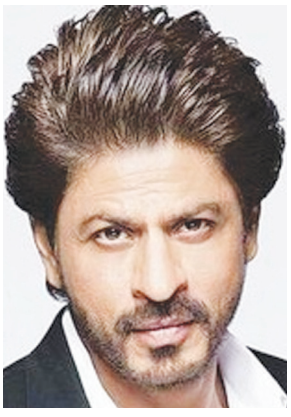


# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**China opposes violence and attacks in Middle East crisis, says foreign ministry**



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## BRIEFLY

### MeT predicts rain, snow in Kashmir tonight

SRINAGAR, Oct 9 (Agencies): The Meteorological Department J&K has predicted rain and snowfall in the higher reaches of various locations in Kashmir by Monday evening. In its latest weather update, the MeT department forecasts snow/rain in the higher areas of J&K, particularly in North Kashmir, by the evening of 9th October.

Regarding today's weather, there is no major forecast for rain or snow in J&K on Monday.

The department also anticipates light rain or snow at isolated places in J&K on Tuesday, 10th October. However, from 11th to 13th October (Wednesday to Friday), the weather is expected to remain mainly dry in the Union Territory.

### Armed suspect robs Indian-origin man's store in US, flees with cash

NEW YORK, Oct 9 (Agencies): Police are on the lookout for an armed suspect who robbed a store owned by an Indian-origin man and fled with cash, a media report said.

Shyamal Patel's Smokies Lounge smoke shop on Woods Edge Road was robbed at around 5am on Sunday when the suspect pointed a gun at the clerk, demanding cash, WRIC TV channel reported.

The Chesterfield County Police Department said the masked suspect wore a grey hoodie, dark pants, black shoes, and fled with an undisclosed amount of money.

"A male with an unknown race, about 5 feet and 6 inches tall with a medium build," police said.

Patel told the channel that this was not the first time that his store was robbed at gunpoint.

In April this year, two armed men robbed the store and fled with an unknown amount of cash, Patel said, adding that the men had since been arrested with the efforts of local police.

He suspects that in the most recent robbery, the man is likely his former employee who worked

Turn to page 9

## Voting for five Assembly Polls from Nov 7-30, Counting of Votes On Dec 3

**Polls in J&K will be held at 'Right Time' keeping security situation in mind: EC**

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): The Election Commission on Monday said polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held at the "right time" keeping in mind the security situation there.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said this while speaking at a press conference to announce the schedule for assembly elections in five states.

The polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held when the commission deems it the "right time" keeping in mind the security situation and other polls being held in the union territory, he said.



In response to another question, Kumar said announce-

ments of freebies always have the 'tadka' of populism and the public has the right to know from where the freebies will come.

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram will go to polls on different days from November 7-30 and votes will be counted for the five states on December 3, the Election Commission said, setting the stage for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls semi-finals.

This will be the last set of assembly elections ahead of the Lok Sabha polls next year.

## LG Sinha conducts on-site inspection & reviews ongoing construction work of Transit Accommodation at Zewan



SRINAGAR, Oct 9 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday conducted on-site inspection and reviewed ongoing construction work of the transit accommodation for PM Package employees at Zewan and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board's Office & Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar. Lt Governor emphasized on timely completion and strict monitoring of the progress of under-construction blocks. "It should be our mission to ensure speedier and quality construction to add more strength to socio-economic advancement", he said.

## LAHDC-Kargil Poll Results 'Referendum' Against Abrogation Of Article 370: NC-Congress Alliance

KARGIL (Ladakh), Oct 9 (Agencies): The National Conference (NC) and Congress alliance on Monday dubbed the LAHDC-Kargil poll results as a "referendum" against the Centre's decision of abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC and the Congress together won 22 of 26 seats in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil elections, the results of which were declared on Sunday.

The election was the first poll to be held after Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5,



2019. "This is definitely a referendum, the people of Kargil fought on this issue... Our first demand is the restoration of the democratic system in Ladakh. It is up to the government how they will do that - whether they will give a

full-fledged statehood to Ladakh, and if they cannot do that, then restore our position (with Jammu-Kashmir)," NC district president, Kargil, Hanifa Jan, said.

Jan said the people of Kargil want to get out of the "bureaucratic slavery" under the lieuten-

ant governor's administration.

"What the Government of India did was totally wrong, it was a betrayal with us, they took the decision without consulting us. So, this result is a total referendum against those decisions," the NC

Turn to page 9

## Sikh panel in Pakistan faces flak over neglect of Gurdwaras

LAHORE (Agencies), Oct 9 (Agencies): The Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC)--tasked with managing and maintaining gurdwaras in Pakistan--is facing criticism from the Sikh community for its perceived neglect

of these sacred places. The concerns raised by the community reflect their deep devotion and reverence for these holy sites, Khalsa Vox reported.

One of the primary concerns highlighted by Sikh devotees is the

deteriorating structural condition of a gurdwara associated with the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak.

These gurdwaras hold immense historical and religious significance for the community, making their neglect a matter of grave concern. Preserv-

ing the historical and cultural value of these sacred places demands careful maintenance.

Another alarming issue pertains to the quality of food served to pilgrims in the 'langar', the community kitchen.

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## Income tax department raids several locations in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Oct 9 (Agencies): The Income Tax department on Monday raided multiple business units in Kashmir. Reports reaching Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Dot Com said that "Income tax department Delhi raided Arco textile (DTA) Dawar Textile Agency at Lal-Mandi Srinagar owned by Jameel Aiman, a resident of Sopore A/P Shah Anwar Colony Hyderabad.

Another team headed by Sudeep Dabas raided Kashmir Glass industry

owned by Adil Magray and Modern Steel owned by Nisar Ahmad. Both the factories are situated at Phase 3rd SIDCO Khunmoh.

In Sopore, the sleuths of the Income Tax department raided the residence of Javid Ahmad Aiman of Arco business group.

An official also confirmed the raids to KDC and said searches are being conducted since morning and details of which will be shared after the conclusion of all searches.

## Rohingya Immigrants under Scrutiny over document forging

SRINAGAR, Oct 9 (Agencies): Rohingya immigrants residing in Jammu and Kashmir are facing scrutiny as some have been discovered in possession of Indian identification documents, notably Aadhaar cards and domicile certificates, reported The Tribune.

While a substantial population of Rohingya resides in the Jammu division, a significant portion of them remains unregistered and resides

in the region unlawfully. These immigrants have established settlements across various parts of the Jammu division, including remote districts like Kishtwar and Poonch.

Presently, the police have initiated a verification process for the credentials of all such refugees, focusing particularly on areas with a substantial Rohingya presence. Official estimates suggest that more than 5,500 such immi-

grants are residing in the Jammu division.

On October 4, the Kishtwar district police apprehended a Rohingya woman in possession of a domicile certificate in the Dachan area, where many immigrant women have married local residents and settled. Three individuals, including the woman, a revenue official, and a facilitator, have been booked by the police.

Kishtwar SSP Khail

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## Body of drowned UP resident recovered from Jhelum river in Sopore

SOPORE, Oct 9 (Agencies): The body of a non-local resident was retrieved from the river Jhelum in north Kashmir's Sopore on Monday morning, officials said.

An official told that after 12-hour-long rescue operation, the authorities managed to retrieve the body of a non-local resident identified as Surendar Prasad, resident of Babhanauli Kushinagar of Uttar Pradesh from the river Jhelum.

On Sunday evening, Surendra acci-

dentally drowned in the Jhelum River at Bohripura area of Sopore. Soon after the incident, a joint effort involving the SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) and J&K Police launched the rescue operation which remain continued late last night.

Today morning rescue operation restarted and were succeeded to fish out the body from the river. The official further added that the body has been taken to the hospital for necessary medical and legal formalities.

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**OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Dwarika Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh Shambhu Nath Bhat on 2/10/23 (Monday) originally resident of Lar - Ganderbal Kashmir Presently residing at H.No. 69, Indira Theatre Lane, New Mohinder Nagar, Jammu.

**THE TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 11/10/23 (Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near (Directorate of School Education) At 10:00 AM.

**Grief Stricken****Son & Daughter-in-Law**

Dr Sachan & Dr Archana Bhat

Dr Pawan & Dr Sunita Bhat

Dr Akash & Dr Sunaina Bhat

**Brothers & Sister-in-Law**

Sh Raj Nath & Smt Ratni Bhat

Sh Kundan Lal & Smt Suman Bhat

**Daughters & Son-in-Law**

Dr Meenakshi & Dr Virender Trisal

Dr Swati & Dr Akshay Sarode

Dr Shikha Bhat

**Sisters and Brother-in-law**

Smt Usha & Sh O N Bazaz

Smt Krishni & Sh H L Bakshi

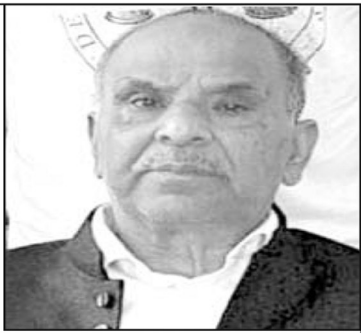
Smt Phoolia & Sh S K Raina

Smt Prana W/o Late Sh R K Vuthoo

**Grand Children:** Shivansh, Vibuthi, Kriday, Luv, Annapurna, Vihaas

**Mob no 9469543090, 8803545756**

**Bhat, Bazaz, Bakshi, Raina, Vuthoo, Trisal, Pandita, Tickoo**



**Sh Dwarika Nath Bhat**

**CREMATION/ 10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you that our beloved father **Karmayogi Shri. Rattan Lal Koul**, S/o Late Shri Shyamlal Koul originally R/o Kachwa Muqam Baramullah presently Lower Gadigarh near Raghunath Temple left for his heavenly abode on 05/10/2023.

**Cremination** will be performed at Indira Nagar Mira wahan cremation ground on 06/10/2023 at 11.30 am.

**10th day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 14/10/2023 at 08:30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Krishana Koul (Wife)

**Sons and Daughters-in-law**

Rohit Koul and Purva Koul

Rahul Koul and Kratika Koul

**Daughter and Son-in-law**

Shri. Mukesh Khajuria and Archana Koul Khajuria

**Brothers and Bhabhis**

Moti Lal Koul and Nirmala Koul

P.K. Koul

Manoj Koul and Pooja Bhat Koul

**Grand Children** - Pavani, Ved, Navya, Savni

**Contact No:- 8860533048, 9619933029, 9906908726, 7006105440**



**Shri. Rattan Lal Koul**

**OBITUARY /10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Jai Kishori Bhat** W/o Sh. Dina Nath Bhat originally resident of Tenggura, Pulwama A/p H. No 158, Prem Nagar New Plot, Jammu (Near Vishal Bar) on 01-10-2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed on 10-10-2023 at Muthi Ghat Near Director of School Education at 9.00 AM.

**Grief Stricken**

Sh. Dina Nath Bhat - Husband - 8899181838

Sh. Janki Nath & Smt Kishori Bhat - Devar & Devrani

Smt Kamla Ji - Bhabhi

Smt Raj Dulari Choudhary - Bhabhi

Smt Shanta Ji - Bhabhi

Smt Dulari Pandita - Bhabhi

Smt Kanta Raina - Sister

Mr Ramesh Kumar & Mrs Sarfa Bhat - Son & Daughter in Law

Smt Pinki & Mr Ravi Kumar Pandit - Daughter & Son in Law

Smt Jolly & Sh. Dileep Kumar Pandit - Daughter & Son in Law

Mrs Maneesha & Mr Sumet Veshan - Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law

**Grand Children:**

Bindu, Indu, Mohit, Deepu, Niha

**CONTACT NO : 9796429683, 7006596893, 9149524179, 9906163317**



**SMT JAI KISHORI BHAT**

**OBITUARY**

(25TH OCTOBER 1930 - 05TH OCTOBER 2023)

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR REVERED FATHER **SH. KANYA LAL WARIKOO** S/O LATE JAGER NATH WARIKOO ON 05TH OCTOBER, 2023. ORIGINALLY R/O DRABYAR HABBAKADAL, PRESENTLY RESIDING IN FARIDABAD.

CONDOLENCES BEING HELD AT 1302/TOWER-8, SPR IMPERIAL ESTATE, SECTOR 82, FARIDABAD.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 14TH OCTOBER, 2023 (SATURDAY) AT CHOTA HARIDWAR, MURADNAGAR, GANG NEHAR, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD AT 8:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. RANI KAIL & SH. M.K.KAIL - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

Smt. SUDESH RAINA & SH. SURINDER RAINA - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

Smt. GIRJA BHAT & SH. SATISH BHAT - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

Smt. SUNG, BHAN & DR. SURINDER BHAN - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

Smt. SHAMMOON RAINA & SH. SUPREET RAINA - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON

Smt. TANUSHREE KAUL & SH. SUNIL BISHAN - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW

Capt. NITIKA KAUL & MAJ. K. NANAI - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW

Smt. SHEFALI RAINA & SH. SANCHIT RISHI - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW

Sh. RISHAB BHAN & SH. ANUSH BHAT - GRAND SON

DR. GEETGA BHAN - GRAND DAUGHTER

**MOBILE NO: 9416335777, 9818483528, 9818803000, 9899015014**



**Sh. Kanya Lal Warikoo**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Yog Raj Gupta** S/o Late Sh Isher Dass Gupta R/o H No. 115, W-11, Gali Malhotra Mohalla near Madan Sweet Shop, Jammu who left us for his heavenly abode on Thursday 28th September, 2023.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at our residence on 7th of October 2023 at 10:30 am at our residence.

**Kriya** will be performed on 10th October, Tuesday at 12:00 Noon.

**Grief Stricken :**

**Son and Daughter in law**

Sh Mohit and Smt Arti Gupta

Miss Krishika Gupta (Daughter)

**Daughters and Sons in law**

Smt Sonika and Sh Rakesh Arora

Smt Meenakshi and Sh Kapil Chopra

**Grand Children**

Manav and Daksh

**Mobile No. 9697231264,**

**9149884343**



**Sh Yog Raj Gupta**

**OBITUARY**

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved father **Sh. Dwarka Nath Bhandari (Boba)**, resident of Indiranagar, Srinagar currently staying at 9C Royal, Shipra Suncity, indirapuram on 1-10-2023 in Delhi.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muradnagar, Ghaziabad on 10th October at 8AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Brother & Bhabi**

Makhan Lal Bhandar & Phoola Bhandar

Rattan Lal Bhandar & Nancy Bhandari

**(Son & Daughter-in-law)**

Sunil Bhandari & Jyoti Bhandari

Anil Bhandari **(Son)**

**(Daughter and Son-in-law)**

Vandana Raina & Sanjay Raina

Shriya, Sheen, Neil, Satyam, Shivam & Tanishka **(Grand Kids)**

**And entire Bhandari, Ambardar & Tikoo family.**

**Mobile : 9816062599, 9821009310**



**SH. DWARKA NATH BHANDARI (BOBA)**

**CHOUBARS**

"Sincere Remembrance & Respectful Tributes"

**Choubari** of our beloved **Sh. Rajinder Mohan Gupta** S/o Lt. Sh. Khazan Chand Gupta (Newgran Wale) shall be performed at our residence 394/3 Channi Himmat, Jammu on Tuesday 10-Oct-2023.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By:**

Smt. Nirmala Gupta (Wife)

Smt. Kiran & Vinay Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Smt. Chand & Sh. Surinder Gupta

Smt. Kanchan & Madan Gupta

Smt. Renu & Sanjeev Gupta

Smt. Meenu & Sanjeev Gupta

**Sister-in-law & Brother**

Lt. Smt. Krishna & Sh. Joginder Mohan Gupta

Smt. Shoba & Sh. Jatinder Mohan Gupta

Smt. Baby & Sh. Radha Krishna Gupta

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

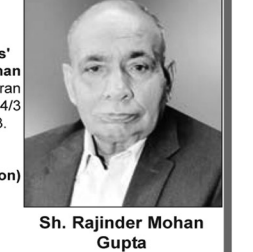
Lt. Smt. Santosh & Lt. Sh. Chandar Parkash Gupta

Smt. Moni & Lt. Sh. Chaman Lal Gupta

Smt. Champa & Sh. Giridhari Lal Gupta

Smt. Kusum & Sh. Subash Gupta

**M/s Sai Mobiles, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu**



**Sh. Rajinder Mohan Gupta**

**TENTH DAY/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Nand Saroop Nanda** S/o Lt Sh Des Raj Nanda, R/o H. No. 92, Kali Jani, Pacca Danga, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 5 October 2023.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 13.10.23 (Friday) at Rani Park at 10.30 AM and **UTHALA** will be on 16.10.23 (Monday) at Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road from 4 to 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Santosh Nanda (Wife)

**Brothers and Sisters in law**

Lt. Sh Madan Lal and Asha Nanda

Sh. Ramesh Chander and Rama Nanda

**Sons and Daughters in law**

Deepak and Pooja Nanda

Rajan and Visheta Nanda

**Daughter and Son in law**

Shivali and Rajesh Anand (JKP)

**Ph. No: 9419193712, 9469000721**



**Nand Saroop Nanda**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **SH. OM PARKASH GUPTA** S/o Late Sh. Sant Ram Gupta R/o Durang, Billawar.

**10th Day** will be performed on Monday 9th October 2023 at our residence Durang at 11:00 AM.

**13TH DAY/KRIYA** will be performed on Thursday 12th October 2023 at our residence Durang.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Chand Rani (Wife)

Sh. Kushal Kumar Gupta and Smt. Asha Gupta (Son and Daughter-in-law)

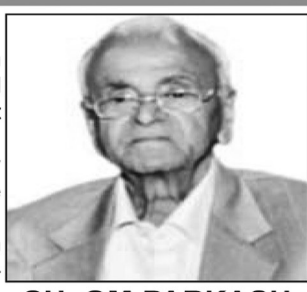
Sh. Bipan Gupta and Poonam Gupta (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta and Tripta Gupta (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Reva Gupta W/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta (Daughter and Son-in-law)

**Grandchildren** (Paras, Palak, Tanvi, Pranav, Danish & Pragati)

**Ph. 9419168964, 9419323555, 9858689504**



**SH. OM PARKASH GUPTA**

**OBITUARY/ 10TH DAY/ KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita** S/o Lt Sh. Prem Nath Pandita on 07-10-2023 (Saturday) originally resident of Deeri (Pulwama) Kashmir at present Muthi Migrant Quarters Phase II (Eakta Bhawan/Community Hall Jammu

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 16-10-2023 Monday at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education at 9.00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Shanti Devi - Wife

Nancy W/o Lt Sh Jager Nath - Sister

King Ji & Shakti - Son & Daughter in Law

Susheel Pandita - Son

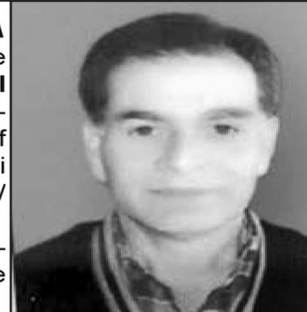
Rohit & Pooja - Son & Daughter in Law

Pooja & Sunny - Daughter & Son in Law

**Grand Children:** Sadhvi, Pranay

Rushika Pandita & Lavanya Raina

**MOBILE NO: 9469231752, 7006530998, 9796421367**



**SH. CHAMAN LAL PANDITA**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Aniket Kumar** S/o Sh. Ajay Kumar R/O W.No 6, Karan Nagar Near Durga Mata Mandir left for his heavenly abode on 01 Oct 2023.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 10-10-2023 (Tuesday) from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at Pine Villa Guest House, Karan Nagar, Railway Road, Udhampur.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 13-10-2023 (Friday) at Devika Ghat at 11:00 AM

**GRIEF-STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Lalita Devi [Grand Mother]

Smt. Sapna and Sh. Ajay Kumar (Rinku) [Mother and Father]

Smt. Suresh Arora and Sh. Hari Krishan Arora (Batote wale) [Naani and Naanu ji]

Smt. Jyoti Devi and Sh. Sanjay (Chachi and Chachu)

Smt. Monika Abrol and Sh. Narinder Abrol [Bua and Fuffad ji]

Smt. Ankita and Sh. Rohit Sani [Chachi and Chachu]

Miss Archi [Sister]

SK Studio, Bus Stand Udhampur

All Family members

**CONTACT NUMBERS :- 7006951427, 9419903232, 7006841025**



**ANIKET KUMAR**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT MANJU SHARMA** W/O LT. SH RAVINDER SHARMA OF 271 PACCI DAKKI, JAMMU ON 1ST OCT 2023.

**TENTH DAY** WILL BE HELD ON 10TH OCT 2023 AT RANI MANDIR NEAR RANI PARK FROM 10 AM TO 11 AM

**KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 11TH OCT 2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE PACCI DAKKI, JAMMU.

**UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 11TH OCT 2023 FROM 4PM TO 5 PM AT TRIKUTA YATRI BHAWAN AMPHALLA NEAR PETROL PUMP OPP. SBI.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

SH RAJINDER TRIKHA (JETH)

(DEVAR & DEVARANI)

SH SURINDER AND SMT KAMLESH TRIKHA

MR VIKRAM SHARMA (SON)

**DAUGHTERS AND SON-IN-LAWS**

POOJA AND RAKESH GUPTA

ARCHANA AND NITIN GUPTA

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

**ALL TRIKHA FAMILY**

**CONTACT:- 9086152565, 9906191834**



## DC reviews saturation of Self-Employment schemes in Doda district

*Stresses on Agro & Tourism Cooperatives; Follow up of sponsored units; Promotion of Pattu & other local handicrafts*

### Top News Report

DODA, Oct 9: To provide gainful employment to the desiring unemployed youth of the district, the Central and UT government has launched a variety of self-employment schemes. Through these schemes, training, financial assistance, and handholding are provided to interested entrepreneurs by the intending departments to enable them to establish a viable venture.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan convened a meeting of the stakeholder departments and reviewed their performance.

The DC, while reviewing the saturation of the schemes, asked the stakeholders to strive for creating Agro and Tourism Cooperatives across the district to boost the local economy while rejuvenating traditional customs and business practices. He also impressed upon the Handloom and Handicrafts departments to revive the local Pattu making (Handmade woollen cloth) and other crafts



in the district to improve rural economic activities with special focus to provide livelihood opportunity to women folk in their vicinity. The DC directed the concerned to hold the review meeting on employment generation status on the first Monday of each month.

It was informed that till September this year, 1631 cases have been sanctioned out of 2176 sponsored cases, and

941 cases have been disbursed, creating employment for 2492 youth, under PMEGP, JKREGP, MUMKIN, TEJASWINI, NMDFC, NM-EDU, direct finance scheme, ISDS, HADP, Aqua Culture Development Plan, and other like schemes.

The Deputy Director Employment and LDM were asked to coordinate and make sure that all the desiring applicants get their chosen financial assis-

tance at the earliest. The stakeholder departments were further asked to run an extensive advertisement in the media about their schemes and invite applications from the eligible unemployed youth for greater awareness and saturation of the schemes.

After the review meeting, the interview of the candidates who had applied for financial assistance under JKREGP was conducted to assess the applicants' calibre and to ensure the units created through the financial assistance provide livelihood to the beneficiary.

The meeting was attended by CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, GM DIC/ DD Employment Idrees Lone, LDM, District Coordinator JK Bank, DIO Doda, Dy Registrar Cooperatives Doda, Principal Polytechnic College Doda, Superintendent ITI Doda, District Manager KVIB, District officer NULM/ NRLM, District Manager SC/ST/OBC Corporation, PO DUDA, representatives of Handloom, Handicrafts and other concerned officials.

## DC Kathua reviews progress on PMGSY road projects in Billawar division



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 9: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of concerned officers here in the DC office complex to review the progress of works being executed in PMGSY Division Billawar.

Taking the appraisal of the progress achieved by the Billawar PMGSY

division, the DC was informed about the status of seven projects undertaken by PMGSY Division Billawar.

The DC took in depth review of each work being executed by concerned contractors and asked them to submit a daily progress report to the concerned office, which is to be reviewed at the DC office on a weekly basis.

The DC directed the Executive Engineers to pace up the speed to complete all works in a time bound manner besides calling for removing bottlenecks to achieve maximum target works within stipulated time.

Regarding the pending works, the DC called upon the executing agencies to avoid unnecessary delays on their part. He also laid thrust on adhering to the quality standards of all works taken up by these executive agencies to get durable assets.

On the issue of delay in completion of some works, the DC called upon the executing agencies to penalise and blacklist the defaulters.

The meeting was attended by CPO, concerned officers of PMGSY Billawar divisions and contractors.

## District Panel approves 16 Rent cases at Doda



### Top News Report

DODA, Oct 9: The District Rent Assessment Committee (RAC), which met here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, approved 16 rent cases.

A total of 21 cases were submitted before the committee. Five cases were deferred due to some deficiencies of required documents and absence of competent officers in the meeting. Revenue Officers were instructed to attach revenue extracts with the title verification of each property to be assessed for the rent. Intending departments were asked to present required documents before the committee on the next date, in respect of those cases deferred today. The rent cases which were discussed in the committee and

approved pertained to Police, HP&M, Fire and Emergency Services, Social Welfare, Health, Handloom, Indian Army, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, GMC Doda, DUDA and ISM (AYUSH).

The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district.

The chairman asked intending departments to submit the case with the rent agreement duly issued by Judicial/ Executive Magistrates only.

The meeting was attended by CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, ACR Doda Sanjeev Kumar, SP Headquarter Shakeel Batt, SE PWD R.P Gupta, CMO Doda Dr Hamid Zargar, AD Planning GMC Doda, District Officer HP&M, CAO, DSWO, ADMO ISM, CAHO Doda, PO DUDA and other concerned officials.

## DC Doda reviews arrangements for forthcoming festivals

### Top News Report

DODA, Oct 9: The District Administration of Doda, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, convened a meeting to discuss preparations for the upcoming Navratri, Maha Navami and Dussehra festivals falling on October 15th, 23rd, and 24th, respectively. The meeting, held in the DC office complex, covered various aspects of festival arrangements, including sanitation, security, electricity supply, traffic management, and other provisions.

In a virtual discussion, DC Doda engaged with key officials, including ADC Bhaderwah, ASP Bhaderwah, SDMs of Gandoh, Assar, Thathri, and others. They deliberated on security



measures, venues for effigy burning during Dussehra, uninterrupted power supply during Navratri, traffic coordination, and ration distribution. Emphasis was placed on maintaining cleanliness around temples and promoting sanitation messages. All magistrates and police officers were directed to be present

during processions, with a strict prohibition on anti-social slogans.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure the successful celebration of the festivals. The Health Department was tasked with providing medical facilities around temple premises, while the Police were urged to enhance security at the temples. PHE and PDD Departments were instructed to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, and the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs authorities were directed to guarantee sufficient ration and LPG cylinder supplies. Traffic management and

signage for devotees' convenience were also highlighted.

The meeting was attended by the Superintendent engineer, hydraulic circle Doda, Superintendent engineer JKPDC DODA, ACR Doda, CMO Doda, Tehsildar Doda, Assistant Director FCS and CA Doda, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department Doda, Executive Engineer JKPDC Doda, AD fire and emergency services Doda, and Executive Officer MC Doda.

The meeting was also attended in virtual mode by ADC Bhaderwah, ASP Doda, SDMs of Gandoh, Assar, Thathri, all tehsildars, SDPOs and Executive Officers MC Thathri/Bhadrwah, and other concerned officials.

## GDC Kathua organises students' Field Trip to Jasrota Wild -Life Sanctuary

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 9: To promote wildlife conservation and raise awareness about the value of protecting India's natural heritage, Science Club and Ravi Eco Club of Government Degree College Kathua organised a field trip sponsored by J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council for students at Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary.

More than 50 enthusiastic students participated in the field trip to Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary. The trip was formally flagged off by the



College Principal Prof. Seema Mir in presence of Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, Prof. Raj Kiran, Dr. Deepshikha, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Prof. Shub Kumar, Dr. Surya Partap Singh, Prof. Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Suresh, Dr. Kamaldeep, Dr. Amrik and Prof. Neeru Sharma.

The field trip was organised under the mentorship of the Principal and with coordinated efforts of Sunita Razdan, Joint Director J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, Science Club, Dr. Deepshikha, Convener Ravi

Eco Club and Dr. Pankaj Gupta Organizing Secretary and Nodal Officer.

The students showed great enthusiasm during the trip during which they visited different locations and observed a variety of Fauna and Flora inside the sanctuary.

Convener Science Club Prof. Rakesh Singh, threw light on the importance of biodiversity and role of the individuals in its conservation. Dr. Pankaj Gupta, encouraged the students to reap maximum benefit out of this field trip. Convener, Ravi Club Dr. Deepshikha elaborated about the various species of plants and animals present in the sanctuary. Faculty members accompanying the field trip included Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Prof. Surbhi and Dr. Suresh.

## Samridhhi Diwas observed in Block Mankote under Sankalp Saptah



### Top News Report

MANKOTE, Oct 9: As part of the Sankalp Saptah launched by the Prime Minister at New Delhi, the Aspirational block Mankote has been organising a slew of activities since 3rd of October, 2023.

On Day 6, with a view to ensure benefits of Centrally sponsored schemes percolate down to the beneficiaries, a series of activities were held under Thematic Area of Samridhhi Diwas(Livelihood) at Village Dabraj in Aspirational Block Mankote.

The programmes were held on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary to sensitize the people about benefits of different schemes.

During the programmes, an Awareness Rally on PM Vishwakarma Scheme was held by the Handloom Department to raise awareness about this Central Sector Scheme recently launched by the Prime Minister.

The concerned department imparted the awareness about PM Vishwakarma scheme envisaging provisioning of the

benefits to the Artisans and Craftspersons by Recognition, Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentives, Credit Support, Incentives for Digital Transaction and Market Support.

In addition, potential beneficiaries were made aware of other Govt run schemes to ensure effective targeting and scheme saturation in line with Gol objectives.

Similarly, Schemes of NRLM as well as Handicrafts Department like Karkhandar and Artisan support schemes were also stressed upon. During the programmes, various Handicrafts items were showcased in the fair.

Likewise, Training module on digital and financial literacy for upcoming budding entrepreneurs was also imparted. The need for business plan development was stressed through business competition. Marketing and linkage needs were focused.

The programmes were held under the supervision of ADDC Poonch, General Manager DIC, Assistant Director Handloom, BDO Mankote, District Coordinator NRLM, SDM Mendhar and other concerned.

## Conduct of Recruitment Training To Youth of Chhatral and Nearby Villages, Poonch

### Top News Report

POONCH, Oct 9: A recruitment training for the youth of Chhatral and nearby villages was culminated on 08 Oct 2023. A month long training started on 01 Sep 2023 was attended by 50 young aspirants of this remote area.

The aim was to train and guide the young aspirants for enrolment in Armed Forces.

The training included conduct of physical training, classes for written test and basic medical tests. The youth were motivated to join the Army as Agniveer and were also made

to understand the benefits of joining as an Agniveer.

The parents of youth applauded the efforts of the Army for organising such an event which would help provide employment to the passionate youth of the region and serve the nation.





## EDITORIAL

LEADERSHIP  
STYLES

Leadership style means the pattern of behaviour a leader follows or adopts for influencing the followers or the subordinates working in the enterprise. What style of leadership a leader adopts depends on an array of factors such as his personality traits, value system and experience.

Leadership style varies from person to person at the same point of time and may also vary from one situation to another situation by the same leader.

Behavioural pattern adopted by a leader while influencing his followers is called as a leadership style. What style of leadership a leader adopts depends on an array of factors such as his personality traits, value system and experience. Leadership style varies from person to person at the same point of time and may also vary from one situation to another situation by the same leader.

An autocratic leader exercises strict control over his subordinates. He dominates the group and gives orders with an expectation of fulfillment without any queries. Such a leader believes in maintaining a formal authority relationships, strictly following one-way communication and has least trust and confidence in his subordinates.

Leaders with authoritative behavioural pattern motivate subordinates with the tools of punishments, threats and penalties. In autocratic leadership style, decision-making is centralised with the leader, subordinates are perceived as mere recipients of orders and work environment is tense.

Participative leader also called as democratic leader invites inputs from the subordinates on company issues before taking any decision. Participative leadership involves all team members both in terms of identification of goals as well as devising policies and strategies to achieve such goals. In this type of leadership, ample freedom of opinion is given to subordinates and two-way communication is encouraged. Democratic leaders use rewards and appreciations as tools to motivate their subordinates.

Under free rein leadership also called as laissez-faire, it may be said that virtually there is no leadership. Though the performance standards and objectives are set, subordinates are given full autonomy to decide and plan how to achieve these objectives. The entire decision-making responsibility is passed on to the subordinates with least intervention of leader.

Good leaders use all the three styles of leadership, though, however, only one of them dominates at a point of time.

Authoritarian (Autocratic) style is used when the leader tells his employees what he wants and how he wants it done, without getting the advice of his followers. Some of the appropriate conditions when this style is used are when leader has all the information to solve the problem, he is short on time, and his employees are well motivated.

Some people tend to think that this style is leading by threats and abusing their power. This is not the authoritarian style rather it is an abusive unprofessional style called bossing people around which has no place in a leader's profile.

The authoritarian style should only be used on rare occasions. If leaders have the time and want to gain commitment and motivation from the employees, they should use the participative style.

Participative (Democratic) style involves the leader and one or more employees in the decision-making process (determining what to do and how to do). However, the leader maintains the final decision-making authority. Using this style is not a sign of weakness; rather it is a sign of strength that employees respect and are committed to.

This style is normally used when leader has part of the information, and employees have other parts. A leader is not expected to know everything — this is why he employs knowledgeable and skillful employees. Using this style is of mutual benefit to both, leader and the followers. It allows followers to become part of the team and leader to make better decisions.

In Delegate (Free Reign) style of leadership, leader allows the employees to make decisions. However, the leader remains responsible for the decisions that are made by employees. This style is used when employees are able to analyze the situation and determine what needs to be done and how to do it. The leader cannot do everything. He sets priorities and delegates certain tasks to employees.

## Will Michelle replace Biden to take on Trump in 2024?

By: Padma Rao Sundarji

She's on vacation aboard film director Steven Spielberg's yacht, somewhere in European waters. But when she returns home, the stage seems set for Michelle Obama to have a close encounter with power of the highest kind: as presidential candidate of the US Democratic Party in election year 2024.

Incumbent President Joe Biden is bent on contesting again. But the nearly 81-year-old's cognitive skills are deteriorating fast. He has fallen off bicycles, tripped on aircraft steps, stumbled on wires, staggered into flagpoles and wandered aimlessly on stages after appearances. He mumbles and forgets names, he nods off during meetings, he drops brick after embarrassing brick.

Little wonder that voices have been growing louder for former First Lady Michelle Obama to enter the arena. For it is she, not any current Democratic hopeful and certainly not President Biden, who is likeliest to defeat the current Republican forerunner, former President Donald Trump.

Since the beginning of this year, poll after opinion poll has confirmed Mr Biden's declining ratings, Mr Trump's lead over all the other Republican hopefuls, and Michelle Obama's popularity across the political spectrum.

In a recent Washington Post survey, Mr Biden won the approval of only 37 per cent -- 10 points lower than Donald Trump.

In a poll conducted by AP/NORC, 88 per cent of Americans (69 per cent of Democrats) think Mr Biden is too old for a second term. Another fear looms large. Even if Mr Biden wins, he is expected to retire mid-term -- and bring his even more unpopular deputy, vice-president Kamala Harris, to power.

Ms Harris' approval ratings have remained low throughout

her vice-presidency. A recent NBC News survey found that she had the lowest rating (32 per cent) for any vice-president since the 1990s.

But since ditching Kamala Harris alone won't guarantee a victory for the Democrats, it is Mr Biden who is being urged by analysts on all sides of the political divide to bow out of the race.

Earlier this year, the Centre Square Voters' Voice Poll found that Mr Biden may coast to victory over other Democratic potentials like Robert F. Kennedy Jr, former New York City mayor Bill de Blasio or even popular California governor Gavin Newsom. But if pitched against Michelle Obama, he would get only 36 per cent, whereas Ms Obama would win 48 per cent of the vote.

It is early days yet to test Michelle Obama's strength against that of Donald Trump himself. However, the reactions of Republican leaders to the very thought of her candidature show that she is expected to rock the boat.

"If they (Democrats) were to run Michelle Obama, that would put us in a very difficult position because they'd reach for a candidate who is completely plausible, very popular, and immune to criticism," former Trump aide Monica Crowley had warned at a Republican gathering in Florida way back in 2022 itself.

More recently, Republican Senator Ted Cruz described what he called "the most likely and dangerous scenario in August 2024". He said that the Democrats will "jettison Biden and parachute in Michelle Obama".

Former GOP vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin, too, says that the Democrats will go with Michelle Obama. "Don't be surprised. It'll be Michelle O's #2024Election. Biden's out", she posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Ms Obama's support base

consists primarily of Americans below 55, women's groups, childless voters, the LGBT community and young parents.

She may have only been the spouse of a former President, but Michelle Obama qualifies eminently. She is an attorney with degrees from Princeton University and Harvard Law School. She is the author of four books. She has campaigned against Donald Trump in 2020, advocated several causes, worked in non-profit groups, in community service and for poverty awareness. She has faced vile abuse and criticism with grace. "Barack and I have been in the public eye for many years now, and we've developed a thick skin along the way. When you're out campaigning, there will always be criticism... it comes with the territory," she once said.

Michelle Obama has emerged a winner in surveys since the beginning of her husband's presidency. In 2009, she was named popular show host Barbara Walters' Most Fascinating Person of the Year. In April 2012, she received the NCHV Award from homeless veterans along with her husband. In 2015, she received it again. In three Gallup polls from 2018 to 2020, Ms Obama remained "the most admired woman" in the United States.

She has been Time magazine's Woman of the Year and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Further and due to eight years in the White House, Michelle Obama is well-versed with the duties and challenges of the world's most powerful office.

She is much younger than both Mr Trump and Mr Biden. She would be the first woman President and the first fully African-American person to be elected to that position.

And unlike Republican contender Donald Trump, who has not only been indicted but is now being accused of sharing nuclear secrets with a foreign-

er, Ms Obama has an unblemished track record, unmarred by scandals and rumours.

And finally, her children are now old enough for her to focus entirely on the presidency.

The Democratic National Committee has ruled out primary debates ahead of 2024. Still, both voters and senior Democratic leaders have been pushing for candidates to "prove" themselves ahead of 2024.

Interestingly, even African-American Democrats are now demanding in public that current V-P Kamala Harris "prove" herself ahead of the election, and that her being Mr Biden's running mate against "is not a given". Their remarks are being interpreted as a door being opened to let Michelle Obama in.

Conservative website "The Hill" writes that a Michelle victory would revive the charisma of Barack Obama's presidency, one that persists till date. "Giving Michelle Obama the ticket would give Democrats their best chance of winning in 2024," commented the site.

"There are three things certain in life: death, taxes and Michelle is not running for President," Barack Obama had said way back in 2016, when asked whether his wife would ever enter the contest.

Last week, the former President dodged the same question, when leaving a restaurant in Los Angeles. His wife, too, has said that she "never had the passion for politics" and has ruled out her candidature several times.

But to audiences old and young, Michelle Obama has also been an inspirational motivator.

"Just try new things. Don't be afraid. Step out of your comfort zones and soar, all right?" she once urged students of Harvard University.

Will she walk that talk now?

## Why do we need tests and grades?



By: Vijay GarG

Marks and rankings are the currency of education and advancement. But they are flawed and unfair assessments. Off the Mark: How Grades, Ratings, and Rankings Undermine Learning (but Don't Have To) by Jack Schneider and Ethan L Hutt, is set in the US, but analyses this global dilemma.

Why do we need tests and grades? To motivate learners, to succinctly record their abilities, communicate these to other institutions, and signal to employers. But they don't work that way: grades goad students, but not their learning. Students

don't waste time on anything that won't be tested. Grading skews incentives, as students cheat or game the system. Marks also sharpen inequalities. The strongest predictor of marks is a student's family and neighbourhood; affluent parents exert more pressure and provide more support.

Then comes the standardised test, first devised in 19th century America for a uniform diagnosis of varied student populations. Unfortunately, they have been used as snapshots of ability that become lasting portraits of inequality. The test-takers did not ask whether the content of the test measured biological intelligence or social opportunities. The standardised test became educational destiny.

But what blanket critiques of standardised tests miss is that they are not all the same. 'Norm-reference' tests, meant to place a student in a particular distribution, can identify those who are very advanced and those who need special assistance. Meanwhile, 'criterion-reference' tests are used to check if a student has reached a particular standard.

This targeted assistance for identified weaknesses can make all the difference to students and can be a tool of educational equity. If someone is near sighted, then they are not told they have a permanent deficiency, they are prescribed glasses. It's when a result is treated as the end of the story, rather than the impetus for intervention, that there's a problem.

School is supposed to be the great equaliser of social opportunity, but it doesn't work that way. Standardised tests do take away the high-stakes pressure of school grades, but both are correlated with socioeconomic status. But then again, so are student essays, for which they often rely on their networks. Recommendation letters can be hard to parse, a mess of adjectives and writing styles. There is no easy fix for fairness, the only way is to use nuanced judgments, knowing that these useful tools can also be weapons. The predicament of marking and testing is a wicked problem, the whole world struggles with similar frustrations. Countries experiment with different elements

and weights. Zambia assesses students with 75% on national exams and 25% on school grades. New Zealand measures progress in secondary school through a pass-fail system, not grades, reducing both competition and gaming. At higher levels, it adds distinctions for merit and excellence, to let students compete. Singapore has recently flattened its ranking systems, after deciding it was unhealthy. Another way is to peg tests to practice: for instance, instead of multiple-choice questions for history, it makes sense to do what historians do, piece fragments from the archive to offer an interpretation of the past.

The book shows that we need to go beyond the usual either/or framing about marks and exams. We need to look at the specific uses of each tool, and within the context of broader goals. We need to recalibrate rather than reinvent

Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout  
Punjab



# Great Dogra Gen Baj Singh Remembered



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: Today in a Grand Function Organized By Dogra Sadar Sabha Shakra Badhori [Samba] under the aegis of DSS J & k in the Memory of Great Dogra Gen. Baj Singh, the saviour of Gilgit-Baltistan and naming the Badhori pond as "General Baj Singh Sarovar" unveiled the portrait by Th. Gulchain Singh Charak former Minister and President Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K along with Major Gen. G S Jamwal (Retd.), Lt. General Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Retd.) president J&KEx-services league, Sh. G A Khawaja (Retd. DC) and addl. General Secretary DSS J&K and other prominent Dogras in the presence of large number of people of the area near the Sarovar, there after in a specially organized public meeting at the venue to pay Homage to son of the Soil, the Great warrior. The special guests Maj. General GS Jamwal, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Sh. G A Khawaja threw light on the journey of his life and remembered the other brave hearts of the Duggar Pradesh.

Sh. Charak President of the Sabha addressing the gathering congratulated the whole public for paying befitting tribute to the late General by naming the Pond at his native Village as "General Baj Singh Sarovar" and appealed

to all to wake up and Save the heritage and history created by our ancestors giving unparalleled numerous sacrifices to create this unique erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir on this earth. He said that the sacrifices and the great deeds of our heroes is the source of inspiration for our generations. He thanked the Hon'ble Prime minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji, who during his visit to this region to attend the program at village Palli, had announced that all important institutions especially important Ponds should be preserved and named in the memory of the great personalities of the area which will inspire our youths of the nation.

Sh. Charak thanked all the office bearers, and members of DSS for taking this decision and playing their role in accomplishing this task. He also appreciated the efforts of DSS Badhori unit, poets, Singers and other local public for organizing such a befitting program on the occasion.

In the end the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Public.

1. They demanded sufficient funds from the Govt. for renovation and preservation of Gen. Baj Singh Sarovar
2. To maintain mutual brotherhood at all costs.
3. High School at Badhori be named as General Baj Singh Memorial high

School.

4. They urged the PWD department to properly repair and maintain "General Baj Singh Marg" i.e link road from Bari Brahma to village Badhori.

5. In another resolution the public demanded adequate facilities like community health centre, veterinary dispensary, bank branch etc. In the village.

Among others who expressed their views included Gambhir Ddev Singh I/C Youth wing DSS, DDC Member Suriya Begum, Khajoor Singh Retd. Principal, Sarpanch Shehnaz Akhter, Master Jagdeep Singh, Retd. AEE Kuldinder Singh, Haji Allha Rehim Retd. Try. Officer, and Ashok Charak. Besides, Chajju Singh Katal, Balkar Singh, Chaman Lal Chaman recited poems in the memory of the great Gen. Parsid Singh, Jasbir Singh and Prabh Dyal were the family members of Gen. Baj Singh who participated in the function.

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion Col. Atter Singh, Daljeet Singh Sarpanch Rahya, Saleem Mohd Sapanch Bari, Jagdesh Singh ex-Sarpanch, Atter Singh Retd. HM, Ali Husain Retd. Xen, Rajinder Singh Retd. Registrar, Sagar Singh, Parladh Singh, Master Bashir Retd. HM, Dr. Gyan Chand and Raghav Arora. Master Jagdeep Singh compared the programme.

# KP's Seek special employment drive for KP migrant educated youth

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: The plight of Kashmiri Pandits who have been living in temporary exile for over three decades is a serious issue that demands attention and action. The challenges they face on a daily basis, especially concerning survival and unemployment, are pressing concerns that require immediate intervention and support from the government.

Unemployment among the community is a growing problem, exacerbating the already difficult circumstances in which the Kashmiri Pandits find themselves. The rising cost of essential commodities further compounds their struggles and adds to their financial burden.

In response to these challenges, community social activists, including Sunil Pandita, Vinod Pandita, and Vishal Jotshi, have come together to issue a joint statement. They have called upon the Government of India and His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, to take proactive measures to address the issue of unemployment within the Kashmiri Pandit community.

The leaders have

requested the creation and advertisement of ten thousand new job posts on a priority basis. These jobs are intended to benefit the educated, unemployed youth of the community, aiming to alleviate their economic hardships and improve their overall living conditions in exile. Additionally, they have appealed for age relaxation for the over-aged educated youth within the community to ensure inclusivity and equal opportunities.

Furthermore, the activists have urged the implementation of a special employment drive in both migrant and non-migrant camps. This initiative seeks to identify deserving and economically disadvantaged candidates and provide them with the opportunity to secure employment, thereby aiding their integration into the workforce and improving their quality of life.

It is imperative that the government takes prompt and decisive action to address these concerns and work towards providing sustainable solutions for the Kashmiri Pandit community, aiding their rehabilitation and empowering them for a better future.

# Overloading in passenger vehicles becomes a menace in south Kashmir Kulgam



## Top News Report

KULGAM, Oct 9: The commuters in Brinel Lammer and Maskhud in Kulgam District, South Kashmir, have expressed significant concerns about the authorities' failure to address overloading in passenger vehicles on various routes. They have raised issues regarding the risk to passengers' lives due to overloaded vehicles, particularly highlighting the behavior of Tata Sumo cab drivers who wait for a minimum number of passengers before departing.

According to the complainants, overloaded buses and small vehicles operate without

fear on almost every route, especially in rural and remote areas. This problem exacerbates during the evening hours, with passengers being forced to hang from the back of vehicles or sit in unsafe positions inside and outside the vehicles.

The shortage of passenger vehicles is identified as a major reason for overloading, and passengers are compelled to travel in overloaded vehicles due to the inadequate number of available options. This situation particularly inconveniences females.

Commuters have criticized the Traffic and Motor Vehicle Department in Kulgam for not taking appropriate action against overloading, despite being aware of the issue. They claim that neither the Motor Vehicle Department nor traffic personnel take action against drivers who overload their vehicles, although fines are imposed for other traffic violations.

In response, a top traffic official attributed the overloading issue to the lack of an adequate number of passenger vehicles in rural areas. The official also mentioned the department's limitation in manpower, preventing them from deploying personnel to monitor every rural area effectively.

# Dr. Nazir Hussain unanimously elects District President of NHM Kishtwar



## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 9: The National Health Mission (NHM) employees in Kishtwar held a district-level convention at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) in Kishtwar. This convention brought together a significant number of doctors, MLHPs (Mid-Level Health Providers), paramedics, and staff from various medical blocks across the Kishtwar district. The primary purpose of this gathering was to address and discuss the various issues and

challenges faced by NHM employees in the region.

The convention was presided over by Mr. Rohit Seth, the provincial president of NHM. In his address, he expressed a commitment to working tirelessly to advocate for the welfare and rights of NHM employees until they receive the justice they seek.

During the convention, Dr. Nazir Hussain, a medical officer, was unanimously elected as the District President of NHM Kishtwar. This appointment indicates that Dr. Nazir Hussain will now

be responsible for representing the interests and concerns of NHM employees in the Kishtwar district.

In the coming days, office bearers for NHM in the district will be chosen at the block level, ensuring that various sections and representatives are included. Dr. Nazir Hussain expressed gratitude to his colleagues and other staff members for placing their trust in him and granting him the responsibility to voice their genuine demands and concerns.

# Bodh Raj Bhagat asks youth to participate in sports activities, put up fight against drug addiction

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: Apni Party has urged youth to adopt sportsmanship and participate in different sports activities in order to stay fit and away from drug addiction that is responsible for multiple criminal acts in Jammu.

The statement was given by SC State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat at a meeting of the youth that was held at Serva at Marh Block Sports Stadium, Bhagat said that the youth should adopt sportsmanship for mental, and physical development.

"The modern lifestyle has given rise to many unhealthy things leading to multiple ailments at the younger age and on the other hand, the youth often indulge in drug addiction that is harmful for the future generation and for the entire society," he said.

He further said that the youth should participate in different sports related activities and educate their peers about the harmful effects of drug addiction.

In order to encourage the youth, he said that the Govt should provide free of cost equipment, cricket kits, and volleyballs to the youth at the block level across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the Govt must take initiative by involving public representatives, members of civil society, and NGOs which are actively fighting against the drug addiction/smuggling in Jammu and Kashmir.

He suggested that seminars and play way methods should also be adopted to educate the younger generation at the villages.

The meeting was also attended by SC Wing Provincial Secretary, Lab Ram, Apni Party senior leader, Joginder Lal Sangam and others.

# Inter district provincial level U 19 KHO-KHO competition organised in Kathua



## Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 9: The competition was organized under the guidance of Director YSS UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Joint Director Suram Chand Ji, Deputy Director Jitender Mishra, with overall supervision by DYSSO Kathua, Sunil Kumar.

During the sixth consecutive day of the Inter-District Provincial Level under 19 years girls kho kho competition, the semifinals were

held between District Udhampur and Kathua, with District Udhampur winning by one point. In the second semifinal, District Rajouri beat District Jammu by seven points. In the mega final, District Udhampur emerged victorious by defeating District Rajouri by one inning and one point, securing the trophy. District Kathua secured the third place, while Jammu lost in the third-place match.

The winner and runner-up trophies were

presented by the Activity section of DYSSO Kathua. DYSSO expressed gratitude towards all the field staff and contingent in charge for their efforts in ensuring the smooth conduct of the tournament. The third and final round of kho kho under fourteen was set to commence the following day, continuing the sporting events. All the matches were officiated by expert officials nominated by the District office Kathua.

# Multi Competitive Programme held in PS Bhagatpura Koti

## Top News Report

DODA, Oct 9: The engagement of the teaching staff from PS Bhagat Pura, PS Khangrna, PS Hash, UPS Basti, and GPS Chebote in organizing and managing the various co-curricular activities reflects their competency and dedication. Their ability to coordinate and lead such events showcases their managerial skills and commitment to providing a holistic educational experience to the students.

The involvement of seven schools from the cluster in the program highlights the collaborative spirit and the collective effort to bring out the best in the students. The diversity of activities, including debates, painting competitions, cultural activities, speeches, and quiz competitions,



offers a well-rounded platform for students to showcase their talents and skills.

Recognition and appreciation from the Zonal Education Officer, Romesh Baboo, and other dignitaries demonstrate the impact and success of the event. It's evident that the efforts of Ex. Headmaster HS Koti Firdoos Hussain and the teaching staff in enhancing educational

standards, fostering cohesion, and instilling a sense of responsibility are truly commendable.

Such initiatives are essential for inspiring students, encouraging their readiness for the future, and promoting a positive educational environment. Congratulations to all involved for their dedication and hard work in making this event a success.



## Shah Rukh Khan gets Y+ security amid threats after release of his latest movie 'Jawan'

The Y+ cover comprises 11 security personnel, including six commandos

The Maharashtra police have provided Y+ security cover to actor Shah Rukh Khan in view of the "imminent and probable threats" to his life, an official said on Monday.

The Y+ cover comprises 11 security personnel, including six commandos, and a police escort vehicle, he said.

Khan (57) has been getting threats after the release of his latest movie 'Jawan', the official said.

The security cover is given on a payment basis. Khan will have to pay for his security, he said.

The decision to step up Khan's security was taken last week after a review of it in a high-powered committee meeting, the official said.

Accordingly, the State Intelligence Department



has conveyed about it to all the police commissionerates, offices of the superintendents of police and the Special Protection Unit, he said. Last year, a row erupted over the song 'Besharam rang' from

Khan's film 'Pathaan'. A seer from Ayodhya had issued a threat to the actor.

In 2010, Khan's security had been stepped up after he received threats over the release of his film 'My Name Is Khan'.

## 'Scoop' bags best series, best lead actress for Karishma Tanna at Busan Film Fest

Netflix show "Scoop" and its lead star Karishma Tanna won top honours at the Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards 2023 in Busan, South Korea.

According to its official website, Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards is an annual event to celebrate the achievements of excellent content made for TV, OTT, and online across Asia. It is organised by Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) and Korea Radio Promotion Association.

While "Scoop" won the award in the best Asian TV series, Tanna -- who attended the award ceremony -- bagged the trophy for the best lead actress at the ceremony.

BIFF shared the announcement on its official X page. "The 2023 Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards, the representative content event of the Busan International Film Festival that awards excellent TV, OTT, and online con-



tent across Asia, has announced this year's winners and winners. Congratulations!" the

festival said in the post. Hansal Mehta, who created the series with Mrunmayee Lagoo

Waikul, expressed his excitement over the win.

"We won! Best Asian TV Series at Busan. #BIFF23," he wrote on the microblogging site.

"Scoop" follows Jagruti Pathak (Tanna), a star crime reporter at a Mumbai newspaper, who makes headlines after she is accused of her rival Jaideb Sen's murder.

The critically-acclaimed Hindi language series, also directed by Mehta, premiered on Netflix in June. Backed by Indian production banner Matchbox Shots, the show is inspired by Jigna Vora's biographical book "Behind the Bars In Byculla: My Days in Prison".

Tanna said she is elated by this recognition at the BIFF.

"It has been an incredible journey bringing Jagruti Pathak to life in 'Scoop.' This award belongs to the entire team who worked tirelessly to make this project a reality. I am immensely grateful to

my fans for their unwavering support, and I hope to continue pushing boundaries and delivering powerful performances in the future," the actor said in a statement.

Tanna was nominated alongside South Korean star Song Hye-kyo ("The Glory"), Hollywood star Zoe Saldana ("Special Ops: Lioness"), Singaporean star Rebecca Lim ("Third Rail"), and Malaysian actor Emily Chan ("The Patient").

Other nominees in the best Asian TV series category were "The Black Yard" (Kazakhstan), "Not Others" (South Korea), "Delete" (Thailand), and "Taiwan Crime Stories" (Taiwan).

The Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards 2023 were held on October 8 at the BIFF Theater, Busan Cinema Center, during the course of the Busan International Film Festival, which runs through October 4 and October 13.

## Food for thought: Suniel Shetty says unlike earlier, no one in the industry stands up for each other anymore

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty, who is set to grace the opening episode of the cooking reality show Star Vs Food Survival, feels with time the Hindi film industry has lost out on the essence of togetherness, as members of the fraternity no longer stick with each other during rough patches.

In the upcoming episode, Suniel Shetty and Sanjay Dutt, along with Chef Ranveer Brar, traverse through untouched terrain of rural Coorg as they test their mental and physical resilience over a stretch of 15 km.

In the episode, while

recalling the initial phase of his career, Shetty said, "We were always there for each other, we were there for the unions, we used to work together for associations — we had a united voice."

He continued, "Today when people throw stones at you, there is no one to defend. No one can say anything because we all are alone. No one stands up for each other anymore. Everything has become weak."

On his experience of shooting Star Vs Food Survival, Shetty felt it was a soulful journey filled with love, laughter,



friendship and a deep sense of connection with

nature. He shared, "Cook-

ing amidst the serenity of nature has always been a source of pure joy for me. What I love is the fact that this show highlights the pure happiness that comes from sharing a meal with loved ones. It's all about connecting with nature and promoting mental wellness through the food that we eat. And how can I not mention the culinary wizardry of Chef Ranveer Brar without whom this wouldn't have been possible."

Star Vs Food Survival will premiere on October 9 on Discovery Channel and will stream on Discovery+.

## Safe & sound: Nushratt Bharuccha reaches India from Israel after Hamas attack



Actress Nushratt Bharuccha landed in Mumbai on Sunday afternoon after being stranded in Israel following the attack on the country by Hamas militants. Dressed in casuals, the 38-year-old actress exited the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at around 2.30 pm.

Almost teary-eyed, Bharuccha requested the media personnel gathered in huge numbers outside the airport to give her 'some time'. "Mujhe thoda waqt dijiye (please give me some time)," she said, as she was being escorted to her car by the security.

The actress, known for the Pyaar Ka Punchnama series, Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety and Chhorii, was in Israel to attend the Haifa International Film Festival. Earlier in the day, Bharuccha's publicist said she was 'safe' and on her way to India. Bharuccha was last seen in Akelli, the thriller drama about an ordinary Indian woman trapped in a combat zone.

## Janhvi turns 'GenZ-eeenat Aman', veteran star says 'stole my style, watch me steal your fanbase'



Known for her love of yesteryear fashion,

actress Janhvi Kapoor this time channeled her

inner 'Zeenat Aman' as she drew inspiration from the veteran star's retro look.

Janhvi posted a video on Instagram in which she is seen donning a look inspired by Zeenat and was heard mouthing the lines saying of 'Laila Main Laila'.

She aced the look in a white dress with a fur scarf and a matching string tied around her head.

Janhvi captioned it: "Call me Gen Z-eeenat." Commenting on the video, actor Jackie Shroff wrote: "@the-zeenataman, time to make a comeback! Let's show these kids how it's done!"

Zeenat gave a sassy reply: "Stole my fashion, watch me steal your fanbase."

On the work front, Janhvi will next be seen in 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' with co-star Rajkumar Rao once again. She also has the Telugu film 'Devara', starring Jr NTR and 'Ulajh'.

## Rest in peace: British filmmaker Terence Davies passes away at 77



British filmmaker Terence Davies known for Distant Voices, Still Lives, The Deep Blue Sea and The Long Day Closes has passed away. He was 77. Though his films received a lot of praise for their sympathetic portrayals of LGBT life, Catholicism, and other common topics, they didn't win a lot of awards.

Born into a large Catholic family in Liverpool, Davies left school at 16 and worked for 10 years as a clerk before attending Coventry Drama School. His first short, Children, was autobiographical, and written while he was at school. He then attended the National Film School, where he made Madonna and Child, another autobiographical work about his years as a clerk.

For The Neon Bible in 1995, Davies adapted a novel by John Kennedy Toole, and it received a Bafta nomination for best British film. After Of Time and the City, a documentary that was screened outside of competition at Cannes in 2008 and received a lot of praise, Davies switched to documentaries. The documentary paid homage to his hometown of Liverpool by including several literary, musical, and cinematic allusions.

The Deep Blue Sea, an adaptation of a play by Terence Rattigan, won the NY Film Critics Circle award for Rachel Weisz, and again garnered highly positive reviews. In 2015, he was finally able to complete Sunset Song and followed it with A Quiet Passion, about Emily Dickinson, and Benediction, based upon poet Siegfried Sassoon.

## Angelina Jolie says she had punk fashion sense as a teenager

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie revealed she was a teenage punk who used to cut up her clothes and burn holes in them. She talked about her "dark" style choices when she was younger as she launches her own fashion brand Atelier Jolie, which will open a shop in New York in November to provide tailoring and upcycling services as well as made-to-measure pieces.

"I was quite dark when I was young. I was a punk, not the popular kid — going to thrift stores, cutting things up, burning little teeny cigarette holes into things, that was me as a teenager, and I wouldn't trade it for the world." Angelina admitted that she was a particularly rebellious fashion lover when speaking about her previous looks to Vogue magazine.

Her shop will also boast a gallery and a cafe and will provide a made-to-measure clothing service as well as repairs as part of a commitment to sustainability.

Hand-painted patches will cost around \$10 to apply and Angelina has been looking into a way



to get a person's tattoos imprinted on the fabric which will be used to repair their clothing. She said, "We're trying to see if we can take photographs of tattoos and turn them into patches — the idea is to make your clothing your own, instead of simply getting rid of it."

Angelina went on to

add that her style has changed a lot over the years, but she's still learning to understand who she really is when it comes to clothing. She added, "Sometimes the way you dress says, 'Don't mess with me — I've got my armour on'. But I want a woman to feel safe enough that she can be soft."



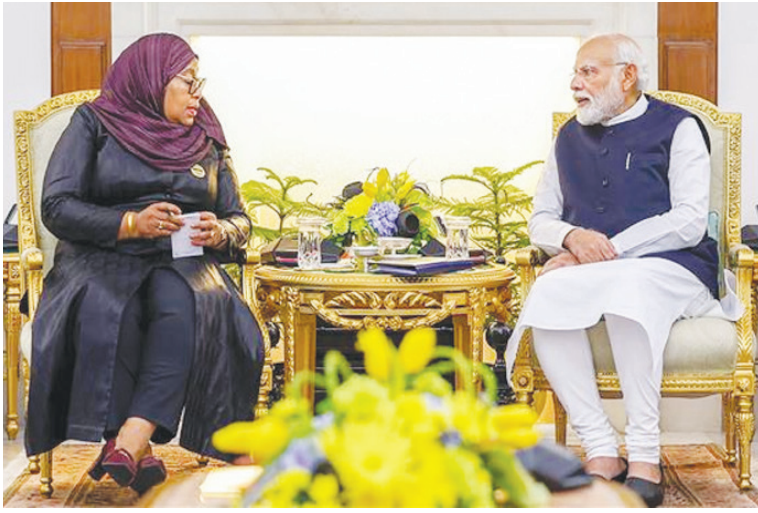
## India, Tanzania elevate ties to strategic partnership; agree on 5-yr roadmap on defence

Six agreements signed providing for cooperation in digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): India and Tanzania on Monday announced elevating their ties to strategic partnership and agreed on a five-year roadmap to significantly expand defence cooperation following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The two sides inked six agreements providing for cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing.

In his media statement after the talks, Modi said both sides are also working on an agreement to increase trade in local currencies, describing India and



Tanzania as important partners for trade and investment.

"Today is a historic day in the relations between India and Tanzania. Today, we are tying

our age-old friendship into a strategic partnership," he said in presence of Hassan.

In the field of defence, we have agreed on a five-year roadmap,

Modi said, adding it will add new dimensions to cooperation in areas like military training, maritime sphere and defence industries.

The prime minister also noted that India and Tanzania are "unanimous" that terrorism is the "most serious security threat to humanity".

We have decided to increase mutual cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, he said.

Modi also called Tanzania an important partner in the Indo-Pacific.

Earlier, in the day, the visiting leader was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan.

President Hassan arrived here on Sunday on a four-day visit.

## "BJP Will Form Government In All 5 States": JP Nadda After Poll Dates Announced



NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): BJP president J P Nadda on Monday welcomed the election commission's (EC) announcement of assembly polls in five states and claimed his party will form government in all the states with a big

majority under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"The BJP will form government in all states with a big majority under respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and will work with commitment to fulfil people's aspirations in the next five years," he said on X, soon after the EC's announcement of the poll schedule.

Five state assemblies of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram will go to polls on different days beginning November 7 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

## Prepare 'counter-narrative' to confront Modi's poll propaganda, says Mallikarjun Kharge

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): In view of the upcoming Assembly elections in five states and the general election, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday told the Congress Working Committee members to prepare "counter-narratives" to confront "falsehoods" propagated by PM Narendra Modi.

"The Prime Minister's absence in Manipur stands in sharp contrast to his frequent visits to the election-going states. His baseless attacks filled with lies and falsehoods on the Congress party will only increase in the coming days. It is essential that we counter these falsehoods and create our own counter-narrative," Kharge said in his opening remarks made at the CWC meeting under way here on Monday.

Kharge said it is important that the party worked with a meticulous coordination and complete discipline and unity in view of the coming elections.

Kharge asked the CWC members to



make enhanced efforts to highlight government failures and raise concerns affecting the common people.

"Today, our nation faces inflation, unemployment, and government's failure to implement the old pension scheme. The ruling party's divisive tactics and misuse of autonomous bodies pose a threat to democratic stability," Kharge said.

The Congress president asked his colleagues in the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body, to "propagate the exemplary work of Congress-led state governments and past Congress governments" to instill faith in the public that the Congress would guarantee a "brighter future".

Kharge said while the Women's Reservation Bill was recently

passed in Parliament, questions remained about its implementation and exclusion of OBC aspirants from the seats reserved for women. "We resolve to implement women's reservation, including extending reservation to OBC women, when we come to power in 2024," Kharge said.

Reiterating the Congress's demand for a caste census, Kharge said it is crucial for effective implementation of government programmes and welfare schemes.

The Gandhis (Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka), chief ministers of the Congress-ruled states and other CWC members are taking part in the deliberations, which is the second meeting of the revamped body constituted by Kharge in August this year.

In the first meeting held in Hyderabad last month, the CWC pledged to rid the country of divisive politics, strengthen social justice, and provide a responsible and responsive government.

## On way to school, girl kidnapped and raped by father's friends in Uttar Pradesh

HAPUR, Oct 9 (Agencies): A girl was kidnapped and gangraped by three men while she was on her way to school in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district.

The three accused were known to the minor's father.

The student was on

her way to school in an auto when the three accused forced her to sit on their bike and took her to an Oyo Hotel and gangraped her.

The accused also made a video of the act and threatened her to make it viral if she disclosed the incident to

anyone. When she protested against the incident, the accused attempted to murder the victim by strangulating her.

The Class 11 student informed her family about the incident, after which a complaint was registered against the

three accused. The police sent the victim for medical treatment.

Hapur Superintendent of Police Rajkumar Aggarwal said that an FIR has been lodged by the father of the minor student. "His daughter was gangraped by some

of his acquaintances.

The rape took place inside a hotel on Modinagar Road. In this context, on his information, a case has been registered at Hapur Nagar police station under 376D IPC 307 and POCSO Act," the police official said.

## Seven people killed after bus crashes into ditch in Uttarakhand's Nainital

NAINITAL, Oct 9 (Agencies): At least seven people, including five women, one man, and one child, were killed after a bus coming from Haryana crashed into a ditch in Nainital district, an official said on Monday.

So far 28 people have been rescued and further rescue operations are underway, a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) official

said. The bodies of the deceased have been recovered and handed over to the civil police by the SDRF, they said.

According to the officials, the Disaster Control Room in Nainital notified SDRF on Sunday that a bus thought to be carrying 30 to 33 people had crashed into a ditch at Nalni on Kaladhungi Road.

As per the instructions

of Commandant SDRF Manikant Mishra, SDRF rescue teams from Post Rudrapur, Nainital, and Khairna immediately left for the spot for rescue.

After reaching the spot, it was found that there were 33 people on the said bus that came from Hisar, Haryana, to visit Nainital.

The bus went out of control at the spot and crashed into a ditch about 200 metres deep,



the officials said. The SDRF rescue team reached the spot and conducted a joint rescue operation with the NDRF, local police, and other rescue units.

26 injured people aboard the bus were rescued and taken to the hospital for treatment in the pitch dark and extremely adverse conditions of the night.

## 3 charred to death after livestock-laden truck catches fire in Gujarat

ARVALLI, Oct 9 (Agencies): A couple, their six-year-old daughter and 150 goats and sheep were charred to death when a truck they were travelling in caught fire after coming in contact with an overhead high-tension wire in Gujarat's Arvalli district on Monday, police said.

The fire engulfed the vehicle carrying three members of a shepherd family from Rajasthan and their livestock in Bamanwad village around 9 am, a police official said.



The incident took place when the truck driver turned the vehicle towards a grazing land, over which a high-tension wire was running, Sub-Inspector (SI) Komal Rathod said. "The truck came in contact with the high-tension wire and was

engulfed in flames after a short-circuit that killed three members of a family and 150 goats and sheep," the SI said.

Rathod further said the couple was in the age group of 25 to 30 years and their identity was yet to be ascertained.

## Bus overturns on Lucknow-Agra expressway, 34 passengers injured

LUCKNOW, Oct 9 (Agencies): A bus travelling from Noida to Varanasi expressway in Uttar Pradesh, overturned after hitting the divider leaving 34 passengers on the bus injured, said police on Monday.

The accident happened in the wee hours on Monday. All injured have been admitted to the Community Health Centre in Fatehabad with nine of them in critical condition.

According to reports, the private bus left Noida for Varanasi carrying passengers at 9.30pm on Sunday night. Around 1.30am the bus reached near milestone 20 of Agra Lucknow Expressway.

As soon as it reached here, the bus went out of control and hit the divider and overturned.

Fatehabad Police and UPEDA security officers Radhamohan Dwivedi, Sovran Singh reached the spot along with the team.

Thirty-four passengers from the bus were taken out in injured condition and taken to CHC Fatehabad. Of these, nine were sent to medical emergency in critical condition.

The police have informed the relatives. Sources said that the bus driver possibly fell asleep and the vehicle went out of control.

## 9 people killed in Tamil Nadu cracker unit fire



ARIYALUR, Oct 9 (Agencies): Nine people were killed in a blaze in a firecracker unit in this district on Monday. In a statement, Chief

Minister MK Stalin condoled the death of nine people and announced cash relief for their families.

The incident took

place at Viragalur village in the district at a private unit and the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

Five injured persons have been admitted to the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital and given special medical attention, the CM said.

Stalin said he had deputed his cabinet colleagues SS Sivasankar and CV Ganesan to expedite rescue and relief activities.

He announced Rs 3 lakh ex-gratia each to the families of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh to the grievously injured and Rs 50,000 to those with simple injuries.

## 4 killed as rain-triggered mudslide destroys their home in Meghalaya



SHILLONG, Oct 9 (Agencies): Four mem-

bers of a family were killed in Meghalaya's

West Jaintia Hills district when a mudslide triggered by incessant rainfall destroyed their home, police said on Monday.

The incident took place at Pynthor Langte in Thadlaskein block around 20 km away from Jowai, the district headquarters town, on Sunday, they said.

A senior district official said that incessant rainfall in the district for the past three days is sus-

pected to have triggered the mudslide.

He said mud and debris had fallen on top of the house killing the four instantly and also destroying everything inside the house.

The bodies of Diangkhi Phawa (31), his wife Pynjanai Rynghlem (25) and two children - Edify (6) and Wiladaro (3) were retrieved on Sunday and shifted to the Civil Hospital for post-mortem.

## 3 children among 5 killed after fridge compressor explodes in Punjab's Jalandhar

CHANDIGARH, Oct 9 (Agencies): Five members of a family, including three children, died after a compressor of a fridge exploded in their house in Punjab's Jalandhar, police said on Monday, news agency reported.

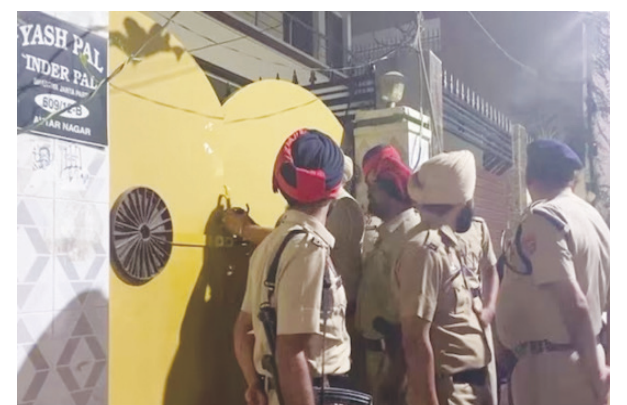
The incident took place in the city's Avtar Nagar area on Sunday night. The house caught fire after the explosion, according to the police.

The five people were rushed to Civil Hospital

Jalandhar but they all succumbed to their injuries. They were identified as Yashpal Ghai (70), Ruchi Ghai (40), Mansha (14), Diya (12) and Akshay (10).

A forensic expert team has been called to collect samples and determine the exact cause of the explosion, police said.

"We received information about an explosion-like incident in a house in Jalandhar's Avtar Nagar, after which we



immediately reached the spot. We are investigating the reason behind the accident. We have called a team

of forensic experts," Jalandhar Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Aditya said.



## Israel intensifies Gaza strikes and battles to repel Hamas, over 1,100 dead in fighting

More than two days after Hamas launched its unprecedented incursion out of Gaza, Israeli forces were still battling with militants holed up in several locations.

JERUSALEM, Oct 9 (Agencies): Israel intensified its bombardments of the Gaza Strip on Monday after declaring war and vowing to destroy the "military and governing capabilities" of the enclave's Hamas rulers, as Israeli soldiers fought to dislodge Gaza gunmen from areas of southern Israel.

At least 700 people have reportedly been killed in Israel — a staggering toll on a scale the country has not experienced in decades — and more than 400 have been killed in Gaza. Palestinian militant groups claimed to be holding over 130 captives in the Israeli side.

More than two days after Hamas launched its unprecedented incursion out of Gaza, Israeli forces were still battling with militants holed up in several locations.

As Monday began, the military said it was fighting Hamas in "seven to eight" places in southern Israel.

Military spokesperson Richard Hecht said it was taking longer than expected to repel the incursion because there were still multiple breaches in the border, which Hamas could be using to bring in more fighters and weapons. "We thought this morning we'd be in a better place," Hecht said.

Meanwhile, Israel hit more than 1,000 targets in Gaza, its military said, including airstrikes that levelled much of the town of Beit Hanoun in the enclave's northeast corner.

Israeli Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told reporters Hamas was using the town as a staging ground for attacks. There was no immediate word on casualties, and most of the community's population of tens of thousands likely fled beforehand.

"We will continue to attack in this way, with this force, continuously, on all gathering (places) and routes" used by Hamas, Hagari said.

The declaration of war portended greater fighting ahead, and a major question was whether Israel would launch



a ground assault into Gaza, a move that in the past has brought intensified casualties. An Israeli military spokesperson said that the army had called up around 100,000 reservists, and said in a statement that Israel would aim to end Hamas' rule of Gaza.

"Our task is to make sure that Hamas will no longer have any military capabilities to threaten Israel with this," said spokesperson Jonathan Conricus in a video tweeted by Israel's military. "And in addition to that, we will make sure that Hamas is no longer able to govern the Gaza Strip."

After breaking through Israeli barriers with explosives at daybreak Saturday, the Hamas gunmen rampaged for hours, gunning down civilians and snatching people in towns, along highways and at a techno music festival attended by thousands in the desert. The rescue service Zaka said it removed about 260 bodies from the festival, and that number was expected to rise. It was not clear how many of those bodies were already included in Israel's overall toll.

The Israeli military estimated 1,000 Hamas fighters took part in Saturday's initial incursion. The high figure underscored the extent of planning by the militant group ruling Gaza, which has said it launched the attack in response to mounting Palestinian suffering under Israel's occupation and blockade of Gaza.

Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group claimed to have taken captive more than 130 people from inside Israel and brought them into Gaza, saying they would be traded for the

release of thousands of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. The announcement, though unconfirmed, was the first sign of the scope of abductions.

The captives are known to include soldiers and civilians, including women, children and older adults, mostly Israelis but also some people of other nationalities. The Israeli military said only that the number of captives is "significant."

Civilians on both sides were already paying a high price. The Israeli military was evacuating at least five towns close to Gaza, while the U.N. more than 123,000 Gazans were displaced by the fighting.

Mayyan Zin, a divorced mother of two, said she learned that her two daughters had been abducted when a relative sent her photos from a Telegram group showing them sitting on mattresses in captivity. She then found online videos of a chilling scene in her ex-husband's home in the town of Nahal Oz: Gunmen who had broken in speak to him, his leg bleeding, in the living room near the two terrified, weeping daughters, Dafna, 15, and Ella, 8. Another video showed the father being taken across the border into Gaza.

"Just bring my daughters home and to their family. All the people," Zin said.

In Gaza, a tiny enclave of 2.3 million people sealed off by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade for 16 years since the Hamas takeover, residents feared further escalation.

As of late Sunday, Israeli airstrikes had destroyed 159 housing units across Gaza and severely damaged

1,210 others, the U.N. said. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said a school sheltering more than 225 people took a direct hit. It did not say where the fire came from.

In the Palestinian city of Rafah in southern Gaza, an Israeli airstrike early Monday killed 19 people, including women and children, said Talat Barhoum, a doctor at the local Al-Najjar Hospital. Barhoum said aircraft hit the home of the Abu Hilal family, and that one of those killed was Rafaat Abu Hilal, a leader of a local armed group. The strike caused damage to surrounding homes.

Over the weekend, another airstrike on a home in Rafah killed 19 members of the Abu Quta family, including women and children, when they were huddling on the ground floor in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, survivors said.

Several Israeli media outlets, citing rescue service officials, said at least 700 people have been killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers. The Gaza Health Ministry said 413 people, including 78 children and 41 women, were killed in the territory. Some 2,000 people have been wounded on each side. An Israeli official said security forces have killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

Over the weekend, the Israeli Security Cabinet declared war and approved "significant military steps" in response to the Hamas attack. The steps were not defined, but the declaration appears to give the military and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a wide mandate.

In a statement, Netanyahu's office said the aim will be the destruction of Hamas' "military and governing capabilities" to an extent that prevents it from threatening Israelis "for many years."

The declaration of war was largely symbolic, said Yohanan Plesner, the head of the Israel Democracy Institute, a think tank, but it "demonstrates that the government thinks we are entering a more lengthy, intense and significant period of war."

Israel has carried out major military campaigns over the past four decades in Lebanon and Gaza that it portrayed as wars but without a formal declaration.

The presence of hostages in Gaza complicates Israel's response. Israel has a history of making heavily lopsided exchanges to bring captive Israelis home.

An Egyptian official said Israel sought help from Cairo to ensure the safety of the hostages. Egypt also spoke with both sides about a potential cease-fire, but Israel was not open to a truce "at this stage," according to the official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to brief media.

In northern Israel, a brief exchange of strikes with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group fanned fears that the fighting could expand into a wider regional war. Hezbollah fired rockets and shells Sunday at Israeli positions in a disputed area along the border, and Israel fired back using armed drones. The Israeli military said the situation was calm after the exchange.

Elsewhere, six Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers Sunday around the West Bank.

Over the past year, Israel's far-right government has ramped up settlement construction in the occupied West Bank. Israeli settler violence has displaced hundreds of Palestinians there, and tensions have flared around the Al-Aqsa mosque, a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site.

## German woman paraded naked by Hamas was robbed, her credit card used: Report



GAZA, Oct 9 (Agencies): A German woman whose naked, battered body was paraded by Hamas fighters following their surprise offensive against Israel may have also been robbed, according to reports.

Shani Louk's parents have not heard from their daughter since a phone call early on the morning of October 7, just after Hamas launched the first rockets into Israeli territory. But in an interview with German news outlet Der Spiegel, the family said they had received information from her bank that the tattoo artist's credit card had been used in Gaza. Louk's mother, Ricarda Louk, still holds out hope that her daughter might be alive, saying in a video posted to X (formerly Twitter), that she saw her daughter "unconscious in a car with Palestinians."

"I just don't want to admit it yet," she told Der Spiegel. Shani Louk had been attending an outdoor "Festival for Peace" party near Kibbutz Urim when Hamas fighters invaded. Videos

showed how panic spread through the crowd as the fighters arrived at the event in the desert.

A video of a barely covered young woman on the back of a pickup truck surrounded by Hamas soldiers started circulating on social media shortly after the attack. Her face isn't visible, but her characteristic dreadlocks and tattoos helped her family identify her.

Another video circulating on social media shows the moment an Israeli woman begged for her life as she was separated from her partner and driven away by Hamas fighters into Gaza.

Noa Argamani (25) and her partner Avi Natan were also attending a music festival on Saturday when they were taken hostage. In the clip, Argamani can be heard begging her captors: "Don't kill me!"

In the midst of the attack on Israel by Hamas, it is alleged that the Palestinian militant group committed untold atrocities. Women, children, and senior citizens were among at least 100 Israeli hostages taken during the land-air-sea assault.

"Women, children, elderly, disabled" civilians were "dragged into Gaza" in "unprecedented" numbers, IDF spokesperson Jonathan Conricus said. Some are thought to be alive, but others are presumed dead, he said, adding that this will "shape the future of this war."

## Ten Nepali students killed in Hamas attacks in Israel

KATHMANDU, Oct 9 (Agencies): Ten Nepali students have been killed and four others injured in Israel after the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a wave of rocket attacks in the country's southern region, Nepal's foreign ministry said on Monday.

Hamas carried out a barrage of airstrikes in Southern Israel on Saturday, killing over 600 people, including soldiers, and wounding more than 1,900.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in response launched multiple attacks targeting Hamas' key infrastructure. About 1,000 people have been killed in Israel and Gaza in the biggest escalation in decades between the two sides.

In a press statement, the foreign ministry here said 10 Nepali nationals lost their lives in the recent attack by Hamas in Israel.

Out of the 17 Nepali nationals working on a farm at Kibbutz Alumim, an area near the Gaza Strip, two safely escaped, four were injured and one is still missing, it said.

"We have received the information of the sad demise of ten Nepali nationals from the site, where the Hamas had launched an attack," Nepal's embassy in Jerusalem said in a statement.

All 10 people killed in the Hamas attack were students of agriculture from Sudur Paschim University in Western Nepal, according to ministry sources. There are currently 4,500 Nepali nationals working as caregivers in Israel. A total of 265 Nepali students are studying in Israel under the 'Learn and Earn' programme of the Israeli government.

Of them, 119 are from Agriculture and Forestry University, 97 are from Tribhuvan University and 49 are from Sudur Paschim University. All of them are bachelor-level students of agriculture.

"We are trying to identify those killed in the incident. Efforts are being made to search for one missing student. The bodies will be brought back to Nepal

soon after the identification is completed," the embassy said.

The Nepal government has also requested the Israeli government that necessary arrangements be provided to the injured people, who are undergoing treatment. The ministry said it was collaborating with the Israeli government and the embassy in Tel Aviv to bring back those nationals who want to return home.

"Nepal government is committed to evacuate its nationals from the war-torn region at the earliest," said the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "A meeting of the coordination mechanism formed under the leadership of Foreign Minister N P Saud is underway at the ministry to take stock of the situation in Israel, to identify Nepalese nationals and to make efforts for rescue Nepalese nationals if necessary," read the statement issued by secretariat of Foreign Minister Saud.

Nepal's main opposition CPN-UML has also asked Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to talk to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu to rescue the Nepalis, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

"Issuing statements and informing the House is not enough. The government must play the role of guardian of its citizens at this time of crisis," said Padam Giri, the UML chief whip, in Parliament.

The death toll in Israel is expected to rise as a large number of people have been critically wounded, according to the Israeli military. Palestinian health officials have said that more than 400 people have been killed, with over 2,000 injured.

Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist militant group that has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2007. The Gaza Strip is home to about 2.3 million people. It is a 41km-long and 10km-wide territory surrounded by Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.

## China opposes violence and attacks in Middle East crisis, says foreign ministry

BEIJING, Oct 9 (Agencies): China is very concerned about the recent escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and is opposed to violence and attacks, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

"China opposes actions that escalate conflicts and undermine regional stability. We hope to see an early ceasefire, cessation of war and restoration of peace," spokesperson Mao Ning said at a regular press briefing in a response to a query.

Israel pounded the Palestinian enclave of Gaza on Sunday, killing hundreds of people in retaliation for one of the bloodiest attacks in its history when Islamist group Hamas killed 700 Israelis and abducted dozens more.

"The international community should effectively play its role and work together to cool down the situation," Mao said.

"The only way out of the recurring Palestinian-Israeli conflict is to resume peace talks, implement the two-state solution, push for a comprehensive and proper settlement of the Palestin-



ian issue through political means at an early date, and address the legitimate concerns of all parties."

Separately, the foreign ministry said it was saddened by civilian casualties, and urged Chinese citizens travelling to the area to pay close attention to the local security situation and avoid going out.

The ministry said it had immediately activated the consular protection emergency response to help Chinese citizens and institutions in the Palestinian territories and Israel.

## At least 20 killed in Turkish strike on northeast Syria

QAMISHLI (SYRIA), Oct 9 (Agencies): A Turkish air strike on Monday killed 20 Kurdish security personnel and wounded dozens at a training centre for police in Kurdish-held northeast Syria, a war monitor said.

Turkey has been bombing sites in the area since Thursday, hitting civilian and military targets and infrastructure and causing casualties, according to Kurdish authorities.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitor, said that 20 people had been killed and around 50 wounded after a Turkish warplane targeted a training centre belonging to Kurdish internal security forces, known as the Asayish, on the outskirts of Al-Malikiyah.

The Kurdish force acknowledged the



strike, saying that "a number of our forces were killed and others wounded".

Agency correspondents said that authorities in the area have called for blood donations, while witnesses said that hospitals were full of casualties.

Amid the chaos of Syria's long-running civil conflict, Syria's Kurds have carved out a semi-autonomous area in the country's northeast.

Turkey's defence ministry said on Friday that it had launched the new wave of air strikes in retaliation for an attack

in Ankara earlier this month that wounded two security personnel.

A branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) -- listed as a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies -- claimed responsibility for the first bombing to hit the Turkish capital since 2016.

Turkey launched strikes on PKK positions in northern Iraq hours after the October 1 attack, with foreign minister Hakan Fidan saying days later that the assailants "came from Syria and were trained there".

Kurdish denial

The US-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces spearheaded the battle to dislodge Islamic State group fighters from their last scraps of territory in Syria in 2019.

Turkey views the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) that dominate the SDF as an offshoot of the PKK.

The SDF, the Kurds' de facto army in the northeast, denied that those behind the Ankara attack had passed through the area.

Turkish bombings had mostly subsided over the weekend after strikes hit energy infrastructure, including power stations and oil facilities on Thursday and Friday, killing at least 15 security personnel and civilians, according to the Kurdish authorities.

Since 2016, Turkey has carried out successive ground opera-

tions to expel Kurdish forces from border areas of northern Syria, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened a new incursion.

Turkey supported early rebel efforts to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and maintains a military presence in northern stretches of the war-torn country which angers Damascus.

In November last year, Turkey launched air strikes on Kurdish-held areas of Syria and Iraq in response to a bombing in Istanbul that killed six people.

The conflict in Syria has killed more than half a million people since it began in 2011 with a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests, spiralling into a devastating war involving foreign armies, militias and jihadists.



## Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain Praises Ved Gandotra for "Selfless Service" On 87th Birthday

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: It sounds like a wonderful celebration of Sh Ved Gandotra's 87th birthday organized by 'Mission Happiness' at his residence. Sh Ved Gandotra, a notable social activist and Chairman of JK Freedom Fighter Association, is clearly respected and honored by many for his contributions.

The event was graced by Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of 'Mission Happiness' and State Chairman of Indian Yoga Association, State Yoga Commissioner, and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International. Also present was Sh RC Puri (KAS), Former JK Secretary of Red Cross and Former Joint Director of Employment Exchange.

In line with 'Mission Happiness' philosophy of spreading smiles, some couplets were recited by Dr Jain during the celebration, aiming to wish Sh Ved Gandotra a life filled with health, happiness, blessings, bliss, purpose, success,



peace, and spiritual elevation. Celebrating the milestones and contributions of individuals like Sh Ved Gandotra is an important way to honor their efforts and inspire others to continue making positive

impacts in society. Rajiv Mahajan Chairman Freedom Fighter Memorial Association wishes good health to Sh. Ved Gandotra Ji.

## GMS MASTI Organises Cultural and Sports Activities Under KRANTITEERTH Programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: With the initiative of Union Ministry of culture along with Centre for Advanced Research on Development and Change, New Delhi, under the Aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a colourful cultural

programme was held at Govt. Girls Middle School Masti, zone Chenani on Krantiteerth. The Students from 1st to 8th participated in different cultural programme and Sports Activities under Krantiteerth. The main aim behind the event was to remember the unsung

heroes in the fight for freedom of India. The Chief Guest in the function was Sh. Pawan Kumar, Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Nagulta whereas Sh. Lekh Raj Incharge Headmaster was the guest of honour under whose supervision Whole programme was organized and

Other staff members like Arun Kumar, Kulbeer Singh, Santosh Kumari & Hardev Singh along with the local people of the village Nagulta & parents of the students were also present in the programme. On the occasion Kho Kho Match was organised for Girls and Cricket Match was organised for Boys besides Patriotic songs, debates and other Cultural activities. They were also given refreshment on the occasion.

The event ended with the prize distribution for various Sports and Cultural activities among the students for their motivation and encouragement.

## INTER-COLLEGIATE CHESS (M&W) CHAMPIONSHIP 2023-24

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: INTER-COLLEGIATE CHESS (M&W) CHAMPIONSHIP 2023-24 Today, the Inter-Collegiate Chess (M&W) Championship 2023-24, organised by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, Jammu, commenced at the University Gymnasium Hall in the presence of a large gathering of participants and guests.

In the first match of the men's section, the GDC Nowshera team beat GDC Akhnoor



by 3-1 points. In this second match, GDC Bishnah beat GDC Marheen by 3-1 points. In the women's section, GDC Kathua beat GCW Parade by 3-2 points. The match was decided through best versus best, as it remained a 2-2 draw in the main game. In the second

match of the women's section, GDC Bhagwati Nagar beat GDC Bishnah by 3-1. In the third match, GCW Kathua beat GDC Purmandal by 4-0. In the fourth match, GCW Udhampur beat GDC Billawar by 3-2 points through best-versus-best, as the match remained a 2-2

draw in the main game. Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, declared the tournament open by making the first move from white (e4) in the presence of the teacher in charge of physical education of the participating team. The matches were officiated by Sh. S. P. Sharma, Sh. Sushil Sawhney, S. Inderjeet Singh, and Padam Dev Singh.

Tomorrow, the next round of matches for the men section will be played at 10:00 a.m. and the women section at 1:00 p.m.

## Meri Mati, Mera Desh campaign is to express the gratitude towards immortal sons: Rekha Mahajan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan leads the "Kalash Yatra" in association with Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign in RSPura along with former Minister Sham Choudhary, State Secretary and Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Municipal Committee Chairman SatPal Pappi, Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, District Vice President Vikram Sharma, Mandal President Vikram Sandhu, and Councillors and 13 wards of Municipal Committee RSPura, Panchayat Rangpur and Gagian include with their Amrit Kalash join the Yatra which starts from Hanuman Mandir RS Pura and reached BDO office RSPura.

Sham Choudhary stated, that the aim of the Meri Maati, Mera Desh campaign is to express the feeling of



gratitude towards the immortal sons and to strengthen the belief among their families that the entire country is with them.

Ayodhya Gupta asserted the campaign will be launched to honour the martyred bravehearts and programmes will be organised across India in memory of those who laid down their lives for the country.

Sat Pal Pappi and Vikram Randhawa highlighted the achievements of the Modi-led government and encouraged the public to take advantage of the vari-

ous schemes initiated by the central government. They emphasized that it is his moral duty to be among the people and serve their interests.

Rekha emphasized that under the campaign, soil will be collected from different villages of District Jammu South to create the Amrit Vatika which will be built near the National War Memorial in New Delhi by fusing the soil and saplings that would arrive in 7500 urns from different parts of the country. During the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' cam-

paign, The aim of the Meri Maati, Mera Desh campaign is to express the feeling of gratitude towards the immortal sons and to strengthen the belief among their families that the entire country is with them," she added.

Later Rekha Mahajan flanked by BJP leaders handed over the Amrit Kalash to BDO Rajesh Padha in the esteem presence of DDC Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, Param Veer Chakr Bana Singh Ji, and families of Martyrs and other dignitaries.

## Shiv Sena extends congratulations to NC, Congress on impressive victory in LAHDC polls

**Kargil election results are just a tableau: Sahni**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: Following the historic bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and the first-ever elections in the newly created Ladakh-Kargil region, Shiv Sena's Jammu and Kashmir Unit today extended hearty congratulations to the I.N.D.I Alliance comprising the National Conference and Congress for

their resounding victory. A delegation of party leaders, led by State President Manish Sahni, conveyed their felicitations to Raman Bhalla, Executive President of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress.

Sahni emphasized that the people of Kargil have made a resounding statement by choosing the I.N.D.I. Alliance over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He also

noted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are gearing up to teach the BJP a lesson in the forthcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections and elections in five states.

Sahni added, "The victory of the I.N.D.I Alliance in Kargil is just a glimpse of the real picture. The true picture will unfold in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and state elections in five states. It is certain that

the BJP will face a clear rejection. The people are united to respond decisively to the division of Jammu and Kashmir, the erosion of statehood, apathy towards public issues, and divisive politics."

Shiv Sena commended the spirited participation of the people of Kargil in the democratic process and anticipates further democratic expressions in the future.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Rohingya Immigrants under Scrutiny over document forging

Poswal said that the husband of the accused woman misled the revenue official, securing the domicile certificate in September 2020.

On October 6, a Rohingya man in Bala-kote of Poonch district was found to be in possession of forged documents, including Aadhaar and ration cards. Following the lodging of a case, local police anticipate additional arrests in the near future.

Even within Jammu city, illegal Rohingya individuals are found in areas like Bathindi, where they operate shops and other small businesses while possessing unauthorized Indian identity documents. A senior police officer, while speaking to The Tribune said, "There are multiple reports indicating that Rohingya individuals have acquired forged identity certificates. This poses a significant potential national security threat in the coming years, prompting directives to identify and take legal action against all immigrants possessing unauthorized Indian identity cards."

In Kathua district, a centre has been established to accommodate over 250 Rohingya refugees, including women and children.

### LAHDC-Kargil Poll Results 'Referendum' Against Abrogation Of Article 370: NC-Congress Alliance

leader said. "The alliance won 22 seats, two were won by independents who are ideologically inclined towards us. The BJP won two, one of which they won because of our negligence. So, we won 24 seats effectively, and the whole district has spoken against the decisions taken in August 2019 and snatching of democracy from us and pushing us into the bureaucratic system," he added.

Senior Congress leader Issa Ali Shah said the people of Kargil have always been against the decision of abrogation of Article 370 and the results signified that.

"There is no role of the BJP in Kargil. People here are against the decision of the August 2019. The common people do not

want separation. We want to be together with Jammu-Kashmir," he said.

Asked about the future prospects of the alliance, the NC leader said the coalition was not for the council only, but to keep whole Kargil united.

"This alliance will be there for the Parliament elections as well. We want a secular candidate to contest the elections and win, because the current MP is a total communal person who is only parroting the agenda of the BJP-RSS and is doing nothing for the people of Ladakh," he said.

Twenty-six seats of the council went to polls on October 4. The administration nominates four members with voting rights to the 30-member council.

The NC won 12 seats, making it the single-largest party, while its ally Congress registered victory in 10 seats. The BJP won two seats, while two independent candidates also emerged victorious.

The NC and the Congress had announced a pre-poll alliance but fielded 17 and 22 candidates, respectively. Both the parties said the arrangement was restricted to areas where there was a tough contest with the BJP.

### Sikh panel in Pakistan

### faces flak over neglect of Gurdwaras

'Langar' is an integral part of Sikhism, where all visitors are offered a free meal, regardless of their background. It embodies Sikh principles of equality, selfless service and community. Reports of stale food being served raise questions about the PSGPC's commitment to upholding these principles and catering to the well-being of pilgrims, both spiritually and physically, according to Khalsa Vox.

A recent and symbolic concern is the removal of Shri Nishan Sahib from atop the Langar Hall. Shri Nishan Sahib is the Sikh religious flag and holds great significance for the community. Its presence atop the gurdwara is not just a religious symbol but also a source of pride. Its removal has left many questioning the PSGPC's understanding of the cultural and religious importance attached to such symbols.

Adding to the disappointment of the Sikh community is the PSGPC's lack of responsiveness. Despite multiple attempts by community members to engage with PSGPC president Amir Singh and other committee members through WhatsApp groups, their questions have gone un-

answered. This lack of communication only intensifies the growing frustration among devotees seeking answers and action.

### Armed suspect robs Indian-origin man's store in US, flees with cash

with him two years ago. "Last week he came in and his leg was limping. We checked the video, his left leg was still limping when he walked out of the door," Patel told WRIC TV.

"He sounded the same, he ran away the same way that we've seen him before," he said, adding that the worker was banned from his store back in February.

Despite Patel's speculation, police have not yet released the identity of the suspect to the public. Patel has added 12 additional security cameras to the shop and said that he will continue to increase safety measures with a new security system. "After 8 o'clock, we have an ADT system where somebody would press the doorbell and the clerk would open up the door from here," he told the news channel.



## Markets tumble in early trade amid tensions in Middle East

**BSE plunges 407.19 points to 65,588.44; Nifty declines 142.7 points to 19,510.8**

MUMBAI, Oct 9 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices tumbled in early trade on Monday as escalating tensions in Middle East triggered a risk-off in the market.

Market analysts said investors preferred to remain on the sidelines and refrained from taking big risks as the Israel-Hamas conflict has introduced a huge uncertainty for the markets.

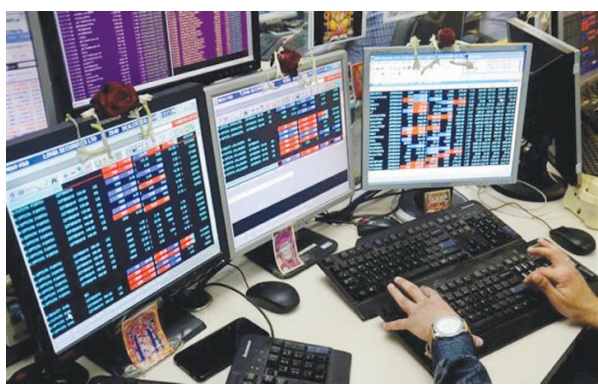
The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 407.19 points or 0.62 per cent to 65,588.44 points in early trade. The Nifty declined 142.70 points or 0.72 per cent to 19,510.80 points.

State Bank of India, Tata Steel, Titan, IndusInd Bank and Asian Paints were among the major laggards.

On the other hand IT majors HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Wipro and Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and Sun Pharma defied the broader market trend and were trading in the positive territory.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 364.06 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 65,995.63 points on Friday. The Nifty had advanced 107.75 points or 0.55 per cent to end at 19,653.50.

"The Israel-Hamas conflict has introduced a huge uncertainty for the markets. Nobody knows how this war is going to evolve," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment



Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

He said that even though it is unlikely to cause major disruption in oil supplies at present, the situation will change if Iran, a major Hamas supporter, is drawn into the war.

"That can disrupt oil supplies causing a spike in crude, which can trigger a risk-off in the market. This is a time to be cautious," he added.

Traders are also expected to remain cautious ahead of macroeconomic data to be announced later this week.

The industrial production and manufacturing data for August are scheduled to be announced on October 12. Simultaneously, inflation rate for September will be announced followed by Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data on October 13.

On Friday, the Reserve Bank of India expectedly left its key interest rate unchanged and signalled it would keep liquidity tight using bond sales to bring prices closer to target.

The six-member mon-

etary policy committee of RBI held the benchmark repurchase rate (repo) at 6.50 per cent in a unanimous decision for the fourth consecutive meeting in a row. It also retained a 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance.

Asian markets are trading lower on Monday as Chinese and Hong Kong shares fell.

European markets finished broadly higher on Friday with Germany's DAX gaining 1.06 per cent. France's CAC 40 was up 0.88 per cent and London's FTSE 100 closed 0.58 per cent higher.

The US markets ended higher on Friday with S&P 500 closing with a gain of 1.18 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average Index up 0.87 per cent.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude witnessed a sharp rise of 3.68 per cent to USD 87.69 a barrel on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 90.29 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

## White-collar hiring sees 8.6 pc decline in September: Report

MUMBAI, Oct 9 (Agencies): White-collar hiring witnessed an 8.6 per cent annual decline in September, following a negative trend in sectors including IT, BPO or ITES and FMCG, a report said on Monday.

On a month-on-month basis, however, there has been a growth of almost 6 per cent in job postings.

In September, there were 2,835 white-collar job postings, down by 8.6 per cent compared to the same month last year when 3,103 jobs were posted, according to Naukri.com's monthly 'Naukri JobSpeak Index'.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index representing the state of the Indian job market and hiring activity based on new job listings and job-related searches by recruiters on the resume database of Naukri.com.

The IT sector continued to



face global headwinds and saw the hiring numbers dwindle in the last few months, the survey said, adding that BPO/ITES and FMCG also registered negative growth of 25 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, in the period under review.

"While the IT sector continues to stay impacted, robust growth in the banking sector is a bright spot. Coupled with the fact that the overall index sequentially

grew 6 per cent, this underscores the resilience of the Indian job market, anchored in sectoral diversity," Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal added.

The report further noted that the hospitality and travel industry saw maximum growth, as families and solo travellers made the most of the monsoon season.

New job offers for this sector

were highest in Mumbai city with job roles for restaurant manager and guest services were in highest demand in September.

Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) and healthcare sectors clocked 7 per cent yearly growth each in September. Branch manager and financial consultant roles saw maximum demand, said the report.

Oil and gas and auto sectors recorded 6 per cent growth each in September compared to the same month last year, said the report.

Meanwhile, the report found that the non-metro cities continued to outshine the metros for job creation in September 2023.

The cities of Vadodara, Ahmedabad, and Jaipur experienced 4 per cent, 3 per cent and 2 per cent growth, respectively in hiring in September over the same month last year.

## Israeli shekel falls to almost 8-year low

**Bank of Israel to sell \$30 billion of forex to stabilise shekel amid Gaza war**



JERUSALEM, Oct 9 (Agencies): The Bank of Israel on Monday said it would sell up to \$30 billion of foreign currency in the open market, in the central

bank's first ever sale of foreign exchange, to maintain stability during Israel's war with Palestinian militants in Gaza.

The Israeli shekel fell to an

almost eight-year low against the US dollar on Monday as conflict in the Middle East escalates.

The move appeared to quickly calm the market as the shekel recovered from steep early losses.

"The bank will operate in the market during the coming period in order to moderate volatility in the shekel exchange rate and to provide the necessary liquidity for the continued proper functioning of the markets," it said in a statement.

The central bank also said it would provide liquidity through SWAP mechanisms in the market of up to \$15 billion.

"The Bank of Israel will continue monitoring developments, tracking all the markets, and acting with the tools available to it as necessary," it said.

Ahead of the announcement, the shekel had weakened by more than 2 per cent to a more than 7-1/2 year low of 3.92 per dollar. The shekel now stands at a rate of 3.86, down 0.6 per cent.

## Experts call for limiting number of vehicles per family to curb air pollution, related ailments



NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): Rise in air pollution is linked to growing respiratory ailments in India, experts have said and urged the government to bring a policy limiting the number of cars per family and restricting the number of vehicles plying on roads at a time.

On the sidelines of the 25th National Conference on Pulmonary Diseases (NAPCON-2023), organised by the Indian Chest Society here, Dr Rakesh K Chawla, the chairman of Pulmonology and Critical Care at Jaipur Golden Hospital, said air pollution has short-term as well as long-term effects on health.

"The immediate effects are in the form of irritation in the eyes and throat. Also, there is an increase in the severity of asthma attacks," said Dr Chawla, who is also the organising chairman of NAPCON-2023.

Dr Chawla said the long-term effects of air pollution include respiratory diseases and lung cancer, and the worst part is that in a city like Delhi "our children are growing up with poor lung conditions which will result in severity of lung disorders and make India an unhealthy nation".

"Our governments are not doing enough to combat the growing air pollution levels. It should bring a policy to limit the number of vehicles a family should have and also restrict the number of vehicles plying on roads at a time. Also, carpooling should be promoted," he said.

On October 5, about 18 hospitals came together to train 1,800 such medical students and nurses on the latest pulmonology and interventional techniques, making it the largest one-day training programme, he said.

NAPCON's emphasis on fostering interdisciplinary collaboration is one of its hallmarks, making it a melting pot of ideas where professionals exchange expe-

riences and collaborate on advancements with the potential to revolutionize patient care.

Dr D J Roy, Immediate Past-President of the Indian Chest Society, commented, "Lung diseases are a significant public health concern in India, with a high prevalence of respiratory infections, COPD and lung cancer. NAPCON plays a crucial role in addressing these issues by showcasing cutting-edge research findings and innovative treatment approaches."

Dr Raja Dhar, an expert on the chronic lung condition Bronchiectasis, highlighted the importance of awareness and early detection in combating this common lung disorder in India.

"Post-Covid there is a great need felt by the pulmonologist society to make nurses and technicians an integral part of all training programmes and continuing nursing education to keep them up to mark on the latest advancements in respiratory medicine," the doctor said.

## Claudia Goldin wins 2023 Nobel economics prize

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, announced on Monday that Professor Claudia Goldin, a leading labour economist, has been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

The esteemed prize, officially designated as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, represents the final accolade among this year's Nobel awards and carries a prize of 11 million Swedish crowns.

She has been awarded the prize "for having advanced our under-



standing of women's labour market outcomes". Born in 1946 in New York, Claudia Goldin is a professor at Harvard University in Cambridge.

"This year's Laureate in the Economic Sciences, Claudia Goldin, provided the first comprehensive account

of women's earnings and labour market participation through the centuries. Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap," said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The economics prize, unlike the original Nobel

prizes for science, literature, and peace established in the will of inventor and entrepreneur Alfred Nobel, was introduced later. Sweden's central bank created and funded it in 1968.

The inaugural economics prize was presented the following year, and previous laureates encompass a multitude of influential scholars and thinkers, including figures such as Friedrich August von Hayek, Milton Friedman, and more recently, US economist Paul Krugman.

In the previous year, a trio of US economists, including former Federal Reserve Chair Ben

Bernanke, received the award for their research into how bank regulation and the provision of public funds to struggling financial institutions can prevent more severe economic crises, akin to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The announcement of the Economic Nobel follows the Nobel Peace Prize, which was given to jailed Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi. The Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize "for her fight against the oppression of women" in her country and for "promoting human rights and freedom for all".

## Patient's comfort in AI-driven healthcare linked to familiarity: Report

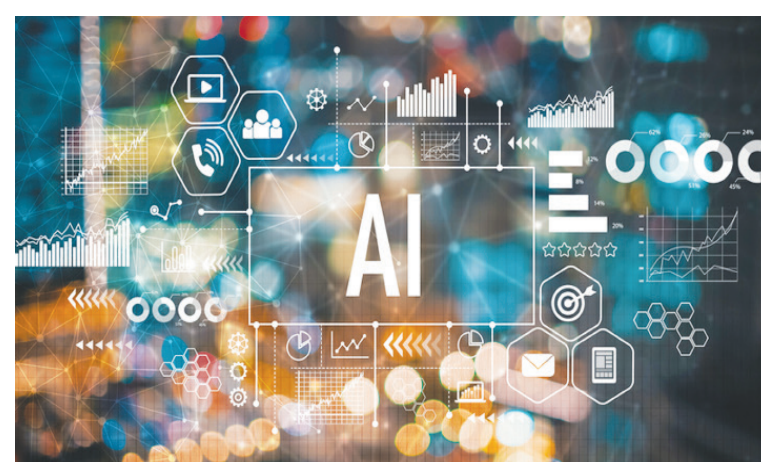
**Younger generations have more knowledge as well as confidence in technologies like AI, shows data**

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): Patients' familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI) significantly influences their comfort level when considering healthcare facilities utilising this technology, according to a report on Monday.

As the healthcare landscape undergoes transformation due to factors like ageing populations, rising chronic diseases, and shifts in lifestyle choices, technology, particularly AI, is playing an increasingly vital role.

The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, showed that out of patients who were familiar with AI, 60 per cent were either very or quite comfortable with using a healthcare facility that uses AI, while of the ones who were not familiar with AI, only 7 per cent were.

"AI is already successfully used to detect image-based diseases such as cancer and



the technology is continuously evolving to enable much wider use cases within healthcare. Successful use cases can encourage further adoption and investment in this technology," said Urte Jakimaviciute, Senior Director of Market Research at GlobalData, in a statement.

"Together with the development of a robust regulatory framework, it is imperative to prioritise patient education regarding the technology.

This education should aim to enhance comprehension of AI's utilisation, its potential advantages, and associated adoption risks, ultimately fostering increased trust in AI. Enhanced knowledge empowers individuals to make informed decisions and mitigate biases linked to this technology," Jakimaviciute added.

The report is based on a survey of 574 patients from India, the US, France, Germa-

ny, Italy, Spain, the UK, Japan, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico between July and August. The survey data also reveals that younger surveyed patients (18-55 years old) were more likely to be familiar with AI than older (56+ years) patients, with more than 50 per cent of them rating their knowledge as moderately or very familiar. Younger generations tend to be introduced to technology earlier in their life and as a result have more knowledge as well as confidence in technologies like AI.

"While AI adoption is inevitable, it must be inclusive. Even though younger generations may drive the use and adoption of AI, building a fair and ethical AI system will need intergenerational collaboration. AI use will need to address generation-wide issues, and therefore it is essential to ensure that all generations can benefit from the adoption of AI," Jakimaviciute said.



## Hazlewood defends Marsh on Kohli drop catch as India beats Australia by 6 wickets

**Kohli, whose catch was dropped when he was at 12, went on to score 85 off 116 deliveries**

CHENNAI, Oct 9 (Agencies): Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood said Mitchell Marsh dropping Virat Kohli early in the run chase did not play a significant role in the defeat against India in their World Cup opener here on Sunday.

Kohli was dropped in the eighth over off Hazlewood's bowling after Marsh made ample ground from the mid-wicket region, even as wicket-keeper Alex Carey also ran in, leading to confusion.

"No, I don't think so (it played a role), it was quite early obviously when that catch was dropped," Hazlewood said at the post-match press conference.

"I didn't think Carey could get there. I think it was Mitch's catch and probably just Carey got quite close in the end so it might have just put Mitch off."

"Yeah, he dropped a catch, it's one of those things that happens and everyone's training hard and working hard off the field to hang on to them. So, yeah, we'll continue on."

The Indian spinners stifled the Australian batters on a humid day at Chepauk as the visitors were bowled out for 199. In reply, India lost three wickets for just two runs in the first two overs with Hazlewood picking two.



If Hazlewood had held on to the catch, India would have found themselves in bigger trouble at 20/4. Kohli was on 12 when he got the reprieve.

Talking about bowling to the Indians, Hazlewood said that the new ball did the trick before dew made things difficult for them.

"We still felt that new ball was doing enough, whether it was in the air or off the wicket. We knew that spin was going to be tough to play, maybe not as tough as during the day, but still enough to play it."

"And, we certainly felt in the game for quite a while until obviously the partnership grew and

grew and they sort of batted us out of it obviously. And yeah, I thought we did a reasonable job early in particular trying to defend 200.

"It obviously felt like it probably spun more in the first half. Definitely, the dew came in, but I think early in our bowling innings it was doing enough and it was still dry."

"The wicket was up and down a little bit so you felt in the game as a quick in particular I think, and then I think it got a little bit better to bat on right towards the end." Hazlewood was all praise for the Indian bowlers, especially left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who took two

wickets, including that of David Warner when the batter was looking good for a big one.

"Yeah, I think he's (Kuldeep) obviously done really well over the last 12 or 18 months. He's always been a good player."

"We've found him tough to play against. Not often you come up against a left-arm leg spinner with great variations, so it's sort of something that's hard to practice against."

"And yeah, he's always been a good player to play against, so I think in general the three spinners bowled really well. They're all a little bit different obviously, but they know the conditions really well and bowled accordingly."

Australia take on South Africa next in Lucknow, a venue where they have not played before.

Asked about the positives from the defeat, Hazlewood said, "Around the country, it's such a big country and the conditions change."

"And, I think you've got to just land on the ground and try and sum up what you think is the best thing to do first and what's going to happen later on."

"It's sort of exciting that everywhere is a little bit different I think, and hopefully, we learn from tonight," he signed off.

## Opinion: Ultra-Defensive Approach Cost Australia, Jadeja Excelled Among Spinners



CHENNAI, Oct 9 (Agencies): India were excellent on the field. Three spinners came in very handy for Rohit Sharma and his side. Rohit handled them very well.

Ravindra Jadeja was the wrecker-in-chief, and Kuldeep Yadav was also decisive, especially with his line, length, and variation.

Ravichandran Ashwin, playing after a long time in the World Cup, it was very important for him to deliver the goods. I think he bowled brilliantly. For Rohit Sharma, things have worked out well,

having three spinners in the mix.

All three of the Indian spinners impressed me. But on a track like this, Ravindra Jadeja really excelled because he has the ability to be so accurate.

He stuck to the right line and length and that caused so much problem for the Australians. When he came on to bowl, he created pressure.

He did not give anyone any room whatsoever. It was a very precise bowling display from Jadeja.

Also, about Jasprit

Bumrah. He started off in a very tentative manner when India toured Ireland for the T20I matches there. Since then, it seems that he is going in with confidence.

He is starting to trust his body. That is the most important part after coming back from an injury and a surgery. And for Jasprit Bumrah, it is still important that his workload is still managed well. I am very hopeful that as the tournament progresses we will see more of Jasprit Bumrah's supremacy as a bowler.

Finally, I think, Australian batters faltered in their approach in a big way. They were ultra-defensive in their approach. I think they were carrying a very heavy load on their mind in terms of how the wicket would behave. If they had entered with a far more aggressive approach, Australia could have posted a 26-270 run total.

## Pakistan journalists to ask questions at World Cup via WhatsApp

HYDERABAD, Oct 9 (Agencies): They haven't got the visas yet but journalists from Pakistan were given an opportunity to send their questions to an ICC media manager on WhatsApp so that they can also be a part of the media conference till visas are issued to them.

Those questions then will be posed to the Pakistan representative attending the conference.

"In addition to taking questions from the media present, the Pakistan representative at the media conference will also answer a few questions sent in by members of the Pakistani media who are still to travel for the event," said a media release sent by the ICC.

Pakistan team will square off against Sri Lanka in their second match here in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Ahead of the match, the team is scheduled



to hold a training session at the Gymkhana Ground on Monday afternoon. The press interaction will be held thereafter at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium.

Earlier, the Pakistan Cricket Board had written to the ICC on Monday expressing its disappointment over its journalists and fans not getting their visas yet for the World Cup.

"PCB is disappointed to see that Pakistani journalists and fans are facing uncertainty about obtaining an Indian visa to cover Pakistan's opening game

in the ICC World Cup. Pakistani journalists and fans are expressing deep concern and it's putting us under immense pressure. We understand the significant role that journalists and passionate fans play in enhancing the spirit and atmosphere of sports events," the letter said.

"This is an obligation of our host and they are working hard on it with our full support. Every effort is being made to get this sorted," an ICC spokesperson had replied when queried about the PCB's letter to it.

## India high and handsome at the Asian Games

*From Parul Chaudhary's stunning heist to the squash team's thrilling win over Pakistan, India had many memorable moments.*

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (Agencies): In all, shooters won 22 medals (7G, 9S, 6B) with a number of elite performances across rifle and pistol. You would be hard-pressed to find a more dominating performance in the final than Sift Kaur Samra in the women's 50m R3P. In a discipline that traditionally hasn't been a stronghold, the 22-year-old set a new world record en route. That she beat China's world champion, Zhang Qiongyue, by 7.3 points (in other words, almost by one extra ammo) in the final is a fair reflection of how she blew the competition out of the water. It was also the country's first individual gold of the Games.

Mukherjees to the fore Ayhika and Sutirtha met each other more than two decades ago. They went to the same table tennis academy, went to the same junior clubs. That was the basis of an incredible bond that gave the country one of its most incredible medals in Hangzhou. In front of an extremely loud crowd, they took out the Chinese world No. 2 duo in the last eight guaranteed them a medal. In the last four — when they were bidding to become the first Indian TT players to reach the final — they ran North Korea



close before going down.

Chaudhary's race of life With less than 400m in the grueling 5000m women's event, it seemed that the event was already over. Japan's Ririka Hironaka was leading Parul Chaudhary by more than a few seconds and it seemed like that would hold. Yet, on the home straight, Chaudhary, 28, produced a final kick for the ages when she made a move on the inside. Hironaka was looking for the move on the outside but the Indian outsmarted to become the first women's athlete to medal in the 3000m steeplechase as well as the 5000m in the same Games.

Ghosal and Co bring roof down Probably the one team gold

that will still be spoken about by the time the next Games comes around in Japan. Up against Pakistan and in a rocking atmosphere, Abhay Singh, India's last singles player, saved a gold medal point before prevailing over Noor Zaman in a thriller. Saurav Ghosal had brought India back into the tie after Mahesh Mangaonkar had been blanked in the opening singles rubber.

Badminton boys do history The doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty came into the tournament as one of the leading lights of Indian sport. They now go back having enhanced their reputation. They once again showed by how much they had

grown as a pair as they walked through the tournament with minimal fuss. In fact, the only time they faced trouble was when Shetty was down with a flu early on in the doubles tournament. Against South Korea in the final, they didn't even need to get out of third gear to win the country's first gold in the sport at the Games.

Compounding interest India had one compound bow in their arsenal in 2004. Now, there's a case for saying they are one of the kings of this sport. Medals have come at the rate of knots this year and Asian domination has followed, with a clean sweep in the discipline. Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam will go back to India as the two most successful athletes of the Games with three gold each.

Dressage gold Before the Games, a dressage gold would have been one of the unlikeliest gold. A week later, it still feels like a dream because of all the governance issues inside the federation. But four athletes — all of whom moved base to Europe to concentrate on their careers — dared to dream and made the impossible possible.

## Politics, officiating mishaps mar China's Covid-delayed Asian Games

HANGZHOU, Oct 9 (Agencies): With no major security incidents and a record gold medal haul for its athletes, China will regard the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou as a soft power triumph that ticked a number of political, sporting and operational boxes for the hosts.

In reality, the nation's first major sporting event in the post-COVID era was marred by diplomatic tensions, slapdash officiating and a dearth of accountability by the organising bodies.

Before its dazzling opening ceremony, the Games were overshadowed by a visa row that prevented three Indian athletes from competing. The martial artists were

from a region of India contested by China, and India's sports minister cancelled a planned visit to the Games in protest. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), which runs the multi-sport event, said it was looking into the issue but never offered another word about it.

The Games' clumsy official slogan was "Heart to Heart, @ Future" but a more suitable one might have been: "Let things slide." North Korea arrived in force for its first major sporting event since the 2018 Asian Games, having shut its doors to the world — and international drug testers — for years.

Being non-compliant to the global anti-doping code, the reclusive

nation's flag is banned at multisport events outside the Olympics but flew at Hangzhou with the backing of the OCA. About 12,400 athletes from 45 countries competed, a year later than scheduled because of COVID-19.

World-class quality was sparse in much of the 40-sport programme but there were some stunning achievements, notably in the pool, where China's swimmers shone.

Having been beaten by Japan for swimming medals at Jakarta, China won 28 of the 41 titles, continuing its resurgence after an impressive world championships in Fukuoka. Butterfly queen Zhang Yufei and breaststroke king Qin Haiyang com-

binated for 11 golds, earning the Games' MVP awards.

Teenager Pan Zhanle emerged as a threat for the Olympic 100 metres freestyle next year, swimming at world record pace in the 4x100m medley relay.

Dominating in their traditional strengths of badminton, diving and table tennis, China topped the medal table for the 11th successive Games with 201 golds, outstripping their previous best of 199 at Guangzhou in 2010.

Second-placed Japan had 52 golds and South Korea was third with 42. Big improvers India were thrilled to finish fourth with a national record 28 golds, and smashed their target of 100 medals overall.

Breakdancers competed at the Games for the first time in a preview of the discipline's Paris Olympic debut.

Esports' debut as a medal event proved a hit. Local fans flocked to see star South Korean gamer Lee Sang-hyeok, better known as "Faker", in the "League of Legends" category.

Rested from the final, Lee joined his teammates in winning gold and a coveted exemption from South Korea's compulsory military service.

Paris St Germain midfielder Lee Kang-in can also skip military service, with South Korea beating Japan 2-1 in the men's soccer final.

Qatari high jump great Mutaz Barshim cruised

to a third Asian Games gold, but the athletics was marred by controversy and official blunders.

An official suffered a broken leg and serious bleeding after being hit by a mishrorn hammer. Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra won the javelin but had to re-take his first effort after a long and confusing hiatus, with officials having failed to record his mark.

The women's 100m hurdles descended into farce when China's Wu Yanni had a clear false start only for officials to disqualify Indian rival Jyothi Yarraji.

Eventual silver medalist Yarraji, who was a step behind Wu, protested and officials cor-

rected their decision, but Wu was allowed to run under protest before finally being disqualified.

The men's kabaddi final between India and Iran was halted for an hour over an officiating dispute that saw both teams stage sit-down protests.

Afghanistan, however, had no recourse when their men's cricket final against India was abandoned because of rain.

With no spare day allocated for the weather and no provision to share the medal, India were awarded the gold purely by virtue of their higher world ranking.

North Korea were sore losers after falling 2-1 to Japan in the men's soccer quarter-finals. Security staff intervened

after several of their players mobbed and manhandled the referee on field after the match ended.

The Games' drug testers reported seven athletes had been banned for positive tests, including a Turkmenistan athlete who took silver in kurash, the central Asian wrestling event.

Backed by the OCA and the IOC, women represented Afghanistan in cycling, volleyball and athletics, in defiance of the Taliban, which has halted women's sport in the country.

"Nowadays, they are looking for hope," said Afghan volleyballer Mursal Khedri of women athletes in the nation. "By seeing us here they can find hope."



## Health department to start array of activities under "Our Health Our Responsibility" Campaign



The meeting was chaired by Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar and attended by officers/representatives from different departments including Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr Mayan ud Din Gures; Executive Officer Municipal Council Doda, Yousuf Ul Umar; Javed Iqbal Bangroo (Food Safety Officer); Suhail Ahanger, JE Jal Shakti Department; Range Officer, Wildlife Department besides Epidemiologist Umar Anayat Khan, Jahangir Mehta, Rishi Pandita, Sanjeev Rana, Mashhood Latif and Faizan A Trambo. Earlier, the meeting started with the welcome address by Epidemiologist Umar Anayat, who briefed the meeting about this new initiative to be started by the health department in coordination with different inter-sectoral departments. Through a powerpoint presentation, he gave details about

different activities to be conducted under the "Good Health & No Disease" campaign. After threadbare discussions, the CMO, Dr Zargar also underlined the initiatives to be taken to conduct different activities under the campaign which shall start in the different parts of the district by this month. The CMO informed that during the month long campaign the health department, in coordination with Municipal Committees, Animal Husbandry, Jal Shakti, Wildlife and Food and Safety Department, shall organize a series of awareness programmes viz water testing, food borne disease awareness, house to house visit, spraying, Hb check, generation of ABHA Ids, rabies & snake bite awareness programmes, through community mobilization, strengthening surveillance, inter-sectoral coordination and to maintain healthy life style.

**Top News Report**  
DODA, Oct 9: On the directions of Administrative Secretary Health & ME, Bhupinder Kumar

and to ensure the health & well being of the general public, Health department (IDSP Unit) Doda organized a meet-

ing of different sectoral departments to gear for the launch of "Our Health Our Responsibility" campaign.

## National apprenticeship Mela held at ITI Kishtwar

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 9: Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Kishtwar in collaboration with the District Industrial Centre under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to organize the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela as part of the Prime Minister's Skill India Mission. The event hosted by ITI Kishtwar aims to provide opportunities for the young and aspiring workforce to shape their careers through apprenticeship training. The event is set to feature 15 sectors and more than 10 establishments, offering 15 distinct types of trades for the participants to choose from. These trades include welding, electrical work, fashion designing, sewing technology, computer operator, mechanic work, and many more, providing a diverse range of options for the candidates to develop their skills and



expertise. Applicants with qualifications ranging from 5th to 12th grade pass certificates, skill training certificates, ITI diplomas, or graduate degrees are eligible to participate. This inclusive eligibility criteria ensures that a broad spectrum of candidates can engage in the event and explore apprenticeship opportunities. Participating candidates will have the opportunity to earn National Council for Vocational Education and Training-recognized certifications, enhancing their employability and paving the way for a successful career

after the training. The event's main objective is to encourage companies and local establishments to hire more apprentices, fostering skill development and growth in the workforce. It also aims to assist employers in discovering and nurturing the potential of the candidates through training and practical skills. Anoop Sharma, the ITI Principal in Kishtwar, is playing a significant role in guiding and overseeing this initiative, which is aligned with the Skill India Mission, a crucial national initiative to enhance skill development and employment prospects for the youth of the country.

## PM awardee Nazakat praises 'ADGP' Mukesh Singh (IPS)

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: Shri. Nazakat Choudhary, a notable social worker and recipient of the Prime Minister Appreciation Award, recently paid a visit to the Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters to bid farewell to the outgoing Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Shri. Mukesh Singh (IPS), on the occasion of his transfer. During his visit, Nazakat Choudhary commended ADGP Shri. Mukesh Singh for his commendable contributions towards the progress of the police department, emphasizing his dedication and honesty in carrying out

his duties. Choudhary praised Singh for effectively bringing policing closer to the people and maintaining law and order during his tenure. He highlighted Singh's role in addressing the drug menace, applauding the Jammu and Kashmir Police for their proactive efforts, including organizing awareness camps and seminars in rural areas to educate communities about the dangers of drugs. Expressing good wishes for Shri. Mukesh Singh's future endeavors, Nazakat Choudhary hoped that he would continue to serve with the same dedication and commitment in his future assignments.

## BJP Mayor and Deputy Mayor Completely fail in every respect: Gurmeet Singh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: It appears that Gurmeet Singh, President of Beopar Mandal and District General Secretary of the Congress, along with other leaders, visited Peer Kho Pulli near Swastik Factory in Jammu East. During their visit, they observed a lack of cleanliness in the area for over 25 days, which they believe is encouraging the spread of dengue virus

and the Omicron variant of dengue. They pointed out that it is the responsibility of the Municipality to ensure cleanliness in the area, and they expressed disappointment that no action has been taken by municipal officers or the concerned supervisor to address the issue. They suggested that the supervisor should be fined Rs 25,000 for negligence in performing their duty. Gurmeet Singh and other leaders emphasized the urgent need to address the lack of cleanliness, especially with the current spread of the dengue virus and its variants in the city. They urged the Lieutenant Governor to issue strict instructions to the relevant departments to ensure public health and safety. They also raised concerns about the alleged misuse of funds allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and called for a CBI inquiry to determine how the funds were spent. Accompanying Gurmeet Singh were several other individuals, including members of the Congress party and local residents.



## Sidhani of DPS Jammu wins gold medal in soft tennis competition

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 9: Sidhani Singh, Madhvendra Singh, and Vihan Manhas for their outstanding achievements in the district level Soft Tennis Competition organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K. Their hard work, dedication, and exceptional performance have brought great pride to Delhi Public School Jammu and their parents. Sidhani Singh's gold medal in the U-19 girls' singles category is a remarkable accomplishment, showcasing her talent and skill in the sport. Madhvendra Singh's bronze medal in the U-17 boys' singles category and Vihan Manhas' bronze medal in the U-14 boys' singles category demonstrate



their promising abilities and dedication to the sport. The management of DPS Jammu, including Hon'ble President-RCT Sh. M.K Ajatshatru Singh Ji, distinguished PVC-Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, and Hon'ble Director-Sh. S.S Sodhi Ji, along with Principal Ms. Ruchi Chabra, extended their heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, their parents, and their coach, Mr. Amar Jyoti Sharma,

for their outstanding performance in the event. They also conveyed their best wishes to the winners for all their future endeavors. Headmistress Ms. Meenu Gupta also praised the winners for their remarkable achievements, recognizing their efforts and dedication in representing the school. Well done to all the winners, and may their success continue to inspire and motivate others!

# Sankalp Saptah culminates in Block Budhal New; Amrit Kalash Yatra also hosted

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Oct 9: In a transformative and commendable initiative, the Budhal New Block in Rajouri district today concluded its week-long Sankalp Saptah program, closely aligned with the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). This initiative, which commenced with an official inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, ITPO, New Delhi, stands as a testament to the Indian government's unwavering commitment to enhance governance at the grassroots level, thereby directly benefiting its citizens. Under the astute guidance and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, the Sankalp Saptah event in Budhal New Block witnessed an array of impactful activities organized by different government departments. This comprehensive event aimed to touch upon various facets of development and well-being, providing a holistic approach to uplift the lives of the residents. The event's first day, aptly named "Sampooran e-Swasthaya," was orchestrated by the health depart-

ment. It offered crucial healthcare services, including ANC clinics, immunization drives, screenings for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), anaemia tests, and tuberculosis awareness campaigns. The community also engaged in health-focused rallies to raise awareness about these vital issues. On the second day, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department hosted the "Suposhit Pariwar Poshan Mela," an event dedicated to nutrition-related activities. It included the growth monitoring of children and weight assessment of pregnant women. Additionally, cultural ceremonies such as "Godh Bharai" and "Annaprasan" were celebrated at anganwadi centers, emphasizing the importance of healthy nutrition from a young age. The third day of Sankalp Saptah was devoted to "Swatchta Ek Sankalp," focusing on cleanliness activities at the gram panchayat level. This included cleanliness drives and initiatives to improve sanitation and hygiene practices within the community. The following day, "Krishi Mahot-



sav" took center stage, promoting advancements in agriculture. Given the significance of agriculture in many rural areas, this event aimed to empower farmers with knowledge and resources to improve their agricultural practices. "Shiksha Ek Sankalp" on the fifth day concentrated on the vital aspect of education. The government sought to enhance the quality of education in primary and middle schools across the block Khawas, recognizing that education is a cornerstone of progress and development. The sixth day, "Smridhi Diwas," celebrated the progress and development achieved at Panchayat ghars.

This highlighted the tangible results of community engagement and government initiatives working in harmony to bring about positive change at the grassroots level. Finally, the event reached its culmination on the seventh day with the "Sankalp Saptah Samavesh Samaroh." This closing ceremony marked the successful completion of the week-long program, showcasing the collective efforts and achievements of the community and government. The Sankalp Saptah is a vital initiative that draws inspiration from the aspirations and inputs gathered during chintan shivirs at the village and block levels across the nation.

It embodies the relentless commitment of the government to grassroots development and governance enhancement. The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), initiated by the Prime Minister, serves as the guiding force behind these efforts, with a visionary goal to directly impact the lives of citizens in aspirational blocks. Furthermore, in a remarkable display of community spirit and commitment to rural development, the Budhal New Block recently hosted the Amrit Kalash Yatra, a significant event under the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" initiative. This event symbolized unity and collective effort in driving positive change in the region. The Block Budhal New became the focal point for this inspiring event, bringing together representatives from various departments, PRI members, and the local community. One of the most symbolic and touching aspects of the Amrit Kalash Yatra was the gathering of soil and rice from different panchayats within the Budhal New Block. Soil collected from these diverse panchayats was brought to the Block HQ, signifying

the convergence of communities and their shared commitment to rural development. This event highlighted the profound importance of community participation and collaboration in the pursuit of rural development goals. The Amrit Kalash Yatra not only brought people together but also served as a powerful reminder that progress and prosperity can be achieved when communities work hand in hand towards a common vision. Budhal New Block's unwavering commitment to "Meri Maati Mera Desh" was vividly demonstrated during this inspiring event. In essence, these initiatives underscore the power of community engagement and government efforts working hand-in-hand to bring progress, development, and a better quality of life to every corner of the nation. The successful culmination of Sankalp Saptah and the Amrit Kalash Yatra exemplify the dedication of the government and its resolute commitment to creating a brighter future for all citizens, particularly in aspirational blocks like Budhal New in Rajouri district.