

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### No major rain or snow for a week: Sonam Lotus

SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): As light to moderate rains lashed many places in Jammu and Kashmir, the Meteorological Department (MeT) on Monday said there was no major forecast for rains or snow for the next seven days. Director of the Meteorological Department, Sonam Lotus, wrote on X: "NO forecast of any Major Rain/snow for a week."

He also said that weather was favorable for harvesting & outdoor activities.

Earlier, Meteorological department had also said that rains were likely to stop by afternoon and fair to partly cloudy was expected thereafter in Kashmir and partly to generally cloudy in Doda.

### CRPF Jawan mysteriously dies of bullet injury in Kot Bhalwal Jail Jammu

JAMMU, Oct 2 (Agencies): A head constable of Central Reserve Police Force on Sunday allegedly died of bullet injury in mysterious circumstances inside Kot Bhalwal Jail in Gharota area here in the city outskirts.

Police said that the jawan identified as Rakesh Kumar, resident of Mukundgarh, district Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, who had recently resumed his duty after leave, was found dead due to a bullet injury in the jail premises.

"On hearing a gunshot early this morning, the security personnel were on alert and came out of their barracks. They found the jawan lying in a pool of blood at the main entrance of the high security jail and his service rifle (Ak-47) was lying nearby him," they added.

As per preliminary investigation, police said that it is suspected to be a suicide but exact reason will be ascertained only after the investigation is completed.

### 3 residential houses damaged in separate fire incidents in Kupwara

KUPWARA, Oct 2 (Agencies): Three residential houses were damaged in two separate fire incidents in Lolab area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) two residential houses were

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## LG unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi, Charkha installation at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and a Charkha installation, as a mark of tribute to the Father of the Nation on his Jayanti, at Civil Secretariat.

"Puja Babu always believed that the message of Charkha's circumference is much broader than its tangible circumference. The goal of the Charkha is to serve mankind, to live without hurting others, to create an inseparable bond between the rich and the poor, capital and

labour," the Lt Governor said.

Charkha was used as a significant tool by Babu in the fight against British Rule. It is a symbol of Swadeshi movement, self-reliance and economic freedom, he said. Paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, the Lt Governor said the ideals of Babu are for all humanity.

"I hope our officers, inspired by Babu's ideas and ideals, will continue to work dedicatedly for the dignity of every citizen in the society, for equality, social justice, and for a developed and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

nor said.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to develop the villages as the centre of socio-economic growth and transform the lives of the rural population.

Today, villages in Jammu Kashmir are witnessing unprecedented growth due to the availability of various sources of income. New entrepreneurs are starting their new innings from villages. In terms of basic facilities, the gaps between village and the city are disappearing, the Lt Governor said.

Following the ideals of Puja Babu, J&K in

2021-22 had established 21,640 manufacturing and service units in the villages with the help of KVIC, providing employment to more than 1.73 Lakh. In the last Financial Year, more than 10,628 new units had been installed, he added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) for the installation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and Charkha. He also called for collective efforts by all the stakeholders for promotion of Swadeshi products. There is a need to promote city-based Self Help Groups engaged in Khadi, which has become a new fashion statement for youth, he said.

Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, KVIB; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dr Manddeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries and senior officers of UT and Police administration also paid their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

## Shah congratulates J&K over ODF feat, says UT attained new heights in growth after Article 370 abrogation

SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): As Jammu and Kashmir achieved 100 per cent Open Defecation-Free (ODF) status, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the state has attained new heights in development and growth after the abrogation of Article 370 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah took to 'X', formerly Twitter, to share



his feelings as Jammu and Kashmir have achieved 100 per cent ODF Plus model status in yet another remarkable accomplishment achieved during the ongoing 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign.

"Heartiest congratulations to the people of J&K for achieving 100 per cent ODF Plus status. After the abrogation of Article 370 under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the J&K has attained new heights in development and growth," Shah posted on 'X'

"The schemes implemented by the Union Government are now being seamlessly

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## Finance Department urged to halt pension for Six Departments

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): Alarmed over the irregularities detected in the processing of pension to non-admissible cases through different treasuries of the Jammu Division, the office of the Principal Accountant General, Jammu and Kashmir, has urgently requested the Finance Department to halt the pension revision pay-

ments related to six departments.

These departments include Irrigation and Flood Control, Jai Shakti (PHE) Department, Power Development Department (PDD), PDC, R&B, Agriculture, and Headmasters/Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) of the Education Department.

The Principal Accountant General Office

has also requested the Treasury Officers for the recovery of the payment already processed to the illegal beneficiaries.

"You're requested to kindly issue instructions to the treasuries to stop payment on pension revision authorities pertaining to Irrigation and Flood Control, Jai Shakti (PHE) Department, Power Development

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## J&K Police organizes 'Run for Peace' Kashmir Marathon in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police organized a 'Run for Peace' Kashmir Marathon event, as part of its Civic Action Programme at the Lake View Police Golf Course at the Boulevard Road in Srinagar.

Scheduled for Monday, October 2, the marathon route stretched from Lake View Park Golf Course (LVPGC) to Duck Park via the picturesque Nishat-Foreshore road.

The event was flagged off by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) S.J.M Gillani and saw the participation of approximately 3,000 athletes from across Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of students, locals, and

even wheelchair-bound people participated in the race that featured 13 different categories.

Speaking about the event, Insha Basheer, a participant said, "All of us students are very happy by this initiative of J&K Police. We appreciate this step for the youth which will help to keep them physically and mentally fit. It will also help in keeping the youth away from the drugs."

The patron of the event was the Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh while the Additional Director General of Police J&K, S.J.M Gillani served as the Chairman of the organizing committee.

The traffic police in Srinagar city on Sunday

issued a traffic advisory as Jammu and Kashmir Police geared up to host 'Kashmir Marathon-2023', a Run for Peace event that drew a diverse crowd from all walks of life.

To ensure the smooth movement of participants, the Boulevard Road in Srinagar was temporarily closed for general traffic from 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM on the day of the event.

The marathon is a long-distance foot race, usually run as a road race, the distance can also be covered on trail routes.

The marathon can be completed by running or with a run/walk strategy. There are also

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## Journalists' body calls for law to protect scribes, tackle Fake News

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Journalists and experts from different fields deliberating on challenges confronting the media "on a daily basis" have called for a central law to protect "truth-seeking journalists" and censure those peddling fake news.

The attendees at the all-India seminar, organised under the banner of

the Indian Journalists' Union, pitched for setting up a media commission, a long-standing demand, saying that though the Press Council of India is "strong constitutionally," it doesn't have the authority of a commission.

"The Indian Journalists' Union organised a national-level seminar to deliberate on

the challenges that are confronting the media at all levels on a daily basis and how to bring them within the ambit of the law to protect truth-seeking journalists and censure fake and paid news peddlers," seminar coordinator and former IJU president S.N. Sinha said in a statement on Sunday.

In the nearly three-

hour-long brainstorming session, Mr. Sinha said, IJU representatives from over a dozen states and Union Territories looked at various challenges confronting the media, including print, electronic and social, and deliberated on finding ways to "protect the genuine journalists from harassment, intimidation and

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### CASO underway in several villages in Rajouri, gunshots heard

RAJOURI, Oct 2 (Agencies): A cordon and search operation was launched by security forces in several villages of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Official sources said that joint teams of Indian Army, J&K Police and CRPF launched a Cordon and Search Operation in villages of Kalakote police station jurisdiction.

They said that intense search operation is going on in the villages and the forest areas.

Some gunshots have

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**10TH DAY**

We inform the sad and untimely demise of our mother **Mrs Usha Raina** wife of Dr Bal Krishan Raina S/o Late Smt Parmashevari Raina and Shree Dina Nath Raina of Seer Jagir Sopore Kashmir presently at 1827, Gali No 4, Kashmiri Block, Jain Nagar, Karala, New Delhi 110081.

**10TH DAY** will be held on 4th October 2023 Wednesday at Sect 16 Canal Ghat, Rohini, New Delhi.

**SHOK SANTABT PARIVAR :**

Dr Bal Krishan Raina - **Husband**

**Son and Daughter-in-law**

Ishan Raina and Smt Portia Raina

Aditya Raina and Mrs Khushboo Raina - **Son and Daughter-in-law**

Dr K. K. Sharma and Dr Sharika Sharma - **Nandoie and Nanad**

Dr Subash Raina and Dr Sheela Raina - **Nandoie and Nanad**

Dr Kuldeep Pandita and Mrs Khema Pandita - **Nandoie and Nanad**

Master Ivaan and Angad Raina - **Grand Children**

**With Samast Raina and Kachroo Parivar.**

**9818185157, 9650699995, 9891234067**



Mrs Usha Raina

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that S. Lachhman Singh S/o Late Gyani Suchha Singh Alam R/o 606/F, Nanak Nagar, Jammu has left for heavenly abode on 29/9/2023.

**PROGRAM**

Katha/Kirtan - 30/9/2023 to 05/10/2023 from 6.00 to 7.00 pm  
Aramb Shri Akhand Path - 6/10/2023 (Friday) at 10.00 am (at residence)  
Bhog Shri Akhand Path - 8/10/2023 (Sunday) at 10.00 am followed by Kirtan upto 11.00 am.

**Antim Ardass** - 8/10/2023 (Sunday) from 4.00 to 5.30 pm at Gurudwara, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Brother & Sister-in-law

Retd. Col. G.S. Babbar & Sdn. Harbans Kaur

S. Lakhbir Singh Bawa & Sdn. Harvinder Kaur

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

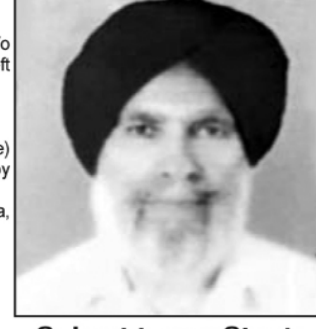
Sdn. Irvinder Kaur, Principal (10+2) & S. Arvind Singh Jt. Dir. Agriculture

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

S. Inderpreet Singh, Er. Nagbani School & Sdn. Gurpreet Kaur

**Grand Children :** Dr. Amanpreet Kaur (Registrar (Anesth) GMC)

Mr. Gursimran Singh (Er.) Miss Harshleen Kaur & Mr. Divyot Singh



S. Lachhman Singh

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Veer Ji Zadoo** S/o Lt. Sh Ram Ji Zadoo originally resident of Purshayhar Habba Kadal Srinagar at present H.No. 149 (H) Durga Nagar Sector-1, near JK Bank ATM.

**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed on Thursday 05th of October at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8.30 am.



Sh Veer Ji Zadoo

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Usha Ji Zadoo - **Wife**

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Vishal Zadoo and Sheetu Zadoo

Arvind Zadoo and Monika Zadoo

**Grand Children:** Aayan, Kritika, Aarya

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Chanchal Gupta W/o Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta R/o H.No. 214, Sec. No. 2, Shivkai Puram, Jammu Colony, Jammu.

**10TH DAY** shall be performed on 30th Sept 2023 Saturday at 11.00 to 12.00 Noon at our residence.

**KRIYA** shall be performed on 3rd Oct 2023 (Tuesday) at our residence from 8.30 AM onwards

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta & Smt. Sushma Gupta

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs. Savita Gupta & Mr. Deepak Aggarwal

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Mr. Sanjay Gupta & Mrs. Indu Gupta

**Brothers & Sisters-in-law**

Sh. Sat Paul Gupta & Smt. Rani Gupta

Sh. Yash Paul Gupta & Late Smt. Kanta Gupta

Sh. Subash Gupta & Smt. Neelam Gupta

**Sister & Brothers-in-law**

Smt. Janak Gupta & Lt. Sh. Kasuri Lal Gupta

Smt. Vijay Gupta & Sh. Bal Krishan Gupta

Smt. Anita Gupta & Sh. Ramesh Bhusan Gupta

**Sisters in Law & Brothers in Law**

Smt. Leela Gupta W/o Lt. Subash Chander Gupta



CHANCHAL GUPTA  
(REASI WALE)

Smt. Chintpurni W/o Sh. Bhusan Pargal

Smt. Darshina Gupta

**Grand Children:** Mridul, Richhna,

Nayara, Kanika

Ph.No: 788913223, 7889501294

**10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kastur Singh Jammal** S/o Lt. Maan Singh R/o 421/1, Sector C, Sainik Colony, Opp Army Gate (originally from Raipur) on 22-09-2023.

**10TH DAY** will be performed at Ram Mandir Sec. D Sainik Colony Jammu on 01-10-2023 (Sunday) at 10.00 AM

**KRIYA** will be performed on 04-10-2023 at our residence at 12.00 Noon (Wednesday)

**UTHALA** shall be performed on 04-10-2023 at Ram Mandir Sec. D Sainik Colony, Jammu from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Sura Kanta - **Wife**

Smt. Anita & Ajay Singh Jammal (JKAS Retd)

**Daughter & Son in Law**

Smt. Veena Pathania W/o Lt. Col. H. S. Pathania

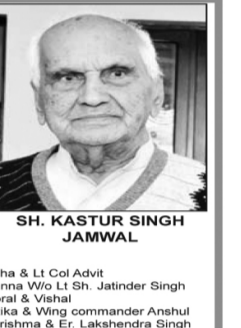
Smt. Rita & Ashok Singh Manhas

**Grand Children**

Dr. Vishal & Aditya Partap Singh

Er. Anandita & Er. Amit Bhandral

Er. Aprajita & Naval Commander Pankaj



SH. KASTUR SINGH  
JAMMAL

Apetasha & Lt. Col. Ardit

Dr. Panna W/o Lt. Sh. Jatinder Singh

Dr. Coral & Vishal

Dr. Ritika & Wing commander Anshul

Er. Karishma & Er. Lakshendra Singh

**Great Grand Children**

Ashburn, Shourya, Yash, Janvi, Aarya,

Vraj, Anika, Aaira, Agranya, Rudhr

**CHOUBARS**

Sincere remembrance and respectful tributes on the solemn occasion of your 4th Death Anniversary. Choubars of our beloved Mother **Smt. Pushpa Devi** W/o Late Sh. Rattan Chand Sharma (Tehsilidar) shall be performed at our residence 'Namisharan' Magar Nagar, (Near Kailash Ashram) Chinore - 180013, 12.00 Noon onwards on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :**

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Parshotam Dadhichi & Dr. Vijay Lakshmi

Dr. Kulbhushan Sharma & Sunita Sharma

Er. Ravinder Sharma & Dr. Neena Sharma

Rajinder Sharma & Ria Sharma

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Nirmal and Er. R.L. Khajuria

Neelam and Dr. M.L. Sharma

Dr. Neeraj & Er. Rakesh Baru

J.N. Sharma & Vaisnava Sharma - **Niece & Nephew**

Er. Kuldeep Sharma & Kailash - **Niece & Nephew**

Dr. Ashok Sharma & Savita - **Niece & Nephew**

& Grand, Great Grand Children

Mobile : 9419101742, 9419147113, 9419223898, 9149549700, 7889300700



Smt. Pushpa Devi

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved **Showki Bhat (Beta)** W/o Bansi Lal Bhat R/o Bangund Verinagh at present H.No. 103, L.No. 03, Dream City left for heavenly abode on 25th September, 2023.

**10th Day** will be performed on 04-10-2023 near Muthi Ghat (Director School Education Muthi) at 8.30 am.

**Grief Stricken**

Sh. B.L. Bhat - **Husband**

Manisha Bhat, Akshira Bhat - **Daughters**

Smt. Usha Bhat W/o Lt. P.K. Bhat - **Devrani**

Vishal Bhat, Kunal Bhat - **Sons**

Bitta Pandita - **Sister-in-Law**

Ashok Pandita - **Brother-in-law**

**Daughters & Sons:** Pooja Pandita, Manisha Pandita, Rahul Pandita



Showki Bhat (Beta)

Mob. 9419100900

**BARKHI**

The Barkhi of our beloved Brother **Sh Shamsher Singh Wazir** R/o H.No 14 New Plot opp Krishna Building, Jammu on 3rd October, 2023 (Tuesday) at 11 am

**Grief Stricken:**

Sisters in Law and Brothers

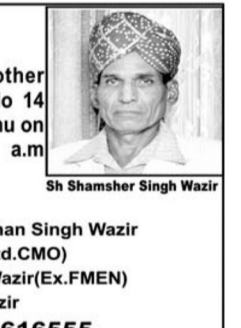
Smt Vidya Devi & Retired ZEO Sh. Mohan Singh Wazir

Smt Rajni & Dr Rajinder Dev Wazir (Retd. CMO)

Smt Rajkumari & Sh. Kuldeep Singh Wazir (Ex.FMEN)

Smt Manju & Rtd Sub Puran Singh Wazir

**M 9622200786. 9796616555**



Sh Shamsher Singh Wazir

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Kamla Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Bhanan Dass Gupta (Kirpind Wale) R/o H. No. 213, Mohalla Paharian, Jammu expired on 24.09.2023 (Sunday).

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 3rd October 2023 (Tuesday) at SHREE GEETA MANDIR, SAMRITI BHAWAN, NEAR KARAN HOTEL, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU AT 10.00 AM TO 11.00 AM.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 8th October 2023 (Friday) at our residence at H No. 213, Mohalla Paharian, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**

Sh. Jugal Kishore & Smt Mohini Gupta

(Bhishan Karyana Store, Malhotra Street, Jammu)

Smt. Sanjeev Gupta (Joint Commissioner Food Safety, JK) & Dr. Jyoti Gupta

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Smt. Neelam Gupta & Sh. Subash Gupta

Smt. Seema Gupta & Sh. Parveen Gupta

Smt. Jyoti Gupta & Sh. Suniti Gupta

Smt. Chanchalo Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Charman Lal (Jethani)

Smt. Darshina Devi W/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan (Devar & Devrani)

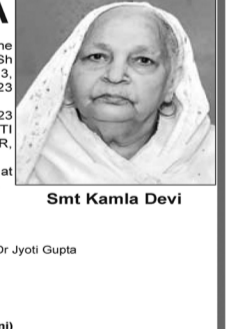
Smt. Bachno Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Kewal Krishan (Narand)

**Grand Sons & Grand Daughters-in-law**

Sh. Puneet Pargal & Smt. Sheena Gupta

Sh. Krish Mahajan

9419191357, 9796872211, 7051473095



Smt Kamla Devi

**MASVAR/VAHRWAER**

It has been one year since you left for heavenly abode but you are still in our hearts and your immense presence is felt every moment in our life. Your memories and noble qualities will remain a source of inspiration to all of us. May Almighty give your soul eternal peace and Moksha.

**Masvar/Vahrwaer** of our beloved **Late Sh Devinder Bakaya** will be performed on 2nd Oct and 3rd Oct respectively at H.No. 156 main lane, Manorama Vihar, Patta Bohri Jammu Tawi.

**Deeply Missed and Remembered by :**

Smt Nancy Bakaya - **Wife**

Mr Nitin Bakaya - **Son**

Sh. Roop Krishan & Shiyana Bakaya - **Brother and Bhabi**

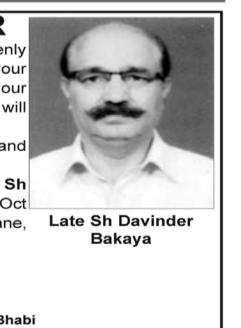
Sh. Ravinder & Reeta Bakaya - **Brother and Bhabi**

**Sisters & Brothers in law**

Smt Phoolia Zutshi W/o Lt. Rattan Lal Zutshi

Smt Sarla Zutshi W/o R. L. Zutshi

Smt Basanti Moza W/o Lt. Vijay Kumar Moza



Late Sh Devinder  
Bakaya

**MOURNING FROM MALIYUN SIDE**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bentathi (Smt Indrani Kaul** W/o Late Prithvi Nath Kaul of Karfalli Mohalla Sgr) D/o Late Smt. Dhanwati and Late Sh Madav Lal Nehru of 61- Karan Nagar Sgr Kmr.

**MOURNING** is being observed at D-404 SPS Residency, Indrapuram Ghaziabad UP.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 4th October 2023 Wednesday at 9:00 AM at Muradnagar Nehar Ghat U.P.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Brothers and Sisters-in-law**

Smt. Raj Dulari W/o Late Sh. M.L. Nehru Ph: 9419211055

Smt. Girja & Sh Roshan Lal Nehru - Ph 09312883053

Smt. Sheela & Sh Maharaj Krishen Nehru - Ph 09900173978

**Sister**

Smt. Shanta Kaul Sultan W/o Lt. Sh. M.L. Kaul Sultan

**SAMAST NEHRU, KACHROO, DHAR & SULTAN PARIVAARS**



Smt Indrani Kaul  
(Bentathi)

**10TH DAY & KRIYA**

With great sadness and immense pain, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchal Abrol** W/o Sh. Shiv Kumar Abrol, resident of Ward No. 7, Main Bazar Kathua who left for heavenly abode on 23rd Sept 2023.

The demise leaves a heartache that no one can heal and left us alone in this materialistic world.

**10TH DAY** rituals will be performed on 2nd Oct (Monday) 2023 at 10:00 AM at our residence Ward No. 7, Main Bazar Kathua.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 5th Oct (Thursday) 2023 at 12:00 Noon at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Shiv Kumar Abrol - **Husband**

**Son & Daughters**

Mr. Tarun Abrol

Miss Sheetal Sonia

Miss Romani Abrol

**& All Family Members**

Mob Nos: 70511-07087,  
70511-96106



Smt. Chanchal Abrol

**BARKHI**

One year have passed since you left us for your eternal journey, your memories are still fresh and we still feel your presence everywhere everytime.

**Barkhi** of our beloved **Sh. Anil Sagoch** son of Late Mohan Lal Sagoch will be performed at our residence H.No. 20, Sector No. 3, Upper Roop Nagar, JDA Housing Colony, Jammu on 03 October 2023 (Tuesday) at 12:30 PM.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY**

**Sagoch Family**

**Dogra, Verma, Banotra, & Bamotra Family**

**7006813003, 8899003273**



Sh. Anil Sagoch

"Your guidance and love keeps lighting up our lives"

**CHOUBARS**

# Efforts are being made to create J&K of Bapu's dreams: LG Sinha

## TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the UT-level event organized by the Department of School Education to celebrate the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The event also marked the culmination of the 'Shanti Yatra' started from Anantnag and series of other programmes which are the part of the month-long celebrations of Gandhi Jayanti held in schools across the UT.

In his address, the Lt Governor extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The Lt Governor recalled the eternal values of Mahatma Gandhi, which has been inspiring generations across the world and the power of truth, ahimsa, satyagraha, simple living is guiding entire humanity on the path of peace and brotherhood.

"Bapu's thoughts are powerful instrument for prosperity, dignity and empowerment of people. His timeless ideals are the only effective instru-



ment to tackle the challenges confronting the world," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor applauded the inspirational journey undertaken by more than 27,000 students during Shanti Yatra to pay homage to Bapu and his ideas and ideals.

Bapu's life teaches us that spirit of dedication and purity of means, can not only ensure independence but the society can also be made prosperous, the Lt Governor said.

"Efforts are being made to create J&K of Bapu's dreams. The voices being raised against violence from every

corner of J&K and huge participation of people in 'Shanti Yatra' is a testament that the teaching of peace and inclusive development of Mahatma Gandhi have turned into a Jan-Andolan," he said.

The Lt Governor urged every section of the society, especially the youth to imbibe wisdom from the valued teachings of the Father of the Nation and strive to build a peaceful, inclusive and equitable society.

Each and every precious word of Bapu acts as an institution. What you will learn from his philosophy of life is not available anywhere else. Only the precious trea-

sure of Bapu's ideals will be able to guide you in nation building and it will empower you to protect the social interests, he said.

The lifelong campaigns of Pujya Bapu and his philosophy of truth, non-violence, selfless service, sacrifice, love and tolerance must continue to guide all the citizens to achieve the golden future of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also commended the artists and students for depicting the life of Mahatma Gandhi through their enthralling performances.

At the UT-level event,

the Lt Governor honored the eminent Gandhians from across the country for their extraordinary contribution in promoting the teachings and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

He also interacted with the participants of the Shanti Yatra and felicitated the students who have excelled in various competitions organized as a part of Gandhi Jayanti celebration.

On the occasion, the Gandhians including Padma Shri SP Varma; Sh Ramesh Bhaiya; Sh Laxmi Das; Dr Ranjana Mukhopadhyay, and Sh Ashok Kapoor threw light on the lifelong campaigns of Mahatma Gandhi.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, School Education; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; senior officials; heads of educational institutions; students, teachers, youth and prominent citizens were present. Educational Institutions from across the UT also joined through virtual mode.

# Dharam Sansad to be held at Jammu on Oct 26: Sadhu Samaj



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Mahant Rajesh Bittu on Monday announced that a Dharam Sansad will be organized in Jammu on 26th October. Previously, a Dharam Sansad was held in RS Pura, with the participation of many Sadhu Saints addressing various issues. Now, this Sansad will take place at the Press Club Jammu, where various issues concerning the Sadhu Samaj will be discussed, including the actions of both the central and UT governments regarding the welfare of the Sadhu Samaj. Many Sadhu Saints from across the country will attend this Sansad.

Mahant Rajesh Bittu mentioned that, before the Sansad, the Sadhu

Samaj will meet with the LG to discuss arrangements and other related matters. He emphasized that while the government establishes many religious boards, it often fails to consult the sadhus, which will also be discussed. He further announced that, in light of Pitri Paksh, a Samuhik Pitri Pujan will be held on 8th October to pay tribute to the martyrs and ancestors. He appealed to everyone to come forward and honor the martyrs and ancestors.

During the event, Mahant Datt Giri Ji Maharaj also briefed the attendees about the Dharam Sansad's purpose. Such Dharam Sansads are organized to address the concerns of the Sadhu Samaj. He stated that several

important issues would be discussed during the Sansad, such as those pertaining to the Sant Samaj, land grabbing of temples, the reopening of temples in Kashmir, and more. Mahant Datt Giri Ji Maharaj pointed out that many temples and temple properties are illegally occupied, and the Sadhu Samaj is making efforts to reclaim them, a topic that will be discussed during the event. Decisions will also be made during this Sansad, and he urged everyone to participate.

Mohan Giri extended a vote of thanks to all the members of the Sadhu Samaj present at the event. Among those who were present include Mohan Giri, Abhay Giri, Mohan Bharti, Mahant Jasmar and Giriya Giri.

# Former Minister Mula Ram bereaved

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has deeply condoled the sad demise of Smt. Kanta Devi Wife of Former Minister & Senior Congress Leader Shri Mula Ram Bhagat.

President JKPC Shri Vikar Rasool Wani and all Senior leaders of the party have condoled the sad demise of Smt. Kanta Devi and conveyed their condolences

es to Shri Mula Ram Bhagat and other family members. He described Kanta Devi a pious and kind lady who remained socially active throughout her life. PCC Chief conveyed heartfelt condolences on behalf of the rank and file of the party.

All other senior leaders of the party included Former PCC President & Member CWC Shri G.A. Mir, Shri Raman Bhalla (Working President PCC), Sh. Tara Chand (Ex-Dy CM),

Shri Yogesh Sawhney, Ravinder Sharma, Th. Balwan Singh, T.S. Bajwa, Smt. Kanta Bhan, Smt. Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Rajnish Sharma, Th. Manmohan Singh, Vinod Sharma, Th. Balbir Singh, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Ch. Shah Mohammad, Ved Mahajan, Hari Singh Chib, K.C. Bhagat, Pankaj Dogra, Sanjeev Sharma, Kapil Singh, Pranav Shagotra, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Narinder

Sharma, Ashwani Puri, Sajeev Panda, Neeraj Gupta, Thomas Khokhar, Manjeet Singh Jatt, Satish Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Karan Bhagat, S. Amolak Singh, S. Gurdarshan Singh, H.S. Mehta, Suresh Dogra, Rajveer Singh, Rajinder Singh Nathu, Jatin Raina, Ricky Dalotra, Com. Gurmeet Singh, Michael Wazir, Camres David Babloo, and others have expressed deep shock and conveyed their

heartfelt condolences to bereaved family.

Former PCC Presidents Prof. Saifuddin Soz and Peerzada Mohd Sayeed, Shri Amrit Malhotra (Ex-Chairman Legislative Council), S. Gurmukh Singh (Ex-Dy Chairman Legislative Council) also deeply condoled the death of Smt. Kanta Devi and conveyed their heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul in heaven.

# Army, civil authorities organise cleanliness drive in Kishtwar

## TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 2: A remarkable cleanliness drive took place in several places viz High Secondary School, Chhatta, TRC & Senior Secondary School, Mughal Maidan, Main Market of Chingam Village, Roadside cleaning from Dak Bangla to Navapachchi Taxi Stand at Navapachchi, Govt Middle School, Niche at Chas under Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath Swachhata Campaign of Kishtwar District of J&K. More than 600 people from

different regions actively participated in the event. The collaborative effort between the Indian Army and Civil Authorities marked a significant step towards promoting cleanliness and raising awareness about the importance of a clean environment. The event was organized under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) to emphasize the shared commitment to a cleaner and healthier India. Soldiers and Civil Volunteers worked hand in hand

to address cleanliness issues. Activities such as waste collection, segregation and cleaning of public spaces were carried out with dedication and enthusiasm. This initiative demonstrates the power of collaboration. When the Indian Army and civil authorities come together can achieve remarkable results. The event saw participation of individuals of all age groups, further strengthening the bond between the Armed Forces and the Awaam.

# Hold elections in J&K in consonance with assurance given in SC: Harsh

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Accusing the Election Commission of scuttling the election process initiated for Local Bodies polls in J&K at the behest of BJP, a strong contingent of JKNPP led by its State President and former Minister Mr. Harsh Dev Singh held a massive protest outside Nirvachan Bhawan in Jammu today. The protesters raised the slogans of 'BJP-EC Gathbandhan Hai Hai', 'Loktantra Ke Qatil Murdabaad', 'T.N Seshan Amar Rahein' demanding immediate conduct of Municipal elections as per the original schedule. They further sought immediate holding of Assembly polls in J&K which have been denied to erstwhile State for the last five years only to allow BJP to continue its proxy rule in the UT.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh said that during the recent hearing on Art 370 and allied matters in the Supreme Court, the Constitution Bench of the Apex Court had questioned the govt over the denial of elec-



toral democracy to the people of J&K. And the BJP govt had categorically stated that the process for Municipal elections had already been set in motion and that they were going to be held shortly. "And to ensure the implementation of its assurance to SC, the State election body had issued the process and announced the reservation chart also for all the wards of the UT. But the said process seems to have died a quite death after BJP's disagreement with the said proposal", said Harsh. He further maintained that the govt had taken a stand through its Attorney in the Supreme Court that it was all prepared for the Assembly

elections also and that the final call would be taken by Election Commission. It was shocking however that despite an unambiguous statement made before the Supreme Court, the elections were again being evaded only to address the political concerns of the ruling party, anguished Harsh added.

Urging upon the EC to proceed with its original schedule for timely Municipal Elections, Mr. Singh said that any postponement of the said elections would not only amount to contempt of Supreme Court but also erode the left over credibility of the top Election Body of the country. He said that

EC had already invited objections in respect of reservation roster and the J&K govt including its helmsmen and LG had also repeatedly announced installation of local self govt on time so as to avoid uninterrupted flow of Central funds. "As such any further postponement of the said elections only to please a particular political party would be the biggest insult to democracy, rule of Law and the Constitution", asserted Harsh.

Prominent among those who were present in the protest included Paramjeet Singh Marshall (Vice President JKNPP), Karan Singh, Gurjeet Singh besides others.

# Congress commemorate Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri in Jammu

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Congress party gathered at the Gandhi Statue in Satwari Chowk, Jammu, to pay floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and commemorate Former Prime Minister of India Late. Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji on their birth anniversaries. PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President PCC Raman Bhalla, Yogesh Sawhney Former Minister J&K and other senior Congress leaders were present. The Congress leaders paid their respects with floral tributes and remembered the unsurpassed contributions of the leaders as imprinted in the history of India.

PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani addressed the gathering, saying, Gandhi Jayanti is and important day in that it serves as a reminder of the values that Mahatma Gandhi lived and died for. His message of non-violence, truth, and social justice is as relevant today as it was in his time. The Congress party strives to uphold these values and work towards a more just and equitable society.

Working President PCC Raman Bhalla emphasized the need



for unity and said, today, on Gandhi Jayanti, we should remember that Mahatma Gandhi's call for unity and harmony is more critical than ever. All should work together, transcending dividing lines, to build a stronger and more prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney, InCharge District President Jammu (Urban) also spoke to the people and said that he saluted the indomitable spirit of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri ji on their birth anniversaries today.

Along with Vikar

Rasool, Raman Bhalla, Yogesh Sawhney, Manmohan Singh, Kanta Bhan, TS Tony, Vijay Sharma Babbi, Indu Pawar, Satish Sharma, Pawan Dev Singh, Uttam Chib, Satpal Sapoliya, Dawarka Choudhary, Sandeep Dogra, Bhanu Mahajan, Pritam Singh, Raspal Bhardwaj, Rakesh Sharma, Vijay Malhotra, Pardeep Bhalla, Nageshwar Narayan, Pardeep Bhagat, Ajay Lakotra, Sardar Parveen Singh, Ajay Mehra, Sardar Lal, Tarshaim Sharma, Monika Sharma, Prem Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Vijay Khajuria, Arvind Sharma, Omkar Singh,

Bhupinder Kaur, Veena Devi, Suman Choudhary, and others were present.

## NOTICE

I, Om Prakash Targotra (Old Name), Son of Babu Ram, has changed my name from Om Prakash Targotra (Old Name) to Om Parkash (New Name). I do hereby assume from this date the name / surname Om Parkash (New Name). Objections if any may be conveyed to the authorities concerned within seven days of publication of this notice.

## EDITORIAL

CAREER  
PLANNING

Career planning is the responsibility of the employee. Of course, the organisation has to provide opportunities for development of the employees and their careers to meet the requirements of the organisation. This means assisting the employees to achieve a better match between personal goals and the opportunities that are available in the organisation.

Career Planning refers to the process of finding a suitable job based on your interest, personality, skill set etc., choosing an educational program, changing jobs within your industry or to a different one and also that helps you to climb the success ladder in your current job. The career planning system manifests its importance in attracting competent people, providing suitable promotional and advancement opportunities, providing challenging work, enabling to develop, boosting morale, increasing motivation, utilizing managerial reserves, and in retaining the talents. Career progression refers to making progress in one's career through a series of right moves. Career development means actions undertaken by a person to achieve the career goals.

Career planning is the responsibility of the employee. Of course, the organisation has to provide opportunities for development of the employees and their careers to meet the requirements of the organisation. This means assisting the employees to achieve a better match between personal goals and the opportunities that are available in the organisation.

Sometimes, there may not be enough positions at higher level for upward movement of even high performers. Therefore, career planning efforts need to focus on those areas that offer psychological success instead of vertical growth. Psychological success is basically a feeling of personal achievement and fulfillment. In the current business environment, the career of a person may cover many organisations and different positions compared to earlier years when the employees were less mobile and organisations were more stable.

A career planning system coordinated within an organisation's staffing system fosters a well-integrated mechanism for meeting the present and future HR needs of an organisation. The system is designed to enhance the career satisfaction of employees and to improve the organisational effectiveness.

This will help the individual to explore, choose and strive to derive satisfaction from his/her own career. Career planning should not focus only on vertical hierarchical growth but should also offer psychological success. It is not an event or an end in itself, but a continuous process for developing human resource in order to achieve maximum result.

The career plan of an individual employee and the career path in the organisation should not have many differences. If the individual employee cannot convert his/her career plan into reality in the organisation, he/she may quit the organisation.

Therefore, organisations have the responsibility to provide support to the employee to plan his/her career, so that both their needs are satisfied. Career planning is not the same as human resource planning, as it only talks about the individual employee and his/her growth in the organisation. Of course, it assists in succession planning by giving a clear picture of the individual's potentials.

HR planning is a broad concept which helps the organisation in performing all HR related activities, separately deciding sub plans for them. HR plan helps in analysing and estimating the need for and the availability of employees in an organisation. However, career planning assists in HR planning by providing information on the strength and willingness of employees

In everyday parlance, the word 'career' is used in a number of different ways. People speak of 'pursuing a career', 'career planning', and attending 'career workshops'. Job fairs are held where information is available about different career options for college students.

A career then is a sequence of positions occupied by a person during the course of his or her life. This may be considered as an objective perspective of career. In a subjective sense, it refers to where one is going in one's work life. The subjective viewpoint is more-or-less held together by a self-concept that consists of perceived inclinations and abilities, basic values, career motives, and needs.

## India's influence has always far exceeded its hard power

By: Sanjaya Baru

India, that is Bharat, has always had enormous influence on world affairs. Influence is what analysts define as "soft power". "Hard power", on the other hand, is made up of military and economic power. It is commonplace to suggest that India has had, and continues to have, far more soft power than hard power. What is, however, not adequately recognised is that sometimes "soft power" can even do the job of "hard power".

After all, prior to 1947, Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement was an example of how soft power was used to confront the hard power of an imperial regime, resulting in the eventual non-violent overthrow of two hundred years of colonial rule.

Analysts have pointed to the fact that even after Independence, India's soft power has extended Indian diplomatic influence much further than its hard power was capable of doing. The worldwide end of the British Empire was as much a consequence of the hard power results of the Second World War as it was of the soft power impact of anti-colonialism inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. India's example inspired anti-colonial movements across Asia and Africa, as well as the civil rights movement in the United States.

India became the "Voice of the Global South" way back in the 1950s as a consequence of the soft power appeal of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru across the post-colonial world. It is an example of India's soft power altering the global bal-

ance of power. One could go further back in history and view the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism across Asia as examples of Indian soft power having global consequences. Given that hard power is defined as military, economic and technological power, the only example of Indian hard power impacting the world was the break-up of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971.

In dealing with China too, India has had more success in the past deploying the soft power of its liberal, pluralist democracy rather than the insufficient hard power that it possesses. In fact, Indian hard power has not deterred China as much as Indian soft power has been able to, since it is the latter that makes many developed and developing countries support India. Even the success of the G-20 summit in New Delhi can be attributed to Indian soft power. The mobilisation of the "Global South" and securing the admission of the African Union into the G-20 are examples of the success of diplomatic soft power.

While China still scores in Africa using hard power, India carries weight across the continent due to its soft power. India's membership of G-20 was in part due to its soft power, given that it has the lowest per capita income among the G-20 countries. It was admitted as a balancer to China, given the sudden rise in China's profile in dealing with the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98. Even in 2008, the decision to elevate the G-20 finance ministers' group to the heads of government level was taken to camouflage Western dependence on China in the

resolution of the 2008-09 trans-Atlantic financial crisis. On both occasions, India's democratic credentials rather than hard economic power helped it sit at the global high table.

India's case for membership of the United Nations Security Council has been made more effectively by drawing global attention to the soft power of Indian democracy and her civilisational attributes than any muscle flexing and display of hard power. A civilisational nation, home to four of the world's seven great religions, a nation of well over a billion people, home of some of the world's oldest languages, and so on and so forth. How can any global organisation of nations not give India a pride of place along with the countries of Europe and Asia?

One can go on and on providing examples of the importance of soft power for a militarily and economically still rising India. It was not at all surprising that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a hardcore adherent of Hindutva, led the entire leadership of the G-20 to Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi. Along with Indian music, dance and cuisine, the legacy of the Mahatma was effectively deployed at the G-20 summit to project India's soft power.

Given this, a decade ago, if the Government of India had denied any involvement in the assassination of an individual on foreign soil the world would have had little hesitation in believing it. The world readily believed that big powers like the United States and Russia carry out assassinations on foreign soil. But India was seen to be different. Even though India has

never hesitated to deploy hard power to achieve its national security objectives in its own neighbourhood, India's State agencies have never resorted to what is referred to as "extrajudicial killings" on "foreign soil". They have done so only at home.

The recent controversy around the killing of a person of Indian origin in Canada may have dented that reputation, even though the government has denied any involvement and rejected all insinuations. Given that the present government in New Delhi has often claimed credit for its deployment of hard power, its denial of any involvement in the killing in Canada is being taken with a pinch of salt. When a political leadership takes pride in its "muscular" approach to national security, such denials of such actions are naturally viewed with some doubt.

As in the case of individuals, so also in the case of nations, a good and positive reputation painstakingly built over decades, in the case of nations even centuries, can easily be erased by the questionable attitudes and actions of a few in a brief period of time. The negative reputation of an Adolf Hitler still haunts the German people, just as the positive reputation of a Mahatma Gandhi still adorns the global view of India. It is important that a country's political leadership preserves and safeguards a nation's soft power even when deploying hard power.

Governments have to sometimes do things for "Reasons of State" (raison d'état). But they must do such things in a manner that does not bring disrepute to the nation and its people.

## New India faces new challenges especially in the field of education



By: Vijay GarG

In a rapidly evolving global landscape, the education sector is experiencing a profound transformation. This transformation is especially critical for a country like India, where education plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of its burgeoning population. Burlington English, in collaboration with Scoo News, recently released a groundbreaking report titled 'Unlocking Success: Turning Policy and Frameworks into Real-World Action.' The report presents a compelling roadmap for the implementation of the National Curriculum Framework in India. By drawing insights from educators across the nation and offering practical toolkits, it has the potential to transform the school education landscape in India, making

it more inclusive, innovative, and future-ready.

This report sheds light on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) implementation roadmap, drawing insights from the experiences and perspectives of over 1000 school teachers across six states in India. The key findings of this report discuss how it has the potential to revolutionise school education in India. One of the report's most compelling insights is its emphasis on embracing the 'Scope for Failure' as a crucial element of the learning journey. This perspective encourages a shift in the way educators and students perceive failure, turning it into an opportunity. This mindset shift is fundamental in preparing students for the challenges of the future. Besides, it acknowledges the importance of English and treats it as a skill that helps employability in India and abroad. The report suggests a two-language set up to take load off the students. One of the strengths of the report lies in the extensive research conducted. The insights gathered from over 1000 teachers, spanning the K-12 domain, provide a compre-

hensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the Indian education system. This diverse sample size ensures that the report's recommendations are grounded in the realities faced by educators at all levels. The report addresses several key themes that are crucial to shaping the future of education in India:

The concept of 'Future Schools' explores the need for educational institutions to adapt to the rapidly changing technological landscape. It emphasises the importance of incorporating innovative teaching methods and cutting-edge technologies to prepare students for a world that is vastly different from what it was a decade ago.

Recognising that teachers are the backbone of any educational system, the report delves into the importance of providing teachers with the necessary resources, training, and professional development opportunities. Empowering teachers is key to improving the quality of education. To translate these key themes into actionable steps, the report provides eight essential action points and three

project toolkits designed for classroom implementation. These practical tools equip educators with the resources and strategies needed to transform their classrooms into dynamic learning environments. This hands-on approach bridges the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that the NCF is implemented effectively.

The report is particularly well-suited for the educational landscape of 'New India,' which is characterized by its aspiration for innovation, inclusivity, and excellence. The report aligns with NCF as the report directly addresses the NCF, aligning its recommendations with the national education policy framework. This ensures that its insights can be seamlessly integrated into the existing educational structure. The emphasis on adaptive assessments and teacher empowerment promotes inclusivity in education, catering to the diverse needs of students in a country as diverse as India.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal PES-1  
Educational columnist  
Malout Punjab)

## Growth in rural areas is fueling socio-economic development of J&K UT: LG Sinha



### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the 'Cashless Panchayats', adoption of BHIM-UPI mode of transactions in Gram Panchayats of J&K UT. At the Swachh Bharat Diwas Celebration event organized by Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor handed over the land allotment orders to the Landless beneficiaries of PMAY-G. A total of 245 landless PMAY-G beneficiaries from across J&K UT were identified for land allotment orders today on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. He also dedicated 13 Block Development Council buildings across J&K to the PRI representatives to mark the occasion. In his address, the Lt

Governor expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for shaping a new destiny of J&K, which has achieved historic milestone of ODF Plus under 'Model' category. Door to door collection of waste has been initiated in all the Panchayats, segregation sheds have been established and a financial model has been developed to ensure sustainability of the waste collection mechanism, thereby converting waste to wealth, the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT Administration to bring socio-economic transformation in the lives of the people living in villages. "Growth in rural areas is fueling the socio-economic development of J&K UT. Our villages have come closer to the

cities in terms of facilities, connectivity and infrastructure," the Lt Governor said. He said the on-boarding of 4274 Gram Panchayats of J&K on Cashless Mode today are the part of the government's endeavour to digitize the gram Panchayats and make them more transparent, accountable and effective. The Lt Governor commended the Directorate of Rural Sanitation for its novel initiative of 'Swachhata Bulletin' to monitor and share daily updates, activities by districts in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari and encouraging the community members to share feedback and contribute in building "Swachh and Swasth J&K". He directed the Rural Development Department to ensure the new system put in place in rural areas for sanitation remains dynamic, the new facilities developed in this journey are properly maintained, and the waste management system should be continuously monitored. The Lt Governor felicitated the Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal, Ramban, Srinagar, Budgam and Kulgam, and Swachhata Champions for their outstanding contribution in Swachhata campaigns and in achieving ODF Plus Model status. Four booklets under SBM-G on Door to Door Waste Collection Guidelines, Legacy Waste Management Guidelines, Safe Sanitation Index and Panchayat Sanitation Index released, and Sarpanches of Cashless Panchayats were also felicitated on the occasion. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Manddeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Ms. Manddeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Sh Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; HoDs, PRI members, senior officers, Swachhata Champions and beneficiaries under PMAY-G attended the event, in person and through virtual mode.

## CS e- inaugurates Geo-science Museum at SIDCO Budgam



### TOP NEWS REPORT

BUDGAM, Oct 2: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today inaugurated Geology and Mining Department's first of its kind Geo-science Museum & District Mineral Office Budgam at SIDCO Budgam. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary appreciated the department of Geology and Mining for opening the Geoscience Museum as a centre for research for all geologists and scientists. Dr Mehta said the centre would not only serve as a spot of Geoscience tourism but

also help preserving out rich geo heritage. Chief Secretary virtually also inspected the 150 samples of fossils, rock minerals and industrial minerals of J&K preserved at the Museum. He emphasised that the Museum is made a place of learning and awareness regarding the rich geo heritage of Jammu and Kashmir for the students also. Secretary Mining, Dr Rashmi Singh who addressed a gathering during the inaugural function said that it is great achievement that rare and huge collection of minerals have been kept under one

roof at this Museum. She urged teachers and school heads to make best use of this museum to generate awareness regarding preservation of rich heritage of J&K among students. Secretary Mining also deliberated on the different facets of the Department preserving the Mineral and Geological resources. As a mark of tribute on Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhi Jayanti various stone carved models including Charkha were also displayed in the Museum. Paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhiji,

the Secretary also led pledge ceremony on Non- violence, Swachhata and Drugs on the occasion. Compendium on District Mineral Foundation Trust and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana was also released on the occasion. The welcome address was presented by the Director Geology and Mining, Om Prakash Bhagat and Joint Director Nisar Ahmad Khawaja presented welcome address. Professor GM Bhat presented the overview of preservation of fossils, minerals and other resources.

## Learn modern education & Deeni Taleem alike: MP Khatana

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana urged the youth to work hard to learn the modern education and deeni taleem too. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of Ek Haath Mein Koran, Ek Haath Mein Computer" is aimed at bettering the lot of Muslim community especially pasmanda and backward classes who have not benefitted during last 70 years. Addressing a massive gathering at Madarassa markaz Al-Marif at Bathandi here today to celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi organized by the locals, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana said that PM Modi has transformed the whole thinking about



the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and has turned his dreams into action. Earlier October 2 was just a holiday, now it's a true tribute Swachhantjali to Mahatma Gandhi when whole nation is galvanized to clean their surroundings on the call of PM Modi. MP Gulam Ali said that he was very happy

to come to Markaz Al-Marif and interact with students and their teachers who are combining science and religious teachings together to teach young students and become a success in the modern world. District president Jammu South, BJP Rekha Mahajan also spoke on the occasion

and shed light on various schemes initiated by the Modi government for minorities. Prominent among others present were Master Rashid Principal, Master Saleem, Maqbool Naib Sarpanch, Bashir Ahmed, Ch Puttu Chairman, Yousaf Parry and Shoket Gujjar.

## PM Modi elevating quality of life of SC, ST communities: Raman

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member, Raman Suri spearheaded a crucial meeting at Qasim Nagar, Ward No. 19 of Jammu East Assembly Constituency today, as part of the impactful 'Basti Sampark Abhiyan' campaign. Hewas joined by Kuldeep Kandhari General Secretary BJP District Jammu, Manav Mahajan Vice President BJP District Jammu, Sanjay Mahey Spokesperson District Jammu, Rajesh Nischal Vice President Jammu East Mandal, Chaman Angral Mandal President SC Morcha Jammu East, Swarn Singh BJP President Ward No. 19, Harvinder Singh Sonu Shakti Kendra Parmukh, Local-Residents Pinku, Uttam, Deepak, Toshi Devi and many others. Inaugurated by Party Chief J P Nadda at Delhi, the campaign aims to facilitate a deeper engagement with these communities. During this initiative, the BJP workers and leaders will be visiting approximately 75000 slums, 7500 hostels, and various other Bastis to disseminate information about the myriad of schemes launched by the central and state governments, while also highlighting the list of beneficiaries. Raman Suri, shedding light on the essence of the party's vision in the meeting, emphasized the need for outreach. He pointed out that substantial proportions of beneficiaries under key schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi, Jal Jeevan, and PM Aawas belong to the SC, ST communities. He stressed the vital role of BJP workers as bridges, ensuring that these welfare schemes reach the most marginalized sections of the society. Suri highlighted significant SC Welfare Schemes, including Dr Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship, which offers crucial financial assistance for higher education. He also mentioned the establishment of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDC), which is focused on encouraging self-employment and skill development. Additionally, the Venture Capital Fund for

Scheduled Castes has been set up to provide concessional finance to SC entrepreneurs. Raman Suri along with others visited more than 50 households, contacted more than 100 people including children and distributed notebooks, pencils and refreshment among them all. Interacting with the residents of Qasim Nagar Basti, Raman Suri shared insights on the establishment of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), providing financial support for income-generating activities. The local population also acknowledged the impact of ST Welfare Schemes such as Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), and Eklavya Model Residential Schools. Community members attested to the positive transformation brought about by these schemes, leading to an overall enhancement in the quality of life for tribal communities. They noted additional funding for infrastructure and developmental activities in tribal areas. Raman Suri assured attendees that in case they encounter any challenges in availing the benefits of these schemes, they can directly contact him. He emphasized the Modi Government's commitment to transparency and to improving the lives of SC and ST communities. Suri urged individuals from these communities to assert their rights with confidence, knowing that BJP leaders and workers stand ready to support them in uplifting every section of the society. The BJP leader further talked about the core idea behind the party's vision and their course of action regarding the welfare schemes of the government. He said that in Kisan Samman Nidhi almost 30 per cent, in Jal Jeevan around 32 per cent, in PM Aawas around 34 per cent beneficiaries belong to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes only. "Now, our party workers have to act as bridges and ensure that all the welfare schemes of the government reach the most backward and downtrodden as well," Raman Suri added.

## RS Pura farmers resent over losses due to unavailability of proper rice seeds

### TOP NEWS REPORT

R.S PURA, Oct 2: Farmers of Gandali Kool Kalan village in the R.S Pura are facing significant losses due to the unavailability of proper rice seeds. Expressing their anger against the VNR Company, which supplies rice seeds, the village farmers have demanded swift compensation against the company failing which they would be forced to come on streets. Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh, along with farmers Harjinder Singh, Harjeet Singh, Hardeep Singh, Jujhar Singh, and Sarjeet Singh, among others, revealed that the farmers had planted 2355 seeds provided by the company with the



assurance that these were high-yield hybrid seeds. Contrary to the company's claims, the crop has matured, but the grains haven't developed as expected, resulting in significant losses for the farmers. Their hard work has gone in vain, and many farmers in the village have invested heavily

in cultivating their fields, he said. The Sarpanch emphasized that the company bears full responsibility for this situation and must take immediate steps to compensate the affected farmers. If this issue isn't resolved promptly, the farmers will not only protest on the streets but also

pursue legal actions, he warned. Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh appealed to the Lt Governor to intervene in this matter and give necessary directions to the authorities concerned to take adequate steps and provide relief to the farmers so they can prepare for the next crop and recover their expenses.

## Army organises Swachhata Hi Seva Drive at Border Villages

### TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Oct 2: The Swachhata Hi Seva Drive conducted by the Indian Army in the border villages of Pallanwala in Akhnoor (J&K) on 01 Oct 2023, focused on creating awareness about female health and hygiene. The theme of the drive was 'Ek Kadam Aur Naari Swasth Ki Ore,' which translates to 'One Step Closer towards Women's Health.' During the drive, a lecture on 'Menstrual Hygiene' was conducted by a Medical Officer to educate the population, especially women, about the importance of maintaining proper menstrual hygiene practices. This is a



crucial aspect of women's health that often receives inadequate attention in rural areas. In addition to the awareness program, the Indian Army also distributed hygiene kits to the populace. These kits contained essential items such as sanitary

napkins, soap, and other hygiene products to help women in the border villages to maintain good hygiene practices, especially during their menstrual cycles. This initiative by the Indian Army demonstrates their commitment to improving the

health and well-being of the residents of border villages, emphasizing the importance of proper hygiene, particularly for women. Such programs can have a positive impact on the overall health and quality of life of the community.

## Kangana Ranaut says 'Bharat ko chhedoge toh chhodenge nahi', unveils her fiery avatar in 'Tejas'

Makers of the film 'Tejas' starring Kangana Ranaut finally unveiled the much-awaited teaser introducing the audience to the true spirit of Bharat Air Force on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The movie features Kangana Ranaut as the Air Force pilot, Tejas Gill. The national award winning actor is seen in a fiery avatar in this film.

The teaser truly evokes pride in the nation and guarantees an action-packed adventure. It is well-studded with goosebumps-worthy background music and truly inspiring visuals.

Sharing the teaser, Kangana wrote, "Ready to take off for the love of our nation! Bharat ko chhedoge toh chhodenge nahi. Trailer out on Indian Air Force Day, 8th October. #TejasTeaser#BharatKoChhedogeTohChhodengeNahi #Tejas in cinemas on 27th Oct. For Kangana's fans the teaser delivered the much promised adrenaline rush with the dialogue "Bharat ko chhedoge toh chhodenge nahi".



chhodenge nahin".

The teaser raised the excitement for the trailer which is all set to release on October 8, 2023.

As soon as the teaser was unveiled, fans and followers flooded the comment section.

One of the users wrote, "Can't wait @kanganaranaut mam."

Another commented, "Kanga-

na + Bgm + Visuals + Sunidhi Voice. What a teaser."

'Tejas' revolves around the extraordinary journey of Tejas Gill, an Air Force pilot, and aims to inspire and instill a deep sense of pride in every Indian, showing how Indian Air Force pilots work tirelessly to defend our nation, confronting numerous challenges along the way.

Written and directed by Sarvesh Mewara, the film was set to release on October 20, now Tejas is scheduled to be released in theatres on October 27, 2023.

Apart from this, Kangana was recently seen in 'Chandramukhi 2'.

Helmed by P Vasu, the film is the sequel to the blockbuster hit Tamil horror comedy 'Chandramukhi' which starred Rajinikanth and Jyothika in the lead roles.

In 'Chandramukhi 2' Kangana played the role of a dancer, known for her beauty and dance skills, in the king's court.

Kangana will be next seen in the upcoming period film 'Emergency' in which she will be seen portraying the role of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

'Emergency' marks her first solo-directorial film. The film also cast Anupam Kher, Mahima Chaudhry, Vishak Nair and Shreyas Talpade in prominent roles.

## Akshay Kumar announces 'Sky Force' based on India's 'first and deadliest air strike'



Actor Akshay Kumar on Monday announced his new feature film, 'Sky Force', which will chronicle the "untold true story of India's first and deadliest air strike". The 56-year-old took to X and shared an announcement teaser of the movie on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, revered freedom fight-

ers and stalwarts of India, both of whom were born on October 2.

"Today, on the day of Gandhi-Shastri Jayanti, the whole country is saying - 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan'.

No better day than today to announce the incredible story of #SkyForce : Our untold story of India's first and deadliest air strike. Give it love, please. Jai Hind, Jai

India, both of whom were born on October 2.

Sandeep Kelwani and Abhishek Kapur will co-direct the project, which will also mark the acting debut of Veer Pahariya. Filmmaker Amar Kaushik, known for movies 'Stree', 'Bala' and 'Bhediya', will serve as creative producer on the film.

Bharat," Kumar wrote on the microblogging site.

'Sky Force' will present the "untold true story that captures the bravery, the emotion, the patriotism of all those men in uniform involved in India's first and deadliest airstrike at a time against Pakistan, against all odds", the makers said in a press note.

The film, backed by Jio Studios and Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, will release in theatres on October 2, 2024.

Sandeep Kelwani and Abhishek Kapur will co-direct the project, which will also mark the acting debut of Veer Pahariya.

Filmmaker Amar Kaushik, known for movies 'Stree', 'Bala' and 'Bhediya', will serve as creative producer on the film.

## Models walk the ramp with AI pins at Paris Fashion Week

Coperni designers Sebastien Meyer and Arnaud Vaillant held their fashion week outing in a vast underground sound research centre in the heart of Paris, showcasing sporty ultra-modern styles with tech devices, the Humane Ai Pin, fastened to lapels.

A shifting wall of loudspeakers signalled the start of the show. Models, including Naomi Campbell, emerged on the runway, moving swiftly in loose suits, sheer fitted dresses, bra tops and jeans.

"The clothes are designed to be worn lightly," according to show notes and the designers pared back styles with open-backed dresses and shortened trouser hems for leggy looks, while leaving shirt sleeves extra long, dangling like scarves.

The soundtrack bounced around the room, a composition featuring sounds of moving fabric, and, at one point, the tinkle of a triangle instrument - just as clothing with triangle cutouts was shown.

Adding to the show's futuristic bent were sportswear pieces and flat, square-toed sneakers from a collaboration with Puma, while some models carried the label's Swipe bag CD



player, complete with headphones.

The label, founded in 2013, is known for generating buzz during Paris Fashion Week, last year spray painting a dress on Bella Hadid, and more recently, sending robot dogs onto the runway.

Paris Fashion Week runs until October 3 and features brands including Chanel, Hermes and LVMH-owned Louis Vuitton.

## Security force personnel attend 'Sholay' screening at The Himalayan Film Festival

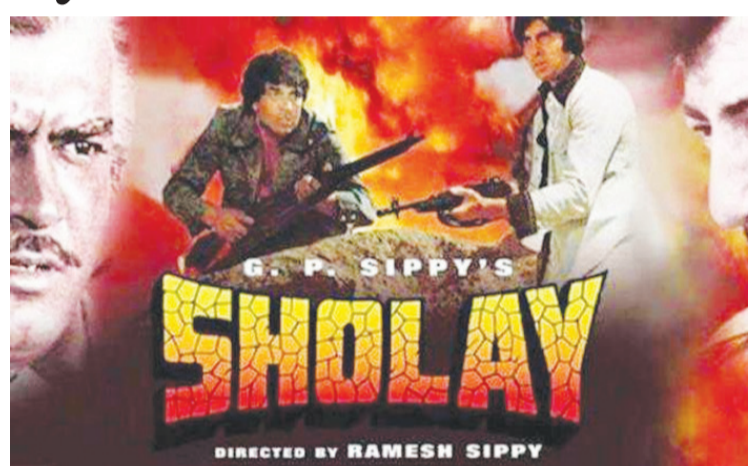
Over 55 personnel of the Indian Armed Forces were special guests at the screening of the Hindi cinema classic 'Sholay' on the third day of The Himalayan Film Festival here.

The screening of the Ramesh Sippy directorial on Sunday evening at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra was attended by security personnel from the CISF unit KIBR Airport Leh and the Indian Air Force.

While some audience members sang along to songs such as 'Ye Dosti', picturised on Dharmendra and Amitabh Bachchan, from the 1975 multi-starrer, others made Instagram reels of their favourite actors delivering their favourite dialogues.

Yogesh, who serves in the Indian Air Force's northern base rank, said his favourite actor from 'Sholay' is Bachchan.

But what takes the cake for him is the part where Amjad Khan's Gabbar Singh has Dharmendra's Veeru in chains and Hema Malini's Basanti is dancing to 'Jab tak hai jaan'.



ing to 'Jab tak hai jaan'.

"I wasn't even born when the film was released. But my parents told me they had bunked school to watch this film. My father received quite a beating at home for missing classes and going to the theatre. Today, I understood what he must have felt while watching the film on the big screen," Yogesh told agency.

ASI Ramesh Kumar from the CISF said he first watched the film about eight years ago.

"I love Gabbar Singh, the villain's character the most, but my favourite actor is Amitabh Bachchan. I also like his film 'Zanjeer'," he added.

For Corporal Mahesh of the Indian Air Force, Dharmendra is the obvious choice as his favourite actor because they both hail from Punjab.

"I have watched the films many times on TV. My favourite part is when Dharmendra does all that drama standing on top of the water tank. He is my favourite

as we both come from Punjab. His acting is all natural," he said.

CISF ASI Sachin Kumar is also a fan of Dharmendra's Veeru.

"I watched this film in my childhood with my family, but this is the first time I saw 'Sholay' in a theatre. Out of everyone, Dharmendra ji is my favourite," he added.

Watching 'Sholay' on the big screen was a special experience, said an audience member.

"Jai-Veeru got so much hooting. The songs were a big hit with everyone singing along," she said.

THFF is organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh, in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh.

The gala, which opened on September 29, will conclude on October 3.

## Rasika participates in clean-up drive post Ganapati visarjan



Rasika Dugal participated in a beach clean-up drive post Ganapati visarjan.

She collaborated with environmental activ-

ist Chinu Kwatra and his team called Beach Warriors. Following the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi, the actor took part in an early morn-

ing beach clean-up drive at Dadar Beach in Mumbai, which was supported by Kwatra and several volunteers who joined hands together for this important cause. During the drive, Rasika sported a T-shirt bearing the message - "The world needs love."

Talking about the clean-up, Rasika said, "It is important that we find environment friendly ways to continue our traditional practices. It felt good to be part of a diverse group who was there voluntarily... only because they care about the environment we live in and want to make an effort, however big or small, to keep it clean. It was inspiring to be around that selfless energy and sense of community."

"The enthusiasm to get the work done was palpable. I hope to be able to be a part of this regularly...even beyond the post visarjan days. And hopefully inspire others to do the same."

On the work front, she was recently seen in Amazon Prime's Adhura and has an intriguing line-up of projects, including the sports drama Spike, Fairy Folk, Mirzapur Season 3, and Little Thomas in the pipeline.

## Anupriya Goenka talks about her character in the show Sultan of Delhi



Actress Anupriya Goenka will be seen in the character of Shankari Devi in Disney+ Hostar's upcoming series Sultan Of Delhi.

She says, "It is one of the most difficult characters that I have played so far. Earlier, I have essayed roles where the character is doing the right things and has mostly taken responsibility of the people around, so I could relate to that. However, Shankari is a very vicious character, who can harm innocent people to fulfill her goals. It was very difficult for me to make sense of that."

## Chrissy Teigen blames insecurity for not writing her own wedding vows

Model Chrissy Teigen wishes she had written her own wedding vows. The 37-year-old model and her husband John Legend, 44, marked their 10th wedding anniversary last month by returning to their wedding destination of Lake Como, Italy and renewing their vows, which they re-wrote for the occasion, alongside their children Luna, Miles, Esti and Wren.

"We were like, well, we're gonna rewrite them and say them because I have a big hang-up that I didn't write my own vows (at our wedding), because I was so nervous and just insecure and stuff so I didn't."

"So that's been like a big regret of mine. So, if anything it was a chance to redo it and be with people we love, and it worked," Teigen said.

The couple arrived to their hotel in a boat, with Luna and Miles running down the dock. Both Chrissy and John struggled to fight back tears during the renewal ceremony, and she has described the emotional moment as "so beautiful." She recalled, "I looked over at him, and he was like, his eyes



were like, filled with water. It was so beautiful."

While it might have been a poignant

moment for the couple, she joked their kids are "still disgusted by us," and don't pay too much attention.

## 'May his thoughts enable...': PM Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Raj Ghat

Modi also paid floral tributes to former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at Vijay Ghat memorial early in the morning.

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary and said his timeless teachings "continue to illuminate our path."

The nation remembered Bapu and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, revered freedom fighters and stalwarts of India, both of whom were born on October 2.

Modi reached Rajghat around 8 am and offered floral petals to the Mahatma's memorial and bowed before it. Several Union ministers and bureaucrats were present on the occasion at Rajghat, situated on the banks of Yamuna. Modi also paid floral tributes to Shastri at Vijay Ghat memorial early in the morning.

Today marks the 154th birth anniversary of Gandhi, hailed as the Father of the Nation, who led India to freedom through the



path of non-violence and continues to be a globally revered figure. An interfaith prayer service was held at Rajghat where Gandhi's favourite devotional songs were also played. "I bow to Mahatma Gandhi on the special occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. His timeless teachings continue to illuminate our path. Mahatma Gandhi's impact is

a video of German singer Cassandra Mae's rendition of Gandhi's favourite prayer 'Vaishnava Jana To', saying his thoughts strike a chord with people all around the world.

Urging people to hear her soulful rendition, Modi noted that he had mentioned the young singer, who is visually impaired, in his recent 'Mann ki Baat' broadcast. The prime minister had highlighted her love for Indian music in the radio programme.

Modi also hailed Shastri on X, saying his iconic call for 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' resonates even today.

"His unwavering commitment to India's progress and his leadership during challenging times remain exemplary. May we always work to realise his vision for a strong India," he posted. The prime minister also posted

## Arvind Kejriwal's "Drug Addict" Barb Amid Row Over Congress MLA's Arrest



PATIALA, Oct 2 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has come out in full support of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) colleague and Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, who has been hit with barbs by rivals over the arrest of Punjab Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira in a drugs case.

At an AAP event in Patiala, Mr Kejriwal made it clear his party's interest can't be overridden by the dynamics of alliances, though he did not mention the Congress.

"Three-four days ago a very big man was arrested in a case of drug smuggling. His party leaders are questioning why Bhagwan

Mann took such a step. I want to tell everyone, we are not against any party or leader. We are against drugs," Mr Kejriwal said.

"My appeal to all parties is to support us in this fight against drugs. If someone in your party is a drug addict, then expel him. If there is anyone like this in our party, we will also expel him," Mr Kejriwal said, without naming the party or the leader.

The AAP chief's comment comes as Congress MP Rahul Gandhi visited Punjab today and offered prayers at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The tension between the Punjab Congress and the AAP over the arrest of Mr Khaira in a 2015 drugs

case is out in the open now.

"There was a time when Punjab was known as the land of addiction. They even made a movie, Udta Punjab. Everyone in the country thought Punjab was the drugs capital of India. I don't say the drugs problem has been fully solved. We have a lot of work to do. But the way the Punjab Police and the state government has been carrying out the war on drugs for the past three-four months, everyone across the nation is talking about it," Mr Kejriwal said.

Several Congress leaders have indicated they do not want an alliance with the AAP in Punjab in the national election next year.

Both the AAP and the Congress are part of the newly formed opposition bloc INDIA to fight the national election together next year. The state dynamics of the INDIA members, however, are a different story altogether. The AAP and the Congress are rivals in many states.

## Bihar's caste survey out; OBCs, EBCs nearly two-thirds of population

PATNA, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar on Monday released findings of its much-awaited caste survey which revealed that OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the state's total population.

According to the data released here by Development Commissioner Vivek Singh, the state's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore, out of which the Extremely Backward Classes (36 per cent) were the largest social segment followed by the Other Backward Classes at 27.13 per cent.

The survey also stated that Yadavs, the OBC group to which Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav belongs, are the largest in terms of the population, accounting for 14.27 per cent of the total.

Dalits, also known as the Scheduled Castes, accounted for 19.65 per cent of the total population in the state, which

is also home to nearly 22 lakh (1.68 per cent) people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Those belonging to the "unreserved" category, which denotes the proverbial "upper castes" who dominated politics till the Mandal wave of 1990s, comprise 15.52 per cent of the population.

The survey also establishes that the state's population is overwhelmingly Hindu, with the majority community comprising 81.99 per cent of the population, followed by Muslims (17.7 per cent).

Christians, Sikhs, Jains and those following other religions as also the non-believers have a minuscule presence, together making up for less than one per cent of the population.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar came out with a statement lauding the teams of government officials who undertook the gigantic exercise.

He said, "A meeting will soon be convened of all

nine political parties with an electoral presence in the state legislature and the facts and figures will be shared with them."

RJD president Lalu Prasad, who is Kumar's ally as well as the father of his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, also issued a statement, declaring that the exercise would set the tone for "a nationwide caste census which will be undertaken when we form the next government at the Centre".

Both Prasad and Kumar have played an instrumental role in the formation of the INDIA coalition, which affirmed its commitment to holding a caste census at a meeting it held in Bengaluru recently.

The survey was ordered last year after the Narendra Modi government at the Centre made it clear that it would not be able to undertake a headcount of castes other than SCs and STs as part of the census.

The last time, a head-



count of all castes was undertaken, was way back in 1931. Those calling for a fresh caste survey insist that a new estimate is required mainly for the weaker sections of society which, with improved life expectancy in the post-independence era, must have seen a rise in their proportion of the population.

The state cabinet gave its nod to hold a caste survey on June 2 last year when it also allocated an amount of Rs 500 crore for the mammoth exercise.

The survey briefly ran into rough weather when

it was stayed by the Patna High Court which was hearing a bunch of petitions challenging the exercise.

However, the deadline it then set, of February 2023, was overshoot and the survey itself could take off no sooner than January 7 this year.

Leaders of the ruling Mahagathbandhan in the state have been alleging that those filing petitions were "BJP supporters", a charge denied by the saffron party which underscores that it was in the government when the cabinet nod was given for the survey.

## Woman kidnapped, raped by 4 men in MP

ASHOK NAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): A 35-year-old woman was allegedly abducted and raped by four men in Madhya Pradesh's Ashok Nagar district, police said on Monday.

The police received information on Sunday that an injured woman was found lying unconscious in an agricultural field, Sub Divisional Officer of Police Vivek Sharma said.

After being alerted, the police reached the spot and rushed the woman to a community health centre in Shadora. After initial treatment there, she was referred to the district hospital in Ashok Nagar, he said.



The victim told the police that she was abducted and raped by four men, three of whom she knew. The accused later dumped her at an agricultural field, the official said quoting the victim.

One of the accused in the gang-rape case is a witness in a murder case in which the vic-

tim's husband is the accused, he said.

The woman's medical examination reports were awaited, the official said.

The police have registered a case of gang-rape, kidnapping and criminal intimidation. Search was on for the accused, he added.

## 10 injured as bus overturns after being hit by another in Kolkata

KOLKATA, Oct 2 (Agencies): At least 10 people were injured on Monday when a bus with passengers on board overturned after being hit by another in Salt Lake area on the eastern fringes of Kolkata in West Bengal, police said.

The accident took place around 7.15am near College More at Salt Lake Sector V, an IT hub in the state, when the two buses were trying to overtake each other, a senior officer said.

One of the two buses overturned after

being hit by another, injuring 10 people, he said.

"Both the buses were driven recklessly and trying to overtake each other. One hit the other which overturned. At least 10 passengers have been injured in the accident," the senior police officer told agency.

All injured people were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, he said, adding that a probe into the accident has been initiated.

## Woman constable dies by suicide in south Delhi's Mehrauli

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): A 26-year-old woman constable of Delhi Police allegedly hanged herself at her rented apartment in Mehrauli area of south Delhi, police said on Monday.

The incident was reported to police on Monday morning.

"It was found that the victim, hailing from Mizoram, who was posted as a constable at Kishangarh police station died by suicide at her rented apartment in Mehrauli area. She hanged herself," police said.

Police have sent the body for autopsy.

## College student gang raped in Uttar Pradesh

DEORIA, Oct 2 (Agencies): A first year BA student was abducted and gang-raped by three men in Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district.

The incident occurred as the girl was returning home at a village under Madanpur police station after attending college in Barhaj.

ASP Rajesh Kumar

said a case had been registered for the relevant offences based on the complaint of her mother, but no arrests had been made yet.

Circle Officer Barhaj, Anshuman Srivastava, said the case was currently under investigation.

The police have obtained CCTV footage

from nearby areas and are working on identifying the suspects.

Srivastava said the medical report of the victim was still pending.

Police teams have been assembled to investigate the case, and a woman constable was deputed to record the victim's statement.

## All 3 Terror Suspects Arrested Today Engineers, One Was Doing PhD: Cops

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): All the three terror suspects arrested in the crackdown on the ISIS network in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh today are engineers by education and had expertise in making bombs, police have said.

HGS Dhaliwal, senior officer in Delhi Police Special Cell, said one of the three terror suspects arrested today is Mohammad Shahnawaz, who was on the most wanted list of National Investigation Agency (NIA). The NIA had last month announced a cash award of 3 lakh each for information about Shahnawaz and two

others, who allegedly played key roles in blasts in different parts of the country.

The other two arrested are Shahnawaz's associates Mohammed Rizwan Ashraf and Mohammed Arshad Warsi, Mr Dhaliwal said.

While Shahnawaz was arrested from Delhi's Jaitpur, Rizwan and Ashraf were caught from Lucknow and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

Police said they have recovered a pistol, items used in bombmaking, chemicals and Jihadi literature from Pakistan at Shahnawaz's Delhi hideout. The three suspects, Mr Dhaliwal



said, had conducted reconnaissance in different parts of the country and tested bombs. They would stay in touch with their ISIS handler and shared reports on a regular basis. They had been instructed to procure all items they need locally so that external role in their work is not exposed, police said.

Shahnawaz, police said, is from Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. A mining engineer by education, he had knowledge of engineering blasts. His wife was a Hindu by birth but had converted to Islam before they married. She is on the run now. Mohammed Arshad Warsi,

police said, is also from Jharkhand. He had completed a BTech in Mechanical Engineering from Aligarh University and had been pursuing a doctorate from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

Mohammed Rizwan Ashraf holds a BTech in computer science. Originally from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, he had trained as a cleric too.

Mr Dhaliwal said the ongoing crackdown has exposed the pan-India module of ISIS. "Their aim was to target well-known people and inflict maximum casualties," he said, adding that they have also uncovered the funding trail behind such activities.

## Nobel in medicine goes to 2 scientists whose work enabled creation of mRNA vaccines against Covid-19

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award on October 9

STOCKHOLM, Oct 2 (Agencies): Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for discoveries that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against Covid-19.

The award was given to Katalin Karikó, a professor at Sagan's University in Hungary and an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and Drew Weissman, who performed his prizewinning research together with Karikó at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Through their groundbreaking findings, which have fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system, the laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," the panel that awarded the prize said.



Katalin Karikó

Drew Weissman

Thomas Perlmann, secretary of the Nobel Assembly, announced the prize and said both scientists were "overwhelmed" by news of the prize when he contacted them shortly before the announcement.

The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine was won last year by Swedish scientist Svante

Paabo for discoveries in human evolution that unlocked secrets of Neanderthal DNA which provided key insights into our immune system, including our vulnerability to severe Covid-19. The award was the second in the family. Paabo's father, Sune Bergstrom, won the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1982.

Nobel announcements continue with the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on Friday and the economics award on October 9.

The prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (USD 1 million). The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896.

The prize money was raised by 1 million kronor this year because of the plunging value of the Swedish currency.

The laureates are invited to receive their awards at ceremonies on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

The prestigious peace prize is handed out in Oslo, according to his wishes, while the other award ceremony is held in Stockholm.

## 'Shameful'; Justin Trudeau trying to crush free speech in Canada, says Elon Musk



SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 2 (Agencies): Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Monday slammed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for trying to crush free speech in his country, saying this is "shameful".

He reacted after the Canadian government made it compulsory for online streaming platforms to register with

the government for "regulatory controls".

Author-journalist Glenn Greenwald posted on X: "The Canadian government, armed with one of the world's most repressive online censorship schemes, announces that all online streaming services that offer podcasts must formally register with the government to permit regulatory controls."

Musk reacted: "Trudeau is trying to crush free speech in Canada. Shameful."

When one of his followers posted that Trudeau should change his name to "Falsedeau", the tech billionaire reacted with a crying face emoji.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India's diplomatic row with Canada was discussed in his meeting with top US officials -- Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan -- and he gave them both an exhaustive account of India's case, which included its assessment of "a very permissive Canadian attitude towards terrorists".

## Top European diplomats meet in Kyiv to support Ukraine as signs of strain show among allies

KYIV, Oct 2 (Agencies): Some of Europe's top diplomats gathered Monday in Kyiv in a display of support for Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion as signs emerge of political strain in Europe and the United States about the war.

The foreign ministers from the European Union's 27 member countries converged on the Ukrainian capital for an unannounced informal meeting that officials said would review the bloc's support for Ukraine and discuss Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's proposed peace formula.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the foreign ministers' first joint meeting outside EU borders sent a signal that EU support is "unwavering" and underscored the EU's commitment to Ukraine.

The United States, the EU and the United Kingdom have provided massive military and financial support to Ukraine, enabling it to stand up to the Kremlin's attack. The assistance is crucial for Ukraine's weakened economy and has so far been open-ended.

But uncertainty has set in over how long Kyiv's allies will keep sending it billions of dollars (euros).

US President Joe Biden on Sunday reassured allies of continued US financial support for the war effort, after Congress averted a government shutdown by adopting a short-term funding package that dropped assistance for Ukraine in its battle against Russia.

Many US lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters that Ukraine held discussions with representatives of both parties in the US Congress to ensure more help will arrive.

"The decision was taken as it was, but we are now working with both sides of the Congress to make sure that it does not repeat again under any circumstances," Kuleba said.

"The question is whether what happens in the US Congress last weekend is an incident or a system. I think it

was an incident," he added.

The EU meeting in Kyiv took place after the weekend election victory in EU member Slovakia of Robert Fico, whose pro-Russian agenda has increased the question marks about the EU's continued support for Kyiv.

The small eastern European country could bring more tension to the EU's discussions on Ukraine, as has happened with Hungary's at-times cool attitude toward Kyiv. Budapest has maintained close relations with Moscow and argued against supplying arms to Ukraine or providing it with economic assistance.

The foreign ministers of Hungary and Poland were not at the Kyiv gathering.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said Europe must be ready to provide further help "for many good reasons".

"First of all, in order to support Ukraine, but also to send a strong trans-Atlantic signal that what's going on on our own soil is something we have to take on a great responsibility for," Løkke Rasmussen said.

## Donald Trump says he will be in courtroom for New York trial scrutinising his business practices

NEW YORK, Oct 2 (Agencies): With control over some of his most prized real estate holdings in jeopardy, former President Donald Trump says he will make a rare, voluntary trip to court on Monday for the start of a civil trial in a lawsuit that has already resulted in a judge ruling that he committed fraud in his business dealings.

"I'm going to Court tomorrow morning to fight for my name and reputation," Trump wrote Sunday night on his Truth Social platform.

Trump lashed out in his post at New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is suing him, and Judge Arthur Engoron, who is presiding over the non-jury trial and made the fraud ruling last week.

"THIS WHOLE CASE IS SHAM!!!" Trump wrote. "See you in Court - Monday morning."

The trial is the culmination of a long investigation by James, who accused Trump and his company of habitually lying about his wealth in financial statements.

Last week, Engoron resolved the lawsuit's top claim before the trial even began, ruling that Trump routinely deceived banks, insurers and others by exaggerating the value of assets on paperwork used in making deals and securing loans.

The former president and a who's who of people in his orbit - his two eldest sons, Trump Organization executives and former lawyer-turned-foe Michael Cohen are all listed



among dozens of potential witnesses.

Trump isn't expected to testify for several weeks. His trip to court Monday will mark a remarkable departure from his past practice.

Trump didn't come to court as either a witness or a spectator when his company and one of its top executives was convicted of tax fraud last year. He didn't show, either, for a trial earlier this year in which a jury found him liable for sexually assaulting the writer E. Jean Carroll in a department store dressing room.

In some ways, though, this new trial comes with higher stakes.

James, a Democrat, is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on doing business in New York.

Engoron's ruling of last week, if upheld on appeal, would also shift control of some of his companies to a court-appointed receiver and could force him to

give up prized New York properties such as Trump Tower, a Wall Street office building, golf courses and a suburban estate.

Trump called it "a corporate death penalty." "I have a Deranged, Trump Hating Judge, who RAILROAD-ED this FAKE CASE through a NYS Court at a speed never before seen," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

In his post Sunday night, Trump wrote that Engoron is "unfair, unhinged, and vicious in his PURSUIT of me." Engoron will decide on six remaining claims in James' lawsuit, including allegations of conspiracy, falsifying business records and insurance fraud.

James' lawsuit accused Trump and his company of a long list of fibs in the financial statements he gave to banks. In a recent court filing, James' office alleged Trump exaggerated his health by as much as \$3.6 billion.

Among the allegations were that Trump claimed his Trump

Tower apartment in Manhattan - a three-story penthouse replete with gold-plated fixtures - was nearly three times its actual size and worth an astounding \$327 million. No apartment in New York City has ever sold for close to that amount, James said.

Trump valued Mar-a-Lago as high as \$739 million - more than 10 times a more reasonable estimate of its worth, James claimed. Trump's figure for the private club and residence was based on the idea that the property, now a private club, could be developed for residential use, but deed terms prohibit that, James said.

Trump has denied wrongdoing, arguing in sworn testimony for the case that it didn't matter what he put on his financial statements because they have a disclaimer that says they shouldn't be trusted.

He and his lawyers have also argued that no one was harmed by anything in the financial statements. Banks he borrowed money from were fully repaid. Business partners made money. And Trump's own company flourished.

James' lawsuit is one of several legal headaches for Trump as he campaigns for a return to the White House in next year's election. He has been indicted four times since March, accused of plotting to overturn his 2020 election loss, hoarding classified documents and falsifying business records related to hush money paid on his behalf.

## Early voting begins in New Zealand's general election and in Australia for Indigenous 'Voice'

Some 98 per cent of eligible Australians have signed up to vote in the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament

WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND), Oct 2 (Agencies): Early voting began on Monday in New Zealand for the nation's October 14 general election, with conservative contender Christopher Luxon casting his ballot.

Early voting also began in some parts of Australia in a referendum that would enshrine in Australia's constitution a mechanism for Indigenous people to advise Parliament on policies that affect their lives.

In New Zealand, the campaign of Prime Minister Chris Hipkins faced a setback on Sunday when he tested positive for COVID-19.

He said he would isolate for five days or until he returned a negative

test, but planned to continue with some engagements over Zoom.

Hipkins and his liberal Labour Party have been lagging behind the opposition National Party, led by Christopher Luxon, in opinion polls.

"After a rough night I woke up this morning feeling pretty unwell and just got this test result," Hipkins wrote on Instagram, and said he'd work twice as hard when he got back out on the campaign trail.

Luxon on Sunday released a 100-day action plan he said would deliver tax relief, rebuild the economy and restore law and order.

"New Zealanders have waited six long years for a government that focuses on what matters



to them, and gets things done," Luxon said.

In Australia, where voting is compulsory, some 98 per cent of eligible Australians have signed up to vote in the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Early voting began in four states or territories Monday, and

the remaining four will vote on Tuesday after observing a public holiday Monday.

The "Yes" campaign is lagging behind in opinion polls but Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who supports the potential change, said he remains hopeful.

"I know a lot of people have not made up their

mind, and what I know is that the feedback, when people talk through these issues, they arrive at a Yes' vote pretty comfortably," Albanese told reporters in Melbourne.

"I sincerely think the key to the next fortnight is those one-on-one conversations with people to accept this request of the overwhelming majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Political opponents say the referendum effort should have been bipartisan and that many unanswered questions remain on the details of how the Voice would work in practice. It's a coincidence the elections are taking place on the same day.

## Fire erupts in a police headquarters in Egypt, injuring at least 38 people



CAIRO, Oct 2 (Agencies): A huge fire broke out early Monday in a police headquarters in northeastern Egypt, injuring at least 38 people, the health ministry said.

The blaze ripped through the multistory police headquarters in the Suez Canal province of Ismailia, according to Hossam Abdel-Ghaffar, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry.

He said 12 of the

injured were treated at the site, while 26 others were taken to hospitals, all but two suffering from breathing difficulties. Seven of the injured were treated and discharged, he said.

It was not immediately clear how many police were in the building at the time of the blaze, which severely damaged the building according to local media.

Videos circulated on

social media showed flames and black smoke pouring from the building.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. The state-run MENA news agency said firefighters managed to put out the fire.

Safety standards and fire regulations are poorly enforced in Egypt and have been linked to many deaths.

In August 2022, a fire erupted in a packed Coptic Orthodox church during morning services in Cairo, killing 41 worshippers in one of the country's deadliest fires in recent years.

There were more than 49,300 fires in Egypt in 2022 which resulted in 203 deaths and injuries to 855 people, according to the country's official statistics agency.



## GCW Parade Ground organizes series of cleanliness activities under Swachhta Hi Sewa



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: NSS Units of the college organised cleanliness drives from 29th September to 1st October under the banner "Swachhta Hi Sewa", proposed by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India under the supervision of principal of the College Dr S. P.

Sarswat.

Almost 50 NSS Volunteers participated in the Cleanliness drives. On 29th September, an extensive cleanliness drive was conducted by NSS Unit 1 of the college inside the institution where SUP was separated from the other waste materials.

On 30th September, NSS Volunteers of Units 1 and 3 visited

the adopted Villages of Belchiarana and Rakh Rajpur Satwari along with their Programme Officers, Dr Gurpreet Kour and Dr Mohd Majeed and carried out an awareness campaign for maintaining the cleanliness. The volunteers also cleaned the adjoining park of the area and streets thereof.

The three-day program cul-

minated today on 1st October where NSS Volunteers of all the units and faculty members along with the Principal of the College Dr S. P. Sarswat took a Swachhta Pledge to commit themselves to the cause of maintaining cleanliness and spreading awareness regarding that in the surroundings.

The program was envisioned under the title "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath Shramdhaan" Two localities were identified to spread awareness and dedicate one hour of Cleanliness. Almost 100 participants including the staff members, NSS Volunteers of all the units, NSS Programme Officers, and Principal of the College visited nearby Parade Mandi wherein Volunteers along with the faculty members carried out a cleanliness drive. After that NSS Volunteers along with the faculty members carried out cleanliness related activities at Gujjar Nagar Tawi Front.

## SWD holds Inter-Panchayat Sports events at Bhadarwah



### Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Oct 2: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Doda organized Inter-Panchayat, Sports Events cum Awareness programmes on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act 2007 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti today at Panchayat Khalleni Block Bhalla of Additional District Bhadarwah.

District Social Welfare Officer Doda Tariq Qazi welcomed the participants and said that the programmes were conducted on the directions of Commissioner Secretary to Government Social Welfare Department.

"Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and

Senior Citizens Act, 2007 is a legislation initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India to provide more effective provisions for maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens," DSWO said.

He further added, "It makes legal obligations for children and heirs to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents by monthly allowance. It also provides simple, speedy and inexpensive mechanism for the protection of life and property of older persons".

Later, Sports Events such as Badminton, Chess, Carrom etc were also held on the occasion in which many

prominent senior citizens from Panchayat Dugli A&B, Sohata Khelani and other adjoining areas of the district took part.

Meanwhile, a similar programme was also organised in Gandoh and Doda by the Social Welfare Department involving Welfare activities of Senior Citizens. A large number of senior citizens, Sarpanches and Panches (PRI's) attended the programmes.

The programs were conducted under the supervision of Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO Bhadarwah/Thathri) Subash Chander Kotwal. Refreshments were also distributed among the participants on this occasion.

## DC Kupwara reviews progress under AB-PMJAY, JK-Sehat Scheme



### Top News Report

KUPWARA, Oct 2: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of enrollment under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY & JK-Sehat scheme (Golden Card) in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner was informed that 596342 beneficiaries constituting 92.85% of target population have been enrolled under PMJAY and JK-Sehat scheme in all 10 Medical Blocks of Kupwara district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all the officers to ensure utmost dedication and coordination

on ground and ensure 100% saturation of the target population under the PMJAY Sehat Scheme so that people can reap the benefits of the scheme.

She asked ACR Kupwara to utilize the services of Numberdars and Chowkidars for mobilization of the pending beneficiaries for their enrollment under the scheme.

The District Manager CSC was directed to ensure achievement of cent percent target within a week's time.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the concerned Officers to ensure that the line-listing of beneficiaries is completed by tomorrow. Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief

Medical Officer, Block Medical Officers, District Manager-CSC and other concerned attended the meeting.

In a separate meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved under Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) in the district during which she was informed that out of 78039 registered cases, 51819 cases were sanctioned and 15928 have been rejected.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that the targets are achieved well in time.

Among others, ACR, DSWO and TSWOs attended the meeting.

## RTI Pend unveils power of information at Magam

### Top News Report

MAGAM, Oct 2: RTI Pend, a grassroots initiative led by the J&K RTI Foundation, marked another successful chapter with its fourth event held at Magam. The event, which took place on October 1st 2023, brought together RTI activists, leaders, and community members to discuss and advocate for the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Distinguished guests, including Mushtaq Ahmad Dar and Shakeel ur Rasool, prominent RTI activists, and Sajad Hussain, Co-founder of J&K RTI Foundation, shared their insights on the transformative power of RTI in bringing transparency and accountability to governance.

During the event, Irfan Banka, host of RTI Pend, emphasized the need for widespread awareness about the RTI Act. He urged citizens to actively participate in Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) elections, underlining the role of educated youth in shaping a more transparent and accountable governance system. He also requested the government to launch an e-RTI portal for the public as soon as possible as the government has already made 1028 services online as per reports.

Shakeel ur Rasool shed light on how RTI has played a crucial role in obtaining information related to Wullar and fishermen communities. He encouraged the youth of Bandipora to leverage RTI to contribute to societal well-being.

Sajad Hussain delineated the differences between the Central RTI Act 2005 and the erstwhile J&K RTI Act 2009, expressing concern about the confusion created in J&K, particularly by some government officials. He emphasized the importance of clarity in the application of RTI laws.

Mushtaq Ahmad Dar appealed to the educated youth to file RTIs related to government schemes and initiatives, contributing to the dissemination of essential information for greater transparency.

The event also showcased the pivotal role of Technical Directors, Ishfaq Majeed and Aaqib Bashir, in making RTI Pend events successful.

Besides offline participation, the event was also live-streamed on Facebook and Zoom, providing a wider audience with valuable insights into the RTI Act. RTI Pend continues to be a beacon of awareness and advocacy, committed to fostering a culture of transparency and informed decision-making.

## Army organises Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Malpur



### Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Oct 2: Under the PMO initiative of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath, Indian Army in collaboration with Civil Administration, Municipality Department, Health Department, Civil Defence Department and School Children conducted a cleanliness drive at Historic site of Jiapota in Akhnoor (J&K). The event was organised

to create an awareness towards Sanitation and Cleanliness.

The Indian Army, renowned for its commitment to national welfare, took a leading role in orchestrating this initiative, underscoring its dedication to not only safeguarding the nation but also enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. School children, the torchbearers of the future, actively participated in the cleanli-

ness drive, imbibing the values of hygiene and cleanliness.

This event stands as a testament to the power of partnership between the military, government, and the community, showcasing the collective determination to create a cleaner and healthier India. Such endeavors continue to propel the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan towards its goal of a cleaner and more prosperous nation.

## FROM PAGE 1

## Shah congratulates J&K over ODF feat, says UT attained new heights in growth after Article 370 abrogation

extended to the nook and corners of J&K. People across the nation and those living in J&K have experienced the transformative change the region has undergone. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the JK Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and the local administration for this remarkable feat."

On September 29, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha posted on 'X', declaring "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 100 per cent J&K UT villages have achieved the ODF Plus status in 'Model' category under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) phase-II. This achievement underlines coordinated efforts of all to improve the quality of life for citizens."

Union Ministry of Jal Shakti in a statement on September 29 announced that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has declared all its 6,650 villages across 285 blocks in 20 districts as ODF Plus Model.

## Finance Department urged to halt pension for Six Departments

Department (PDD), PDC, R&B, Agriculture, and Headmasters/Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) bearing print date upto and including September 22, 2023," read

a communication number of September 26, 2023, addressed to the Principal Secretary (Finance), Government of Jammu and Kashmir, by the Principal Accountant General (A&E), Jammu and Kashmir.

Startlingly, the Principal Accountant General has so far discovered 32 unauthorised or irregular pension revision authorities at various treasuries within Jammu Division, including Bhaderwah, Akhnoor, Ramsoo, Talab Tillo, New Plot, Samba, Assar (Doda), Banihal, Ramban, Gandhi Nagar, Sadder Jammu, and Additional Treasury New Plot.

The Principal Accountant General Office's internal investigation, based on information from treasuries and its own records, has revealed that payments in at least 13 cases have already been disbursed by different treasuries, including Additional Treasury Talab Tillo at Muthi, Sub Treasury Akhnoor, Sub Treasury Bhaderwah, Sub Treasury Banihal, and Additional Treasury New Plot, Jammu.

In light of these findings conducted after one of the Senior Accounts Officers, Raja Jee Saproo, highlighted the discrepancies in the processing of the pension cases, the Principal Accountant General J&K office has called upon the Treasury Officers concerned to cease payments on all forged authorities.

Additionally, for cases where payments have already been made, it has been requested to take steps to recover the amount from the beneficiaries' bank accounts and restore pre-revised pension payments.

The Finance Department has been accordingly requested to issue instructions to the treasuries to halt payments on pension revision authorities related to the six

departments, with print dates up to and including September 22, 2023.

"However, payments on authorities issued up to this date can only proceed after authentication and verification by the Principal Accountant General Office, which will involve sending an email to the office's pension group officer," read the communication addressed to the Finance Secretary by the office of the Principal Accountant General.

Additionally, the Principal Accountant General J&K office has requested the Treasury Finance to instruct the Treasury Officers to honour revision or normal pension authorities of other departments only after comparing the specimen signatures of the officers of the Principal Accountant General Office with those affixed in the pension/revision authorities.

The Principal Accountant General Office has shared these signatures with the Secretary Finance to be further shared with the Treasury Officers, claiming that these signatures had already been shared in the past with the Treasury Officers.

Furthermore, the Principal Accountant General J&K office has urged the Secretary Finance to instruct Treasury Officers to scrutinise revision and normal pension authorities from other departments by comparing the specimen signatures with those affixed in the pension/revision authorities. The Principal Accountant General Office has already shared signatures of its officers with the Secretary Finance for distribution to Treasury Officers, emphasizing that these signatures were previously shared with the treasuries.

## J&K Police organizes 'Run for Peace' Kashmir

## Marathon in Srinagar

wheelchair divisions.

## Journalists' body calls for law to protect scribes, tackle Fake News

violence while looking at their financial welfare".

"The seminar deliberated on the enactment of a media protection act and the constitution of a media commission," he added.

Addressing the event, IJU president Srinivas Reddy spoke about the current state of affairs and favoured the demand for the constitution of a media commission.

"The model media commission brought out by (former) Press Council of India chairman P.B. Sawant has been lying with the government without any action (taken on it)," he lamented.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Sinha explained how the IJU has been fighting for press freedom and journalists' rights since its inception.

"The IJU has now taken up cudgels demanding enactment of a media protection act and the constitution of a media commission to enforce it," he said.

Supreme Court lawyer Rakesh Khanna and IPS officer-turned-rights activist Amod Kanth backed the IJU's demand.

Mr. Kanth said the Centre can take cue from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh governments and even Pakistan, who have enacted laws to protect journalists.

"In fact, the media protection act of Pakistan is very important and should not be rejected just because it is from Paki-

stan. It gives the right to non-disclosure of source, talks about no enforcement of undue restrictions and also safeguards the reputation and privacy of others.

"It has the powers of a civil court that follows from the colonial IPC section 1908 and can be implemented here too," he said.

## CASO underway in several villages in Rajouri, gunshots heard

also been heard from the site of the operation, said the sources.

More details are awaited.

## 3 residential houses damaged in separate fire incidents in Kupwara

damaged at Batagal village in Lolab, while another house was damaged in Shartmuqam area of Lolab.

They said that there were, however, no reports of any loss to human life in any of the incidents.

"The cause of the fire was being ascertained," they said.

Rape accused held in Baramulla: police SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): Police in northern Kashmir's Baramulla district have arrested a man accused of rape within a few hours, officials said today.

An official said that the accused, identified as Mohd Rafeeq Mochi, was held "within hours" in Kalantra Payeen Kreeri.

He said that the medico legal formalities have been conducted and further investigation is going on.

## India to clock GDP growth of 6.5 pc in FY24: Former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar

India's GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Indian economy will grow at around 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal as the country's macroeconomic situation is benefiting from the reforms that have been taken up in the last nine years by the Narendra Modi-led government, former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Monday.

Kumar further said India needs and can grow at 8 per cent-plus as that level of economic growth is required to meet aspirations of the country's young population and to generate sufficient jobs for its workforce.

"My growth projection of India's GDP growth in FY 2023-24 is 6.5 per cent. "And I think we can easily maintain this (growth) over the next few years," he told agency in an interview.

India's GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.

According to Reserve Bank of India's projections, India's GDP is likely to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Kumar further said, "Macroeconomic situation India is benefiting from the reforms that have been implemented in the last nine years. Therefore, both the external macroeconomic balance as well as the domestic ones are in good shape." He said that India's current account deficit is manageable, the country's foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover about 11



DR. RAJIV KUMAR  
VICE CHAIRMAN

months of imports and the foreign direct investment flows are continuing.

On the domestic side, Kumar said inflation is beginning to come down to the target levels and the government tax revenues have shown a good 16 per cent increase over last year.

"So, this will take care of the fiscal situation and lead to fiscal consolidation. As a result of this improvement, the rating agencies have improved their ratings and JP Morgan has included India in its international bond indices," he said.

According to Kumar, the only weakness that he sees is that the private corporate investment is not yet responding in the manner that "we would expect, but that also is beginning to improve as demonstrated by the increase in bank credit growth over the last six months".

Expressing concern over decline of India's exports between April and August by about 11 per cent compared to the same period last year, he said, "This reflects our age old situation which is that India's export performance is strongly correlated with the global trade performance."

Kumar pointed out that as the global trade has weakened, India's exports performance has also weakened given the weak demand in Europe, the US and other developed economies.

"We have to change this. We must do whatever we can to ensure that our exports have a greater share of world markets," he said.

On some US-based economists' claim that India is overstating economic growth, Kumar said that the Ministry

of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) must take a firm position and give enough reasons as to why they are using the wholesale price index (WPI) deflator and not the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as GDP deflator.

"And that needs to be firmly established once and for all," Kumar emphasised.

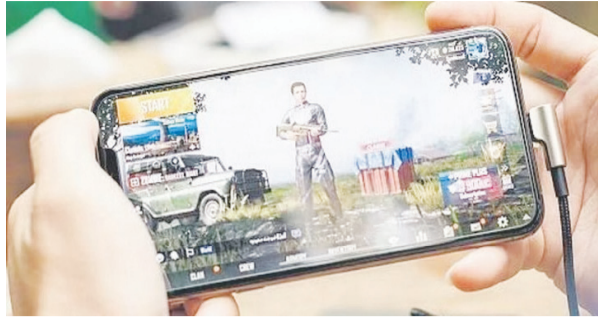
Meanwhile, India's real GDP growth was 7.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis in Q1 FY24, as per the Income or Production Approach.

Recently, former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian, in an article, argued that India's GDP is not measured from the expenditure side and measured only from the income side. This tends to overestimate GDP growth.

Last month, chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran rejected criticism of "statistical discrepancy" in the first quarter GDP data, saying when the same statistical authority reported the severest contraction in the first quarter of 2020, the naysayers had called it credible as it suited their narrative.

The article by Nageswaran was written in light of debates over India's economic performance and economist Ashoka Mody, a Princeton University professor, raising concerns regarding the country's GDP growth rate for the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24.

## Ubisoft banks on a reset with latest 'Assassin's Creed'



PARIS, Oct 2 (Agencies): After years of turbulence that saw several top executives out the door, Ubisoft is betting aggressively on "Assassin's Creed Mirage" to level up profits for the French publisher, with a steadier line-up of new releases.

The latest entry in the wildly popular "Assassin's Creed" franchise is released Thursday, to be followed in December by a game based on the hit "Avatar" films -- which was originally scheduled to hit shelves a year ago.

Attesting to its optimism, Ubisoft expects strong revenue growth this year after a string of lacklustre results.

"For the past four or five years, the company has disappointed enormously because it has postponed a lot of its new games," said Charles-Louis Planade, an industry analyst at Midcap Partners.

But he now expects regular releases from a catalogue that includes top sellers like "Rabbids" and "Just Dance". These new games "are clearly going to improve the company's financial health, and get back to being the Ubisoft we knew a few years ago", Planade told AFP.

Taking no chances, the group is launching "Mirage", set in ninth-century Baghdad, at 50 euros (\$53) instead of the 70 euros often set for new titles.

High hopes  
A successful launch

would be a welcome end to a year that began with a rare strike in the video game sector, with two Ubisoft unions protesting management practices.

Allegations of pervasive sexism, discrimination and harassment in Ubisoft offices worldwide first emerged in 2020, leading to the firing or exits of executives including its creative director.

CEO Yves Guillemot filled in temporarily until insider Igor Monceau was tapped for the job in September 2021, but recovering from the disruptions would take months, including a revamp of its human resources department.

Development of the long-awaited "Skull and Bones" is a case in point: originally expected for 2018, it has yet to see the light of day.

But 2023 has seen a series of developments in Ubisoft's favour.

In August it signed a deal with Activision Blizzard, the target of a takeover bid by Microsoft, that would give it the cloud gaming rights for Activision games for the next 15 years.

With cloud gaming, players can stream a title from platforms like Netflix, without having to buy a traditional console and game cartridge.

The deal is expected to get approval from UK competition authorities soon, and would give Ubisoft cloud rights to a catalogue including the wildly successful "Call

of Duty" and "Candy Crush" games.

"We strongly believe in the next five to 10 years, many games will be streamed and will also be produced in the cloud," Guillemot told The Financial Times in September. "That's what pushed us to go forward with the deal."

The cloud market is still embryonic but could be valued at over \$8 billion in 2025, industry consultancy Newzoo predicts -- compared with a global video game market worth around \$300 billion, according to Accenture.

"If cloud streaming is a success, our initial simulations highlight significant potential for a contribution to the group's earnings," said Emmanuel Matot, an analyst at Oddo in Paris.

Ubisoft is also betting heavily on virtual reality ahead of next year's expected release of Apple's Vision Pro headset.

"Apple's commitment and investment will take that industry to a new level," Guillemot told AFP in June, and Ubisoft "for sure" envisions developing games for the Vision Pro.

The cleared horizon has helped Ubisoft stock climb around 13 percent since the start of the year, despite a profit warning in January that sent shares tumbling to levels not seen since 2016.

Despite a market value of nearly four billion euros, it remains one of the smaller publishers as mergers and takeovers swirl, but for the moment the Guillemot family appears well in control, after sealing an alliance with Chinese giant Tencent that gives it a 10 percent Ubisoft stake.

## Google, HP start manufacturing Chromebooks in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Google in partnership with HP has started manufacturing Chromebooks in India, the PC maker said on Monday.

The Chromebook devices are being manufactured at the Flex Facility near Chennai, where HP has been producing a range of laptops and desktops since August 2020.

"We're partnering with HP to manufacture Chromebooks in India - These are the first Chromebooks to be made in

India and will make it easier for Indian students to have access to affordable and secure computing," Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Monday said in a post on X.

An HP spokesperson confirmed that the production of Chromebooks has started in India. New Chromebooks are available online from a price range starting at Rs 15,990 apiece. HP is one of the applicants under the government's Rs 17,000 crore production-

linked incentive scheme for IT hardware.

Chromebooks come at a lower price compared to notebooks with proprietary operating system. A joint statement of Google and HP said Chromebooks are leading devices in K-12 education, helping over 50 million students and teachers across the world.

The local production of Chromebooks expands HP's India-made PC portfolio.

HP has been expanding its

manufacturing operations in India since 2020, and from December 2021, started manufacturing a wide range of laptops in India, including HP EliteBooks, HP ProBooks, and HP G8 series notebooks.

It has also expanded its portfolio of locally manufactured commercial desktops by adding various models of desktop mini towers (MT), mini desktops (DM), small form factor (SFF) desktops, and a range of All-in-One PCs.

## Daylight exposure may help treat type 2 diabetes: Study

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Exposure to natural light may help treat and prevent type 2 diabetes, according to a small study.

The research, presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Germany recently, carried out a range of metabolic tests on a group of people with type 2 diabetes when they were exposed to natural light and when they were exposed to artificial light and compared the results.

"The misalignment of our internal circadian clock with the demands of a 24/7 society is associated with an increased incidence of metabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes," said Ivo Habets of Maastricht University, the Netherlands, who co-led the research.

"Natural daylight is the strongest zeitgeber, or environmental cue, of the circadian clock, but most people are indoors during the day and so under constant artificial lighting," said Habets.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study involved 13 participants with an average age of 70 years who stayed in research facilities, which allowed their light exposure,

meal, and activity patterns to be tightly controlled.

They were exposed to two lighting conditions during office hours (8 am to 5 pm) in a randomised cross-over fashion: natural daylight from windows and artificial LED lighting.

There was a gap of at least four weeks between the two interventions, each lasting 4.5 days. During the natural daylight intervention, the light intensity was usually highest at 12:30 pm, with an average reading of 2453 lux.

The artificial light was a constant 300 lux. Evenings were spent in dim light (less than 5 lux), and the sleeping period (11 pm to 7 am) in darkness. The participants were provided with standardised meals, meaning they ate the same food in both interventions.

Blood sugar levels were continuously recorded by monitors worn on the upper arm, and a range of other tests were performed on the final day and a half of each intervention.

The study found that blood glucose levels were within the normal range (4.4-7.8 mmol/L) for longer during the

natural daylight intervention than in the artificial light intervention.

The respiratory exchange ratio was lower during the daylight intervention than during the artificial light intervention, indicating that the participants found it easier to switch from using carbohydrates to fat as an energy source when exposed to natural light.

Per1 and Cry1, genes that help control our body clock, were more active in natural than artificial light, the researchers said.

Resting energy expenditure and core body temperature followed similar 24-hour patterns in both light conditions, they said.

Serum insulin levels measured during the MMT were similar in both light conditions, but the pattern of serum glucose and plasma free acids significantly differed between conditions.

The results, particularly the better blood sugar control during the natural light intervention, suggest that exposure to natural daylight is beneficial to the metabolism and could help treat and prevent type 2 diabetes and other metabolic conditions, such as obesity, Habets added.

## Researchers discover causes of liver cell scarring

LA JOLLA (CALIFORNIA), Oct 2 (Agencies): When damaged liver cells are replaced by scar tissue, hepatic fibrosis results. Cirrhosis, liver failure, and even liver cancer can arise as a result of cumulative scarring that, over time, restricts the blood flow to the liver. When the condition is severe, there is no other course of action.

A group of researchers led by corresponding authors David A. Brenner, M.D., president and CEO of Sanford Burnham Prebys, and Tatiana Kisseleva, M.D., Ph.D., professor of surgery at UC San Diego School of Medicine, describe the origin and fate of liver myofibroblasts, the cells that form liver scar tissue, as well as new research suggesting that liver fibrosis can be reversed if the right conditions are present.

"Liver fibrosis is quite common, in part because it can be caused by a number of things that damage the organ but result in scarring rather than healthy repair," said Brenner, a gastroenterologist and noted liver disease researcher. "Everything from viral hepatitis to excessive alcohol consumption to non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), which is extremely common in the US."

Indeed, it's estimated that NAFLD affects approximately 1 billion people worldwide or roughly one-quarter of the human population. Roughly 20 per cent of patients with NAFLD progress to a more serious form called nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), characterized by inflammation of the liver, fibrosis and cirrhosis.

In their paper, Brenner, Kisseleva and co-authors explain that myofibroblasts are not present in normal, healthy livers, but activate in response to chronic liver injury, such as excessive alcohol consumption. An inflammatory response triggers activation of hepatic stellate cells (aHSC), which transition from relatively scarce, quiescent, vitamin A-storing cells into proliferative myofibroblasts that secrete the scar forming proteins.

These myofibroblasts begin forming a chicken wire of non-functional scar tissue that, over time, thickens and coalesces to clog and choke the liver, cascading to other, life-threatening conditions.

"There are many causes of liver fibrosis and thus, there are no effective therapies currently because most efforts have focused on single targets when the nature of chronic liver injury is incredibly complex," Brenner said.

## New 'inverse vaccine' shows potential to treat multiple sclerosis, diabetes: Study

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): A new type of "inverse vaccine" has been shown in the lab setting to completely reverse autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis and type 1 diabetes, all without shutting down the rest of the immune system, according to a study.

A typical vaccine teaches the human immune system to recognise a virus or bacteria as an enemy that should be attacked.

However, the new vaccine developed by researchers at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME) in the US does just the opposite: it removes the immune system's memory of one molecule.

While such immune memory erasure would be unwanted for infectious diseases, it can stop autoimmune reactions like those seen in multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, or rheumatoid arthritis, in which the immune system attacks a person's healthy tissues, the researchers said.

The vaccine, described in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering, takes advantage of how

the liver naturally marks molecules from broken-down cells with "do not attack" flags to prevent autoimmune reactions to cells that die by natural processes.

The team coupled an antigen—a molecule being attacked by the immune system—with a molecule resembling a fragment of an aged cell that the liver would recognise as friend, rather than an enemy.

The team showed how the vaccine could successfully stop the autoimmune reaction associated with a multiple-sclerosis-like disease.

"In the past, we showed that we could use this approach to prevent autoimmunity," said Jeffrey Hubbell, the Eugene Bell Professor in Tissue Engineering and lead author of the new paper.

"But what is so exciting about this work is that we have shown that we can treat diseases like multiple sclerosis after there is already ongoing inflammation, which is more useful in a real-world context," Hubbell said.

Today, autoimmune diseases are generally treated with drugs that broadly shut down the

immune system.

"These treatments can be very effective, but you're also blocking the immune responses necessary to fight off infections and so there are a lot of side effects," said Hubbell.

"If we could treat patients with an inverse vaccine instead, it could be much more specific and lead to fewer side effects," he added.

Initial phase I safety trials of an antigen therapy based on this preclinical work have already been carried out in people with celiac disease, an autoimmune disease that is associated with eating wheat, barley and rye, and phase I safety trials are under way in multiple sclerosis, the researchers said.

Those trials are conducted by Swiss pharmaceutical company Anokion SA, which helped fund the new work and which Hubbell cofounded and is a consultant, board member, and equity holder.

"There are no clinically approved inverse vaccines yet, but we are incredibly excited about moving this technology forward," Hubbell added.

# World Cup 2023: India Ready To Raise Curtain On Cricket World Cup

India target a third World Cup when cricket's global showpiece gets underway on Thursday

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): India target a third World Cup when cricket's global showpiece gets underway on Thursday with the country buoyed by a growing, international self-confidence and with a sport which unites and divides the sub-continent like no other on the verge of joining the Olympic elite. The epic tournament features 10 nations playing 48 matches over 46 days at 10 different venues. However, the build-up has been far from smooth after arch-rivals Pakistan considered a boycott when India refused to travel across the border for the Asia Cup.

As a result, the announcement of the schedule for the World Cup was delayed until just three months before the first ball was to be bowled.

Fears over security for the India-Pakistan World Cup blockbuster in Ahmedabad then saw the match moved back a day, sparking a domino effect of nine rescheduled fixtures.

Pakistan's visit to India is their first since the 2016 Twenty20 World Cup but they were welcomed warmly when they arrived in Hyderabad last week despite only receiving visas just 48 hours before their departure.

"It's been a superb welcome. People coming to the hotel and their hospitality has been fantastic," said leg-spinner Shadab Khan.

In an indication of the security tensions, Pakistan's opening warm-up match with New Zealand on Friday was played behind closed doors at an eerily silent 55,000-capacity Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

Torrential rain has also caused an early headache with two warm-up games abandoned without a ball being bowled and a third a reduced overs affair.



The opening match on Thursday between champions England and New Zealand as well as the final on November 19 are being staged at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, named after the prime minister, the world's biggest cricket arena boasting a capacity of over 130,000.

India will face Pakistan at the mega-venue on October 14.

The city which independence hero Mahatma Gandhi called home for 15 years is tipped as a potential host city should India bid for the 2036 Olympics.

Cricket itself -- albeit in its short-format T20 -- is expected to be named an Olympic sport for the 2028 Games in Los Angeles when the International Olympic Committee meets in Mumbai later this month.

The gathering of the best players of India's favourite game will be the sporting culmination of a year that saw India overtake China as the world's most populous country, after displacing former coloniser Britain as its fifth-biggest economy in 2021.

Modi's global stage? Now Modi is seeking a place on the global stage to match.

Courted by the West - despite rights concerns - as a bulwark against Beijing, the prime minister used the G20 summit he hosted this month as a catalyst to position New Delhi as a representative of many others outside traditional power blocs.

His Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is widely regarded as a certainty to win next year's general election by a crushing majority.

India are two-time champions having added the 2011 title on home soil to their 1983 triumph.

They boast superstar Virat Kohli who has made more than 13,000 runs in the ODI format.

"The memories of past World Cup victories, especially the iconic 2011 win, are etched in our hearts, and we want to create new memories for our fans," said Kohli.

Pakistan, the 1992 champions, have lost seven times out of seven to India at past World Cups.

However, skipper Babar Azam will be key to turning around that run as he leads the way in the batting rankings. His average of over 58 betters even that of Kohli.

Defending champions England, who triumphed in a nail-biting 2019 final against New Zealand at Lord's, can harness the destructive firepower of Ben Stokes who smashed 84 in that game which went to a Super Over conclusion.

The tournament will likely see the farewell ODI performance of Bangladesh skipper Shakib al Hasan, the top-ranked all-rounder in ODI cricket.

The 36-year-old has made more than 7,000 runs in the format with 55 half-centuries and 308 wickets.

Never far from controversy, Shakib arrives in India after a public spat with axed batsman Tamim Iqbal who he blasted as "childish".

Australia are five-time champions and boast veteran David Warner who has amassed over 6,300 ODI runs.

South Africa, who have endured a roller-coaster relationship with the World Cup, undone by rain rules in 1992 and 2003, have also been hit by injuries, losing key pacers Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala.

For Afghanistan, slow bowlers Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, who made his international debut at 16, and Noor Ahmad will be key on welcoming Indian pitches.

Sri Lanka, the 1996 winners, will be fired up by the indignity of being bowled out for just 50 and losing the Asia Cup final to India by 10 wickets.

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Netherlands complete the line-up and are match-tough after negotiating the qualifying round in July where two-time champions West Indies crashed out.

# Virat Kohli Encounters 'Personal Emergency', Flies Back To Mumbai: Report



NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): India's talismanic batter Virat Kohli had to reportedly fly back to Mumbai from Guwahati because of reported 'personal emergency' while the rest of the Indian squad arrived in Trivandrum for their second warm-up game against the Netherlands.

Though the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) hasn't given any confirmed if Kohli will miss the warm-up game, a report claims that the star batter will return in time for the Netherlands clash and join his teammates on October 02.

Kohli remains one of the pillars in the Indian team. Though the Netherlands warm-up game isn't of absolute importance, the batter would want to get some runs under his belt considering the last match against England was abandoned due to rain.

"A source from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that he went to Mumbai for personal reasons. Virat will rejoin the team soon," Cricbuzz quoted a source as saying.

It isn't yet known what the personal emergency is but the expectations are that Virat would be back with the team in time. Kohli only featured for India in one of the three ODIs against Australia in a recently-

concluded series. The batter showed form in the 3rd ODI, scoring 56 runs although the Indian team suffered defeat in the contest.

Kohli didn't enjoy the best of phase in his cricketing career over the last 3 years. But, the year 2023 saw him return to his best. The batter has been scoring runs for fun once again, in time for the ODI World Cup campaign.

"The last two and a half years have taught me a lot. Those angry celebrations are a thing of the past. I have had many suggestions, lots of advice has come my way; people were telling me I was doing this wrong, that wrong," Kohli said, as per ICC.

"I picked out all the videos from the best time I had, same initial movement, same approach towards the ball and it was just what was happening inside my head, I wasn't able to explain it to anyone," he added.

In the upcoming Cricket World Cup, Kohli could go on to cement his place in history by breaking a few more all-time records.

# Asia Games 2023, Athletics: Vithya Ramraj equals PT Usha's national record to qualify for 400m hurdles final

HANGZHOU, Oct 2 (Agencies): On October 2nd, 2023, the Asian Games witnessed a remarkable performance by Indian athlete Vithya Ramraj. The 25-year-old hurdler clocked a personal best of 55.42 seconds in the women's 400m hurdles heats, securing her direct qualification for the final. This achievement was particularly significant as it equaled the national record set by Indian track and field legend PT Usha, a record that has stood unbroken for nearly four decades.

Vithya's performance was not only a personal triumph but also a moment of national pride. Her time of 55.42 seconds placed her among the top five athletes, advancing to the final, demonstrating India's continued strength in athletics

on the international stage. This achievement follows her near miss at the Indian Grand Prix 5 2023 athletics in September, where she clocked just 0.01 seconds short of the national record. However, the day was not without its disappointments.

Ramraj will compete in the final on October 3, 4:50 PM IST. Sinchal Kaveram Theetharamada Ravi, another promising Indian athlete, failed to advance to the final. She finished last in heat 2, marking a setback in her athletic journey.

India has had a great run in Athletics so far, securing a total of 12 medals. India has won two golds, five silvers and five bronze medals in the discipline.

On October 1, India's Murali Sreeshankar won the silver medal in the men's long jump



event. Sreeshankar registered a best attempt of 8.19m to clinch the silver medal. Sreeshankar finished second behind China's Wang Jianan who topped the charts with a 8.22m jump.

Seema Punia clinched a bronze medal in the women's

discus throw event, while Nandini Agasara won bronze in the women's heptathlon.

There was some drama involving Jyothi Yarraji on October 1 as she was initially disqualified but ended up winning the silver medal in 100m hurdles.

# TT at Asian Games: Sutirtha and Ayhika sign off with bronze medal after losing to Korea

HANGZHOU, Oct 2 (Agencies): Sutirtha Mukherjee and Auhika Mukherjee's giant-slaying run ended with a historic bronze medal at the Asian Games after the Indian duo lost the closely-fought women's doubles semifinal 3-4 to North Korea here on Monday.

Sutirtha and Ayhika lost 3-4 (11-7, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, 9-11, 11-5 and 2-11) to Suyong Cha and Sugyong Pak but grabbed the bronze following a sensational victory over world champions from China on Saturday.

With the result, the Indian challenge ended at the Games.

The medal came from an unexpected event with the Indian duo beating the Chinese pair of Meng Chen and Yidi Wang in the quarterfinals.



In 2018, India made history by picking up an unprecedented men's team and mixed doubles bronze.

The difference in the contest on Monday from the quarterfinal match was the fact that the North Koreans were not as troubled in the game by the anti-spin rubber of Ayhika, unlike the rattled Chinese pair.

"We failed to show the patience which they did. We were a little nervous in the last game and they attacked well to finish the points," said Sutirtha.

"But we are happy for a podium finish, the first in women's doubles," added Ayhika.

The Indians needed to sustain the attack in the last game but were not able to do so. In fact, the North Koreans went on a counter-offensive to take a 6-1 lead.

The spirited Indian pair had no answer to that and their fate was sealed when Sutirtha netted a forehand.

Nevertheless, it was still a monumental achievement by the Indians who are now ready to build on their success.

# Ronaldinho confirms his 'maiden visit' to Kolkata in mid-October

KOLKATA, Oct 2 (Agencies): Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has confirmed his visit to the city ahead of the Durga Puja festival.

For the three-time Ballon d'Or winner, this will be the maiden visit to the football-crazy city that has hosted many legends of the world sport, including Pele, Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi.

"Hello Everybody, I will be doing my maiden trip to Kolkata this mid-October," the 43-year-old posted on his official Facebook page.

"I know Kolkata has a huge number of Brazil fans and I am very excited to meet them," he added.

He would also meet West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and "gift her a jersey".

He further stated that he would like to "learn cricket" for city's icon Sourav Ganguly.

"I know cricket is very popular and this time I want to learn cricket from Bengal's 'Dada'.

"I would also interact with sponsors and many felicitation programs and promote the beautiful game. Let the Samba Magic begin this Durga Puja...



Ami tomader bhalo bhashi (I love you all)," he added.

The Brazilian is expected to arrive on October 16 and will be in the city for two days before heading to Dhaka, an official privy to the development told agency.

Besides playing a charity football match, the 2002 World Cup winner will interact with trainees in a football academy and will also unveil Durga Puja pandals across the city.

# Asian Games: North Korean soccer players clash with referee after losing to Japan

HANGZHOU, Oct 2 (Agencies): North Korea coach Sin Yong Nam defended his players after several clashed with match officials after losing 2-1 in their Asian Games soccer quarter-final against Japan in Hangzhou.

North Korea captain Jang Kuk Chol and team mate Kim Kyong Sok remonstrated heatedly with the match referees after the final whistle, prompting ground staff to run on to the pitch at Xiaoshan Sports Centre Stadium to intervene.

The North Koreans were earlier furious when Uzbek referee Rustam Lutfullin awarded a penalty to Japan after their goalkeeper Kang Juh Yok charged out and clipped the feet of Japan's Jun Nishikawa with an outstretched arm.

Yuta Matsumura slotted home the winning penalty from the spot to see Japan through to the semi-finals. "I admit that our players were a little bit over-excited in the match but it is football," Jang said at the post-match press conference.

"But there are confrontations in football matches.... I think our behaviour is acceptable." Japan coach Go Oiva declined to comment on the incident when asked.

"This match was as we expected," he said through a translator. "There are some things (we are) not happy about in the match but basically we can accept that."

# Asian Games: Indian men's, women's teams bag bronze in roller skating



HANGZHOU, Oct 2 (Agencies): Indian roller skaters clinched two bronze medals in men's and women's 3000m team relay events to match their best-ever performance at the Asian Games here on Monday.

The women's team of Sanjana Bathula, Karthika Jagadeeswaran, Heeral Sadhu and Aarathy Kasturi Raj opened India's account on the ninth day of competitions, finishing with a timing of 4:34.861s.

The Indian quartet finished behind

gold medalists Chinese Taipei (4:19.447) and South Korea (4:21.146).

Aryanpal Singh Ghuman, Anandkumar Velkumar, Siddhant Kamble and Vikram Ingale then sealed a second bronze with a timing of 4:10.128 in the men's team relay.

Chinese Taipei (4:05.692) and South Korea (4:05.702) took the top two spots.

Indian roller skaters had won two bronze medals at the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games in men's free skating and pairs skating events.

## Basti Sampark Abhiyan to develop greater connect with backward communities: Vinay

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Senior leader and Seh Prabhari District Jammu North Vinay Gupta launches door-to-door campaign in Flain Mandal of Jammu North and connects through its impoverished populace has embarked on a mega outreach program called 'Basti Sampark Abhiyan' for making an inroad into direct connect with the general public. Vinay Gupta stated that this outreach is aimed at educating the SC community and other segments of society about the Modi government's schemes, which have been launched in the past nine years of good governance.

Vinay Gupta was accompanied by Nihal Singh BJP Mandal President Flain Mandal, Madan Lal BDC Chairman, Ishya Deci Sarpanch, Tirth Ram



Mandal President SC Morcha, Panch Gharu Ram, Panch Girdhari Lal, Sukhdev Sharma Kissan Morcha Mandal President, Pt Bharat Bhushan and other party members were present on the occasion.

During the Jan Chetna Abhiyaan also known as "Basti Sampark Abhiyaan" in connection with the Seva Pakhwada fort night-long public outreach program, Vinay Gupta remarked about

the schemes given under the dynamic and vibrant leadership of PM Modi. Vinay expressed while addressing the general public and counted many public-friendly schemes and said that the present central government is working day and night for the poor ie Ujjwala Yojana for the poor, Jan Dhan Yojana, getting food grains during the Covid period, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana, etc. A lot of attachment to the Prime Minister's party was seen among all the people, everywhere there was talk of making Narendra Modi the Prime Minister again in 2024.

Vinay highlights that more than 12 crore toilets have been built, 40 percent are for Scheduled Caste community people. Many political party leaders will give only speeches that we

have done this, done that for Dalits and other backward communities.

Vinay also spoke about the core idea behind the party's vision and their course of action regarding the welfare schemes of the government. "Since 1951, our journey has only been dedicated to the country and society. He said the ideals that were laid down by Deendayal Upadhyaya were taken forward by PM Shri Modi in the name of "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas", Vinay said. He also educates the local inhabitants that 'Kisan Samman Nidhi', 'Jai Jeevan' 'PM Awas' 34 percent beneficiaries belong to the scheduled castes, Dalits, and Adivasis only. Vinay also appeals to BJP Karyakartas to act as bridges and ensure that all the welfare schemes of the government reach the most backward and downtrodden as well.

## District Court Bhaderwah Observes 'Gandhi Jayanti'

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADERWAH, Oct 2: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhaderwah observed Gandhi Jayanti in the court premises to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the supervision of worthy chairman DLSA (Pr. District and sessions Judge Bhaderwah), Sunit Gupta and Secretary DLSA (Sub Judge) Ramesh Lal. On this occasion participants, PLVs, staff of the court, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Bhaderwah Sanjay Kumar Sharma and Advocate Mohd Majid Malik also offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Advocate Mohd Majid Malik who is voluntarily participating in all awareness and cleanliness drive camps related to Swachhata Hi Seva campaign spoke in detail about the relevance of Gandhiji's values in the modern era and his principles of



social justice and concerns about the environment and urged the participants and youngsters to imbibe these values so as to lead a meaningful life. He also threw light on the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 and also enlightened the gathering on Mahatma Gandhi's life, his social works and efforts to inculcate the 'Dignity of Labour' in the Indian society. Meanwhile a cleanliness drive was also launched in and around court premises by the Municipal Committee in collaboration DLSA Bhaderwah and

other staff members. Adv Mohd Majid Malik informed that Mahatma Gandhi, also known as the Father of the Nation, Babu or Mahatma, was a political ethicist, nationalist and lawyer and Gandhi dedicated his life to the freedom of the nation and advocated for the path of peace, truth and non-violence. He also said Gandhi led many successful Satyagraha and Ahimsa movements to free India from British colonial rule and informed that Gandhi dedicated his life to the struggle for freedom, he added.

## Donating blood a significant service to society and mankind: Ritika



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Blood donation is a noble cause and deeply ingrained in our rich culture and tradition of Seva and Sahyog. I implore and call on all citizens to come forward and donate blood as part of the countrywide Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav. Donating blood is a significant service to society and mankind in addition to fulfilling the requirement for the country." This was stated by Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika after donating blood during blood donation camp at Gandhi Nagar Govt Hospital organized by management of Amar Ujala.

Councillor Rahul Kumar Ward 20, Ward President Satbir Singh, District Executive Member Sandeep Gupta Media Incharge and senior BJP member Vijay Verma also accompanied Ritika to blood donation camp. Accentuating the importance of blood donation and Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, Ritika said, "In India, the demand for blood transfusion arises for every 2 seconds. On an average, 14.6 million blood is needed every year and there is always a shortage of 1 million. Besides lack of understanding and awareness, several myths and facts are associated with a blood donation that could be discouraging healthy

people from turning into blood donors. Patients like Cancer patients, Sickle cell anemia and Thalassemia patients, require blood frequently. In every two seconds, someone in India needs blood and one out of every three of us will need blood in our lifetime, she stated. "Despite the technological advancements, there remains no alternative to blood and 1 unit of blood can save as many as three lives", Ritika noted. Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav aims to increase awareness regarding regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations and ensure that blood or its components are available, accessible, afford-

able and safe.

Debunking myths surrounding blood donation, Ritika stated that "Blood donation doesn't cause weakness, this is a misconception. A person has 5 - 6 litres of blood in their body and can donate blood every 90 days (3 months)." Body can recover blood very quickly. No weakness comes from this, on the contrary, people have to understand that before donating blood, a blood checkup is done before that, and you cannot donate blood before 3 months, blood donation is very important.

Emphasizing on the fact that we need to create awareness about blood donation, Ritika said, "We should understand and teach our future generation about the importance of blood donation and organ donation. She also appealed to the people of the world to donate blood. She also mentioned that we need to spread awareness about debunking the blood donation myths in rural areas, as people in rural areas are still more surrounded by these myths."

## Shiv Sena Hindustan frames new unit in District Udhampur



### TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, OCT 2: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today framed new unit in District Udhampur. According to hand-out issued here, Rajesh Khajuria was made the District President, Amit Vijay Kumar made the District Rural President, Rajendra Singh and Vijay Singh were made vice Presidents, Imtiaz Hussain was made District General Secretary, Mohan Lal Malhotra made Chief Advisor and Treasurer, Rajendra Khajuria made Organizer Sanjay Pandit, Organization secretary, Dharam Kapoor made

Public Secretary. On this occasion, dozens of people joined the District Udhampur unit of Shiv Sena Hindustan. Kesri, speaking on the occasion, said that soon Shiv Sena will field its candidates in the upcoming elections in J&K. Kesri told the newly appointed office bearer that we will have to connect with the people at the grassroots level, we will have to understand the pulse of people's suffering. We will have to follow the understanding of the people. We will have to understand and connect with the people for the things that people

need. We will have to curb the increasing number of drugs in the society. Today, some mischievous people in the society are introducing many dirty drugs like chita capsules to the young generation. Intoxicating pills, Corex etc are being sold which is a conspiracy of Pakistan so that our young generation gets trapped in their nefarious designs. Kesri further said that drugs are being pumped into J&K to exploit young generation and this drug money is collected and used towards terrorism so that our country can become weak. We have to stop

these things. Since last eight month, we have banned these things in Jammu, Samba, Kathua and all the border areas. The police is also giving full cooperation in this. We also inform the people that the drug dealers come here to sell drugs, we should inform the police, their names will be kept under wraps and will not be published among the common people so that these enemies of humanity can be punished. Balbir Kumar, Rajkumar, Rajesh Handa, Darshana Devi, Jyoti Devi and other Shiv Sainiks were present on the occasion.

## Basti Sampark Abhiyaan' strengthened SCs ties with BJP: Munish

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: Expressing his pleasure over the massive response to party's week long 'Basti Sampark Abhiyaan', Jammu and Kashmir BJP senior leader and former General Secretary, Munish Sharma, said that it provided an opportunity to reach maximum population of the SCs as the party activists from state to mandal and ward levels were in various localities under the campaign.

Munish Sharma said that under 'Basti Sampark Abhiyaan', the BJP had drawn a programme for direct interaction with the members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) category and the party activists were required to visit the localities housing the population of this class. They



were also asked to pay visit to the families, share with them the programmes and policies of the party as well as the union

government under PM Narendra Modi, aimed at their socio-economic upliftment and enable them to lead dignified life.

He said that the feedback, as received from the party activists at different levels has been very positive as the SCs have appreciated the welfare schemes launched by Narendra Modi government has benefitted them a lot and their lives changed to great extent. They were of the view that while availing the financial help, there was no agent or middle man and the money reached directly into their bank accounts through DBT mode.

This campaign has strengthened the ties of the BJP with the SC community, he claimed.

Munish Sharma, meanwhile, appealed the SCs to not get misled by the false propaganda of the parties like Congress, NC and PDP and strengthen BJP through their support and vote.

## JU leads the way in 'Swachhata hi Seva' Campaign



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 2: In a remarkable display of unity and commitment to cleanliness, the P.G. Department of Education at the University of Jammu conducted a massive cleanliness drive as part of the 'Swachhata hi Seva' Campaign. Faculty members, scholars, and enthusiastic students came together for the "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" initiative. The campus witnessed a transformative effort as the participants cleaned pathways, clogged drains, the garden area, parking spaces, roads, and roadsides. This exemplary endeavor exemplifies the University of Jammu's dedication to a cleaner and greener future.