TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

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BRIEFLY

J&K Govt forms committee to identify overstaying foreigners

JAMMU, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government has set-up a high-level panel to identify foreign nationals overstaying illegally in the Union Territory since January 01, 2011

The J&K's Home department has constituted a committee headed by the financial commissioner/ additional chief secretary Home department to identify foreign nationals illegally/ overstaying in the Union Territory since January 01, 2011.

The panel comprises Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO), Bureau of Immigration , Amritsar(Punjab); Senior Superintendent of Police, CID, Special Branch, Jammu; Senior Superintendent of Police, CID, Special Branch, Srinagar; all district SSPs/ SPs(FROs) and State Coordinator, IVRFT, NIC, J&K.

As per its terms of reference, the panel shall prepare a monthly report of missing foreigners in Jammu & Kashmir and submit the same to the Ministry of Home Affairs by 7th of every month.

MeT predicts clear, warmer days in J&K

JAMMU. Oct 18 (Agencies): After days of incessant rains in plains and snowfall over upper reaches leading to the wintry conditions, the weatherman on Wednesday predicted mainly dry weather and "warmer" days till October 21. While there were foggy conditions in plains of Kashmir valley and other valleys of J&K and partly cloudy at rest of the places in J&K this morning, the weather started to improve as the day progressed.

A meteorological department official here said that weather was going to be mainly dry from October 19-21. "The days will be warmer," he said. However, he said, from October 22-23, the weather is expect-

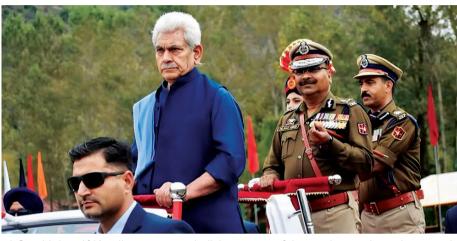
ed to be generally Turn to page 9

Narco-terrorism, psychological warfare big threats: LG Manoj Sinha

BARAMULLA, Oct 18 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that of late, narco-terrorism and psychological warfare are emerging big threats and police along with other security forces have to counter these challenges effectively. "As technology is get-

ting advanced day by day, narco-terrorism and psychological warfare are emerging as the biggest challenges for us. J&K Police along with other security agencies have to counter these threats effectively," LG said addressing the passing out parade of 510 new recruits at Sheeri area of northern district of Baramulla.

Showering praises on the J&K police for fighting on multiple fronts, the



LG said that J&K police is full of talent and has left no stone unturned to protect the honour and dignity of the UT. "In the last three years, the situation has changed a lot and a common man is living a peaceful life. But some subversive elements continue to play their part to disrupt the peace as they are

people living a peaceful life," the LG said, adding that" J & K police must adopt a zero tolerance policy against these antipeace elements."

He said that the police are fighting terror and terrorism on one hand and maintaining law and order on the other. "There are other challenges as well that include social crimes,

day to day crimes and normal policing. I must say that J&K police is the country's best force," the LG said, adding that it is not easy to keep the balance of every pillar used to maintain a bal-

The LG hailed the police for launching massive Civic Action programs to rope **Turn to page 9**

Over 1.27 lakh pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi Shrine in first 3 days of Navratra

KATRA/JAMMU, Oct 18 (Agencies): More than 1.27 lakh people visited the Vaishno Devi cave shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district in the first three days of the Navratra festival, officials said on Wednesday.

The shrine, located 45 kilometres from the winter capital Jammu, has been decked up to receive pilarims from across the country during the nine-day Navratra festival, which commenced on October 15 and is scheduled to end on October 23.

"Over 1.27 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the shrine during the first three days of the ongoing Navratra festival," a shrine board official

He said while around 45,000 pilgrims visited the shrine on the first day of Navratra on Sunday, the number stood at 41,164 on the second day and 41,523 on the third.

The officials said over 78 lakh pilgrims have offered their prayers at the shrine since January this year. The highest number of over 11.95 lakh pilgrims was recorded in June, while the lowest of around 4.14 lakh was witnessed in February.

The pilgrimage is going on smoothly and all necessary arrangements are in place, the official said, adding that new facilities such as the much-needed skywalk at an elevation of 20 feet above the existing track came as a big relief to the devotees.

The officials said the skywalk is laced with modern facilities like wooden flooring, a waiting hall, seating arrangements for about 150 pilgrims, LED screens, resting rooms and two emergency exits.

The skywalk has an aesthetically designed entrance with an artistically embellished portrayal of 'Nav Durga' to give an enriched experience for devotees, the officials said.

The remodelled 'Parvati Bhawan' which included 1,500 digital lockers, a waiting lounge and washrooms, was aimed at consolidating multiple facilities under one roof to curtail the crisscross movement of devotees in the Bhawan area and channelise the devotees towards the skywalk, the officials said.

They said the retrofit-

ted Parvati Bhawan is a Turn to page 9

Police Stations being upgraded with latest gadgets, weaponry, says Dilbagh Singh

not happy with the poor

BARAMULLA, Oct 18 (Agencies): Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Wednesday said that at least 43 police stations in J&K are being provided with latest gadgets and other facilities to root out remaining terrorism in their areas under Operation Capacity Building.

"We have started

Operation Capacity Building and under this, we have covered 21 police stations that have been strengthened and provided with latest gadgets and other facilities to deal with the remaining terrorism," DGP Singh said addressing the passing out cum attestation parade in Sheeri area of northern district of Baramulla. He said that 22 more police stations will be



covered under the OCB to ensure remaining terrorism is eliminated from their areas.

Paying rich tributes to 1601 policemen who have laid down their lives since the past three decades, the DGP said that this year, 14000 new policemen were trained of which 1800 were trained in commando training school. "These commandos have been deployed in various parts of the UT," he said.

The DGP said that

similarly, 2500 new cops have completed Cyber Crime Training and are contributing towards building a better society. He said that despite the peaceful situation in Kashmir, challenges remain and J&K police are committed to face all challenges bravely and ensure peace is made a permanent feature," he

He said a few days ago, 27 Kashmir Police Service (KPS) officers were inducted into Indian Police Service. "This is for the time that a record number of KPS officers were inducted into IPS," he said, adding that Promotions in police department

This year, Rs 62Cr spend on police families, SPO, earlier now,

■Turn to page 9

Kashmiri dermatologist receives prestigious award at European Dermatology Congress



SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): A Kashmiri dermatologist, Dr Tasleem Arif, has received prestigious award at the Europe's biggest dermatology Congress.

He received the prestigious award "Imrich Sarkany Non-European Memorial Scholarship" at European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress-2023 which

was held in Berlin, Germany, from 11-14 October 2023.

Dr Arif, who hails from Soura area of Srinagar, says he is the first dermatologist from Jammu and Kashmir to achieve this feat.

He has done his medical graduation from Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS) Srinagar, and received his MD in Der-

matology, STDs and Leprosy from GMC Srinagar.

He has also worked as Assistant professor in the department of dermatology JNMC at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India and has more than 140 research publications including several book chapters to his credit.

Dr Arif says he is Turn to page 9

Traffic restored on Jammu-**Srinagar** highway after two days

SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (Agencies): Traffic was suspended on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway after remaining suspended for two days due to rains and landslide.

An official said the traffic was restored on the road at 9 am after debris of the landslide was cleared from the highway.

The road was closed on Monday following a landslide in the Shalgiri area of Banihal. Hundreds of vehicles were left stranded due to the Turn to page 9

Establish a dedicated Trust or Board for managing temples across J&K: Mahajan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 18: Rajiv Mahajan, President of Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samiti, has expressed profound concern regarding the recent damage to the front portion of the revered Shri Ranbireshwar Ji Temple in Jammu.

In a statement released today, Mahajan highlighted the urgent need for preserving the sanctity and heritage of temples in Jammu and Kashmir. He mentioned that on October 14, the Samiti convened a press conference, during which they brought to the Government's attention the deplorable condition of several temples in the region. It was emphasized that the maintenance and upkeep of these sacred sites have been a matter of

serious concern. Mahajan pointed out that the unfortunate incident at the Shri Ranbireshwar Ji Temple might



have been prevented if the Dharmarth Trust had properly maintained the temple premises. He underscored the importance of vigilance and regular upkeep to prevent such mishaps in the future.

In response to the deteriorating conditions of temples, Mr. Mahajan appealed to the Government to establish a dedicated Trust or Board, responsible for overseeing and managing the various

temples across Jammu and Kashmir. This move would ensure that these places of worship receive the proper care and maintenance they deserve and that they remain integral to the cultural and spiritual fabric of the region.

Rajiv Mahajan said that the trust remains committed to safeguarding the rich cultural and religious heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, and they look forward to working closely with the Government to address these concerns and ensure the well-being of the region's temples.

Furthermore, Mahajan urged the Government to take action to retrieve any sold lands that belong to temples in Kashmir. He called for a thorough investigation to identify those responsible for selling lands associated with these sacred sites and insisted on the swift implementation of measures to rectify such instances.



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With lot of pain and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved Karamyogini Rani Wali W/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal Wali erstwhile resident of Hanand Chawalgam, Kashmir, at present C-49, Ayodhya Nagar, Bhopal, M.P on Friday, 13 Oct. 2023.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed on Sunday, the 22nd Oct. 2023 at 9 AM at Khatlapur Ghat, Lower Lake, Bhopal. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kulbushan Wali & Lovely Wali Ramesh Raina & Sudha Raina Ravinder Koul & Sonia Koul Dileep Kathi & Lucky Kathi

Samast Wali Pariwar M.: 9589210403, 9425017403, 9755475226



Karamyogini Rani Wali

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Kanta Devi W/o Sh. Butti Singh (Billawar) R/o H. No. 48 F Extn. 09 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be held on 17th of October 2023 (Tuesday) at Gorkha Mandir at 11 am.

13th Day will be held on 20th of October 2023 (Friday) at Our Residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rajinder & Virander Singh (Son)

Itti & Isha Rajput (Daughter)

Pooja & Anoop Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand Children: - Mehvesh & Mayur Sharma

Contact No. 9906014710, 9070076007, 9682377588

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that our beloved Smt. Ashaji Bhan W/o Late. Omkar Nath Bhan, originally from Bhan Ashram, Baba Pora, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir, passed away on 13th October 2023 at Pune.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 22nd October 2023 at Alandi Ghat, Pune followed by Assembly at their Pune residence, i.e., 801, A7 Mirchandani Palms, Konkane Chowk, Rahatani Pune.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:

Mrs. Shanta Bhat Mrs. Veena Bhan Sh. Shyam J. Bhan

Dr. Rajni Bhan Safaya Mrs. Rita Bhan Zutshi

Dr. Ashima Bhan

Mr. Satyan Bhan and Mrs. Simran Bhan Mr. Sandeep Bhan

Vivaan and Riyaan



Smt. Kanta Devi

Smt. Ashaji Bhan

Smt. Vijay Lakshmi

Sonu Kumar

SMT KANTA DEVI

From: **Bhan, Bhat Family** Contact Nos.

Shyam J. Bhan: +91 9810068535 Satyan Bhan: +91 8879512582 Sandeep Bhan: +91 9953242768

KRIYA / UTHALA

With prfound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Vijay Lakshmi W/o Shri Sat Pal Suri originally resident of Sunderbani present ly staying at 129/6 Lower, Roop Nagar Jammu. The Noble soul left this Mundane World for heavenly abode on 7-10-2023.

Kriya will be performed at our residence 129/6, Lower Roop Nagar Jammu on 19-10-2023 (Thursday) at 12.00 pm.

Uthala shall take place on 20-10-2023 (Friday) at Hari Mandir Rehari Jammu from 3 pm to 4 pm. Grief Stricken

Shri Sat Pal Suri - Husband Daughters-in-law & Sons Sweety & Sanjiv Suri Rakhi W/o Late Rajiv Suri Daughter & Son-in-law Neemal & Rakesh Gupta

Grand Children Shivam, Saksham, Ridham, Garima, Raghav, Madhav and Jagriti Mobile: 7889647497, 9419687777

UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved Sonu Kumar S/o Prithvi Kumar R/o Lane No.19, Block No. 110, Flat No.15 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 12-10-2023 (Thursday).

Uthala will be performed at Community Hall behind Lane No.22 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu on 23-10-2023 (Monday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Father & Mother Prithvi Kumar & Harven Devi Pooja Raina -Wife

Charvi Sudan -Daughter Des Raj & Krishna Devi -Uncle & Aunt Late Shadi Lal & Kamla Devi -Uncle & Aunt

Vinay Kumar -Brother Sunil Kumar & Sonia -Brother & Bhabi Manoj Dhar & Seema Dhar -Brother & Sister-in-law

Rajesh Koul & Rajni Koul -Brother & Sister-in-law Contact No. 9622604667, 9797763844, 9596126458, 9596726724

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we sadly inform the untimely demise of our beloved Smt Kanta Devi W/o Late Sh. Narinder Kumar Bhagat R/o House No 293, New Plots, Jammu. 10th Day shall be performed at our residence on 19th of Oct 2023 (Thursday) at 11 AM.

Kriya shall be performed on 20th of Oct 2023 at 12 Noon at Our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rakesh Bhagat and Priyanka Bhagat - Son & Daughter in Law Smt Santosh & Lt Sh. Satish Kumar Bhagat - Jethani & Jeth Smt Anju Bhagat & Yoginder Paul Bhagat- Devrani & Dever Sonia Bhagat & Amrish Kumar - Daughter & Son in Law Abhishek & Divyanshu - **Nephew**

Shivani, Anjulika & Rimjhim - Niece

Chhavi, Anvesha, Priyansh, Shivam & Medhavi - Grand Children

OBITUARY FROM MALUN SIDE

Nith 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)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA RASAM PAGRI

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure"

With profound grief, sorrow we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved Mr Rajeev Malgotra son of Late Sh Surinder Kumar Gupta

Tenth Day shall be performed on 18/10/2023 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM at our Residence, Upper Bus Stand Opposite Police Station

Kriya will take place on 21/10/2023 (Saturday) at our residence Rasam Pagri shall also be performed on 21/10/2023 (Saturday) **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Mrs Anita Gupta (Wife) Dr Niharika (Daughter) Hrithik Malgotra (Son) **Brother and Bhabies**

Mr Vikas Malgotra and Anita Gupta Mr Muneesh Malgotra and Preetee Gupta Mr Sanjeev Malgotra and Geetika Gupta Sister and Brother-in-law Anuradha Gupta and Jagdish Gupta

Nephew and Niece

Mr Rajeev Malgotra

and Mannat Contact No. 9682644901, 7006026911. 7006692943, 9419185262

Jimmy, Ridham, Krishnav, Gudia, Riya, Angel

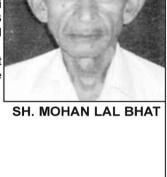
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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



OBITUARY

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

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed or 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

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved Sh. Chuni Lal Dass (Kaka Ji) S/o Late Shyam Lal Dass R/O Bomai Sopore, Kashmir A/P H No 4, L No 3 Patta Bohri Jammu left for heavenly abode on 14-10-2023 10th Day will be performed on Monday 23-10-2023 at 8 AM Muthi Ghat near the Directorate of School Education.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Kamalawati (Mother)

Smt. Reeta Ji (Wife) Mr.Mohit (Son) Ms.Monica (Daughter) **Bhabis & Brothers**

Smt & Sh. Shiban Ji Smt & Sh Ramesh Kumar Smt & Sh Satish Kumar Sister & Brother in law Smt Asha Ji & Sh R.K. Saproo

Mob: 7006346289, 9469231236



(Baraj)

Sh. Chuni Lal Dass (Kaka Ji)

10TH DAY KRIYA Om Namoh Bhagvate Vasudevaya.

acchedyo 'yam adahyo 'yam akledyo 'sosya eva ca nityah sarva-gatah sthanur acalo 'yam sanatanah (BG 2.24)

[translation: This individual soul is unbreakable and nsoluble, and can be neither burned nor dried. He is everlasting, present everywhere, unchangeable, immovable and eternally the same.] With a heavy heart, it is to inform everyone that our beloved

"Smt. Kavita Atri Ganjoo (Chandra)" W/o Kishen Ganjoo,

prior residence- Karan Nagar, Srinagar J&K, presently residing at Greater Kailash - 1 , New Delhi - 48, attained Nirvana on 12th October, 2023. 10th Day Kriya shall be performed on 21st October'23

Saturday) at Ganga Ghat of Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, at 7:30 AM. 11th and 12th Day rituals shall be performed at home. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kishen Kumar Ganjoo **(Husband)** 9811052024 Arjun Ganjoo **(Son)** 8383872534 Alycia Ganjoo (Daughter-in-law) 8383872534 Pushpa Handoo (Mother) 9910110930 Anita Revo (Sister-in-law) 8657373764 Anil Jotshi (Brother-in-law) 9810865511

Anil Atri (Brother) 9910110930 Geetika Atri Mohan (Sister) All Relatives & Friends

Smt. Kavita Atri

Ganjoo (Chandra)



Nith profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sa demise of our beloved father **Sh K L Kakkar** S/o S Late Jethu Ram (Retd ACD, RDD) R/o H No. 304 Gali No. (11) Shakti Nagar, Jammu who left us heavenly abode on Sunday 8th Oct. 2023. **Tenth Day** will be performed at our residence of Tuesday 17 Oct. 2023 at 10 AM on our residence.

Kirya will be performed at our Residence on Frida 20 Oct 2023 at 11 AM. ed at Om Palace, Sha

Uthala will be performed at Nagar, Jammu at 2 PM- 3 PM. Grief Stricken: Smt Sudesh Kumari - Wife Sons and Daughters in law Arun Kr. Kakkar (AE, REW Jammu) & Anu Kakkar

Ravi Kant Kakkar (Tax Inspector, Local Bodies) & Madhu Kakkar Geeta Bhatia & Raiiv Bhatia Rajni Gupta & Ashwani Gupta

Akshit, Kunal, Kritik, Arpita, Rahil, Gudia, Mannu, Vasu, Janu & Janvi etc. Mob. 9419202940. 9419191294. 9419272810

10TH DAY/KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to

inform the sad demise of Smt Sheela Dev W/o Sh. Balwan Singh R/o Shiv Naga Udhampur. 10TH DAY will be performed on 17th Oct 2023 at 11.00 AM (Devika Ghat).

KRIYA will be performed on 20th Oct 2023 a GRIEF STRICKEN Sons & Daughter in laws Sh. Balbir Singh & Smt Ritu Bandral

Late Sh. Praladh Singh & Smt Veenu Singh Sh. Jogiender Singh and Smt Deepshikha Bandral Daughters & Son in Laws Smt Veena Jamwal & Sh. Shivdev Singh Smt Neelam Jamwal & Late Sh. Yashpaul Singh Jamwa



Sh K L Kakkar

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With lot of pain and sorrow, we inforr about the sad demise of our beloved Ranjit Kumar Kotwal (Rajat) S/o Late Sh Balwant Roy Kotwal, Employee Jk Board of School Education Jammu R/o Sector 4, Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu on Sunday the 8th October 2023

10TH Day shall be performed on Tuesday, THE 17th October 2023 (Tuesday) at 9 AM AT MUTHI GHAT Ranjit Kumar Kotwal JAMMU (NEAR DIRECTORATE OF

SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE). 13TH DAY/ KRIYA will be performed on 20-10-2023 (FRIDAY) at 12:15 PM at his Residence Sector 4 Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN Anita Manhas -Wife Rudhra Kotwal -Son

Mob:9906725524

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we nform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Vijay Pandoh S/o Lt Sh Ram Saran R/o H No. 161 Ramzan Pura Janipur Colony.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 19.10.23 (Thursday) 11.30 am at Trimurti Mandir near Ramlila Ground Janipur Colony Jammu.

Grief Stricken: Smt Updesh Pandoh (Wife) **Sons & Daughters in law** Sunil Pandoh & Jyoti Devi Anil Pandoh & Deepa Dutta Brother & Bhabi

shok Pandoh & Suman Pandoh (uldeep Pandoh & Lata Pandoh

PANDOH FAMILY Contact No.

TENTH DAY

Gorkha Mandir, bee-s, islandir, see-s, i

M/s I al Maa Durga Trading Co, Ware House Jammu. M/s S R Trading Co, Ware House Jammu. M/s S R Trading Co, Ware House Jammu. M/s Jehlum Cattle Feed Industry . Ware House Jammu. ontact No. 7006001302, 7889750634, 9419112088

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, it is informed that oumother Sardarni Hardeep Kour, wife of S. Devinda Singh R/o H.No.1, Apna Vihar Extn. Left for heavenly abode on 13-10-2023. PROGRAMME: Arambh Shri Akhand Paath on 18-10-2023 (Wednesday 9 AM at H.No.1, Apna Vihar Extn. Bhog Shri Akhand Paath on 20-10-2023 (Friday) 9 AM a

BROG Shri Akhand Path on 20-10-2023 (Friday) 9 AM at HNO.1, Apna Vihar Extr. Antim Ardas & Smapati on 20-10-2023 (Friday) from 10.30 am onwards at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji Gole Market Gandhi Nagar till 12 noon. Followed by Guru Ka Langar. IN GRIEF IN GKLEF Dupinder Singh & Rajpreet Kour **-Son & Daughter-in-law** Ameet Kour & Gurmeet Singh **-Daughter & Son-in-law** Jpjeet Singh & Rupinder Kour **-Son & Daughter-in-law** Grand Children: Neamat, Amyinidh, Jasmeen, Samreen, A

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI With profound grief we inform that Smt. Satya Devi W/O Late Tara Chand Magotro breathed her last on 9th October, 2023 10TH DAY shall be performed at 11 AM or 10TH DAY shall be performed at 11 AM on 18th October, 2023 (Wednesday) at 298-Last Sarwal Morh, New Plot, Jammu. KRIYA shall be performed on 19th October, 2023 (Thursday) at 298-New Plotat 12 noon. RASAM PAGRI shall take place on 20th October, 2023 from 4PM to 5PM at Panch Mandir, Sector-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu. CPIEE STRICKEN. GRIEF STRICKEN Daughters-In-Law & Sons Neelam & Vinod Magotra



Devranis & Devars Shakuntla Devi & Anant Ram Sharma Gayatri & Gopal Dass Sharma Grand Children & Great Grand

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

Daughter & Son-In-Law
Sunita & Dr. Shashikant Goswami
Bhabhis & Brothers
Des Raj Sharma
Sudesh W/o Late Mulk Raj Sharma
Chanchal W/o Late Comdt. Hans Raj Sharma
Lalita & Surinder Thappa
Nalini & Gp. Capt. Suraj Sharma

Babli & Ravi Magotra

Neera W/o Late Varinder Magotra Daughter & Son-In-Law

Vith profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform th ad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Manjeet Kaur** W. i. Gurdeep Singh Raina SAO (Retd.) R/o Sector-f House NO. 438, Sainik Corony, Communication on 20th October, 2023 (Friday) at 9:00 AM. Bhog Sri Akhand Sahib at our residence on 20.10.2023 (Sunday) at 10.30 AM. Shabadh Kirtan & Antima Ardas will be performed af Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Sainik Colony Jammur from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. use NO. 438, Sainik Colony, Jammu

er-in-law & Father-in-law

Mother-in-law & Father-in-law Sdn. Niranjan Kaur W/O Late Sub. Raj Singh (Batote Wale) S. Gurdeep Singh Raina SAO (Retd.) M.O.D. - Husband S. Harpreet Singh Sajan and Anupriya Kaur - Son & Daughter-in-law Sdn. Gurjeet Kaur & S. Gurmail Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law Sdn. Jaspreet Kaur & S. Jugraj Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law

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(Rajat)







NHAI causing inconvenience to commuters on Jammu-Pathankot Highway

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Oct 18: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today has criticized NHAI authorities for harassment of commuters for hours long frequent traffic jams on Jammu-Pathankot highway from Vijaypur to Bari Brahmana in Samba

The Former Minister gave this statement in a meeting that was organized here in Samba to discuss public issues. The meeting was also attended by District President Samba, Raman Thappa, Lovely Mangol, and others.

During the meeting,



Manjit Singh said that the commuters are compelled to face difficulties by the NHAI authorities because of ongoing unprofessional widening work that is posing threat to the lives of the people.

"The work on the highway has been sub-let to

the contractors by the NHAI who are unprofessional and pose a threat to the commuters. The work has also caused great inconvenience to the commuters with frequent traffic jams for over 4 hours on the

stretch from Vijaypur

to Bari Brahmana," he

added.

He said that the civil administration should seriously look into the issue and handle the issue after speaking to the NHAI which has failed properly to work on widening work without causing harassment to the commuters and

businessmen.

He said that the unprecedented traffic continues for hours together from Vijaypur to Bari Brahmana has become a problem for the people especially in the wake of Navratri festival and marriages.

He demanded intervention of the civil administration and traffic police to end the harassment of the commuters.

Meanwhile, he welcomed dozens of youth into the party fold and lauded their decision.

He said that the youth joined the party as they were impressed with the vision of the Apni Party leadership and agenda of equitable development.

JKTPO participates in 45th India Carpet Expo at Bhadohi

TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADOHI, Oct 18: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) participated in 45h edition of India Carpet Expo, at Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh, a flagship B2B event organized by Carpet **Export Promotion Coun**cil (CEPC).

The expo was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath.

During the inaugural ceremony, Chief Minister interacted with the exhibitors from Jammu Kashmir and appreciated the hand-woven silk and woollen carpets. He emphasized the pivotal role of UT's carpet industry, over the years, in promotion of exports. He highlighted the evolving industrial eco-system and importance of promoting GI tagged products of Jammu Kashmir at National and international markets.

The exquisite handcrafted carpets from Jammu and Kashmir were one of the biggest attractions at India Carpet Expo, showcasing the state's culture, heritage and unique craft.

India Carpet Expo brings together national and international traders, industry leaders and craftsmen, to drive economic growth and promote handicraft in the country. The carpets from Jammu and Kashmir showcased uniqueness in design and skilled craftsmanship of carpet industry of the UT to more than 2000 national and 150 international visitors/

investors.

The exhibitors from the UT showcased a variety of unique range of GI tagged silk carpets and woollen carpet at the event.

Special media interaction with carpet exporters from J&K was organized to understand the current advancements in the hand-weave carpet industry empowerment and their success stories to encourage more entrepreneurs from the UT of J&K.

Exhibitors received excellent response and numerous B2B meets were conducted with national and international visitors/buyers. Ample business leads, approximately more than 150, were generated by the exhibitors, which, in turn, are expected to generate good business for them.

Colourful cultural activities, fancy dress competition mark 3rd day of CBC's multimedia exhibition at Katra

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Oct 18: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Wednesday organised diverse programs as part of the audience engagement and mobilisation activities for the ongoing 8-day long multimedia exhibition underway in Katra.

multimedia The exhibition on the theme of 9 Years of Seva, Sushashan aur Garib Kalyan is being organised by CBC's Field Office, Udhampur at Government Higher Secondary School, Katra from October 16 to October 23.

Ghulam Abass, Joint Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh region along with the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Katra, Sh. Deepak Dubey presided over the proceedings.

JULTIME

Speaking on the occasion, Abass informed about the mandate of CBC and also briefed about the activities being organised as part of the multimedia exhibition in Katra.

In his address, Dubey appreciated CBC for being a regular participant in the annual Navratra Festival and dia exhibition for Mass

awareness of the public welfare schemes of the government.

Empanelled cultural troupes from Rajasthan and Kashmir enthralled the audience by their colorful performances presenting the famed Ghoomar and Band Pather respectively.

Students from different schools of the Katra in singing, fancy dress

open quiz and drawing competitions on the third day of the event. Sports competitions like Kabaddi and Tug of War were also organised during the day. Winners in each category of the competition were awarded at the conclusion of the event. The events were organised in coordination with Govt Higher Secondary

On the occasion Field

Publicity Officer, CBC Udhampur Sh Khursheed Yousuf informed that under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative, cultural evening is being organised on a daily basis by CBC, wherein troupes from different states perform for the devotees and spread the message of communal

State Taxes Deptt undertakes cleanliness drive

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: The State Taxes Department carried out a massive cleanliness drive under 'Swachta Hi Sewa' at its Headquarters situated here in Jammu, along with various other field offices located in other districts across Jammu and Kashmir Union Ter-

At Jammu headquarters, the drive was led by Commissioner, State Taxes, Dr Rashmi Singh, along with other senior officers of the department.

Reiterating the significance of Swachta Hi Sewa, the officers and officials of different sections vehemently participated in cleanliness drive in the premises and vicinity of the complex.

Accompanied by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Jammu, Namrita Dogra and other senior officers, the Commissioner State Taxes also inspected different sections of the office and took stock of

all ongoing facelifting and renovations works, which have been car-

ried out to provide better office ambience to the visitors. The Commissioner

also visited the basement area, department's stores and corridor area. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Commissioner said the work to clean and beautify office space will continue under Swachta Hi Sewa campaign. She emphasized upon the role of all the officers and officials of the department in spreading awareness about the need of hygienic and clean society in overall development of every-

one. During the drive, the staff took up cleaning of stores, basement, compound premises including park area.

Similar exercise was undertaken by field offices of the department in various parts of the union territory. The officers voluntarily cleaned the surroundings and their office premises from within and outside under the campaign.

The departmental teams were constituted to participate in the campaign mainly at place of public importance, roads, parks and areas in and around the premises of State Taxes Offices where officer and officials collected and disposed of the garbage.

NSS Units of GDC Kathua organizes cleanliness drive

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU. Oct 18: In an effort to promote cleanliness and environmental responsibility, NSS Units at GDC Kathua organized a Cleanliness Drive on the college premises as part of the Special Swachhata Campaign 3.0. The campaign targeted the Arts Block classrooms and the NSS Park.

During this initiative, dedicated volunteers utilized brooms to thoroughly clean the walls and ceilings of the class rooms. They also diligently collected waste from both the class rooms and the NSS Park, ensuring proper disposal at designated locations. Addressing the volunteers,

NSS Programme Officer, Prof Manmohan Singh, commended their commitment to cleanliness and encouraged them to strive for a visible impact in their communities. He emphasized the significance of creating awareness and understanding about the importance of cleanliness, asserting that it is a shared responsibility as citizens of India. Prof Manmohan Singh also called upon the volunteers to become youth ambassa-

dors and continue the campaign in their respective localities.

integration.

Prof Seema Mir, Principal of GDC Kathua, extended her patronage to the entire activity. The cleanliness drive was conducted under the supervision of NSS Programme Officers Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Neha Bandral, and Dr. Suresh Sharma.

Teachers' role as a key to making society: First Shiksha Shastrarth concludes

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Oct. 18, 2023: The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, on the auspicious fourth day of 'Navratri' initiated 'Shiksha Shastrarth', a forum created to ignite the passion for learning through lectures, interactions, dialogues and discussions on a range of contemporary educational topics. The theme of the inaugural discourse was "The Indian Tradition of Teacher Education and its Contemporary Relevance".

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, was the chief guest on the occasion. He insisted on the role of education to give the right directions to any individual and thereby



teachers' key role in constructing an ideal society. Quoting NEP 2020, he said that education is for all and quality education should reach all. He calibrated the attention of the learned gathering to get back to the Indian tradition characterized by focusing on learners' choices and interests.

Prof. Asit Mantry Head of the Department shared his thoughts with the students and highlighted how this forum will act to productively engage young and creative minds in the endeavour of knowledge construction. He informed that the forum will also feature distin-

guished speakers from diverse knowledge

expertise. The event began with the lamp lighting and chanting of 'Gayatri Mantra' followed by a formal welcome address by Dr. Kiran (Coordinator of the Co-Curricular

domains offering valu-

able perspectives and

committee). The formal curtain-raising of Shiksha Shastrarth was done by the honorable Vice Chancellor who was the Key Resource Person and the Chief Guest of the event. The address of the key resource person was followed by the inquisitive enquirycum-discussion from the students and scholars of the Department.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi (Dean Student Welfare), Prof. J N Baliya, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi, Dr. Mohan, Dr. Anil, Dr. Aarushi, Ms. Shivali along with the students and scholars had marked their active presence in the event.

The event was concluded by a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Yad Ram (member of the Co-Curricular commit-

ENIT NO. 112 OF 2023-24 DATED 11-10-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT JSPHEM/UDHR/ 112 OF 2023-24 DATED 11-10-2023

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT,

SI.	ctrical works. Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender	Earnest Money	Bid validity
OI.	Name of the work	Qiy	Name of Division	Document / Tender Fee (in Rs)	(in Rs)	Did Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 10000 gph x 10-13 meter head mono submersible pump set installed at pumping station khoon and replacement of 3" dia cast iron sluice valve installed at pumping station kalka mata	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non- refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 2900.00) 2% (in case of non- registered firms)Or (Rs.1450.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://iktenders.gov.in from 12-10-2023 (18:00 Hrs.) The Bids shall be deposited on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 12-10-2023 (18:30 Hrs.) to 19-10-2023 (3:00 Hrs.).
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender
- The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.in The technical bid will be opened on line on 20-10-2023 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table (and for DIC/SSI/MSME registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K govt.) payable at Udhampur pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR / BG of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for six months or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of Treasury Challan / e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur payable at Udhampur.
 - Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate $\text{Average Annual financial turnover during } \bar{\text{the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be } \\$ at least 30% of this estimated cost.
 - Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 07 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:
 - Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost
 - b. Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimate cost.
 - One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost. Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.
- 10. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening 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 earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited 11. The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact site
- 12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2023-24/3954-57 DIP/J-9776/23

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur

EDITORIAL

AVOID ACCIDENTS

he large number of children killed on the roads is a strong argument for any possible means of prevention. Again training, reinforced by example, is the most important factor. If a child is taught always to pause and look both ways before stepping into the road, and if he sees his elders invariably doing so, a habit will become ingrained which will help him to stand in good stead.

To prevent children from various type of road accidents one should be careful from the very beginning. To avoid accidents in the road, some steps may be taken which include Small children should not be allowed alone on busy main roads until they can assimilate such teaching of rules of roads; Children should not be allowed to play in roads on which there is much traffic; With very young children in a house which opens straight onto a road or has only a small garden it may be necessary to put up a gate at the house- door or to adjust the fastener of the garden gate so that a child can not open it and go outside; the children should learn the rules of 'dressing the road', they should remember them and obey them that do not cross until the road is clear. Look to the right. Then look to the left. Then look to the right again and then cross; Go straight across. Do not cross at an angle; Walk quickly but calmly. Do not run; Watch out for cars, buses etc; always use zebra crossing if there is one. If necessary stay on the zebra crossing at the time of crossing the road; always obey traffic light signals. If the light is red, do not cross. It the light is red and the road is clear do not cross. Wait until the light changes to green. Look to see if the road is clear. Then only cross the road; at the time of walking along the road always use the pavement or foot path if there is one. If there is no pavement walk on the right side of the road keep close to the side. Do not run in the road. Do not play in the road.

While using a bus or a tram the children should remember that do not try to get on until the passengers have got off; Do not get off until the bus has stopped; After you get off, do not try to cross the road until the bus has moved off, as many people are hit by cars when they step out the road from behind a bus; The children should be taught to obey the signs made by a policeman. If they do not, two things may happen. They may be hurt or may-be punished as they are breaking the law of the road, Most of the accidents occur when it is raining; people are in a hurry because they do not want to get wet. They rush across the road without looking right or to the left.

They often cannot see clearly because they hold umbrellas in front of them, the cars take longer time to stop when the road is wet. So when it is raining us more careful to avoid unwanted accidents.

Rethinking the Padma and Bharat Ratna Awards

By: Amitabha Bhattacharya

he recent demise of iconic agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, known as the "father" of our Green Revolution, was widely mourned. But he wasn't just a scientist who did an exemplary job; his life-long crusade against hunger, his deep concern for environmental sustainability and similar public causes made him one of the tallest Indians of our times.

Unfortunately, he wasn't awarded the Bharat Ratna, though perhaps no other living Indian merited it more. This should set one thinking on how these awards are decided.

The nation's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, and the Padma awards (Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri) continue to interest its citizens since these were instituted in 1954. More than numerous other national awards, the announcement of these awards on the eve of Republic Day is keenly awaited.

Like the Nobel or equivalent prizes, this scheme of recognising exceptional achievements in different fields of activity where "an element of public service is involved", like in art, literature and education, sport, medicine, social work, science and engineering, civil service, public affairs, trade and industry, has also been criticised from time to time.

Though no undeserving person may have got these awards, arguably many deserving ones did not. Since awardees are chosen from different disciplines, it has always been difficult to arrive at an equivalence. How does one compare, for example, Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar or Lata Mangeshkar with, say, M. Visvesvaraya

or Mother Teresa, except that we can agree all attained the highest level of excellence in their fields?

If one analyses the process that has evolved over the past seven decades, certain broad aspects become evident. First, the procedure of selection of the Padma awards has been democratised (for the Bharat Ratna, the recommendations are made directly by the Prime Minister to the President). Second, vocal or stringent critics of the government of the day have rarely been considered for such awards. In other words, the system does not appear to be wholly devoid of politics. Third, certain regions of India seem to remain under-represented.

About the democratisation of the selection process, one notices that in 2001, the committee to recommend the names for the Padma awards had 10 members -three officials (Cabinet Secretary, secretary to the President and the home secretary) and seven individuals by name (Dr R. Chidambaram, Mrs R.M. Bathew, Anupam Kher, Dr Manmohan Singh, Dr C. Narayana Reddy, Rafiq Zakaria and Rajat Sharma). The principal secretary to the PM was added in 2005.

The 2023 awards committee comprised 19 members, and received 3,869 nominations, besides 21 names recommended by the search committee (comprising largely of joint secretary-level officers of various ministries, set up from 2018). This combination of civil servants, and other members chosen on merit and/or political considerations, ensures that controversies are minimised, that awards are bestowed upon proven performance, and that the "popularity" of performers in the commercial fields are also taken note of. Selecting individuals on the basis of their promise is a different matter altogether, requiring the presence of acute mind(s) willing to take a risk.

Few people know that anyone can nominate a person, including himself or herself, online, with supporting documents, within a particular date through a transparent process, after logging onto the designated government website. The final choice is made from the long list of nominated and recommended names. No wonder that in recent years, some dedicated grassroots workers, far removed from the limelight, are getting increasingly noticed and honoured.

This has been a welcome trend that should be expanded and reinforced.

As regards political neutrality in selection, let us look at certain cases. The first three Bharat Ratna awardees were C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, and C.V. Raman, all men of great standing. However, while C.V. Raman was wholly apolitical, never aspiring for public office or caring to be close to those in power. Next year, Jawaharlal Nehru, M. Visvesvaraya and Bhagwan Das were the awardees. Even admitting that in 1955, there was no Indian jewel comparable with Nehru, this decision could have perhaps been avoided. It did not create a healthy precedent.

At the same time, a scientist like Meghnad Saha or a historian like R.C. Majumdar remained unrecognised. The tradition of ignoring eminent individuals critical of the government or its leaders has been a long one.

Third, the value one attaches to these awards varies with individuals, and sometimes perhaps with people coming from certain regions. One can name umpteen celebrities from West Bengal, for instance, who politely refused to accept these awards. A few did so on principle, some for political reasons, others on the ground that the award came too late and was too little.

A literary giant like Sunil Gangopadhyay, who became the president of the Sahitya Akademi, was ignored. Similarly, two influential and popular litterateurs of today's Bengal, Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, 87, and Sankar, 89, are yet to receive recognition, despite them being apolitical in their work. Two of the latter's novels were the basis of Satyajit Ray's notable films. Such may be the case for some other regions as well. These omissions may not be intentional but seem to have arisen from a systemic flaw that should be rectified, to ensure greater credibility of these awards.

How to insulate the scheme from politics, how to identify certain young individuals with high promise (like the scientist Rituparna Kanungo, for instance), and how to ensure that democratisation does not lead to populism and devaluation of these awards, are among the issues that should be seriously examined.

But even judged by established performance, who is more worthy of a Padma than, say, neuroscientist Mriganka Sur of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology? Wouldn't recognising the stellar contributions of M.S. Swaminathan with the Bharat Ratna, even posthumously, be widely appreciated?

(The writer is a retired IAS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, who has also worked with UNDP and the private sector)

Perfect preparation for JEE mains and NEET UG exams with virtual tutor



By: Vijay Garg

If you are preparing for competitive exams like JEE and NEET, then artificial intelligence based virtual tutor can be very useful for you. For this you do not even need to go to the coaching market. You can get guidance right from the comfort of your home. In traditional coaching classes, it is not possible for the teacher to pay attention to every student. But a vir-

tual tutor gives you personal attention, improving your preparation. from machine learning algorithms Preparation AI Virtual Tutor helps students by encouraging them to study smart. AI technology provides a customized report based on the individual strengths and weaknesses of students through machine learning algorithms, making it possible for students to plan their course completion and focus specifically on the subjects in which students excel. Are weak. With this technique, students' time is saved and exam preparation can be made easier by covering the syllabus better. virtual tutor feedback from Virtual tutor powered by AI guides students preparing for competitive exams by providing feedback and assistance in a variety of ways. By knowing the learning styles of the

students, the virtual tutor ensures that the learning process is easier for them and different learning strategies can be created for different students as per their needs. Previous display is continuous track AI technology tries to improve the performance of students by tracking their progress at every moment. This the difficulty level of questions in the virtual test is based on the previous performance of the students, through which students can focus on the weak topics and boost their confidence. Special focus on time management In competitive exams like JEE and NOTES, AI technology understands the exam pattern and prepares strategies to improve time management for students. It helps students to understand how to solve important questions first while staying within the

time limit during the exam. If student exam When students learn to develop time management skills, they can mentally prepare themselves at the time of examination by knowing how much time to give to which questions. Start your preparation from here To ease the preparation for competitive exams like JEE and NEET, the Ministry of Education has launched Sathi app for students, through which students can easily prepare for JEE and NEET exams. Apart from this, students can also do AI virtual studies through Darwin NEET, Imbibe, Melveno and EduRev app.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

Prof Hari Om's book The 1998 Jammu Revolt released

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU. Oct 18: The book "The 1998 Jammu Revolt: How Farooq Abdullah saved his government", authored by Prof Hari Om, former Dean of Jammu University's Faculty of Social Sciences and Head of History Department, was released today at the Seminar Hall, Department of Computer Sciences, University of Jammu in an impressive function here. It was attended by university teachers, leading members of Jammu civil society, and students, particularly those who had participated in the agitation and suffered immensely in the pro-

The book throws light on the 1998 MBBS/ BDS agitation. It was launched by Jammu Joint Students Federation (JJSF) students on February 28, 1998, and supported by Jammu University teachers, all sections of society, and Bar Association Jammu (BAJ), Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and transporters' associations. The agitation continued till May 6.

It was for the first time in the Jammu's political history that Jammu observed continuous

bandh for twelve day, and witnessed continuous chain hunger strike for 43 days and fastunto-death for 30 days. It was also for the first time that educational institutions remained closed for 67 days and business establishments for 15 long days and the national highways were blocked. The participation of girl students in the agitation was on an unprecedented scale.

The 1998 agitation could be legitimately termed as the Jammu's crowning triumph, as it had brought the Farooq Abdullah Government to the knees of the people of Jammu province.

Such was the nature and magnitude of the agitation that the mortally afraid Faroog Abdullah Government had to ignore the bitter Kashmiri opposition and

pass bills on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and Agriculture University when the agitation was still on. This government would have surely collapsed, had it not passed these two historic bills.

The other demand was admission to the Jammu-based technical and professional institutions as per the admission rules as laid down by the Jammu and Kashmir University's Act of 1969. In other words, the demand was that all the seats available in Jammu province must be made the sole preserve of the Jammu youth and all the seats available in Kashmir the sole preserve of Kash-

miri youth. The three-member committee set up by the Faroog Abdullah Government and headed by

RP Singhal -- of which Late Prof DK Rampal of Jammu University's English Department was also a member -- did concede this demand in January 1999. It remains a matter of grave concern that the government didn't implement the Singhal Committee Report and that it

has been gathering dust

in the Secretariat ever

since then

The book The 1998 Jammu revolt also throws light on the nature of New Delhi's Kashmir policy and the essentially negative attitude of certain elements in Jammu towards the needs, compulsions and aspirations of the people of Jammu province. These elements tried their best to puncture and derail the movement, but the determined students

and university teachers

defeated all their moves.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Prof Hari Om, the author, Advocate Rajinder Jamwal, former JJSF president, Hari Dutt Shishu, former Jammu University Research Scholars Association (JURSA), and Zorawar Singh Jamwal, president Team Jammu. The programme was anchored by Atul Sudan, JJSF Sr. Vice president, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Pushvinder Singh Manhas, president JJSF.

The 1998 Jammu Revolt was published by a leading publishing concern, Har Anand Publications of which Late Shri Narendra Kumar was the founder. The book is available with Amazon and Sahitya Sangam, Kachi Chowni,

Jammu.

SMVDU holds Scientific & Technical Outreach Program

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Oct 18: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in association with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, organized a one-day Scientific and Technical Outreach Program at the SMVDU campus.

The program was attended by more than 300 students from various schools and departments along with the faculty and staff members.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU, Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs. Scientists from BARC, including S. Prabhakar, specializing in Food Irradiation Technology; Sameer Mandal, expert in Nuclear Reactor technology; R. K. B. Yadav, specialist in Radiation Safety in Health & Environment; Heema Rao, Head PA&FL Section, R. K. Mishra, and Yatin Thakur shared the dais.

The program was organized by the School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra with



Dr. Vineet Veer Tyagi, Dean of Research and Development, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean of Research & Development, Dr. Yatheshth Anand and Dr. Jitendra Sharma as organizing team.

Dr. Jitendra Sharma co-convenor in his welcome address emphasizes the importance of such partnerships. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU in his speech highlighted the University's achievement and its endeavours to organise such programmes. He stressed that such a program is very important for the student to pursue a career in the field of Nuclear Science & Renewable Energy.

In his speech, Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU said that this event will be helpful for the students in shaping their future. The Scientific and Technical Outreach Program, organized by the Scientists from BARC aims to create awareness about Nuclear Energy and its application. The scientific Outreach and Training program was unique in nature as it involved quizzes, expert lectures, and skits.

The response from the students who attended the workshop and participated in the guiz sessions was overwhelming. The winners were awarded certificates. Dr. Yatheshth Anand expressed thanks to Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for their unwavering support and partnership in making this initiative a reality.

G2@

Modi gifted J&K prestigious projects: Munish

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: BJP senior leader and former General Secretary Munish Sharma, in a statement, said that the nine years of Modi government at the Centre has been splendid period in all matters of development and welfare schemes. He said that for Jammu and Kashmir, this period has come to be known for the first time this neglected state (now UT), got a large number of mega and prestigious projects in health and education sectors.

Munish Sharma said that Jammu and Kashmir prestigious educational institutions like IIT, IIIM, AIIMS for healthcare, district level medical colleges. With the establishment of these projects march ahead bringing change in lives



of the people, promoting progress and prosperity. He said that people across the Country,

including Jammu and Kashmir, are expressing gratitude to the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "people are of the

view that it is the Modi government, which is really working for their socio-economic upliftment", Munish Sharma said, adding that the nation needs such a person as PM for long years so that the nation move fast on the path

of overall development and every citizen lives peaceful, dignified life. He expressed hope that the people will further strengthen BJP in future elections and return this party in power again under PM Modi. He also stressed upon the party activists to keep working in public service mission and educate them about governance and splendid achievements of the

government.

One-day Red Cross awareness programme organised at SKUAST-K

TOP NEWS REPORT

WADURA, Oct 18: The Division of Agricultural **Economics and Statistics** at the Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Kashmir, organized a One-Day Red Cross Awareness Programme in collaboration with the NSS Unit (Students Welfare Office) at Wadura on October 18, 2023. The program aimed to inspire and engage youth in humanitarian activities, with the goal of minimizing and preventing human suffering.

Inaugurating the event, Prof. Tariq A. Raja, Head of the Division, highlighted the significance of the awareness program. The occasion also marked the release of a Lecture Manual on Institutional Economics by the dignitaries in attendance.

The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. G. A. Qureshi, Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Red Cross Society UT of J&K, and Former Director General of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics. Mr. Qureshi delivered an insightful speech on the importance of the Red Cross Society and its activities in the UT of J&K. He engaged with students from the Fac-



Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Wadura, encouraged students to actively participate in the Red Cross program's various activities and contribute to humanitarian efforts while upholding human

values. Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Qureshi, Students Welfare Officer, shed light on the different student clubs and initiated the formation of the Red Cross Student Club within the Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K

Wadura. The program was coordinated in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir (UT) Chapter, and was attended by Mr. M. Rajab, District Secretary Red Cross, who shared valuable insights

about the Red Cross among the students.

The event brought together Heads of Divisions, Professors, faculty members, and students. It concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Farheen Nagash, Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, who expressed gratitude to the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, for her unwavering support and encouragement, the Chief Guest, the Organizing Committee, and all attendees for making the event a resounding success.

Zulfkar strongly condemns brutal double murder in Rajouri; seeks SIT probe

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Oct 18: Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali has strongly condemned the brutal murder of a couple and demanded an in-depth investigation into the double murder with the constitution of a Special Investigation Team of Jammu and Kashmir Police to arrest the absconding murderers.

In a statement to the press, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali expressed grave concern over the double murder in Kandi in Rajouri in which Mohammed Azim, son of Mohammed Khan, and his wife Gulzar Begam were murdered brutally by the unidentified murderers in dokh area in Kandi on October 17, 2023.

"The brutal murder has shocked

everyone in the region although the police have started its probe. The double murder must be investigated by a team of SIT of J&K Police Officers,"

He said that the children and family members of the victims should be rehabilitated by the Govt and the victim's family must be provided justice and compensation as soon as possible.

He said that "There is a need to step up the security arrangements especially for the police to curb the criminal activities."

"There is a need to remain vigilant to avoid such incidents in future and to restore confidence among the people as they have developed a sense of fear," he added.

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR $\textbf{e-mail:} \underline{xenpwddivgandhinagar@gmail.com}$

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/14 of 2023-24 Dated 14-10-2023

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir -tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.	Name of Work	Name of	Advertised	Cost of	Earnest	Time	Time and	Class of
No		Division	Cost	document	Money	Allowed	date of	Contractor
			(`in Lacs)	(in `)	(in `)	for	opening of	
				. ,		complete	tender	
						-on		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Conversion of Rooms at Ist	PWD	8.56	600	17120	01	(1400 Hrs)	"C" & "D"
	Floor of under construction	(R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar			(2% of the	Month	on or after	Class
	for additional block of				Advertised Cost)		21-10-2023	
	Information and Technology							
	Department at Govt.	Magai						
	Polytechnic College, Jammu							
	as Strong Rooms for							
	Warehousing M3 EVMs /							
	VVPATs Machines							
2	Installation of CCTV Cameras	PWD	4.28	600	8560	01	(1400 Hrs)	"D" Class
	at EVM Warehouse / Strong	Gandni			(2% of the	Month	on or after	
	Rooms at 4th Floor,				Advertised		21-10-2023	
	Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head				Cost)			
	Commission Innomes	Nagar			5500,			

Position of AAA

:- Accorded by Deputy District Election Officer Jammu vide No ENT/J/2023-24/5918-19 dated 12-10-2023 for S.No. 1 & 2

Sanctioned by this office vide order No. 20/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2023-24 **Position of TS**

dated 13-10-2023 for S.No. 1 and order No. 19/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2023-24 dated 13-10-2023 for S.No. 2

Project Authority :- Deputy District Election Officer Jammi

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website $\underline{\text{http://jktenders.gov.in}}$ as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-10-2023			
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-10-2023 to 20-10-2023, 1800 Hrs			
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	17-10-2023 at 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive			
		Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar			
4	Bid submission Start Date	14-10-2023			
5	Bid Submission End Date	20-10-2023 upto 1800 Hrs			
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-10-2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of			
		Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi			
		Nagar			

7 Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequentialsubmission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

DIP/J-9782/23

(Er. Rahat Gupta) **Executive Engineer** PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar

Waheeda Rehman bags Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Screen icon Waheeda Rehman on Tuesday became the eighth woman artiste to receive the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, an honour she dedicated to her 'dear film industry' and its various departments. The cinema veteran, who received a standing ovation from the A-list gathering as she walked to the stage, spoke about how filmmaking is a collaborative process.

"I feel very honoured and humbled... But whatever I have achieved today, it is because of my dear film industry. Luckily, I got to work with top directors, producers, filmmakers, technicians, writers, dialogue writers,



music directors and musicians," Rehman said in her acceptance speech.

"I got a lot of support, respect and love from them," she said, also crediting the make-up artists, hair and costume designers...Which is why I am sharing this award with all the departments of the film industry. They gave me a lot of respect, support and love from the very beginning. A film is not made by just one person, we need each other," she added.

The five-member jury — comprising Rehman's close friend and last year's Dadasaheb awardee Asha Parekh, actors Chiranjeevi, Paresh Rawal, Prosenjit Chatterjee and filmmaker Shekhar Kapur — selected Rehman for the prestigious honour.

Rehman made her debut in Hindi films opposite Dev Anand in Guru Dutt's 1956 film CID and went on to build a stellar career of over five decades, including classics Pyaasa, Kaagaz Ke Phool and Chaudhvin Ka Chand, Guide as well as later hits such as Kabhi Kabhie and Khamoshi.

Noted Malayalam actor Kundara Johny dies at 71

Noted Malayalam actor Kundara Johny passed away after suffering a heart attack at a hospital here, industry sources said on Wednesday.

The 71-year-old actor, who made a mark in the film industry as villain, complained of uneasiness at his home on Tuesday night and was rushed to a hospital where he breathed his last.

His funeral will be held on Thursday at Kollam, his home town, the sources said.

Born as Johny Joseph, he was popularly known as Kundara Johny as he



hailed from Kundara in Kollam district.

Johny, who has acted in over a 100 films, made his debut in 1979 and was an integral part of the film industry.

Well-built and tall, he was often the first choice for playing the villain, which he did exceedingly well.

Films that earned him critical acclaim include 'Kireedam',' Chenkol', 'August 15', 'Spadikam', 'Aaram Thampuran', and 'Dada Sahib'.

Condoling his demise, State Minister for Culture and Cinema, Saji Cherian, said he had recently met the actor at his home town while inaugurating a function attached to a Club, in which the patron was Johny.

"Johny essayed the role of the villain with ease and always played his role well," recalled Cherian.

Kirti Kulhari to make international debut with Sach is Life

Actress Kirti Kulhari is set to make her international feature debut with a slice-of-life film Sach is Life. The movie is based on the true story of an Indian immigrant Munshi family based out of the US. It is written and directed by Harsh Mahadeshwar, who has earlier worked on many music videos.

"For the first time I am playing a real-life character. The family lives in Albany. We are meeting the whole family, especially Daisy ji whose character I am playing and her son, Sachin Munshi. That's a big part of the prep that I am really looking forward to. I will also get to understand her personality".



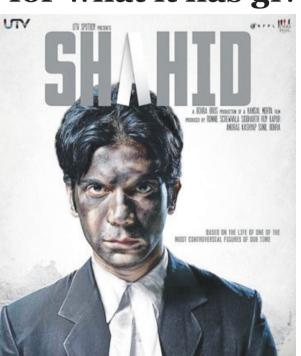
Hansal Mehta on 10 years of 'Shahid': A lot of gratitude for what it has given to all of us

Filmmaker Hansal Mehta on Wednesday marked 10th anniversary of his 2013 biographical drama film 'Shahid', saying the movie has given him a lot and started his collaboration with actor Rajkummar Rao.

The critically-acclaimed film is based on the life of lawyer and human rights activist, Shahid Azmi, who was assassinated in 2010 in Mumbai.

'Shahid' had its world premiere in Toronto International Film Festival 2012 to great audience response.

Sharing the official poster of the film on Instagram, the film-maker said the film had



marked his new innings as a filmmaker.

"10 years of #Shahid. Just a lot of gratitude for what it has given to all of us. Shahid Azmi's unfortunate killing gave me a new life as a filmmaker. This film began my fondest collaboration with @rajkummar_rao," Mehta wrote.

The 55-year-old director also tagged the rest of the film's cast, including Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Prabhleen Sandhu and Baljinder Kaur, as well as co-writer Apurva Asrani, producers Anurag Kashyap, Sunil Bohra and casting director Mukesh Chhabra

"Always thankful to @

ronnie.screwvala and #SidRoyKapur for championing this small film with a big heart. Thank you Shahid Azmi," he added.

Post 'Shahid', Mehta and Rao worked together on critically acclaimed films like 'Citylights', 'Aligarh', 'Omerta' and comedy-drama 'Chhalaang'.

Mehta's latest project is 'The Buckingham Murders', starring Kareena Kapoor Khan. The procedural thriller film had its world premiere at the 67th BFI London Film Festival last week and is set to open the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival on October 27.

Don't have a flow chart to live life by: Maanvi Gagroo

Amazon miniTV latest rom-com series Half Love Half Arranged explores the world of arranged-dating in the middle of crazy matches, weird situations, hilarious moments, and love jitters. Maanvi Gagroo is seen in the lead role portraying the life of a career-oriented woman caught up in the mess of relationships and marriage, alongside her co-star Karan Wahi.

Talking about her character, Maanvi says, "She's a Type A personality.

She's a gynaecologist by profession and is nearing the end of her 30-year marriage goal. But her long-term boyfriend dumps her. With a vengeance, she starts on a groom

Supported by her Bua, a matchmaker, her parents, her best friend, and her life's flow chart."

She also talks about the similarities between her character, Riya, and herself in real life. "I don't have deadlines or a flow chart to live life by, but certain aspects of her life, such as her relationships with her family and friends, felt familiar," she adds. "I think its treatment is very fresh.

And that newness lends itself to every department. I mean, it's not a sitcom, but it is, it's not a rom-com, but it is," she says.



Britney Spears writes of abortion while dating Justin Timberlake in excerpts from upcoming memoir

Britney Spears wrote that she had an abortion while dating Justin Timberlake more than 20 years ago, according to a peek inside her hotly anticipated memoir.

"If it had been left up to me alone, I never would have done it," she writes of the procedure, according to the excerpt from "The Woman in Me" published in People magazine. "And yet Justin was so sure that he didn't want to be a father."

The pregnancy "was a surprise, but for me, it wasn't a tragedy," she wrote in the excerpt, saying that she had wanted to start a family with Timberlake — it was just earlier than expected.

"But Justin definitely wasn't happy about the pregnancy. He said we weren't ready to have a baby in our lives, that we were way too young," she wrote. The couple broke up in 2002. It's unclear when the pregnancy happened.

Representatives for Spears declined to offer further comment. Representatives for Timberlake did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. The AP has not been able to independently review a copy of the "The Woman in Me" yet.

Spears, a prolific user of social media, has not posted to Instagram or X, since the People stories were published.

In the excerpt published in People, she characterised the abortion as "one of the most agonising things I have ever experienced in my life."

Spears' long-awaited



memoir will be published October 24, just months after her divorce from Sam Asghari was announced and promising to shed light on the 41-year-old's tumultuous decades in the spotlight.

"NO ONE KNOWS WHAT I REALLY THOUGHT... UNTIL NOW," reads a teaser for the book she posted Sunday. The audiobook will be narrated by actor Michelle Williams.

Hailing from Kentwood, Louisiana, Spears rose to fame as a tween on "The Mickey Mouse Club", alongside other future stars like Ryan Gosling and Timberlake — a trajectory chronicled in other excerpts published by

People.

Despite some further

attempts at acting — in the People excerpts, she says the lead in "The Notebook" came down to her and Rachel McAdams and that she was relieved when 2002's "Crossroads" was "was pretty much the beginning and end of my acting career" — she found indelible stardom with her music career, starting with 1999's "...Baby One

More Time."

She had two sons with Kevin Federline, but was placed under a court-ordered conservatorship — mostly under the supervision of her father — that controlled her life, money and voice after public

breakdowns. That conservatorship would last nearly 14 years, ending in late 2021, after a swelling #FreeBritney movement that helped secure new limits on conservatorships in California.

Many of Spears' allegations against her father and others who operated the conservatorship are expected to be heard in a civil trial scheduled for next year.

A 2021 documentary, "Framing Britney Spears", included an old interview in which Timberlake spoke of sleeping with a former girlfriend and indicated he ridiculed her in his "Cry Me A River" music video.

That sparked a backlash in which fans accused the former NSYNC member of contributing to Spears' breakdown and also renewed ire about his role in Janet Jackson's so-called wardrobe malfunction during the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show.

Subsequently, he apologised to Spears and Jackson "because I care for and respect these women and I know I failed."

A few months later, as Spears revealed long-guarded secrets about what she described as an "abusive" conservatorship in court, Timberlake tweeted his support.

"After what we saw today, we should all be supporting Britney at this time," he posted in June 2021. "Regardless of our past, good and bad, and no matter how long ago it was... what's happening to her is just not right."

Will Smith's kids 'feel bad' for him after Jada Pinkett's bombshell revelations

Hollywood star Will Smith's children are feeling for their father after Jada Pinkett Smith's bombshell revelations about their relationship.

Apparently not into the actress making public their family secrets, Jaden Smith and Willow Smith reportedly "feel bad for their dad with all the recent headlines about their parents."

A source tells ET about the Smith kids, which also include Trey Smith, whom the 'Emancipation' actor shares with his ex-wife Sheree Zampino: "They know he has been going through a lot lately and this isn't helping."

The source added: "They wish some of their family's private matters remained private."

As for how Will is handling the matter,



the source says the 55-year-old star is "trying to stay busy and has been hanging out with his good friends and his kids."

The informant further dishes: "He's trying not to let any outside noise impact him."

Confirming Will's continuous support for Jada, the source claims, "Will loves Jada and feels like he has always had her back and always will.

He has been trying to be supportive, while also taking care of himself."

Jada shocked everyone when she revealed in a sit-down with 'Today' host Hoda Kotb that she and Will have been separated since 2016. When Hoda said: "It was not a divorce on paper, but it was a divorce," the 'Red Table Talk' host agreed, adding that she and the 'King Richard' actor "live separately."

Of why she and Will have never formally announced their split, Jada explained: "I think just not being ready yet," adding that they're "still trying to figure out between the two of us how to be in partnership."

However, in another part of the interview, the 52-year-old actress stated that they are committed to restoring their "life partnership" and are "concentrating on healing." She shared: "We are working very hard at bringing our relationship, yes, bringing our relationship back together... back to a marriage again. Husband-wife marriage for me, for my healing process."

Meanwhile, Will responded to Jada's bombshell revelations via a statement released earlier this month.

PM Modi reacts to Gaza hospital attack; says those involved be held responsible

Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern, The PM said.

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Expressing shock over the tragic loss of lives in an attack on a hospital in Gaza, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict were a matter of serious concern and those involved should be held responsible.

According to media reports, the Hamas group said a massive explosion at the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza killed hundreds of people Tuesday.

Hamas attributed the blast to an Israeli air strike, but the Israeli military said it was not involved and the explosion was



caused by a misfired Palestinian rocket

"Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for the speedy recovery of those injured," Modi said on X.

"Civilian casualties in the

ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible," the prime minister said.

Hostilities between Israel and Hamas began after armed Hamas militants based in the Gaza Strip launched an unprecedented attack on Israel by land, air, and sea on October 7.

Since the start of hostilities, as many as 2,778 Palestinians have been killed. Media reports have cited official Israeli sources as saying that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel.

Cryptocurrency fraud: Navi Mumbai cyber police freeze bank accounts worth Rs 32.66 crore

THANE, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Navi Mumbai cyber police conducting the probe into a cryptocurrency fraud have frozen several bank accounts involving amounts worth Rs 32.66 crore, an official said on Wednesday

Senior police inspector Gajanan Kadam of the cyber police station in Navi Mumbai said they received a cheating complaint in August from a man who claimed to have invested more than Rs 6.6 crore in cryptocurrency trading.

The man stated in the complaint that a woman caller befriended him and later asked him to invest in cryptocurrency trading while assuring good returns.

As the complainant started investing huge amounts, he received a total of Rs 75 lakh in returns on various occasions, but later stopped getting the same, the official said.

An offence in this connection was registered with the cyber police under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act.

A police probe team enquired with various banks where the money was paid by the complainant and as a first step, got accounts involving amounts worth Rs 32,66,12,091 frozen over the last few weeks, the official said.

probe team in the last week of September zeroed-in on two persons from Ghatkopar in neighbouring Mumbai. The police later arrested the

Based on several leads, the

two persons, identified as Balu Sakharam Khandagale (42) and Rajendra Ramkhilavan Patel (52), the official said.

During the probe, it was revealed that the arrested persons had handed over mobile



numbers, bank account details, cheque books and ATM cards of various persons to others involved in the crime

Efforts are on to nab the others involved in the crime, the police

Adani Group 'fleecing' people: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday cited a media report to accuse the Adani Group of over-invoicing in coal imports and fleecing people of Rs 12,000 crore in electricity rates

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Gandhi targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to come clean on the Adani issue by initiating a probe into the matter and defend his credibility.

"Why is the prime minister silent on the issue...I am only helping the prime minister and asking him to come clean by starting an investigation and defend his credibility," Gandhi said.

The former Congress chief displayed a recent Financial Times report at the press conference which claimed that the Adani Group appears to have imported billions of dollars of coal at prices well above market value.

Gandhi claimed that as per the report Adani over-invoiced coal imports and took out Rs 12,000 crore from "people's

Adani bought coal in Indonesia and when it reached India, its price doubled, Gandhi alleged, citing the report.

Gandhi claimed this over-invoicing of coal was having an impact on electricity rates in the country and leading to consumers paying higher electricity bills.

He also said that this story would have brought down any government in the world but no action was being taken

"Adani has full protection of the government, everyone knows which power is behind him," he said.

The opposition party has also been questioning the financial dealings of billionaire Gautam Adani's Group after US research firm Hindenburg alleged "irregularities" and charged it with stock price manipulation.

The Adani Group has denied all the allegations made in the Hindenburg report and claimed there had been no wrongdoing on its part. There was no immediate response from the group on the fresh allegations.

Diwali gift for govt employees, 4% dearness allowance hike cleared by Cabinet

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Union cabinet is learnt to have cleared a proposal of 4 per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) of the central government employees and pensioners, in what may come as a Diwali gift to them.

The cabinet, which met earlier in the day, is learnt to have cleared the decision, sources said.

The last hike in DA was effected in March 2023. The cabinet is also learnt to have cleared the proposal to hike the minimum support price (MSP) for six rabi crops, including wheat and red lentil (masur) by up to 7 per cent, sources said.

15 Sabarimala pilgrims from Karnataka injured as bus overturns in Erumely

KOTTAYAM, Oct 18 (Agencies): At least 15 Sabarimala pilgrims from Karnataka were injured when the bus they were travelling overturned at Kanamala near Erumeli in the wee hours of Wednesday. According to police, the accident occurred at Attivalav near Kanamala around 6 AM.

The bus, carrying 40 passengers and three crew members, was from Kolar in Karnataka and on its way to Sabarimala for darshan. The driver of the vehicle lost control over the wheel while negotiating a curve. The officials at the District Emergen-



cy Operation Centre (DEOC) said nine pilgrims have sustained serious injuries and they were admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Kottayam. Nine others were admitted to the Government General Hospital at Kanjirappally, while the remaining pilgrims were provided medical care at a private hospital in Erumely.

Erumely police and Fire and Rescue personnel from Kanjirappally led the rescue operations with the help of local residents. The accident caused a huge traffic snarl along the Erumely – Sabarimala road. As it was the opening day of the Sabarimala shrine for monthly poojas, there was heavy traffic on the Sabarimala

Mumbai police get 5-day custody of Pune drug don MUMBAI, Oct 18 (Agencies):

Drug don Lalit Patil, who had fled from Sassoon Hospital in Pune two weeks ago, and was nabbed by a team of Mumbai police from Bengaluru, was sent to five-day police custody till October 23, here on Wednes-

Patil was brought to Mumbai earlier in the day and produced before an Andheri Magistrate Court which granted Mumbai police his custodial remand, said a lawver.

The Mumbai police prosecutor said Patil was an accused in the Nashik drugs factory bust in which he was getting raw materials from a Mumbaibased supplier, who has also been arrested.

In order to investigate further into the case, including possible foreign links, other associates



and how far the tentacles of the narcotics ring were spread, the Mumbai police sought his remand

During the remand hearing, Patil claimed that he had not 'fled', but was allegedly 'kidnapped', and that he feared for his life from Pune police, the lawyer informed mediapersons.

The Mumbai police had earlier busted his illegal narcotics manufacturing unit in Nashik, and the Pimpri-Chinchwad police had destroyed his multicrore rupees MD (mephedrone) racket in October 2020.

At that time, Patil was arrested and had been cooling his heels in prison. But in June he was admitted to the Sassoon Hospital for treatment of TB and

On October 2, Patil managed to hoodwink the police and sneaked out of their clutches while being escorted for an X-ray, sparking off a huge political uproar.

The incident attracted sharp criticism from Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sushma Andhare, Congress's Balasaheb Thorat, Pune Congress MLA Ravindra Dhangar, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLC Eknath Khadse and MLA Rohit Pawar, plus others who alleged the involvement of a ruling alliance minister in the drug don's shock escape from the hospital.

The Opposition demanded a probe into the incident, narcotest of Patil and action against those responsible for his escape from the hospital.

Just three days before he bolted, the Pune police had nabbed his associate Subhash Mondal, from outside the Sassoon Hospital with a packet of over 1.7 kg MD, and it was suspected that Patil had supplied the drugs to him (Mondal) through a canteen boy.

After his sensational vanishing act, Patil mostly travelled by road and allegedly went to Dhule, Aurangabad, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka through his narcotics mafia contacts before the Mumbai police managed to track and catch him using tech-intel.

Operative of Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar Gang **Arrested In Punjab**

CHANDIGARH, Oct 18 (Agencies): The Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of Punjab Police on Wednesday said it arrested an operative of Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar gang, who along with other members was allegedly planning to strike targets assigned to them by their foreign handlers.

The police also recovered 4 pistols and 12 live cartridges from the possession of the accused.

"In a major breakthrough, AGTF-Punjab has arrested



Sachin @ Bacchi, an operative of Lawrence Bishnoi & Goldy Brar gang. The accused was involved in providing logistics support and hideouts to the members of the gang," Director General of Police, Punjab, Gaurav Yadav, posted from his handle on X.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused along with other members of the gang were planning to attack the assigned targets given to them by their foreign handlers," DGP Yadav added

15 years on, court convicts 5 for murder of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan



NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Wednesday convicted four people for the murder of television journalist Soumya Vishwanathan, who was shot dead 15 years ago while she was returning home from work.

Additional Sessions Judge Ravindra Kumar Pandey also convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Fifth accused Ajay Sethi was convicted under Indian Penal Code section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and under MCOCA provisions for conspiring to abet, aid or knowingly facilitate organised crime and for receiving the proceeds of organised crime. The judge said the prosecution proved beyond reasonable doubt the charges against the accused and listed the matter for sentencing on October 26.

tember 30, 2008, while she was returning home from work in her car around 3:30 am. Police had claimed that the motive behind the killing was robbery. Five people were arrested for the murder and they have been in custody

Vishwanathan was shot dead on Sep-

since March 2009. The recovery of the weapon used in IT executive Jigisha Ghosh's killing had led to the cracking of Vishwanathan's murder case, police said.

After Malik moved the Delhi High Court in 2019 for a speedy trial, it sought a report from the trial court, asking why the trial had not concluded even though the charge sheet was filed nine-and-ahalf years ago.

The trial court had informed the high court that the delay was primarily due to the non-presence of prosecution witnesses and the time taken for the appointment of a special public pros-

The trial court had given the death penalty to Kapoor and Shukla and sentenced Malik to a life term in the Jigisha Ghosh murder case in August 2016.

In January 2018, however, the high court commuted the death sentences of Kapoor and Shukla to life imprisonment and upheld the life term for Malik.

2 On Motorbike Dead After Being Run Over By Car In UP's Balrampur: Cops A case was lodged

BALRAMPUR, Oct 18 (Agencies): Two people riding a motorcycle died after being run over by a speeding car on the Hariharhaganj-Lalia road in UP's Balrampur, police said today.

The incident occurred on Tuesday evening when the victims, former Ghoomnahava Sarakhava village head Kaleem Khan (48) and his relative Moharram Ali (55), were returning home from the district court, they said.

Dehat Kotwali police station SHO Kuldeep Tripathi said they were hit by a speeding SUV from behind near the Kodari Ghat bridge. The SUV then ran them over and fled the spot, he added.

He said police took the injured to a hospital, where doctors declared Kaleem Khan dead while Moharram Ali succumbed to injuries later during treatment.



against some people of the village based on a complaint by Kaleem Khan's father, who alleged that a conspiracy was hatched to murder the duo, Mr Tripathi said. Superintendent of

Police Keshav Kumar said the bodies were sent for post-mortem examination and the matter was being investigated.

After blast kills hundreds at Gaza hospital, Hamas and Israel trade blame

Hamas blames an Israeli airstrike, while the Israeli military blames a rocket misfired by other Palestinian militants

KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP), Oct 18 (Agencies): A massive blast rocked a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter on Tuesday, killing hundreds of people, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said.

Hamas blamed an Israeli airstrike, while the Israeli military blamed a rocket misfired by other Palestinian militants.

At least 500 people were killed, the ministry said.

As rage spread through the region because of the hospital carnage, and with US President Joe Biden heading to the Mideast in hopes of stopping the war from spreading, Jordan's foreign minister said his country cancelled a regional summit scheduled for Wednesday in Amman, where Biden was to meet with Jordan's King Abdullah II, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel



Fattah el-Sissi.

The war between Israel and Hamas was "pushing the region to the brink," Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told state-run television. He said Jordan would host the summit only when everyone had agreed its purpose would be to "stop the war, respect the humanity of the Palestinians and deliver the aid they deserve".

Biden would now visit only

Israel, a White House official

The explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital left gruesome scenes. Video that The Associated Press confirmed was from the hospital showed fire engulfing the building and the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. The grass around them was strewn with blankets, school backpacks and other

belongings.

The bloodshed unfolded as the US tried to convince Israel to allow the delivery of supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals in the tiny Gaza Strip, which has been under a complete siege since Hamas' deadly rampage in southern Israel last week. Hundreds of thousands of increasingly desperate people were searching for bread and water.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre", saying it was caused by an Israeli strike.

The Israeli military blamed Islamic Jihad, a smaller, more radical Palestinian militant group that often works with Hamas. The military said Islamic Jihad militants had fired a barrage of rockets near the hospital and that "intelligence from multiple sources" indicated the group was responsible.

Targeting Gaza hospital is 'hideous war massacre' that cannot be tolerated: Palestinian President



GAZA, Oct 18 (Agencies): Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said early on Wednesday that targeting Al-Ahli hospital is a "hideous war massacre" that cannot be tolerated, adding that any talks about anything

else rather than stopping the war is unacceptable.

"Israel has crossed all red lines. ... We will not leave nor allow anyone to expel us from there", he added.

Health authorities in

the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip said that an Israeli air strike caused the blast killing hundreds at the hospital, while Israel's military attributed it to a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group.

Chinese President announces over \$100 billion in new Belt and Road funding



BEIJING, Oct 18 (Agencies): Beijing will inject over \$100 billion of new funding into its Belt and Road initiative, President Xi Jinping said Wednesday at a summit marking the vast infrastructure project's teath appiversary.

ect's tenth anniversary.
The Belt and Road is a central pillar of Xi's bid to expand China's clout overseas, with Beijing saying it has now inked over two trillion dollars in contracts around the world.

Proponents hail it for bringing resources and economic growth to the Global South.

But the initiative has also been slammed for saddling poor countries with enormous debt.

Xi announced on Wednesday that key Belt and Road lenders the China Development Bank and the ExportImport Bank will now offer an additional \$100 billion in loans.

Both will set up financing opportunities of 350 billion yuan (\$47.9 billion) for BRI projects, he said.

An additional 80 billion yuan will be injected into the project's official lending institution, the Silk Road fund, Xi said.

This week's forum, attended by representatives of 130 countries, is the third major summit of its kind to be hosted by Beijing since the Belt and Road's launch in 2013.

Critics have long pointed to opaque pricing for BRI projects built by Chinese companies, with countries including Malaysia and Myanmar renegotiating deals to bring down costs.

Beijing has been forced to hand out bil-

lions of dollars in bailout loans to BRI countries in recent years to allow the countries to extend their loans and remain solvent, according to a joint report this year by the World Bank and other institutions.

And China said this month that BRI participants owe more than \$300 billion to the Export-Import Bank of China.

The initiative has also drawn scrutiny for its massive carbon footprint and the environmental degradation caused by massive infrastructure projects.

The development of megaports, pipelines, railways and highways could render the Paris climate goals unreachable, researchers from China, the United States and the United Kingdom

warned in 2019.

More US ships head toward Israel, 2,000 troops on heightened alert

WASHINGTON, Oct 18 (Agencies): Within hours of the horrific October 7 attack by Hamas, the US began moving warships and aircraft to the region to be ready to provide Israel with whatever it needed to respond.

More ships and forces were heading toward Israel, and other troops in the US were preparing to deploy if called on.

One US aircraft carrier and its strike group are already in the eastern Mediterranean and a second one has left the US and is heading that way. In addition, three Marine warships are moving into the region. Scores of aircraft were dispatched to US military bases around the Middle East, and American special operations forces are working with Israel's military in planning and intelligence.

As of Tuesday, five shipments of US weapons and equipment had arrived in Israel.

The build-up reflects growing US concern that the deadly fighting between Hamas and Israel will escalate into wider regional conflict.

So the key mission for American ships and warplanes is to establish a large and visible presence that will deter Hezbollah, Iran or others from taking advantage of the situation.

A look at what weapons and assistance the US military is providing:

One of the most visible examples of the US response is in the waters surrounding Israel — an array of massive warships are in or moving toward the eastern Mediterranean and the Red

Sea.

The USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group was ordered to go to the Eastern Mediterranean within hours after the attack, and on Tuesday the Pentagon said the ship's sixmonth deployment in the region has been extended and gave no end date.

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in recent days ordered the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier strike group to join the Ford in the Eastern Mediterranean, and those ships are now heading across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Pentagon said it was sending the USS Bataan amphibious ready group, which consists of three ships carrying thousands of Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, into the region.

A US official said the USS Mesa Verde, an amphibious transport dock, is in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Bataan, an amphibious assault ship, and the USS Carter Hall, a dock landing ship, were in the Gulf region and are now heading toward the Red Sea. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details on ship locations.

The ships carry helicopters and assault craft that can insert Marines into hostile territory or provide medical care or other assistance.

The warships, particularly the aircraft carriers with their fighter jets and surveillance aircraft, have historically proven to be an effective deterrent against Iranian and other militant activ-

ity in the Middle East.

The carriers serve as command-and-control centres and can conduct information warfare. They carry F-18 fighter jets that can fly deterrence missions or strike targets. And they also have E-2 Hawkeye surveillance planes that can provide early warning on missile launches and detect enemy movements.

Aircraft loaded with US weapons have already begun arriving in Israel. Austin watched as crew were unloading one C-17 transport plane on Friday at Nevatim air base east of Gaza. On Tuesday, the Pentagon said five such deliveries have already been made and more are expected.

US defence officials say the administration has already given Israel small diameter bombs, other munition and interceptor missiles for its Iron Dome air defence system, and more will come. The US is also getting defence companies to expedite weapons orders by Israel that were already on the books, including munitions for the Iron Dome.

The Iron Dome munitions the US provides to Israel will likely be in addition to ones Israel had already ordered and will be part of ongoing military assistance packages. The packages will also include JDAM kits — essentially a tail fin and navigation kit that turns a "dumb" bomb into a "smart" bomb that can be guided to a target.

In addition, the US has set up a small cell of special operations forces that has been working with Israel, providing intelligence and planning, as well as advice to the Israeli Defence Forces on hostage recovery efforts. The Pentagon has said those troops are not participating in any hostage rescues and there are no other US military forces on the ground in Israel.

AIR FORCE WARPLANES

The Pentagon has also ordered additional warplanes to bolster A-10, F-15 and F-16 squadrons at bases throughout the Middle East. More will be added if needed.

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said last week at an Atlantic Council event that the service was ordering units that were about to come home to remain in place along with their replacements.

The US Air Force already has significant airpower in the region to conduct manned and unmanned operations, most notably in Syria, where an Air Force F-16 last week was ordered to shoot down a Turkish drone that was posing a threat to US ground forces.

AND MORE TROOPS ARE GETTING READY

Austin ordered about 2,000 US forces to be prepared to deploy if needed in the coming days and weeks. Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told reporters Tuesday that the units have not yet been identified. She said the troops would be able to respond quickly, particularly to provide intelligence and surveillance, transportation and medical assistance.

The 2,000 troops are likely to include additional Air Force and Army personnel.

Gaza's doctors struggle to save hospital blast survivors as Middle East rage grows

KHAN YOUNIS, Oct 18 (Agencies): Doctors in Gaza City faced with dwindling medical supplies performed surgery on hospital floors, often without anesthesia, in a desperate bid to save badly wounded victims of a massive blast that killed hundreds of Palestinians sheltering in a nearby hospital amid Israeli bombings and a blockade of the territory.

The Hamas militant group blamed the blast on an Israeli airstrike, while the Israeli military blamed a rocket misfired by other Palestinian militants. At least 500 people were killed, the Hamasrun Health Ministry said.

Rage at the hospital carnage spread through the Middle East as U.S. President Joe Biden headed to the region in hopes of stopping a spread of the war, which started after Hamas militants attacked towns and cities

across southern Israel last week.
Jordan's foreign minister said his
country canceled a meeting there
between Biden, Jordan's King
Abdullah II, Palestinian President
Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian
President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.
Biden will now visit only Israel, a

White House official said.

The war between Israel and Hamas was "pushing the region to the brink," Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told staterun television.

Israel continued its airstrikes on Gaza on Wednesday, according to Gaza's interior ministry.

The explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital on Tuesday night left gruesome scenes. Hundreds of Palestinians had taken refuge in al-Ahli and other hospitals in Gaza City, hoping they would be spared bombardment after Israel ordered all residents of the city and surrounding areas to evacuate to the southern Gaza Strip.

Video that The Associated Press confirmed was from the hospital showed the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children, as fire engulfed the building. The grass was strewn with blankets, school backpacks and other belongings. On Wednesday morning the blast scene was littered with charred cars and the ground was blackened by debris.

Ambulances and private cars rushed some 350 casualties to



Gaza City's main hospital, al-Shifa, which was already overwhelmed with wounded from other strikes, said its director, Mohammed Abu

Victims arrived with gruesome injuries, Gaza Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra said. Some were decapitated, disemboweled, or missing limbs.

Doctors in the overwhelmed hospital resorted to performing surgery on floor and in the halls, mostly without anesthesia.

"We need equipment, we need medicine, we need beds, we need anesthesia, we need everything," Abu Selmia said. He warned that fuel for the hospital's generators would run out within hours, forcing a complete shutdown, unless supplies enter the Gaza Strip.

The bloodshed unfolded as the U.S. tried to convince Israel to allow the delivery of supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals in the tiny Gaza Strip, which has been under a complete siege since Hamas' deadly rampage last week. Hundreds of thousands of increasingly desperate people were searching for bread and water.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre," saying it was caused by an Israeli strike. The Israeli military blamed the blast on Islamic Jihad, a smaller, more radical Palestinian militant group that often works with Hamas. The military said Islamic Jihad militants had fired a barrage of rockets near the hospital and that "intelligence from multiple sources" indicated the group was responsible.

In a briefing with reporters, the chief army spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the army determined there were no air force, ground or naval attacks in the area at the time of the blast. He said radar detected outgoing rocket fire at the same moment, and intercepted communications between militant groups indicated that Islamic Jihad fired the rockets.

that Islamic Jihad fired the rockets. Hagari also shared aerial footage collected by a military drone that showed a blast that he said was inconsistent with Israeli weaponry. He said the explosion occurred in the building's parking lot, and he noted that the death toll could not be confirmed.

Since the war began, the military said in a statement that roughly 450 rockets fired at Israel by militant groups had landed in Gaza,

"endangering and harming the lives of Gazan residents." Islamic Jihad dismissed those

claims, accusing Israel of "trying hard to evade responsibility for the brutal massacre it committed." The group pointed to Israel's

order that Al-Ahli be evacuated and reports of a previous blast at the hospital as proof that the hospital was an Israeli target. It also said the scale of the explosion, the angle of the bomb's fall and the extent of the destruction all pointed to Israel.

Before the al-Alhi Hospital deaths, Israeli strikes on Gaza killed at least 2,778 people and wounded 9,700, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, and nearly two-thirds of those killed were children. Another 1,200 people across Gaza are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, mostly civilians who were slain in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. The assault also resulted in some 200 being taken captive into Gaza. Militants in Gaza have launched rockets every day since, aiming at cities across Israel.

DLSA Ganderbal holds 3rd UTRC meeting

Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Oct 18: District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal convened its third Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting at District Court Ganderbal today and was conducted in strict adherence to the directives issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and J&K Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA).

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Principal District and Sessions Judge Ganderbal / Chairman DLSA Ganderbal, and under the guidance of the Civil Judge (Sr. Division) /Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The primary objective of the 3rd UTRC meeting was to streamline and expedite the judicial process, aiming for timely resolution of cases and alleviating the burden on the litigants.

The meeting witnessed fruitful discussions on implementing innovative strategies and best practices to further enhance the efficiency of the judiciary in District Ganderbal.

The meeting was headed by Pr. District & Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, and attended by Civil Judge (Sr. Division) /Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak, Addl. District



Development Commissioner of Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad, Additional Superintendent of Police, Aijaz Ahmad Malik, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Shafat Ahmad, and Incharge Officer of Subsidiary Jail Dignibal, Mushtaq Ahmad (S.I).

Their distinguished presence at the meeting underscored the commitment and dedication of all stakeholders towards the effective functioning of the UTRC

With their diverse expertise and experience, these esteemed officials contributed valuable insights and recommendations that will shape the future of the under-trial system

in Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed the progress and status of the cases that were recommended to be con-

sidered for release in the first and second UTRC meetings.

In addition, the participants engaged in fruitful deliberations on various issues pertaining to under trial cases including case pendency, legal aid, bail, and other relevant matters.

The discussions primarily focused on the importance of formulating effective strategies to streamline the legal system and facilitate the timely resolution of pending cases.

The participants emphasized the need to ensure the speedy trial of under trial cases while upholding the principles of justice and fairness.

The committee also recognized the significance of providing adequate legal aid to under trial prisoners, especially those who cannot afford legal representation.

The participants discussed various measures to enhance the availability of legal aid services, aiming to bridge the gap between the underprivileged and the justice system.

Another crucial topic tackled during the meeting was the consideration of bail applications.

The committee deliberated on the criteria for granting bail, taking into account the nature of the offense, the likelihood of the accused absconding, and the potential dangers posed to society.

The Principal District and Sessions Judge expressed gratitude towards the participants for their active involvement in the meeting, and highlighted the commitment of the judiciary in providing speedy justice to all.

Additionally, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, extended guidance and support, emphasizing the need for collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders for a more effective functioning of the judicial system.

DLSA Ganderbal remains committed to ensuring the administration of justice in a fair and efficient manner. Through initiatives like UTRC meetings, it strives to address the challenges faced by the under trial inmates and work towards achieving a more effective and expedited legal system.

IT Deptt, District Administration Shopian organise 'Tax Awareness Program'



Top News Report

SHOPIAN, Oct 18: Income Tax Department in collaboration with District administration Shopian today organised a Tax Awareness Program at Shopian to sensitise DDOs and tax payers about the different provisions of the Income Tax Act and to highlight the role of the DDOs in tax deduction

DDOs in tax deduction.
Through PowerPoint
presentation and lectures by speakers
including Sumit Kumar,
Income Tax Officer,
Karamyir

Karamvir,
Income Tax Officer
and Sarfaraz Ahmad
Bhat State Taxes Officer Shopian, important
aspects of Income Tax
Act, including filling of
timely ITRs, computation of Income Tax.

exceptions and inclusion of other income sources were highlighted.

DDOs were educated about the process of TDS, filing of ITRs, the importance of the tax regime and their role and responsibilities under the Act.

DC Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb who attended the awareness programme as Chief Guest, said the organisation of the programme was much needed for DDOs as the same shall acquaint the concerned for better implementation of the tax regime. He also emphasised upon all to take benefit of the sessions as to fulfill their financial duties while also highlighting the role of taxes for the socio economic development of the Nation. Shakil Ahmad Ganie, Deputy Commissioner, Income Tax, Srinagar while addressing the session enumerated the benefits of the role of Income tax in the development of the country, and the timely and responsible deduction/ filling of returns by DDOs and individual tax payers.

Queries of participants were also addressed through a lively interaction.

Later a session on Income tax was also held for traders of the district Shopian.

The awareness Camp was attended by various district officers, DDOs, dealing assistants, employees and the members of the business fraternity.

In the program, office bearers of various trade associations while appreciating the awareness program impressed upon the need to raise awareness among the grassroot level businessmen especially the commission agents working at fruit mandi Shopian.

ADDC Bandipora inaugurates awareness programme on Bee-Keeping



Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Oct 18: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan on Wednesday inaugurated a two days Seminar on Bee-keeping at Town Hall Bandipora.

The programme was organized by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Bandipora under National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) and was attended by President Municipal

Council Bandipora Basharat Hussain Najar, Cheif Agriculture Officer (CAO) Javid Iqbal Samoon, District Subject Matter Specialist Abdul Majeed Lone besides beekeepers and progressive farm-

Speaking at the inaugural session, the ADDC marked the importance of beekeeping as a source of income for the farmers. He said that it is encouraging that a large number of youth in Bandipora district are taking beekeeping as a

main venture to earn income and livelihood.

Encouraging youth to come forward and establish beekeeping units of their own, the ADDC urged them to take benefit from the programme and schemes being run by the department for the promotion of beekeeping and other allied

activities.

Experts from

SKUAST-K were also

present on the occasion and highlighted the
importance and proper
management in bee

keeping.

On the occasion, Javid Iqbal Samoon said that objectives of the 2-day's event are to create awareness about the importance of beekeeping in enhancing crop yields and promoting biodiversity. He said that the farmers will gain valuable knowledge into the symbiotic relationship between agriculture and apiculture.

He further stated that beekeeping as an enterprise can be a significant step for boosting the income and livelihood opportunities for the youth including landless farmers.

He said that the government has kept available different schemes for the welfare of farmers community. He urged farmers to come farward and reap the benefits of available schemes for overall socio-economic development.

DC Ganderbal presides over grievance redressal camp at Wakura that the door to door other flagship progra



Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Oct 18: Continuing with its endeavor to redress the grievances of the people at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a Grievance Redressal Camp as a part of weekly Block Diwas programme here at Tehsil building Wakura.

The program was attended by prominent citizens and PRI of block Wakura who apprised the DC about grievances and developmental needs in their

respective areas.

Locals put forth their issues relating to problems particularly devel-

opment of existing roads, up gradation of PHC, up gradation of infrastructure of Govt. High School, facilities at Tehsil Office Wakura, early commissioning of water supply scheme for Wakura, dredging of Dub Canal, up gradation of drainage system and other issues of public importance.

While replying to the demand for dredging of Dub Canal, the DC said that district administration has taken several steps including dredging and repair works of the canal and appealed to the people to refrain from throwing waste into the water bodies to keep them neat and clean.

The DC maintained

waste collection process has already started in all the blocks of the district and appealed to the locals to use dust-bins for waste collection and ensure cleanliness around their surroundings. He appealed to all households and business establishments to timely pay monthly payment for waste collection.

The District Administration also maintained that district administration is organizing a mega Job fair under Berozgar Mukt Ganderbal, on 20 October, 2023 at Manasbal in which over 20 companies are participating and urged local unemployed youth to participate actively in the job fair.

He also sought cooperation from locals in establishing various government programs successfully on the ground including Nasha Mukt, Swachta Hi Sewa, Berozgar Mukt and

other flagship programs. On the occasion, BDC Chairperson Wakura

highlighted the developmental works registered in the last five years due to which the landscape of the Block has changed and appreciated several departments for their commendable job especially R&B, PDD, RDD and others.

He also appreciated the Social Welfare Department, Agriculture and other allied Departments for the saturation of various beneficiary oriented schemes in block Wakura which are aimed at providing socio-economic support to the downtrodden people. Additional District Development Commissioner, Muhstaq Ahmad Simnani, Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri; Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad, DSWO, DSHO, and officials of other line departments also attended the Block Diwas.

Narco-terrorism, psychological warfare big threats: LG Manoj

in youth into various sports related activi-

Sinha

Reaching out to new pass outs, the LG said that, "you should take a pledge and ensure that you will fight against terror and terrorism. Youth should make eliminating terror as your ultimate goal."

The LG paid rich tributes to fallen bravehearts of police including DSP Humayun Bhat and others. He said J&K and the entire nation is indebted to these heroes for laying down their lives for their nation and homeland. He also urged police to take a lead in Smart Policing as stated by the Prime Minister Narendera Modi.

Over 1.27 lakh pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi Shrine in first 3 days of Navratra

free-of-cost facility and caters to around 10,000 pilgrims per day.

A 'Bhojanalaya' at Bharav Ghati was also introduced on the first day of the Navratra for the benefit of the devotees, the officials said.

Besides 12 viewpoints or refreshment units, the shrine board runs full-fledged Bhojanalyas at five places – three at

Bhawan and one each at Adkuwari and Sanjichhat — to provide wholesome and hygienic food to the pilgrims on a no-profit basis.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrange-

ments, the pilgrims thanked the shrine board for continuously upgrading and expanding the infrastructure in and around the shrine. "After a gap of nine years, I came to seek

the blessings of Mata and was astonished to notice massive infrastructure development at the shrine and en route for the benefit of the devotees," Vijay Sharma, a resident of Delhi, said.

Sharma, who was accompanied by two of his friends, visited the shrine on the third day of Navratra and lauded the efforts of the shrine board for the hassle-free management of a heavy rush of pilgrims.

The main highlights of the nine-day event taking place in Katra – the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine – include Ramleela, an all-India devotional song competition, Bhagwat Katha, Prabhat Pheri, Shobha Yatra, laser show narrating "Mata Ki Kahani", wrestling competition, 'Hassaya Vyang' and a programme by specially abled children among others.

Police Stations being upgraded with latest gadgets, weaponry, says Dilbagh Singh

welfare measures, to provide more

facilities, Rs. 2.25 crore more for SPOs. Promotions issue smoothened by Home Secretary, LG issued orders, 4000 people promoted. A few days later, 27 KPS were

FROM PAGE 1

inducted into IPS, a record," he said.

The DGP congratulated the new pass outs and wished them all the best. He said two women battalions are being raised while as border grid will be further strengthened in the coming months.

Kashmiri dermatologist receives prestigious award at European Dermatology Congress

the discoverer of the sign "Tasleem's water jet sign" in dermatology and has also discovered an innovative technique to measure area of graft required for vitiligo surgeries.

He has co-authored an article on Melasma Severity Index (MSI), a new melasma scoring system which has received a national award (Dr S. Premalatha Award-2016) by IADVL. He has won the title World Champion-2019 in Dermatology (Scleroderma) recognized by IASR.

His thrust area of research is Scleroderma and has more than 25 research publications dedicated to scleroderma only.

His research on "esophageal involvement in systemic sclerosis and morphea" has received recognition by NEJM in their journal watch and is the Editor-in-Chief of Upcoming book "Morphea and Related Disorders" by Bentham Science Publishers

He has also discovered an Innovative technique for administration of Botox for axillary hyperhidrosis and is the Life member of IADVL, ISPD, PDS, ACSI, CDSI, HRSI, IASSTD & AIDS, NSI, CODFI. Dr Arif is also serving as reviewer for more than 15 top impact dermatology journals and is the Editorial board member of more than 25 medical journals.

He is currently working as Dermatology Specialist in Dar As Sihha Medical Complex, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

The award received by Dr Arif is annually given by European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) to only 12 young (less than 40 years of age) dermatologists from the non-European countries of the world

The selection of applications from eligible candidates is based on several criteria which include the number of published research articles in medical journals, number of published books or book chapters in national and international books, number of scientific presentations in national and international conferences and number of scientific research posters presented in national and international conferences.

The top 12 candidates with the highest scores from all the non-European countries of the world are declared as winners of the guard

Traffic restored on

Jammu-Srinagar highway after two days

oad block

He further said that Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road is also open for vehicular movement. However, Mughal road that connects Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch districts is still closed due to snow accumulation.

MeT predicts clear, warmer days in J&K

cloudy. "There is possibility of light rain/ snowfall (over higher reaches) at scattered places of J&K during these days," he said, adding, "From October 24-28, the weather is expected to be partly cloudy." Overall, he said, there is no forecast of any major rain and snowfall for the next 10 days in J&K and Ladakh.

He said that the weather was favourable for harvesting and all outdoor activities.

for harvesting and all outdoor activities. In the past few days, there was considerable drop in mercury with Srinagar recording a maximum of 11.6°C on Tuesday which was 10.1°C below normal for

the summer capital.

There are reports of fresh light snowfall from Gulmarg, Sadnatop, Peer ki Gali, Simthan Pass, Gurez, Tulail, Sonamarg, the Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh Highway besides the upper reaches.

Also Jammu city recorded a maximum of 17.8°C on October 17 which was 13.5°C below normal for the winter capital.

Finolex Cables matter: SC issues contempt notices to NCLAT judicial member, technical member for defying its orders

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): In an unusual move, the Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notices to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal judicial member Rakesh Kumar and technical member Alok Srivastava, asking them why contempt proceedings be not initiated against them for defying apex court orders in Finolex Cables disputes matter.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took strong exception to the passing of a judgement by the NCLAT bench.

The top court set aside the NCLAT bench's October 13 judgement relating to the annual general meeting (AGM) of Finolex Cables without going into its merit.

The bench also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the case would be heard by NCLAT chief Justice Ashok Bhushan.



"NCLAT has got down to a rot now. This case is an illustration of that rot.We are prima facie of the view that the members of the NCLAT have failed to disclose correct facts.

"We are of the view that it is necessary to pass orders to ensure that the dignity of this court is restored. Parties cannot be allowed by recourse to devious means to obviate this court's orders," the bench said. The order is related to the annual general meeting (AGM) of Finolex Cables and Prakash Chhabria and Deepak Chhabria's legal tussle over the management control of the company.

It is rare for the Supreme Court to issue contempt notices against NCLAT members.

The Supreme Court on Friday last had directed the NCLAT chairperson to conduct an

enquiry and submit a report by Monday over an allegation that one of its benches proceeded and delivered an order without following the top court's directions.

A three-member apex court bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud had on that day directed the NCLAT to proceed to its judgment and declare the results of the meeting only after getting the scrutiniser's report.

The Supreme Court order was uploaded at 1.55 pm and the counsel also informed the development to the NCLAT bench, which was scheduled to deliver the judgment at 2 pm.

However, a two-member bench of the NCLAT comprising Justice Kumar, Member Judicial, and Srivastava, Member Technical, went ahead and pronounced the order, while the scrutiniser's report was uploaded at 2:40 pm.

high as Israel-Hamas war intensifies



BENGALURU, Oct 18 (Agencies): Gold prices touched a near onemonth high on Wednesday, after a deadly blast in Gaza fuelled fears about the Middle East conflict escalating and kept the safe-haven asset a favoured investment

Spot gold rose 0.7 per cent to \$1,935.63 per ounce by 0700 GMT, after scaling its highest since September 20 earlier in the session. US gold futures also jumped 0.7 per cent to \$1,948.40.

Gold has benefited from a combination of geopolitical risk premium on fears of a prolonged conflict, momentum after breaking above key technical levels and stagflation risks due to high oil prices, said Kelvin Wong, senior market analyst for Asia Pacific at OANDA.

Gold prices jump to nearly 1-month

Hundreds were killed in a blast at a Gaza City hospital on Tuesday, Palestinian officials said, igniting protests in the West Bank and around the Middle East.

"Safe-haven flows amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have remained the dominant catalyst for gold prices," IG market strategist Yeap Jun Rong said.

"The risks of further escalation may be supportive of prices for now, but the \$1,945 level may prove to be a crucial resistance to over-

Gold prices have surged about \$100 since the conflict began despite recent robust US economic data boosting bets of higherfor-longer interest rates,

non-yielding gold. US/ Investors now await Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech on Thursday for cues on interest rates.

which tends to weigh on

"The higher-for-longer (rates) narrative that has pinned down gold over the last couple of weeks appears to see tentative signs of fading as markets look to refreshed comments from Fed officials," OCBC said in its monthly commodities outlook.

Bullion also got a boost after data showed top consumer China's economy grew at a faster-than-expected clip in the third quarter from a year earlier.

Spot silver advanced 0.9 per cent to \$23.02, platinum rose 0.3 per cent to \$900.15 and palladium fell 0.2 per cent to \$1,141.04.

Markets fall nearly 1 per cent on spike in crude oil prices, sluggish global trends

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in negative territory while Seoul and Tokyo settled in the green

MUMBAI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell nearly 1 per cent on Wednesday due to a sharp jump in global crude oil prices and sluggish global market trends.

Selling pressure in banking, financial services and energy stocks also pulled the benchmarks lower, traders said.

After a day's breather, the 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 551.07

points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 65,877.02. During the day, it fell 585.99 points or 0.88 per cent to 65,842.10.

The Nifty declined 140.40 points or 0.71 per cent to 19,671.10. Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell by nearly 3 per cent, the most among the 30 frontline companies.

Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, NTPC, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the other major laggards. In contrast, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma, Maruti and Mahindra & Mahindra were the gain-

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in negative territory while Seoul and Tokyo settled in the green.

European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 3.36 per cent to USD 92.92 a barrel.



Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 263.68 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark

LONDON. Oct 18

had climbed 261.16 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 66,428.09 on Tuesday. The Nifty gained 79.75 points or 0.40 per cent to

19,811.50.

Bajaj Finance consolidated net profit up 28%

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Bajaj Finance posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,551 crore in the September quarter, a 28% increase as compared to Rs 2,781 crore in the same period last year. Consolidated profit after tax for the first half (H1) of the current fiscal stood at Rs 6,988 crore, a 30% jump from Rs 5,377 crore in H1FY 2023

Net interest income (NII) for the quarter jumped 26% to Rs 8,845 crore from Rs 7,002 crore and NII for the H1 stood at Rs 17,242 crores. However interest expense went up 53% to Rs 4,537 croe

Sleep and stress may be linked with epileptic seizures

from Rs 2,972 crore in Q2FY23. Loan losses and provision of the non-banking entity increased to Rs 1,077 crore from Rs 734 crore in Q2, witnessing a 47% jump, denting the profitability. Bajaj Finance's operating expenses to net interest income slid to 34% from 35.9%. Gross non-performing assets (NPA) and Net NPA stood at 0.91% and 0.31% in the September quarter respectively against 1.17% and 0.44% during the same period last year. New loans booked during Q2 grew by 26% to 8.53 million against 6.76 million in the same period last year.

Adults with ADHD three times more likely to develop dementia, finds research

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are nearly three times more likely to develop dementia than those without the mental disorder, researchers have found.

Adult ADHD reflects a neurological process that reduces their ability to compensate for the effects of cognitive decline later in life, the researchers from Israel, Sweden and the US said, having followed more than 1,00,000 participants for over 17 years.

Further, less cognitive and brain reserve may result in neurological processes of ADHD that, in turn, reduce compensatory abilities, they said in their study published in THE Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by inability to pay attention for longer periods, hyperactivity and impulsive behaviour.

Previous studies have reported evidence of adult-onset ADHD, saying that 5 per cent of children with ADHD meet ADHD criteria in adulthood and constitute 3 per cent of adult ADHD cases.

Studies also show that child and adult ADHD present different social, psychological, and genetic profiles.

Despite being distinct from childhood ADHD, little is known about adult ADHD, the researchers said.



"By determining if adults with ADHD are at higher risk for dementia and if medications and/ or lifestyle changes can affect risks, the outcomes of this research can be used to better inform caregivers and clinicians," said study author Michal Schnaider Beeri from the Brain Health Institute (BHI) of Rutgers University, US. In this study, they

used data from a national cohort study consisting of 1,09,218 members of an Israeli nonprofit health maintenance organisation born between 1933 and 1952 (aged 51-70 years). They entered the cohort on January 1, 2003, without an ADHD or dementia diagnosis and were followed up to February 28, 2020. Of the group, 51.7 per cent were female and 48.3 per cent were male.

During the follow-up, the researchers found that 730 participants, or 0.7 per cent, received a diagnosis of adult ADHD, and 7,726, or 7.1 per cent, received a diagnosis of demostic

diagnosis of dementia.
Of the 7,726 dementia cases, 96 were among the 730 adults with ADHD and the remaining 7,630 in the 1,08,488 adults not diagnosed to

have ADHD.

The researchers found these results to show that an adult ADHD diagnosis was associated with a 2.77-fold increased risk of incident dementia.

Further, 163 of the 730 adult ADHD cases received psychostimulant treatment and were seen to exhibit no clear increase in the risk of dementia associated with adult ADHD.

The results suggested that adult ADHD treatment incorporating psychostimulants may help reduce the risk of dementia as psychostimulants are known to modify the trajectory of cognitive impairment, the researchers said, adding that more research is needed to assess the impact of medications in patients with ADHD and how they could affect risk.

Physicians, clinicians and caregivers who work with older adults should monitor ADHD symptoms and associated medications, the researchers said.

They also added that symptoms of attention deficit and hyperactivity in old age shouldn't be ignored and should be discussed with physi-



ham in the UK used mathematical modelling to understand the impact of different lysed 24-hour EEG physiological processrecordings from 107 es, such as sleep and people with idiopathic changes in concentrageneralised epilepsy and discovered two tion of the stress-hormone cortisol, on key subgroups with distinct signatures of epilepsy distributions of epilep--- known as epileptiform tiform discharges: one discharges (ED). with highest incidence Epilepsy is a serious during sleep and the

neurological disorder characterised by a tendency to have recurrent, spontaneous seizures. Classically, seizures

were assumed to occur at random, until the discovery of ED activity with timescales that vary from hours and days through to months. The scientists ana-

Publishing their findings in PLOS Computational Biology, the team revealed that either the dynamics of cortisol or sleep stage transition, or a combination of both, explained most of the

other during daytime.

of ED. "Some 65 million

observed distributions

people have epilepsy worldwide, many of whom report specific triggers that make their seizures more likely - the most common of which include stress, sleep deprivation and fatigue," said lead author Isabella Marinelli, from the University's Centre

for Systems Modelling

& amp; Quantitative Bio-

medicine (SMQB).
"Our findings provide conceptual evidence that sleep patterns and changes in concentration of cortisol are underlying physiological drivers of rhythms of epileptiform discharges. Our

mathematical approach provides a framework for better understanding what factors facilitate the occurrence of ED activity and potentially trigger the seizures which can be so debilitating for epilepsy sufferers," she added.

The researchers' mathematical model describes the activity of connected brain regions, and how the excitability of these regions can change in response to different stimuli - either transitions between sleep stages or variation in concentration of cortisol.

ED frequency increases during the night, early in the morning, and in stressful situations in many people with epilepsy. The team discovered that sleep accounted for 90 per cent of variation in one subgroup and cortisol around 60 per cent in the other subgroup.

Cortisol is one of the primary stress hor-

mones in humans, with production and secretion controlled by the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA)-axis. In stressful situations, HPA-axis activity increases, resulting in a higher secretion of cortisol.

"Sleep alone cannot account for the changes in ED likelihood during wakefulness observed in our first subgroup," explained Marinelli.

"There is a reduction in ED likelihood during the sleep time after an initial sharp increase during the first hours. This can be explained by the fact that deep sleep, which is linked to an increase of EDs, is predominant during the first third of the sleep period. We found an increase in ED occurrence before waking, which -- given that the level of cortisol is known to increase around waking -- suggests a combined effect of sleep and cortisol."

Should you observe Navratri fast if you have diabetes?

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Diabetes is one of the most common lifestyle diseases affecting millions across the world. In fact, India is considered the diabetes capital of India. When one is diabetic, it means that they have to maintain their blood sugar levels by modifying their lifestyle.

Fasting for long hours is not recommended for people who have diabetes as it increases the risks of hypoglycemia, which means your blood sugar levels could go dangerously low.

During Navratri, most people observe a fast for nine days. People avoid foods like onion and garlic and eat just one or two meals a day, putting focus mainly on water, fruits and dairy. Fasting has several health

benefits and many studies indicate that it can aid in digestion, improve metabolism and even help with weight loss.

However, if you're diabetic, Navratri fasting might not be ideal for your health. Dr Mukund Singh, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Accord Superspeciality Hospital, said that prolonged fasting during Navratri can pose significant challenges for people with diabetes.

Blood Sugar Control: Fasting for long durations can cause fluctuations in blood sugar, leading to both low and high blood sugar episodes.

Medication Management: Many individuals with diabetes rely on oral medication or insulin to manage their blood sugar levels. During fasting, it may be necessary to adjust the timings, doses, or types of medications to accommodate the change in eating patterns.

But if you decide to fast anyway, here are some precautions if you're diabetic:

Things to remember if you're

fasting
Consult your healthcare provider before starting any fast.
Regularly check your blood sugar levels during fasting to ensure they remain within the

target range.

Drink plenty of water during the non-fasting period to prevent dehydration. During the nonfasting window, opt for nutritious, low glycemic index foods that provide a slow release of glucose, helping to regulate blood sugar levels and sustain energy. When breaking the fast after sunset, it is advisable to eat a balanced and healthy meal to prevent sudden spikes

in blood sugar levels.

What should you not do if you're fasting?

Avoid sugar-rich foods as they can lead to rapid spikes in blood sugar levels.

Do Not Skip Medications
During fasting, it is essential to
listen to your body. Avoid strenuous physical activities that may
put excessive stress on your
body.

"Remember, your health should be a priority, and there are alternate ways to participate in Navratri festivities that can bring joy and fulfillment without compromising your well-being," underscored Dr Mukund Singh.

We can beat any side if we play our best brand of cricket: **Netherlands captain Edwards after stunning SA**

Netherlands beat South Africa by 38 runs in Dharamsala

DHARAMSALA, Oct 18 (Agencies): The historic upset win over South Africa is not a fluke as Netherlands have the potential to beat any side in the ongoing World Cup if they play their best brand of cricket, asserted captain Scott

The Dutch stunned South Africa by 38 runs in their roundrobin league clash here on Tuesday, their first win against a Test playing nation in World Cup history. The match was reduced to 43-over-a-side affair due to rain.

"We go into every game with our plans and our ways that we're going to try and win the game. For us it's just about playing our best brand of cricket and we feel like if we play well enough on the day, we can beat any side," Edwards said at the post-match press conference.

It was also Netherlands' third 50-over World Cup win and first in 16 years. They recorded their maiden victory against Namib-



ia in the 2003 edition in South Africa. Their second win was against Scotland in the 2007 edition in the West Indies.

Netherlands made it to the main tournament in India through the qualifying round and Edwards said his side did not come here just to make up numbers.

"Yeah, absolutely. I think after qualifying we were pretty quick to set our minds to what we wanted to do at this tournament. We weren't coming here just to have fun and enjoy it. We're here to win games of cricket and give ourselves the best chance to make the next stage," Edwards said.

"South Africa is obviously a very strong side and they'll be close to that semi-final spot. So, if we want to be amongst

them, we've got to beat sides like this," said the 27-year-old wicketkeeper.

The Dutch were reeling at 140 for seven in the 34th over before Edwards himself engineered a remarkable recovery with an unbeaten 78 off 69 balls to take his side to a fighting 245 for eight. They then shot South Africa out for 207 in 42.5 overs.

Asked what transpired between him and other batters when they were looking down the barrel, Edwards said, "As a group we pride ourselves on playing total cricket which is guys that are coming in at number 8, 9, 10 have just as much of the ability to put on those partnerships.

"But out there batting with them, it was just about giving ourselves a chance to go harder later in the innings. And luckily enough, Roelof (van der Merwe) and Aryan (Dutt) in there played some unbelievable cameos to get us to what we thought was probably a par score."

Kiwis out to bring Afghans back to ground

CHENNAI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Afghanistan's upset win over defending champions England has given the side a new stature and New Zealand wouldn't dare underestimate Hashmatullah Shahidi's side when they clash in their World Cup match here today

While the Kiwis would look to keep their unbeaten run going in the tournament, Afghanistan, who shocked England by 69 runs, would be keen to create another big upset and put their campaign back on track.

New Zealand are going great guns in the tournament, having won all three matches so far. On the other hand, Afghanistan had an inauspicious start to their campaign, losing to Bangladesh and India before leaving Jos Buttler's England in a tizzy in New Delhi on Sunday.

New Zealand will again

be led by wicketkeeperbatter Tom Latham after their charismatic skipper Kane Williamson suffered a fracture on his left thumb during the match against Bangladesh and was ruled out for a few games. Despite the huge setback, the Kiwis would be looking to make it four out of four. It would be interesting to see if pacer Tim Southee finally gets a chance against Afghanistan, having recovered from a thumb injury, though his match fitness has

remained an issue. The Kiwis will rely heavily on their toporder comprising Will Young, Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell, while all-rounder Rachin Ravindra, with his impactful performances across departments, will also be the player to watch.

With the meeting happening at the Chepauk, where the pitch has traditionally assisted spinners, New Zealand will have their hands full when they take on the trio of Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi. Rashid and Nabi accounted for five England wickets. As for Afghanistan's batting line-up, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz is the man in form, having scored fifties in two matches so far, while the likes of skipper Shahidi, Azmatullah Omarzai and Ikram Alikhil could come in handy as well.

IPL: Shane Bond parts with Mumbai Indians after 9-year stint in coaching roles

MUMBAI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians on Wednesday, October 18 announced they parted ways with decorated coach Shane Bond after an 8-year-long association with the former New Zealand fast bowler. Bond began working with the 5-time Indian Premier League champions in 2015 and went on to play a crucial role in developing the bowling talents at Mumbai Indians. Bond also worked as the head coach of MI Emirates in the inaugural edition of the ILT20.

The decision comes after Lasith Malinga was named as their bowling coach for IPL 2024 in August. Malinga, who retired in 2021, worked with the Rajasthan Royals until IPL 2023 before returning to his 'home'.

Shane Bond worked with the likes of Mahela Jayawardene and Mark Boucher during his successful tenure at Mumbai Indians. Bond took charge as the team's bowling coach in 2015 and was involved in MI's title triumphs in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020 to become one of the most decorated and celebrated coaches in franchise history.

"Mumbai Indians announce that Shane Bond's successful tenure that began in 2015 has ended after a 9 year stint with the team "the IPL side said in a statement.

Bond, who played 18 Tests, 82 ODIs and 20 T20Is for New Zealand, was instrumental in helping young talents blossom at Mumbai Indians. Jasprit Bumrah, who earned the international spotlight at MI, had credited Bond for



shaping the early stages of his fastbowling career.

Bond thanked the management and the fans of the Mumbai Indians in his parting note.

"I would like to thank the Ambani family for the opportunity to be part of MI One Family for the last nine seasons. It has been an incredible experience with so many great memories on and off the field. I have been lucky enough to work with and have strong relationships with so many great people, both players and staff. I will miss them all and wish them all the best for the future. Finally thanks to the MI Paltan for their support as well.'

Mumbai Indians added: "The team management, players and staff would like to thank Shane Bond for his strong work ethic and being a friend to all those who have been a part of the One

Mumbai Indians last won the IPL title in 2020 after which they missed out on the playoffs for two successive seasons. Rohit Sharma's men reached the playoffs in 2023 but missed out on a place in the final.

First World Cup match in Pune, but city is low on josh

PUNE, Oct 18 (Agencies): Three days after India won the ODI World Cup encounter against Pakistan in Ahmedabad, the fans' focus has shifted to Pune as the Rohit Sharmaled side took a two-day break in their campaign.

Scheduled to face Bangladesh on Thursday, the team reached here on Sunday evening and didn't venture out until today. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, reportedly, had left for Mumbai from the Pune airport the same day. India coach Rahul Dravid had a look at the pitch and spent some time with the pitch curator on Monday.

But today's optional training session turned into a regular one as the players went through drills. Sharma, Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja had a hit at the nets, while spinners and pacers went out full steam at the Maharashtra Cricket Association International Stadium (MCA stadium) here in Gahunje.

Buzz missing

The World Cup buzz is completely missing in public places in the city in stark contrast to Ahmedabad where the Indian cricketers dominated the billboards, newspaper advertisements and common parlance.



The city is set to make its cricketing history by hosting its first World Cup match at the MCA Stadium.

Pune, predominantly a city of techies, students and businessmen, minds its own work where rich and poor have a workmanlike attitude. Fergusson College Road, where a big students' community hangs around near the colleges till late in the evening, hardly shows any signs of a quadrennial cricketing event being held in the city. "Nowadays everything is available on phone. Youngsters aren't too interested in hanging around for hours on end. Moreover, the cricket World Cup fever is missing till now," said the 23-yearold Vinay Salunkhe, a Kharadi resident.

It does not matter to the fans that the Bangladesh team is staying at a hotel nearby.

The shopping hub of Koregaon Park and MG Road, too, seemed disinterested with anything related to cricket.

"Aapla Match-Day Aala" says a multinational footwear giant advertisement in a newspaper, trying to strike a Marathi connection, but the youths seem to be preferring one day more to turn up in blues. It does not help either that the MCA Stadium in Gahunje, along the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, is outside the main city.

Locals said the absence of shade over the spectators' seating is a big letdown for them.

"Will see in the evening if we get tickets," said Anmol Parikh, a second-year student at ILS Law College, adding that the online restriction of two tickets per person, is a major reason why youngsters in groups are not coming to the ground.

Shakib recuperating well Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan is recuperating well from a left quad injury and is hopeful of leading his side in their next match against India here on Thursday. Shakib suffered the injury during the New Zealand match in Chennai but batted through the pain and bowled his quota of 10 overs before limping off the ground. Bangladesh suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of New Zealand by eight wickets with 43 balls remaining. Sources said Shakib is feeling well but will undergo a scan tomorrow to give the final go-ahead. Shakib (40 and 1/54) suffered a left thigh injury while taking a run . Sources said the captain is keen to play but it depends on his full fitness. The team management is averse to risksing Shakib for just one match as there are still six games left for Bangladesh in the tournament.

Warner 'annoyed' and 'frustrated' at DRS decision against him in SL match: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 (Agencies): Veteran Australia opener David Warner is "annoyed" and "frustrated" at the DRS call which went against him in his side's World Cup match against Sri Lanka and has called for more "accountability" in the system, according to a report.

In the match, which Australia won by five wickets in Lucknow on Monday. Warner fell LBW to Sri Lanka pacer Dilshan Madushanka. The left-hander went for review but the DRS call went in favour of the on-field umpire, who had originally given him out.

The prolific southpaw, who was batting on 11, left the ground fuming. He was seen smashing his bat against his pad and turned back to yell towards the wicket as he walked off.

Warner said he wanted greater transparency on how DRS decisions were adjudicated.

"I've never had Hawk-Eye come in and explain to us how the technology actually works, it's just for the TV," the 36-year-old was quoted as saying by 'cricket.com. au' after Australia's five-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday.

"If they could come in and explain to us how it works, then sometimes we might (choose) not to refer or to refer." According to the report, Warner suggested that the ball-tracking did not match what he saw on the ground's replay screen after he called for



the review.

"I asked Joel (field umpire) when I was out there just what happened, why did he give it out. He said the ball was swinging back so to his credit, if he thinks that then that's why he's given a decision.

"(The ball) kept low and normally when something hits me on the leg on the outside, I know it's pretty much going down leg. So he (Wilson) said it was swinging back, (but) from my perspective on the replay, it wasn't," he said.

"When you see the replay of how it unfolded you get a little bit annoyed, (but) that's out of our control."

Reportedly, Warner also felt that ball-tracking verdicts were "taking a lot longer than what it would be in Australia".

The Decision Review System was introduced in 2008, ahead of Warner's international debut in

"At the moment, we seem to be waiting for (ball-tracking)," said

"And as a player you get more frustrated because you think: 'did they line it up, what's the impact points, how many impact points are there before it goes on'.

"In England, the ball bounces and it actually moves once it's bounced, not just off the seam but in the air it can move, so there's just little things that as a player you get frustrated because there's no explanation ... but there has to be some accountability."

The ICC has not announced any sanction for Warner's outburst but he insisted his furious reaction was due to his frustration with the

"I just sprayed out loud in frustration pretty much just (to) myself," said Warner.

"Virat Kohli Will Find It Harder, Rohit Sharma Will Be...": Ponting's **Big Captaincy Verdict**

cies): Australian legend Ricky Ponting believes a "laid-back" Rohit Sharma is the ideal captain to lead India to their third ODI World Cup title, the second on home soil after the 2011 triumph. With three convincing wins under their belt, India have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign. India defeated Australia by six wickets in their tournament opener, before registering emphatic eight and seven-wicket wins over Afghanistan and Pakistan to sit on top of the points table.

"He's very laid back, Rohit. Very laid back with everything he does. You can even see that by the way that he plays. He's a pretty laconic sort of batsman as well, and that's the way he is both on and off the field," Ponting told the ICC.

Rohit took the captaincy reins from Virat Kohli



in both the white-ball formats in December

And Ponting believes Rohit's character fits perfectly for the India job, allowing Kohli to focus on his batting.

"Someone like Virat, who is a bit more hearton-the-sleeve, and probably listens to the fans and plays up with the fans a little bit more, someone with his personality would probably find it a bit harder," the two-time World Cup winning Australia skipper said.

"But I think Rohit will be fine with it. He's a terrific bloke and has been a great player for a long time, and he's done a great job as leader of India." The Men In Blue last won the World Cup when the tournament was jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2011.

So, the extra pressure of performing in front of home fans would definitely be there, but Ponting feels Rohit is the best man to deal

"We can't sit back and say that the pressure won't get to them (India) at some stage, or it won't affect them, because it will, just with the enormity of the tournament.

"But he'll (Rohit) take it and cope with it as well as probably anyone," he said.

Ponting said that with all bases covered, India are the team to beat in the ongoing showpiece.

"I said from the start that I think they're going to be the team to beat. They've got a very talented team," he said.

"They've got all bases covered with their fast bowling, their spin and their top-order, middleorder batting. They're going to be extremely hard to beat. But we'll see how they hold up under extreme pressure as well," Ponting

India will next play Bangladesh in Pune on Thursday.

concluded.

Int'I Fossil Week celebration commences at P.G. **Department Geology JU**

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: Fossils, the preserved remains of past living organisms are an integral part of our national heritage. They define our understanding of the history of life on earth and provide clues for changing life on our dynamic planet. Declining awareness of fossils world over led to formation of International Fossil Day to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational values. In India, Palaeontological Society (PSI), with its headquarters at Lucknow is the forerunner in initiating this event in the country and has chosen 16th October 2023 to 21st October 2023 as the International Fossil Week under which Department of Geology, University of Jammu, Celebrated the International Fossil Day in the



Department by Organizing an exhibit of Fossils-Rocks-Minerals, wherein students from school and colleges of the Jammu region participated.

The highlights of the event were Fossil exhibition: The Geology department of JU hosts some of the most significant mammalian fossil discoveries such as elephant skull, elephant tusks, elephant teeth, body parts of rodents, numerous invertebrate fossils such as trilobites etc. The attendees will have the opportunity to witness extraordinary fossils that provide valuable insights into Earth's

history. Educational workshop: Aspiring palaeontologists and curious learners can participate in workshops and lectures led by experts in the field. These sessions will delve into the science of palaeontology, sharing the latest discoveries

and research. Student friendly activities: International fossil week encourages student participation with engaging activities for them, including handson workshops, interactive displays and fossilthemed games.

Community Outreach: Several events are designed to reach out to local communities and encourage a deeper appreciation for the fossil heritage.

DPAP's KDP Wing appeals for increased monthly relief for **Kashmiri Displaced People**

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: In a pressing joint statement issued today, the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP, through its President Shri Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Shri Piaray Lal Pandita, and General Secretary Shri Raj Kumar Ticku, has urgently appealed to the Government of India and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory to enhance the monthly cash relief provided to Kashmiri Displaced People.

Currently, Kashmiri Displaced People receive a monthly relief of Rs. 108 per soul per day, a rate that has remained unchanged since 2018. The leaders of the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP have requested that this

relief be increased to Rs. 250 per soul per day, taking into consideration the significant rise in the cost of essential commodities, which has escalated by 170% since 2018, as indicated by the Delhi Government.

Highlighting the

recent enhancement of relief for Kashmiri migrants living in Delhi, from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 27,000, the leaders emphasize that the welfare and survival of Kashmiri Displaced People in exile is a shared responsibility of both the Central Government and the Union Territory Government. They stress that a concrete and permanent rehabilitation policy has yet to be devised to facilitate the resettlement of displaced Kashmiris back in the valley.

The leaders passionately argue that the displaced people living in camps have long deserved priority when it comes to improving their living standards. Their plea for increased monthly relief is not just a financial matter but also a matter of ensuring their dignity and well-being during their period of exile.

In light of the ongoing hardships faced by Kashmiri Displaced People, the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP urgently requests the Central Government and the Union Territory Government of Jammu & Kashmir to take immediate action to enhance the monthly relief for Kashmiri Displaced People, thereby providing a much-needed respite for the commu-

Panthers pay tributes to Jammu student martyrs

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: Senior leaders of J&K National Panthers Party under the leadership of its President Vilakshan Singh paid rich tributes to the Jammu Student Martyrs who were martyred by police bullets during the Congress rule in J&K in a movement led by Prof. Bhim Singh. This happened in 1966, 57 years ago, when three students were brutally shot dead by the police right inside the premises of Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu.

Vilakshan Singh while paying homage to student martyrs recalled that Prof Bhim Singh who was the Chief Organizer of the student movement escaped the police bullets. On 18th October, 1966 thousands of students marching through the Jammu streets led by Students Congress



under the leadership of Prof. Bhim Singh in protest demanding to bring all murderers to justice were showered with bullets resulting into martyrdom of S. Gurcharan Singh. Hundreds of students and youth were injured. Some of them lost their arms or legs. There were orders by the government to catch or kill student leader, Bhim Singh. While paying tributes to the student martyrs, Vilakshan Singh

praised their sacrifices. which has brought not one university but many other Institutions in Jammu Pradesh with several professional col-

leges Singh said that under the present dispensation also whatever Jammu gets is through agitations only. He said the present generation must not forget the supreme sacrifices of the student martyrs who laid down their lives while fighting

against injustice meted out to Jammu province by the then ruling parties.

He appealed to all student organizations in J&K from the school to the university level to get organized so that we can get statehood back. Others who also paid tributes to the student martyrs included, Naresh Chib Gen Secy, Rajesh Gondhi, Rakesh Gupta, Ravinder Jamwal and others.

Farmers seek urgent relief, support after crop devastation

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: In response to the catastrophic impact of heavy rains and hailstorms on the agricultural sector in the Jammu region, the Regional Committee of Jammu & Kashmir Kisan Tehrik held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu to draw attention to the urgent needs and concerns of local farmers.

Comrade Kishore Kumar, Regional President of J&K Kisan Tehrik, addressed the media and expressed deep concern over the unexpected hailstorm and heavy rains that have wreaked havoc on standing paddy crops, particularly in R.S. Pura Tehsil. He emphasized that the farmers have borne immense losses as their paddy crops have been severely damaged over the last two days. The farmers, who form the backbone of the Union Territory's economy, are reeling from this unforeseen



require support.

Kishore Kumar called upon the Union Territory Government to take immediate action by instructing the revenue authorities to assess the extent of crop losses sustained by the farmers in R.S. Pura. Based on the percentage of crop loss, he urged the authorities to provide timely and adequate compensation to the affected farmers, recognizing the urgent need for their economic recovery

Sohan Lal, Regional Secretary of J&K Kisan Tehrik, highlighted the significant losses of and others in the Kandi and Pahadi areas of the Jammu Region due to heavy rains and hailstorms. He emphasized the importance of assessing these losses promptly and providing appropriate compensation to the affected farm-

Sewa Ram Bhagat, Vice President of J&K Kisan Tehrik, made several crucial demands on behalf of the farming community. He called for the waiver of loans extended to farmers under the Kisan Credit Cards Scheme, provision of free wheat seeds

to all farmers, and the establishment of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all crops. He also urged the government to scrap the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022, in line with the concerns of the farming community.

The J&K Kisan Tehrik stands united in its appeal for immediate action from the authorities to address the critical needs of the farmers in the Jammu region. These efforts are vital to ensure the wellbeing and resilience of the farming community, which plays a vital role in the region's economy.

'Farm Fresh' outlet celebrates grand opening at CAO Complex Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: In a momentous occasion, the Chief Agriculture Office (CAO) in Jammu is proud to announce the grand opening of the "Farm Fresh" outlet. The outlet, which offers a diverse range of locally sourced agricultural products and artisanal creations, was officially inaugurated by Sh. Bharat Bhushan Ji, Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Jammu, accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture (Ext.) Jammu, Sh. R.K. Hitaishi.

The Farm Fresh outlet is an endeavor to promote and support the agricultural and entrepreneurial efforts of the local community. As part of the inaugural event, more than 10 Women's Self Help Groups from various parts of District Jammu showcased their



reflecting the rich cultural heritage and agricultural diversity of the region. These products included hand-made bags, pickles, cold-pressed mustard oil, multigrain atta, millets and millets atta tikki masala, amla candy, amla murabba, vermicompost, camphor diyas, cones for havan, turmeric, and pulses, to name just a few.

Chairman Bharat Bhushan, in his inaugural address, lauded the Women's Self Help

tion and the high-quality products they have brought to the "Farm Fresh" outlet. He emphasized the importance of supporting and uplifting local farmers and artisans, and he commended the CAO Jammu for taking this initiative.

The event was graced by the presence of several distinguished officials, including DAO, Ext, Jammu, Smt. Ashu Kakoria, District SMS Smt. Karuna Nidhi, Sh. Vikas Koshal, and the entire

staff of Chief Agriculture Officer, Jammu. Their support and involvement underscore the collective commitment to the success of the "Farm Fresh" outlet and the prosperity of the local community.

The "Farm Fresh" outlet is now open to the public, offering a variety of fresh, locally produced goods that reflect the rich agricultural traditions of Jammu. All are invited to visit and explore the array of products that celebrate the culture and craftsmanship of the region.

Civil Defence organizes awareness camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 18: Civil Defence on Wednesday organized one day awareness programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Paloura, Jammu under the supervision of Dy. SP. Anita Pawar, Dy. Controller Civil Defence, Jammu in which (100) Students of the School participated. During the programme awareness about basic knowledge on First Aid, Fire Fighting especially on Drug Addiction was given to the students by the Civil Defence experts. The main objective of the awareness programme is to sensitize students and staff members on pre-



cautionary measures during natural or manmade calamities and to protect students from drug addiction.

On the occasion a lecture was delivered on the topics of Disaster Management and highlighted the Drug side effects. Principal of the Govt. Hr Secondary School Smt. Sunita Chadha appreciated the role of Civil Defence in spreading awareness about disaster management and rescue. He requested to organize such programmes also in future.

Beside others Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden CD, Jammu, R. Vijay Magotra Dy. Chief Warden CD, Jammu, and other staff members of the School were also present on the occasion.

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