. K Gupta Gen Secretary MSS, Krishna Gupta, Advocate Monika Gupta President Women Wing MSS, Rinku Gupta Rekha Gupta Kusam Gupta etc.

# PSMICT delegation meet DC Anantnag

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

ANANTNAG, Dec 23: A delegation of devotees comprising renowned social activist and Ex-President and General secretary PSMICT Sh. M. K. Yogi and Sh. Veerji pandita along with Dr. M. K. Bharat, Mr. Ashwani sidha and Mr. Pankaj Bhawani met the Worthy Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Shri Faqrudin Sahib, and urged immediate intervention. They requested a detailed inquiry and urgent remedial measures to safeguard the sacred fishes and ensure such incidents never recur. The Deputy Commissioner assured prompt action and necessary steps. It was also highlighted that dead fishes are drifting downstream towards Chakka Nadi, Sangam Ghat, and adjoining areas, lying unattended, posing further environmental and spiritual distress.

A heartfelt appeal is made to him to treat this matter with utmost seriousness, ensure a thorough investigation, fix accountability, and take swift, permanent measures to protect and revive the sacred aquatic life of Shri Martand Tirth. The devotees urged authorities to act immediately to safeguard this ancient heritage site and uphold the faith and sentiments of devotees worldwide.

# SIBA organises Multispeciality medical camp, heartfelt tributes paid to Late Madan Lal Sharma

**EARLY TIMES REPORT**

AKHNOOR, Dec 23: In a heartfelt tribute to the late Sh. Madan Lal Sharma Ji, esteemed former MLA and MP, \*SIBA Event Management and Innovations Cooperative Ltd., under the guidance of \*Sh. Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, organized a \*Multispeciality Medical Camp\*



A view of Multispeciality Medical Camp in Khour.

at ND Resort, Thangar, Akhnoor today, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The initiative brought together reputed healthcare institutions — \*Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity DR NAREN KHATRI, Dinesh marketing and team \*, \*Family Health Care Dr Digvijay Singh bhau, and \*Goel Eye Clinic Bhushan Lal bhat, Banti ram Aayash Rohit Kumar\* — as collabora-

tive associates in this noble cause.

Over \*1,000 people\* from the local and surrounding areas benefited from the free medical services. The camp offered \*general health check-ups\* including \*BP and sugar testing, along with specialized consultations in \*orthopedics, neurology, and gastroenterology. A dedicated \*eye care section\* con-

ducted eye check-ups and screenings using advanced equipment, and distributed \*free eye drops and medicines\* to patients in need.

The effort served not only as a tribute to Sh. Madan Lal Sharma Ji's lifelong commitment to public welfare but also as a reaffirmation of the community's resolve to continue his vision of service and compassion.

**FORTUNE FORECAST**

**Aries**

Your tremendous intellectual potential will help you to fight the disability. Only by keeping positive thoughts you can fight this problem.



**Taurus**

Tension at home would make you angry. Suppressing them would only increase physical problem. Get rid of it with physical activity. It is better to leave the irritating situation.



**Gemini**

Health wise this period will be dull therefore be careful of what you consume. Increase in income from past investment is foreseen. By overcoming differences with family members- you will easily accomplish your goals.



**Cancer**

You are likely to impress people around you with your positive outlook and confidence. You are likely to earn through most unexpected sources. Everyone wants to be your friend today- and you would be too happy to oblige.



**Leo**

Avoid oily and spicy diet. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Short trip to the relative brings moment of comfort and relaxation from your daily hectic schedule Sex appeal give desired result.



**Virgo**

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Today, you are likely to attain economic benefits due to your children. This will make you very happy.



**Libra**

Health will be perfect despite a hectic day. As you have spent a lot in the past, you may have to face the consequences in your present.



**Scorpio**

Yoga and meditation will help you to keep in shape and stay mentally fit. If you wish to lead a smooth life and maintain a stable standard of living, then you need to remain attentive today regarding your finances.



**Sagittarius**

Your health will bloom as you share happy moments with others. But be careful as neglecting it would trouble you later on.



**Capricorn**

Start meditation and yoga for physical gain especially mental toughness. You will obtain benefits from commissions- dividends- or royalties.



**Aquarius**

Your evening will be marked with mixed emotions which can keep you tense. But there is no need to worry much-as your happiness will give you more joy than disappointment.



**Pisces**

Health needs care. Any negligence in the workplace or business can cause you financial loss today.



# Shilpa Shetty Kundra lauds Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar'

**B**OLLYWOOD actor Shilpa Shetty Kundra praised the entire team of Aditya Dhar's directorial "Dhurandhar", calling it one of the most patriotic films she has seen in a long time.

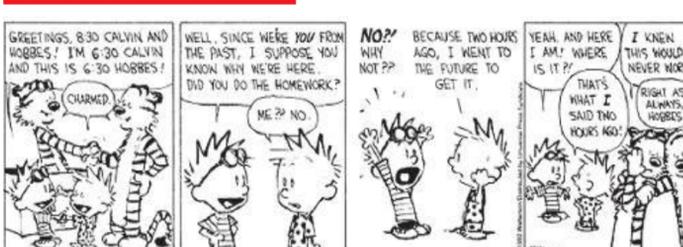
Released on December 5, the film features Ranveer Singh alongside Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, Sara Arjun, R Madhavan and Rakesh Bedi.

It follows covert intelligence operations set against a backdrop of geopolitical and terror events like Kandahar plane hijack, 2001 Parliament Attack and 26/11 Mumbai attacks. **(PTI)**

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



*Recipes*

**CURRY SHRIMP AND RICE**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 medium onion, chopped
- 1 carton (32 ounces) chicken broth
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) diced potatoes, drained
- 2 cans (7 ounces each) white or shoepeg corn, drained
- 1 can (13.66 ounces) coconut milk
- 1 can (8 ounces) bamboo shoots, drained
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 to 3 teaspoons Thai red chili paste, optional
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 12 ounces peeled and deveined cooked shrimp (61-70 per pound)
- 2 packages (8.8 ounces each) ready-to-serve long grain rice
- Optional: Lime wedges and fresh basil

**METHOD:**

In a Dutch oven, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir until tender, 4-5 minutes. Add broth, potatoes, corn, coconut milk, bamboo shoots, curry powder, chili paste if desired, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, until flavors have blended, 12-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add shrimp; heat through. Prepare rice according to package directions; serve with curry. Sprinkle with additional curry powder. If desired, serve with lime wedges and basil.



CM Yogi Adityanath announces major relief for small, marginal farmers

EARLY TIMES REPORT

LUCKNOW, Dec 23: On Sunday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Youth Cooperative Conference and UP Cooperative Expo 2025 at Jupiter Hall, Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, as part of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025.



Under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Samridhi Yojana, loans will now be provided at six percent interest through the LDB, with the remaining interest subsidy borne by the state government.

During the event, the Chief Minister announced major relief for small and marginal farmers. He noted that loans from the UP Cooperative Rural Development Bank currently carry an interest rate of around 11.5 percent, placing a significant burden on farmers.

CM Yogi said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government constituted a separate Ministry of Cooperation for the first time, which was earlier only a small department under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Modern LHB rake on Balurghat-Kolkata-Balurghat express inaugurated

EARLY TIMES REPORT

MALIGAON, Dec 23: Indian Railways has introduced a new modern LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rake on Train No. 13161/13162 Balurghat - Kolkata - Balurghat Express, marking a significant upgrade in passenger comfort, safety and travel experience.



The inaugural run was flagged off by Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The programme was held in the august presence of Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Hon'ble MLA, Balurghat, along with senior railway officials of Katiar Division and other distinguished guests.

giers travelling between Balurghat and Kolkata. This upgradation reflects Indian Railways continued commitment to improving passenger amenities and modernising train services.

Indian Railways remains dedicated to strengthening rail connectivity in the region and providing safer, faster and more comfortable travel options for passengers. The upgraded Balurghat-Kolkata-Balurghat Express is another step towards achieving this objective.

When a farmer harnesses energy, the earth yields gold": Chief Minister

EARLY TIMES REPORT

LUCKNOW, Dec 23: On Kisan Samman Diwas, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath saluted the hard work of farmers and boosted their morale. He spoke about the glow on the faces of farmers who received tractors under the Kisan Samridhi Yojna, noting how some were taking their mothers while others their wives on the tractors.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offered floral tributes to the statue of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh at the Vidhan Bhavan premises on his birth anniversary.

van premises on his birth anniversary. On the occasion of Kisan Samman Diwas, the Chief Minister handed over tractor keys to farmers and also felicitated farmers, scientists, FPOs and others. He inaugurated the plot allotment process of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Seed Park at Atari, Lucknow.

The Chief Minister said that farmers in Uttar Pradesh have progressed through their hard work. When Narendra Modi took charge of the country in 2014, farmers became part of the government's agenda for the first time. The earth is our mother and we are her children; therefore, it is the duty of a child to

help the mother in times of illness or crisis. Through Soil Health Cards, Prime Minister Modi in 2014 made people aware of the health of Mother Earth. Farmers were connected with the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, followed by initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, PM Kisan

Samman Nidhi, MSP assurance, and improved facilities for farmers from seed to market.

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured farmers by conferring the Bharat Ratna on Chaudhary Charan Singh. The agricultural loan waiver programme was implemented for small and marginal farmers. Earlier, farmers were not part of government schemes, but today they receive benefits from every scheme. Middlemen no longer decide crop prices. If farmers get good prices in the market, that is fine; otherwise, the government purchases their produce. Production of crops such as paddy, wheat, gram, mustard, bajra and maize has increased manifold in Uttar Pradesh, while costs have come down forming the foundation of farmer prosperity.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0: VC urges learning Tamil 'With Heart' for National Unity

EARLY TIMES REPORT

CHENNAI, Dec 23: Pondicherry University inaugurated the ten-day "Tamil Karkkalam" (Let's Learn Tamil) workshop under Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 at the Subramaniya Bharathiyar School of Tamil Language and Literature, in collaboration with the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai. This national initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, promotes cultural integration and Tamil heritage among students nationwide.



Thirty students with faculty coordinators from Uttar Pradesh institutions attended. Prof. M. Karunanidhi, Head of the Department, welcomed the gathering, followed by a traditional "kuthuvilaku" lamp-lighting by dignitaries and Banaras Hindu University's program coordinator, Dean Prof. Dr. Sudalai Muthu delivered the keynote.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Prakash Babu inaugurated the event, stressing multilingualism in curricula and calling on students to learn Tamil "with heart rather than tongue and intellect" inside and outside classrooms. He highlighted ancient spiritual ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, stating cultural North-South exchanges strengthen national integrity. His Holiness Sri Sivagana Balaya Swamigal, 20th Pontiff of Mailam Poppapura Adheenam, encouraged participants, linking Kashi to Thirupnathazh Madam and praising Tamil alphabets' simplicity. The Vice-Chancellor and His Holiness honored attendees with shawls and memorial bags; Dr. A. Lakshmi Duttai, Assistant Professor and coordinator, gave the vote of thank.

Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora highlights HMEL's Major industrial expansion plans of 2600 Crores in Punjab

EARLY TIMES REPORT

CHANDIGARH, Dec 23: Cabinet Minister for Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion, Power & NRI Affairs, Government of Punjab, Sh. Sanjeev Arora, on Tuesday highlighted the significant industrial contribution and future expansion plans of HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd. (HMEL), reaffirming the State Government's commitment under the visionary leadership of National Convener Sh. Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Punjab S. Bhagwant Singh Mann to support large-scale investments and strengthen Punjab's industrial ecosystem.

aging Director & CEO, HMEL said that we are going to invest in a refinery and petrochemical complex in Bhatinda. We produce fuels like petrol, diesel, LPG, ATF, along with polymers including polyethylene and polypropylene. We got full support from people of Punjab as well as the government during construction and operations of this massive complex. So far, neither construction or operations have been affected even for a day during the last so many years. This is mainly due to proactive policies and ease of doing business of the Punjab government. We are fortunate to have a far-sighted leader, Shri Sanjeev Arora, who is dynamic, reform centric, development oriented and outcome focused. He said that under Sanjeev Arora dynamic leadership, Punjab's industrial growth will create new opportunities for entrepreneurs, industries, and youth of the state.



Sh. Sanjeev Arora said that HMEL stands as a landmark public-private partnership between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)—a Navratna and Fortune 500 PSU—and Mittal Energy Investment Pte. Ltd., Singapore (Lakshmi N. Mittal Group), and has emerged as one of Punjab's most significant industrial success stories. He assured them that they will get full government support for expanding their plant in Punjab.

He noted that HMEL's refinery and integrated petrochemical complex, spread over about 2,000 acres at village Phulokheri, tehsil Talwandi Sabo, district Bathinda, commenced refinery operations in 2011, while the addition of the petrochemical facility in 2023 has substantially enhanced value addition and downstream industrial activity in the State. The Minister highlighted that HMEL currently has an annual turnover of approximately Rs. 90,000 crore and contributes around Rs. 2,100 crore annually to the State exchequer in the shape of taxes, underlining its critical role in Punjab's economy. The project provides employment to nearly 10,000 persons, both directly and indirectly, making it one of the largest industrial employers in Punjab. He further pointed out that HMEL produces substantial quantities of LPG, petrol and diesel, playing a crucial role in meeting the fuel requirements of North India. In addition, HMEL is the second-largest producer of polymers in India, catering to nearly 14 per cent of the country's total polymer demand.

Following the CM's instructions, activities under both these schemes have been intensified in all districts of the state. The objective of these schemes is to spread road safety awareness among the youth and ensure quick assistance and medical facilities for accident victims. This aims to effectively reduce the number of road accidents on one hand, and reduce the number of fatalities in case of accidents on the other. The state government has entrusted the responsibility of monitoring these schemes to the District Road Safety Committees, through which road safety is being transformed into a mass movement. The Central Government's 'Sadak Suraksha Mitra' program is currently active in 28 districts of the state. This scheme focuses on making young people active participants in road safety campaigns. Under the program, 423 young volunteers in UP have registered on the 'My Bharat' portal and are receiving training. The State Public Service Foundation organized the first training camp in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida.

CM orders immediate release of funds worth Rs 68.98 crore to upgrade premier medical colleges of Punjab

EARLY TIMES REPORT

CHANDIGARH, Dec 23: In order to provide quality treatment and diagnostic facilities to the people in the Medical Colleges, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has ordered immediate release of funds worth 68.98 crore to give a facelift to premier Medical Colleges of the state. Chairing a review meeting of the Medical Education and Research Department here today, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Augmenting

the facilities in these Medical colleges of the state was the need of the hour to ensure quality treatment and diagnostic facilities to the people. To equip these Medical colleges with hi-end and world class machinery is imperative so that they can serve the patients in a better manner." The Chief Minister asked the Medical Education department to immediately issue 68.98 crore to the four medical colleges in the state to upgrade the facilities. He further said that 26.53

crore should be promptly issued to Government Medical College Amritsar, 28.51 crore to Government Medical College Patiala, Rs 9.43 crore to Dr BR Ambedkar Institute of Medical Sciences SAS Nagar (Mohali) and 4.51 crore to PGI Satellite Centre, Ferozepur. "These funds should be duly utilised for development works in the Medical Colleges along with procuring latest machinery and equipment in the larger public interest," noted the Chief Minister.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated the firm commitment of his government to emerge the state as a hub of 'Medical Education' across the globe adding that this will give further boost to treatment and diagnostic facilities. The Chief Minister batted that these works in the medical colleges should be completed in a time bound and prompt manner so that better health facilities are made available to the people at affordable

rates. "Punjab has a glorious legacy of producing world class Doctors across the globe and even today a large number of students pursue the medical education to become qualified doctors.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE table with columns: Catalogue No., Auction Start, Name of work.

New initiatives to strengthen road safety in UP: Expansion of 'Sadak Suraksha Mitra' and 'Rahveer' yojana

EARLY TIMES REPORT

LUCKNOW, Dec 23: Under the guidance of CM Yogi Adityanath, the 'Road Safety Mitra' program and the 'Rahveer' programs are being promoted in the state with the aim of preventing road accidents and increasing awareness.

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Public Works Division, Dharashiv E-Tender Notice No. 1-10/2025-26 advertisement with contact details.

