

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Gigi Hadid condemns 'terrorising innocent people' after Hamas attacks



NATIONAL | 7

Karnataka to Challenge Cauvery Body's Order To Release Water To Tamil Nadu

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Russian President Putin arrives in Kyrgyzstan on a rare trip abroad



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-280 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

MeT predicts widespread rains, 'significant' drop in temperature from Oct 14-18 in J&K

SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): Weatherman on Wednesday forecast widespread intermittent light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir from October 14-18.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that mainly clear weather was expected in next 24 hours and on October 13, "partly cloudy becoming cloudy" towards evening was expected. "There is possibility of rain/snow over higher reaches towards night at scattered places of J&K." He said widespread intermittent light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches was likely with over 75% chances from October 14-18.

There was "significant drop in temperature expected across during these days. The weatherman department has also urged farmers to postpone harvesting of crops from October 14-18.

He said there may be temporarily disruption of transportation especially at vulnerable places like Zojila, Mugal Road, Sinthan-top, Sadnatop etc.

Minor girl allegedly raped in North Kashmir, Accused held

SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a man has been arrested in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on charges of allegedly raping a minor girl.

A senior police official told News Agency KS that the incident took place on Sunday, and the accused youth is currently in police custody, held behind bars.

The official stated that a case has been registered, with further investigation underway.

The arrested youth has been identified as Wasim Ahmad Parra, a resident of Sumbal.

Four killed, many injured as North East Express derails in Bihar

BUXAR (Bihar), Oct 12 (Agencies): At least four passengers died and 70 others injured when six coaches of the Delhi-Kamakhya North East Express derailed near the Raghunathpur station in Bihar's Buxar district on Wednesday night, officials said.

The derailment occurred at 9:53 pm and at least two AC III Tier coaches had toppled over while four other coaches jumped the tracks, television visuals showed.

Buxar Superintendent of Police Manish Kumar told PTI four passengers had died in the accident. A Railway Police Force



official said at least 70 passengers have been injured and shifted to local hospitals. Those with serious injuries were rushed to AIIMS, Patna.

"Will find the root cause of derailment," Railway Minister Ashwi

ni Vaishnav said on X, even as he expressed condolences for the loss of lives.

The minister said evacuation and rescue operations were completed and all coaches have been checked.

The 23-coach 12506

North East Express had departed the Anand Vihar terminal in Delhi at 7:40 am on Wednesday for its nearly 33-hour journey to Kamakhya, about six kilometres away from Guwahati.

"The train was coming at a normal speed but suddenly we heard a loud sound and a plume of smoke rose out of the train. We rushed to see what happened. We saw that the train had derailed and the AC coaches were the most damaged," Hari Pathak, a local resident said.

Television visuals showed locals rushing to the rescue of the passengers and

Turn to page 9

22 Americans have died in Israel, 17 remain unaccounted for: White House

WASHINGTON, Oct 12 (Agencies): As many as 22 Americans have lost their lives in Hamas' attack on Israel and 17 remain unaccounted for, the White House said Wednesday, and added that the figure is likely to increase in the coming days.

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said more Americans could be among those taken held hostage by Palestinian militant group Hamas, adding that the US communicating with Israel on recovery of hostages.

"We know that, so far, 22 Americans lost their lives and 17

remain unaccounted for. We know that these numbers are likely to increase in the days ahead," said John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House.

Earlier, the US government had confirmed the deaths of 14 Americans in the attack.

This attack, Sullivan told reporters, has brought to the surface painful memories and the scars left by millennia of antisemitism and genocide of the Jewish people.

"We have a little bit better sense today of how many more Ameri-

cans are unaccounted for or missing. We know that a number of those Americans are being held hostage right now by Hamas. I think we all need to steel ourselves for the very distinct possibility that these numbers will keep increasing and that we may, in fact, find out that more Americans are part of the hostage pool," he said.

Over 1,200 people have been killed in Hamas' surprise attack on Israel, which has countered with airstrikes in Gaza in which around 1,00 people have been killed.

"Our message to all these families affected is

Turn to page 9

Militant hideout busted in Doda: Police



SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said to have busted a militant hideout in the upper reaches of Bhandarwah in Doda district.

A police spokesperson in a statement said that

acting on specific information about a militant hideout in the area, a joint search operation was launched by Doda Police and Army (04 RR) and the searching party busted a hideout in the upper reaches (forest area) of Seoz Dhar

Bhandarwah.

"The searching party recovered three Chinese Pistols, nine Pistol Magazines and 79 rounds of Pistol from the hideout," police said.

In this connection, police said that a case under FIR number 123/2023 under relevant sections has been registered in Police Station Bhandarwah and investigation of the case has been started.

Notably, Doda Police in close coordination with Army/CAPF is carrying out joint search operations/area domination/surveillance and close monitoring with special

Turn to page 9

Will bring back Roshni Act if voted to power: Azad

SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): Democratic Progressive Alliance Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said that his party would bring back the Roshni Act if voted back to power.

Azad while addressing various delegations of the ST community in Jammu said, "If voted to power in elections, we will bring back the Roshni Act Scheme that had benefited thousands of poor people across Jammu and Kashmir."

Azad also held a meeting of office bearers from Jammu and instructed them to intensify the party activities and ensure more and more people are join DPAP in Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad stated said that DPAP was fully aware and informed about the problems faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "We will reach out to every corner of the UT to engage with people so that issues on the ground people are facing shall be addressed."

Army, BSNL set up communication station at 15,500 ft in Ladakh



SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): In a first, Army in collaboration with BSNL, has established a Base Transceiver Station (BTS) at the forward posts of the world's highest battle-

field in Ladakh sector.

The spokesperson of the Fire and Fury Corps, which oversees the Ladakh sector, posted on X (formerly Twitter): "#Siachen Warriors, in collaboration with BSNL, have established the first-ever BSNL BTS at the forward posts of the highest battlefield on October 6th, to enhance mobile communication for the soldiers deployed at over 15,500 feet."

Drug Peddler arrested in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested a drug peddler and recovered large quantity of contraband substance from his possession in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A Police spokesperson said, "In this regard, a specific information regarding presence of contraband substance was generated

Turn to page 9

IT conducts search, seizure operation in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): The Income Tax (IT) Department conducted a search and seizure operation in the Kashmir Valley on a prominent business group, engaged in various sectors namely, Cement, Steel, Glass, Plywood, Real Estate, Tourism, Textiles and Healthcare, etc, on Monday, an official statement said on Wednesday.

More than 40 premises were covered in Srinagar, Sopore, Budgam, Sonmarg, and Pulwama areas of Kashmir Valley and Delhi, it added.

As per the official statement, during the search operation, incriminating documents, handwritten diaries, and digital devices were seized.

Variation in stock was also noticed in the various factories and retail outlets. Evidence of undisclosed investments in immovable properties located in Kashmir Valley of more than Rs 50 crore has also been found from various premises.

"Investigations so far have shown that the

Turn to page 9

DC Baramulla takes holistic review of RDD Works, other Sponsored Schemes

SRINAGAR, Oct 12 (Agencies): In order to take a sector wise review about the physical and financial progress of works under different schemes and sponsored programmes including PMAY-G, MGNREGA, SBM-G and other sectors, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a meeting with the functionaries



of Rural Development Department Baramulla at DC Office Complex here.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather; Sub Divisional Magistrates,

ACD, ACP, Revenue Officers, BDOs besides other functionaries of other concerned departments were present in the meeting.

On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla briefed the chair about the current pace and progress of MGNREGA, PMAY (G), SBM (G) among others.

While reviewing the physical and financial

Turn to page 9

Crystal
Telecom - Security - Software

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES

CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

Ports	4 Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Pluggable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Pluggable Add on

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar 9419143503

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

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. Anika 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

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Phoola Koul** W/o Late Sh. Pushkar Nath Koul (Lane No. 15, Flat No. 15, Block No. 69, Jagti Township, Nagrota) who left for heavenly abode on 07/10/2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 16th October, 2023 at 8:30 am at Muthi Ghat, near the Directorate of School Education.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son and Daughter in law:

Smt Shakuntala and Sh Rajinder Koul

Smt Sushma and Sh D.P. Koul

Smt. Sarabjeet and Sh. Ajay Koul

Sister in Law

Smt. Vijay Koul

Son in Law

Sh. Raj Nath Raina (H/o Late Smt. Lalita Raina)

Bhabhi - Smt. Rani Bhat

Brother - Sh. J.L Bhat

Sister and Brother in law:

Smt. Santosh and Sh. Rajinder Koul



Smt. Phoola Koul

Grandkids:
Simran, Shruti, Khushi,
Saksham, Vansh, Rohit, Anmol
9910172232, 7006210291,
7006916449, 6005661161,
9596946264

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we have to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Devinder K. Sharma** Son of Late Sh Krishan Das Sharma who passed away on 3rd Oct. 2023. Tuesday.

10th Day will be performed on 12th Oct 2023, Thursday at 10:00 am at Rani Park, Parade, and **KRIYA** will be performed on 13th Oct. 2023, Friday at 12:30 p.m. H No.71, Kucha Nahar Singh, Panjirthi, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Satya Devi (Mother)

Sudesh Bala (Wife)

Anuj Sharma & Shikha Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Kusum Sharma & Sanjeev Kumar (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Pallvi Sharma & Vishal Thappa (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Surinder Kumar & Darshana Sharma (Brother & Bhabhi)

Late Sh Narinder Kumar & Santosh Sharma (Brother & Bhabhi)

Vijay Lakshmi & Hem Raj Sharma (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Grand Son & Daughter

Samarth, Asmi, Ruhaan, Krishiv

Mob : 9796649142, 9858692317, 9419145336



Sh. Devinder K Sharma

10TH DAY KRIYA

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** of **Sh. Makhan Lal Sapru** S/o Late Sh. Sri Kanth Sapru originally resident of Sapriyar Habbakadal Srinagar and presently at 484 Lower Shanti Nagar, Toph Sherkhania, Jammu will be performed on 13th Oct. 2023 at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son's and Daughter-in-law's

Sh.Prafal Sapru & Smt.Neera Sapru

Sh.Praveen Sapru & Smt. Pinky Sapru

Sister and Brother-in-law

Smt. Nirja & Late.Sh. V.K.Muthoo.

Brother and Sister-in-law

Late. Sh. R.L. Sapru & Smt. Reeta Sapru

Sh. C.S. Sapru & Smt. Lalita Sapru

Sh. Surender Sapru and Smt. Anju Sapru

Sh. Vijay Nehru and Family.

Contact Numbers: 7006431260, 7006299806, +919682555746, +919149616596



Late Sh. Makhan Lal Sapru

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that **S. Jasbir Singh (Retd Head D/Man)** S/o Late S. Darshan Singh R/o Simbal Camp Ward No 1 Near Gurudwara Sahib Tekri has left heavily abode on 05-10-2023.

PROGRAMME

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 13-10-2023

(Friday) at residence at 9 AM

Kirtan and Antim Ardass at Gurudwara Sahib Tekri

at 10.30 AM to 12.30 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdmi Krishana Kour -Mother

Sdmi Surinder Kour -Wife

S. Jagjot Singh Rajan - (Son)

Sdmi Karleen Kour & S. Harpreet Singh (Daughter & Son in Law)

S. Ramnik Singh J&K Police - Brother

S. Gurmeet Singh Bablu- Contractor - Brother

S. Parveen Singh Rimpay- Shopkeeper -Brother

And all relatives & Family Members

9419366906, 7889586667, 7889874700



S. Jasbir Singh (Retd Head D/Man)

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 Shyamal 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 Nirmla 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 & 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

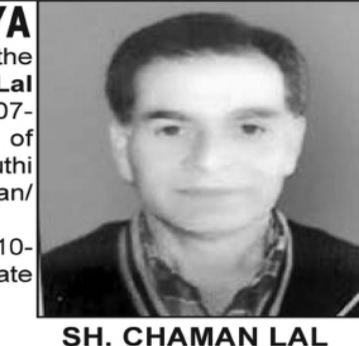
Rohit & Pooja - Son & Daughter in Law

Pooja & Sunny - Daughter & Son in Law

Grand Children: Sadhvi, Pranay

Rushika Pandita & Lavanya Raina

MOBILE NO: 9469231752, 7006530998, 9796421367



SH. CHAMAN LAL PANDITA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we have to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bansi Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh. Damodhar Bhat R/o Wachi Shopian A/P Jagti township who passed away on 4th October 2023 Wednesday

10th DAY KRIYA Will be Performed on 13th October 2023 Friday at 9:30 AM at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education.

The Assembly Will be held at 10:30 AM in community Hall behind lane No.11 Jagti township.

Grief Stricken:-

Usha Kumari Bhat- Wife

Arvin Bhat & Meenakshi (Avni) Bhat- Son & Daughter-in-Law

Renu Raina & Kuldeep Raina- Daughter & Son-in-Law

Meenakshi Bhat & Vikas Bakshi- Daughter & Son-in-Law

Vickey Bhat & Pummy Bhat- Son & Daughter-in-Law

Neha Saraf & Rahul Saraf- Daughter & Son-in-Law

Shubham Bhat- Son

Maharaj Krishan Bhat & Pupi Bhat- Brother & Bhabhi

Satish Kumar Bhat & Kundana Bhat- Brother & Bhabhi

Phoola Koul- Sister

Kundan Bhat & Roshan Lal Bhat- Sister & Brother-in-Law

Usha Koul & Vinod Kumar Koul- Sister & Brother-in-Law

Grand Sons and Daughter: Dakshu Raina, Dhariya Bhat, Vansh Bhat, Pari, Krishana, Dimmu.

Mob.No:- 7006723418, 9469997913, 7006122258



Sh. Bansi Lal Bhat

KRIYA/UTHALA

Although heaven and earth divide us but you are forever in our hearts

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to announce the sad demise of our beloved Father, **Sh Satish Chander** S/o Late Mangat Ram R/o Parliwand Kathua who left for his heavenly abode on 05-10-2023 (THU).

KRIYA and **UTHALA** will be performed at our residence House No.10, Ward No.12, Kathua at 10 am and **SATSANG** at Shri Guru Ravi Dass Mandir, near Old Bus Stand, Kathua from 12 to 1pm on 15-10-2023 (Sunday).

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Smt Parkash Devi (Wife)

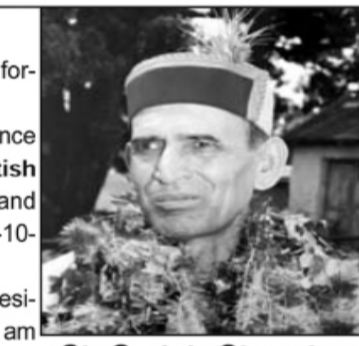
Smt Sunita Kumari & Sh Nirmal Kishore Karalia (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Smt Navriti Priya & Sh Munish Kumar Karalia (Daughter-in-law and Son)

Smt Anju Bala & Sh Manohar Lal (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt Anita Karalia & Sh Ashwani Kumar (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand Children:- Shivani, Kartik, Kanish, Karishta, Atiksh, Aakarsh, Anvay and Atulit.



Sh Satish Chander

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief, we inform that Mrs **Shub Lata (Shaveta)** W/o Mr. Parvinder Kumar Sharma (Retd A.V.P. JK Bank) R/o B-22, Vasant Vihar, Talab Tillo Jammu passed away on 3rd Oct 2023. Tuesday.

10TH DAY shall be performed on 12th Oct 2023, Thursday at Home at 11 AM. **KRIYA** shall be on 13th Oct 2023 Friday at Home.

UTHALA shall be performed on 16th of Oct 2023 at Shiv Temple, Vasant Vihar, Talab Tillo Behind Tripple 'S' farm House banquet Hall, Pillar No 46, Akhnoor Fly Over at 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter in Law

Pratham Sharma & Shivangi

Grand Son

Dhairya Pratham

All Sahajpal Family Members

All Sadh Family Members

Mobile No 9697026599, 9535279185



MRS. SHUB LATA (SHAVETA) W/O P.K SHARMA

10th Day/Kriya

Tenth Day/Kriya of **Late Sh Ramesh Chander Kotwal** S/o Lt. Shri Parkash R/o Dandi (Udrana) Bhaderwah on 14th of October 2023, 08.30 AM at our residence.

Grief Stricken

Smt Asha Kotwal -Wife

Brothers & Sisters-in-law

Sh Naveen Chander Kotwal & Smt Anju Kotwal

Sh Parveen Chander Kotwal & Smt Ranu Kotwal

Sh Harish Chander Kotwal -Brother

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Smt Kanchan Chouhan & Sh Rajinder Parshad Chouhan

Smt Archana Gupta & Sh Subash Gupta

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt Shilpa Kotwal & Sh Shive Kotwal

Smt Shiffale Kotwal & Sh Shakti Kotwal

Smt Shikha Chouhan & Sh Sahil Chouhan



Late Sh Ramesh Chander Kotwal

OBITUARY

(25TH OCTOBER 1930 - 05TH OCTOBER 2023)

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

CONDOLENCES IS BEING HELD AT 13027OWER-5, SPR IMPERIAL ESTATE, SECTOR 42, 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. RAJNI KUL & SH. MUKUL - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

SMT. SUDESH RANA & SH. SURINDER RANA - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

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

SMT. SUNIL BHAN & DR. SURINDER BHAN - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

SMT. SHAMON RANA & SH. SUPREET RANA - GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & GRAND SON

SMT. TANISHREE KUL & SH. SUNIL DISEHAN - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW

CAPT. NITIKA KUL & MAJ. K. NAVAJ - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW

SMT. SHEFALI RANA & SH. SANCHIT R

Inter-State narco-module links

Kupwara to Ludhiana: DGP Dilbagh

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh of Police Thursday said that the links of the Inter State narco-module busted a few days ago have been traced from north Kashmir's Kupwara district to Ludhiana Punjab. He said that eight people have been arrested so far—four from Kupwara and four from Punjab while 30 kgs of cocaine, Rs 5 crore cash, 40 fake number plates of vehicles, passports and a Germany made revolver have been recovered.

Addressing the press conference District Police Lines (DPL) Jammu, DGP Singh said that Ramban police recently intercepted the vehicle and recovered 30 kg of cocaine-like substance. "Though the final report of FSL is awaited, it seems that the recovered substance is cocaine," the DGP said, adding that four people from northern Kashmir's Kupwara district have been arrested.

"During the course of investigation, it was found that links of the inter-State narco-mod-

ule are connected with Kupwara district. Kupwara's Amrohi is the favourite route used for narco-smuggling; the fresh consignment was also smuggled from the same route. We have registered 12 cases in the Amrohi area of Kupwara related to narco-terror," the DGP said, adding that even though no evidence of drone-dropped narcotics have been received, there are credible leads that show that narcotics have been smuggled physically.

He said after the arrest of four accused from Kupwara, J&K police in a joint operation with the Punjab police arrested four more people including the key handler of the drugs. "Investigations showed that the arrested key accused's father was also a drug dealer. We have recovered Rs 5 Crore cash, 40 fake number plates, passports and a German made revolver from the arrested persons," he said.

Asked about the number plates, the DGP said that it seems that during the transportation of drugs that were supposed to be transported from Kupwara to Punjab, number plates were used to deceive

police on the highways. "The drivers of vehicles ferrying drugs would have been impersonating police officials given the police badges recovered and also the number plates of the vehicles would have been changed from one stop to another," he said.

He said that so far it has been found that narcotics are coming from across the LoC in Kashmir to support and fuel terrorism. "Links of all major terror organisations have come to fore in the racket," DGP said.

He said as the investigations are on, more arrests are likely to be made.

He said that the cases of drone-dropped consignments of narcotics have been reported from the International border in Jammu areas. "With the arrest of eight accused, a big inter-state narco smuggling module has been busted," the DGP said. To a query about the number of drug abusers in J&K, the DGP said even though there is credible study or census, a preliminary investigation suggests that there are 7 lakh people who have fallen prey to drugs in J&K.

CCI bids farewell to ADGP Mukesh Singh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: The Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a farewell function at Chamber House to bid adieu to Sh. Mukesh Singh, IPS, ADGP, on the occasion of his transfer to the position of IGP ITBP, Government of India.

Arun Gupta, while addressing the gathering, fondly recalled the outstanding services provided by Sh. Mukesh Singh, IPS, during his tenure as ADGP Jammu. He highlighted Sh. Mukesh Singh's courteous and determined approach to resolving the challenges faced by the people of Jammu. Sh. Arun Gupta acknowledged that during Sh. Mukesh Singh's tenure as ADGP, the crime rate in Jammu significantly decreased, and only a few incidents involving militancy and bomb blasts occurred. Sh. Mukesh Singh's tenure also witnessed the successful capture of more than 350 modern rifles, approximately 650 grenades, and drugs valued at crores of rupees by the police department.

Arun Gupta further expressed that the Chamber had developed a strong rapport with Sh. Mukesh Singh and would miss his presence. However, he



extended best wishes and good luck as Sh. Mukesh Singh embarks on his new assignment as IGP ITBP.

In his address, Mukesh Singh, IPS, emphasized that the activities of the Jammu Chamber aligned with the wishes of its members, but the police department operates based on the law and the responsibilities assigned by the government. He also stressed the importance of maintaining a positive relationship between the Chamber and the police department. While the police department's actions might not always be visible on the ground, their dedicated efforts have been instrumental in saving numerous lives and preventing incidents that could disrupt public order.

The farewell function was attended by various office bearers, including Sh. Anil Gupta,

Sr. Vice President CCI, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Sh.

Manish Gupta, Secretary General CCI, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary

CCI, and many other prominent members of the Chamber.

'Empowerment Through Education' celebrated on International Day of Girl Child at CUJ



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: The Department of Educational Studies at the Central University of Jammu celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child with great pride and enthusiasm. The event brought together students, scholars, and faculty members to emphasize the critical role of education in the lives of every girl, symbolizing unwavering dedication to female education.

During the event, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain personally recognized the importance of this day by presenting every female student in the Department with a pen. He underscored the need for girls to recognize and harness the

"Power of the Pen." Prof. Jain also expressed that the time has come to actively encourage girls to take on leadership roles, an aspect that continues to grow in significance. He encouraged the girls, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation, Bharat.

Prior to this, Prof. Asit Mantry, Head of the Department, addressed the gathering, sharing profound insights into the revered position of women in Bharatiya culture. He paid a heartfelt tribute to the incredible potential, strength, and achievements of girls from across the globe. Prof. Mantry reiterated that this celebration reaffirms the Department's

commitment to gender equality by empowering its female students.

The event saw the presence of esteemed guests, including the Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, and a distinguished panel of faculty members: Prof. J. N. Baliao, Dr. Kran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Arvind, Dr. Aarushi, Dr. Anil, and Dr. Shivali. The entire event was skillfully organized by the Co-curricular Activities Committee.

This occasion served as a reminder that education plays a pivotal role in empowering girls and driving positive change in society, ensuring that every girl can unleash her full potential.

BJP in doldrums after Kargil debacle: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference, Jammu, on Thursday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is frustrated and in a state of disarray after losing the LAHDC Kargil election.

In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader said that BJP's defeat in Kargil is a major setback for the party in Jammu and Kashmir and is also a clear indication that the people have rejected their divisive and anti-people policies.

He said that the election to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil was the first poll held after Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Con-

stitution and the people of Ladakh have severely rejected the divisive politics of BJP and its policies which are against the people of J&K and Ladakh.

He asserted that the Bharatiya Janta Party, ably assisted by a totally biased Ladakh administration, did everything possible to deny us our rights to use Party symbol in LAHDC poll but our symbol, the 'Plough', was given to us by the Honble Supreme Court.

Rattan Lal Gupta termed the victory of National Conference in LAHDC as a trend setter for the future elections in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the people have voted in favour of the secular parties.

He asserted that BJP is afraid to fight Assembly elections in Jammu



and Kashmir, and even now, the Saffron Party is unable to contest the ULB and Panchayat elections in J&K, which is why these elections have been put on hold. This is a clear indication that the BJP is losing ground in the region and is no longer confident of winning elections.

The Party's popularity has declined due to its failure to deliver on its promises, its divisive rhetoric, and anti-people policies. The BJP has also been criticized for its mishandling of the

security situation in the region. He also said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have become victims of recruitment scams and that their future is bleak due to rampant corruption in recruitment.

The Provincial President has termed the government at the Centre as "Jumlabazi Sarkar". He said no major development has seen in Jammu region as the industrial sector is on the verge of closure, unemployment is at its peak, people are facing a shortage of basic amenities, and they are not able to get regular power and water supply, even though the government is talking about making Jammu and Srinagar as Smart Cities.

Rattan Lal also accused the BJP of depriving the people of

Jammu and Kashmir of the elected government for the last five years. He mentioned that recently more than 20 political parties unitedly staged a protest, giving message to the people of country that the BJP of depriving the people of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the time has come for the Assembly elections in J&K and it is undemocratic to deprive the people of an elected government for such a long time.

The senior NC leader said that the false propaganda of the Saffron Party has been totally exposed before the countrymen and the people will give a befitting reply to BJP in the upcoming polls in Jammu and Kashmir for betraying the people of Jammu region on all fronts.

AJKPC to approach NHRC to seek justice for daily wage Maali-Chowkidaars, their families

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), the PRI's body that is spearheading and campaigning for the cause of temporary guards—gardeners of the rural development department today held protest demonstration outside Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu and slammed the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led administration for its failure to do justice with the poor daily wage Maali-Chowkidaars (guards/gardeners).

Several Guards/Gardeners headed by Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC held protest against the J & K government for its non-serious approach in resolving



the issues of these temporary workers who for years have been peacefully praying for justice with them.

While interacting with the media persons during the protest, Anil Sharma informed that despite submitting over a dozen memorandums and Letters with

the Rural Development Department in Kashmir and Jammu, the government has not moved even an inch and showing its reluctance to adjust these poor Maali and Chowkidaar who were promised government jobs and who had even given their lands for setting up different

government buildings and other infrastructure.

The agitating temporary employees said that decades have been passed but these gullible and poor temporary workers are not given any justice and many of them have now surpassed the eligible age for absorption in regular

recruitment in government jobs therefore it is imperative that these innocent workers be given at least the status of daily wage workers and give appointment orders.

The AJKPC president announced that all Panches and Sarpanches and all members of AJKPC stands with these Maali and Chowkidaars and their families. Sharma also informed that AJKPC is seeking legal opinion to approach court of law to seek justice for these daily wagers and in the meanwhile next week they would submit a petition before the NHRC demanding release of wages of these workers so that their families live a dignified life which is a basic human right of every person.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Br. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date 03.11.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Date & Time for Submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
5198-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Conversion of Tramway OHE into Conventional OHE in Amritsar-Bhagatnagar section over Firozpur division	96,32,076.16p	NIL	Upto 03.11.2023 15:00 Hrs.	1,92,700/-	12 Months	03.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in
508C-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Electrification of Washing Lines at Chiteharta and Amritsar stations over Firozpur division	2,36,21,685.28p	NIL	Upto 03.11.2023 15:00 Hrs.	2,68,100/-	06 Months	03.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in

Note: Tenderers (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway No.: 5198 & 508C-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated: 11.10.2023 8158223

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
Office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu
Phone: 0191-257745. Email: jfj_xemidjmu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
e-NIT No. MID/J/e-NIT/2023-24/93 Dated: 09-10-2023

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Canal Road, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered and reputed Firms **Replacement of damaged parts of suction pipeline by way of providing, installation of suction pipeline and rising main along with allied mechanical works at Lift irrigation station, Burejal.** The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'I' - Tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance of terms and conditions of the tender and Cover 'II' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Name of Work	Qty.	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1	Replacement of damaged parts of suction pipeline by way of providing, installation of suction pipeline and rising main along with allied mechanical works at Lift irrigation station, Burejal.	Complete job as per Scope of Work	2% of the quoted value	Rs200.00	10 Days	180 Days from date of Submission of bid.	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu.

1. The tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from: **09-10-2023 (06:00PM)**
2. Submission of online bids: **10-10-2023 (10:00AM) to 18-10-2023 (02:00 P.M.)**
3. Opening of Cover I online bids: **19-10-2023 (2:00 PM)**

DIP/J-9427/23

-sd-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Jammu

EDITORIAL

PRIVATE
PRACTISE

During earlier times there used to be 'Jholachhap' doctors who brazenly fleeced innocent people especially in remote areas where there was no check of authorities. But in today's modern world if someone is cheating people that too in a town by impersonating as a qualified dentist when he is a simple assistant in the field raises a big question mark on the efficiency of the concerned authorities. Surprisingly, Dental Assistant posted at PHC Gudufal in District Kathua was placed under suspension by Director Health Services Jammu because he has opened an illegal dental clinic opposite Tehsil Office Billaar where he was fleecing gullible patients by charging huge amount as consultation fee and practising during duty hours. For sure, this is not the first case of this sort and also not the only one as there are many medicos who are practising privately during duty hours in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and their reputation among people is also good because despite knowing this fact they prefer to visit those medicos. Reportedly, in August 2020 also the case of attached Medical Officer at Government Medical College's Nephrology Department came to limelight as without any fear of penal action he was caught red handed performing dialysis of patients in a private health facility in Talab Tillo area during the duty hours. There cannot be another example of 'daredevilry' as the cases of such employees who prefer to work in private establishments during duty hours and the government facilities have to bear the wrath of people as their functioning hampers due to such kind of delinquency. There should be a check on such malpractices by the government health employees as the same is maligning the image of the entire department as well as the government. Although, the Additional Chief Secretary, H&ME has said that such conduct of Government officials in the Health Sector shall not be tolerated and strict action shall be taken against those employees who are found to be indulging in private practise during working hours illegally but the previous record in such matters speaks otherwise as people get back all their emoluments with interest once their suspension is revoked. If the dereliction of duty is proved in such cases, the government should terminate the erring officials with immediate effect as these employees don't deserve any clemency.

Israel-Hamas war might be transformative for Mideast

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

A war of such intensity, the employment of unbridled violence and the sheer brutality of the ongoing war between the Palestinian organisation Hamas and the State of Israel appears to be a new normal in the violent landscape of West Asia. One is reminded of the time when Yasser Arafat led the PLO and the militant methods then used to make statements of relevance. They pale before what has happened in the past few days on the Israel-Gaza border and is threatening to probably happen at the other borders of Israel too. In four conventional wars fought by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) with various Arab armies, we have never witnessed anything even remotely a patch on the intensity of brutality that the Hamas terrorists converted to tactical fighters launched against Israeli civilians and the citizens of several other countries. The conflict between Israel and Hamas is now several decades old, with frequent flashes of hostilities which did not end in anything decisive. However, this time the initiative by Hamas seems to be of a different order, a very negative transformation of the 75-year-old conflict.

A very brief look at the nature of operations by Hamas appears to suggest a clearer strategy but without anything near achieving a military victory. What comprises this strategy is the employment of unbridled violence without any qualms about the nature of the target. This is exactly the strategy employed by the Islamic State (ISIS) a decade ago when it attempted the capture of northern Iraq and Syria and resisted at Mosul and other large built-up areas through the employment of con-

ventional means. The violation of all human rights is being blatantly advertised on the social media to create a fear psychosis among Israeli citizens. No doubt there will be many claims by Hamas of similar treatment by the IDF of Palestinian citizens, as a counter to the moral weapon used against the Palestinians.

Israel's very existence has focused on its legendary and extremely sharp readiness to prevent any Arab-initiated offensive. Its intelligence services such as Mossad, Aman and Shin Bet are known to have developed such expertise that every intent of an adversary is well known and many lessons of the past are used as case studies to predict innovative methods that could be used. While the reputations of all these entities is enviable, it is forgotten that on almost the same day 50 years ago Israel was embarrassingly surprised by the Egyptian Army through one of the most intricately spun deception plans. On October 6, 1973, even by day the Egyptians could cross the Suez Canal and defeat the defensive system of the Bar Lev Line. This time Israeli commentators are blaming the hubris of the IDF and of the political leadership; the belief that Hamas or any other Arab or Palestinian organisations were under such intense watch that they could never muster tactical forces against the IDF. What Israeli intelligence did not perhaps cater for was the long-known fact that Hamas has no remorse about targeting civilians, or the aged, and women and children. This time they designed their operations around these targets and a few IDF installations closer to the Gaza border. The breaching of the fences and walls, and the use of tunnels and passages to induct the terrorists into Israel,

was obviously planned and rehearsed. How this could have escaped the intelligence agencies is anybody's guess. Perhaps Israel has diluted its human intelligence sources which were usually the most effective and reliable, in favour of electronic intelligence, in which there are greater chances of deception. Being small and intensely vulnerable to infiltration of adversary elements to cause harm, Israel has relied on physical obstacles such as walls and barbed wire fences. These have been converted into systems through the use of electronic surveillance and alarm systems. The Indian Army adopted similar systems for the Line of Control, but the difference has been the number of human resources employed to reinforce these systems. It seems that Hamas elements involved in the employment of para-gliders, bulldozers and other heavy equipment to breach and cross the obstacles could do all this with impunity. Even if early warnings were available, there were too few resources to respond. The Hamas hit squads could approach the obstacles at will and the proximity of the built-up areas close to the obstacles offered suitable targets. Being a small country with limited real estate, Israel can hardly be expected to leave tracts of territory without populating it.

The speed and brutality employed by Hamas was reminiscent of "shock and awe" at the tactical level. Hamas also seems to have exploited the Israeli perception that the mass use of rockets and missiles would be avoided by Hamas planners for fear of severe retribution. What Israel did not cater for is Hamas resorting to hostage-taking, being fully aware of

the propensity of Israel to hold back the intensity of operations until the hostages are returned. Hamas' readiness to accept the consequences is almost akin to the psyche of suicide bombers.

To say that Israel was unaware of the magnitude of munitions held by both Hamas and Hezbollah would be a fallacy. As early as 2017, the Israeli assessment was that 130,000 such pieces existed and could be brought to bear against Israel. Senior Israeli leaders did express their concern at that time but had no solutions except for the deterrence caused by the promise of heavy retribution. Hamas has employed almost 5,000 of these rockets and missiles without much interception by Israel's famed Iron Dome anti-missile systems. There also does not seem to be any coordinated attempt by Hezbollah to assist Hamas, although some activities have been reported from the border in the north. A coordinated assault would have spelt an existential threat and brought more nations into the war, with possible Israeli reprisals without consideration for the consequences.

Both Hamas and Israel have limitations in further moves on the ground which can expand the scope of violence. Hamas is limited by the complete blockade involving the cutting of supplies, water, power and medicines. Israel has the severe limitation of lives of many of its citizens under threat; those taken hostage. Yet, both sides also have leaderships which have a propensity to care little for the consequences. We are thus perhaps just seeing the beginnings of brutality and human suffering in this intractable conflict, which could drag longer than any such event in the past.

Language Subtitling emerges children's literacy



By: Vijay GarG

Applying Same language subtitling (SLS) in audio visual content, bolsters reading skills, and promotes reading practice, leading to functional literacy

Babies effortlessly acquire spoken language through exposure, but reading doesn't come naturally. Reading, intricately linked with speaking and listening skills, is a learned ability. This interplay between orality (verbal and non-verbal communication) forms the foundation of literacy. For example, for many Indian children, the absence of English orality in their homes poses a challenge when they encounter English reading in school. This raises questions about the factors influencing reading difficulties, whether it's solely due to teaching methods.

In this context, Same Language Subtitling (SLS) emerges as a compelling avenue for potential transformation.

What is SLS?

Same Language Subtitling, or SLS, is a simple concept that ingeniously combines video subtitles in the same language as the audio, seamlessly connecting listening and reading. Essentially, "what you hear is what you read." A multitude of studies affirm that SLS effortlessly bolsters reading skills, even for struggling readers, and promotes automatic reading practice, paving the path to functional literacy. This synchronised approach offers several distinct advantages:

Phonemic Awareness: Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognise and work with individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. SLS strengthens the connection between spoken and written language by prompting children to read along with the displayed text, a fundamental skill for reading and word decoding. For instance, when a child hears "cat" and sees "c-a-t" on the screen, this synchronised experience enhances their phonemic awareness.

Vocabulary Expansion: Research underscores the profound impact of early reading. Reading a single children's book

to your toddler daily amounts to "reading" 1825 books by age 5. SLS harnesses this potential by visually connecting spoken words with their written counterparts, becoming a potent tool for expanding children's vocabulary and reinforcing word recognition. For instance, when children watch their favourite SLS-enhanced show, they hear and see words simultaneously, transforming word learning into an enjoyable experience.

Comprehension: As children actively engage with SLS, they decode pronunciation, intonation, and context, heightening their comprehension of the storyline. This engagement accelerates reading speed while preserving comprehension, fluency, and rhythm. With consistent practice and interest, their reading speed can reach 500 words per minute compared to an average person reading 200 words per minute.

Multisensory Learning: SLS taps into the power of multisensory learning, simultaneously engaging visual and auditory senses. This dual sensory experience enhances memory retention and recall, making learning more effective and enjoyable, similar to how we remember songs better when we both hear and see the lyrics.

Independence: SLS empowers

children to follow the text while listening, fostering a sense of autonomy and confidence in their reading abilities. It also encourages independent reading practices. Language Reinforcement:

Learning a new language becomes easier when you hear and see the words in context. For example, a kid whose native language is Marathi will find it easier to learn Hindi when exposed to SLS-enhanced content. Thus, SLS serves as a valuable tool by reinforcing pronunciation and syntax through context.

In a world where digital content reigns supreme, Language Subtitling emerges as a transformative force in nurturing young readers. It seamlessly integrates the joys of storytelling with the art of reading. As we embrace this innovative approach, we not only unlock the potential of our children's literacy but also empower them to embark on a lifelong journey of learning and discovery, one word at a time.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)

GCET's NSS unit organises 'FIT India Swachhata Freedom Run 4.0'



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, OCT 12: The NSS unit in collaboration UBA (Unnat Bharat Abhiyan) Club of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu today organised a "FIT India Swachhata Freedom Run 4.0" under the banner of Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat an initiative under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India. The freedom run was flagged off by worthy Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

While interacting with students and staff, she said that FIT India movement was launched by Honourable Prime Minister in 2019 with a view to make fitness

an integral part of our daily lives. The mission of the movement is to bring about behavioural changes and move towards a more physically active lifestyle.

She also said that this campaign encourages people to become part of Fit India movement by inculcating at least 30-60 minutes of physical activities in their day to day lives. Before the start of run, a fitness pledge was also taken by the students and staff of the college in which they promised that they will devote time for physical activity and sports every day and will encourage their family members and neighbours to be physically fit and make India a fit Nation.

The freedom run was started from the college administrative block and culminated in the college playground. More than 80 students from all the branches of Engineering and staff members took part in this FIT India freedom run.

The event was organised by NSS volunteers Gazanfar kazmi, Rakshant Balotra, Sunidhi Sharma, Divyansh Verma, Ishmeet Singh, Dhansh and Arnav under the guidance of NSS Programme officer Dr. Raman Gupta.

The staff members who were present during the event included Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Neerupama, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Prof. Altaf Ahmad and Er. Atit Sharma.

Rich Harvest Tiny Scholars celebrate Grandparents' Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: To pay homage and express their profound love for grandparents on their special day, RHS Happy Hearts organized a heartwarming celebration. The event was graced by a distinguished panel, including the Head of the Institute, Ms. Anita Bhatia, as well as esteemed guests Th. Gulchain Singhji Charak, Former Minister R&B and Higher Education, Mrs. Surekha Charak, Chairperson of SG Dogra Foundation, Sh. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, School Manager, and Mrs. Ruchi Charak, School Director.

The program's theme centered around the rich Dogra culture, which was elegantly displayed in the stage decorations. Traditional Dogri items like "chulla," "madani," "manji," "charri," and "pakhis" adorned the venue, creating an authentic and welcoming atmosphere.

The highlight of the day was the performances by the Tiny Scholars, who sang melodious songs and showcased their vibrant dance moves. Their enthusiasm and affectionate gestures conveyed their love and gratitude to their beloved grandparents.

The seniors actively engaged in a series of entertaining activities, including musical chairs, "stappu," "geetian," and creatively decorating tulsii gamlas.

Th. Gulchain Singhji Charak addressed the gathering in Dogri and commended the RHS team's dedicated efforts in organizing a truly grand and successful



Exciting Kho Kho Tournament concludes with Udhampur emerging as champions



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 12: A thrilling Kho Kho competition that has captivated audiences over the past ten days, from October 3, 2023, to October 12, 2023, reached its grand finale at the JK Tourism Khrote More venue. The event, conducted under the able guidance and directives of the esteemed Director YSS, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, along with Joint Director Jenab Suram Chand Ji and Deputy Director Jenab Jitender Mishra, was an incredible display of sportsmanship and talent. The overall supervision of this competition was expertly managed by DYSSO Kathua, Jenab Sunil Kumar.

On the tenth consecu-

utive and final day of the Inter District Provincial level Kho Kho tournament for under 14-year-old girls, District Kathua showcased their mettle in the semifinals but narrowly lost to the formidable team from Udhampur. Simultaneously, District Jammu emerged victorious in their match against District Samba. The third-place match saw District Samba securing a well-deserved victory against District Kathua, demonstrating the competitive spirit of the tournament.

In the grand finale, District Udhampur displayed their prowess, defeating District Jammu by an impressive margin of an innings and seven points, ultimately lifting the coveted trophy.

The champions from Udhampur exhibited an exceptional level of sportsmanship and skill.

The winner and runner-up trophies were presented to the teams by the esteemed DYSSO and the Football Coach of SIA, Jenab Sunil Kumar Ji, in the presence of the field staff of District Kathua. During a conversation with the media, DYSSO Kathua expressed gratitude to Director YSS for organizing such tournaments, which offer young talents a platform to showcase their abilities and sportsmanship.

It's worth mentioning that all the matches throughout the competition were officiated by experienced officials nominated by the District Office Kathua.

Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav celebrates Women's Cricket Friendly Match

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: As part of the Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav, a Women's Cricket Friendly match was organized by the Indian Army in collaboration with the Aseem Foundation, Pune on Thursday in Hajin. The event garnered an overwhelming response from the local community in Hajin and its adjoining areas. The thrilling match unfolded between Aseem Eleven and Majestic Sports Club Bandipora at AGS Hajin.

In a closely contested encounter, Aseem XI took the batting crease first, setting a competitive target of 105 runs. Aseem Foundation Pune emerged victorious by 44 runs.



The match not only showcased the participants' sportsmanship but also the immense support from the spectators, exemplifying the rich cultural tradition and encouragement for women in sports

across Kashmir.

This unique initiative sends a powerful message of 'Women Empowerment,' highlighting the remarkable talent and standards exhibited by women cricketers in the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Players and locals praised the joint efforts of the Indian Army and Aseem Foundation, Pune, and urged them to continue organizing similar tournaments in the future.

Such initiatives play a pivotal role in motivating local players and enabling them to compete at the national level.

The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. Imtiaz Parry, and DDC Member Ms. Naza Begum, who lent their support to this remarkable event. The organizers, participating teams, and the enthusiastic crowd paid heartfelt tributes to the brave heroes of the Kargil War, underlining the significance of the day.

The event witnessed the participation of CO 13RR, government officials, and a large number of enthusiastic youth and locals from the adjoining areas.

GDC Darhal organizes 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' as part of MMD Programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Oct 12: In an effort to be a part of the "Meri Matti, Mera Desh" Programme, the NSS unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organized an "Amrit Kalash Yatra" on the 12th of October. The event aimed to awaken the spirit of patriotism and foster an unwavering love for the motherland among every citizen of India.

The event commenced with the collection of soil from various Panchayats in the area. NSS volunteers played a pivotal role by carrying soil with them and congregated in the college premises to fill the "Mitti Kalash." Subsequently, the NSS volunteers embarked on a rally to the local market of Darhal, carrying the "Amrit Kalash" with them. This symbolic gesture was to honor the countless sacrifices made for India's freedom and to recognize the true value of independence. The event concluded at the BDO office in Darhal, where the NSS volunteers handed over the "Mitti Kalash" to Block Development Officer, Amir Choudhary (KAS), along with other officials.

The entire program was orchestrated under the able guidance of Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, the esteemed Principal of the college. In his address, he encouraged the general public to instill a deep sense of nationalism in their hearts and always acknowledge the

immeasurable sacrifices made for the country's freedom, as well as to appreciate the worth of liberty. He emphasized the significant relevance of such programs in the present context, which will instill a sense of National Pride and Patriotism and inspire young learners to actively participate in the progress and upliftment of the nation.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (NSS PO), and the staff members and NSS Group leaders who contributed to the event's success included Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Prof. Tahir Mahmood, Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Mr. Mahboob Sadeeq, and Mr. Imraz Ahmed.

BVP expands its reach with two new branches



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), a prominent organization dedicated to the development and welfare of society, is delighted to announce the opening of two new branches within its network. These new branches will contribute to the organization's mission of community development and support. One branch will be named after Baba Balit Balikaran, while the other will be established

in Chakra, Hiranagar, Tehsil District Kathua.

The decision to establish these new branches was made during a meeting organized by BVP Regional President North, Dev Raj Sharma, and President B.B. Sharma. The meeting took place in the presence of local residents, and it was also attended by Jt. Additional Secretary, Mr. Arun Sharma, Secretary-General Mr. Shiv Ram Sharma, and Organizing Secretary Mr. Ramesh Sharma. During the meeting,

the participants had the opportunity to inspect an ongoing construction project for a BVP facility in the village of Chakra. This expansion marks a significant step forward for BVP as it extends its reach to further serve the community.

BVP remains committed to its vision of empowering individuals and fostering community development. The establishment of these new branches reflects the organization's dedication to creating a positive impact on society.

Pritam distributes appointment letters to new members of GSS J&K UT Unit

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: Pritam Singh Saini, National Vice President of Ganjanya Smaaj Sangathan (GSS), New Delhi, and President of All Jammu Kashmir Kshatriya Saini Sabha, today distributed appointment letters to the newly inducted members of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of GSS.

The appointment letters were distributed during a meeting held at the GSS Office on Akalpur Road, Lower Muthi, Jammu. The meeting was not only an occasion to welcome and empower the new members but also to share the aims and objectives of GSS.

The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory body included Tara Chand Saini as President & Trustee; Dev Raj Saini as Vice President; Mahesh Chand as Vice President; Kailash Chander Saini as Vice



President; Sukhdev Singh Saini as General Secretary; Adv. Vinod Saini as Legal Advisor; Saroj Saini as President Mahila Wing, GSS, J&K UT; Hari Ram Saini, Prabhari Samba, Bari Brahmana and Kathua; Sarpanch Subash Saini as President Arnia Zone, R.S Pura; Parshotam Singh Saini as Mandal Prabhari, R.S Pura Mandal; Capt Swarnjit Saini as Mandal Prabhari Kool Kalan Kothey Gurdwara Mandal; Ravi Saini as Mandal Prabhari, Suhagpur

Mandal; Vicky Saini as Mandal Prabhari Chagra Mandal; Bawa Ditta Saini appointed as Mandal Prabhari Kothey Sainian Mandal and Sunil Abrol as Publicity Secretary.

Addressing the newly appointed members, Pritam Singh Saini outlined the core mission of GSS, which is to unite and bring together the various Saini communities who use different titles of their surnames under the common banner of Ganjanya Smaaj Sangathan.

Pritam Singh Saini emphasized that the unity of the Saini community is crucial for collective growth and development. He expressed his belief in the power of unity and collaboration in addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that the community faces. Furthermore, he also highlighted GSS's commitment to address social issues and eradicating social evils that may persist in the society. He stressed the importance of community-driven efforts in

creating positive and lasting change.

Pritam Singh Saini conveyed his hope that the newly constituted team would rise to meet the expectations of GSS and work dedicatedly towards strengthening the foundation of the organization in Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged them to actively engage with the community, foster unity, and champion the causes that GSS stands for.

In response, the newly appointed members pledged their unwavering commitment to the mission and vision of GSS. They expressed their enthusiasm to work tirelessly for the betterment of the Saini community in Jammu.

This event marked a significant milestone in the journey of GSS, symbolizing their dedication to building a more united and empowered Saini community.

Tora's Husband earns Rima Das the Best Director nomination at Asia Pacific Screen Awards

Success rests easily on her shoulders and confidence oozes from every single pore. Celebrated Assamese filmmaker Rima Das whom the rest of India knows best for her much acclaimed Village Rockstars isn't just another filmmaker.

Like her cinema, she is a breath of fresh air. Patience is not merely a virtue with her, it's her mojo. While the world is caught in the rat race, eager to take the spotlight, she takes her time, pauses and ponders. Guess what! Not only does it take her years to complete a film, often she goes back to the same scene she may have shot a year ago and reshoots it all over again. Gelling it all together is not easy but then the path she has chosen for herself is less trodden and challenging. Take her latest film Tora's Husband. She quips, "The amount of time and stress I underwent to make it was so gruelling that my mother says, 'Rima you could have made four films in the same period'."

Of course, the period in which the movie is set and during which it was made, the pandemic, has been one of the most testing times for the mankind. Add to it the fact that the main protagonist happens to be her brother Abhijit Das made her task doubly onerous. The biggest advantage of working with non-actors is, "Time which they have plenty of."



On a serious note, "They are natural and can be moulded like clay. But the flip side is while professional actors cry and laugh easily non-actors take their own sweet time to emote."

Having a brother on board as the lead actor meant answering his zillion, 'whys.' Nevertheless, she does not blame audiences for this mismatch. "Our system is such that our viewers don't have enough opportunities to watch different kinds of cinema."

A regular at Toronto International Film Festival where Tora's Husband too premiered, she thinks the line between festival cinema and mainstream is blurring. Incidentally, though she instinctively knew that her Village Rockstars will make the festival circuit, it missed the bus at Oscars in 2019 where it was India's official entry. She reasons, "Unlike big studio films like Parasite and Roma often we don't have enough time to market our films and ensure that voting member have seen



them." For cinephiles who have seen and loved Village Rockstars, good news is that she is prepping for its sequel. Mind you, this is no spiritual sequel but will take off from exactly where she left it the last time. Whether the little girl Bhanita Das in the prequel, now a teenager, will turn into a pop star, all Rima reveals is "the film is more about life, about her mother and how often parents really don't know what do with their children's talent."

Freeflowing

Not being trained in filmmaking has been liberating and boon for Rima. "There is no pressure. I can treat every frame like a painting and don't have to worry about technicalities."

Producer, director, writer, editor and cinematographer for this one-woman-army, making cinema has been the biggest learning ground, "It's like I have my own film school."

No easy approach please! An Assamese, she is certainly not happy with the representation of North-Eastern characters in mainstream cinema. To filmmakers she advises not to look at everything through the prism of commerce and says, "Don't follow the easy approach, do some research, pay heed to the sensibility and culture of the land, not just of North-East but whichever regional flavour you intend to introduce."

Gigi Hadid condemns 'terrorising innocent people' after Hamas attacks



Gigi Hadid has weighed in on the recent attacks by Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israel. The supermodel, who is of Palestinian descent, took to her Instagram account to comment on the matter, stressing that she takes the side of innocent people.

In her statement, Gigi shared that her thoughts and condolences are with all those who have been affected by the

"unjustified tragedy".

She continued, "I have deep empathy and heartbreak for the Palestinian struggle and life under occupation; it's a responsibility I hold daily. I also feel a responsibility to my Jewish friends to make it clear, as I have before. While I have hopes and dreams for Palestinians, none of them include the harm of a Jewish person."

The 28-year-old model

went on condemning Hamas' attacks, saying, "The terrorising of innocent people is not in alignment with and does not do any good for the 'Free Palestine' movement."

She added, "The idea that it does has fuelled a painful, decades-long cycle of back-and-forth retaliation (which no innocent civilian, Palestinian or Israeli, deserves to be a casualty of) and helps perpetuate the false idea that being pro-Palestine = antisemitic." Gigi additionally sent her condolences "with my loved ones, both Palestinian and Jewish, I'm sending you my love and strength, whoever and wherever you are."

She concluded her message: "There are a lot of complex, personal, and valid feelings, but every human deserves basic rights, treatment, and security, no matter their nationality, religion, ethnicity, or where they were born. I know my words will never be enough or heal the deep wounds of so many, but I pray for the safety of innocent lives, always."

Adah Sharma's expert advice for weight loss

Actress Adah Sharma has shared a hilarious clip where she shared advice on how to lose weight.

The actress took to Instagram, where she shared a video feeding her breakfast to monkeys in the forest.

She captioned it, "If you want to lose weight you should give someone else your food. Disclaimer: Aap ek mahine mein 20 kg ghat sakte ho (provided aapka sense of humour 100 kg ka ho)."

"I think having a sense of humour is a good idea nowadays when so many seem to be taking themselves so seriously. I like to share things on social media that would bring a smile on people's faces," Adah said.

She added: "Since having a flat stomach and being skinny is so essential I thought I'd share some tips for people who don't want



to workout." Adah will be next seen in an international project playing a superhero.

Adah will also be seen as the lead in Season 2 of a very popular web series.

Michal Gazda creates beautiful characters and weaves in engaging narrative, while reaffirming one's faith in humanity, in the film Forgotten Love

A heartfelt story that makes one believe in good all over again, Netflix' new Polish film, Forgotten Love, has won over viewers and how!

The film opens with a heart-warming scene — a dedicated surgeon is in a procedure that seems rather tough. His cute little assistant is helping with all her might in fixing the heart of her doll! A doting father, Professor Wilczur is a pioneering neurosurgeon with a tender heart. The day of his biggest professional high, as he's appointed the chief surgeon of a thriving clinic, is the day his wife, who is in love with another man, leaves him along with their daughter.

Misfortune continues and a mugging incident costs him his memory that evening. The scene moves on 15 years,



where he is leading a vagrant's life. He takes a new identity as Antoni Kosiba and starts life as a healer in a small town. Fear of being charged of quackery might put him behind the bars, but would this good-hearted Samaritan, who doesn't remember a thing, ever stop helping?

Set at the cusp of change — times when horse carts and motor cars are both in, doctors

and quack both wanted — it is a beautiful story with a father-daughter bond at its heart. Based on a book Znachor (The Quack) by Tadeusz Dolega-Mostowicz, the film packs in too many themes — feminism, class divide, changing orders. It's also full on clichés — a count falling in love with a waitress, who in turn happens to be a rich man's daughter; a miller's dominant

wife; a married woman chasing her lover to the world's end; an innocent childhood friendship!

But in the deft hands of Michal Gazda, all threads come together and weave an enchanting tale. The film, available in English, gives a glimpse into heartening Polish culture, beautiful landscapes; their small-town life, the dresses, food, dance and more.

Cinematographer Tomasz Augustynek captures the city and rural life superbly well, making the sights, sounds and smells come alive on the screen. Music by Pawel Luczewicz is impressive — now uplifting, now haunting — even if one doesn't understand Polish, the melody can be felt.

Amazing performance

by the lead cast lends a haunting feeling to the whole narrative. Leszek Lichotaas as Professor Wilczur/Antoni Kosiba is superb. His love for the daughter, regret of his wife being unhappy in their bond, his selfless devotion to his patients, he is enthralling. Maria Kowalska as Marysia is a sharp-witted, inventive orphan not compromising on her dreams plays her part well. Ignacy Liss as lovelorn Count Czyski; Anna Szymanczyk as feisty Zoska and Zaneta Homa as young, bashful Ruta, Forgotten Love is full of lovable characters. Credit to the writers for weaving so many characters and themes in the narrative! This two hours 20 minutes film unfolds like a fable and reaffirms faith in humanity!

Salman Khan gives a death stare in new 'Tiger 3' poster



This Diwali, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is coming with his highly-anticipated third instalment of the 'Tiger' franchise, 'Tiger 3'.

The poster of the superstar from the film was unveiled, and it has 'Swag' written all over.

The poster features Salman as a locked

target of what seems to be the scope of a gun. The superstar stares into the scope with his head tilted down a little though his eyes are fixated at the sniper behind the scope. Behind him there are police cars.

The superstar also promised that the trailer of the film will be

unveiled on October 16.

The actor can be seen sporting cargo pants, a leather jacket with a gun in his hand His look is rounded up with the scarf which is his signature from the franchise.

Sharing the poster on his Instagram, Salman wrote in the caption: "Tiger aa raha hai. 16th October. #Tiger3Trailer Ready ho jao! #5DaysToTiger3Trailer #Tiger3 arriving in cinemas this Diwali. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu."

Earlier, Katrina's poster from the film was unveiled on Tuesday. It features the actress hanging from a rope and wearing a leather body hugging suit as she fires an assault rifle.

'Tiger 3' has been produced by Aditya Chopra and has been directed by Maneesh Sharma.

It releases during Diwali holiday this year.

Aaron Koul speaks of his experience on the sets of Who's Your Gynac?



Aaron Koul candidly spoke about his character Meher in Amazon miniTV medical drama series, Who's Your Gynac?, sharing how he relates to him. He said, "He's like a little version of me in real life. Meher and I have a lot in common; he is kind, funny, and has a cool sense of style. He is a little bit more outgoing than I am, but I feel like sometimes Meher is a part of me, and sometimes the other way around."

He further shared his experience of working with his co-actors, revealing how the journey was full of pleasant experiences, "I had a blast working with Karishma, Saba, and Kunal. Karishma and I clicked along pretty quickly. She was like the compass I needed on the set, reassuring me constantly that I was doing well. On the other hand, Saba is so experienced in this field, I learnt a lot from her. She is like a pure, proper artiste and musician, even post-shoot she was always giving us tips on how to perform. With Kunal, I had that bro kind of bond. I was always in his vanity," he shared.

Saiyami Kher set to reunite with thriller maestro Neeraj Pandey

Following the resounding success of their collaboration on the critically acclaimed spy thriller series Special Ops, the dynamic duo of Saiyami Kher and Neeraj Pandey are all set to join forces once again. Known for his mastery in crafting gripping thrillers, Neeraj Pandey is a name synonymous with top-notch storytelling in the Indian entertainment industry.

In Special Ops, Saiyami Kher delivered a standout performance, showcasing her mettle in high-octane action sequences while portraying a key character in the series.

Now, fans can anticipate an even more intense and riveting performance from Saiyami, as she takes the centre-stage in this forthcoming project.

The project marks another significant



milestone in Saiyami's career, following the recent release of film Ghoomeer, which garnered widespread praise for her portrayal.

A source said, "The project is expected to go on the floors by the end of this year. And is a quintessential Neeraj Pandey action thriller."

PM Modi, in off-white robe, performs puja in snow-capped Uttarakhand hills

UTTARAKHAND, Oct 12 (Agencies): Commencing his day-long visit to Uttarakhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday offered prayers at the Adi Kailash peak, an abode of Lord Shiva, at the Parvati Kund in Pithoragarh.

As he offered prayers, PM Modi donned a white-coloured traditional tribal robe and was guided by local priests Virendra Kutiyal and Gopal Singh.

He also meditated in front of the holy peak in Jolingkong. He also offered prayers in front of the snow-capped mountains of Uttarakhand.

His traditional outfit was complete with a turban and 'ranga' (upper body garment) as he performed an 'aarti' at the Shiva-Parvati temple along the banks of Parvati Kund.

Following this, PM Modi will



head to Jageshwar Dham, an ancient temple dedicated to lord Shiva, about 15 km away.

Meanwhile, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday took a dig at PM Modi and said his visit to Uttarakhand shows the hypocrisy of the BJP-led government.

"It is good that you are in

Uttarakhand today, but your government has imposed 18% GST on the holy Ganga water itself. Not even once did I think what would be the burden on those who order Ganga water in their homes. This is the height of plunder and hypocrisy of your government," Kharge said in a tweet.

He also interacted with locals and security personnel after he proceeded to the Gunji village, news agency reported. PM Modi and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami were accorded a warm welcome there.

PM Modi will lay the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 4,200 crore in Uttarakhand, following which, he will address the public at the S S Waldia Sports Stadium in the Kumaon region.

Cultural troupes from the Kumaon region will welcome Prime Minister Modi at several points of a six-km road that has recently been renovated. PM Modi's route will be decorated with murals and paintings.

Thereafter, the prime minister will have a lunch consisting of Kumaoni cuisines.

2 shooters of Arsh Dalla gang arrested in Delhi, grenade recovered

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): After an encounter, the Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested two shooters of Arsh Dalla gang here, said an official on Thursday, adding that a hand grenade and a pistol along with five bullets were recovered from their possession.

According to police, on the basis of a specific input, the team intercepted the duo on Outer Ring Road and on being asked to surrender, one Krishan fired a

round towards the police team.

"Suddenly, the second gangster took out a hand grenade from his bag but before he could pull the safety pin, they were overpowered by the team," said a senior police official.

"A hand grenade and a pistol along with five cartridges were recovered. A case has been registered and further investigation is in progress," said the official.

Kerala pilgrims return after navigating Israeli conflict, laud Indian Embassy for timely intervention

KOCHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): A group of pilgrims who were in Israel on October 7 when the militant group Hamas began attacking the towns on the country's border with its occupied region of Gaza have returned safely to India and thanked the Indian embassy for its prompt intervention in helping them escape the war zone.

Amidst a multi-front onslaught by Hamas, their timely return to Kerala was made possible through the swift and effective intervention of Indian Embassy officials, a pilgrim who identified himself as Moulavi told a Malayalam news channel here on Thursday.

"If our return journey was postponed even for one more day, we would have been trapped in the war zone... Anyway, we are home now," the relieved Keralite pilgrim, who returned from Israel escaping from the conflict there, said with a smile.

An Aluva native, Moulavi and his wife were part of a 45-member group from Kerala who had gone to Israel on pilgrimage.

The group of pilgrims reached the international airport here by Thursday morning.

Moulavi and his wife said they did not initially understand the seriousness of the situation, but fear and anxiety gripped them after they heard the sounds of missiles and seeing the tense atmosphere around them.

The middle-aged man said the return journey was scheduled for October 7,

and everyone in the group was happy and excited to go back home after the tour. "Then, suddenly, we received information about the Hamas attack... Though we started the journey, we had to stop midway and stay at the same place for the whole day. Those hours were those of fear and uncertainty," he recalled.

The thought that they were getting isolated in a foreign country and no one could do anything immediately for their rescue had made all of them tense, he said.

"But, we could restart our journey the next morning itself. Our group could enter Egypt via the Taba border. We were just relieved when we crossed the borders of Israel," Moulavi said.

When asked whether they were witnesses to any war horrors in the West Asian country, he said they could see missile strikes even if they were happening kilometres away and experienced their terrible sound.

Moulavi expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who supported and prayed for their safe return.

He singled out the Indian Embassy officials, whose prompt response in the wake of the conflict was instrumental in their eventual return, saying, "They rushed to our hotel within hours after the war broke out." In the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israeli defence forces, hundreds have tragically lost their lives since the attacks on Saturday.

Supreme Court to pass common order to get 7- and 9-judge Bench matters ready for hearing

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will pass a common order in several nine-judge and seven-judge bench matters, including those relating to money bills and the speaker's power to disqualify MLAs, to get them ready for hearing.

A seven-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud took up six seven-judge and four nine-judges matters for consideration.

One of the seven-judge bench matters pertains to the correctness of the 2016 Nabam Rebia verdict relating to the speaker's power on disqualification of MLAs. It was pronounced by a five-judge Constitution bench.

"... The idea is to get these matters ready for hearing. We will pass a common order in all these matters in terms of the circular of August 22, 2023 that the compilation of pleadings,

documents and precedents that must be all filed within say... we will give three weeks to everyone," the CJI said.

"We will appoint nodal counsel in every matter who will then prepare a common compilation," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The Bench told the advocates appearing in these matters to give the names of nodal counsel in each case.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who is appearing in some of these matters, requested the Bench to indicate the dates for hearing in advance so lawyers could prepare their case.

The CJI said he would look into the calendar of the benches for this. The bench said the lawyers may indicate the estimated time for a matter.

Many of these matters have been pending for 20 years, it noted.

When the matter relating to money bills came up before the apex court, Sibal requested the Bench to consider giving it priority, saying it is a "live issue".

"We would request, your lordships may go seniority wise. It is entirely my lord's discretion," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said. He added that priority cannot be decided based on "political exigencies".

"Leave it to us," the Bench said.

In the Nabam Rebia verdict, a five-judge Constitution bench had held that the speaker or the deputy speaker of the house is incapacitated from deciding the pleas for disqualification of lawmakers if there are pre-existing complaints against them.

On October 6, the apex court said it would constitute a seven-



judge bench to consider the issue of validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act as a money bill.

The issue relates to the controversy around money bills after the government introduced legislations like the Aadhaar Bill and even amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as money bills, apparently to circumvent the Rajya Sabha where it did not have majority.

A money bill is a piece of legislation which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it. The

Upper House can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the Lower House.

In November 2019, a five-judge bench of the apex court had referred to a larger bench the issue of examining the validity of the passage of the Finance Act, 2017 as a money bill.

"The issue and question of Money Bill, as defined under Article 110(1) of the Constitution, and certification accorded by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in respect of Part-XIV of the Finance Act, 2017 is referred to a larger Bench," it had said.

CERT-In issues high severity vulnerability warning for Google Chrome; advises users to apply updates

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): CERT-In has issued a high-severity rated warning cautioning against "multiple vulnerabilities" in popular web browser Google Chrome, which could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code and cause denial of service condition on targeted system.

In a vulnerability note issued, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) said a remote attacker could exploit certain vulnerabilities by sending a specially crafted request on the targeted system, and advised users to "apply appropriate updates as mentioned by the vendor".

Giving technical details, it said the

software affected are "Google Chrome versions prior to 118.0.5993.70/71 for Windows" and "Google Chrome versions prior to 118.0.5993.70 for Mac and Linux".

"Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in Google Chrome which could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code and cause denial of Services (DoS) condition on the targeted system," CERT-In said on its website, which lists and updates users with vulnerability notes and advisories.

CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they strike.

2 history-sheeters killed in police encounter in Tamil Nadu

THIRUVALLUR, Oct 12 (Agencies): Two gangsters were killed in a police encounter near Chennai when they attempted to attack the police in the early hours of Thursday.

The two history-sheeters, identified as Muthu Saravanan and 'Sunday' Satish, were allegedly linked to the murder of AIADMK functionary, Pathiban, who was killed on August 17.

A police team from Avadi police station surrounded the duo near Cholavaram. The police claimed that Muthu Saravanan and Sunday Satish attempted to attack them, which forced them to open fire.

Muthu Saravanan died on the spot, while 'Sunday' Satish was taken to Stanley Government hospital where he succumbed to the injury.

Earlier in the wee hours of Thursday, the police arrested a history-sheeter from Chengalpattu. The police also opened fire at the accused after he attempted to flee after attacking the police.

'Sir Punch Ji': Greater Noida man gets creative with SUV's name, challan issued

NOIDA, Oct 12 (Agencies): A man in Greater Noida got a challan issued in his name after he decided to get creative with the name of his SUV, Tata Punch, and added a 'Sar' to the prefix and a 'ji' to the suffix. The back of his car read 'SarPunchJi'.

This was followed by the term 'Gurjar' written in Hindi, which is a caste.

The picture of his SUV went viral on social media and remained a topic of discussion online. Soon, the picture also reached the Greater Noida traffic police department.

Taking action against it, the traffic police issued a challan of Rs 500 against the car owner, identified as Sandeep Bhati.



Notably, the action was taken because Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had earlier ordered people to refrain from using caste-based and religion-based language.

In this regard, challans have been issued against several such vehicles that boast a particular caste or religion.

Manipur Government restrains circulation of videos depicting violence, damage to properties in state

IMPHAL, Oct 12 (Agencies): In a bid to restrain the circulation of videos and images depicting violence and damage to properties in the state, the Manipur Government in an order said such dissemination will be dealt with severely and booked as per law.

The order, which was issued on Wednesday night, came even as videos and images of widespread violence went viral on social media platforms. One such video shows two

youths being shot at point blank and then being buried in a pit by a group of people. The location of the incident site and the place of the burial is, however, not known.

The order issued by the Manipur home department stated, "The state government views very seriously and with utmost sensitivity the reported spread of videos and images depicting violent activities, inflicting harm or injury to (any)body or damage to private

and public properties through various social media platforms which may aggravate the law and order situation in the state.

"The state government after thorough examination of the matter has decided to restrain the act of spreading such videos and images as a positive step towards bringing normalcy in the state," it said.

Anyone in possession of such videos or images can approach the nearest superintendent of police irrespec-

tive of jurisdiction and submit them for taking appropriate action, the order said.

Any person found violating the order will be booked and prosecuted under the law and provision of misuse of technology. They will be dealt with under the IPC and IT Act.

In September mass protests broke out in Imphal valley after images of bodies of two missing youths surfaced on the social media and more than 100 students, mostly girls were injured

in the crackdown by the security forces and police on the protestors.

The protest prompted the Centre to send a team of CBI official and four accused were subsequently arrested by the CBI team. They were taken to Guwahati for further investigation and legal procedures.

The northeastern state witnessed ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki tribe since May 3 this year. The violence had erupted after demands by the Meiteis for tribe status.

'Beheading children': Israel's new war cabinet vows to 'wipe Hamas off the earth'

Islamist Hamas gunmen invaded Israel from the Gaza Strip on Saturday in a surprise assault that killed at least 1,200 people

JERUSALEM, Oct 12 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu forged an emergency government to direct war against Hamas, and his defence minister vowed to wipe the Palestinian militant group "off the face of the earth" over its deadly weekend attack.

Islamist Hamas gunmen invaded Israel from the Gaza Strip on Saturday in a surprise assault that killed at least 1,200 people, the deadliest Palestinian militant attack in Israeli history.

Israel has responded with a massive bombardment of Gaza that has killed 1,055, and deployed thousands of troops around the enclave amid growing expectations that it will launch a ground invasion to destroy Hamas.

In a joint statement, Netanyahu and former defence chief and centrist opposition party leader Benny Gantz said they had



agreed to form an emergency government comprising the two leaders and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

Netanyahu said later in televised remarks that they had put aside their differences "because the fate of our state is on the line".

"We are fighting a cruel enemy, worse than ISIS," Netanyahu said alongside Gantz and Gal-

lant, comparing the group's attack with brutal killings carried out by Islamic State.

Gallant, the defence minister, said: "We will wipe this thing called Hamas, ISIS-Gaza, off the face of the earth. It will cease to exist."

Gantz, a former Israeli defence chief and general, said it was time to join together and win. "There is a time for peace and

a time for war. Now is a time for war," he said.

During the fighting with Hamas in Gaza, the emergency government will not take up any unrelated policy or laws, Netanyahu and Gantz said in their joint statement.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid was not expected to join the emergency government at this stage.

In his latest show of support for Israel, US President Joe Biden addressed Jewish community leaders at a roundtable in the White House and called the attacks by Hamas a "campaign of pure cruelty".

"I never really thought that I would see and have confirmed pictures of terrorists beheading children," Biden said in broader remarks about his administration's support for Israel amid its war with Hamas and efforts to free American hostages.

Russian President Putin arrives in Kyrgyzstan on a rare trip abroad



MOSCOW, Oct 12 (Agencies): President Vladimir Putin arrived in Kyrgyzstan on Thursday on a rare trip abroad for the Russian leader who was indicted earlier this year by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Ukraine.

Putin was to meet with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov on Thursday. He will take part on Friday in the Commonwealth of Independent States summit, which Kyrgyzstan is hosting.

The leaders of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will also attend the summit. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will skip it, as Yerevan's relationship with Moscow has

frayed amid mutual accusations.

It is the first time this year that the Russian president has traveled outside Russia and Russian-held territories of Ukraine.

Earlier this year, Putin visited the partially occupied Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson, as well as the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

In March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin over the deportation of children from Ukraine. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute, which created the ICC, are now bound to arrest the Russian leader if he sets foot on their soil.

The move caused Putin to skip an eco-

nom summit in South Africa in August and further strained Moscow's ties with Armenia after it moved to ratify the Rome Statute earlier this month, even as Armenian officials sought to assure the Kremlin that the Russian leader would not be arrested if he entered the country.

The Kremlin has said that Russia doesn't recognise the jurisdiction of the ICC and considers the warrant null and void.

Kyrgyzstan is not a signatory of the Rome Statute. In Central Asia, only Tajikistan is. Putin traveled to both countries last year after the invasion of Ukraine and amid increasing international isolation. He also visited other Central Asian nations in 2022, as well as Armenia, Belarus, China, India and Iran.

Later this month, Putin is expected to travel to China again. Last month, he also accepted an invitation to visit North Korea, although it remains unclear when that might happen.

'Scenes out of a Zombie film': Israel Defence Force on beheading of babies by Hamas

TEL AVIV, Oct 12 (Agencies): As Thursday marks the sixth day of Israel Hamas conflict, Israel Defence Force (IDF) spokesperson Lieutenant Col. Jonathan Conricus confirmed reports that the Hamas had beheaded babies in the Israeli kibbutz of Kfar Aza. The spokesperson said it was hard to believe that Hamas could perform such a barbaric act.

In his daily update video on Israel-Hamas attacks, Lt. Col. Conricus said, "The scenes are out of a zombie movie," stating that it's a war zone, he said, "There were babies that have been beheaded...it was hard to believe that even Hamas could perform such barbaric act." He further highlighted the atrocities done to the civilians of Israel, including children.

"There were bodies scattered everywhere, mutilated, women and children that were handcuffed and shot, execut-

ed, houses torched and burned, and people who were either burnt inside or suffocated," Conricus said.

The Israeli Air Force has been striking a lot of targets in various neighborhoods in Gaza, he said.

"We are prioritizing striking commanders, and senior officials in Hamas... whenever we have intelligence that indicates the whereabouts of the senior Hamas officials or military commanders, we strike in that location, IDF spokesperson emphasized.

Additionally, noting the current situation of Gaza, he said that the place where Hamas has the infrastructure, whether it is financial, construction, or commander control, intelligence, research and development...whatever it is, "if it belongs to Hamas, we are striking it and that's what going on in Gaza strip today." Furthermore, he said, "We

are deployed in significant numbers, strength and capabilities on the southern part of the border and we are very vigilant to any attempt by Hezbollah." He also highlighted that a US Naval group is making its way into the Mediterranean, noting that "it has almost arrived."

US Navy aircraft carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower and her strike group is heading to the Mediterranean, White House National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby said. Earlier the US Navy had also deployed USS Gerald Ford strike group in the area.

Addressing a press briefing on Wednesday, Kirby stated that there is no operational decision taken regarding the deployment of the second US aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean. However, he noted that the USS Dwight D Eisenhower aircraft carrier was heading in that



direction.

On Thursday night, the Israel Air Force launched a wave of tree attacks with the aim of continuing to damage the commando force of the terrorist organization Hamas known as "Nachaba", by attacking operational headquarters which were used by operatives who infiltrated the Otaf settlements last Saturday.

Also, Air Force aircraft killed Muhammad Abu Shamlah, a senior operative from the Hamas naval formation in the Rafah Brigade.

Abu Shamlah's house was also used to store

naval weapons intended to carry out terrorist operations against Israel.

According to the latest updates, 51 Palestinians have been killed and 281 have been injured over the past several hours of overnight airstrikes by Israel in Gaza, according to Gaza health ministry, The Times of Israel reported.

Israel has launched a counter-offensive against Hamas in response to the latter's attack on Saturday that left over 1,200 Israelis dead and is aiming to completely eliminate the terror group.

Rockets fired at Tel Aviv after Israeli strikes on Gaza 'civilians': Hamas



GAZA CITY, Oct 12 (Agencies): Hamas militants on Thursday fired a barrage of rockets at Tel Aviv in response to Israeli air strikes that targeted "civilians" in two Gaza refugee camps, the Palestinian group said.

"Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades fired rockets at Tel Aviv in response to (Israeli strikes) targeting civilians in Al-Shati and Jabalia camps," Hamas said, referring to its armed wing, in a text message sent to journalists.

Agency correspondents witnessed dozens of air strikes over 30 minutes on Thursday morning in the direction of Al-Shati camp and in the blockaded strip's north.

"The occupation (Israeli forces) committed massacres this morning in Al-Shati camp and Jabalia camp, leaving dozens of martyrs and injured," Iyad al-Buzum, spokesman for the Hamas interior ministry, told agency.

Agency journalists saw at least seven dead bodies and six buildings destroyed in Al-Shati camp.

Israel has launched a withering air campaign against Hamas militants in the blockaded Gaza Strip after the Islamists carried out a massive assault on Israel on Saturday that killed more than 1,200 people.

Around another 1,200 people have been killed in the Palestinian coastal enclave in Israeli air strikes, according to Hamas officials.

After Musk, EU warns Meta CEO Zuckerberg to remove pro-Hamas content

LONDON, Oct 12 (Agencies): After warning X owner Elon Musk, European Commissioner Thierry Breton has now written to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, telling him to remove pro-Hamas content across his platforms and "be very vigilant" else it could put the company in violation of new EU regulations.

In a letter to Zuckerberg, Breton urged Meta to remove illegal terrorist content and hate speech amid the ongoing war in Israel. He said that the European Commission had seen "a surge of illegal content and disinformation being disseminated in the EU."

"I urgently invite you to ensure that your systems are effective. Needless to say, I also expect you to be in contact with the relevant law enforcement authorities and Europol, and ensure that you respond promptly to any requests," he noted.

Breton asked that

Zuckerberg respond to the European Union's (EU) concerns within the next 24 hours.

"I would ask you to be very vigilant to ensure strict compliance with the digital services act (DSA) rules on terms of service, on the requirement of timely, diligent and objective action following notices of illegal content in the EU, and on the need for proportionate and effective mitigation measures."

In a statement, a Meta spokesperson said the company has created a "special operations center with experts, including fluent in Hebrew and Arabic speakers" after the Hamas attacks on Israel.

"Our teams are working around the clock to keep our platforms safe, take action on content that violates our policies or local law, and coordinate with third-party fact checkers in the region to limit the spread of misinformation. We'll continue this work as this

conflict unfolds," said the spokesperson.

Earlier, the EU commissioner warned Tesla and SpaceX CEO, saying that his X platform "is being used to disseminate illegal content and disinformation in the EU" after the Hamas attacks in Israel.

In a letter addressed to Musk, Breton had said that following the "terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel", they have indications that "your platform is being used to disseminate illegal content and disinformation in the EU".

Responding to Breton, Musk asked him to flag the violative content publicly on X, writing that the company takes its "actions in the open".

Breton replied saying: "You are well aware of your users' — and authorities' — reports on fake content and glorification of violence."

"I still don't know what they're talking about!" Musk said.

Australian minister credits improved relations with China for the release of a detained journalist

CANBERRA, Oct 12 (Agencies): Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong on Thursday credited improved relations with China for the return home this week of an Australian journalist whose three-year detention in China in a murky espionage case had strained ties.

A teary-eyed Wong had greeted Cheng Lei with a hug at the airport Wednesday in Melbourne, where Cheng's two children, 11 and 14, have been raised by their grandmother while Cheng was detained.

"She was in extraordinarily good spirits. I think I was more emotional than she was," Wong said of Cheng. "I think she's pretty tough. She looked great."

Wong revealed that she had promised Cheng's children some time ago that the government would do all it could to bring their mother home.

"It was really moving to meet Cheng Lei yesterday and speak to her kids who are not much older than mine," Wong said.

She said she encouraged Cheng to thrive and be healthy and happy now that she's free. "That's what all Australians want you to be," Wong added.

The FreeChengLei account on the X social media platform described her reunion with her family. "Tight hugs, teary screams, holding my kids in the spring sunshine. Trees shimmy from the breeze. I can see the entirety of the sky now! Thank you Aussies," the post made on her behalf by her partner Nick Coyle said.

The Australian newspaper reported the government learned in the past two weeks of a deal in which Cheng would plead guilty to charges relating to state secrets with no additional time in custody, Wong declined



to comment on the report, citing Cheng's privacy.

But Wong said improved bilateral relations since her centre-left Labor Party government was elected last year after nine years of conservative rule had paid dividends.

"We've made clear since we were elected that we wanted to stabilize our relationship with China, we wanted to engage and I think you've seen some of the benefits of engagement," Wong said.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese plans to visit Beijing this year at a date yet to be set. He would become the first Australian prime minister to visit China in seven years.

Albanese said he had had "good, constructive" meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang about Cheng's case.

Cheng, who was born in China and migrated to Australia with her family at age 10, had worked for China's state broadcaster CCTV. She was arrested in August 2020 when bilateral relations were plumbing new depths.

China's Ministry of State Security said Cheng provided a foreign organization with state secrets she had obtained on the job in violation of a confidenti-

ality clause signed with her employer. A police statement did not name the organization or say what the secrets were.

A court in Beijing convicted her of illegally providing state secrets abroad and she was sentenced to two years and 11 months, the statement said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese judicial system tried the case "in accordance with the law, fully safeguarding the rights enjoyed by the person concerned in accordance with the law." Geoff Raby, a former Australian ambassador to China and a friend of Cheng, described China's explanation that she had been released according to law as a "face-saving solution."

Albanese and Wong deserved congratulations for stabilizing the bilateral relationship and for raising Cheng's case with Chinese leaders at every opportunity, Raby said.

"Persistence and constantly coming back to this issue and advocating on her behalf in private but at very senior levels ... trickles down through the Chinese system and I think the result we see thankfully ... yesterday is a product of all of that effort," Raby told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Div Com for maintenance of roads, traffic regulation, operations of IMTS cameras

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: To expedite development of infrastructure and beautification of City, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting, here to review the progress of various Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) Projects and directly linked departments.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL; VC LCMA; SSP, Traffic Police, Srinagar; CE, R&B; officers of PDD, PHE, I&FC, Sports department were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Div Com emphasized on the operation of all the IMTS cameras installed at 63 junctions at the earliest for the regulation of traffic flow and maintaining of strong vigil to detect the mischief or damage of public property.



The meeting was informed that about 1100 cameras at 49 junctions out of 63 junctions are functional.

Regarding ongoing rectification work at MA Road and other pending work, the meeting was informed that 95 percent work has been completed and the remaining part shall be completed in coming days.

The Div Com, impressed to expedite the work on the Road as too much time was consumed to give final finish-

ing touch to Road.

He reiterated once again on the concerned officers to complete the works in Nehru Park besides he also instructed for increasing the turning radius of the left junction at Sangamal.

Similarly, Div Com directed for development of the parking area at Hat-Trick Chowk and completion of Toilet Blocks here. Moreover, a detailed discussion was held regarding traffic management at Jahangir Chowk which witnesses

frequent traffic congestion during morning and evening hours.

Also, he directed the painting of Foreshore Road sides, maintenance of footpaths and establishment of Cycle Yard.

The Div Com called for making Dal Lake, Abdullah Bridge and Budshah Bridge vibrant during night through illumination and colorful lights. He directed for keeping Lake clean and starting the different Sports activities to attract visitors and promote tourism.

Director JKEDI reviews progress of Startup registrations, recovery & repayment status

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: The Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on Thursday chaired a meeting to review number of startups registered, success of recovery efforts and the overall status of repayment under various schemes at the Institute's Sempora campus

Speaking at the meeting, the Director said that Startups play a pivotal role in providing opportunities for the youth of the UT. By encouraging more startup registrations, JKEDI aims to empower the younger generation, enabling them to realize their entrepreneurial dreams, he added.

He however was quick to add that it is also important to maintain a robust recovery and

repayment system. This ensures that startups not only receive initial support but also contribute to the sustainability of the programs, thereby creating a cycle of growth and self-sufficiency.

The meeting was attended by Executive Director, JKEDI, In Charge Recovery, Regional Coordinators, In charge CIIBM, In Charge CSF and all the district nodal officers of JKEDI.

Director JKEDI directed all officials to increase their efforts to boost startup registrations, with the aim of providing the youth of Jammu and Kashmir the greatest possible opportunity

to turn their dream projects into reality. Additionally, he underscored the importance of taking extra measures to reinforce the recovery and repayment system.

The Director further discussed the geographical distribution of startups and emphasized the need to ensure that entrepreneurial opportunities are accessible across the districts within the UT. The Institute provides mentorship, training, and access to resources. The comprehensive support mechanism of the Institute is designed to ensure the success of startups in the long run.

Earlier, In-Charge,

recovery and repayments, JKEDI provided a detailed review of recovery statistics, showcasing the progress made by entrepreneurs in repaying loans and dues. Some districts were identified as lagging behind in startup registrations.

The Director directed these districts to accelerate their efforts in this regard, ensuring equitable access to opportunities across the UT. Those districts that were found to be trailing in their recovery efforts were also directed to expedite the process, enabling a more balanced and sustainable ecosystem for startups.

Director Agriculture visits Saffron Areas of Pampore

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Saffron areas of Pampore and took stock of the crop scenario amid recent wet spell.

During the visit, the Director inspected different fields and took feedback from the concerned Saffron growers regarding the positive impact of recent rainfall on the saffron crop.

While having an exchange of thoughts with the farmers, the Director underlined the efforts by the department for strengthening of irrigation facilities in the Saffron areas of Pampore. He said the recent spell of rain is a blessing from almighty for the saffron crop.

The Director said

that the department has already ensured that the functional bore wells in the area are put to the service of Saffron farmers but the wet spell has complemented the overall efforts by the department in this direction.

He said that the department is working for area expansion under saffron crop and different stakeholders including farmers, Kisan advisory board are on board in this endeavour. He said that the department has identified 350 saffron farmers (nurseries) for saffron corn multiplication so that the seed could be provided to more and more farmers and the crop could be introduced in newer areas.

Director Agriculture assured the saffron farmers of all the pos-

sible technical support. He directed the concerned officers to work in close coordination with farmers and guide them during all the pre and post harvesting operations.

Earlier, the Director participated in some agriculture activities including sowing operations in the fields of some farmers.

Later, the Director visited a honey processing plant at Tral (Pulwama) and discussed different operational proceedings with the concerned unit holder. He asked the unit holder to aware the local educated youth regarding the benefits of honey processing so that they could also establish such units and earn the income and livelihood for themselves and their families.

DC Kupwara inaugurates Mega Ayush Medical Camp at Kralpora

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Oct 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan on Thursday inaugurated Mega Ayush Health Awareness Medical camp at Govt. Ayush Dispensary, Kralpora (Kupwara) under Ayushman Bhava.

The Mega Health camp witnessed massive response from Patients from Kralpora and its peripheral villages where hundreds of patients swarmed the camp to consult Ayush specialists.

This Ayush Camp

was unique of its kind in which, free registrations, free NCD screening, Counseling, Yoga session for visitors, free general/specialized consultations, free Ayush therapies and free medicines were provided to patients suffering from health issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that it is necessary to organize Health camps to connect the general public with health services and to educate them about the beneficial schemes of the health department.

She said, it should be

our endeavor that the benefits of the schemes run by the government reach the last beneficiary living in remote areas. She said that people should be health conscious and get their tests done in time and get treated.

The DC laid emphasis on ensuring screening of NCDS and taking it to the door step of every household.

District Ayush Officer Kupwara, Dr. Raja Amjad Ali Khan apprised the DC that construction of Ayush Dispensary at Kralpora has been

approved under National Health Mission and the work has been tendered out with a project cost of Rs. 30 lakhs, and Ayush Building, Yoga Hall, a Lab and an IT Room will be constructed.

The DC directed the executing agency (R&B) to speed up the construction of Ayush Dispensary so that it is completed within stipulated time.

Ayushi also inspected various sections of the Ayush Dispensary and interacted with the patients and doctors and enquired about the facilities available for the

patients.

DDC Member, Kralpora Adv. Masrat; District Ayush Officer Kupwara; BMO Kralpora; other Officers, doctors and Para Medical staff of Govt. Ayush Dispensary Kralpora were present on the occasion.

The DC later visited the Khargund village where she inspected work on under construction 15- mtr. Span bridge at Khargund on Nallah Hud which is being constructed by R&B Department under ADF (PRIs) with a project cost of Rs. 90 lakhs.

FROM PAGE 1

Four killed, many injured as North East Express derails in Bihar

helping them come out of at least two toppled coaches. The visuals also showed a woman passenger in a state of shock being helped out of a coach by locals.

Several police officials were also seen at the spot helping rescue passengers from the train.

Jagdishpur SDPO Rajiv Chandra Singh said electric wires and poles, and rail tracks have been damaged due to the accident. He said that while some coaches lost balance and fell, none of them overturned due to which there are less casualties. "The technical team can give the details of the cause (of the accident)," he added. Chief Public Relations Officer of East Central Railway zone Birendra Kumar told agency that the accident took place less than half an hour after the train left the Buxar station and was headed for Ara.

"The derailment took place near Raghunathpur station where the train does not have a scheduled stoppage," he said. Relief measures were initiated immediately after the incident, with ambulances and doctors rushing to the site.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav issued a statement saying that the departments of disaster management and health have been asked to take immediate steps to ensure the quickest possible relief to as many people as possible.

"I have also spoken to the district magistrates of Buxar and Bhojpur (where Ara is headquartered) with instructions to reach the site at the earliest and speed up relief work," he said.

"In Sub-Divisional Hospital Jagdishpur and Shahpur Hospital, District Bhojpur, medical officers and other health workers are ready for rescue and relief operations. Ambulances from Rohtas, Buxar and Bhojpur districts have been sent to the spot," Yadav added.

A railways official said alternative arrangements have been made to ferry passengers of the derailed train to their respective destinations.

A scratch rake was dispatched from

Patna to ferry passengers from the accident site, the official said. A scratch rake is a temporary rake with a similar configuration as the original train. Six buses too were sent to the accident site to evacuate the passengers to safety.

A railway official said one rake has been arranged from Ara to end the stranded passengers to their onward journeys.

"Medical teams have been sent to the spot," Deepak Kumar, Inspector, Railway Police Force, told reporters, adding that the district administration had alerted local hospitals in Buxar town.

"We have sent rescue and medical teams to the spot. The railways has also issued emergency helpline numbers for passengers. These are 9771449971 (Patna), 8905697493 (Danapur), 8306182542 (Ara), 8306182542 and 7759070004," he said.

War rooms have been established for monitoring and early restoration of the coaches and rescue operations were going on in full swing, a railway official said.

At least 18 trains operating on the route, including the Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Dibrugarh, have been diverted.

22 Americans have died in Israel, 17 remain unaccounted for: White House

that: you know, we're with you. We're grieving with you. We're sorrowful with you. We're worrying about you. We are going to do everything we can, particularly for those who don't know where a loved one is, to find out where they are and to get them home with you where they belong. That includes, of course, being willing to assist in advice or counsel when it comes to hostage-recovery efforts," he said.

"Now, of course, the Israelis have a very robust hostage-recovery capability of their own. Sadly, they have been forced to perfect that particular kind of capability. But we also have a lot of know-how too, and we're offering to share that with the Israeli Defense Forces," Kirby said.

The US is also sharing additional defense-related support to Israel. The US has been able to replenish some of its Iron Dome interceptor missiles. "These were missiles that we already had in stock in Israel. We

simply just transferred ownership over to the Israeli Defense Forces. So, again, more aid, more assistance will be coming in the coming days," the NSA said.

Aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford and her strike group are now in the Eastern Mediterranean. They arrived on Tuesday. "They are there for deterrence purposes to make it clear to any would-be actor, organisation, group, terrorist network, nation state — anybody who thinks that, with hostile intent towards Israel that this is the time to widen and expand the conflict — that we will take our national security interests seriously," he said.

The bottomline is that the US is sending a loud and clear message that should any actor hostile to Israel or trying to escalate or widen the war, the US is ready to take action against them, Kirby said.

"We're also going to continue to talk to our Israeli partners about their needs to ensure, again, that they have what they require to defend their country and their people. And that's just not going to stop. In fact, it's almost an hourly conversation that we're having with our counterparts," he said.

Militant hideout busted in Doda: Police

focus in upper reaches/suspicious places so that anti-social/anti-national elements may not succeed in their attempts to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the district.

IT conducts search, seizure operation in Kashmir

group has been suppressing its taxable income by grossly under-reporting its sales in the cement sector by more than Rs 60 crore over the past several years. In this regard, evidence in the form of cash vouchers and sales invoices has been seized, which is found to have not been recorded in the books of account. Similarly, evidence of undisclosed sales in the books of account exceeding Rs 50 crore in the textile and plywood sectors has also been found", the statement read.

"In the real estate business of the group, being carried out in Kashmir and Delhi,

documents evidencing the receipt of on-money have been recovered. Such suppression of receipts in the books of account is estimated to be about Rs 10 crore", it added.

The key person of the group has admitted the above modus operandi being followed for the generation of undisclosed income, as per the official release.

"The search action has resulted in the seizure of unaccounted cash exceeding Rs 1.70 crores. In addition, unaccounted bullion worth Rs. 16 lakh has also been seized", it said.

DC Baramulla takes holistic review of RDD Works, other Sponsored Schemes

progress under MGNREGA 2023-24, the meeting was informed that a total of 25859 households of Baramulla district have been provided jobs with disbursement of more than Rs. 21.83 Crores wages under total allocation of Rs. 30.6781 Crores thereby making record release of the said wages to 99.5% within 15 days.

It was also given out that 84 households stand registered under 100 days of guaranteed wage employment category.

Presenting further breakup, the meeting was informed that a record of 8.52 lac households were provided jobs under MGNREGA against the target of 4.85 lacs up to the current month making the achievement to 175%. Under this feat, 3315 works stand completed against the total target of 13000 and the rest of the works are to be completed up to March 2024, it added.

Similarly, the meeting also informed that 78000 job cards are registered with the Department in Baramulla under which 66000 Job cards are active as unskilled manual workers.

During the meeting, the chair was apprised that out of 339 cases sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), 335 beneficiaries have been benefited till date while as the remaining cases are to be completed after proper verification and requisite formalities.

The meeting also discussed the progress

made under Awaas Plus Scheme during 2023-24 and informed that 3818 registered beneficiaries were benefited in the first instance with the first installment.

Similarly, under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), it was given out that 612 works were taken up against the target of 622 with budget allocation of Rs. 5.1295 crores.

After taking a comprehensive review, Dr Sehrish directed the concerned functionaries to work with added zeal and synergy so that all the ongoing works are completed well within the fixed timeline. She further emphasized achieving saturation in all the designated indicators and exhorted to work in coordination and cohesion.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned authorities to complete the target of sanctioned cases up to November 2023 and December 2023 under PMAY (G) and SBM (G) respectively.

With regard to the other works, the DC also directed to conduct routine field inspection so that constant surveillance is maintained adding that quality of work shall never be compromised.

Meanwhile, the DC called for intensifying sanitation in rural areas by gearing up Swachhgrahis on a community approach to sanitation.

Drug Peddler arrested in Kulgam

by Kulgam police from credible sources. Acting promptly a special team led by SHO police station Yaripora SI Sandeep Sharma under the close supervision of SSP Kulgam was constituted, who raided the suspected place (residential house) in presence of executive magistrate Yaripora of Mohd Yousuf Rather S/O Ali Mohammad Rather R/O Kanjikkullah, Yaripora and from where officers were able to recover 52 Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance. The said person was arrested."

"Regarding the incident a case with FIR No 80/2023 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act stands registered at police station Yaripora and investigation is in progress", he said.

People are requested to come forward and inform nearby Police unit or Dial 112 with any information regarding any social activity their neighborhood so that timely action against the culprits will be taken.

Sensex, Nifty surrender early gains as IT shares fall on weak TCS commentary

The 30-share Sensex opened higher and rose further by 104 points to hit a high of 66,577.60

MUMBAI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty erased early gains to trade lower on Thursday as IT shares declined after TCS stated that headwinds continue for the sector amid a sluggish economic climate.

The 30-share Sensex opened higher and rose further by 104 points to hit a high of 66,577.60 as banking, auto and metal shares advanced in line with positive global markets.

However, the gains were offset by losses in IT shares, dragging to the 30-share index down by 84.16 points or 0.13 per cent to 66,388.89 at 9.50 AM.

The broader Nifty also retreated from early highs to trade 23.70 points or 0.12 per cent down at 19,787.65. It moved between a high of 19,843.30 and a low of 19,784.55 in morning trade.

Rate-sensitive stocks gained after US Federal Reserve's meeting minutes released on Wednesday suggested that the US central bank would not raise interest rates in the near future amid uncertain economic conditions.

Among Sensex shares, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, SBI, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, Maruti, Tata Steel, and M&M advanced in early trade.



However, the gains were negated by more than 1 per cent fall in IT major TCS which emerged as leading Sensex loser.

The company has stated that the headwinds for the IT sector continue amid a sluggish economic climate. The country's largest software exporter TCS on Wednesday reported an 8.7 per cent increase in its September quarter net profit to Rs 11,342 crore.

The Tata Group company also announced a Rs 17,000-crore share buyback on top of committing a nearly Rs 3,300-crore dividend payout.

Other IT stocks such as Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Wipro also declined. Losses in Reliance, HUL, L&T and Bharti Airtel also weighed on the benchmark index.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "There are positive developments that can strengthen the rally in the market."

"Steadily declining

trend in the dollar index and the US bond yields, declining crude and sharp dip in FII selling in the cash market are big positives for the market. If the US CPI inflation data expected tonight dips below 3.6 per cent that will be a shot in the arm for the bulls."

Asian markets, including Japan, China and Hong Kong, were trading with gains following advances in the US markets overnight.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong advanced 1.75 per cent, Nikkei 225 in Japan gained 1.48 per cent while South Korea's Kospi was up 0.93 per cent.

On the domestic front, Sensex had spurred by 393.69 points or 0.6 per cent to close at 66,473.05 while Nifty climbed 121.50 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 19,811.35 on Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued to be net sellers as they offloaded shares worth Rs 421.77 crore on Wednesday, according to data available with BSE.

Hiring index for IT services has declined in all nine months of this year

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): The hiring index for IT-Software/Services has now declined (on a YoY basis) in all nine months of this year, reflecting continued softness in demand and uncertainty in the overall environment, Emkay Global Financial Services.

IT Job Index is currently down 49 per cent from its peak levels in July 2022.

BPO/ITes/CRM/Transcription hiring also reported a decline of 6.4 per cent MoM, and it has now declined for the eighth consecutive month on a YoY basis.

IT-Hardware and Networking jumped by 3.3 per cent MoM but was 28 per cent lower YoY.

Weaker trends in IT-Software/Services are corroborated by lower attrition/muted hiring trends reported by IT companies in the last few quarters. Timelines for recovery in the IT sector hiring remain uncertain and depend on macros, while



non-IT hiring is expected to sustain strength, Emkay Global Financial Services said.

For September, Naukri's Job-Speak index reported 6.3 per cent MoM growth, registering the second successive month of growth. This is only the fourth month of this calendar year, where the index has reported growth (MoM), reflecting slow growth in the job market.

IT-Software/Services hiring, however, fell 8.8 per cent MoM,

and was down 43.4 per cent YoY.

In September, 16 of the 38 industries saw a decline in hiring activity on a MoM basis. On a YoY basis, 17 of the 38 industries have now grown, indicating a recovery in the broader economy. The IT sector continued to face global headwinds and saw the hiring numbers dwindle in the last few months.

However, Big Data Testing Engineer, IT, Information Secu-

riety, and IT Operations Manager roles were in high demand even during this period.

Among the major sectors, Banking/Financial Services/Broking saw a sharp jump of 36.3 per cent on a MoM basis, followed by Insurance at 34.2 per cent, Medical/Healthcare/Hospital at 12.1 per cent, Auto/Ancillaries at 8.3 per cent, and Construction/Engineering/Cement/Metals at 6.8 per cent, Emkay Global Financial Services said.

Among the major sectors that saw a decline include Recruitment/Employment Firms at 22.2 per cent MoM, Office Equipment/Automation at 11.7 per cent, IT-Software/Software Services at 8.8 per cent, FMCG/Foods/Beverage at 4.9 per cent, Media/Dotcom/Entertainment at 3.3 per cent, and Consumer Durables at 1.9 per cent, the report said.

Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath now India's youngest billionaire at 37

According to Forbes' latest list of India's 100 richest people, brothers Nithin and Nikhil Kamath were ranked 40th among the country's wealthiest people, with a combined net worth of \$5.5 billion.

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Leading stock broker Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath has become India's youngest billionaire at the age of 37.

According to Forbes' latest list of India's 100 richest people, brothers Nithin and Nikhil Kamath were ranked 40th among the country's wealthiest people, with a combined net worth of \$5.5 billion.

"They have a net worth of Rs 45,754.50 crore and their rich list rank improved 18 places this

year," Forbes said.

The Kamath brothers founded Zerodha in 2010, which revolutionised zero-cost equity investing.

Earlier this week, the duo featured in the Hurun India rich list of 2023. Nithin and Nikhil Kamath were ranked 42 and 81, respectively, with net worths of Rs 35,300 crore and Rs 23,100 crore.

Meanwhile, Zerodha has reported a revenue of Rs 6,875 crore and a profit of Rs 2,907 crore for the financial year



2022-23 (FY23), representing a 38.5 per cent and 39 per cent growth in revenue and profit,

respectively, as compared to the previous financial year.

In FY22, the company reported a revenue of Rs 4,964 crore and a profit of Rs 2,094 crore.

In a blog post, Nithin Kamath said that despite fierce competition from newer discount brokerage firms, the company will maintain onboarding and maintenance fees.

Recently, on Wednesday, Nikhil unveiled the "WTF Fund" initiative for aspiring entrepreneurs in various sectors including beauty, fash-

ion, and home brands under 22 years of age. He shared the information on his official Twitter profile.

"Introducing the #WTF-Fund! Young entrepreneurs under 22 years of age can now grab the opportunity to secure funding and receive mentorship in the home, fashion, beauty, or lifestyle sectors from Ananth Narayanan, Raj Shamani, Kishore, and myself," Kamath wrote on the social media platform.

Parkinson's disease may be detectable 20-30 years sooner than clinical diagnosis, researchers say

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): It may be possible to detect signs of Parkinson's disease 20-30 years before symptoms appear, according to researchers in Australia.

A biomarker called F-AV-133, used in combination with PET, or positron emission tomography, scans can help diagnose Parkinson's disease and accurately track neurodegeneration, the researchers from the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne, said.

F-AV-133 is an imaging agent and has shown promise as a PET tracer for detecting and monitoring neurodegeneration in Parkinson's

disease, a progressive neurological disorder characterised by tremor and impaired muscular coordination.

According to the researchers, the disease, often thought of as an illness of old age, in fact, starts in midlife and can go undetected for decades.

"Parkinson's disease is very hard to diagnose until symptoms are obvious, by which time up to 85 per cent of the brain's neurons that control motor coordination have been destroyed. At that point, many treatments are likely to be ineffective," said Kevin Barnham, professor at The Florey and lead researcher of the study

published in the journal Neurology.

In their study, 26 patients already diagnosed to have Parkinson's disease and a control group of 12 people were scanned, along with 11 other people having Rapid Eye Movement sleep behaviour disorder (RBD), a strong indicator of the disease. All of them undertook two PET scans two years apart.

The researchers found that the PET scans showed a significant loss in the nerve cells or neurons in three key regions of the brain in individuals with the disease, even as no significant changes in their clinical symptoms were

seen according to currently available diagnostic assessments.

The findings suggest that F-AV-133 is a more sensitive means of monitoring neurodegeneration than what is now available, the researchers said in their study.

Using mathematical modelling, they found that when clinical symptoms of the disease begin to show and are sufficient for diagnosis, approximately 33 years' worth of slow neuronal loss has already taken place.

However, only about 10.5 years' worth of this neuronal loss happens before the disease can be detected on a PET scan, they said.

Thus, they say that this diagnostic technique could help detect Parkinson's disease more than 20 years sooner than clinical diagnosis.

RBD is a significant warning sign for early Parkinson's disease and people having RBD are known to often shout or thrash around, sometimes violently, in their sleep while acting out vivid and unpleasant dreams.

About half of people with Parkinson's have RBD and roughly 90 per cent of people with RBD are likely to develop a parkinsonian condition.

If one has RBD, it is suggested that they consult with a sleep specialist or a neurologist.

Genetically edited chickens used to limit bird flu spread



NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Scientists in the UK have successfully used gene editing techniques to limit the spread of bird flu in chickens.

The researchers were able to restrict, but not completely block, the avian influenza virus from infecting the birds by precisely altering a small section of their DNA.

According to the study published in the journal Nature Communications, the modified birds showed no signs of any impact on the animals' health or well-being.

While the findings are encouraging, further gene edits would be needed to produce chickens which cannot be infected by bird flu, the researchers said.

"Although we haven't yet got the perfect combination of gene edits to take this approach into the field, the results have told us a lot about how influenza virus functions inside the infected cell and how to slow its replication," said Professor Wendy Barclay, from Imperial College London.

Bird flu is a major global threat with a devastating impact in both farmed and wild bird populations.

The team bred chickens with small edits to

have the potential to infect and spread effectively in humans.

According to the team, the findings demonstrate that a single gene edit is not robust enough to produce resistant chickens.

To prevent the emergence of viruses able to adapt to the single edit, the team next used a triple edit to target additional proteins (ANP32A, ANP32B and ANP32E) in lab-grown chicken cells.

In cell cultures in the lab, growth of the virus was successfully blocked in cells with edits to all three genes.

In future, researchers hope to develop chickens with this triple edit, but no birds have been produced at this stage.

The study highlights the importance of responsible gene editing and the need to be alert to the risks of driving viral evolution in unwanted directions if complete resistance is not achieved, they said.

"Bird flu is a great threat to bird populations. Vaccination against the virus poses a number of challenges, with significant practical and cost issues associated with vaccine deployment," said Professor Mike McGrew, from the University of Edinburgh, and principal investigator of the study.

"Gene-editing offers a promising route towards permanent disease resistance, which could be passed down through generations, protecting poultry and reducing the risks to humans and wild birds," McGrew added.

Prolonged antacid use linked to higher dementia risk: Study

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Prolonged use of antacid medicines meant to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and peptic ulcers is associated with a higher risk of dementia, according to a new study published in "Neurology".

The study led by Kamakshi Laxminarayan, professor of neurology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, studied data from over 5,700 people with the average age of 75 and found that those who consumed proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) for more than four and a half years

were at 33% higher risk of developing dementia than those who did not use the medications.

Chronic PPI use has been linked to stroke, cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease but previous studies on the link between the PPI use and dementia have reported mixed results.

The most commonly prescribed PPIs are Prevacid, Nexium, Psilosec and Protonix. The study, however, does not name the PPIs the participants used.

It evaluated associations between the current and cumulative PPI use and the risk of

incident dementia in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study data (data from a US population-based cohort that attended clinics over time) gathered from enrolment from 1987-89 to 2017.

The average follow-up of participants was 5.5 years. A total of 585 (10.2%) participants developed dementia during the follow-up. The authors found that the current PPI use by participants was not associated with heightened dementia risk but its prolonged use was.

"In the community-based cohort we stud-

ied, participants with the long-term cumulative (>4.4 years) use of PPIs from mid-to-late life had a modestly higher risk of dementia in late life compared to nonuse. Shorter-term use in midlife, and current use in late life, were not associated with increased risk of dementia in late life," authors concluded. Experts, however, say people must guard against anxiety.

Senior gastroenterologist Rajeev Jayadevan says the "Neurology" study found that among those who took PPI, 11.6% (58 out of 497) got dementia,

and among those who did not use PPIs, 9.8% (415 out of 4,222) got dementia. "The actual difference between the two groups is 1.8%. Previously, a large US study looked at 3,484 older people for 7.5 years and reported no link. So the results are mixed," he says, adding that PPIs are safe medications but they should be taken only on doctor's advice. "Since PPIs are available over the counter, their overuse is frequent. People take them twice daily, when once is sufficient mostly. Long-term PPI use is for select conditions only."

World Cup 2023: India and Pakistan gear up for blockbuster clash in Ahmedabad with stunning run-chases

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): It's going to be huge, this time. India and Pakistan will meet in the marquee match of World Cup 2023 in Ahmedabad on Saturday and the entire cricket world's attention will be on the Narendra Modi Stadium. The hype around the marquee contest of the World Cup is so much so that a special musical show will highlight the frenzied buildup to it.

The official broadcasters are expected to start coverage on the eve of the World Cup biggie, making sure the appetite for the mother of all cricket balls is taken care of.

It's certainly impossible for the players to not focus on the hype surrounding the contest. India captain Rohit Sharma and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah tried to play down the buzz, saying that the team would look to direct its energy toward getting things right on the field and not worry too much about what's being said in the lead-up to October 14.

"For us it's crucial that we don't worry about external factors and just look at things we can control. We just need to show up and do well. Things like what the pitch is like, what combo we can play is what we can control. What happens outside we won't be worried about it," Rohit Sharma said after India outplayed Afghanistan by 8



wickets in a one-sided contest in Delhi on October 11.

The India vs Pakistan fixture could not have come at a better time at this year's World Cup. India are riding high on the confidence of having won the Asia Cup and having made a brilliant start to their campaign in the home World Cup. On the other hand, Pakistan laid down an early marker with a sensational run chase against Sri Lanka, telling the world that they have already moved on from the Asia Cup disappointment.

Pakistan headed into the Asia Cup as one of the favourites but their campaign was derailed after losses to India and Sri Lanka in the Super 4s. Eventually, Pakistan failed to even reach the final.

WORLD RECORD CHASE

Questions were asked about their over-reliance on Babar Azam and the rest of the top-

order before they headed to the World Cup. However, Mohammad Rizwan and newbie Abdullah Shafique put those doubts to rest when they scripted Pakistan's World Cup record chase against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Pakistan's bowling attack, in the absence of Naseem Shah, is not looking at its best. Shaheen Afridi, who was expected to take up the leader's role is struggling for rhythm while their spin department, led by Shadab Khan, seem to lack venom.

However, Rizwan and Shafique's show in their second win in as many matches in Hyderabad was a source of great inspiration, just at the right time for Pakistan.

Pakistan hadn't successfully chased more than 265 in their World Cup history before Tuesday, but they gunned down 345 to script a new tournament

record. And their successful run chase came after their batting superstar, Babar Azam, was out for 10.

The Hyderabad leg of Pakistan's campaign was a super hit. How Ahmedabad pans out can be a defining bit of their World Cup journey.

CLINICAL VICTORIES FOR INDIA

On the other hand, India outclassed 5-time champions Australia on a tough batting pitch in Chennai to get their campaign off to a resounding start. After restricting Australia to 199 with their spin-bowling prowess, India overcame an early blip (2 for 3) to get the job done, thanks to Virat Kohli and KL Rahul.

In Delhi, it was the 'Hitman' show as Rohit Sharma broke a series of records during his knock of 131 from 84 balls as India chased down 273 with 15 overs to spare. Not to forget, Jasprit Bumrah ran the show with a 4-wicket haul on the Arun Jaitley Stadium pitch that has been hostile to bowlers in this World Cup.

Unlike Pakistan, India looked a well-oiled unit with plenty of options to choose from. India will certainly start as favourites when they step out on the field at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. But, Pakistan have shown that they can't be taken lightly and that too in a big-ticket match.

World Cup 2023: Shubman Gill arrives in Ahmedabad ahead of India vs Pakistan clash



NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Shubman Gill arrived in Ahmedabad on October 12th, 2023, in preparation for the highly anticipated ODI World Cup match against Pakistan scheduled for October 14th.

His arrival was marked by uncertainty due to his recent recovery from dengue fever, which had led to his hospitalization in Chennai and subsequent absence from India's second World Cup contest against Afghanistan.

Gill has had an impressive performance in ODIs throughout 2023. He emerged as the leading run-getter in ODIs for the year, amassing a total of 1230 runs at an impressive average of 72.35 and a strike rate of 105.03.

The 24-year-old was also the highest run-getter during India's successful Asia Cup 2023 campaign as he scored 302 runs in the tournament. A BCCI source had suggested earlier that Gill is doing well but is unsure if he would be a part of the match against Pakistan.

"Gill is doing absolutely fine and is set to leave Chennai for Ahmedabad today. It is still not clear whether Gill will have a light training session at Motera on Thursday. His recovery has been fine but we can't really be sure if he can play against Pakistan," a BCCI source said on condition of anonymity.

Gill has already missed the first two World Cup games - the opener against Australia in Chennai and Wednesday's game against Afghanistan. The Indian star reached Ahmedabad late in the night.

It is important to note that Gill's participation in the match remains uncertain due to his recent health issues. Speaking ahead of the match against Afghanistan, India batting coach Vikram Rathour had hinted that Gill would be in the mix very soon.

Dr Amrinder Singh, AIIMS had commented on Shubman Gill's dengue recovery and suggested that the batter would take some time to recover. "He should take a good amount of liquid. It will take some time to recover."

"If Myalgias and joint pain is taken care, he will recover fast. A good amount of health supplements, fruits and liquid will help him to recover," said Dr. Amrinder Singh. In Gill's absence, Ishan Kishan has opened the batting alongside Rohit Sharma to mixed success. Kishan was dismissed for a duck in the first game in Chennai but bounced back with a solid 47 against Afghanistan in Delhi on Wednesday.

World Cup: Record-breaking Rohit fires India to dominant win over Afghanistan

India chase down 273-run target with 15 overs to spare

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma oozed class and elegance en route to a record-breaking hundred, leading India to an emphatic eight-wicket win over Afghanistan in the ODI World Cup here on Wednesday.

Hasmatullah Shahidi's dogged 80 and the young Azmatullah Omarzai's gutsy 62 took Afghanistan to 272 for eight after opting to bat. On a batting beauty, India skipper Rohit (131 off 84) was unstoppable and flaunted his envious range of strokes.

His record seventh World Cup hundred off 63 balls helped India gun down the target in 35 overs, giving a big boost to their net run-rate ahead of their third World Cup fixture against Pakistan on October 14.

There are few sights better than Rohit going about his business in full flow and that was on full display at the Feroz Shah Kotla grounds here.

Ahead of his third World Cup appearance, Rohit had spoken about playing a high-risk game and on Wednesday, he reaped high rewards for that fearless approach.

A clear sign of that intent was when he walked down the track to hit left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi for a flat six over wide long off in the fifth over of the chase, completing 1000 World Cup runs in the process. It was also the fastest hundred by an Indian in the 50-over mega event.

For the majority of their 156-run opening stand, Ishan Kishan (47



off 47) had the best view of Rohit's artistry from the non-striker's end.

The India skipper brought up his fifty with a rasping strike over mid-on off Naveen Ul Haq. Like the rest of the bowlers, Naveen too was guilty of pitching it short far too often and Rohit got his second maximum by pulling him over backward square leg.

One of his five sixes came via the wrong 'un off star spinner Rashid Khan who was held back till the 15th over with Rohit on the rampage. Out of his 16 fours, his gentle push between cover and the mid-off fielder off Naveen was most soothing to the eyes.

With India racing to 154 in 18 overs, the game was heading in only one direction. Rashid was once again the only Afghanistan bowler who made an impact, removing a well-set Kishan and Rohit, both falling to his googly.

Virat Kohli (55 not out off 56) too looked good and took the team over the line with an uppish straight drive over the bowler's head. He and Naveen hugging each other during the chase

was an indication that the duo had very well moved on from their altercation in the IPL earlier this year.

Earlier, Afghanistan skipper Shahidi walked the talk as Afghanistan put up a much-improved effort with the bat compared to what they had managed in their tournament opener against Bangladesh.

His 121-run stand for the fourth wicket with 23-year-old Omarzai allowed Afghanistan to post a fighting total.

At 211 for 4 in 40 overs, Afghanistan looked likely to get close to 300 but India bowlers did well to stem the flow of runs.

Jasprit Bumrah was by far the best bowler for the home team, delivering in both the powerplay and the death overs to end with figures of 4 for 39 in 10 overs. This was Bumrah's best figures in a World Cup game.

The ball did not turn much but Kuldeep Yadav ended with tidy figures of one for 40 in 10 overs.

It wasn't the smoothest of starts for Afghanistan, who reached 48 for one in the opening Powerplay.

While Bumrah got the

ball to talk in his first spell of four overs but Mohammed Siraj leaked 28 runs off his first 24 balls. Siraj ended up conceding 76 runs off his nine overs.

The opening duo of Ibrahim Zadran (22) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (21) collected five boundaries off Siraj, whose ploy of consistently targeting the stumps did not pay off.

Bumrah got the breakthrough with a short of length ball on the off-stump that straightened a shade to take the outside edge off Zadran's bat.

Gurbaz and Rahmat Shah (16) falling in a space of three balls brought Shahidi and Omarzai in the middle.

The much younger Omarzai, promoted up the order, found the odd boundary while Shahidi played second fiddle.

The highlight of Omarzai's innings was the ease with which he played the Indian spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep. He dispatched Kuldeep for two sixes on either side of the straight boundary in the 25th over.

His third six off Kuldeep came in the 34th over when he picked the Indian spinner's wrong 'un and deposited it over long on.

Shahidi, on the other hand, was good with cut against the pacers and his stand out shot was the ramp off Hardik Pandya.

Rashid did come up with some crisp blows towards the end but Afghanistan only managed 61 runs in the last 10 overs with the loss of four wickets.

Feather touch: Andhra artist's novel World Cup tribute to Team India



VISHAKAPATNAM, Oct 12 (Agencies): As India plays its early matches in the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup, the outpouring of encouragement and wishes from the public continues.

Among many heart-warming gestures is the one by Vadala Rahul Patnaik, a 35-year-old resident of Srikakulam District.

Rahul Patnaik expressed his support for Team India by crafting a beautiful feather adorned with

the Indian cricket team and a serene stadium. Expressing his deep-rooted passion for art, Rahul said, "As the entire nation rallies behind our cricket team, I wanted to convey my support through my artwork. It took me five hours to complete this piece, and I used acrylic paints for the creation."

The artwork is a vivid depiction of Team India, featuring our cricket players, the national flag, the coveted ICC World Cup 2023 trophy, action on the field, and a

backdrop of enthusiastic spectators in the stands. Rahul Patnaik has been specialising in miniature art, including painting and carving on grains of rice and feathers.

He reflected on his journey, saying, "I may not have a strong educational background, but I've dedicated myself to the world of art. Coming from a middle-class background, I didn't have access to coaching. So, I've always learned and experimented with various forms of

art independently, gaining valuable lessons from my experiences and mistakes."

Rahul's artistic prowess has earned him nearly 150 national and international awards, with the latest being a recognition by the London Book of World Records of his miniature art on bird feathers.

His remarkable works encompass subjects like Srinivasa Kalyanam, Sri Rama Pattabhishekam, Lord Ananta Padmanabha Swamy, Lord Ganesh, Lord Sri Krishna, Freedom Fighters, portraits of Legends of the India Cricket Team, Chandrayaan-3, and more. In 2022, he also received a Guinness World Records participation certificate and a gold medal for his extraordinary artistic contributions.

Marcus Stoinis in fray, Aussies wary of South Africa firepower

LUCKNOW, Oct 12 (Agencies): Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has shaken off a hamstring problem and is available for their World Cup meeting with South Africa on his familiar hunting ground of Lucknow, captain Pat Cummins said.

Stoinis was sore after Australia's first match of their 1-2 series defeat to India last month and skipped two warm-up games and the loss to the hosts in the World Cup, but Cummins said he will be looked at closely for today's clash.

The 34-year-old plays for the Lucknow-based Super Giants in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and knows the conditions well.

"He's fit so yeah, we'll announce a team today



but it's a ground he knows pretty well," Cummins told reporters. "I think chatting to him and a couple of other guys, it's probably in a bit of a different condition to what it is for the IPL.

The wicket looks really good so yeah, he's someone we'll look at pretty closely."

Australia were dismissed for a below-par 199 in their first match, before suffering a six-wicket defeat to India in Chennai, but Cummins said he expects a high-scoring game in Lucknow.

The five-time champions will be wary of South Africa, who smashed

428/5 in their opening win over Sri Lanka.

"When it's a good wicket — which that looks like — most of the games have been 300-plus," Cummins said. "I haven't had a look at it today, but last night it looked really good, really even."

Maybe a bit of pace and bounce. We'll see how it is today."

Australia's specialist spinner Adam Zampa went wicketless in the last game and gave away 53 runs from eight overs but Cummins said critics should not look too deeply into his form. "I thought he bowled okay but it's pretty hard defending 200 and trying to create something out of nothing. I'm sure he would be great," he said.

Revival of Sufi thought & Sufi Shrines a priority of Waqf Board: Dr. Andrabi

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, the Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of State, visited Qaimoh in South Kashmir today to pay her respects at the Ziyarat of Rishi Nooruddin Noorani (RA). This visit marks her first as Chairperson of the Waqf Board to the revered spiritual abode of the torchbearer of the Rishi order in Kashmir. Accompanying Dr. Darakhshan were Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin, SSP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal, the Tehsildar of the area, and senior district officers from various departments, along with officers from the Waqf Board.

During her visit, Dr. Andrabi oversaw the preparations for the upcoming Urs celebrations and held a meeting with the administration to ensure that adequate



arrangements are in place for the devotees who will be visiting the shrine during the Annual Urs. She also met with local delegations to gather feedback on the requirements of this historically significant shrine in Kashmir. Dr. Andrabi instructed the Waqf Officers to draft a proposal for the development of the shrine in coordination with the administration.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Dr. Andrabi emphasized that development work

at this prominent Sufi shrine will commence soon. She highlighted that both the Central government and the LG administration are committed to the revitalization of all Sufi shrines, and the Waqf Board is actively working towards this mission. She reiterated, "The revival of Sufism and the restoration of Sufi complexes throughout Jammu and Kashmir are top priorities for the Waqf Board." Dr. Andrabi expressed her gratitude to the admin-

istration for their cooperation in bringing about significant improvements in the entire Waqf Working System in Jammu and Kashmir. She also thanked the people for their unwavering support of her bold decisions over the past seventeen months.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin, assured that the district administration would provide full support to the Waqf Board in the development of this important shrine.

Central University organises Book Exhibition on Campus

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized Book Exhibition 2023 at the campus from 12-13 October 2023. The exhibition was blessed by the presence of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ. The exhibition was conducted under the guidance of Prof. BS Bhatt, Library Incharge and assisted by Assistant Librarian, Ramesh Chander. The main purpose of organizing the book exhibition was to strengthen the collection of the University's library with new titles in the allied fields.

In the exhibition, 10 publishers of national and international reputation participated including M/s Pearson, Narosa, Tata McGraw Hill, PHI, NCBA and S Chand. The exhibition hosted 15 bookstalls having more than 15000 thousand books with past three years pub-



lications (2020, 2021 & 2022). The books were mostly focused on management and its allied subjects. It also included books in English and Hindi literature, Humanities, biographies of eminent personalities in all walks of life, and literature on Jammu & Kashmir UT.

The exhibition aims to promote the culture of a reading habit among students and instill a love for reading that will last a lifetime for students, faculty members, and staff. This exhibition also facilitates publish-

ers to showcase new and classic book collections to inculcate the reading habit and provide an opportunity to faculty members to recommend books related to the curriculum and new research areas to facilitate building up a rich collection of prestigious publications for Central University of Jammu, Library.

The exhibition witnessed the active participation of students and faculty members. The students got introduced to new topics and the premium publication

of top-notch publishing houses which was a great experience for all of them. Many faculty members of the University visited the exhibition including Prof. Kusum Kumari, Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Dr. Abhay Kumar Singh, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. Umesh Kumar Yadav, Dr. Tanuj Teswal, Dr. Ratnesh K Yadav, Dr. Vjinder Singh, Dr. Vandhana Sharma and Dr. Ashish Kumar.

The office and the technical staff of the library helped in the organization of the book exhibition.

Kishtwar Police celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' with students under 'Police in Amrit Kaal'

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 12: In a remarkable initiative, Kishtwar Police, under the theme "Police in Amrit Kaal," organized a special event at the District Police Lines (DPL) in Kishtwar to commemorate the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav."

This event, held under the guidance of SSP Kishtwar, Mr. Khalil Poswal-JKPS, witnessed active participation from students representing various schools in Kishtwar.

SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal-JKPS, engaged in an informative interaction with the students, enlightening them about the Police and Army, their various branches, and the essential aspects of the police force. He took the



opportunity to inform the students about the ranks within the police, the significance of police registers, and the various tools and equipment used by the police, including both lethal and non-lethal weapons, riot control equipment, and SDRF equipment.

In the event, SSP Kishtwar Poswal-JKPS

also acquainted the students with the role of Police stations in the betterment of society and informed them about the rights of citizens.

During the event, several students delivered speeches on the theme of "Police In Amrit Kaal." Following the insightful speeches, SSP Kishtwar

awarded the students certificates of participation, recognizing their active involvement and encouraging their interest in the workings of law enforcement.

The event also witnessed the presence of various officers and officials, further adding significance to the occasion. This initiative

by the Kishtwar Police exemplifies their commitment to community engagement and creating awareness about the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies.

The day concluded with a shared lunch, fostering a sense of community and partnership between the Kishtwar Police and the students, aligning with the spirit of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav."

SSP Kishtwar would like to extend their gratitude to all the students, schools, officers, and officials who made this event a success. Such initiatives strengthen the bonds between the police and the community they serve, ensuring a safer and more informed society.

JNVST Admit Cards available for download: Class VI selection test approaching

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 12: The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) is pleased to announce that admit cards for the upcoming Class VI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test (JNVST) are now available for download. The examination is scheduled to take place on November 4, 2023.

Registered candidates are strongly advised to visit the official NVS website to obtain and print their admit cards. It is of utmost importance that candidates carry these admit cards with them on the day of the examination, as they serve as evidence of their registration and provide essential information such as the



examination center and timings.

JNVST is a highly competitive examination held annually by NVS, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The primary goal of this test is to recognize and support talented rural children by providing them with quality education equivalent to the

best in a residential school system.

NVS operates a network of alternate schools known as Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), which are dedicated to discovering and nurturing talented children from rural regions of India. These schools offer students an education on par with the best residential school systems, regardless of their families' socio-economic backgrounds.

NVS is also taking proactive measures to raise awareness among students through video content, which is being telecast on the PM e Vidya Channel. For more information and access to admit cards, candidates are encouraged to visit the official NVS website.

AAI organizes Vigilance Awareness program at GGHSS Shastri Nagar



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: Airports Authority of India (AAI), Civil Airport Jammu, organized a Vigilance Awareness program at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Shastri Nagar, Jammu, to raise awareness against corruption. AAI has established an Integrity Club in the school to instill moral values among the students. Various activities, including an

essay competition and a debate competition, were conducted in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India's Vigilance Department, Northern Region (Delhi) team, led by Ms. Meetu Jain, Joint GM (Vigilance), on the school campus. Students actively participated in the Integrity Club, and prizes were distributed to the winners.

A rally against corruption was also organized with enthusiastic

participation from both students and teachers. Principal Mrs. Renu Bhardwaj praised the initiative taken by the Airports Authority of India and expressed her commitment to providing full cooperation. She also extended her gratitude to Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director Jammu, and the Vigilance Department of AAI for their efforts in raising awareness about curbing corruption among school children.

2-day Dogri Writers Conference begins at Cultural Academy Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 12: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) has successfully inaugurated a 2-Day Dogri Writers Conference at the JKAACL premises in Jammu. The conference is titled "Patriotism in Dogri Literature of the 21st Century."

The Conference was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Padma Shree N.D. Jamwal, a renowned writer, in the presence of Padma Shree Mohan Singh, a distinguished Dogri writer and dramatist, Prof. Lalit Mangotra, a renowned writer and scholar, and Sh. Bharat Singh, Secretary of JKAACL.

At the outset, Sh. Bharat Singh (JKAS), Secretary of JKAACL, extended a warm welcome to all attendees. In his address, he expressed that writers are the voices of society, representing the inner thoughts of the social fabric through their written words. He emphasized the significance of this special skill. Padma Shree Mohan Singh



delivered the keynote address on "Patriotism in Dogri Literature of the 21st Century."

Following this, Prof. Lalit Mangotra gave his address in which he commended JKAACL's efforts in promoting the literature and culture of Jammu & Kashmir. He appreciated the choice of the conference topic, which is highly relevant in the present context.

In his presidential address, Padma Shree N.D. Jamwal praised JKAACL's efforts, especially Secretary Bharat Singh's role in elevating JKAACL

through the organization of such literary and cultural activities. He stressed the importance of encouraging a new generation of writers to explore various socio-themes in their work.

Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum Cultural Officer of JKAACL, presented the Vote of Thanks, assuring that such initiatives would continue in the future. The inaugural session was conducted by Ms. Reeta Khadyal, Editor of Dogri at JKAACL.

Following the inaugural session, a paper reading session was organized, with Dr. Om

Goswami and Dr. Padam Dev Singh presenting their papers on "Patriotism in Dogri Poetry of the 21st Century" and "Patriotism in Dogri Short Stories of the 21st Century." The session was presided over by Sh. Mangal Das Dogra, a renowned Dogri writer and historian.

This was followed by a short story session in which Sh. Chaman Arora, Dr. Om Vidyarthi, Smt. Sudesh Raj, Smt. Krishna Sharma "Prem," and Nirmal Vikram presented their stories. Dr. Om Goswami presided over this session.

The event concluded with a delightful Dogri music performance featuring renowned artists from Jammu and Kashmir, including Dr. Jasmeet Kour, Smt. Reeta Kadtal, Dr. Ranjeet Singh Katoch, and Apoorva Jamwal, accompanied by Darbari Lal on Tabla, Rakesh Anand on Flute, Kamal Sharma on Dholak, and Vicky Gill on Synth. The songs were composed by Sh. Ravi Sharma.

The event was conducted proficiently by Sahil Badyal.