

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

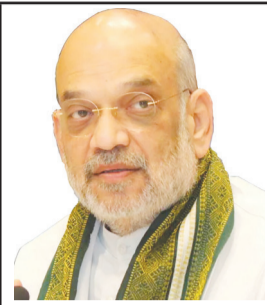
JAMMU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Amit Shah To Inaugurate Durga Puja Pandal Inspired By Ram Temple On 16 October In Kolkata

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Trump heavily trolled by media for comments on Israel-Hamas conflict



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## BRIEFLY

### Two killed after truck plunges into gorge on Zojila Pass

SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): Two persons were killed after a truck they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge on Zojila Pass in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the truck that was on way from Kargil to Sonamarg skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge near Mandir Mode on Zojila. He said that in the accident two persons died and their bodies were recovered by rescue teams.

### Traffic suspended on Sinthan-Kishtwar road due to inclement weather

JAMMU, Oct 14 (Agencies): Traffic movement has been suspended on Sinthan-Kishtwar and Margan Roads due to unfavorable weather conditions.

SDM Kokernag in an order suspended the movement of traffic on the Sinthan-Kishtwar road.

"In view of the changing weather conditions and due to continuous snowfall at Sinthan Top, it is hereby ordered that Sinthan-Kishtwar and Margan Roads are closed for Traffic Movements till weather improves and snow is cleared (Sic)," read an order issued by SDM Kokernag.

### 18 IAS, two PCS officers transferred in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Oct 14 (Agencies): s many as 18 IAS and 2 PCS officers have been transferred in Punjab. Vivek Pratap Singh, principal secretary, health and family welfare has been posted as principal secretary, technical education and industrial training. Ajoy Kumar Sinha, principal secretary, finance, and in addition, principal secretary, housing and urban development, has been posted as principal secretary, finance.

## "Evolution important for Armed Forces" says CDS General Anil Chauhan

BENGALURU, Oct 14 (Agencies): Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan has said that India will emerge as the global leader of the south and the successful conduct of G20 is an indication in that direction.

General Anil Chauhan was speaking at the 14th Air Chief Marshall LM Katre Memorial Lecture organised by the Air Force Association in Bengaluru.

"Change and adaption are crucial for survival. For the armed forces as well, change and



evolution are as important as for any species that's because change is occurring around us. What the three service chiefs and I are trying to do is to give these reforms a certain speed

in a particular direction. We are entering an age that is uncertain, this will require some kind of a transformative change. Armed forces are also cognizant of the changes that are taking place

around them and they also adapt and change. As far as the Air Force is concerned they have graduated into a network-centric warfare. As far as the Navy is concerned we have seen this mission-based deployment," General Anil Chauhan said.

He further said that the opportunities are the real problem that we are facing today as they come unexpectedly.

"Challenges and threats are very easy but opportunities are the real problems because

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## Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha calls on Lt Governor



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today and dis-

cussed various issues of public importance.

Later, Dr Abu Adil, Director, Kelley Foundation also called on the Lt Governor and briefed him on the endeavours of his organization to spread awareness on

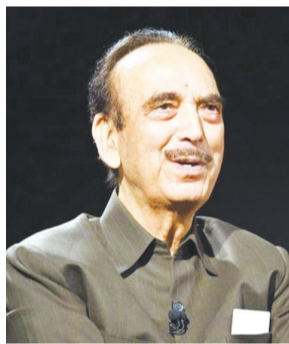
the pressing issues of water management systems. He also presented his book highlighting the challenges of water contamination and scarcity in the region to the Lt Governor.

## Eviction drive in J&K unlawful, will bring back Roshni Scheme if voted to power: Azad

JAMMU, Oct 14 (Agencies): Democratic Progressive Azad Party president Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday said the eviction drive to retrieve government land was "unlawful" and claimed he will bring back the Roshni Scheme if his party is voted to power in the next assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Everyone, including government officials, who used the scheme to usurp large chunks of land will face the law, he said.

On November 1, 2020,



the Union Territory administration cancelled all land transfers that took place under the JK State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 – also known as the Roshni Act – under which 2.5 lakh

acres of land was to be transferred to existing occupants.

Over 10 lakh kanals of land was retrieved by the government after the Revenue department directed all deputy commissioners to ensure 100 per cent removal of encroachments from state land including the land meant for grazing that which came under Roshni Act on January 7 this year.

The Act, popularly called as Roshni scheme, initially envisaged conferment of

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## SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli cleared for new assignment at Centre on deputation basis



JAMMU, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Friday approved the appointment of senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Chandan Kohli as Deputy Secretary in the Senior Executive Cadre of the Cabinet Secretariat on deputation basis.

Kohli, who is an IPS officer of 2013 batch of AGMUT cadre, will be on deputation for a period of four years.

As per a communique of MHA, referring to its Office

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## Rain lashes most parts of Kashmir: MeT

SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): Kashmir received moderate rain on the intervening nights of Friday and Saturday, with the Meteorological Department forecasting widespread light to moderate rain, thunderstorms, and snow in the next 24 hours.

MeT said there is no large change in the weather until October 17.

Srinagar city has

recorded 2.2 mm of rain since Friday night, the Meteorological Department said.

Qazigund in south Kashmir received 0.6 mm of rainfall, while north Kashmir's Kupwara town received 2.1 mm of rainfall.

The ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded 2.8 mm rain.

Due to the rain, the minimum temperature

also saw a dip.

In view of the weather conditions, the authorities have closed Sinthan-Kishtwar and Margan Roads for traffic movements till weather improves and snow is cleared.

The independent weather forecaster, Faizan Arif, predicted that heavy snow showers are also possible in a few spots in the coming days.

## People want change as BJP-Led Govt has put them to difficulties: J&K Cong Chief

SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani said on Saturday that the people in the Union Territory and across the country want a change as they have been put to difficulties by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function where some politicians from the city joined the Congress, Wani said



they would invite senior leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, to address various programmes in

Jammu and Kashmir.

On the party's recent win in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) polls, he said the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance fared very well and asserted that whenever the Assembly polls are held in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies will be "wiped out".

"When the polls take

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## Dengue cases cross 3000 mark in JK

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): Over 3000 cases of Dengue have been reported in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir so far this year, officials said.

Quoting State Surveillance Officer, Dr Harjeet Rai, KNO reported that there were three deaths due to the mosquito-borne disease so far. "The panic is unnecessary, but vigilance and preventive measures are crucial."

Dr Rai advised the public to take "preemptive" measures in the absence of a dengue vaccine and called for proactive prevention to combat this painful



ailment. He, however, assured that the authorities are implementing effective measures to control the spread.

According to Dr Harjeet, individuals who test positive for dengue

should prioritise physical and mental rest, maintain proper hydration, and consume a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

He also addressed the rare instances of dengue shock syndrome and

dengue hemorrhagic fever, urging those experiencing symptoms such as bleeding from the nose or other body parts to seek immediate medical attention. Early detection and treatment are essential in such cases, he said.

Dr Rai outlined a comprehensive approach to dengue prevention, urging people to manage and modify environments to prevent mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats. This involves proper disposal of solid waste, removal of artificial water-holding containers, and regular cleaning and

■ Turn to page 9

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9419143503

**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

**KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Naresh Singh Jamwal** S/o Lt. Sh. Maan Singh Jamwal R/o H.No. 5, Lane No. 1, Dharmat Colony, Muthi Jammu near Mayank Cricket Ground Academy.

**Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 15th Oct., 2023 at 12.00 Noon.

**Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence on 16th Oct., 2023 at 12.15 pm.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY :**

Mrs. & Col. S.S. Jamwal (Retd.) - Brother  
Late Sh. Verinder Singh Jamwal & Smt. Sandhya Jamwal (Sister & Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Rita Chib W/o Sh. Satvir Singh Chib  
Mrs. & Mr. Ravinder Singh Jamwal (Son)  
Mrs. & Mr. Kulbir Singh Jamwal (Son)  
Mrs. & Mr. Kulbushan Singh Jamwal Son (Nephew)  
Mrs. & Mr. Pranav Singh Jamwal Son (Nephew)  
Mrs. & Mr. S.S. Andotra (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Mrs. & Mr. Umesh Singh Jamwal (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Mrs. & Mr. Munish Jamwal (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Mrs. & Mr. Vishal Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
**Grand Children :** Vikrant, Ivaam, Abhey, Ritvik, Aru, Hunny, Shipra, Pragya, Gouri, Palak, Kriti, Subha, Subhagya, Prarambika  
**Mob. No.:** 9419130821, 7006657405

**Sh. Naresh Singh Jamwal****10 DAY KRIYA RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Naresh Singh Jamwal** S/o Lt. Sh. Maan Singh Jamwal R/o H.No. 5, Lane No. 1, Dharmat Colony, Muthi Jammu near Mayank Cricket Ground Academy.

**10th Day** will be performed at our residence on 12th Oct., 2023 at 11.00 am.

**Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 15th Oct., 2023 at 12.00 Noon.

**Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence on 16th Oct., 2023 at 12.15 pm.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY :**  
Mrs. & Col. S.S. Jamwal (Retd.) - Brother  
Late Sh. Verinder Singh Jamwal & Smt. Sandhya Jamwal (Sister & Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Rita Chib W/o Sh. Satvir Singh Chib  
Mrs. & Mr. Ravinder Singh Jamwal (Son)  
Mrs. & Mr. Kulbir Singh Jamwal (Son)  
Mrs. & Mr. Kulbushan Singh Jamwal Son (Nephew)  
Mrs. & Mr. Pranav Singh Jamwal Son (Nephew)  
Mrs. & Mr. S.S. Andotra (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Mrs. & Mr. Umesh Singh Jamwal (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Mrs. & Mr. Vishal Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Grand Sons : Vikrant, Ivaam, Abhey, Ritvik, Aru & Hunny  
**Mob. No.:** 9419130821, 7006657405

**Sh. Naresh Singh Jamwal****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Rakesh Singh Sambyal** S/o Late Sh. Dilbag Singh R/o 82/1 Suraksha Vihar, Top Paloura, Jammu passed away on 4th Oct 2023 (Wednesday).

**10th Day** shall be performed on 13-10-2023 (Friday) at 11:00AM.

**Kriya** shall be performed on 16-10-2023 (Monday) from 11:00 AM onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Praveen Sambyal - Wife**  
**Son & Daughter in law**  
Rohit Singh Sambyal & Manvi Pathania Sambyal  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Rajesh Singh Sambyal & Sweety Sambyal  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Meenakshi Salathia & Mohinder Singh Salathia  
**Grandson:** Arhant Singh Sambyal  
**M.:** 9419146905, 7006129149 & 9419240560  
**G-MAX IT Services and G-MAX IT Services Pvt. Ltd.**

**Rakesh Singh Sambyal****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****OBITUARY FROM MALUN SIDE**

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform sudden demise of **Sh. Soom Nath Bhat** S/o Late. Swami Prakash Ram Bhat, originally from Battargam, Kupwara, Kashmir at his residence Plot No.913, Flat No. S-3, Shalimar Garden Extn 1, Sahibabad.

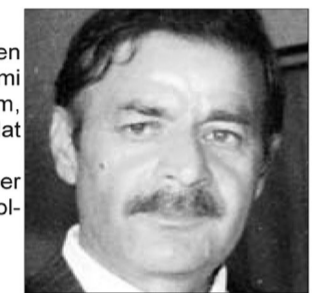
**Tenth day Kriya** will be performed on 20th October 2023 at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad followed by assembly at their residence at 10.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Raj Rani Pandita (Karhama)  
Sh. G.L. Pandita & Smt. Usha  
Sh Gash Lala & Vandna Pandita  
Sh. Kumar Jee Pandita & Smt. Anita  
Sh. Bal Krishen & Smt. Sonia

**SISTERS:**

Smt. Susheela & Sh. M.L. Pandita  
Smt. Bharti & Sh. R.K. Dhar  
Smt. Julli & Sh. P.L. Pandita

**Sh. Soom Nath Bhat**

**From:**  
Pandita, Dhar family  
9419159151, 9210323628  
**Contact Nos:** 8373900110 (Sanjay)  
9582890460 (Rahul)  
7838806682 (Anita/Baby Jee)

**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 /13TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **MANGAL SINGH CHIB** S/o Late Basawa Singh Chib R/o H.No 357 Lane No 1 Sarwal, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be held on 14th of October 2023 (Saturday) at Shiv Mandir Sarwal at 12 PM.

**13th Day** will be held on 17th of October 2023 (Tuesday) at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Lata & Amrik Singh Chib 8492969666  
Rimpy & Hardeep Singh Chib 9419124820  
Swati & Arjun Singh Chib 7889550241  
**Grand Children:** Manvi Chib, Dushyant Chib, Nittyam Chib, Sattyam Chib, Naksh Chib & Avantika Chib

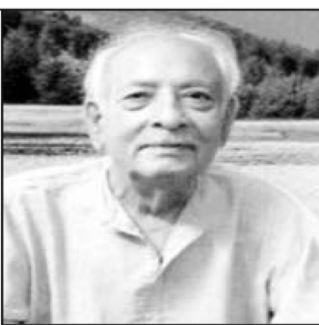
**MANGAL SINGH CHIB****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mahender Nath Koul** originally resident of Soibagh Budgam, Kashmir presently at H.No. 375/A Ward No. 4 Manohar Apartments Mehrauli New Delhi.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Murad Nagar Canal Ghat, Murad Nagar Near Ghaziabad-UP at 8:00 AM on 15-10-2023.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Phoola Koul- **Wife**  
Smt. Jaya Koul- **Bhabhi**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh & Smt. Dileep Koul & Veena Koul  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh & Smt. Vinod Koul & Sunita Koul  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt & Sh. Sunita Pandita & Bhupinder Pandita  
**AND ALL GRAND CHILDRENS**  
Ayushee, Ayush, Mahima, Muskan,  
Dhruv and Divya  
**And Samast Koul Parivar of Soibagh**

**Sh. Mahender Nath Koul**

**Contact No:**  
9654077857 - Dileep Koul,  
9582148438 Vinod Koul,  
9999811584 Sunita Pandita

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardarni Tirath Kour** W/o Late S. Pritam Singh Chooni R/o Rampura, Last Morh Gandhi Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 07/10/2023.

**ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** on Saturday 14/10/2023 at 9:00 AM at above noted residence.

**Antim Ardas** at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Nanak Nagar Jammu on Monday 16/10/2023 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.

**Grief Stricken**

**Son & Daughter in law**  
Rajinder Singh Chooni & Satvir Kour  
**Brother-in-law & Daughter**  
S. Rajinder Singh Aval & Amarjeet Kour  
**Sons in law & Daughters**  
S. Thakur Singh & Amardeep Kour  
S. Balwinder Singh & Paramjeet Kour  
Smt Ravinder Kour (**Daughter**)  
**Son in law & Daughter**  
S. Manjeet Singh & Spinder Kour  
S. Tanveer Singh & Tamandeep Singh (**Grand Sons**)

**Sardarni Tirath Kour**

**Mobile Nos :**  
9469259679  
7006670274

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we have to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh. Sarwanand Bhat R/o Ladoo Batapora Pampore Kashmir A/p Flat No 04, Block 49, Jagti township who passed away on 11th Oct 2023 (Wednesday) presently stayed at Community Hall behind lane No 04 Jagti township.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 20th Oct 2023 Friday 8 AM at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Santosh Bhat - **Wife**  
Dazy Bhat W/o Sh. Kaka Ji Bhat (Brother & Bhabhi)  
Anjali Koul W/o Sh. Arvind Koul (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Shivani Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Ramesh Bhat (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Himani Rana W/o Lt. Sh. Arun Rana (Daughter & Son in Law)  
**CELL NO** 9796223133, 7051978014

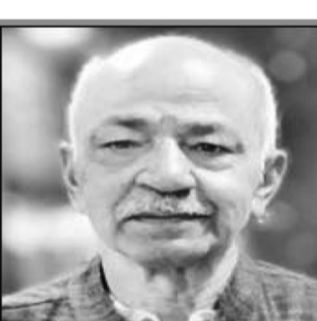
**SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT****OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Shri. Shibani Lal Kak (Baraj)** erstwhile R/o Sathoo Bala later Channapora, Srinagar, presently at Gurgaon has left to heavenly abode, on October 10, 2023.

**The Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on October 19, 2023 at Sri Gauri Shankar Temple New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon. Resi Add: P-21, New Palam Vihar, Phase -1, Gurgaon (Haryana)

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

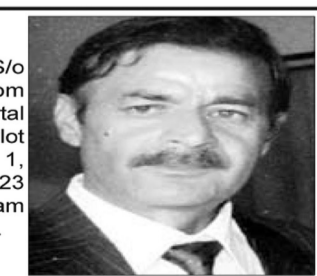
Kishni Kak (**Wife**)  
Jawhar Lal Kak (**Brother**)  
Brij Krishen Kak & Rajdhulari (**Brother & Sister in law**)  
Sanjay & Kanchan Kak (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Ajay & Anita Kak (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Sukanya & Ansuya (**Grand Daughters**)  
Shanta Zadu (**Sister in law**)  
Ashok & Khemlata Handoo (**Brother & Sister in law**)  
Vijay Ganjoo (**Sister in law**)  
Chandra's, Raina's, Kak's, Zadoo's & Kampassi's  
**Phone:** 9903859422, 9821611600, 9711958083

**Shri. Shibani Lal Kak (Baraj)****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

**Tenth Day Kriya** of **Sh. Soom Nath Bhat** S/o Late Swami Prakash Ram Bhat, originally from Battargam, Kupwara, Kashmir, who left his mortal frame on 11th October 2023 at his residence Plot No.913, Flat No. S-3, Shalimar Garden Extn 1, Sahibabad. shall be performed on 20th October 2023 (Friday) at Chota Haridwar Muradnagar Ghat, at 7 am followed by assembly at their residence at 10.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt Anita (**Wife**)  
**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Sanjay & Manisha  
Rahul & Pooja  
**Bhabhi**  
Smt. Asha Jee W/o Lt. R.L. Bhat  
**Bhat, Pandita, Dhar,**  
**Bhan, Raina & Koul Families**

**Sh. Soom Nath Bhat**

**Contact Nos:**  
\*8373900110\* (Sanjay)  
\*9582890460\* (Rahul)  
\*7838806682\* (Anita/Baby Jee)

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Shrimati Raj Kumari** W/o Lt. Sh. Som Nath Sharma R/o F-24, Resham Ghar Colony Jammu passed away on 5th October 2023 Thursday.

**10th Day** shall be performed on 14-10-2023 (Saturday) at 11 AM at Shiv Durga Mandir Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu.

**Kriya** shall be performed on 15-10-2023 (Sunday) from 12 Noon onwards at home, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu.

**Uthala** shall be performed on 16-10-2023 (Monday) from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm at Shiv Durga Mandir Resham Ghar Colony Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Jethani:** Smt. Sushila Devi (W/o Lt. Dwarika Nath)  
**Jethani:** Smt. Vaishno Devi W/o Sh. Ram Rattan  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sanjesh Kumar & Anuradha  
Rajesh Sharma & Sushma Devi  
**Grand Son & Daughter:** Vansh, Palak, Ashvika

**Shrimati Raj Kumari****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

**Tenth Day Kriya** of Late **Smt Shama Koul (Dhobi)** W/o Late Sh. Bushan Lal Koul (Dhobi) erstwhile resident of Sheilteng, Habbakadal, Srinagar, Kashmir and presently putting up at Quarter No. 55, Block - 1, Govt. Quarters, Janipur, Jammu is being observed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on Monday 16-10-2023 at 09.00 AM.

**11th & 12th Day Kriya** is being observed at 23-A, Swaran Vihar, Police Colony, Jammu.

**With Reverence :-**

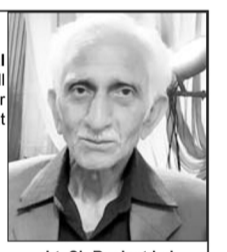
**KAULS (DHOBIS), BHANS GHASSIS, JAILKHANIS, KOULS, RAINAS, BAKSHIS, MAMS, VAISHNAVIS, KAKAPURIS.**

**Late Smt Shama Koul (Dhobi)****BARKHI**

The **Barkhi** of our beloved **Lt. Sh. Ranjeet Lal Khajuria (Machine Wale)** S/o Lt. Sh. Hans Raj will be performed at our residence H. No. 123 Peer Mitra, Jammu on 15th of October 2023 (Sunday) at 12 Noon.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By :**  
Smt. Shakuntala Devi (**Wife**)  
(**Son and Daughter-in-law**)

Sh. Shashikant Khajuria and Sharda Devi (**Daughter and Son-in-law**)  
Smt. Veenu and Sh. Dewaker Sharma (**Daughter and Son-in-law**)  
Smt. Rachna and Sh. Sudershan Sharma  
**KHAJURIA Family**  
Sharma Sewing Machine Works, Dhakki Sarajan  
**Mob no :- 9086453781**

**Lt. Sh. Ranjeet Lal Khajuria (Machine Wale)****KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief, we inform that our beloved **Smt Pushpa Devi** W/o Late Sh. Om Parkash Puri R/o H.No.68, Kucha Nahar Singh Gali Panjriti Jammu passed away on 03-10-2023 (Tuesday).

**KRIYA** shall be performed on 15th Oct 2023 (Sunday) at home at 12 Noon. **UTHALA** shall be performed on 16th Oct 2023 (Monday) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Near Vid Mandir Road Amthala Jammu at 4 PM to 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Devar & Devrani**  
B.M. Puri & Prem Lata Puri  
**Son's & Daughter-in-law**  
Ashish Puri & Mamta Puri  
Ajay Puri

**Daughter's & Son-in-law**  
Surinder Gupta & Anupama Gupta  
Shivender Surti & Anamika Surti  
**Contact No.** 9419232688, 9419861222

**Smt Pushpa Devi****TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Prem Pal Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Kaka Ram R/o 158/3 Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu on 05th Oct. 2023.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 14-10-2023 (Saturday), 10.30 am and **KRIYA** on 15-10-23 (Sunday) at 12.00 noon at our residence 158/3, Lower Roop Nagar.

**UTHALA** shall be performed on 16-10-2023 (Monday) from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Shiv Mandir, Sec - 2, Bula Nagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Raj Sharma - **Wife**  
**Son & Daughter in law**  
Vikas Sharma and Dr. Anjana Bhalwal  
Vishal Sharma - **Son**  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Pooja Sharma and Ram Sharma  
**Brother and Bhabhi**  
Dr. Pritam Chand Shastrri and Smt. Late Lalita Devi  
Late Sat Pal Sharma and Darshana Devi  
**Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law**  
Sh. Kuldeep Sharma and Sandhya Sharma  
Sh. Daleep Kumar and Jyoti Sharma  
Sonu Sharma

**Sh. Prem Pal Sharma**

## Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samitti demands CBI enquiry into irregularities at Dharmarth Trust

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samitti has issued a fervent appeal to Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to take over the administration of the Dharmarth Trust. The Samiti asserted that the Trust's properties are currently subject to widespread mismanagement and inappropriate handling.

Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samitti is advocating for the establishment of a public board to oversee all temples and shrines under the Dharmarth Trust, thereby ending a 76-year-old family rule over this significant public trust in the Jammu and Kashmir state.

The Samitti further called for the formation of an independent commission to conduct a comprehensive audit of all properties owned by the Trust. This audit



aims to clarify the extent of land and properties held by the trust prior to 1947, before the current trustees gained control through alleged manipulation. These longstanding demands from the Hindu community remain unanswered, leading to considerable dissatisfaction among the public.

Rajiv Mahajan, President and Thakur Karnail Chand, General Secretary of the Samitti, addressed the media during a press conference, alleging that Maharaja Gulab Singh established the Dharmarth Department in 1846 to ensure the proper management and supervision of Hindu temples and shrines in the state. It initially operated as a government department, with Maharaja Ranbir Singh appointed as the sole trustee.

However, with the abolishment of the monarchy in 1947, the Dharmarth Trust should have transitioned to a public entity. Regrettably, it remained under private control, eventually leading to the current scenario under the trusteeship of Dr. Karan Singh. Allegations of financial impropriety and misuse of trust assets persist, despite these concerns being documented in the state government's response in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court (Writ Petition No. 1154/86) concerning the takeover of the shrine board by then-Governor Late Sh. Jagmohan.

materials and maintain accurate records in compliance with the GFR 2017. Additionally, the efficient management of public grievances and the systematic handling of files were highlighted as crucial aspects of office operations.

In view of approaching winter, the meeting also discussed disaster and snow clearance plans. Directions were given to different departments to proactively prepare and strategize for potential emergencies, underscoring the commitment to the safety and well-being of the local community.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-u-Din Shah, ACR, CPO, CEO WMDA, SDM Kangan, ACD, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, AD Employment and other district and sectoral officers.

## Berozgar Mukt Gbl: ADDC chairs coordination meeting for smooth conduct of Mega Job Fair on 21st October

### TOP NEWS REPORT

GANDERBAL, Oct 14: In a significant effort to create employment opportunities, the District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Ganderbal is organizing a mega job fair on October 21, 2023.

This initiative comes under the umbrella of "Berozgar Mukt Ganderbal," a campaign aimed at making Ganderbal unemployment-free.

In this regard a meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

A diverse range of government departments will actively participate in this event, making it a comprehensive platform for job seekers to explore various career opportunities.



During the meeting it was revealed that around 15 reputed employers from different sectors are expected to grace the event, offering over 250 job openings to the aspiring youth of Ganderbal.

This mega job fair anticipates the participation of over 7000 unemployed youth from the district. By bringing together both sides of the employment spectrum, the event aims to foster economic growth and stability in the local community.

During the meeting detailed discussion was also held on shifting of official work to e-Office. Comprehensive directions were issued to various government departments to maintain a high level of organization within their respective offices.

To foster a conducive environment for both employees and visitors, Officers were directed to keep their offices clean and orderly. Additionally, specific instructions were given to identify scrap

## 'Runway Diaries' platform to showcase rich talent of J&K: Ritu Singh

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: The Runway Diaries, a platform set to redefine and give wings to the fashion industry in Jammu & Kashmir, is hosting a mega fashion show on October 15, 2023, at the prestigious Hari Niwas in Jammu. The show will showcase the exquisite craftsmanship and rich culture of the region through the collections of renowned designers, both from within and outside Jammu & Kashmir.

This was disclosed by Kunwarani Ritu Singh, Founder and Director of 'The Runway Diaries' while addressing a press conference here today.

Kunwarani Ritu Singh said "The Runway Diaries" is an ambitious platform designed to celebrate the rich cultural tapestry, talent, and craftsmanship that the Jammu region has to offer. With a vision to redefine and uplift the fashion industry in Jammu & Kashmir, it aims to provide opportunities to local artisans, promote culture, boost tourism, and nurture art and talent with a global perspective.

Kunwarani Ritu Singh has been a driving force in contributing to the empowerment and growth of the region



with her remarkable vision, dynamism, and grace. She has a track record of bridging gaps and shattering glass ceilings, and she now extends this vision to the world of fashion and self-expression through 'The Runway Diaries.'

The dynamic team behind 'The Runway Diaries' included Vanita Thakur, an entrepreneur, educationist, and fashion curator. Vanita Thakur founded the National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD) in Jammu 25 years ago. Her dedication to nurturing young designers and preserving indigenous art forms has transformed the fashion landscape in the region.

Ankita Bansal: With a diverse background in software technology and event management, Ankita Bansal brings innovation and business acumen to the project.

She is a driving force behind 'The Runway Diaries.'

Dev Krishan Sharma: Founder of Dernier Cri. Sarita Tondon: Makeup artist and Marketplace Coordinator.

The 'Runway Diaries' fashion show will feature a stellar lineup. The show will open with collections by Varun Bahl and Jyotika Jhalani, with Talla as the jeweler partner.

The grand finale will be presented by JWs and Kisna jewelers, with Iqbal Khan and Esha Sharma as their show stoppers. The event will be enriched with cultural performances, including Bharatnatyam by Nitika Aggarwal and live Dogri and Sufi songs by Sonali Dogra.

The runway will be graced by 34 supermodels from Mumbai and Delhi, alongside Dimple Patel (Miss DIVA Globe,

2016) and Aprajita Sharma (FEMINA Miss India finalist top 10), along with top Jammu models.

Collaborators for this prestigious event include Anshu Khanna of Royal Fables, NIFD, Mitali Gupta, Amar Chouhan, Nafisa Rachel William, Manav Parahawk, Samaya Interiors, and other esteemed personalities from the fashion world.

The 'The Runway Diaries' fashion show will showcase the work of 19 designers from Jammu, highlighting the rich culture of the region. These designers will present exquisite Dogra Poshaks with intricate Gota and Zardozi work, fusion of modern and traditional Dogri designs, and Kashmiri work and embroidery. One of the designers will illustrate the evolution of the Dogra dress over

The Samitti accuses those in control of the trust of mismanagement, misappropriation of funds, and illegal land deals, particularly in relation to the transfer of properties to the Muslim community in Kashmir Valley, which has raised significant concerns among the Hindu populace.

Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samitti appealed to the LG for a thorough CBI enquiry into the matter and, in the interim, suggests the formation of an ad-hoc committee under the guidance of the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu and Srinagar, Prof. R. P. Sharma, Prof. S.S. Bhalwal, Rajiner Bhagat, Karan Singh, Pritam Sharma, Garu Ram Malhotra, Kamal Sharma, Subash Chander, Chuni Lal, and Nirmal Kishore, all members of the Samitti, present during the conference.

## Free medical camp organized at Panchvati Apartments



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: A free medical camp was organized at Panchvati Apartments, Nanak Nagar Jammu in which Doctors from Medanta Group participated.

The free medical camp was organized by BJP Library Incharge Prof Kulbhushan Mohtra, Pooja Grover spokesperson BJP Mahila morcha in collaboration with Er Dil Bahadur Singh and Er. T.

K Sharma BJP State Incharge and State Co incharge of BJP Swachh Bharat Mission.

Full body tests including ECG were performed free of cost and free medical advice was given to the public by the experienced doctors in this medical camp. Around 80 patients underwent free body tests and took free consultation from experienced doctors. Prominent among others who participated included Miss Pallavi Gupta, Er S. K Zailpuri, Er VK Gupta.

The public of the area appreciated BJP leaders for the initiative and thanked the visiting doctors and Para medical staff for this noble cause.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH. DIVISION KATHUA NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 154/JSPHEMK of 2023-24 dated: 11-10-2023

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of SPS including its allied works at Bore Well Ludera (Filling Station) in Billawar.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua	Rs. 200.00 (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua & also mentioned in the e-NIT No. and date	2320/- (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	1.16 lac	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11-10-2023 (06:50PM) and uploaded from 11-10-2023 (6:50 PM) to 20-10-2023 (04:00 PM). The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua on 21-10-2023 at 01:00 P.M. or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Kathua.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: JSPHEMK/3962-65  
Dated: 11-10-2023

DIP/J-9538/23

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division,  
Kathua

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION CONST. DIVISION KRISHNA NAGAR, JAMMU. Email: [venmijammu@gmail.com](mailto:venmijammu@gmail.com) NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT NO. MICD/J/40 of 2023-24 Dated:11/10/2023 Due on:27/10/2023

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Krishna Nagar, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms/ reputed workshop owners doing similar nature of works having valid PAN No. and GST No. for below mentioned work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'A' - Tender fee and Bid Security Declaration Form, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover 'B' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. no	Name of Work	EMD	Performance Security	Cost of tender document	Estimated Cost	Period of completion	Validity of Rates
1.	Fabrication/Erection of C.G.I shed of size 30'X50' along with allied works to be installed at workshop sub-division Belicharana of Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Jammu under UT capex 2023-24	2% of the Estimated Cost	3% of the contract value of LI	Rs.200.00	Rs. 600000/-	30 Days	120 days

#### Key points of the tender

- Bidding documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 11/10/2023(05.00PM onwards).
- The Bid shall be deposited on the web site <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 11/10/2023 (05.00PM onwards) to 27/10/2023 (Upto 12.00PM).
- The cover "A" containing Tender fee, Bid Security Declaration Form & prequalification/ technical bids shall be opened online on - 27/10/2023(02.00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu. In case of holiday or if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of Cover 'A' the same shall be opened on the next working day or any other convenient day.
- Cover B containing the financial bids in the prescribed BOQ shall be opened after evaluation of the opened technical bids.
- Bids must be accompanied with EMD that should be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation construction Division Jammu in the form of CDR/FDR and shall have to be valid for 120 days along with scanned copy of the cost of tender document as mentioned in the e NIT (Notice Inviting Tender). The cost of downloaded tender document shall be in the form of treasury challan favouring Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu by crediting the requisite charge to MH: 0702 (Revenue). The firm claiming any discount/rebate shall attach the relevant supporting document/certificate to the effect.
- The complete bidding process will be ONLINE.
- Lowest bidder will submit the performance security in the shape of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank equal to 3% of the contract value in addition to the EMD amount along with Tender fee and other relevant documents after opening of financial bid online within 3 days. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office. In case the original documents are not submitted by the lowest bidder after opening of financial bid, the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further tendering process in the division.
- The original documents submitted by the bidders should be the same as uploaded online (scanned copies).
- The bids shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period, makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid the earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- All other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.
- The bidder is advised to visit the site. The bidder should be well versed with the site conditions, distance, head load and other related difficulties to be faced during execution of work.

No: MICD/J/1126-1128  
Dated:11/10/2023

DIP/J-9533/23

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Irri. Construction Division  
Jammu

## EDITORIAL

END  
TERRORISM

Also, terrorism against another country, whether in support of international terrorism or in order to destabilise that country, can be classified as 'external state sponsored terrorism'

Terrorism in Kashmir is a direct manifestation of state policy of Pakistan and ISI influence, while hinterland terrorism by Indian Mujahidin or SIMI is indirectly supported by ISI and the state of Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan which is an external state actor is challenging India's internal security directly as well as indirectly.

Similarly, time and again aspersions have been cast on the role of Bangladesh and Myanmar that they have played the role of external state actor regarding terrorism in north east. Support to terrorism can be by various means, such as financial support to militant organisations, technical support, arms, training and infrastructural support, or ideological support.

In this case, the act of terrorism is performed by an individual or a group which is not associated with or financed by any Government. Non-state actors have generally no direct or indirect link with any government or government agency while pursuing their agenda, though indirect linkages cannot be completely ruled out. Naxalites, LTTE and North-east extremists are some examples of non-state actors.

Many important terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Indian Mujahideen (IM) also claim to be non-state actors but have de facto support from Pakistan.

The use of non-state actors is essentially the employment of a proxy element, which gives the state of Pakistan a degree of deniability. However, there is no doubt that none of the so called 'non-state actors', like the LeT, could have operated with impunity without active funding, logistical and military support from Pakistan. The close linkages of the ISI and such groups are well documented as is their direct involvement in attacks like that of 26/11.

These groups aim to not only create instability in states like Jammu and Kashmir, they also have a larger aim of destabilising the country. This is done through sporadic terrorist strikes, which spread terror and panic. This could also adversely affect the ability of the Indian state to pursue economic modernisation. The flooding of the country with counterfeit currency is also a way of weakening the economy. Therefore, some of the so called 'non-state' actors operating from Pakistan are the proxies of the state, functioning under a clear charter of state policy.

In modern times, terrorism spreads faster because more technology available to conduct acts of terror, targets of terrorism are more widespread than ever before, sophisticated means of communication (electronic media, print media, social media, internet) helped terrorists to quickly promote their ideology and hate campaign, intolerance in society due to increasing population and decreasing resources, increasing globalisation of the society, international recognition and support to terrorist groups and links between terrorism and organised crime to earn easy money.

Before 2008, terrorism was fought mainly by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) with the help of state police and Central Armed Police Forces. The IB played the role of an intelligence agency which coordinated the efforts of various state police forces.

The operations and investigations part were looked after by the state police. After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, a special commando force (NSG) was created to engage and neutralize the terrorist threats in specific situations. NSG commandos were trained in high risk tasks like counter hijacking and counter terrorist operations.

Although the Mumbai Police Force and the NSG are applauded for their operations during the 26/11- attacks, their initial response and operating procedures brought to light serious flaws in coordination. After the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, many steps were taken by the Govt, of India in this regard. The Government also announced the creation of many new institutions NIA, NATGRID, MAC (revamping), NCTC. Many steps were taken on the legal front also.

## Ukraine fast losing friends as no end to war is visible

By: Indranil Banerjee

Over 19 months into the war with Russia, Ukraine for the first time is sensing a weakening in support from its staunchest friends: the United States and Europe.

The unexpected war in Israel is an added complication that could distract the Western powers. The waning Western resolve could be a momentary sigh of fatigue, but if it signals a turning point then not just Ukraine but the rest of the world should be prepared for profound geopolitical repercussions.

A distinct dip in pro-Ukraine sentiments has been visible recently. A couple of weeks ago, in an unprecedented move, Republican Congressmen ousted House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy. A major issue in his removal was the funding for the Ukraine war, which is dragging on indefinitely and consuming billions of American taxpayer dollars.

The New York Times reports there has been a "sharp decline" in congressional support for continuing military aid to Ukraine: "Hard-line Republican critics have long espoused isolationist views about Ukraine's war effort, arguing that sending tens of billions of dollars to Kyiv risks dragging the United States into a head-on conflict with Russia and siphons money away from domestic challenges." It wrote that this "right-wing message is gaining momentum among Republicans".

A week earlier, a majority of Republicans had voted against a bill seeking \$300 million to train and equip Ukrainian fighters. This was eventually passed, but the message was clear. The Republican representative from Georgia, Marjorie Taylor Greene, quoting a recent CNN poll that showed most Americans opposed continued financial

support for Ukraine's war effort, told NYT this "is a very unpopular issue: not with just Republican voters, but also with Americans".

Stephen Wertheim, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote recently: "The Republican revolt comes as Ukraine's counter-offensive, launched this summer, has garnered lacklustre results. Russia actually gained more territory in this calendar year than Ukraine has, despite the immense quantity of weaponry the US and Europe have supplied to Ukrainian forces. Together, these two developments mark a new phase of the war that calls for new thinking."

Mr Wertheim feels Kyiv's objective of restoring Ukraine's 1991 borders is not feasible, as this would not only require it to retake large swathes of territory under Russian control but would also require the capture of Crimea, which is critical for Russia's military strategy as it houses a key naval base.

A growing minority within the American strategic community seems to believe it's time for President Joe Biden to push for a negotiated settlement of the Ukraine war and to press Europe to bear more of the financial burden of the war effort.

In Europe too, for the first time, there is discord over support for the Ukraine war. The most dismaying was Slovakia's move to stop military aid to Ukraine after last week's victory of an anti-Ukrainian far-right party. Slovakia's President Zuzana Caputova turned down the caretaker government's proposal for further military aid to Ukraine, saying it doesn't have the authority to do so. Another report suggests in Germany too, a far-right party, Alternative for Germany (AfD), which opposes aid to Ukraine, has seen its support growing.

Meanwhile, Poland's dispute with

Ukraine over grain exports is another complication. "We no longer transfer weapons to Ukraine because we are now arming Poland," Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki recently declared, shocking Western leaders. This is a serious setback as Poland is Ukraine's sixth largest military aid donor.

Russian leaders are of course delighted. Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin's spokesman, commenting on the turmoil after Mr McCarthy's ouster, said it was a sign of things to come: "Fatigue over this conflict -- fatigue from the completely absurd sponsorship of the Kyiv regime -- will grow."

Russia hopes the West will eventually give up on Ukraine, especially because of the damage to their economies caused by high fuel prices, shrinking markets, ballooning Chinese imports and inflation. But the real significance of the Ukraine war is that it's the first time since World War II that a European country was attacked. In all these decades, it's the West that has taken conflict to other nations like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, etc. The destruction of recalcitrant Middle East powers was one task among many; other Western objectives include the neutering of nuclear Russia and the containment of China.

Since the Soviet Union's collapse, the Western powers have been on the ascendance and have kept enlarging their sphere of military-political influence. The Western advancement into Ukraine and its imminent absorption into Nato was the proximate cause for the war.

The conflict thus had implications far beyond Ukraine itself: it was a confrontation between the West's expanding might and a relatively weak defensive power that is Russia. The Ukraine war is the first check the West has had to face in its inexorable global expansion.

There are many non-Western

powers that secretly but hugely resent the West's growing hegemony, including its overwhelming say in global economic matters.

They are watching the Ukraine conflict; while they might not support Russia's blatant aggression which is causing untold civilian misery, they well understand the larger dynamics behind it, and seek to derive benefit from it.

Europe, on the other hand, has effectively shut the gates to its Eurasian east, cutting off economic, especially energy ties. As a result, Russia now has opened up exclusively to the "Global South", including key countries such as China, India and Brazil, the "emerging" bigwigs who also happen to be the major players in the Brics grouping.

The fact that the Western powers could be checked if not defeated in Ukraine is a geopolitical pivot. Strategists in Washington, Berlin, London and elsewhere know this only too well. The Republican success in removing Speaker McCarthy thus assumes global import. The Western powers will now try their utmost to ensure that the opposition to funding the Ukraine conflict does not grow.

Meanwhile, the drawn-out conflict will only drag down the West, especially Europe. The Germans have a term called "Krieg-staat", or war state. This term fits the West quite well for it has been engaged directly or indirectly in warfare for decades now, starting from Iraq and continuing to Afghanistan and beyond.

Trillions of dollars have been expended on warfare. The impact of this is being felt for the first time on socio-economic conditions within Western nations.

Russia too is a war state. Thus, no matter how the battlelines in Ukraine swing, this war promises to suck the wealth, and the power, of all the states involved.

That is a portent of profound global shifts.

## The Impact of Digital Technologies

By: Vijay GarG

Technologies can help make our world fairer, more peaceful, and more just. Digital advances can support and accelerate achievement of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - from ending extreme poverty to reducing maternal and infant mortality, promoting sustainable farming and decent work, and achieving universal literacy. But technologies can also threaten privacy, erode security and fuel inequality. They have implications for human rights and human agency. Like generations before, we - governments, businesses and individuals - have a choice to make in how we harness and manage new technologies.

A DIGITAL FUTURE FOR ALL? Digital technologies have advanced more rapidly than any innovation in our history - reaching around 50 per cent of the developing world's population in only two decades and transforming societies. By enhancing connectivity, financial inclusion, access to trade and public services, technology can be a great equaliser.

In the health sector, for instance, AI-enabled frontier technologies are helping to save lives, diagnose diseases and extend life expectancy. In education, virtual learning environments and distance learning have opened up programmes to students who would otherwise be excluded. Public services are also becoming more accessible and accountable through blockchain-powered systems, and less bureaucratically burdensome as a result of AI assistance. Big data can also sup-

port more responsive and accurate policies and programmes.

However, those yet to be connected remain cut off from the benefits of this new era and remain further behind. Many of the people left behind are women, the elderly, persons with disabilities or from ethnic or linguistic minorities, indigenous groups and residents of poor or remote areas. The pace of connectivity is slowing, even reversing, among some constituencies. For example, globally, the proportion of women using the internet is 12 per cent lower than that of men. While this gap narrowed in most regions between 2013 and 2017, it widened in the least developed countries from 30 per cent to 33 per cent.

The use of algorithms can replicate and even amplify human and systemic bias where they function on the basis of data which is not adequately diverse. Lack of diversity in the technology sector can mean that this challenge is not adequately addressed.

THE FUTURE OF WORK

Throughout history, technological revolutions have changed the labour force: creating new forms and patterns of work, making others obsolete, and leading to wider societal changes. This current wave of change is likely to have profound impacts. For example, the International Labour Organization estimates that the shift to a greener economy could create 24 million new jobs globally by 2030 through the adoption of sustainable practices in the energy sector, the use of electric vehicles and increasing energy efficiency in existing and future buildings.

Meanwhile, reports by groups such as McKinsey suggest that 800 million people could lose their jobs to automation by 2030, while polls reveal that the majority of all employees worry that they do not have the necessary training or skills to get a well-paid job.

There is broad agreement that managing these trends will require changes in our approach to education, for instance, by placing more emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and maths; by teaching soft skills, and resilience; and by ensuring that people can re-skill and up-skill throughout their lifetimes. Unpaid work, for example childcare and elderly care in the home, will need to be better supported, especially as with the shifting age profile of global populations, the demands on these tasks are likely to increase.

THE FUTURE OF DATA

Today, digital technologies such as data pooling and AI are used to track and diagnose issues in agriculture, health, and the environment, or to perform daily tasks such as navigating traffic or paying a bill. They can be used to defend and exercise human rights - but they can also be used to violate them, for example, by monitoring our movements, purchases, conversations and behaviours. Governments and businesses increasingly have the tools to mine and exploit data for financial and other purposes.

However, personal data would become an asset to a person, if there were a formula for better regulation of personal data ownership. Data-powered technology has the potential to empower individuals,

improve human welfare, and promote universal rights, depending on the type of protections put in place.

THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media connects almost half of the entire global population. It enables people to make their voices heard and to talk to people across the world in real time. However, it can also reinforce prejudices and sow discord, by giving hate speech and misinformation a platform, or by amplifying echo chambers.

In this way, social media algorithms can fuel the fragmentation of societies around the world. And yet they also have the potential to do the opposite.

THE FUTURE OF CYBERSPACE

How to manage these developments is the subject of much discussion - nationally and internationally - at a time when geopolitical tensions are on the rise. The UN Secretary-General has warned of a 'great fracture' between world powers, each with their own internet and AI strategy, as well as dominant currency, trade and financial rules and contradictory geopolitical and military views. Such a divide could establish a digital Berlin Wall. Increasingly, digital cooperation between states - and a universal cyberspace that reflects global standards for peace and security, human rights and sustainable development - is seen as crucial to ensuring a united world.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout  
Punjab)

# IMFA organises musical programme, remembers Lata Mangeshkar



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: A musical programme, "Nam Gum Jayega," was organised by the Institute of Music & Fine Arts, University of Jammu, at its campus today to pay tribute to Nightingale of India

Lata Mangeshkar and commemorate her birth anniversary.

Prof. Anupama Sharma, a noted singer, was the chief guest on this occasion. Pt. Prithvi Raj Sharma, renowned music director and composer; Jang S. Verma, artist, writer, and jour-

nalist; Harish Kaila, music composer; and President Nami Dogri Santha, Jammu, were the special guests on this occasion. Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal IMFA, University of Jammu, presided over the programme. Prof. Shohab, Princi-

pal IMFA, while welcoming the guests, informed them that the Institute is regularly conducting various cultural events to promote art, music, and culture, this time an exhibition of portraits of Lata Mangeshkar, which were made by the students, and a

programme comprising musical compositions sung by Lata Mangeshkar.

In her address, Prof. Anupama Sharma appreciated the songs and compositions presented by the participants. She said that there is a lot of talent

in the local community that needs to be recognised and appreciated with an open heart.

A cultural programme of songs by the students of the Institute and guest artists was presented under the direction of Suraj Singh, a noted singer

and a faculty member of the Institute. The singers who presented their musical compositions and songs were basically sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Their presentation was highly received and appreciated by the audience present at the pro-

gramme. The accompanists who gave music included Suraj Singh on harmonium, Amit on tabla, and Synth.

Rakesh Sharma, Head of the Fine Arts Department, and other staff, students, and guests attended the programme.

# DDC Chairman starts development work of WSS Kanhachak worth Rs 4 Crore

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, DDC Chairman Jammu today started development work of Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Kanhachak in Marh Assembly with an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore aiming to provide 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'. The project included 2 tube wells, two sump tanks, one Over Head Tank with capacity of 50000 gallons and a distribution system in the area to fulfill the shortage of water scarcity.

Prominent among those who were present include DDC Balbir Kumar, BDC Surinder Kumar, Sarpanch Kana Chak Pooja Rani, Panch Both Raj, Roshan Lal,



Bunty Singh, Bhuvnesh Kumar General Secretary BJP Jammu North, Ex Sar Devinder Singh and all Panchs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman said that the BJP led Central Government is implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in partnership

with states and union territories to ensure every rural household in the country has functional household tap connection for drinking water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis leading to improvement in their living standards. For this, the Jammu

district alone has got a major share under this scheme to provide household tap connections which will definitely improve the ease of living, he added.

Bharat Bhushan assured that after completion of this WSS, every household in the vicinity will get tap

water and the problem concerning the dearth of potable water will be fully eliminated from the entire belt.

Bharat Bhushan, while interacting with the people of the area, reiterated his commitment to ensure overall development of district Jammu with special emphasis on rural and far-off areas. He assured that besides development of the area, he will ensure that the benefits of various schemes meant for the socio-economic upliftment of the poor and needy reach the doorsteps of the people. He said only then we can say that the objective of good governance has been achieved.

# 2nd Phase of Mere Maati Mera Desh Campaign Concludes at GDC Doda

## TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, OCT 14: The second phase of the Mere Maati Mera Desh campaign, which ran from October 1st to October 13th, has concluded at Government Degree College (GDC) Doda. The campaign, operating under the theme of national pride and environmental consciousness, saw various activities coordinated under the guidance of Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal, the Principal of the college.

On October 9th, a 'Panch Pran Pledge' was led by Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal, the college's Principal, with active participation from a significant number of faculty and students. October 10th witnessed the 'Maati and Rice Collection' ceremony, once



again drawing a substantial turnout of both faculty and students. Students had contributed Maati (soil) and rice from their respective regions, which were collected in Amrit Kalash.

On October 11th, an 'Amrit Yatra' was organized within the college campus. The campaign reached its culmination on October 13th with a 'Plantation Drive' held within the college campus. This drive was carried out in collaboration with the Forest Department, under the

leadership of the District Forest Officer (DFO) of Doda. A wide variety of plant species, including deodar trees, were planted with the aim of establishing an 'Amrit Vatika' (Garden of Nectar).

The organizing committee responsible for these activities comprised Dr. Sumit Kotwal, Prof. Mohd Ashraf, Dr. Sarvjeet Singh, Prof. Upma Kumari, Prof. Purnima Manhas, Prof. Syed Kazim, Prof. Zain Bin Hussain, Dr. Tabassum Saleem, and Dr. Anita Kotwal.

# Utility services suffered major jolt due to self-centred approach of BJP: Raman Bhalla

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Deputation of families who were evicted from airport Jammu as a part of expansion today called on JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla. They apprised Bhalla that at the time of the proposal seeking an extension of the Airport in Jammu, the houses of 29 families were demolished. Houses were vandalized on 29 Nov 2019 and till date, no possession of plots has been given. They informed that the administration is lethargic towards giving possession of plots in Belicharana and warned to intensify the protest if the administration does not do the needful. They said that a committee based on the directions of the courts was formed which was employed for land demarcation in Sunjawan but till date possession of plots has not been given. Bhalla demanded govt to immediately address this issue on humanitarian ground and keeping them waiting for rehabilitation is human rights violation.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said lakhs of people belonging to weaker sections such as old age persons, widows/divorcees, women in distress, transgenders and persons with disabilities (PwDs) are struggling



for their survival and are on roads against the J&K Government which has failed to release Rs 1000 pension in their favour for more than a year now. He said for years together, Rs 1000 in the name of financial assistance was being provided to these people by the Social Welfare Department of Jammu and Kashmir under its Integrated Social Security Scheme but for last around 20 months, these people are without pension despite applying fresh on SUGAM portal as directed by the Union Territory Government.

Bhalla said, "The present UT administration has no mercy for handicapped persons. First, they asked them to make UIDAI cards to avail pension scheme and when they made these cards after a lot of struggle then they asked them to apply on SUGAM portal to get benefit of the pension scheme." He said the present J&K administra-

tion is leaving no effort to harass the handicapped people. "For years they were demanding enhancement of the disability pension from Rs 1000 to Rs 3000 but instead of enhancing this meager financial assistance they have stopped it too." Bhalla claimed and said that even those who have successfully registered themselves on SUGAM portal months back are deprived of the pension.

Bhalla accused the BJP Govt of putting the Union Territory's interests and development "subservient to the pleasure of its vested interests". He said the "lack of cohesion and vision" has made the people of Jammu and Kashmir suffer on the development front. "Despite being in power at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir, the party has failed miserably when it comes to governance and let Jammu and Kashmir down on all fronts," he said, adding that the BJP has

nothing to showcase as its achievement. Bhalla referring to the issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, said in the absence of an elected government, the Lieutenant Governor-led administration has failed to give a push to the schemes and projects aimed at overall development and welfare of various areas and different segments of the society. "We will keep pursuing and highlighting every issue, major or minor, to see Jammu and Kashmir progress and prosper, notwithstanding the odds," the Congress leader said.

Bhalla reminded the BJP of the massive 2014 Jammu mandate for development and welfare and said that instead of doing a little bit in this regard they pushed the entire region to the wall. The developmental machinery came to a grinding halt and the utility services suffered major jolt due to the self-centred approach of the BJP leaders.

Bhalla blamed Govt of credibility deficit, saying "There is a huge contradiction between words and actions of govt. Referring to the deceptive posturing of govt, he said this is being done with a purpose to conceal its failures on governance and developmental fronts.

# PK raises concern over escalating threat of Pan-Islamic terrorism in J&K

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Dr. Ajay Chrungoo, Chairman of Panun Kashmir, held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu on Saturday to address pressing concerns regarding the escalating threat of Pan-Islamic terrorism in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Chrungoo began by expressing the considered view that Gol (Government of India) should be prepared for a possible escalation in Pan-Islamic terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir in the near future. He cited the recent Hamas attack on Israel as a potential



catalyst for galvanizing genocidal Jihadi terrorism in the region.

Recent terrorist attacks in Kashmir and Jammu have highlighted the fact that Jihadi terrorism is far from being eradicated and has, in fact, grown more sophisticated in its military capabilities. Dr. Chrungoo emphasized that downplaying or underestimating this

terror threat could have grave implications for the region.

Of particular concern is the threat to Hindu civilians, especially in Kashmir and terrorist-infested areas of Jammu. Dr. Chrungoo pointed out that terrorists operating in this region have consistently shown no mercy when it comes to targeting civilians. In

fact, civilians have often been the primary targets of terrorist actions.

This dire reality places the Hindu population in Kashmir, including tourists from the rest of India, in a vulnerable position. Pan-Islamic terrorism seeks to disrupt local economies and will not be contained, even if local public pressures favor protecting economic activities.

Dr. Chrungoo concluded by emphasizing the need to abandon wishful thinking and acknowledge the hard reality that unless terrorism is eradicated at all levels, achieving normalcy in the region will remain an elusive goal.

# Teachers Forum hold protest, highlights demands

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Under the leadership of Sh. Ganesh Khajuria, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), a protest was organized at Hari Singh Park, situated behind the Press Club in Jammu. The protest drew participation from hundreds of employees representing various cadres of the School Education Department and different government departments.

Participants at the demonstration voiced their demands and expressed their frustration and concerns regarding the unprecedented delay in the release of General Provident (GP) fund payments, leaving the employees of the Jammu & Kashmir Govern-

ment under significant financial stress. Furthermore, the non-payment of Leave Salary and Gratuity dues has raised alarm among the employees.

The accumulation of pending GP fund payment cases within the finance department has compounded the issue, despite repeated submissions of memorandums by the union to the concerned authorities and media coverage of the matter. The employees' concerns remain unaddressed, and they find themselves at the receiving end of this protracted issue. It is important to note that the GP fund, which employees apply for due to urgent financial needs, loses its relevance when not disbursed promptly. Some employees rely on this fund for emergency medi-

cal expenses, marriage functions, and higher education for their children. The prolonged delay in fund disbursement has disrupted their plans and forced them to navigate a complex bureaucratic process to access their hard-earned money.

Prominent figures who participated in the protest demonstration included Soorat Singh Toofani, Darshan Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Gopal Singh, Raj Singh, Kuldeep Singh Bandral, Kuldeep Verma, P.D. Singh, Gautam Singh, Surinder Sharma, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Uttam Singh (President of the Excise Department Employees Union), Subash Sharma, Rajeshwar Singh, Ravinder Tripathi, Pawan Sharma, Subash Singh, Surinder Chaudhary, Jatinder Singh and Bishan Sharma.

## 'I am a learner for life': Renowned director Milan Luthria, who has helmed Sultan Of Delhi, believes the entertainment scene is fast changing and to make relevant films as well as shows is a huge feat

Whenever famed director Milan Luthria is asked why, he counters with a why not...why Vidya Balan, he was asked; why not, he questioned back...same goes for Emraan Hashmi, new star cast to collaborating with Nana Patekar!

"Why not opens a lot of doors," says Luthria, who is breaking another territory with debuting with a web series Sultan Of Delhi, streaming on Disney+ Hotstar. The series that streams from today is an action thriller. Luthria calls it a 'cinema for your living room'. In the glut of action thrillers, Luthria maintains that his is not a heavy hard-hitting thriller, but a light flamboyant outing. "A multi-starrer, Sultan Of Delhi offers a hefty dose of music, action, drama, comedy and is served on a large canvas. It comes with fair smattering of humour, camaraderie, romance, ambition, greed and deceit – a mixture of a lot of this and that is just like my films are."

He insists it's not heavy viewing. "What's making Sultan Of Delhi stand out is that it's a light watch. Having been through three years of tough challenges that's what viewers are looking at."

Turning a lyricist

The show also added another dimension to Luthria's work. He turned a lyricist with song Saaqiya. "During a sitting with music directors Sangeet and Siddharth



Haldipur, I strung together some words and slept on them. With some encouragement from friends, I was able to piece together the entire song." For this, Luthria credits renowned lyricists that he has worked with over the years — Anand Bakshi, Sameer, Nusrat Badar, Rajat, Vishal, Irshad Kamil and Kumar. "I may have picked up something from them to try this," he laughs. People have liked his writing and urge him to write more, he maintains. "I will continue to write and try my best, but I am still quite scared."

While his long innings has some memorable outings — Kachche Dhaage, Taxi No. 9211, Once Upon a Time in

Mumbai, The Dirty Picture and Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara, he admits the Vidya Balan-starrer was probably the most challenging and gratifying. "When I started working on The Dirty Picture, I was abused and trolled, they even called me a porn filmmaker! But when the film won National Film Award (Balan won the Award for Best Actress), the gratification was at another level."

For one, Luthria isn't the one to pay any heed to naysayers. "They told me not to do The Dirty Picture, as Heroine with Kareena was also being made. They also asked me to change the title, but we stuck to it. People even advised not

to make a gangster film, I went ahead with Once Upon a Time in Mumbai! I believed in myself and carried on my work, which eventually paid off."

Learning curve

Close to 25 years in the industry, Luthria remains the same person. "I haven't changed one bit. That I have made such and such films or worked with big stars never got into my head. I am a learner for life and continue to work on myself with each new project."

To stay relevant through all these years is what he considers his biggest strength. "Entertainment scene is fast changing and to make relevant films and shows is a huge feat." Through his momentous journey, Milan Luthria counts Ekta Kapoor, Vidya Balan, Mahesh Bhatt, Sanjay Dutt and Ajay Devgn as his biggest strengths. "At home, my wife Liane and my daughter Inaara are my biggest critics as well as support. They have always stood by me through thick and thin."

Love for horses

Luthria's other passions include his love for horses. He is part of various clubs, he has two riding horses and his daughter competes in horse-riding competitions. "This keeps me sane, honestly," he admits. About the genre of his next, he answers, "It is entertainment, entertainment and entertainment."

## Second innings: Sushmita Sen wants to do intense action, play a deadly antagonist



Sushmita Sen, who returns as the fierce Aarya Sareen in the third season of her hit streaming show Aarya, has said in her second innings, she wants to do

different roles and that her work in Aarya and Taali is just the start.

At the launch of the web series trailer on Thursday, the actress shared that she had a

long list of films, genres and roles that she wanted to take up.

Sushmita told said, "Abhi toh bas shruuaat hui hai. The second inning always is and has to be surprising for any artiste. I want to do a profound and mature love story, I want to play the most dangerous antagonist and I want to do intense action. The list is too long. This is just the beginning and I want to do everything".

In the third season of the show, Sushmita's titular character Aarya has her eyes set on the supply and transportation of narcotic drugs but is intercepted by Ila Arun, who herself is the undisputed queen on the supply side. Hot on Aarya's heels is ACP Khan, who after being preoccupied in the second season is back with vengeance and will do anything in his capacity to put an end to Aarya's illegal drug empire.

As Aarya gets cornered, she draws her claws out and goes for the kill with impunity, as she has the fan-favourite Daulat by her side. Aarya 3 is set to drop on Disney+ Hotstar on November 3.

## Beauty in motion: Disha Patani stuns in pastel lehenga at Lakme Fashion Week 2023

Disha Patani on Friday made head turns with her ramp walk at Lakme Fashion Week 2023. She turned muse for Kalki in a beautiful pastel colour plunging-neck blouse and lehenga set adorned with intricate floral embroidery.

Disha, undoubtedly, oozed oomph in the ethnic ensemble. For the glam, she chose for minimal make-up and styled her hair in soft loose curls.

On walking the ramp, Disha said, "I had a blast... the outfit is extremely comfortable. It is romantic. It is ethereal. I am a minimalistic sort of girl. I prefer being comfortable and wearing something that feels like me." "Also, I believe that one should wear an outfit and not have an outfit wear you," she added.

Meanwhile, on the film front, Disha will be seen sharing screen space with Siddharth Malhotra in Yodha, which will be out on December 8. The film will clash with Katrina Kaif's Merry Christmas. Disha also has Kalki 2898 AD in



her pipeline. The film is also headlined by stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Prabhas and Deepika

Padukone. Helmed by Nag Ashwin, Kalki 2898 AD has a global release date of January 12.

## Want to be part of stories that make a difference: Dia Mirza

A woman doesn't have to rebel against her cultural roots to achieve empowerment, says actor Dia Mirza as she believes the portrayal of progressive female as bold doesn't hold true for a "vast majority".

The actor said her latest movie 'Dhak Dhak', which released in theatres countrywide on Friday, presents the aspirations of a culturally-rooted Indian woman. "I feel a certain language, tone has been assigned to women, who are being depicted as progressive. While that may be true for them, it doesn't define the vast majority of women, who are seeking agency."

"It (the film) is so important for the rest of those women who don't use foul language, who are not sexually avert, who are rooted in culture but are still seeking agency and empowerment. This is the story that will give those women the opportunity to say that," Mirza told PTI in an interview.

The actor, who essays the role of Uzma, a mechanic and a housewife in the movie about four women bikers,



said at this stage in her career, she wants to play impactful roles.

"I want to be part of stories that make a difference. Like, 'Kaafi' (her 2019 OTT series) was a role of a lifetime. It was such a powerful story, written with such nuance. It shaped my journey as an artist. I was waiting for years to find something like that. Then we also have something like 'Dhak Dhak' for the big screen."

The film also features Ratna Pathak Shah, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and Sanjana Sanghi, 'Dhak Dhak' who embark on a biking expedition filled with emotions, adventures and self-discovery.

According to Mirza, the film doesn't show women who are rebelling against their culture and roots.

"The most beautiful thing about it is that in order to show progressive women, we have

not used the device of making them defiant of culture and their roots. They are rooted in their culture yet they are the ones who are seeking agency, and are out to find themselves.

"We all have that moment (of finding yourself) in life. For me, that point in life was when I discovered that so many of my choices were stirred from a place of fear. As women we inherit a lot of fear, like constantly being told, 'don't do this, be careful, wear this, don't wear this, etc,'" she added.

Mirza said female stars are often used as decoration in commercial projects and their characters are given little attention or significance.

"We are constantly put in boxes and constantly stereotyped. Nobody was willing to see us from any other lens apart from the glam one. Most of the films were patriarchal. Women for the most part in mainstream commercial films were largely window dressing, there was just so little emphasis or importance paid to those parts."

Citing the example of some of her films like 'Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein' and 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai', the actor said she too has played roles that presented her as a typical heroine.

"I was fortunate that in my first film, 'Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein', there seemed to be a balance, there was this opportunity to stand up, express opinion but at the end of the day, she did go with the stalker, even though as endearing as he was.

"There were some roles like that (stereotypical) far and a few in between, like 'Lage Rahe Ho Munna Bhai' and 'Parineeta'. Like, in 'Lage Rahe...', she is forced to marry, she is manglik, the tradition track, etc."

Mirza said it took her 23 years to find a story like 'Dhak Dhak'.

'Dhak Dhak' is directed by Tarun Dubeja and co-written by Parijat Joshi and Dubeja. It is produced by Viacom18 Studios in collaboration with Taapsee Pannu and Pranjal Khandhdiya's production company Outsider Films in association with BLM Pictures.

## Journey of emotions: Not sticking to a 'cookie cutter' template, Fatima Sana Shaikh on her career choices

Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, best known for films such as Dangal, Ludo and Thar, says she hopes to build a career graph in Bollywood that does not stick to a 'cookie cutter' template.

Fatima started out as a child actor in 1997 with Kamal Haasan's Chachi 420 and made her debut as one of the leads in 2016's Dangal, also starring Aamir Khan and Sanya Malhotra.

In seven years, the

actress has explored genres such as drama, black comedy and satire.

"The intention for me is all about doing good work, and it will automatically create space for myself. I'm not trying to stick to what is a 'cookie cutter' template because if I do so, then I'll fail. I do what excites me and maybe then it will become a template for other actors. I don't know where it takes me

professionally or what my career graph is going to be 10 years down the line. I hope I've a good one," the actress said.

World of women  
Fatima said she has stopped being concerned about the commercial success of her movies. "For actors like me, who are fairly new, there's a space for us to make mistakes. I think people are kinder now," she added. Her latest release is Dhak Dhak,



directed by Tarun Dubeja and co-written by Parijat Joshi and Dubeja.

The film follows four women who embark on a biking expedition.

Fatima said the story idea and great co-actors like Ratna Pathak Shah, Dia Mirza and Sanjana Sanghi, inspired her to take up the project.

"With this film (Dhak Dhak), the idea was interesting, the co-actors are really good, and the director is new but I got

along with him, I often go with energy." In the movie, Fatima plays a travel blogger.

The actress said as a debutant, Dubeja has managed to sensitively deal with the issues faced by women of different communities and age.

"It is a sensitive film about women, written by a man.

It is sensitive towards their emotions, journey, and what they are going

through. He has tackled issues of young and even old women, who are often neglected by society, and then those who are from a different community, where there's a certain judgment around it," she said. Dhak Dhak is produced by Viacom18 Studios, in collaboration with Taapsee Pannu and Pranjal Khandhdiya's Outsider Films, in association with BLM Pictures.

## India, Sri Lanka embarking on new chapter in diplomatic, economic ties: PM Modi on ferry service launch

Addressing the event, PM Modi said ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka, bring alive all historical and cultural connections.

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): India and Sri Lanka are embarking on a new chapter in diplomatic and economic relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday as he hailed the launch of a ferry service between the two nations as an "important milestone" in strengthening ties.

Addressing the event to launch ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka, via a video message, Modi said the ferry service brings alive all historical and cultural connections. "Connectivity is not only about bringing two cities closer. It also brings our countries closer, our people closer and our hearts closer," he said.

The prime minister said India and Sri Lanka are embarking on a new chapter in diplomatic and economic relations and the launch of a ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai is an important milestone in strengthening the relations.

Underlining the shared history of culture, commerce and civilisation between India and Sri Lanka, the prime minister pointed out that Nagapattinam and nearby towns have been known for sea trade with many countries, including Sri Lanka, and the historical port of Poompuhar finds a mention as a hub in ancient Tamil literature.

He also spoke about Sangam age literature like Pattinappalai and Manimekalai which describe the movement of boats and ships between the two countries.

Modi also touched upon the great poet Subramania Bharti's



song 'Sindhu Nadihiyin Misai', which mentions a bridge connecting India and Sri Lanka. He said the ferry service brings alive all those historical and cultural connections.

During the recent visit of President Wickremesinghe, a vision document was jointly adopted for an economic partnership with the central theme of connectivity, the prime minister said. He emphasised that connectivity enhances trade, tourism and people-to-people ties, while also creating new opportunities for the youth of both countries.

Modi also recalled his visit to Sri Lanka in 2015 when direct flights between Delhi and Colombo were launched. Later, he said, the landing of the first international flight in the pilgrim town of Kushinagar from Sri Lanka was also celebrated.

He also noted that direct flights between Chennai and Jaffna began in 2019, and now the ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai is yet another important step in this direction.

"Our vision for connectivity goes beyond the transport

sector," Modi said as he underlined that India and Sri Lanka collaborate closely in a wide range of areas such as fintech and energy.

Noting that digital payments have become a mass movement and a way of life in India due to UPI, Modi said that both governments are working on fintech sector connectivity by linking UPI and Lanka Pay.

He also talked about connecting the energy grids between the two nations to enhance energy security and reliability, asserting that energy security is crucial for the developmental journey of both India and Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Modi emphasised that partnership for progress and development is one of the strongest pillars of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral relationship. "Our vision is to take development to everyone, leaving none behind," he said.

Modi stated that the projects implemented with Indian assistance in Sri Lanka have touched the lives of the people.

Several projects related to housing, water, health, and livelihood support have been com-

pleted in the Northern Province, he said and expressed delight in extending support for the upgradation of the Kankesanthurai Harbour.

"Be it the restoration of railway lines connecting north and south, construction of the iconic Jaffna Cultural Centre, the roll-out of emergency ambulance service all across Sri Lanka, or the multi-speciality hospital at Dick Oya, we are working with a vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas," Modi said.

Speaking about the G20 Summit hosted by India in September, the prime minister highlighted India's vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which has been welcomed by the international community.

He underlined that a part of this vision is giving priority to sharing progress and prosperity with the neighbouring nations.

Modi also mentioned the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor during the G20 summit and stated that it is an important connectivity corridor that will create a massive economic impact on the whole region.

"The people of Sri Lanka will also benefit from it as multimodal connectivity between our two countries is strengthened," he said.

The Prime Minister also spoke about working towards resuming the ferry service between Rameswaram and Talaimannar.

"India remains committed to working closely with Sri Lanka to further strengthen our bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of our people," the prime minister said.

## Amit Shah To Inaugurate Durga Puja Pandal Inspired By Ram Temple On 16 October In Kolkata



NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a Ram Mandir-themed Durga Puja Pandal at Santosh Mitra Square in north Kolkata on October 16.

This unique pandal, organized by the Santosh Mitra Square Puja

Committee, is modelled after the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Kolkata and inaugurate this Durga Puja pandal.

According to BJP leader Sajal Ghosh, the inauguration ceremony is set to take place at 4 PM in the Santosh Mitra Square Puja. This

particular Durga Puja is also known as Sajay Ghosh's Puja. The theme for this year's celebration is the Ram Temple, inspired by the ongoing construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The pandal at Santosh Mitra Square has been beautifully decorated.

It's worth mentioning that Amit Shah previously inaugurated Puja pandals during the 2021 Assembly elections in Kolkata. The BJP itself organized Durga Puja celebrations in Bengal during that time, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually present for the inauguration.

## Operation Ajay: Second flight carrying 235 Indian nationals from Israel lands in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): A second flight carrying 235 Indian nationals from Tel Aviv in Israel, under Operation Ajay, landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Saturday morning.

The evacuated Indian nationals were welcomed by Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, at the airport. He welcomed Indian nationals with a handshake and folded hands.

People were seen hugging and embracing their families and relatives as they arrived back in New Delhi with a feeling of relief but minds full of ordeal.

As many as 447 Indian nationals, who were stranded amid the raging Israel-Hamas war have been brought back to India under 'Operation Ajay'.

"Second flight carrying 235 Indian nationals takes off from Israel's Tel Aviv," posted External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on X, on Friday-Saturday intervening night.

The passengers were

mainly those who were staying and working in Israel. They applauded the government of India for the initiative and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to agency, before the second flight flew from Tel Aviv, an Indian passenger, Ashish Kumar, said, "I am going to India. Here, I am a post-doctoral student, at Agriculture Research Organisation. The situation in central Israel is quite normal, not like the Gaza border, Beersheba and nearby regions".

The passengers were

## CBI books 24 in passport 'scam', raids 50 locations in West Bengal, Gangtok

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The CBI is conducting searches at 50 locations in West Bengal and Gangtok having booked 24 people, including government officials and private individuals, for allegedly issuing passports on the basis of forged documents, officials said on Saturday.

The CBI has detained an official posted in Gangtok and also a middleman, they said.

The FIR names 24 individuals, including 16



officials, who were allegedly issuing passports on the basis of forged documents to ineligible persons, including non-residents, in return for

bribes, they said. The searches are spread across Kolkata, Siliguri, Gangtok and other locations, they said.

## Tamil Nadu Agriculture University professor stranded in Israel, husband calls for help

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, Oct 14 (Agencies): An associate professor at the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), here, on a two-month training programme in Israel has been stranded in the conflict zone and she has sought help to return to Tamil Nadu, her husband, who is a HoD at the same university has said.

She has been spending sleepless nights at The Negev, a large desert region in southern Israel, as the region is in close proximity to Gaza, T Ramesh, an associate professor and Head of the Department, TNAU, said.

"For three days since Saturday she had to seek protection

under a shelter, the moment she heard the siren before the bombardment and returned to her room in The Negev after the Israeli government made the announcement," Ramesh told agency.

"At present, Radhika (his wife) is safe and is being provided food and water," Ramesh said and added that the raging war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas is causing her stress. "She is very anxious to return home and our 13-year-old son, who is also apprehensive, wants to see his mother back home safe," he said.

Radhika, a PhD holder in

agronomy, left for Israel on September 23 to attend a two-month government of India-sponsored training programme at the Ben-Gurion University. Both she and her husband have been in constant touch with the governments of Tamil Nadu and the Centre since the war began.

Ramesh said he came to know of his wife's plight on WhatsApp messages. He said the Indian embassy had already contacted her and assured her to process her request at the earliest.

As the Indian government launched Operation Ajay to repatriate the citizens from Israel and Palestine, the Tamil Nadu government said 21

people from the state arrived at New Delhi in the first flight on October 12.

"All the 21 people from Coimbatore, Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Karur, Virudhunagar, Namakkal, Pudukottai, Kancheepuram, and Chennai had arrived at the Chennai and Coimbatore airports, respectively, on Friday morning," an official release in Chennai said.

Quoting Chief Minister MK Stalin, the release said the state government was taking all steps to ensure the safe return of all Tamils stranded in Israel, through the Centre and Indian embassy officials.

## Missing for 2 days, 8-year-old girl found dead in Uttar Pradesh; uncle arrested

BALRAMPUR, Oct 14 (Agencies): The body of an 8-year-old girl who had been missing for the last two days, was recovered from a pond in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district.

Police have arrested the girl's uncle, Karan Soni, for allegedly killing her over a domestic

dispute. The girl's mother had been living with her children at Soni's house for the past one and a half months. Soni, who was distressed with his wife and sister-in-law, had an ongoing family dispute. He allegedly took his

niece (sister-in-law's daughter) to a secluded area on October 11 and strangled her and later dumped her body into the pond.

After the girl's body was recovered, police arrested the accused and sent the girl's body for postmortem.

## UP woman beaten to death by husband, father-in-law; body buried beneath house

AZAMGARH, Oct 14 (Agencies): A woman in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh was allegedly beaten to death by her husband and father-in-law. Her body was buried by the accused below the floor of the house, following which, all the family members fled, police said.

The woman has been identified as 22-year-old Anita, who got married to Suraj about a year ago. However, her in-laws had been harassing her for dowry and were demanding a

motorcycle from her family, her brother Harendra told police.

The accused husband and his father are presently absconding.

Her body was recovered from beneath the floor of the house in Azamgarh's Jajmanpur village, said Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar. Her body has been sent for post-mortem.

A case of dowry, harassment and murder has been registered by the police against the woman's in-laws.



## Sanjay Raut slams Maharashtra speaker over inaction against rebel Shiv Sena MLAs



MUMBAI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday hit out at Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar, alleging that he is behaving like someone who gives refuge to a murderer to encourage the latter to commit more such crimes.

His comment came a day after the Supreme Court rapped Narwekar over the delay in taking a decision on the disqualification pleas of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs. "The speaker is work-

ing like someone giving refuge to a murderer to encourage him to commit more such crimes. Doesn't he know the law?" Raut said while speaking to reporters.

The Sena (UBT) MP said the apex had never taken a stand that it took on Friday, a reference to its strictures against the speaker.

He accused the speaker, the chief minister (Eknath Shinde) and his government of maligning the image of Maharashtra.

The delay in deciding the disqualification petitions against CM Shinde and Shiv Sena MLAs loyal to him Friday came under strict scrutiny by the Supreme Court which came down hard on the assembly speaker, saying the proceedings cannot be a "charade" and he cannot "defeat" its orders.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing speaker Rahul Narwekar, to apprise it about the timeline for deciding the petitions on Tuesday, saying it will pass a peremptory order if it is not satisfied.

The idea of laying down the time schedule was not to "indefinitely delay" the hearing on the disqualification proceedings, the court said.

## Bihar man killed while sleeping at home, sister alleges murder over YouTube fame

NALANDA, Oct 14 (Agencies): A 19-year-old man died after he was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon while he was sleeping at his home in Bihar's Nalanda.

Upon hearing about the incident, the locals gathered and informed the police, who arrived at the scene and started

an investigation. Haradhan used to give tuitions and upload reels on YouTube for a living, supporting his mother and two sisters after the death of his father. Haradhan's sister alleged that he was killed due to his increasing popularity on YouTube.

The accused allegedly barged into the house and attacked him with a sharp weapon before fleeing the scene.

However, the exact reason for the murder remains unclear.

The police have taken the body into custody and sent it for post-mortem.

## Head of Hamas aerial forces killed in Israeli airstrike, says military

JERUSALEM, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Israel Defense Forces on Saturday said it had killed a senior member of the Hamas terror group in an overnight airstrike in the Gaza Strip, reported The Times of Israel.

According to the Israel Defense Forces, the airstrike killed the head of Hamas's aerial array, Murad Abu Murad. The strike targeted a headquarters from which the terror group managed its aerial activity.

Abu Murad "took a big part in directing terrorists during the



massacre" last weekend, which included attackers who entered Israel from the air on hang glid-

ers, The Times of Israel said. The IDF said it hit dozens of sites belonging to Hamas's

commando forces, who led the infiltration into Israel on October 7, in separate strikes overnight.

Hamas launched a wave of attacks on Israel on Saturday, killing hundreds of people, in the biggest escalation in the conflict in decades. Since then, the attack has killed more than 1,300 people in Israel while the Israeli counter-airstrikes have killed more than 1,530 people in Gaza.

Israel has claimed roughly 1,500 Hamas militants were killed inside Israel.

## Reuters photographer killed, 6 others injured in Israeli attacks on Lebanon



BEIRUT, Oct 14 (Agencies): A Lebanese photographer was killed, and six other reporters were injured from Israeli attacks on Lebanon's southern village of Alma al-Shaab, media reported.

Israeli forces attacked a vehicle carrying journalists, killing Issam Abdallah, a Lebanese photographer working for Reuters, and injuring six other reporters working for international agencies that include Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Al-Jazeera TV channel, it said.

It reported that the injured people had been transferred to hospitals

as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

In a statement released by Lebanon's Council of Ministers, Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemned Israel for "directly targeting journalists" in its attacks on Lebanon, and wished "a speedy recovery" to the wounded reporters.

Israel stepped up its assault on southern Lebanon on Friday by bombarding the area around the towns of Al-Dhahira, Alma al-Shaab, and Yarin, according to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA).

According to NNA, the bombing on the outskirts of Alma al-Shaab led to

a massive fire.

In response, Hezbollah announced that its fighters had attacked four Israeli border sites in response to Friday's attacks on several southern Lebanese towns, prompting the Israeli Army to use a drone to attack Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

The tension on the Lebanon-Israeli border escalated after Hezbollah on October 8 fired dozens of missiles towards military sites in Shebaa Farms in support of the surprise attack on Israeli towns launched by Hamas on the morning of October 7.

The situation escalated again on October 9 after members of Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement (PIJ), infiltrated northern Israel from Lebanon and clashed with Israeli forces, prompting the Israelis to hit several areas in southern Lebanon, killing three Hezbollah members.

## Manang Air chopper crashes in Nepal, pilot injured

KATHMANDU, Oct 14 (Agencies): A helicopter from Nepal's Manang Air crashed in a mountainous region on Saturday, injuring its pilot, a senior official of the country's Civil Aviation Authority has said.

The chopper 9N ANJ, which had taken off from Lukla near the Everest base camp to pick up passengers, slightly overturned and caught fire while attempting to land in Lobuche in North-East Nepal, said

Jagannath Niraula, deputy director at Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.

Pilot Prakash Sedhai, who was the only person in it, sustained injuries, the officer said, adding that the injured pilot had been airlifted to Kathmandu for medical treatment. The reason for the crash has not been ascertained yet.

Six people were killed in July after a Manang Air chopper crashed at Lamjura of Likhupike

Rural Municipality in Solukhumbu district.

The chopper, with Captain Chet Bahadur Gurung and five Mexican nationals aboard, had gone out of contact on the morning of July 11 and was later found crashed at Chihandanda of Lamjura which lies between Jiri and Phaplu.

Founded in 1997, Manang Air is a helicopter airline based in Kathmandu. It operates helicopters in commercial air transportation within



the Nepalese territory under the Regulation of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.

The company is also known for providing

chartered services and is focused on personalised services such as adventure flights helicopter excursions or expedition work.

## Trump heavily trolled by media for comments on Israel-Hamas conflict

WASHINGTON, Oct 14 (Agencies): Former US President Donald Trump has gone into damage control mode after being heavily trolled widely in the US and the Israeli media for privately calling for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's impeachment for failing to anticipate the brutal Hamas onslaught.

After his remarks on Netanyahu garnered unwanted attention in Israel and the US, he went on to say that the "Hezbollah was smart", and now, Trump's team has some damage control by issuing a statement, which said: "There was no better friend or ally of Israel than President Donald J. Trump."

As he continues to come under fire, Trump is also continuing the damage control.

In a post on his Truth social media platform, the former President wrote: "I have always been impressed by the skill and determination of the Israeli Defense Forces. As they defend their Nation against ruthless terrorists, I want to wish every soldier the best of luck. May you return home safely to your families, and may God bless you all!"

Rolling Stone magazine was the first to report that Trump has privately been calling for Prime Minister Netanyahu to be "impeached" for failing to anticipate the brutal Hamas attack on October 7.

As the Rolling Stone report rolled on, Trump was already under heavy fire from Israel, President Joe Biden and even Republican rivals over comments he made at a campaign rally on Wednesday, criticising Jerusalem over the intelligence failure that led to the Hamas assault, calling Defence Minister Yoav Gallant a "jerk" and the Hezbollah terror group "very smart", ABC News reported.

Trump laid it on thick by saying Netanyahu



did not do enough to assist the US in the latter's 2020 killing of Quds force Chief Qassem Soleimani.

His campaign later issued an additional statement listing all of the steps Trump took as President to support Israel.

On Friday, Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said the Rolling Stone report was "100 per cent untrue" and "never happened".

"These unnamed 'sources' are simply making this up out of thin air. This is the most egregious example of Fake News," Cheung wrote on X.

Meanwhile, the Guardian newspaper said that the White House in a rare move on Thursday publicly pushed back against Trump after his remarks on the Israeli Defence Minister and the Hezbollah.

Trump in a campaign speech in Florida referred to Hezbollah, based out of Lebanon to the north of Israel and the Pentagon's deep concern about the militants attacking Israel from the north, opening up two fronts.

"Two nights ago I read all of Biden's security people ... they said, 'Gee, I hope Hezbollah doesn't attack from the north, because that's the most vulnerable spot'. I said, 'Wait a minute. You know, Hezbollah is very smart'. They're all very smart," Trump said, going on to add that "the press doesn't like when" he says things like that, as he has when praising the effectiveness of China's President Xi Jinping.

Trump swiped at two

top Israeli officials, Defence Minister Gallant and Prime Minister Netanyahu, with whom Trump once appeared to be close.

"They (Israel) have a national defence minister ... if you listen to this jerk, you would attack from the north because he said that's our weak spot," Trump said.

Gallant's office reportedly said in response that Trump was making "far-fetched speculation" and attested to the military's strength.

Of Netanyahu, Trump said he "let us down" while talking about the US killing of Soleimani. Biden spokesman Andrew Bates said in a Thursday statement that what Trump said about Hezbollah was "dangerous and unhinged".

"It's completely lost on us why any American would ever praise an Iran-backed terrorist organization as 'smart'... This is a time for all of us to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel against 'unadulterated evil'," Bates said.

Trump's comments also drew criticism from his former Vice President Mike Pence, who is challenging him for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. "Hezbollah aren't smart. They're evil," Pence said during a New Hampshire radio appearance on Thursday.

Trump, the frontrunner for the nomination so far, is "simply not expressing -- and his imitators in this primary are not expressing -- the same muscular American foreign policy that we lived out every day", Pence said.

## Afghanistan: 7 killed, 15 injured in suicide attack at mosque in Baghlan

KABUL, Oct 14 (Agencies): As many as seven people were killed and 15 persons were injured in Friday's suicide attack at the Imam Zaman Mosque in the Pul-e Khumri area of Afghanistan's Baghlan province, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported.

The explosion occurred during Friday prayers at the Shia Mosque. According to the Taliban-led information department in Baghlan province, seven worshippers died and 15 others were injured in the suicide



attack at the Imam Zaman Mosque located on the first street of Silo City in Pul-e Khumri.

The injured were taken to the local hospital for treatment. Reports have claimed that Taliban members arrived

at the spot following the explosion, according to Khaama Press report.

Local sources have indicated that the explosion resulted from a planted bomb, hinting at a deliberate act of sabotage or violence

in the area, Khaama Press reported. So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the explosion that took place at the mosque.

Earlier in August, two people were killed, and two others were wounded in an explosion in the Darul Aman area of Afghanistan's Kabul, the city's police said, Khaama Press reported.

According to Taliban-led police, a magnetic bomb embedded in a three-wheeler went off on a roadside in the Darul Aman area of Kabul's police district 6.

According to Taliban-

appointed Kabul police spokesperson Khalid Zadran, the explosion occurred near the building of the Taliban-led Ministry of Justice. The incident demonstrated the ongoing challenges and complexities surrounding security in the region, as per the Khaama Press report.

Recently, a rise in attacks has been witnessed in Kabul. The attacks target both Taliban officials and ordinary citizens. These incidents have raised concerns regarding the security situation of the city.

## Emotions run high as Poland prepares to hold high-stakes national election

WARSAW, Oct 14 (Agencies): Poland is holding an election Sunday that many view as its most important one since the 1989 vote that toppled communism. At stake are the health of the nation's democracy, its legal stance on LGBTQ+ rights and abortion, and the foreign alliances of a country on NATO's eastern flank that has been a crucial ally to Ukraine.

Political experts say the election will not be fully fair after eight years of governing by a conservative nationalist party that has eroded checks and balances to gain more control over state institutions, including the courts, public media and the electoral process itself.

Opponents of the ruling Law and Justice party fear it could be their last chance to preserve the constitutional system won at great cost through the struggle of many Poles, from former President Lech Walesa to the millions who supported his Solidarity movement.

The election "will decide the future of Poland as a country of liberal democracy, a system that has been a guarantor of Polish success for the last three decades," the editor of the Rzeczpospolita newspaper, Boguslaw Chrobot, wrote in a Friday editorial.

Supporters of the ruling party, however, are afraid that if Law and Justice is voted out, the opposition would take the country in a more liberal direction, including with new laws legalizing abortion and civil unions for same-sex partners.

Women in Poland currently

have the right to abortions only in cases of rape or incest, or if there is a threat to their life or health.

"I'm afraid that I'll wake up after the elections and there will be such a change that, for example, abortion will be promoted (and) LGBT," said civil servant Bozena Zych, 57, after leaving a Catholic church located in a hipster area of Warsaw filled with gay-friendly establishments.

Zych said she went to the Church of the Holiest Savior with a friend to pray for Law and Justice to win a third-straight term. Churches, even Poland's holiest Jasna Gora shrine in Czestochowa, have held prayers in recent weeks for candidates who support Christian values.

Citizens who want a more liberal Poland also mobilized in their own fashion. Some interviewed in recent days by The Associated Press became very emotional or fought back tears as they described what they regard as corruption, democratic backsliding, propaganda and bitter divisions in Polish society since Law and Justice came to power in 2015.

"What has happened in Poland is a nightmare," said Maryla Kowalewska, 75. "Let's hope there is a total change in this country."

Recent polls show Law and Justice has more support than any other single party, but not enough to reach the majority in Parliament it would need to govern alone. It could be forced to seek support from a far-right party, Confederation, that is hostile to Ukraine.

The polls show that three opposition groups — Civic Coalition, Third Way and New Left — could together get a majority of seats in Parliament. The largest is the centrist Civic Coalition dominated by Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister and former European Union president.

Tusk has vowed to restore the rule of law and to rebuild ties with the EU that became severely strained under Law and Justice. The EU is withholding billions of euros in COVID-19 pandemic recovery funds from Warsaw, citing rule of law violations.

Small shifts for or against the smaller parties could significantly impact what coalitions will be possible after election day.

"So we have this situation of two sides who think that these are very high-stakes elections, two sides very determined and energetic. The emotions are very high, but the playing field is not even," said Jacek Kucharczyk, the president of the Institute of Public Affairs, a Warsaw-based think tank.

The main reason for the imbalance is Law and Justice's control of taxpayer-funded state media, which it uses to constantly bash opponents, Kucharczyk argued. But other factors could play a role in the election's outcome, including the party's political control over the electoral administration and the chamber of the Supreme Court that will validate the election.

There is also a high level of state ownership in the Polish economy, and the ruling party

has built up a system of patronage, handing out thousands of jobs and contracts to its loyalists.

Wojciech Przybylski, editor-in-chief of Visegrad Insight, a policy journal focused on Central Europe, said the practice threatens the ability of the middle class to advance socially "without special connections to politics."

That could in turn could threaten the foundations of the "economic miracle" Poland has experienced in the post-communist era, he said. The country is now the EU's sixth-largest economy.

Law and Justice's nationalist policies also have harmed Poland's relations with key allies. While Poland has been a staunch ally of neighboring Ukraine since Russia invaded and a transit hub for Western weapons, relations chilled over the Ukrainian grain that entered Poland's market.

With tensions rising, and as the Confederation party's numbers grew, Poland's prime minister said his country was no longer sending weapons to Kyiv. "They quarreled with everyone, with the EU, with NATO, with everyone," said Ludmila, a 68-year-old who opposes Law and Justice. She wouldn't give her last name, saying that the country was moving in an authoritarian direction and she didn't feel safe doing so. "This is unacceptable, it cannot continue like this."

"Poland will be as lonely as in 1939," the year World War II broke out, she added.



## Dy Mayor inaugurates development work in RS Pura-Jammu South Constituency

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: Continuing their commitment to enhancing development and providing essential amenities to the people of Jammu, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurated a newly constructed lane and drain in the Gadigarh locality of RS Pura, within the Jammu South constituency. This development project was executed under the supervision of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria mentioned that the need for this lane and drain had been brought to his attention by the local residents. He promptly instructed the relevant authorities to prepare an estimate for the construction, and as a result of these efforts, the demand for this development project has now been met.

Deputy Mayor Billawaria stressed the importance of such



basic infrastructure projects, including water and electricity, which are essential for the well-being of the common person. He expressed his astonishment that the Gadigarh area had remained underdeveloped, suggesting that the previous government had been biased and had not addressed the development needs of the area.

Billawaria reiterated his commitment to promoting equitable development in Jammu city, irrespective of caste, color, or

creed. He pledged to carry forward the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas," directly to the public.

Residents of the area raised some pressing issues with Deputy Mayor Billawaria and requested that certain works be prioritized. Billawaria assured them that their legitimate demands would be addressed in a phased manner, in alignment with the development and

prosperity goals set by the Government at the Center, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He encouraged the public to bring forward their developmental proposals, which are urgently required to initiate the execution process.

Deputy Mayor Billawaria emphasized the Municipal Corporation's commitment to delivering improved infrastructure and basic amenities to the people of Jammu city. Local residents expressed their gratitude to Deputy Mayor Billawaria for fulfilling their long-standing demand.

Prominent figures present at the event included Mandal President Vijay Sharma, Ashok Khajuria, Ramneek Singh, Pushap Khajuria, Mohinder Singh, Meetu Sharma, Malvir Singh, Nariender Singh, Popinder Singh, Gurcharan Singh, Raghuraj Singh, Ichpal Singh, Darshan Singh, Balbir Singh, Kirpal Singh, and others.

## Borewell Digging Commences at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Gandhi Nagar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: Today marked the initiation of a significant borewell digging project within the premises of Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The project was launched by Miss Banu Mahajan, Corporator of Ward No. 21, and it holds great importance for the Sikh community residing in the area.

The endeavor received commendation and support from the local community, including Balvinder Singh, Vice President, and S. Surjit Singh, Secretary of the District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), who were joined by members of the local committee and the devoted sangat of Gurudwara Baba Fateh

Singh Ji.

Banu Mahajan, while attending the ceremony at the Gurudwara, was honored by Balvinder Singh and S. Surjit Singh for her instrumental role in obtaining the approval and allocation of resources for the borewell. Balvinder Singh, Vice President, lauded Miss Banu Mahajan's unwavering commitment to the development and welfare of the Gurudwara within her jurisdiction. He mentioned that Miss Banu Mahajan has consistently demonstrated her dedication to serving the Sikh community and the religious institutions in her ward. She often seeks ways to assist and support the Gurudwara's activities.

Expressing her gratitude, Banu Mahajan thanked the sangat

for honoring her with mementos and, more importantly, their blessings. She humbly attributed the successful initiation of the borewell project to the blessings of the revered Gurus, which have provided her with the opportunity to serve Gurudwaras and their communities.

S. Surjit Singh, Secretary of DGPC, commended Miss Banu's tireless efforts in promoting the welfare of Sikh religious institutions in her ward and her continued involvement in various developmental projects.

Several notable individuals from the sangat were present at the event, including S. Sukhwinder Singh, S. Dilbag Singh, S. Jaswinder Singh, S. Ravinder Singh, S. Davinder Singh, S. J. P. Singh, S. Gurbinder Singh, Sdn. Tej Kour, Sdn. Surjit Kour, Sdn. Gurdev Kour, and many others. Their presence demonstrated the strong community support for the project and Miss Banu Mahajan's dedication to serving the Gurudwara and the Sikh community.

## MSME DFO delegation meets Director I&C, discusses PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: G. Velladurai, Joint Director & Head of Office at MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, the field office of the Union Ministry of MSME for Jammu & Kashmir, held a comprehensive discussion with Kishore Singh Chib, Director of Industries & Commerce, Jammu, regarding the implementation of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

The PM Vishwakarma scheme, initiated by the Union Ministry of MSME, was launched on 17th September 2023 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Dr. Jitender Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, MoS PMO, PP/DOPT, Atomic Energy, and Space, simultaneously launched the scheme

in Jammu & Kashmir on the same day.

This scheme is designed to benefit artisans from 18 different trades, including Carpenters, Boat Makers, Armourers, Blacksmiths, Hammer and Tool Kit Makers, Locksmiths, Sculptors, Goldsmiths, Potters, Cobblers, Masons, Basket/Mat Broom Makers/Coir Weavers, Doll & Toy Makers, Barbers, Garland Makers, Washermen, Tailors, and Fishing Net Makers.

The PM Vishwakarma scheme offers artisans various benefits, including the issuance of an artisan identity card, a five-day training program with a stipend of Rs 500 per day, the provision of a Rs 15,000 tool kit upon training completion, and a loan of Rs 1,00,000 at 5% interest, repayable within 18 months.

Furthermore, the scheme provides advanced training for 15 days, and upon successful completion, beneficiaries can access a loan of Rs 2,00,000 at 5% interest. With a substantial budget of around 13 thousand crores, this scheme aims to uplift artisans engaged in traditional businesses, enabling them to strengthen their contributions to nation-building.

The scheme addresses the critical issue of financial support for skilled artisans, offering much-needed collateral-free loans.

The government seeks to empower these artisans financially, allowing them to contribute more significantly to society and the country.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed the appointment of district-wise

officers from MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Jammu & Kashmir. A formal order is expected to be issued next week by MSME DFO Jammu, J&K, to expedite the scheme's

implementation in Jammu & Kashmir. To ensure timely delivery of benefits to the needy, a well-organized plan for the timely clearance of applications received from beneficiaries.

## Organ donation pledge drive launched in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) J&K in collaboration with Bhartiye Jain Sanghthana (BJS) J&K, SS Jain Sabha J&K, Jain Taruni Mandal and Jain Yuvak Sangh today organized today the Online Organ Donation Pledge Camp for the general public at Namah, Shri Vimal Muni Jain Bhawan in Bahu Plaza.

Drive was inaugurated by Inspector General of Police

Jammu, Sh Anand Jain in presence of Director Ayush J&K, Dr Mohan Singh and Joint Director SOTTO J&K, Dr Sanjeev Puri. Jeev Daya President, Sh Sandeep Jain also graced the occasion.

The dignitaries were felicitated by the office bearers of BJS and SS Jain Sabha.

Anand Jain inspired all by registering himself for Organ Donation.

Sandeep Jain, President, Bhartiye Jain Samaj (BJS) J&K requested every one to pledge for organ donation in this spe-

cial drive.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission under Ayushman Bhav has launched a national portal for registering for Organ Donation. Anyone can get an organ donor card by clicking the link <https://notto.abdm.gov.in/> with the adhaar linked mobile.

Many persons from the Jain community and others participated in this drive and became organ donors.

SOTTO staff Anshu Sharma, Media Consultant, Irfan Ahmed, Transplant Coordinator, Nisha Kumari, Programme Assistant

and Ashwani Kumar coordinated the registration.

J&K Ayush Department organised an Ayurvedic medical camp for all in the camp with free consultation and medicines.

Dr. Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director, J&K SOTTO informed that such camps are being organised under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to raise awareness about Human Organ/Tissue Donation and motivate people to pledge to donate organs after death.

## FROM PAGE 1

### "Evolution important for Armed Forces" says CDS General Anil Chauhan

they come up unexpectedly. That's the major challenge we are facing to predict what opportunities will come forward. I believe opportunities come up at times when things are not normal. India will emerge as the global leader of the south and the successful conduct of G20 is an indication in that direction. Israel-Hamas conflict, who would've predicted 8 days from now that the world will be facing this problem? That is the kind of uncertainty I was talking about," He added.

General Chauhan further pressed on, that the world is now transiting between two orders and currently the global geo-political environment is in a state of flux.

"Currently, the global geo-political environment is in a state of flux. In fact, the world would be transiting between two orders, the old order is weathering away and the shape of the new world order is yet to be stabilised. In spite of Russia being a major nuclear power, the geopolitical importance of Russia will go down in times to come. The Wagner rebellion indicates the internal weakness and is indicative of what may lie in store for the future as far as Russia is concerned," he said.

He also emphasized on the present China situation and said that we will see a more assertive China in times to come.

"China presently occupies an important place in the geo-economic world order. We will see a more assertive China in the times to come. Of course, then there will be a convergence of interest between the Russians and the Chinese and some other countries. North Korea and Iran may join the bandwagon," General Anil Chauhan said.

The Chief of Defence Staff also said that the steps we take today will define India's status in the next 25 years of what the PM is talking about - 'Amrit Kaal', that's what we have entered today.

"The characteristics of warfare are changing because of the introduction of new technologies. It's mostly technological-driven issues. We are fighting new domains like-space, cyber, cognitive domain and electromagnetic domain. Traditionally, we fight on Air, land and sea," he added.

### Eviction drive in J&K unlawful, will bring back Roshni Scheme if voted to power: Azad

proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh kanals (1,02,750 hectares) to the occupants. Of this land, only 15.85 per cent was approved for vesting of ownership rights.

The scheme was finally repealed by then governor Satya Pal Malik on November 28, 2018.

"The eviction drive was unlawful, so we staged over 85 protests across the UT. When there was no impact of the protests, I met the Lt Governor and the Home Minister and raised the issue forcefully," Azad told a group of Gujjars who joined his party here.

The Gujjars community members led by DPAP leader and JMC corporator Sobat Ali met Azad at his residence and informed him that they were being constantly harassed by the government officials who kept saying that they were living on forest land and their houses and shops would be razed.

Azad said everyone in Jammu & Kashmir is facing this problem.

"After 1947, people occupied land in plains for their resettlement. In Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata, we saw governments regularising such colonies. I was in Congress when our government passed a law to provide rights over forest land to the inhabitants but this law was not implemented in J&K due to Article 370.

"We did a wrong by not implementing the law as we were of the notion that they will not face any eviction drive. However, when Article 370 was abrogated in August

2019 the forest land act got automatically extended to J&K but instead of implementing it, the administration started an eviction drive which was unlawful," Azad said.

Defending the Roshni scheme, he said it was meant to benefit the landless poor in the villages and also regularise the land in the cities to generate revenue.

"The scheme was passed by the J&K cabinet headed by me and the assembly. The landless were provided land by Maharaja (Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler), Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah (NC founder) and later my government," he said.

Azad said there were complaints of wrong-doing by some people, including members of the government and police.

"If voted to power, we will bring back the Roshni scheme and also launch an inquiry against the officials against whom there are complaints of wrongdoings," he said.

Later talking to reporters, the DPAP leader said he will regularise the daily-wagers working in different government departments for over two decades.

"Hundreds and thousands of daily-wagers met me, they are getting Rs 5,000 to Rs 9,000 and are not being regularised. They have got married and are over-age (to look for other jobs). It will be my first priority as they have a right," he said.

### People want change as BJP-Led Govt has put them to difficulties: J&K Cong Chief

place, people will go out to vote and express their anger against the BJP through it," the Congress leader said.

He also expressed confidence that the Congress will emerge as the single-largest party in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Anti-corruption court grants bail to DySP Adil Sheikh

31(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956, Adil Mushtaq, Deputy Superintendent of Police, PID No KPS155772, shall be deemed to have been placed under suspension with effect from September 21, 2023 i.e., the date of arrest of the Officer in case FIR No.149/2023 under sections 7, 7A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and section 167, 193, 201, 210, 218, 221 of IPC in Police Station Nowgam," Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Home Raj Kumar Goyal had said in an order.

### SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli cleared for new assignment at Centre on deputation basis

Memorandum dated October 10, 2023, addressed to the J&K Chief Secretary, the Union Territory administration has been directed to relieve the IPS officer immediately to enable him to take up his new assignment at the Centre.

"...the competent authority has approved the appointment of Chandan Kohli, IPS (AGMUT: 2013) as Deputy Secretary in the Senior Executive Cadre of the Cabinet Secretariat on deputation basis. It is, therefore, requested that he may be relieved immediately, under intimation to this Ministry, to enable him to take up his new assignment at the Centre on deputation basis," read an MHA communique.

### Dengue cases cross 3000 mark in JK

maintenance of domestic water storage units. He recommended the appropriate use of insecticides in outdoor water storage containers.

Highlighting the primary vector of dengue, the Aedes aegypti mosquito, Dr Harjeet said that it has adapted to urban habitats and breeds primarily in man-made contain-

ers such as buckets, mud pots, discarded containers, used tires, and stormwater drains. These breeding sites should be regularly cleared and cleaned.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito is most active during dusk and dawn, so people are advised to wear clothing that minimises skin exposure to these mosquitoes, he said.

Dr Rai reported that dengue testing labs are available in every district of Jammu division, with around 27,000 tests conducted this year so far, of which roughly 3,000 have yielded positive results.

Out of the 3,000 positive cases, 1,047 required hospitalisation, and 89 active patients are currently under treatment, excluding three fatalities in Udhampur, he informed.

The doctor informed about the helpline number 104 for assistance from 9 am to 6 pm daily. He said positive patients are provided counselling and guidance through the helpline.

In addition to dengue, approximately 80 cases of chikungunya, another mosquito-borne disease, have been reported this year.

Healthcare professionals recommend eliminating stagnant water that serves as mosquito breeding sites at home, schools, workplaces, and their surroundings to prevent dengue. They advise avoiding mosquito bites by covering the body and using mosquito nets when sleeping during the day, which should be sprayed with insect repellents.

Common symptoms of dengue, as described by doctors, include fever, headache, eye pain (typically behind the eyes), muscle, joint, or bone pain, rash, nausea, and vomiting. According to officials, Jammu & Kashmir last year reported 8,269 dengue cases, the highest number on record, along with 18 fatalities. The figures for previous years were as follows: two cases in 2009, none in 2010, three in 2011, 16 in 2012, 1,837 in 2013, four in 2014, 153 in 2015, 79 in 2016, 488 in 2017, 214 in 2018, 439 in 2019, 53 in 2020, and 1,709 in 2021.

## Move to restrict imports of laptops, tablets, computers shelved for now

Govt to monitor inbound shipments, says Commerce Secretary

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The government announced that it was withdrawing its plan to restrict imports of laptops and will hold consultations with the industry and a new order will be issued by the end of October.

The government had sent the IT industry in a tizzy on August 3 when it suddenly announced a licensing regime. Following criticism from the US and major overseas IT hardware giants, it deferred the implementation date to November 1 in order to give time to companies to apply for licences, officials had then said.

They had also underlined that security concerns were behind the decision to impose import restrictions on laptops, tablets and certain types of computers, and allow their import only through valid licences. Import curbs will allow the Centre to keep a close watch on locations



from where products are coming from, according to their reasoning although the bill of freight always gives all the specifications, they had argued.

But on Friday, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "India will not impose restrictions on laptop imports" and left the onus of looking after the security aspect to the importers. The government "only wants import-

ers to be on close watch," he said.

The negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and the UK are at an advanced stage, and both sides are working to iron out differences on the remaining issues, a top government official said.

Barthwal said negotiations on tough issues were underway

with the UK on the FTA. "These negotiations are in an advanced stage. These are going on, and we are ironing out the differences. We should wait till these negotiations are over because the 13th round is going on," he said. Earlier, both sides were confident that the talks would be wrapped up by this month.

Consultations with industry soon

In August, the government had announced that laptops, tablets and PCs would be put under licensing regime from November 1.

The licensing conditions on imports were put on the grounds of security and to spur domestic manufacturing of these products.

India is critically dependent on China for day-to-day use and industrial products like mobile phones, laptops, components, solar cell modules and integrated circuits.

## Exports dip 2.6% in Sept, trade deficit at five-month low

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The country's exports declined by 2.6% in September to \$34.5 billion in September as compared to the same month in the previous year, commerce ministry data showed. This is the fifth month in FY24 when exports registered a decrease year-on-year (YoY) led by affected sectors such as gems and jewellery, petroleum and chemicals, among others. Dip in imports led to trade deficit narrowing down by 31%, five month-low of \$19.4 billion in September. During April-September of FY24, exports contracted by 8.77% to \$211.4 billion and imports fell by 12.23% to \$326.98 billion.

Petroleum imports dipped 20.3% to \$14 billion in September, while its exports fell by 10.6% to \$6.49 billion. Gems and jewellery exports saw a fall of over 16% to \$3.18 billion in September. "Gems and jewellery segment is affected due to Russia-Ukraine conflict and now the Israel-Palestine war will have adverse impact. We don't see much (impact) unless and until it gets escalated over a period of time so we are waiting and watching," said commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal.

Notwithstanding the decline in trade, certain sectors including non-petro-

leum and non-gems/jewelry exports, engineering goods, marine products, electronic goods, ceramic products, drugs/pharma, and iron ore showed positive growth. Agricultural exports including spices, fruits and vegetables, oil seeds and coffee also registered growth during April-September 2023.

After a reconciliation process with Customs, revised data showed India's exports for August 2023 estimated to be higher at \$38.4 billion, indicating a growth of 3.88% as against the previous year. This revision comes after the initial announcement of a 6.8% fall in exports last month.

Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Sarangi highlighted said positive growth in August marks the first month of the current financial year with such progress.

The commerce secretary expressed optimism, citing the resilience of services exports and the diminishing fall in merchandise exports. He anticipates positive growth in exports for the remaining six months of the year. Besides this, as per Barthwal, negotiation on the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) is at an advanced stage and the Government is making efforts to iron out differences.

## Tata Motors sells 9.9% stake in Tata Tech

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Home-grown auto major Tata Motors said it will sell its 9.9% stake in IPO-bound Tata Technologies for 1,613.7 crore to TPG Rise Climate and an endowment trust belonging to Tata Trusts Chairman Ratan Tata for an equity valuation of 16,300 crore (\$2 billion).

"Tata Motors Limited and TPG Rise Climate SF Pte. Ltd, a climate focused private equity fund, has entered into a share purchase agreement on October 13, 2023, for purchasing 9% stake in Tata Technologies. Tata Motors and



Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation, a Section 8 company, has entered into a share Purchase Agreement on October 13, 2023, for purchasing 0.9% stake in Tata Technologies," said Tata Motors in a stock exchange filing.

TPG Rise Climate is the dedicated climate

investing arm of TPG's \$18 billion global impact investing platform. TPG Rise Climate had earlier invested \$1 billion in Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited and is a strategic partner in TML's journey to create a market-shaping electric passenger mobility business in India.

## Top three IT firms' headcount falls by 25,000 in H1

BENGALURU, Oct 14 (Agencies): Top three Indian IT services companies in terms of revenues- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and HCLTech, cumulatively reduced their workforce by 25,000 in the first six months of this fiscal year.

In Q2 alone, these companies reported a decline of 16,162 employees, indicating client decision-making delays and macro-economic headwinds. These companies have started utilising the existing talents and upskilling them with emerging technologies such as Gen AI.

"The current drop in headcount is a flab shedding and load



balancing activity that enterprises are carrying out amidst margin pressures," Kamal Karanth, co-founder of staffing firm Xpheno, said. Services sector is facing headwinds from lower global tech spends of large consumers and discretionary spend on technology remaining low. While new order pipelines have been booked, a lag in the

revenue and returns are a setback for services players, he added.

While Infosys said they are not going to campuses for fresher hiring, HCLTech said a lot of freshers they hired in the past are now ready to be deployed. Attrition rate has dropped in the last six months from about 20% to 14% as of September 2023, and companies are also not

backfilling attrition.

"Given the near-term margin pressures, dropping costs and increasing utilisation rates are key for large employers. This dual correction much needed to go past the current and near-term adversity necessitates headcount corrections and reising of the workforce. The sector is in a phase of corrective and cautious optimisation of headcounts to protect margins and avert high burn rates," Karanth said.

Prospective campus recruitment activities could be impacted during the subsequent quarter, mainly due to project cancellations and an unpredictable demand landscape, as

reported by an IT giants during Q2 result, said NLB Services. Are AI and automation playing a role in this reduction?

Karanth said these are not drivers of the current headcount reduction, as internally enterprises have some distance to cover on operating maturity that can eliminate headcounts in high volume. "The fact that per person productivity ratios measured in terms of people cost to revenue has not grown much since the AI and automation initiatives were introduced. The ability to replace headcounts can only be achieved when this per capita productivity multiplies and stays consistent," he added.

## 5 best ways to stop a cold before it happens

Colds, which are upper respiratory viruses, spread through tiny droplets when someone coughs or sneezes.

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Suffering from a cold can be quite unpleasant. Colds, which are upper respiratory viruses, spread through tiny droplets when someone coughs or sneezes.

You can catch a cold by being around sick people or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your face. The change in season also affects the rampant spread of cold.

Preventing a cold isn't too complicated, here are some strategies to help keep you healthy.

Wash Your Hands: Regular handwashing is crucial. Viruses can

linger on surfaces for a while, and washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds can help prevent infection.

Disinfect high-touch surfaces: Commonly touched areas like doorknobs, cell phones and light switches can harbour cold viruses if touched by someone who's sick. Regularly cleaning and disinfecting these surfaces can be helpful.

Maintain healthy habits: Ensure you get enough sleep, maintain a balanced diet and manage chronic health conditions. These practices can strengthen



your immune system and reduce the risk of catching a cold.

Consider wearing a mask: Masks, such as N95 or KN95, have been effective in preventing the spread of viruses like Covid-19. They can also offer protection against the common cold.

Avoid crowded spaces: In the days leading up to a special event or trip, try to avoid crowded indoor areas. Being in close quarters with many people can increase your risk of catching a cold.

While you might think about using supple-

ments like zinc, they aren't strongly supported by scientific evidence. Products like probiotics, vitamin C, vitamin D or zinc sulfate have mixed results in preventing or shortening colds.

It's essential to consult your doctor before trying any new supplements.

There's no magic cure for a cold, and antibiotics won't help because they target bacteria, not viruses. Over-the-counter medications can provide temporary relief from symptoms, but they don't cure the cold itself.

For most people, a cold will run its course and eventually resolve without complications.

## Osteoarthritis strikes women harder, take care

KOCHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Osteoarthritis, a common joint disease that affects millions globally, isn't gender-neutral. Women, especially postmenopausal women, tend to bear the brunt of the disease burden, according to various studies conducted globally and in India.

Notably, women are also more likely to delay seeking treatment due to various sociocultural factors, suffering greater pain and disability. World Arthritis Day is an opportune time to raise awareness about osteoarthritis and its gender disparity so that women can make informed choices about their bone and joint health.

Unbalanced scales According to a World Health Organization report, 60% of people living with osteoarthritis are women. They are 40% more likely to develop knee osteoarthritis, the most common manifestation. The chances of developing this disease increase with age. Research suggests that genetic, anatomical and hormonal factors may be why postmenopausal women are at an increased risk of osteoarthritis.

Anatomy: Women tend to have wider hips, which can put more pressure on the outside edge of their knees. This uneven distribution often results in poor posture, which, in turn, increases the risk of osteoarthritis. Women's knees also contain less cartilage as compared to men's, even when bone size and body mass are taken into account.

Hormones: Fluctuations in hormones during menstrual cycles can impact joint laxity. This means that women are at a higher risk of injury during certain phases in their lives. An improperly healed or long-term injury can also increase the risk of osteoarthritis further.

Nutritional deficiencies: Nutritional deficiencies are extremely common in women in India due to a number of factors, including a higher requirement for micronutrients. These play a significant role in bone and joint health, especially in the premenopausal and postmenopausal ages. Vitamin D deficiency, often called a silent pandemic, is a high-risk factor. Its levels determine the pattern of post-menopausal bone loss and joint

health. Management plan

It is true that post-menopausal women have a predisposition to all forms of arthritis. However, it is also true that a majority of the risk factors can be significantly managed. Weight management is an important step. Eating a balanced diet that is rich in vitamins and micronutrients can help preserve bone health when the body's natural protection mechanism starts to dip with age. Exercise is also key. Women should also seek help to address poor posture. Another important step enabling prevention is regular checkups. Women over 40 should get their bone density assessed every year and tested regularly for nutritional deficiencies. Women using birth control pills, hormonal IUDs, or who are on hormone therapy should regularly check calcium levels and speak to their doctors about supplements.

Treatment options

It is possible to live an active and healthy life with osteoarthritis; timely medical intervention helps. Doctors can prescribe painkillers and anti-inflammatory medications. However, if the patient experiences severe mobility issues and pain, then total knee replacement surgery is a relatively safe option that can help improve the quality of life over the long term. Knee replacement surgery is now less invasive, and technical advancements like robotic-assisted surgeries can shorten hospital stays.

Risks

Osteoarthritis is a progressive disease, which means the symptoms will continue to get worse if left untreated. With the median age of Indians going up, patients have to live a long time with osteoarthritis, enduring pain, restricted or constrained motion, and even disability. Restricted mobility is also associated with an increased risk of other health conditions, including cardiovascular disease. Women should be proactive in managing their joint health and seek professional guidance when needed. Remember, osteoarthritis doesn't define your future—it's a condition that can be managed with the right treatment and approach.

## Mental health of Gen Z worst affected post-Covid, finds study

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): A new study shows that the mental health of people between the ages of 18 and 24 has been worst affected after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Sapien Labs Centre for Human Brain and Mind at Krea University in India has launched a new series about mental health in India. The first report focuses on the mental health of young people, particularly those aged 18-24, who primarily speak English and often use the internet.

This report looks at how the mental health of this group has changed since the Covid-19 pan-

demic began in 2020. They collected data from 1,06,427 people across 36 States and Union Territories between April 2020 and August 2023, as part of the Global Mind Project. It is known to be the largest survey of its kind in India.

The study found that the mental health of Indians of all ages (18-74 years) declined from 2020 to 2023, especially for those aged 18-24. Almost two years after the pandemic that reduced social interactions, increased unemployment rates and increased use of the internet and social media, the mental health scores for Indi-

ans across age groups declined.

The decline is steepest among 18-24-year-olds.

However, the study doesn't link these declines to economic factors, as the findings are consistent across different income levels.

Among 18-24-year-olds, there is less variation in mental health across states compared to older age groups. The Southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have better mental health outcomes than the Northern states.

Despite discussions about academic stress and economic factors, the study emphasises the need to identify early

risk factors to inform prevention strategies. India's youth population, which is over 200 million, may face challenges entering the labour market effectively, even among the more educated English-speaking and internet-enabled youth.

Shailender Swaminathan, Director of Sapien Labs Centre for the Human Brain and Mind in India, suggests that a preventative approach to mental health may be necessary, given the scale of the problem.

"Across states in India, we find that youth considered the "Demographic Dividend" for India, are in increasing

# ICC CWC 2023: Key battle between Rohit Sharma-Shaheen Afridi, says Sanjay Bangar

Rohit and Afridi have faced each other in 5 innings, with the Indian batter scoring 37 runs at an average of 18.5 and the Pakistani pacer dismissing him twice

MUMBAI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Former Indian all-rounder Sanjay Bangar said that during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between India and Pakistan at Ahmedabad, a key battle is going to be between Indian skipper Rohit Sharma and pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, who has managed to get the better of the 'Hitman' in many recent encounters.

India and Pakistan will lock horns with each other at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. India will be aiming to keep their winning streak alive against Pakistan while the latter will be looking to end their World Cup duck against Men in Blue. India has dominated the head-to-head record in ODI World Cup matches with 'Men in Blue' winning all seven games against the arch-rival, boasting a 100 per cent win record till now.

Speaking exclusively to Star Sports show, "Follow the Blues", Sanjay Bangar shared his views on what would make up the key battles in today's match.

He said, "First up, the key battle is going to be between the opening batter and the bowler. So, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Rohit Sharma is going to be a key battle because of the manner in which Rohit Sharma is playing fearless cricket. And



especially the last time India played against Pakistan, he had taken the attack to them along with Shubman Gill, and they really charged at all the three pacers, scoring at a fast pace in those first 10 overs.

"So, if India does end up having a wonderful start like that again, then pressure will be on the Pakistan bowlers from the start. Having spoken about the Sharma-Afridi match-up, another key battle is between Virat Kohli and Haris Rauf, because Haris Rauf bowls a very good short ball at a good pace, that battle would also be good to watch. And also when their batters come out to bat, it would be exciting to watch if Kuldeep Yadav is able to take Babar Azam's wicket," he added.

In five innings Shaheen-Rohit has faced each other, the 'Hitman' has scored 37 runs at

an average of 18.50, with four boundaries and two sixes in 48 balls. Rohit has been dismissed by Shaheen twice.

In five innings Virat and Rauf have faced off against each other, Virat has scored 43 runs against the bowler with two fours and three sixes. Rauf has never dismissed Virat. Virat's two successive sixes against Rauf during a 160-run chase in ICC T20 World Cup 2022 at Melbourne during the 19th over are considered really iconic.

Babar has made 18 runs in three innings against Kuldeep and has been dismissed twice. Kuldeep has never allowed Babar to hit a four and six against him.

This match comes after India's two matches against the arch-rivals during a winning Asia Cup campaign. One match, held in the group stage was abandoned due to rain while India

registered a thumping win in the next clash during the Super Four stage.

India began their World Cup campaign with a victory over Australia, while Pakistan has two victories in two matches to build momentum ahead of the major encounter.

Fans will be hoping that mega-stars of Men in Blue, such as Virat Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul and Mohammed Siraj keep up with their consistent performances to continue the country's winning streak against Pakistan in 50-over World Cups and come out with 8-0 win against the arch-rivals in the World Cup.

India squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

Pakistan squad: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Rizwan, Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Wasim.

# Fans upbeat ahead of marquee India-Pakistan clash



AHMEDABAD, Oct 14 (Agencies): Ahead of the high-voltage clash in the ODI World Cup between India and Pakistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday, a cricket fan has travelled from the United States of America just to watch the game.

While speaking to agency, Vipul Patel, a US-based businessman who travelled to Ahmedabad just to attend the high-voltage encounter of the ODI World Cup, said the Men in Blue should clinch a win today against Pakistan since they will be playing in front of the home fans.

"I have come here from Georgia, US, to watch the match... India should win today. They will be playing in front of the home crowd," Vipul Patel said to agency.

On the other hand, a fan based in Maharashtra's Nagpur said they were excited about the upcoming match and hoped Rohit Sharma's India would win.

"We are excited for the India vs Pakistan match. We wish all the best to Virat Kohli as he has always performed well against Pakistan," a cricket fan told agency.

India will be brimming with confidence before today's game since they sealed two consecutive

wins in their first two matches against Australia and Afghanistan.

In the Men in Blue's first match of the tournament, Rohit Sharma-led Men in Blue defeated Australia by six wickets, after Virat Kohli and KL Rahul displayed a stellar show and made a solid partnership of 165 runs to help India beat Pat Cummins' side.

In their previous encounter against Afghanistan, the Men in Blue clinched an eight-wicket after Rohit Sharma played a winning knock of 131 in the run chase. After the Indian skipper was dismissed in the 26th over, Kohli took charge of the game and played the winning shot in the second innings.

India stands third in the ODI World Cup standings with four points after playing two games and has an NRR of +1.500.

# Will India maintain their all-win record against Pakistan in ODI World Cup at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, Oct 14 (Agencies): Will India maintain their all-win record (7-0) against Pakistan in the ODI World Cup at the Narendra Modi Stadium here tomorrow? A lot depends on how the two sides react to the conditions and match situations. It will also be the players' ability to churn up spunk in a raging cauldron. The team that does it, walks away smiling in the end.

India's batters or Pakistan's pacers, who will deliver in the high-pressure game in front of a likely houseful crowd, expected to be above one lakh?

Past results confirm that there won't be any chest bumps or victory laps this time too. "I am not a person who looks into all those kind of stats," India captain Rohit Sharma said. "We've got to play good cricket on that particular day to win the game and that is what we will be focussing on. And how we are going to play good cricket, which is understanding the con-

ditions, what is required from the team's perspective and things like that," he added.

Last time, the two acrimonious neighbours met in the World Cup in India, it turned out to be a facile 29-run win for the hosts in the semifinals of the 2011 edition in Mohali. Many spectators had left the stadium before Pakistan's final wicket fell to avoid the last-minute rush. In Ahmedabad, questions remain over how many will actually turn up to see this leviathan raging today.

The nature of high-stakes games keeps the players jittery and hamstrung as they search for rhythm till the very end. "Rhythm is very important. If you look at it in other terms, it is called momentum," Sharma said. "We have played seven or eight matches in India and before that in Sri Lanka and here too we played two matches of the World Cup. The bowlers have shown very good performances. Whether it is the spinners or the

seamers, whenever they have got a chance to put pressure on the batsmen, they have done so. All the batsmen have scored runs," he added.

Indian cricket's poster boy Shubman Gill, recuperating from dengue and yet to make his ODI World Cup debut, is 99 per cent available for the match. That leaves very less scope for guesswork, especially as the Punjab opener is the leading run-getter in the format this year with 1,230 runs at an average of 72.35. In his last four ODIs, Gill has scored two tons and a half-century.

When in Ahmedabad, the 24-year-old has set the pulse racing — in February, he hit his maiden T20I hundred (126 not out) against New Zealand; a month later, he made a Test century (128) against Australia. His two IPL centuries (129 against Mumbai Indians and 101 against Sunrisers Hyderabad) make him a darling of Gujarat Titans' fans. Will he have to wait to make his ODI World

Cup debut anywhere else? Improbable.

A day ahead of the match, the star batsmen of both the teams did not say it in so many words that it is a batting-friendly pitch. "We have players for both the pitch conditions," said Sharma.

In the 29 ODIs played here, the team batting first has won 16 games, while the team batting second has won 13 matches.

What makes the contest enticing is that both teams are on a two-game winning streak in this edition of the World Cup. The hosts outclassed Australia by six wickets in Chennai and then beat Afghanistan by eight wickets in New Delhi. Pakistan, on the other hand, beat Netherlands by 81 runs in their opener and then defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in a record chase under the lights in Hyderabad.

7-0 India vs Pakistan at ODI World Cup

1992 India won by 43 runs in round robin game in

Sydney

Player of the Match: Sachin Tendulkar (54\* off 62 & 1/37) 1996

India won by 39 runs in quarterfinal in Bengaluru Player of the Match: Navjot Sidhu (93 off 115) 1999

India won by 47 runs in Super Six in Manchester Player of the Match: Venkatesh Prasad (5/27) 2003

India won by 6 wickets in Pool A game in Centurion

Player of the Match: Sachin Tendulkar (98 off 75) 2011

India won by 29 runs in semifinal in Mohali Player of the Match: Sachin Tendulkar (85 off 115) 2015

India won by 76 runs in Pool B game in Adelaide Player of the Match: Virat Kohli (107 off 126) 2019

India won by 89 runs in round robin game in Manchester

Player of the Match: Rohit Sharma (140 off 113).

# 'Damn You Mosquito': Shubman Gill fan arrives in Ahmedabad with hilarious banner ahead of India-Pakistan match

AHMEDABAD, Oct 14 (Agencies): Ahead of the India-Pakistan match during the ICC Cricket World Cup at Ahmedabad, a fan from Bengaluru arrived in the city with a humorous banner about the 'mosquito' that kept India's star batter Shubman Gill out of action due to dengue for the first two matches of the tournament against Australia and Afghanistan.

India and Pakistan will lock horns with each other at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday. After Gill missed out on the first two matches of the tournament, this match will mark his World Cup debut.

The fan from Bengaluru told agency, "I want Shubman Gill to play. If he plays, we will paste 'Welcome' over 'Miss You' (written on the banner). I am also

a Virat Kohli fan. I hope that today's match is a big-scoring one, everyone plays well and we win the game. I felt really bad when Gill was down with dengue because he was in really good form this year. I hope everyone, Gill, Virat, and Rohit score well and we win the game."

During the pre-match press conference, skipper Rohit Sharma was quizzed about whether Gill would be in contention to play against Pakistan, to which he replied, "Ninety-nine per cent he (Gill) will be available. We will see today (Saturday) about that."

The Indian opener was in Chennai where he was being treated, and could not take part in India's first two matches of the tournament.

# Cristiano Ronaldo Double Seals Euro 2024 Qualification For Portugal

PORTO, Oct 14 (Agencies): Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Portugal edged a 3-2 thriller against Slovakia in Porto on Friday to book their place at Euro 2024. Ronaldo scored a first-half penalty and a second half tap-in as the Portuguese made it seven wins from seven matches in Group J. They have 21 points which ensures them a top two finish. "Cristiano Ronaldo is having a great time, playing a lot of minutes and scoring a lot of goals for his club," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez.

"He has a lot of experience with the national team and he's a reference point for young players."

Slovakia are eight points back in second, two ahead of Luxembourg who they play on



Monday. Portugal got off to a flying start when Ramos rose highest to meet Bruno Fernandes' cross in the eighth minute, heading the ball down and past Martin Dubravka in the Slovakia goal.

It marked a seventh goal in just nine matches for Ramos and a sixth assist of the campaign for Fernandes who almost doubled the score in the 26th minute only to be denied by a brilliant one-handed save by Dubravka.

Three minutes later Denis Vavro was adjudged to have handled the ball, a decision confirmed by VAR.

Ronaldo stepped up to slot home his 124th goal for Portugal in the venue where he scored his first international goal, against Greece in the opening game of Euro 2004.

Slovakia came back into the game in the 69th minute when David Hancko's shot from outside the area deflected off Antonio Silva's heel and into the bottom corner - the first goal Portugal had conceded in

qualifying. Three minutes later, Ronaldo restored the two-goal advantage tapping in another lovely cross from Fernandes for goal number 125.

Ten minutes from time, however, the game was back on as Stanislav Lobotka let fly from outside the area and buried the ball in the top corner.

Portugal should have sealed it late on but Diogo Jota was denied by the outstanding Dubravka but the hosts had done enough to stamp their ticket for the Euros.

"We won the match with a very good first half," said Martinez. "The important thing was the result. In seven games we've shown a perfect attitude. I'm very satisfied, but it's only a stage."

## Yogesh foresees impact of Ladakh's political shift on J&K

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: A significant meeting of the Congress party took place in Ward No. 19 of Gumat, Jammu East, bringing together members of the public and Congress party activists. The meeting, organized by Sardari Lal and Mannat Mehra, was attended by former Jammu and Kashmir Minister Yogesh Sawhney, who currently serves as the District President Incharge of Jammu (Urban). During the gathering, Yogesh Sawhney made a notable statement, suggesting that Ladakh's recent political developments, often seen as a substantial rebuke to the BJP for its actions related to Article 370 revocation and statehood changes, could have reverberations in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting, which



drawed a diverse audience of political activists, community leaders, and local residents, concentrated on the party's objectives for the region. Yogesh Sawhney expressed his belief that Ladakh's response to the central government's decisions could potentially set a precedent for the political landscape of Jammu & Kashmir. "Ladakh has unequivocally expressed its stance and delivered a

potent message to the BJP regarding its handling of Article 370 and statehood," Sawhney commented. "I am optimistic that the people of Jammu & Kashmir will similarly convey a clear response to the BJP through their votes and collective actions."

The revocation of Article 370 and the division of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories in 2019 were executed using conten-

tious methods. While the government argued that these actions aimed to foster development and integration, it is widely recognized that they were designed to undermine the region's special status and autonomy. Sawhney highlighted that forthcoming electoral developments and the choices of the electorate will ultimately determine the region's political trajectory. He added that the majority

of the people will provide a resounding reality check to the BJP. The BJP's minimal success, securing only 2 seats in Ladakh, underscores the public's growing unwillingness to accept perceived injustices.

The former Minister went on to stress that the recent electoral outcomes in Ladakh, witnessing a political shift away from the BJP, have set an important precedent for Jammu & Kashmir. He observed that these results mirror the aspirations and sentiments of the local population and their yearning for political change. The Ladakh results serve as a reminder that public sentiment and local preferences can significantly influence the political direction, and the sentiment is currently against the BJP for its perceived impact on opportunities for all sections of society in the former state.

## BJP Kissan Morcha President expresses concern over hailstorm damage to Basmati crops



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Sarabjit Singh Johal, President of BJP Kissan Morcha Jammu and Kashmir and a member of District Development Council (DDC) Ramgarh, today expressed serious concerns over the widespread damage to standing crops of 'Old Basmati' caused by a recent hailstorm.

Addressing media persons in Jammu, Johal revealed that more than 75 percent of the standing basmati crops in the region have been severely affected by this natural disaster. He also shared that he, accompanied by party leaders Darshan Choudhary

and Rakesh Pant, along with an Insurance officer, recently conducted a comprehensive on-site assessment of the affected fields. The team witnessed the distressing impact on local farmers, who depend on these crops for their livelihoods.

Following their field visit, the team promptly met with the Deputy Commissioner of Samba to apprise him of the extensive crop damage. Johal urged the Deputy Commissioner to take swift action in this matter, including the necessary steps to assess the full extent of the damages and prepare lists of affected farmers.

Johal mentioned that the affected farmers hail

from various regions, including Bishnah, RS Pura, Samba, RS Pura, and others, all of whom are now grappling with significant agricultural losses. He appealed to the government to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the damaged crops and provide much-needed compensation to the affected farmers who have suffered financial setbacks due to the hailstorm.

The senior BJP leader asserted that the Modi Government is committed to support affected farmers and is determined to ensure that they receive the assistance and compensation they require during this challenging time.

## Principal GDC felicitates Yuva Soch Yuva Bharat Ikai

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: The Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta along with the staff of the college felicitated the Yuva Soch Yuva Bharat (YSYB) IKAI of the college for their exemplary work done in the field of Mass Awareness against Drugs for Nashamukti and Swachhta Hi sewa programs, by participating in the Wall Painting competition and Skit on Swachhta, which was organised by the District administration of Udhampur in collaboration with Red F.M 91.9 on 2nd of October 2023. The members of the YSYB as well as mentor Dr. Pankaj Sharma were awarded with a trophy and certificates of appreciation for the same by



the District administration on 9th of October.

The YSYB team of the college including Vishal Roudhan, Prashant Khajuria, Antriksha, Nikhil and Stuti, and supervision of Mentor Dr. Pankaj Sharma, handed over the trophy to the Principal and the Chief patron of YSYB in presence of the senior staff viz. Prof. Satish

Kumar, HOD Zoology, Prof. Shaji Khan, Sr. Faculty of English, and Ms. Arti Chadha, Chief Librarian.

Post this, The YSYB members and the mentor were felicitated by the college administration today.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Patron Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta expressed his

happiness on the growth of the plant of YSYB that has started blooming and showing the flowers of progress. "I feel proud to assert and share with others the exemplary work that our YSYB is doing in Udhampur, far off Villages and all over India, as they are invited by the Govt. departments, NGOs And Institutes to conduct

awareness programs."

He said. He further added that YSYB shall always be welcomed in the college, and the college shall always be its back bone as a parent institute. He felt happy that YSYB has been working on the lines as envisioned by our Great leaders and visionaries. He applauded the role of all the mentors of YSYB viz. Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Dr. Ajay Sharma and Dr. Rippy Bawa for a selfless support to the young minds and all efforts made for these Yuva warriors inside and outside the campus.

The program came to an end with the expression of thanks and gratitude by Antriksha of YSYB to the chief Patron and all present on the occasion.

## Modi Govt concerned for Dev of every region: Ashwani

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: During weekly sitting at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, BJP senior leader and former MLA, Ashwani Sharma listened to the grievances of the people in the public darbar.

Ashwani Sharma, while interacting with the people in the public darbar, said that the BJP as well as its government at the centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are concerned for the development of every region and welfare of all the sections of the society. He said that BJP is the only political party whose cadre is always at the doorsteps of the people without any leave or holiday and working tirelessly to help every household in availing the benefits of numerous schemes meant for the socio-economic upliftment.

Ashwani Sharma said that Narendra

Modi took over as Prime Minister of India in 2014 and during the last more than nine years, his government has taken one historic decision after the other, exclusively for Jammu and Kashmir and its people, which has brought many changes. Modi government has taken great step for full integration of J&K with the rest of the country. Today, there is no separate constitution and flag and national tricolor has true honour here, which is a big achievement, he said. During the public darbar people from Kishtwar, Laswara, Shangus, Bishnah and other areas highlighted their problem related to settlement of bank loan, construction of road, regularisation of SPO, tile work, lane and drain in main bazaar Bishnah. Their problems were taken up with the senior officials of the concerned departments for early disposals.

## Vishal Khatri Sabha organizes 12th annual Bhandara at Purmandal

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Devender Seth, the President of Vishal Khatri Sabha J&K, emphasized that a strong belief and faith in one's religion can contribute to the strength and security of a nation. He made these remarks while addressing a gathering at the 12th Bhandara held at Purmandal by the Sabha to commemorate Sarva Pitru Amavasya. It is believed that during the pitru paksh, the souls of departed ancestors visit their families without invitation.

Seth explained the significance of Sarva Pitru Amavasya, a day dedicated to forefathers and ancestors, which marks the conclusion of the Shradh period when Hindus perform pind daan for pitru shanti, a ritual aimed at bringing peace to the souls of



their ancestors.

The Bhandara was open to all, and a significant number of people and commuters partook in the 'prasad.' A 'havan' ceremony was also conducted to seek blessings from forefathers.

Seth went on to highlight India's history, emphasizing that the country, at its zenith, was one of the world's

strongest nations due to the blessings of sages and saints and a robust religious and spiritual knowledge base. He stressed that India's past serves as a testament to the idea that strengthening religion can bolster a nation's strength and security.

Seth stated that it is crucial to reinforce religion in contemporary

times, as doing so will fortify the nation and enable India to reach new heights of vigor and development.

Seth also praised the people of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir for their remarkable unity and harmony, despite their diverse backgrounds comprising different religions, ethnicities,

creeds, and languages. He highlighted the strength of the people of J&K in their enduring spirit of camaraderie and tolerance, which has persisted for over 75 years.

Furthermore, Seth emphasized the historical richness of Jammu, which boasts many temples, palaces, water bodies, and structures that, if developed, can become attractive destinations for visitors from all over the country. He mentioned that various important projects are already underway, and upon completion, they will significantly enhance the state's ability to welcome tourists. The rich heritage, culture, and numerous historic temples in Jammu make it a truly exceptional destination, offering diverse experiences to domestic tourists, foreigners, and pilgrims.

## Sat, Neelam provide wheelchair to differently-abled individual



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 14: Former Minister Sat Sharma, alongside Municipal Councillor Neelam Nargotra and Mandal President BJP Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra, demonstrated their commitment to social welfare by donating a wheelchair to a specially-abled individual in Kabir Colony, Talab Tillo.

During the event, Sat

Sharma expressed, "It came to our attention that Raj Kumar, a resident of Kabir Colony, has unfortunately lost his ability to walk and requires dialysis twice a week. In response, our team promptly took action and delivered a wheelchair to his doorstep. We are unwavering in our dedication to serving the community."

Neelam Nargotra and Keshav Chopra also

spoke at the event, emphasizing the BJP's commitment to "Nar sewa as Narayan sewa," underlining their dedication to the welfare of the underprivileged in our society.

The event witnessed the presence of several esteemed individuals, including Arun Dubey, Rahul Nargotra, Abhishek Sharma, Vikas Kumar, Manoj, Raman Sharma, Kaku, Saini, and many more.