

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Police Book 3 notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS act in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Police on Friday booked three wanted notorious drug smugglers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The three most wanted notorious drug smugglers, Musadiq Afzal Masoodi, alias Vicky, a resident of Pampore Pulwama, Mohammad Shafi Hajam of Wanigam Bala, and Ghulam Hassan Ganie of Trikanjan Boniyar, have been booked under the PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority, police said in a statement.

The booked drug smugglers have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-balwal Jammu.

Police said many cases have been registered against these drug smugglers, who were involved in promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth in Baramulla, Uri, Pattan Boniyar, and other areas of District Baramulla.

### Police rescue two Punjab residents stranded in snow in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Oct 20 (Agencies): Two tourists from Punjab who were stranded in the Sinthan Top area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district due to snowfall were rescued on Friday, police said.

A distress call was received that two people from Punjab, who were going from Anantnag towards Kishtwar, were stranded at Sinthan Top, they said.

Subsequently, an operation was launched on the directions of Senior

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## Nitin Gadkari inaugurates country's tallest national flag at Attari-Wagah border in Punjab's Amritsar

AMRITSAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a 418 feet national flag, the tallest in the country, at the Attari-Wagah border in Punjab's Amritsar district.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was also present on the occasion.

Speaking to ANI on Thursday, Nitin Gadkari said, "It is the golden day of my life. I have come to the Attari-Wagah border for the first time. NHAI has installed the tallest national flag here. This is a place that inspires you to be patriotic. I have done a lot of things in life - tunnels, bridges



but this is the most amazing. I am delighted. I thank the jawans who are guarding our borders."

Earlier last month, the Poonch Brigade of the Indian Army on September 21 unfurled a 72-foot-high national

flag at Ajote War Memorial in Poonch to honour the fallen heroes of the district. Indian Army in collaboration with Flag Foundation of India installed the national flag.

The National Flag is a horizontal tricolour of

saffron (kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is two to three. In the centre of the white band is a navy-blue wheel which represents the chakra.

The top saffron colour indicates the strength and courage of the country. The white middle band indicates peace and truth with Dharma Chakra. The green shows the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land.

Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the

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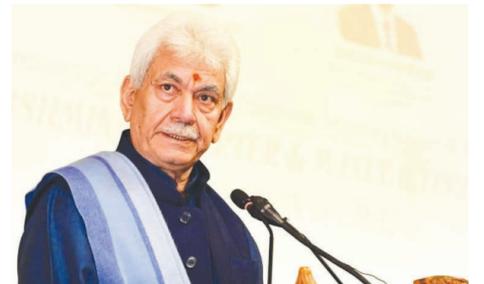
## Pashmina a cultural identity of J&K: LG Sinha

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Pashmina is not just a word, but the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir, and the union territory administration is duty-bound to revive the industry, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha said here on Friday.

Sinha was addressing a function after presenting the annual artisan awards to Pashmina and Sozni weavers, organised by the Pashmina Exporter and Manufacturers Association (PEMA) here.

"Not only for J-K, but for the whole world,



Pashmina is not just a word, but our cultural identity which has been made immortal by the hard work of our brilliant artisans," the LG said.

He said the extraordinary and priceless product has played a great role in helping the

economy for centuries. It has also helped in nation-building. That is why Kashmir is known as the Pashmina capital of the world, he added.

Sinha said the sector has faced many challenges, but the

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## Govt authorities to pay Rs 30 lakh compensation to families of those who die while cleaning sewers: SC

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Taking a grim view of incidents of sewer deaths in the country, the Supreme Court on Friday said government authorities will have to pay Rs 30 lakh as compensation to the kin of those who die while cleaning sewers.

A bench comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Aravind Kumar

said those who suffer permanent disabilities while cleaning sewers will be paid Rs 20 lakh as minimum compensation.

"The Union and the state governments must ensure that manual scavenging is completely eradicated," the bench said.

Pronouncing the judgement, Justice Bhat said

the authorities will have to pay up to Rs 10 lakh if the cleaner suffers other disabilities.

Issuing a slew of directions, which were not read out, the bench directed that the government agencies must coordinate to ensure that such incidents do not occur and moreover, the High Courts are not precluded from monitor-

ing the cases related to sewer deaths.

The judgement came on a PIL. The detailed order is awaited.

As many as 347 people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in India in the last five years with Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi accounting for 40 per cent of these

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## Ashish Mishra assumes charge as SSP Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Ashish

Misra IPS takes over the charge as Senior

Superintendent of Police of Srinagar district.

In pursuance of Government order no. 501-Home of 2023 dated 18-10-2023, we the undersigned handover/take over the charge of office of the senior Superintendent of Police, district Srinagar today on 20-10-2023, reads the order.

Notably, Rakesh Balwal was

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## 3 persons killed as car falls into gorge in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Oct 20 (Agencies): Three persons were killed when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into gorge in Kishtwar district on Friday.

Official sources said that the Alto car (JK06B-1909) met with the accident near Kandni Kishtwar this afternoon, leading to the death of three persons.

They have been identified as Madan Lal of Sarror, Rakesh Kumar of Badano Thatri and Dhyansingh of Gandho.

Confirming it, a police official said that a case has been registered and investigation taken up.

## 4 killed as truck falls down bridge in Jammu

JAMMU, Oct 20 (Agencies): Four people were killed when a truck fell down a bridge on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Friday, officials said.

The accident took place at Jhajjarkotli when the truck ramm-

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## Karan Singh writes to PM for re-opening of Sharda peeth pilgrimage



JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): Former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Karan Singh has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek re-opening of Sharda Peeth PoK on the lines of Kartarpur corridor.

In a letter, dated 13 October, a copy of which has been received by Save Sharda Committee also, Dr. Karan Singh has suggested that initially three persons of the Committee may be allowed to PoK and start some pooja there on a sacred occa-

sion. Earlier, Save Sharda Committee Kashmir Regd. called on Dr. Karan Singh, former Sadr-e-riyasat and MP Rajya Sabha at his Chankyapuri residence in New Delhi and briefed him about the recent Sharda Puja & other developments at LoC Teetwal Kashmir.

The delegation was led by Ravinder Pandita, Head of the committee, who presented a Sharda Shawl and portrait of Sharda Peeth POK to the last living legend of

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## SF lodges protests with Pakistan rangers over unprovoked cross-border firing along IB in Jammu

JAMMU, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Border Security Force (BSF) has lodged a protest with Pakistan Rangers over unprovoked cross-border firing at a forward post along the Indo-Pak border here, in which two BSF personnel were injured, officials said on Friday.

The BSF took up the issue with Pakistan Rangers at a commandant-level flag meeting held at a border outpost (BoP) along the International Border (IB) in R S Pura sector on Thursday evening, they said.

Two BSF personnel were injured on Tuesday after Pakistan Rangers "resorted to

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## INDIA Alliance will sweep next Lok Sabha Election in J&K, Ladakh: Congress

SRINAGAR, Oct 20 (Agencies): The INDIA alliance will win all the Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories in the next election, J&K Congress president Vikar Rasool claimed on Friday.

Talking to media persons here, Vikar said that like in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil elections, INDIA alliance will sweep the forthcoming Lok Sabha election in J&K and Ladakh.



In the first polls after erstwhile J&K was divided and the Union Territory of Ladakh was carved, the National Conference and Congress alliance bagged 22 seats out of 26 in the

recently held LAHDC-Kargil elections.

"Like in Kargil, we will sweep the Lok Sabha election and the INDIA alliance will also become victorious here also," he said.

The J&K Congress President added that the party is ready for the upcoming Lok Sabha election and it will contest the poll together with the INDIA alliance.

On a question regarding seat sharing, Vikar said the Congress

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9419143503

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With lot of pain and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Karmyogini Rani Wali W/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal Wali** erst-while 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



Karmyogini Rani Wali

**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

**From:**

Bhan, Bhat Family  
**Contact Nos.**

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



Smt. Ashaji Bhan

**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**



Sonu Kumar

**BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved, **Bhai Harbans Singh** President (All J&K Private Goods Carrier) S/o Late Bhai Mann Singh R/o 3247 Residency Road, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 14/10/2023.

**Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 20-10-2023 (Friday) 9:30 am at our residence

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** On 22-10-2023 (Sunday) 11:00 am at our residence.

**Antim Ardass** at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Nanak Nagar Jammu from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sdn Avtar Kour- **Wife**

**Son And Daughter-in-Laws**

S. Vikramjeet Singh & Sdn. Ravinder Kaur

S. Harmanjeet Singh & Sdn. Manpreet Kour

**Daughter And Son-in-Law**

Sdn. Amandeep Kour & S. Kamaljeet Singh

**Mb No. 7889861203**



Harbans Singh  
President (All J&K Private Goods Carrier)

**UTHALA / 13TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Yog Raj Sharma (Retired ZEO) S/o Late Lambardar Mehta Anant Ram (TetriNote Wale) R/o Ward No 6, House No 26, Mohalla Khorinar, Poonch, J&K** who left for heavenly abode on Monday 9th October 2023. **UTHALA/13th Day** will be performed at our Residence, Poonch, J&K on Saturday 21 October, 2023 from 12 to 1 PM.

**Grief Stricken**

**Sons and Daughters in Laws**

Shri Pardeep Sharma (EX MLC BJP) and Smt Shavata Sharma

Shri Naveen Sharma and Smt Meenu Sharma

Shri Ravi Sharma and Smt Neha Sharma

Shri Puneet Sharma and Smt Akanksha Sharma

Shri Rohan Sharma

Shri Rashib Sharma

**Brothers and Bhabies**

Shri Chandrer Mohan Sharma and Smt Anita Sharma

Smt Sangeeta Bala

**Daughters and Sons in law**

Smt Neelam Sharma and Shri Romesh Sharma

Smt Parmila Sharma and Shri Vaid Parkash Dutta

Smt Sonu Sharma and Shri Vijay Isher

Smt Monika Dutta and Shri Vicky Dutta

**Grand Children:** Akshara Sharma, Krishna Sharma, Aastha Sharma, Janvi Sharma, Aadya Sharma, Aradya Sharma, Vivan Sharma, Aarya Sharma.

**Contact: 9697931050, 9796529969 9797345099, 9990948030**



Shri Yog Raj Sharma  
(Retired ZEO)

**ANTIM ARDAS**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SARDRANI MOHINDER KOUR W/O S. HARJIT SINGH (EX. SARPANCH SIMBAL CAMP) R/O HOUSE NO. 201/A, SECTOR-13, STREET NUMBER- 3, GURU NANAK NAGAR, JAMMU.**

THE ANTIM ARDAS WILL BE PERFORMED AS PER THE PROGRAMME GIVEN BELOW :-

**ARAMB SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** (AT RESIDENCE) 20.10.2023, (FRIDAY) AT 9:00 AM.

**BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** (AT RESIDENCE) 22.10.2023, (SUNDAY) AT 9:00 AM.

**SHABAD KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS:** FROM 10 TO 12 NOON. (AT GURUDWARA SAHIB SRI GURU SINGH SABHA, NANAK NAGAR JAMMU)



SARDRANI MOHINDER  
KOUR

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**SONS AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**

SDR. GURMEET SINGH (J.E.UEED) & GURJEET KOUR (MASTER. SRML)

SDR. AMRIK SINGH (D.F.O FOREST DEPARTMENT) & HARVEER KOUR

RAMNIK SINGH & PARAMJEET KOUR (U.S.A)

**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**

PARVEEN KOUR (STS. OFFICER S.C DEPARTMENT) & KAMALJEET SINGH (LECTURER)

**MOB NO. 9419204476, 9419236135**

**& ALL SOODAN FAMILY**

**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 R/o Ramkot.

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

**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



Mr Rajeev Malgotra

**Nephew and Niece**

Jimmy, Ridham, Krishnav, Gudia, Riya, Angel and Mannat

**Contact No. 9682644901, 7006026911,**

**7006692943, 9419185262**

**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**



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 sanatanan (BG 2.24)

[translation: This individual soul is unbreakable and insoluble, 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 Revu (Sister-in-law) 8657373764

Anil Jotshi (Brother-in-law) 9810865511



Smt. Kavita Atri  
Ganjoo (Chandra)

Anil Atri (Brother) 9910110930

Geetika Atri Mohan (Sister)

All Relatives & Friends

**TENTH DAY / THIRTEENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sen (Retd. Account Officer) R/o H.No. 520 Opposite Govt. Quarters Subash Nagar Jammu** who left for heavenly abode on 10-10-2023.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Shanti Ghat Shakti Nagar near A.G. Office Jammu on 19-10-2023 (Thursday) at 9 am.

**Thirteenth Day** will be performed on 22-10-2023 (Sunday) at Home at 12'O clock.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**All Sen Family Members**

**All Bhutyal Family Members**

**All Shan Family Members**

**Mobile No: 96891986083, 7006472062**



Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sen  
(Retd. Account Officer)

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved brother **Sh. Chaman Lal S/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal** originally resident V-Biyawat-Kunzer Distt. Baramulla Kashmir A/P Durga Nagar Sec-3, H.No. 119, Roop Nagar, Jammu, who left for Heavenly abode on 15-10-2023 (Sunday).

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 24-10-2023 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Education, Jammu at 8.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Brother & Bhabi**

Sh. Chandrer Bushan

Smt. Kanta Devi

**Sisters & Brothers-in-law**

Smt. Shakuntala Devi W/o Lt. Master Kundan Lal Ji

Smt. Saroj Devi W/o Sh. Virender Najwan

Smt. Rubi Rani (Daughter-in-law) W/o Sh. Ramesh Chander - (Nephew)

Smt. Rohini Sharma (Daughter-in-law) W/o Sh. Surinder Kumar (Nephew)

**Ph: 7889830499, 7889807582, 9796840123**



SH. CHAMAN LAL

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Pran Nath Koul S/o Sh Kailash Nath Koul R/o Main Road Rajpura near Water Tank Jammu**, who left for heavenly abode on 13-10-2023 (Friday).

**10TH DAY/KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 22-10-23 at 9:00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Late Sh Hari Krishan Koul & Smt Kamla Koul

Smt Sunita Koul (Wife)

**Son & Daughter in law**

Sh Sunny Koul & Neha Koul

**Daughter & Son in law**

Sonika & Deepak

**Mobile No. 9419220452, 7006033488**



Sh Pran Nath Koul

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Manjeet Kaur W/o S. Gurdeep Singh Raina SAO (Retd.) R/o Sector-E, House No. 438, Sainik Colony, Jammu.**

**PROGRAMME:**

**Arambh Sri Akhand Sahib** at our residence on 20th October, 2023 (Friday) at 9:00 AM.

**Bhog Sri Akhand Sahib** at our residence on 22-10-2023 (Sunday) at 10:30 AM.

**Shabad Kirtan & Antim Ardass** will be performed at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Sainik Colony, Jammu from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Mother-in-law & Father-in-law**

Sdn. Niranjan Kaur W/o Late Sub. Raj Singh (Batoote Wale)

S. Gurdeep Singh Raina SAO (Retd.) J.M.O.D. - Husband

S. Harpreet Singh Sajjan and Anrupriya Kaur - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sdn. Gurjeet Kaur & S. Gurmali Singh - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Sdn. Jaspreet Kaur & S. Jugraj Singh - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

**All nears & dears**

**Mob. No.: +91-9419189140, +91-9622035444**



Sdn. Manjeet Kaur

**10TH DAY / KRIYA**

With heavy heart it is to inform that **Smt. Rani Koul Nee Roop Gijri W/o Sh. Triloki Nath Koul** originally R/O Wanpora (Khandra) Pulwama Kashmir presently Flat:-179 first floor sector 33 (Inder-Pertha Colony) Faridabad Breathed her last on 15-10-2023(Sunday) at her Faridabad Residence.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 24-10-2023 (Tuesday) at Murad Nagar followed by **Assembly** at our Faridabad Residence at 12.30 noon.

**GRIEF STRIKEN:-**

T.N.Koul (Husband).

# National Seminar on General Zorawar Singh begins at Jammu University

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: A two-days national seminar on "General Zorawar Singh: Revisiting his Life, Legacy and Legendary Conquests of the Himalayan Territories" was organized by the Department of History, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre, Jammu, here on Friday at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The program started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp along with the recitation of Manglacharan by the students of Sanskrit department.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Dr. Karan Singh, former Member of Parliament who appreciated the efforts of the Department of History, University of Jammu and Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre, Jammu.

He focused on the consolidation of this region by General Zorawar Singh and the sacrifices made by Dogra's in the region.

"General Zorawar Singh and his soldiers faced hardships in Gilgit, Baltistan, Tibet and Ladakh region, but they were firm with their vision in expanding this



region," Dr. Karan Singh said and lauded the first five Maharajas starting with Maharaja Gulab Singh and their contributions for the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Karan Singh further said that General Zorawar Singh was a multifaceted and valiant personality. His achievements and contributions unfortunately have remained a matter of marginal concern in the existing historiography on him.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu said that the need of the hour is to review our curriculum and recognize where General Zorawar's contributions can be added in the syllabus of schools and higher institutions.

He further recommend-

ed that this must also be added to the syllabus of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State Public Service Commission (PSC).

The Basohli paintings that recently got the GI tag recognition were presented as mementos to all the dignitaries by Prof Umesh Rai.

The keynote address was presented by Dr. Kuldeep C. Agnihotri, Former Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Himachal Pradesh, who spoke about Jammu and Kashmir being an integral part of India and its strategic importance and how General Zorawar Singh and his army reclaimed the cultural frontiers of India.

He emphasized the necessity of situating the history of this region in the larger perspective. Major General Gaurav Gautam, GOC,

10 Infantry Division & Major General Vikram Singh Sekhon, GOC, 26 Infantry Division were the guests of honour.

In their address they underlined the fact that the greatest warrior General Zorawar is remembered across all the Army sections from all directions.

Earlier, Prof. Suman Jamwal, Head, Department of History, University of Jammu in her welcome address provided the rationale for the seminar and emphasized the need for such a program.

She said that it is important to bring out General Zorawar Singh in light of historical discourse. The theme of the seminar was introduced by Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Seminar Convenor, who gave a description of the legacy of General Zoawar Singh and his

contributions in the formation of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and how his role was neglected in the historical discourse.

He further added regarding the seminal contributions of Unsung Hero General Zorawar Singh in unifying traditional boundaries which was an integral part of the geography of Indian civilization.

The seminar was attended by Prof Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof Versha Mehta, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies, Prof Satnam Kour, Convenor, UTSAAH, Prof Sucheta Pathania, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof Prakash Anathal, Dean Students Welfare, Prof Monika Sethi, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, Prof Virender Koundal, Director, DSRS, journalists and eminent members of the civil society, historians, students and scholars of various departments from University of Jammu, Central University, IIT, IIMC and other universities from the North.

The inaugural session was conducted by Dr. Jasleen Kour and Dr. Madhulika Singh presented the vote of thanks.

# SCs in J&K got justice under Modi Govt: Dr. Bhola

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Member of Parliament & BJP SC Morcha National General Secretary, Dr. Bhola Singh, during his one-day visit to Jammu, chaired a meeting of J&K SC Morcha office bearers and senior leaders at Trikuta Nagar office. This meeting was convened by SC Morcha President & former MLA Neelam Langeh.

In this meeting, the ongoing programmes of the morcha were reviewed and future course of action discussed for maximum outreach in areas housing the population of scheduled caste community.

Dr. Bhola Singh, while addressing the meeting, said that SCs across the country had been exploited for vote bank politics by Congress and other political parties and in J&K too this community remained discriminated for decades together. He said that refugees from West Pakistan, 70% of whom are SCs, were not granted citizenship rights for seventy years. There was no reservation in the state assembly and after long struggle and agitations it was implemented in 1971, while in other states, it was adopted from the day



the Indian constitution came into force. He also expressed surprise that the SCs were not issued permanent caste certificates and had to obtain new ones after every 12-15 years under the new SRO.

Dr. Bhola Singh said that after the abrogation of Article-370 by Narendra Modi government, the refugees get citizenship rights, practice of separate caste certificates has been stopped and various schemes launched for the socio-economic upliftment of this class have reached their doorsteps and transformed their lives.

"Under Modi government the SCs in J&K have got much awaited justice", he said and added that the union government's principle of 'sabka saath sabka vikas sabka vishwas' is visible in reality on ground as every section and class is taken care and included in welfare schemes.

SC Morcha president, Neelam Langeh, in his address, said that PM Narendra Modi has come to be the real well-wisher of SCs as for the first time a government has shown real concern for the betterment of SCs. An era of uncertainty and discrimination has come to an end and a new dawn full of hopes and progress entered their lives. He said that various central laws and schemes stand extended to J&K after the abrogation of Article 370. Today there is no need of obtaining separate caste certificates for jobs under state and union governments, which was harassment for SCs in J&K in the past.

DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan spoke on the pro-SC, pro-poor schemes of the Modi government and said that during the last nine years the SCs have been among the top beneficiaries.

# BJP holds Social Media Department meeting

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: BJP National Executive Member, Headquarter Incharge & former minister Priya Sethi, chaired a meeting of BJP Social Media department as its Prabhari at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, along with social media department Incharge Ankit Gupta.

This meeting was attended by social Media teams of Jammu North, Jammu South and Border District of the BJP. It was held in con-



nection with the ongoing Shankhnaad campaign to register social media volunteers in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, like other states and UTs.

Priya Sethi, while

addressing the meeting, said that the party Social Media Department at the national level has already launched the Shankhnaad campaign. Keeping the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections in mind and

the potential and significance of the social media, social media volunteers are being registered to strengthen its social media machinery from state to Mandal level and expand it on ground social media network. She said that under the Shankhnaad campaign, state and District level Social Media workshops and state level social media meetings are going on regularly. She said that in this regard, each district social media department has to get itself

updated by attending workshops and ensure that social media is further strengthened in every district.

Ankit Gupta said that social media is an effective and strong tool in the modern era to reach the masses and educate them about what is happening around them and in the world in different fields. He said that social media departments at district levels need to follow every instruction for smooth functioning and result oriented work.

# JMC Commissioner pays obeisance at Tirupati Temple



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav on Friday paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu and participated in the special Abhishek of Tirupati. He prayed for the welfare of the country.

Every Friday the ceremony of Abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed. Rahul Yadav said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu.

With this temple we

are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly.

He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here.

He said that the JMC is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. He said the temple is beautifully made in the Majeen area. He said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara Temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

On this occasion Subramanyam the Superintendent of Temple also appealed Transport Commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple.

He also emphasized to start the Bharat Darshan Bus service here so that tourists also come to know about the temple.

Other dignitaries present were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector Subramanyam, Superintendent Raviteja, Pradhana Pandit Amit Shukla and Veda Pandit.

## MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN - 2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming festival season, Northern Railway has decided to run the GATI SHAKTI Superfast Special Express Train as per details given below:-

04071/04072 New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi GATI SHAKTI Superfast Special Express Train

TRAIN NO. 04071	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04072		
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
---	23:30	New Delhi	05:35	---
11:25	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	---	18:10

Days of Run : 04071 Ex. New Delhi on 20.10.2023 and 04072 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 22.10.2023.

Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

Stoppages : Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan stations.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

Follow us on :- Northern Railway Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur Division invites applications for allotment of halt contract for sale of tickets for the following stations:-

Name of work	Allotment of Halt contract at Jamsherkhas, Sham Chaurasi, Khatkar Kalan Jhanda Ji, Jajjon Dolaba, Garhshankar, Malupota, Salla Khurd, Dudwandi, Garna Sahib, Parao Mehna & Sindhar Halt Stations over Firozpur Division.
Tenure of contract	05 (five) years
Last date & time of submission and opening of applications	On 20.11.2023 Up to 15:00 hrs (Applications will be opened on 20.11.2023 and in case the day on which the applications are to be opened is a holiday, the same will be opened at the same time on next working day).
Address of the office & date from which application forms will be available.	Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur. Date 19.10.2023 to 20.11.2023
Northern Railway's web site.	Applications can also be downloaded from Northern Railway's official website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

The notice for inviting application forms and other related information is also available on the official web site of Northern Railway www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3263/23

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JALSHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SAMBA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
e-NIT No. PHE/S/74 of 2023-24 Dated: 17-10-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sambainvites-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier

of all classes registered in KPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Construction of Civil Works and Laying, Fitting of Pipe Works under Jal Jeevan Mission". The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1, consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2, consisting of Financial Bid on percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (INR)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	Retrofitting of water supply scheme Chak Lala under Jal Jeevan Mission.	75.39	1000/-	150780/-	180 days	60 Days
2	Retrofitting of existing water supply scheme Panj Garain Sainia under Jal Jeevan Mission	47.55	1000/-	951000/-	180 days	60 Days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM)  
The tendering authority is Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba. The awarding authority is Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba.  
Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	17.10.2023 (04:00 PM)
ii	Document Download/Sale Start Date	17.10.2023 (04:30 PM)
iii	Bid submission start date	17.10.2023 (04:30 PM)
iv	Bid submission end date	25.10.2023 (4:00 PM)
vi	Date and time of Bid opening	27.10.2023 (03:00 PM onward)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders shall download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba. Bids must be accompanied by bid security declaration and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.
- Bid Security declaration will have to be uploaded as per format given in Annexure "I".
- The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder with draw his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- Queries by email if any should be made at [phecjmu@gmail.com](mailto:phecjmu@gmail.com)

No: PHE/S/13468-78  
Date: 17-10-2023

DIP/J-9922/23

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division  
Samba

## EDITORIAL

## BRIDGE GAP

Individualism, at first, saps the virtues of public life; but in the long run it attacks and destroys all others and is at length absorbed in downright selfishness."

With the nuclear family concept gaining ground, the traditional hierarchy within the family has broken down. Elders feel like intruders in the home of their own children, people are silently witnessing violence to family life, its health; it is tearing apart the fabric of family as an institution. These distortions may be construed to be causes and consequences of the generation gap that is becoming more and more pointed and pronounced with each passing day.

Teenagers and the youth are increasingly seen to be beyond control and a world unto themselves. More and more of elders their numbers going up rapidly are finding themselves lonely and unable to adjust to the ways of a fast-changing, increasingly busy and self-centered world.

The phenomenon 'generation gap' apparently delineates two sets of different persons having distinct physical and mental make-up, but in reality it is much more than meets the eye. Essentially, it is a difference in attitude or lack of understanding between young people and older people.

No society, group or family set-up is free from the tensions and traumas born out of the generation-gap, where on one end of the spectrum stands the balding or graying head of the family and on the other the defiant and disobedient youth ready to break all barriers so that he or she can assert his/her point of view to the extent of being a 'rebel'. Like the two banks of a river or the cultural contours of the East and the West, the twain fails to meet even halfway.

No doubt, society's values and belief structures rise and fall with changing times. In the modern world mankind has turned inwards to serve the self and worship individuality. There is almost a worldwide trend towards weakening of community and family ties. Human relationship is becoming narrower, confined largely to the nuclear family.

But even within this small unit there is an increasing crisis in the relationship husband and wife, in the relationship between parents and children.

The problem, though touching and taunting may not defy a solution if both the youth and the age sit together with open minds and come to terms with realities. In a situation where the youth is active and aspiring, the onus lies on it to show reasonable restraint and respect to the elders who claim to have seen better days and behaved differently with their seniors or blood relations.

The older persons, on their part, should give up living in a world of illusions and self-delusion and address themselves to the changed milieu, where their role is passive.

No two generations are alike in their perceptions and preferences. If the younger one is aggressive and assertive, the elder one too is not very polite and pliant. Blaming the new generation for everything that has gone wrong in the society is like showing a red rag to the bull. The generation gap has been the rigorous reality of life since ages.

In the dying years of the present century, the hiatus between the two seems to have become more pronounced and painful because the younger generation is moved and motivated more by career considerations or calculation than by care, concern and compassion for their elders.

In the absence of 'a cause' for which they and their elders may stand and share one platform, crass commercial consciousness has widened the chasm between the two, leaving behind a trail of bitterness, complaints and grudges against each other.

Since each new generation becomes out of tune and touch with the upcoming one, it is in the fitness of things that the youth of today exhibit understanding and adjustment with the older generation now, so that it does not suffer the burden of 'guilt conscience' in its graying or balding period of life.

## 61 years after 1962, be alert for fresh Chinese mischief

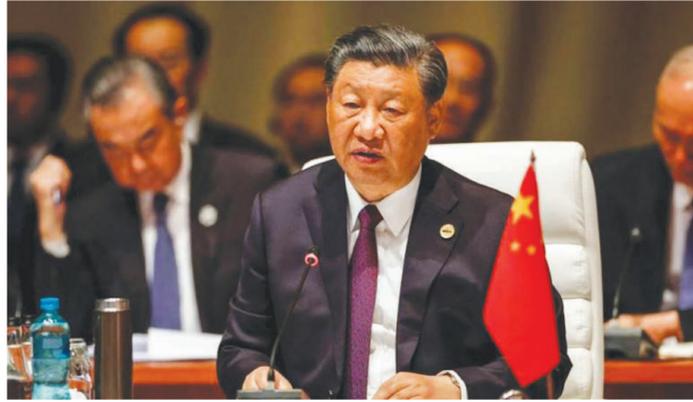
By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

Sixty-one years have gone since October 20, 1962, when Communist China's founder and overlord launched the Sino-Indian war, with the primary objective of humiliating India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, known across the world as an apostle of peace, non-violence, harmony and a "live-and-let-live" practitioner of the post-Western imperialism era of the Third World. As a disciple and the chosen successor of Mahatma Gandhi, there could not be a bigger contrast between Nehru and Mao, who was held responsible for millions of deaths on his long march to power in Beijing in 1949.

Democratic India was a symbol of hope to the newly-free nations of Asia and Africa, while the People's Republic of China was a pariah state led by a hostile muscleman of murderous ideology, who had fought against the United Nations in Korea and had brutally invaded and conquered an independent and peaceful Tibet, driving the Dalai Lama into exile in India. The contrast between New Delhi's democratic PM and the Dragon's autocratic ruler was so stark that Mao had to prove himself as a "true" "Son of Heaven" and look beyond the Hwang Ho valley into the sub-Himalayan terrain.

In 1962's aftermath, Mao's evil designs are now in the public domain. The archives reveal that "a meeting took place in Beijing between Mao and a group of Naxal leaders from India in December 1967". Mao "would have ended the border dispute with India by returning the land south of the McMahon Line if a 'people's government' had come to power in New Delhi". This and many such suggestions were made by the Communist Party of China's head, who claimed he didn't want the 90,000 sq km but for the "capitalist and feudal government" in India.

Li Danhui, of East China Normal University, who had access to the Chinese archives, reveals this little-known impor-



tant piece of history: "Because India is an imperialist, feudal and bureaucrat-capitalist government, China had to fight for every inch of land and had been using dilatory tactics in dealing with the issue". Clearly, the objective was to destroy Nehru and bring him down.

As the current "core leader" of the CPC, Chairman Xi Jinping, is a self-proclaimed re-incarnate of Mao, it would be useful to peruse what his demigod (Mao Zedong) had to say in 1938, with utter contempt about the political systems which didn't toe, or fall in line with, the CPC's autocratic brand of criminality: "China's war of resistance was an extraordinary spectacle in the history of warfare. It would in the future influence not only the fate of China and Japan; it would also surge forward the progress of all countries, and in particular of oppressed peoples such as India, to march forward" (Selected Works of Mao Zedong, Volume II).

The point today is that due to the monumental folly of a sizeable chunk of gullible and ignorant Indians' obsession with China and addiction to all things Chinese, the ship of the Indian State is slowly but steadily sailing on to the doomed rocks. If territory was the prime target of Mao in 1962, multiple lip-smacking lucrative economic, commercial and money-spinning ventures are on CPC boss Xi Jinping's radar in 2023.

Today, the Xi brigade's main mission is to ensure that "Delhi must be destroyed". Virtually

all countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, big and small, are being lured to pay obeisance at Mr Xi's court. One of the key exceptions is India, which stands defiant despite a humongous \$100 billion-plus trade deficit, the erosion of automobile industry caused by the CPC's companies, humiliating and irreversible territorial losses, the addiction of India's cost-conscious customers to cheap

Chinese-made phones and a variety of electronic devices and the destruction of industry by a sizeable number of import-loving traders who collude and connive with CPC-sponsored agent provocateurs in the guise of merchants.

Despite this gloomy scenario, however, there's also glimmer of hope. India's much-maligned law enforcement agencies are rendering yeoman's service to the nation on the China front. Court filings by the Enforcement Directorate reveals that "Rs 1.07 trillion (about \$13 billion) have been remitted outside India by Chinese company Vivo to trading companies controlled by its Chinese parent... masking layers, intended to escape the Government of India's notice". "While no profits are shown from 2014-15 to 2019-20 in statutory filings and no income-tax paid, huge sums siphoned off out of India", in July 2022 alone, the ED estimated a figure of Rs 624.7 billion (\$7.5 billion) remitted abroad, mainly to China.

Vivo, however, is just the tip of the CPC's criminal gang iceberg in India. Although the Indian

media does occasionally refer to chronic Chinese shenanigans, a Western media outfit put it much more starkly: "Inside the deadly loan apps that blackmail with nudes: the Chinese-masterminded blackmail scam is using instant loan apps to entrap and humiliate people across India". The Chinese criminals not only make billions but are also killing Indians inside their homes. How will the CPC's overlord react if the same thing happened in reverse direction?

At a time when Mr Xi is being assiduously wooed and re-cultivated by German carmakers and other European businessmen desperate to boost exports and their governments, and a battery of President Joe Biden's Cabinet members and senior officials are making repeated pilgrimages to the Dragon's court in Beijing, will the arrest of Vivo's top Chinese executives and their associates in India re-ignite the flames? Will the Chinese make renewed attempts to hammer New Delhi with multiple assaults to cripple its finances, economy, trade, commerce and hit it hard diplomatically in front of its South Asian neighbours through more posturing at the sub-Himalayan frontier?

At a time when President Biden himself is looking ahead to a face-to-face meeting with President Xi at the landmark Apec summit in the United States next month, India is "rocking the Chinese boat" by arresting their nationals for illegally making billions for a Beijing state enterprise run by the CPC as its personal fiefdom! This, when Mr Xi considers he's at the cusp of determining and "shaping the destiny of mankind" along with Mr Biden in San Francisco in November?

The strategy of Xi Jinping is clear. He feels he is a "worthy torch-bearer" of the late Chairman Mao to take on India because that's the last bastion standing in the way between the Dragon Emperor and a large part of the world falling head over heels at his feet!

## Is it worth going to study in a foreign university?



By: Vijay GarG

For the past few years, the craze for people from India to go abroad to gain admission to foreign colleges and settle there has been on the increase. According to the government, between 2016 and 2021, 26.44 lakh Indian students went abroad to study. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) estimates show that in the year 2020, 4.5 lakh Indian students went abroad for education and they spent \$ 13.5 billion in this process. In the year 2022, this expenditure was 24 billion dollars that is, about 2 lakh crore rupees. According to the report of Red seer Strategy Consultant, by 2024 this expen-

diture may reach US\$ 80 billion, that is, 7 lakh crore rupees, when an estimated 20 lakh Indian students will go abroad to study. If we make a state-wise analysis, till the year 2021, among the students going to study abroad, 12 per cent were from Punjab and Andhra Pradesh each; and 8 per cent were from Gujarat. If seen in proportion to the total number of youth, then 7 out of every thousand youth from Punjab, 4 out of every thousand youth from Andhra Pradesh and at least 2 out of every thousand youth from Gujarat are going to study abroad every year. If we take the cumulative numbers from 2016 to 2022, the situation looks quite alarming. This number is 50 per thousand in Punjab, 30 per thousand in Andhra Pradesh and 14 per thousand in Gujarat. The exponential increase in the number of students going abroad to study is a matter of concern for many reasons. The biggest concern is that these youth are migrating to foreign countries in search of education and employment and this migration is causing a shortage of labour for the economic activities in the country. There has been huge progress in the

field of education in the country.

If we look at the admission of students in higher education, then in 1990-91, only 49.2 lakh students took admission in higher educational institutions; but this number reached 414 lakh in the year 2020-21. Broadly speaking, the number of students taking admission to higher education has increased more than 10 times in the last 30 years. If we talk about higher education institutions, we see that in the year 2021, there were 1113 universities and equivalent institutions, 43796 colleges and 11296 standalone educational institutions in the country. As far as the fee for admission into educational institutions is concerned, in most of the Indian educational institutions it's much lower than the fees in foreign institutions and most of the foreign institutions in which Indian youth are taking admission are of very low standard. So, the question arises why do Indian youth spend huge amounts of money and get admission to foreign educational institutions? The simple answer is that most of the students who go abroad to pursue higher education, actually don't go to get a higher degree. The real intent of

Indian students going to other countries including Australia, Canada, and European countries including the United Kingdom, is not too keen to get an education. Their real objective is to get employment there. But Indian youth fail to realise that there is a huge shortage of employment in these countries also. In many countries, incidents of violence by local people, against Indians and youth coming from other countries, generally from South Asia, are also being witnessed. Most of the young students leaving the country fail to get employment there and have to return home, due to which they are also facing frustration.

The students are not able to realise that today in Canada, Australia and European countries, where they are taking admission to educational institutions, those educational institutions are giving easy admission to Indian students in their institutions, for profit.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout  
Punjab)

## Ex-CPMFWA asks Central Govt to redress demands on priority

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: President of the Ex. Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association (CPMFWA) J&K UT, Shashi Sharma, highlighted several longstanding issues and demands faced by the Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces.

Addressing a press conference, Shashi Sharma highlighted the disparity in treatment between Paramilitary Forces and Defense Forces under the Ministry of Defense (MOD). "Despite both forces displaying the same dedication, valour, and patriotism, Paramilitary Forces do not receive the same benefits and



support. Their service conditions are regulated by stringent acts with provisions for punishments comparable to Defense Forces. However, their pay, perks, post-retirement benefits, and pensions are governed by the Central Civil Services

(Pension) Rules 1972, which provides benefits only equal to those of Central Government Civilian Employees," he said and stressed the need to rectify this injustice.

He requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the

issue of pensions for Paramilitary Forces, with specific reference to the 2006 and 2015 pension schemes. He sought equitable pension rates, such as CT with 33 years of service receiving a basic pension of 9000, HC with 20/33 years receiving a basic pension of 12500, ASI with 20/33 years receiving a basic pension of 15500, SI with 20/33 years of service supervision receiving a basic pension of 21500, and Inspectors with 33 years of superannuation receiving a basic pension of 22500, mirroring Defense Forces' pension structure.

The Association referenced a Government

of India (GOI) order from November 23, 2012, which directed State Governments and Union Territories to extend suitable benefits to CAPF personnel from BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, and SSB similar to those provided to ex-service-men of Defense Forces. They urged the GOI to ensure the implementation of these benefits.

The Chief Advisor of Ex. CPMFWA J&K (UT), Harinder Mahajan, felicitated 20 widows from all Paramilitary Forces, including BSF, CRPF, ITBP, CISF, and SSB.

The Association also expressed concern about the pending recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission,

18 months DA arrears. They emphasized that these arrears should be paid promptly, or else the 65 Lakh Central Employees have threatened to boycott the BJP in the upcoming 2024 Election.

Furthermore, Assistant Commandant Ashok Kumar was announced as the new Chairman of the Ex. Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association.

Other office bearers present in the press conference Harbans Lal (Vice President), Noor Muhammad (General Secretary), Yash Paul, Ashok Kumar (Chairman), Kirtan Singh, Harvinder Kour and Lovely Pandita.

## Dimple leads protest against JMC



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple led a protest against the JMC Jammu, demanding the dissolution of the JMC and the resignation of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and all Corporators.

The protesters said that Jammu city is the dirtiest city in India, and the JMC has failed to perform its duties over the past five years.

Sunil Dimple and the protesters are particularly critical of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and BJP corporators, whom they accuse of a lack of development and rampant corruption in the city.

They allege that Jammu city is plagued by issues such as the proliferation of wine and liquor shops, smart meters, lack of streetlights, no access to drinking water, and

an overall absence of development.

Dimple said that Jammu city is grappling with a dengue pandemic, with all 75 wards affected and residents suffering from high fever, body pains, and weakness.

Dimple accused the JMC administration, JMC commissioner, Mayor, and health officers of being absent and unresponsive to the city's problems. He requested the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to dissolve the JMC and said that the current corporation and corporators are not functioning adequately to control the dengue and stray dog problems.

The prominent leaders present in the protest include Jagdish Raj Gupta, Happy Mahjan, Sita Ram, Raji Khajuria, Sonu Agarwal, Shami Mahajan, Gulshan, Shubam Mahajan and many others.

## Dhandari Kalan station to go through a major transformation under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

### TOP NEWS REPORT

FIROZPUR, Oct 20: Through the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the Indian Railway plans to rebuild its 1308 railway stations across the country. It seeks to accommodate numerous other facilities in addition to improving passenger transit and

making it safe and comfortable.

Currently, in its first phase, 508 stations are under renovation. Out of these the Northern Railways have been assigned 71 stations across its 5 divisions.

One such station is the Dhandari Kalan station, under its Firozpur

division which has been allotted a budget of 17.6 crores. The redevelopment plan includes improvement and beautification of the circulation area of about 1838 sq. meters.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme seeks to improve the overall quality of the traveller

experience. It emphasizes passenger safety and comfort and aims to transform train stations into dynamic travel centres. With this scheme, the railways plan on making travel more efficient, sustainable, faster and friendly for both the passengers and the broader public.

## Shambo Nath Sapruo remembered on his first death anniversary

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Shambo Nath Sapruo, former President, Voice of Displaced Kashmiri's Milchar Front, remembered on his First Death anniversary, on Friday at Laxmipuram, Chinnore, here.

One year ago, Sapruo Sahib left this world, but his love and memories still live in our hearts,

the members of the Front said and prayed to Almighty God to give peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

The Members described him a visionary & as symbol of simplicity, honesty and integrity who always remained committed to the service of poor, needy & down trodden.

## Kotli Welfare Trust Chairman greets IGP Jammu Anand Jain

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Social Activist & Kotli Welfare Trust Chairman Chandan Datta greeted IGP Jammu Anand Jain for his honest policing service career in J&K UT.

Datta said, "We need such officers who are promoting sport activities and provide platform to our youth to channelise their energy and inspire them to contribute for the society and Nation. This is need of hour in today's time to channelise energy of youth in Nation building activities under various taken initiatives under civic action programme by JKP and such steps taken by JKP are appreciated by civilise society at large to aware youth and masses to stay away from drugs and also provide a platform to youth by organising various sports activities in Jammu region and make their mind and body fit and healthy. Since Anand Jain assumed charge as IGP Jammu we have many expectations as such is his efficiency and capability to streamline things on ground as we have witnessed a large reforms done



under his able supervision in past about his policing skills and ethics to work for the betterment of public at large. His past taken initiatives and positive people friendly behaviour paved a wave of ethical and honest policing in entire Jammu."

IGP Jammu Anand Jain while appreciating the role of social activist Chandan Datta particularly to work against drug abuse and other social evils to aware masses

by doing different activities like Car Rally, bike rally, Nukad natak, seminars and debates to eradicate this menace out of J&K which is indeed a great step.

KCWT extended its full support to such an efficient and brilliant officer and stands by his Great vision to tighten grip on drug peddlers which is need of hour to save our youth and generations. KCWT wished him more strength and courage to IGP Jammu Zone.

## People of Jammu still as smart city waiting for this dream to come true: Gurmeet

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: The resident of Jammu east, interacted with a representation of the locals and took stock of the problems being faced by the residents.

The protest was organized by residents of that area with Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal & District General Secretary Congress and also Ward 3, President Hardavinder Singh, and beside others.

It was a part of the Congress party's initiative, the Ward level programme contacted to reach the local people of Jammu at the grassroots level and take stock of troubles being faced by them.

It was observed that the streets are in a very bad condition for more than 02 years. The local resident of that area complained pertaining to this but nothing happened in response.

Today one incident happened at Mast Garh oppo. to back of Jain Masala where a scoter rider narrowly escaped from the falling of Danga.

This had been repaired and constructed many times but due to

the lack of quality materials, sufficient materials required to make it strong and provide strength to that Danga, it fails to stand still. If the strength of this is compromised, this may lead to structural disturbances to the building all in around and may include something in danger for the human life as well.

Therefore strict actions along with penalty should be imposed atleast of Rs. 1 lakh and six months salary on the concerned officer and contractor who knowing neglect this severe issue and lingers such issues and uses low graded materials.

The children as well as elders are afraid that they may not fell down and injured as such the repair is very much necessary.

The representatives of the BJP Govt has never visited the area and never heard the problem of the people. BJP Govt. has announced the Jammu as Smart city but on the other hand no concrete steps have been taken by the BJP Govt. to make Jammu as Smart City. But the people of Jammu are still looking forward of this dream of the Jammu as Smart city.

The party expressed concern over the panic amongst the people due to lack of proper facilities and negligence on the part of the BJP government.

The locals told Gurmeet Singh that they suffer countless problems in their area. Some of the major problems they are facing include poor condition of Street and drainage systems among others.

Gurmeet Singh also appealed to the public to stay strong and support the Congress party in exposing the BJP and their failed promises. He said that they have ignored Jammu city for very long and consequently problems have increased manifold. Development and maintenance projects have not been taken seriously and that has disrupted the daily lifestyle of people.

Prominent among those who accompanied Distt General Secretary Congress Gurmeet Singh include Ward President Hardavinder Singh, Pawan Kumar, Ram Parshad, Lucky, Jia Lal, Ashok Kumar, Subash Sharma, Lovely, Ajay Kumar, Yash Sharma, Amarpreet Singh and Vijay Kumar.

## Horticulture Deptt, JKRLM starts training programme



### TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 20: Department of Horticulture Doda started training programme at Thathri. The programme was chaired by Manager Horticulture Bharat Bhushan Pangotra.

The programme is attended by more than 50 women who has come from different

areas of Block Thathri. The programme is also attended by BPM JKNRML Thathri Abdul Roof and other officers/officials of Horticulture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Manager Horticulture gave detail view of processing sector, importance of food processing. He emphasized for processing of

fruits and vegetables to reduce post harvest losses by different value added products.

The sector not only provide job to the unemployed youth but also plays pivotal role in making women socio-economic empower besides nutritional support and availability in nutritional deficit areas.

The Doda District has immense potential in food processing and earning the foreign exchange with availability of different local value added products to meet the demand of Tourists with local and branded products.

The programme was conducted on the overall supervision of Chief Horticulture Officer Doda Rakesh Kotwal. It was first of its kind in Thathri Block which was widely hailed by the participant.

## 53 pc of Indian CMOs Embrace Sustainability & Environmental Protection in Branding: Outlook Report

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Despite chronic crises, marketing executives are looking positive into the future: They feel confident about what is to come, tend to invest in long-term brand building activities, and have few troubles securing their budgets. Data from the new GfK CMO Outlook Report shows how adept marketing leaders are with new technology like AI and real-time insights. But it's not all sunshine and rainbows: the report also illuminates a huge gap between marketer's and consumer's expectations in terms of sustainability. Given current economic uncertainties, it would be tempting for marketers to focus on short-term marketing activities that yield immediate

results while slashing long-term investments. While these tactics may temporarily improve balance sheets, building and nourishing a strong brand tends to pay off more in the long run. Experience shows that a strong brand reduces customer acquisition costs, improves customer retention rates, makes for more impactful product launches, and may protect margins even in times of inflation. Fortunately, marketing leaders worldwide have got the memo. GfK's new CMO Outlook Report Data, Decisions, and Optimism: How CMOs are driving change in an evolving world shows that despite ongoing crises, over two-thirds of marketing decision-makers worldwide (70 percent) are investing

more than half of their budgets in long-term initiatives, e.g. campaigns focused on strengthening the brand. Among CMOs, this proportion rises to 78 percent. Industry-wise, marketing leaders in consumer tech (76 percent), automotive (76 percent), and retail (74 percent) are zeroing in on long-term brand-building strategies. B2B brands are more willing to make long-term investments. Longer conversion cycles and smaller customer bases probably play a role. Despite crises, marketing leaders are optimistic about the future. Overall, 61 percent of marketing decision-makers worldwide believe that their industry has been hit harder than others by the ongoing turbulences of recent years.

However, there are regional differences: 66 percent of marketing decision-makers in Europe and 65 percent in North America feel particularly affected by the economic situation. In Africa and the Middle East, only 52 percent agree with this statement, and 55 percent in the Asia-Pacific region.

Despite this, CMOs remain remarkably confident: Almost three-quarters state that their company has grown in the last three years and 78 percent say that they are optimistic about the future. These optimistic marketing leaders are more focused on long-term brand building (77 percent), suggesting a link between optimism and long-term investment.

Most marketing leaders also show impres-

sive confidence in their budgets. Nearly two-thirds overall say they find it easy to justify their financial needs, particularly in North America and Europe. Especially optimistic marketing decision-makers say they have no problems funding marketing expenditures.

New GfK CMO Outlook Report published Despite ongoing macroeconomic and geopolitical turbulences, CMOs are optimistic about the future and look forward to maximizing several exciting opportunities for growth in the current marketing climate. Read more about how to do it in the new GfK Outlook Report "Data, Decisions, and Optimism: How CMOs are driving change in an evolving world".

## Mike Flanagan makes us grapple with multiple truths to finally drive home a simple message

Mystery of mysteries... Surrealism has been used as cinematic device to draw attention to a hard-hitting subject. However, rarely does it make such an impact as in *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Like the series *Painkiller*, it takes a look into the murky world of drug companies. The Usher family, owner of pharmaceutical company, is facing a trial for its highly addictive drug.

But this is no courtroom drama or a police procedural. In this reimagining of the short story of the same name and other works by Edgar Allan Poe, Mike Flanagan creates a contemporary riveting drama. The series unfolds like a thriller, flirting with horror if you will. It begins with the death of young members of the Usher family and a confession by its head, Roderick Usher (Bruce Greenwood).

As the eight-episode drama streaming on Netflix goes back and forth, we are led into a compelling maze. One by one we become privy to the life and death of Roderick's children, both legitimate and illegitimate. There is Prospero (Sauriyana Sapkota), who wants to set up



a sex bar, Leo (Rahul Kohli), a video game publisher and a drug addict. Kate Siegel as Camille is the public relations head, T'Nia Miller as Victorine LaFourcade is in charge of clinical trials. Samantha Sloan as Tamerlane is creating a high-end wellness brand. Most of them have twisted lives. Amoral and consumed by ambition... one after another they die. Their deaths apparently are accidental yet there is a pattern to it, probably connected to Roderick and his sister Madeline's (Mary McDonnell) past. How the brother-sister duo rise to head

the company their father once owned, while disowning his offspring born out of wedlock, too is shrouded in mystery. Much here is mysterious, often bordering on macabre. As Roderick lets Dupin (Carl Lumbly) into his inner world, the sense of disquiet heightens. Phantasmagorical elements jostle with the harsh reality of pharma secrets. Skeletons tumble one after another.

Abominability of human character is a recurring thread and sheer depravity of the Ushers is appalling. If the sex party of Prospero makes you flinch, the triggers to their brutal ends

are no less shocking. Writing is sharp, pithy and has wicked humour. 'Isn't madness the loftiest intelligence?' the bizarre acquires a sting.

While, the series packs nudity, violence, it also has fabulous music (*The Newton Brothers*). Actors playing the Ushers bring out their fetishes without inhibition and with right degree of off-centre waywardness. The family is not without its moral compass. The real conscience in the series is this mysterious woman Verna (Carla Gugino). Who is she, a victim? At a subliminal level; is she maya or karma?

Flanagan makes us grapple with multiple truths to finally drive home a simple message. The biblical saying 'sins of parents are visited upon their children' is not uttered but its import and that of 'what goes around comes around' hits like a bolt. Madeline's lines in the climax about consumerism pack a punch. Finally, in *The Fall of the House of Usher* we see the fall of humanity, anatomy of ambition with chilling clarity and as viewers, we get our slice of redemption too.

## Tiger Shroff in Singham Again



Tiger Shroff joins Rohit Shetty's megahit cop

universe. The blockbuster director took to social

media to announce Tiger Shroff as the new cop, ACP Satya, in *Singham Again*. The action star Tiger is the newest entry to Shetty's mega franchise.

*Singham Again* is headlined by Ajay Devgn, with Deepika Padukone joining him as cop Shakti Shetty. Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn and Ranveer Singh, who have all been a part of Rohit Shetty's cop universe, welcomed Tiger Shroff onboard.

"Welcoming my brother from another mother, @tigerjackieshroff as ACP Satya to the squad!" posted Akshay Kumar on his Insta handle. "The squad just got stronger, welcome to the team ACP Satya!" posted Ajay Devgn. "He is the truth. He is immortal. Special Task Force Officer ACP Satya, reporting for duty!" posted Ranveer Singh. Each of the post is accompanied with Tiger in a stunning avatar!

## The first Tricity Press Photographers Awards and Exhibition captures life in its myriad moods

Chandigarh in varied hues, its classic architecture, breathtaking nature and colourful folks make it to the first Tricity Press Photographers Awards and Exhibition, which opened on Tuesday at Under Pass Gallery-17.

The exhibition has 45 works by 23 photojournalists of the tricity on display capturing life in its myriad moods. Right from glimpses of famous folks right from legendary artist MF Husain, tennis legend Rafael Nadal, city's iconic Sukhna Lake and Eiffel Tower replica in Leisure Valley to common folks in moments tragic and ebullient make for subjects of these frames. It is organised by Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi and Chandigarh Press Club.

Photojournalists Keshav Singh and Jaswinder Singh received the top honours—a trophy and a cash award of Rs 25,000 each. Karun Sharma, Dinesh Bhardwaj, Vicky, Kameshwar Singh and Vinay Malik also won trophies,



and cash awards of Rs 10,000 each. Additionally, 16 other photojournalists received appreciation awards for their work. Photographs taken by six journalists also featured in the exhibition. In this category, Charanjeet Kaur Sandhu of Punjabi Tribune received the consolation prize. Batting for inclusivity, the exhibition poster has para cricketer's photo as the main shot.

## Tujhpe Dil Haar Ke, a new song from the series Sultan Of Delhi, released

After winning the heart of the audience through the romantic Sufi Saaziyah and the classy jazz Ishq Ka Yeh Nasha (Tra La La), Disney+ Hotstar and Zee Music presents the romantic *Tujhpe Dil Haar Ke* from *Sultan Of Delhi*.

Bringing back the vintage era of the 60s and transporting us into the beautiful world, Milan Luthria leaves no stone unturned in giving audiences an incredible experience. With an ensemble of versatile artists the album includes singers such as Armaan Malik, Shreya Ghoshal and Anmol Malik, lyri-



cist such as the debutant Milan Luthria and Kumar and composers such as Anu Malik,

Amaal Malik, Sangeet and Siddharth Haldirpur. Amaal said, "Creating music for *Sultan*

Of Delhi was truly an enriching experience. There was so much to learn about that musical era and bring it to this show while keeping it fresh and unique.

It's always fun to work with Armaan and I love our jamming sessions. Also, to collaborate with Shreya Ghoshal yet again, who's an icon in the music industry, was an absolute delight. What made the song even more special for me was that while I have worked with Armaan and Shreya individually, this was the first time that they both sang a duet. To work with Milan Luthria was on my checklist

for a long time and I was thrilled at the opportunity to create something for a show like this."

Shreya added, "Collaborating with Milan Luthria is always an incredible experience."

We share a deep understanding and similar vision for a song and that helps us create magic together. *Tujh Par Dil Haar Ke* is a lovely romantic song and is sure to strike a chord with the audiences. It is always a delight to collaborate with talented musicians like Armaan and Amaal who are extremely dedicated and passionate towards their craft."

## A Mumbai-based auction house comes calling to City Beautiful with a treasure trove of MF Husain, Paresh Maity, Satish Gujral and FN Souza creations, amongst others

Can't remember when was the last time we saw so many beauties under one roof! MF Husain's biggest creation *Voices*, Paresh Maity's ethereal landscape, Satish Gujral's vibrantly textured woman with a dhol, Sakti Burman's nature's child, Akbar Padamsee's human form to FN Souza's abstract figure – it's only that much that our eyes can behold!

The list ranging from modern to contemporary, however, goes on — SH Raza, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, Jogen Chowdhury, Manu Parekh, Bikash Bhattacharjee, T Vaikuntam, Jagannath Mohapatra, Suryakant Lokhande, Anu Agarwal... Overwhelmingly impressive for any art lover!

As much as we love the creations coming out of the palettes of these great artists, we find the words of AstaGuru Auction House's representatives palatable too. "This is the first-ever physical exhibition we are organising outside Mumbai," says Siddanth Shetty, chief administrative officer and spokesperson, AstaGuru. And why Chandigarh, we ask. "Because the city is known for its great culture (and money?), and we can totally connect to it," they say.

It sounds quite an honest



answer because for an online auction house, which specialises in art, antiques and luxury items, they have brought their best of paintings (50 paintings to be precise) as their showcase product. And a few sculptures, among which Ramkumar's suited-booted gentleman in bronze and Jogen Chowdhury's Ben-

gali bhadralok playing the veena catches our eyes. We don't prod into the money angle because we find the answer in Husain's *Voices*, whose market price is to the tune of Rs 30 crore! And that it has travelled all the way to Chandigarh, speaks of what the auction house people think of the purchasing power of Chan-

digarh's art lovers.

"Chandigarh's art lovers have been actively participating in our online auctions. Now, this physical exhibition will broaden their knowledge about our collections," the spokesperson says.

If Husain dominates the exhibition hall with seven paintings (the famous Durga- Mahishashur sketch being one of them), so do Gujral and Souza with four each on display. Amid the creations of such stalwarts, the works of contemporary artists like Prajjwal Choudhury and Suryakant Lokhande hold their own. "Since this exhibition is about testing the proverbial waters, we have curated it as such that there is something for everyone," we are told.

And they have thought everything through. Like a series of painting by T Vaikuntam is strategically put at the entrance. Mythological figures in bright colours are expected to appeal to those who are new in the realm of art.

And for those who have already reached the status of a collector, here are some of the services enlisted in the AstaGuru's catalogue which might come useful — evaluation of antiques and paintings, and restoration. Didn't we say they have thought it all through!

## Aniruddh Dave believes that daily soap helps one develop routine



Actor Aniruddh Dave feels that as far as showbiz is concerned, a daily soap is the best place to learn acting. In his opinion there is no

better learning experience than learning skills on the job.

He says, "Doing a daily soap is one of the most significant learning

experiences for an actor because it requires consistent honing of skills. I believe that there are very few other endeavours that can provide as much ongoing improvement for an actor."

He adds, "Working in a daily soap also helps you get into a routine. You see, in this profession, you have to sleep on time and wake up on time, get ready in the morning with makeup, and work throughout the day with dedication. That's why they call it a 'soap opera'. Many people have misunderstood this term. They think it's about repeating the same thing every day, but it's much more than that. It's like daily practice, and an essential one."

One what should change in the television industry, Dave quips, "We don't have much say; it depends on the preferences of the audience. I believe that the golden era of Indian television will return, and we will revisit the old charm. I know that the entertainment industry, especially television, constantly evolves. It's incredible how our field adapts to what the audience desires at any given moment."

## “Historic Moment For Entire Country”: PM Modi After Inaugurating NaMo Bharat

Addressing the public after the inauguration of 17 Km priority section, PM Modi said, “This is a historic moment for the entire country.”

GHAZIABAD (UP), Oct 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor and called it a historic moment for the entire country.

Addressing the public after the inauguration of 17 Km priority section, PM Modi said, “This is a historic moment for the entire country. Today the functioning of RRTS corridor have begun also India’s first Rapid Rail services - Nammo Bharat train are being dedicated to the nation.”

“Four years back, I laid the foundation stone of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Corridor project. Today, the services of Nammo Bharat have started on the stretch from Sahibabad to Duhai Depot. I had said earlier too and I say it today as well - Jiska shilanyaas hum karte hain, uska udghatan bhi hum hi karte hain (What we lay for foundation, we inaugurate it as well),” he added.

PM Modi further stated that Nammo Bharat train is a symbol of women empowerment in the country.

“On this new train (Nammo Bharat), from driver to the entire crew - they are all women. This is the symbol of growing women empowerment in India,” he said.

Recalling his childhood memories of travelling in train, PM Modi said, “I had the opportunity to experience travel on this ultra-modern train (Nammo Bharat). I spent my childhood on the railway platform and today



this new form of the railways is filling me with joy. This experience is delightful. We have the tradition of performing auspicious works during Navratri. India’s first Nammo Bharat train has received the blessings of Maa Katyayani today.”

The 17 Km priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor will connect Sahibabad to ‘Duhai Depot’ with stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar and Duhai on the way. The foundation stone for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was laid by the Prime Minister on 8th March 2019.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, “The success of this project is equivalent to Chandrayan 3. Soon we will have the largest metro network in the world.”

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, “It is a gift to us in Navratri. In the last nine and half years we have witnessed world class infrastructure under your visionary

leadership. On the lines of Airport, railway stations are being developed. Vande Bharat is the symbol of New India.”

On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off the RapidX train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai depot, marking the launch of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India. This is India’s first RapidX train which will be known as Nammo Bharat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor at Uttar Pradesh’s Sahibabad RapidX station—a state-of-the-art regional mobility solution aimed to transform regional connectivity in the country through construction of new world class transport infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also flagged off the RapidX train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai depot, marking the launch of RRTS in India. This is India’s

first RapidX train which will be known as “Nammo Bharat”.

The 17 km priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor will connect Sahibabad to Duhai depot with stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar and Duhai on the way. The foundation stone for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was laid by the Prime Minister on March 8, 2019. With the train service operational, the travel time between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot will be 12 minutes, which would usually take around 30-35 minutes by road.

The RRTS project is developed in line with the Prime Minister’s vision to transform regional connectivity in the country through construction of new world class transport infrastructure. The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system.

With a design speed of 180 kmph, RRTS is a transformational, regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, which can go up to a frequency of every 5 minutes as per requirement.

The Sahibabad RRTS station from where the Prime Minister flagged off India’s first RapidX train is just 4 km away from the Vaishali Metro Station situated on the Blue line of the Delhi Metro.

## “Public Won’t Tolerate Chhattisgarh Become ATM Of Congress”: Anurag Thakur

He further stated that the wind of Assembly elections has been in the favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.



RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH), Oct 20 (Agencies): Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday said that the public in Chhattisgarh is fed up with the alleged scams of the Bhupesh Baghel government and people are not going to tolerate the state becoming the ATM of the Congress party.

Speaking to reporters in Raipur, Anurag Thakur said, “Congress is looting the resources of Chhattisgarh and pushing the state backwards. Congress will be defeated in the upcoming elections. The public is ready for it as they are not going to tolerate the state becoming the ATM of the Congress party.”

Mr Thakur further stated that the wind of Assembly elections has been in the favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.

“PM Modi has ensured several schemes for the state. Many projects are being completed and many more were inaugurated under his visionary leadership. The wind is going in favour of Prime Minister Modi and BJP,” he said.

On Congress promising Caste census

in Chhattisgarh, if it returns to power, Union Minister Thakur said, “We have provided toilets to the people. People have been getting subsidised grains for the past 30 months. All this was given to those in need. This was never given on the basis of religion and caste.”

Earlier BJP on Thursday released the list of 40-star campaigners for the first phase of the Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, scheduled to be held in November.

The list also figures party national president JP Nadda, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Mansukh Mandaviya, Dharmendra Pradhan, Smriti Irani, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on October 10 has announced 85 candidates for the 90-seat Assembly, fielding former chief minister Raman Singh from Rajnandgaon constituency. Moreover, the Congress has so far released 83 candidates’ list.

Polling for 20 seats in the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly will be held on November 7 while votes for the remaining 70 seats will be cast in the second phase on November 17.

The counting of votes in Chhattisgarh, along with those in four other poll-bound states, has been scheduled for December 3. The Model Code of Conduct has already come into effect in Chhattisgarh. In the last assembly polls in 2018, the Congress recorded a landslide mandate, winning 68 seats of the 90 seats while the BJP finished a distant second at just 15 seats.

## Army recovers war-like stores in Manipur

All the seized weapons were handed over to Manipur Police as per laid-down procedure



NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Army after conducting three major successful operations in Manipur have recovered 36 weapons, 1,615 ammunition pieces and 132 other war-like stores.

The war-like stores’ recovery is considered the largest since May.

All the seized weapons were handed over to Manipur Police as per laid-down procedure on Thursday.

Officials confirmed the recovery on Friday.

The three operations were carried out in the ridges of Khamenlok-Gwalthabi, Wakan and Shantipur by the 2nd battalion of the 8th Regiment of Gorkha Rifles. These form part of the Imphal East in Manipur.

The ridges of Khamenlok-Gwalthabi, Wakan and Shantipur separate different villages of two warring communities in Imphal East. Intelligence reports indicated the build-up of weapons, ammunition and other war-like store caches by both the communities on either side of the ridges, officials said.

The weapons cache was probably being built up by insurgents for trying to strike in each other’s area.

Army columns at Sagolmang in Imphal East were tasked to carry out extensive surveillance and multiple coordinated search operations on the ridges. The operations were aimed at recovering maximum war-like stores and disrupting any attempts of firing or arson by insurgents and miscreants.

## Mahua Moitra alleges PMO ‘forced’ businessman Darshan Hiranandani to sign ‘white paper, with no letterhead’, describes advocate Dehadrai ‘jilted-ex’

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Friday claimed the Prime Minister’s office drafted businessman Darshan Hiranandani’s affidavit submitted before the Lok Sabha’s ethics committee.

Hiranandani, top real-estate developer, deposed in his affidavit on Thursday that Moitra had provided him her Parliament’s login credentials so that he could post questions directly on her behalf.

In the affidavit, the businessman claimed that Moitra thought she could effectively attack Prime Minister Narendra Modi by attacking Gautam Adani and his group.

Hiranandani also alleged that Moitra was getting help from other people like journalist Sucheta Dalal who



were supplying her with unverified information relating to Gautam Adani and his companies. Dalal has denied the claim.

In a statement, Moitra said the contents of the letter were “a joke” and remarked that it appeared to have been drafted by “some half-wit in the PMO who doubles up as a creative writer in the BJP’s IT cell”.

“The affidavit is on white paper and not on official letterhead or notarised. Why would one of India’s most

respected/educated businessmen sign a letter like this on white paper unless a gun was put to his head to do it?”, Moitra said in her statement on Friday.

Moitra asked why Hiranandani had not read out the affidavit in a press conference or tweeted it. “If indeed he has ‘confessed’ to this, why is he not releasing it officially rather than through back channel leaks?” she said.

Moitra asked how Hiranandani, who accompanied the Prime

Minister abroad recently as part of his business delegation and “enjoys direct access to every minister and the PMO”, could be “coerced by a first-time Opposition MP into giving her gifts and giving into her demands”.

Moitra, MP from Krishnanagar in West Bengal, alleged that the Prime Minister’s Office had drafted the letter and held a “proverbial gun to Darshan and his father’s (Hiranandani Group co-founder Niranjan Hiranandani) heads and gave them 20 minutes to sign the letter sent to them”.

“They were told they will be finished, the CBI would raid them and all government businesses would stop and all PSU bank financing would be stopped immediately,” she wrote.

“Though tragic, it is totally understandable

that Darshan (who is a dear friend) would need to think of what is at stake for him here – namely the continuation of his family businesses built up over decades and the fate of thousands of employees - and buckle under pressure and sign this”, Moitra wrote.

On October 15, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and sought to have Moitra immediately suspended for allegedly taking bribes from Hiranandani to ask questions in Parliament. Dubey cited a letter from advocate Jai Dehadrai to back his charges.

In her statement on Friday, Moitra described Dehadrai as a “jilted-ex with an acrimonious personal history with me who wanted to somehow get back at me”.

## Nithari Killings Accused Released From Jail, Another To Remain Behind Bars

Nithari Killings: Surinder Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher, who were convicted of rape and murder, were acquitted by the high court over lack of evidence.

NEW DELHI/NOIDA, Oct 20 (Agencies): Nithari’s serial killings’ accused Moninder Singh Pandhar was released from a Greater Noida jail today days after the Allahabad high Court cleared him of all charges.

The Allahabad High Court on Monday acquitted Moninder Singh Pandhar in two cases and his domestic help Surendra Koli - who is the main accused in the sensational case - in 12 cases.

Surinder Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher, who were convicted of rape and murder, were acquitted by the high court over lack of evidence.

The high court said the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

Koli, however, continues to be a life-term prisoner for his conviction in one case.

The serial killings took place at Moninder Pandher’s home in Nithari area of Uttar Pradesh’s Noida between 2005 and 2006, according to the CBI.

Surinder Koli worked as a help at Pandher’s home, which was dubbed by many as the “house of horrors” after the revelations. Koli would lure the children into the house, where he and Pandher raped and murdered them, it was alleged.



The police said they would chop up the bodies of the children and throw the parts in drains to destroy the evidence.

The discovery of body parts of a missing child in a drain near Pandher’s home led to a mas-

sive investigation that revealed the identities of more victims. Disturbing allegations of murder, mutilation, and even cannibalism held the nation’s attention for weeks and months.

The police said there were a series of gruesome murders of several more children, after which the case was taken over by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Koli had earlier also confessed to having sex with the dead victims and also eating their body parts.

The duo was also convicted for rape and murder of a 20-year-old woman.

## SC dismisses PIL challenging restoration of Rahul Gandhi LS membership



NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL challenging the restoration of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s Lok Sabha membership and imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the petitioner.

A bench headed by Justice BR Gaval said

the petition is an abuse of the process of law as no fundamental right of the petitioner has been violated.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashok Pandey challenging the restoration of Gandhi’s membership.

The Lok Sabha Secre-

tariat had restored Gandhi’s membership after the Supreme Court on August 4 stayed his conviction in a case related to a remark on the ‘Modi’ surname.

The Congress leader, who was disqualified from the lower house in March 2023, was reinstated as Wayanad MP.

BJP leader Purnesh Modi had filed a criminal defamation case against Gandhi in 2019 over his “How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?” remark made during an election rally in Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019.

## ' Hamas, Putin represent different threats': Biden says if international aggression is allowed 'chaos can spread to world'

*Declares support for Israel, Ukraine; calls it 'vital' for US security*

WASHINGTON, Oct 20 (Agencies): President Joe Biden declared it is "vital for America's national security" for Israel and Ukraine to succeed in their wars, making the case on Thursday night for deepening US involvement in a rare Oval Office address as he prepared to ask for billions of dollars in military assistance for both countries.

If international aggression is allowed to continue, Biden said, "conflict and chaos could spread in other parts of the world".

"Hamas and Putin represent different threats," Biden said. "But they share this in common. They both want to completely



annihilate a neighbouring democracy."

He said he would send an urgent funding request to Congress, which is expected to be roughly USD 100 billion over

the next year. The proposal, which will be unveiled on Friday, includes money for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, humanitarian aid and border management. "It's a smart investment that's

going to pay dividends for American security for generations," Biden said.

Biden hopes that combining all of these issues into one piece of legislation will create the necessary political coalition for congressional approval. His speech comes the day after his high-stakes trip to Israel, where he showed solidarity with the country in its battle against Hamas and pushed for more humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Ahead of his address, Biden spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to stress that the US remained committed to backing Kyiv, the White House said.

## Italian PM Giorgia Meloni splits from partner after his sexist TV comments

*The couple have a young daughter*



ROME, Oct 20 (Agencies): Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday she had

separated from her television journalist partner Andrea Giambruno, who has drawn

criticism in recent weeks for sexist comments made on air.

"My relationship with Andrea Giambruno, which lasted almost 10 years, ends here," Meloni wrote on Facebook. "Our paths have diverged for some time, and the time has come to acknowledge it," she added.

The couple have a young daughter.

Giambruno is the presenter of a news programme aired by Mediaset, part of the MFE media group owned by the heirs of the late Silvio Berlusconi, the former premier and Meloni ally.

## Israel army orders evacuation of northern city of Kiryat Shmona after Lebanon clashes

JERUSALEM, Oct 20 (Agencies): The Israeli army announced plans to evacuate the northern city of Kiryat Shmona on Friday, after days of clashes with Hezbollah fighters along the border with Lebanon.

"A short while ago, the Northern Command informed the mayor of the city of the decision. The plan will be managed by the local authority, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Defence," the military said in a statement. Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah and allied Palestinian factions have traded cross-border fire with Israel for days, after Hamas gunmen attacked communities in southern

Israel on October 7, killing at least 1,400 people, most of them civilians, according to Israeli officials.

More than 3,700 Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed across the Gaza Strip in retaliatory Israeli bombardments, according to figures from its Hamas-run health ministry.

Israel's military said its forces continued to target Hezbollah targets as tensions grew along the border.

"The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) carried out a number of attacks against Hezbollah infrastructure, including observation posts," the army said early Friday.

"In addition, IDF fighter jets struck three terror-

ists who attempted to launch anti-tank missiles toward Israel."

Israeli authorities have been steadily evacuating communities across the northern frontier, as reservists and columns of tanks and armoured vehicles poured into the area.

The Shiite Muslim Hezbollah movement, Lebanon's only armed faction that did not disarm after the 1975-1990 civil war, last fought a major conflict with Israel in 2006.

That war left more than 1,200 dead in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 in Israel, mostly soldiers, in a conflict that left deep scars and the border bristling with guns.

## Canada Urges Citizens To Be Cautious, "Keep Low Profile" In These Indian Cities

OTTAWA, Oct 20 (Agencies): Canada updated the travel advisory for its citizens in India asking them to "exercise a high degree of caution" just hours after the country withdrew 41 diplomats and closed most of its embassies and consulates in India. The move comes amid the bitter row between the two countries over the killing of a Khalistani terrorist on Canadian soil.

"Exercise a high degree of caution in India due to the threat of terrorist attacks throughout the country," the advisory issued by Canada read.

"In the context of recent developments in Canada and India, there are calls for pro-



tests and some negative sentiment towards Canada in traditional media and on social media. Demonstrations, including anti-Canada protests, could occur and Canadians may be subjected to intimidation or harassment. In Delhi and the National Capital Region, you should keep a low profile with strangers, and not share your personal informa-

tion with them," the advisory added. Earlier today, Canada withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from India after the Centre threatened to strip them of their diplomatic immunity.

Canada also paused all in-person services at the consulates in Mumbai, Chandigarh, and Bengaluru and urged its citizens in these three cities

to exercise caution. All Canadians in India have been asked to contact the High Commission in New Delhi in case they need assistance. "Exercise a high degree of caution in and around Bengaluru, Chandigarh, and Mumbai. Consular services in-person are temporarily unavailable in those cities or surrounding areas," the advisory said.

"Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, is common. Criminals may target foreigners, especially in major cities and tourist areas," the advisory read, urging citizens to be vigilant in crowded locations and not carry large sums of money.

Relations between India and Canada have

plunged since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last month publicly linked Indian intelligence to the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India has called the allegations "absurd" and "motivated". The diplomatic row threatens to snowball into a major confrontation and both sides have expelled senior diplomats and issued travel advisories.

Last month, India advised all its citizens living in Canada and those contemplating travelling there to exercise "utmost caution" given growing anti-India activities and "politically-condoned" hate crimes in the North American country.

## Another setback to Rishi Sunak as UK's ruling Conservatives suffer two big by-election losses

*Britain's ailing economy, the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades and several years of scandal and tumult within the Tories helped trigger the historic outcome.*

LONDON, Oct 20 (Agencies): Britain's ruling Conservative Party lost two parliament seats to Labour on Friday, another ominous setback for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his party ahead of a general election expected next year.

The by-election results -- the latest in a string of traditionally safe Tory seats lost to rival parties in recent years -- saw Labour overturn huge majorities to further fuel hopes of a return to power after nearly 14 years in opposition.

Labour had played down its prospects in the Conservatives' previously "super safe" seats of Tamworth and Mid Bedfordshire, both in central England, which became vacant after their MPs quit, including one following sexual misconduct allegations.

But Britain's ailing economy, the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades and several years of scandal and tumult within the Tories helped trigger the historic outcome.

In Mid Bedfordshire, a Conservative-held seat for almost a century, Labour overturned a majority of nearly 25,000 -- the biggest swing at a by-election since 1945.

Jubilant Labour leader Keir Starmer hailed the "phenomenal results" as showing his party "is back in the service of working people and redrawing the political map".

"Winning in these Tory strongholds shows that people overwhelmingly want change and they're ready to put their faith



in our changed Labour Party to deliver it," he added, ahead of a visit to Tamworth.

"Pointer" Polling expert John Curtice said the results were "extremely bad news" for the Conservatives and suggested they will lose the next general election.

"It is a pointer that, unless the Conservatives can fairly dramatically and fairly radically turn things around, then they are in truth staring defeat in the face," he added.

Sunak, who is visiting the Middle East following the latest outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas, was yet to comment on the losses.

Ahead of the contests, his press secretary had sought to downplay the Tories' prospects, labelling by-elections typically "tough for incumbent governments".

Sunak has recently made several policy shifts, including cancelling part of a costly high-speed rail link and delaying measures aimed at helping the

UK achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

He pitched the moves as showing he is a leader willing to take tough decisions in the long-term, despite criticism they were aimed more at drawing dividing lines with Labour.

Former Conservative cabinet member Robert Buckland said the by-elections showed he needed to focus on core issues that matter to voters.

"I'm looking for serious, grown-up approaches to the issues that really matter -- on the economy, on housing, on the future for our young people," he told the BBC.

As well as the two safe seats lost Friday, the Tories saw a 20,000 majority overturned by Labour in a July by-election, while the Liberal Democrats have snatched several Conservative seats since 2019.

Labour have also been leading national polls by double-digit margins for over a year.

'Had enough' The winning candidates in this week's contests will now

take their places on Labour's benches in the House of Commons, where the Tories still hold a large overall majority.

The Tamworth poll was triggered when Chris Pincher, who had the seat since 2010, quit after being found to have groped two men in an "egregious case of sexual misconduct".

Then-prime minister Boris Johnson's handling of the case led to a raft of ministerial resignations that spelled the beginning of the end of his premiership.

The Mid Bedfordshire poll was called when former culture secretary Nadine Dorries, a Johnson loyalist who blames Sunak for his political downfall, quit her seat. She accused the new prime minister of having abandoned "the fundamental principles of conservatism".

Sunak succeeded Liz Truss as prime minister a year ago despite having lost a Tory leadership contest to her months earlier, after Truss' short-lived tenure rocked financial markets.

He has struggled to win the support of former Johnson allies and others within his party, as well as the wider electorate.

Labour candidate Alistair Strathern won in Mid Bedfordshire by 1,192 votes. He said the result proved that "nowhere is off limits for this Labour Party".

Sarah Edwards, who won in Tamworth by a majority of 1,316, said voters had sent a message that "they have had enough of this failed government that has crashed the economy and destroyed public services".

## China Ready To Boost Pakistan Ties But Xi Jinping Has A Condition

*Xi Jinping met Pakistan's caretaker prime minister, Anwar ul Haq Kakar, who is in China for a forum on China's Belt and Road Initiative.*



BEIJING, Oct 20 (Agencies): China is willing to strengthen cooperation and promote solidarity with Pakistan but has urged it to guarantee the safety of Chinese organisations and personnel working there, China's foreign ministry said, quoting President Xi Jinping.

China is a major ally and investor in Pakistan but both separatist and Islamist groups have attacked Chinese projects over recent years, killing Chinese personnel.

Xi on Thursday evening met Pakistan's

safety of Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan," the ministry cited Xi as telling Kakar.

Kakar said on Wednesday Pakistan had completed more than 50 projects worth \$25 billion under the CPEC, a flagship project under China's BRI with more than \$65 billion pledged for road, rail and other infrastructure developments.

Xi said China was open to buttressing cooperation within the U.N. and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation framework and safeguarding the interests of developing countries. China also welcomed more high-quality agricultural imports from Pakistan, the ministry said in a statement late on Thursday.

Separatist insurgents in Pakistan's resource-rich Balochistan province say China has ignored warnings not to enter deals with the Pakistani government. China has also warned of the danger or Islamist groups in Pakistan.

At the same time, he called for security for Chinese interests.

"We hope the Pakistani side will guarantee the

## Advisor Bhatnagar reviews performance, functioning of School Education Deptt

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of School Education Department as well as progress on implementation of Project Samagra Shiksha across Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Education, Alok Kumar; Director School Education Kashmir, Tassaduq Hussain Mir; Director School Education Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj; Special Secretary, SED, Naseer Ahmad; Chairman JKBOSE, Parikshat Singh; Chief Education Officers of all districts and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, an extensive evaluation of performance and functioning of both the directorates was held to ensure that the quality of education is maintained as well as to identify the strengths and areas requiring improvement for enhancing educational outcomes across J&K.

While reviewing the implementation of Proj-



ect Samagra Shiksha, Advisor Bhatnagar maintained that this flagship initiative was designed to improve the quality of education across the country. He highlighted that the various elements of project like infrastructure development, teacher training and curriculum enhancement, plays a crucial role in shaping future of education in Jammu and Kashmir with much impact on development of students and educators across the region.

The Advisor called upon the officers for timely completion of the infrastructure including the Girl's hostel buildings and timely handover of the same. He also asked them for immediate operationalisation of girl's hostels and deployment of required staff at these places. He advised them to devise a mechanism of enrolling girl students of any institution of the catchment areas in these hostels so that they can take due advantage of

this infrastructure.

While reviewing the teacher training initiatives of Project Samagra Shiksha, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers to prepare a through plan for training of teachers so that the required outcomes can be achieved. He also stressed on them to prepare a framework for assessing the competency of the teachers based on the achievements of learning outcomes by the students during the year so that the required capacity building of teachers can be done.

Meanwhile, the Advisor also reviewed the performance and functioning of Directorates of Jammu as well as Kashmir.

The Advisor asked both the Directors to prepare a long term plan for increasing the literacy rate in educationally backward blocks. He also asked them to submit a detailed report on the present percentage of literacy of each educationally

backward block within fifteen days. Advisor Bhatnagar further asked the directors to rationalize Pupil-Teacher ratio, besides conducting regular capacity building of teachers in order to abreast them with modern educational tools required for improving quality of education and enhancing learning outcomes. He stressed on the officers to focus on competency-based learning so that students can develop better understanding of concepts that can be implemented in real situations.

While reviewing the steps taken for increasing Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), the Advisor asked the officers to involve PRI representatives of the concerned areas in enhancing the GER of those areas where it is low. He also impressed upon the officers to involve PRI representatives in monitoring of schools.

While reviewing SAMIKSHA, NIPUN BHARAT, ICT & Digital Initiatives, Vocational Education, Aaghaaz Labs (Astro-Physics labs) and other initiatives, the Advisor delved upon concerned officers to take due diligence while implementing these initiatives on ground as they will transform the educational landscape here.

## Navratra Festival: Devotional Song Competition enters 4th day



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Oct 20: All India Devotional Song Competition as part of Navratra Festival began today at Yog Ashram Complex in the evening by lighting of the traditional lamp by renowned singer Rajan Gill in presence of Swami Yoganand ji Maharaj, Chairman All India Devotional Song Committee and President Hotel Association Katra (HRAK) Rakesh Wazir, Vice President HRAK Ajay Kotwal and panel of Judges.

In today's competition Rakesh Malhotra from Jammu took first position

and got its entry into semi final to be held on October 22 whereas Reema Devi from Kanyala, Laisel Rai from Chandigarh, Shyam Sajjan from Reasi stood second and third position was shared by Suresh Kumar from Akhnoor and Neeta/Bharti from Dinanagar and got their entry into quarter final to be held on October 23 and were provided with the cash prizes of 10,000, 5,000 and 3,000 respectively by special invitees of the event.

Celebrity singer Rajan Gill mesmerised the audience with his melodious voice and his presentation and the people were seen dancing on his songs.

The Devotional Song Competition was adjudged by the panels of experts in music including Renowned Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma HOD Govt. Degree College Sunni Shimla and Dr. C L Verma Ex. Chairman Post Graduate University of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Usha Kher Ph D in music from Delhi University and renowned singer.

The proceedings of competition were conducted by Rakesh Wazir who is also the Chairman of the said

Competition. He said that preliminary rounds will end on 20th Oct. and quarter final, Semi Final and Final of the competition would be there on 21st, 22nd and 23rd Oct. respectively.

All India Devotional Song Competition is being organized by SMVD Shrine Board, Deptt. of J&K Tourism, in association with in association with J&K Bank, Nice Gems, Divin-iti, Nidheesh Builders Jammu Pvt. Ltd., Pure Ratts, Vishwayatan Yog Ashram Complex with active support of District Administration and the local host Community.

## J&K Police holds program on combating misuse of Non-Profit Organizations from terror financing in Jammu

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: On the pattern of what was done in Srinagar the other day, a similar outreach program on combating likely misuse of vulnerable Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) from terror financing was today held in District Police Lines Jammu.

The program was jointly organized by CID Wing of J&K Police with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Govt of India for all NPOs of Jammu Province.

More than 110 functionaries of various NPOs based in Jammu Province, including those of far flung areas of Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban participated in the program which was aimed at sensitising such functionaries against likely attempts by anti-national elements to use such NPOs for terror financing. A special team of officers and domain experts from MHA, GOI is already

camping in J&K to complete this special exercise.

In his opening remarks, Farooq Qaiser, SSP (FIU) CID Hqrs J&K welcomed the participants as well as the MHA team and thanked them for having spared their valuable time to attend the program which he said was definitely going to be beneficial to them all.

During his interaction with the participants, Omprakash Singh, JDD, MHA said that while lakhs of NPOs are engaged in commendable job in different fields across the length and breadth of the country, however, few of them knowingly or unknowingly have been found to be involved in terror financing which not only brings bad name to their just cause but also acts as a security hazard.

Power point presentations were given on the subject and case studies were also discussed for better understanding of the par-

ticipants. The participants also put forth their concerns and apprehensions which were taken note of by the MHA officials. Moreover, a presentation on taxation laws pertaining to NPOs was also given by Income Tax Officer Vikas Sharma.

Nitish Kumar, IGP CID J&K said that it is heartening to see NPOs in large numbers, both in Kashmir and Jammu Provinces, having actively participated in the awareness program. It is pertinent to mention here that while such programmes have been organized in the past as well by J&K Govt, however, it is for the first time that they are being held jointly with MHA, GOI.

R R Swain, Special DG CID J&K said that such programmes shall be held in future as well being part of our multi-dimensional strategy to financially suffocate various terrorist organizations operating in J&K.

## Sat inaugurates 'Rajgeet Production House' at Talab Tillo

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Former Minister and Senior BJP Leader Sat Sharma accompanied by BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra, District General Secretary Adv Rajesh Gupta inaugurated the newly opened "Rajgeet Production House & Studio" a Yoga, Dance, Zumba, Portfolio Shoots, Modelling Auditions, all types of Events Management, Makeup Master Class, Mehndi Art Class and Meditation studio" at Talab Tillo area here today.

Sat Sharma expressed his happiness and congratulated the owner for taking a good initiative of opening the studio in the area so that residents of the area especially youth could maintain themselves both physically and mentally as it relieves a great amount



of mental pressure as well.

Sat also appreciated the efforts of owner of the studio Pari Patel who has also employed ten females in the studio which has contributed a lot in helping the same number of families as well.

Keshav Chopra said that youths are coming up with a new concept in Jammu as they are

offering unique things, Keshav also gave his best wishes and said "As PM Modi has said that we have to be vocal for locals". Keshav also appealed to the people to come forward and took advantage of the studio.

While addressing the owner of the studio Pari Patel said that "We are very much positive about the opening of this

studio at this place as it has taken so much hard work from the members to create the best of the best for the people".

Raman Sharma, Lovely Saini, Anil Rakwal, Harvinder Singh, Tanu Rajput, Dr Sourav Saini, Lambardar, Shammi Saini, Tilak Raj, Rajkumar Patel, Geetu Patel, Dussar Patel, Sonam Patel and others were also present.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates country's tallest national flag at Attari-Wagah border in Punjab's Amritsar

Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes.

The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22 July 1947.

### Pashmina a cultural identity of J&K: LG Sinha

administration is duty-bound to revive the Pashmina industry in J-K.

"The administration will take every step, including providing training, technological, infrastructural and financial support to the artisans to help them," he said.

Referring to the challenges for the Pashmina goat herders due to climate change, Sinha said there is a crisis for the Pashmina goat due to this, but the administration has taken a step in that direction as well and work is being done on it on scientific lines.

The LG said about 3.5 lakh artisans in the union territory are currently registered with the Handloom and Handicrafts Depart-

ment. Among those, about 76000 artisans are directly linked with Pashmina and 55000 with carpet-weaving craft. We know there are many more who have been left, a programme has been launched to register the rest so that they get the benefit of government schemes, he said.

Sinha said the PM Vishwakarma Yojana will transform the lives of artisans and craftsmen engaged in 18 identified trades. The J-K administration will also ensure an increased number of stalls and shops during the exhibition at Pragati Maidan to provide them with enhanced marketing opportunities and access to the global market, he added.

### Govt authorities to pay Rs 30 lakh compensation to families of those who die while cleaning sewers: SC

deaths, according to government data cited in Lok Sabha in July 2022.

### Karan Singh writes to PM for re-opening of Sharda peeth pilgrimage

Maharaja monarchy of princely state of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Committee had apprised him of condition of temples particularly in the valley and requested him to write to PM for reopening of Sharda Peeth pilgrimage.

On this occasion, Ravinder Pandita, Head/ Founder of Sharda committee presented pious soil and shila of Sarvagya Sharda Peeth PoK got through civil society members of PoK to him.

92-year-old Dr Karan Singh was Sadreriyasat of J&K from 17 Nov 1952 to 30 March 1965 and later Governor of the state in 1965.

He is the son of former Maharaja Hari Singh who acceded to India after partition.

Dr. Karan Singh lauded the efforts of Civil society initiative taken by Save Sharda Committee. "We thank our last legend of maharaja anarchy for taking interest in reviving the pilgrimage to Sharda peeth" said Ravinder Pandita, Head of Save Sharda committee, as per a press release issued by the office of Dr. Karan Singh.

### SF lodges protests with Pakistan rangers over unprovoked cross-border firing along IB in Jammu

unprovoked firing" on border guards along the IB at the Vikram BoP in Arnia sector here, according to officials.

During the meeting, BSF officials also raised the issue of smuggling of narcotics from across the border and said they have pictorial evidence of smugglers killed by the force, the officials said.

As usual, they said, Pakistan Rangers denied their involvement.

### Ashish Mishra assumes charge as SSP Srinagar

repatriated to his home Cadre Manipur a few weeks before.

Ashish Mishra (IPS 2013) has huge field experiences of Kashmir Valley as SDPO Sopore, SP South City Srinagar, SSP Handwara, SSP Pulwama and SSP Anantnag. He has been known for his professionalism, integrity and impartiality.

### INDIA Alliance will sweep next Lok Sabha Election in J&K, Ladakh: Congress

leaders will sit and discuss with the alliance partners and whatever will come in their share they will fight.

He said Congress belongs to every section of the society.

"We elected district presidents, ST, SC, OBC, Women and people less than 50

years of age were accommodated in the party during the joining campaign," Rasool said.

He denied the report of groupism or any non-cooperation between the party cadres. "I feel Congress is now a good and strong party in Jammu and Kashmir", Vikar added.

### 4 killed as truck falls down bridge in Jammu

into the divider of the bridge, they said. The driver and conductor of the truck were among those killed.

### Police rescue two Punjab residents stranded in snow in Kishtwar

Superintendent of Police Khail Poswal and the two stranded tourists, Piyush Vij and Mohammed Shareif, were rescued safely, police said.

The two are in good health and expressed their gratitude to Kishtwar police for their prompt response, they said.

Police reminded all residents and visitors to exercise caution while travelling to remote or high-altitude areas and especially take into account unpredictable weather conditions.

## Israel-Hamas war: India impacted but 'well placed', says RBI Governor

*The RBI Governor's statement comes at a time when the escalating conflict in the Middle East has led to a sharp rise in crude oil prices globally.*

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said the war between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has impacted India, but added that the country remains "well placed" on key economic parameters.

"Of course, we are impacted by what is happening all over, no doubt about that, but that's not the headline. The headline is that our macroeconomic fundamentals continue to be sound," he told reporters. "Our financial sector continues to be sound."

Eventually, in these uncertain times, what matters is how strong your macroeconomic fundamentals are and



how strong your financial sector is. I think on both the parameters, India is well placed," Das said.

The RBI Governor's statement comes at a time when the escalating conflict in the Middle East has led to a rise in crude oil prices globally — a matter of concern for India, which is one of the largest importers in the world.

Shaktikanta Das went on to say that the country's monetary policy

needs to stay focused on easing inflation, citing the uncertain outlook on food and oil prices.

"In the current situation, monetary policy must remain actively disinflationary to ensure that the ongoing disinflation process progresses smoothly," Das said at an event in New Delhi.

The RBI Governor also said that any increase in domestic fuel prices will have more of an impact on inflation than global crude oil prices.

## Long lines at gas pump unlikely, but Middle East crisis could disrupt oil supplies, raise prices

WASHINGTON, Oct 20 (Agencies): Fifty years after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the current crisis in the Middle East has the potential to disrupt global oil supplies and push prices higher. But don't expect a repeat of the catastrophic price hikes and long lines at the gasoline pump, experts say.

The Israel-Hamas war is "definitely not good news" for oil markets already stretched by cutbacks in oil production from Saudi Arabia and Russia and expected stronger demand from China, the head of the International Energy Agency said.

Markets will remain volatile, and the conflict could push oil prices higher, "which is definitely bad news for inflation," Fatih Birol, executive director of the Paris-based IEA, told The Associated Press. Developing countries that import oil and other fuels would be the most affected by higher prices, he said.

International benchmark Brent crude traded above \$91 a barrel on Thursday, up from \$85 per barrel on Oct. 6, the day before Hamas attacked Israel, killing hundreds of civilians. Israel immediately launched airstrikes on Gaza, destroying entire neighbourhoods and killing hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the days that have followed.

Fluctuations since the attack pushed oil prices as high as \$96.

The price of oil depends on how much of it is getting used and how much is available. The latter is under threat because of the Hamas-Israel war, even though the Gaza Strip is not home to major crude production.

One worry is that the fighting could lead to complications with Iran, home of some of the world's largest oil reserves. Its crude production has been constrained by international sanctions, but oil is still flowing to China and other countries.

"In order to get a sustained move (in prices), we really would need to see a supply disruption," said Andrew Lipow, president at Lipow Oil Associates, a Houston-based consultant.

Any damage to Iranian oil infrastructure from a military strike by Israel could send prices jumping globally. Even



without that, a shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz that lies south of Iran could also shake the oil market because so much of the world's supplies goes through the waterway.

Until something like that happens, "the oil market is going to be like everyone else, monitoring the events in the Middle East," Lipow said.

One reason 1970s-style gas lines are unlikely: U.S. oil production is at an all-time high. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, an arm of the Energy Department, reported that American oil production in the first week of October hit 13.2 million barrels per day, passing the previous record set in 2020 by 100,000 barrels. Weekly domestic oil production has doubled from the first week in October 2012 to now.

"The energy crisis of 1973 taught us many things, but in my mind, the most critical is that American energy strength is a tremendous source of security, prosperity and freedom around the world," said Mike Sommers, president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, the U.S. oil industry's top lobbying group.

In a speech Wednesday marking the 50th anniversary of the 1973 oil embargo, Sommers said current U.S. production contrasts sharply with "America's weakened position during the Arab oil embargo." He urged U.S. policymakers to heed what he called the lessons of 1973.

"We cannot squander our strategic advantage and retreat on energy leadership," said Sommers, who has repeatedly criticized President Joe Biden's policies restricting new oil leases as part of Biden's efforts to slow global climate change.

"With an unstable world, war in Europe, war in the Middle East,

and energy demand outstripping supply, energy security is on the line," Sommers said in a speech at the Hudson Institute, a Washington think tank.

"American oil and gas are needed now more than ever," Sommers said. "Let's take to heart the lessons we learned from 1973 and avoid sowing the seeds of the next energy crisis."

For now, the crisis isn't a repeat of 1973. Arab countries aren't attacking Israel in unison, and OPEC+ nations have not moved to restrict supplies or boost prices beyond a few extra dollars.

There are several wild cards in the energy market. One is the supply of Iranian oil. Eager to avoid a spike in gasoline prices and inflation, the U.S. has quietly tolerated some exports of Iranian oil to destinations such as China instead of going all in on sanctions aimed at Iran's nuclear program.

If Iran, which has warned Israel not to undertake a ground offensive, escalates the Gaza conflict — including a possible attack by Hezbollah militants in Lebanon supported by Iran — that might change the U.S. stance.

"If the U.S. were then also to enforce the oil sanctions against Iran more strictly again, the oil market would tighten noticeably," say commodities analysts at Commerzbank.

Lawmakers from both parties have urged Biden to block Iranian oil sales, seeking to dry up one of the regime's key sources of funding.

Another wild card is how Saudi Arabia would respond if Iranian oil is restricted. Oil analysts say that while the Saudis may welcome recent oil price hikes, they don't want a massive price spike that would fuel inflation, higher central bank interest

rates and possible recession in oil-consuming countries that ultimately would limit or even kill off demand for oil.

A third unknown is whether more oil will reach the market from Venezuela. The U.S. agreed Wednesday to temporarily suspend some sanctions on the country's oil, gas and gold sectors after Venezuela's government and a faction of its opposition formally agreed to work together on election reforms.

Venezuelan production could increase in 2024. In the next six months, however, production could ramp up by some 200,000 barrels a day, a relative drop in the ocean, according to Sofia Guidi Di Sante, senior oil market analyst at Rystad Energy.

Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso, the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, slammed the U.S. action as a "gimmick" that appeases a brutal regime in Venezuela.

"Joe Biden's energy policies put America last," Barrasso said, citing the Democratic president's decisions to kill the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline and sell off significant portions of the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, taking it to its lowest level since the 1980s. The Energy Department said Thursday it will seek offers to start refilling the oil reserve in December, with monthly solicitations expected through May 2024.

"He eased sanctions on Iran, which funds terrorism across the Middle East. Now with Israel under attack, Biden is desperate for anything to mask the consequences of his reckless policies," Barrasso said. "America should never beg for oil from socialist dictators or terrorists."

The Treasury Department says it has targeted nearly 1,000 individuals and entities connected to terrorism and terrorist financing by the Iranian regime and its proxies, including Hamas, Hezbollah and other groups in the region.

"We will continue to take action as appropriate to counter Iran's destabilizing activity in the region and around the world," Treasury said in a statement.

## Markets continue to fall on weak global trends, soaring crude oil prices

MUMBAI, Oct 20 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices fell in early trade on Friday due to weak trends in global markets and soaring crude oil prices.

Foreign fund outflows also weighed on investor sentiments. Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 320.63 points to 65,308.61.

The Nifty declined 106 points to 19,518.70.

Among the Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever traded over 1 per cent lower after the company reported a marginal decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,657 crore for the second quarter ended September 30 amid subdued rural demand and heightened competitive intensity.

HCL Technologies, ITC, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement and Asian Paints were among the other major laggards.

Nestle, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the negative territory.

The US markets ended lower on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 0.90 per cent to USD 93.21 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,093.47 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

"The US 10-year yield hovering around 5 per cent continues to be a headwind for equity markets. The volatile situation in West Asia, though being largely ignored by the market now, can pose additional near-term challenges," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE benchmark fell 247.78 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 65,629.24 on Thursday.

The Nifty declined 46.40 points or 0.24 per cent to 19,624.70.

## Drug used to treat diabetes could help obese people lose weight: Study

*The diabetes drug Mounjaro has helped people with obesity to lose at least a quarter of their body weight, or about 60 pounds on average when combined with intensive diet and exercise, as per a new study.*

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (Agencies): The medicine in the diabetes drug Mounjaro helped people with obesity or who are overweight lose at least a quarter of their body weight, or about 60 pounds on average, when combined with intensive diet and exercise, a new study shows.

By comparison, a group of people who also dieted and exercised, but then received dummy shots, lost weight initially but then regained some, researchers reported Sunday in the journal Nature Medicine.

"This study says that if you lose weight before you start the drug, you can then add a lot more weight loss after," said Dr. Thomas Wadden, a University of Pennsylvania obesity researcher and psychology professor who led the study.

The results, which were also presented Sunday at a medical conference, confirm that the drug made by Eli Lilly & Co. has the potential to be one of the most powerful medical treatments for obesity to date, outside experts

said. "Any way you slice it, it's a quarter of your total body weight," said Dr. Caroline Apovian, who treats obesity at Brigham and Women's Hospital and wasn't involved in the study.

The injected drug, tirzepatide, was approved in the U.S. in May 2022 to treat diabetes. Sold as Mounjaro, it has been used "off-label" to treat obesity, joining a frenzy of demand for diabetes and weight-loss medications including Ozempic and Wegovy, made by Novo Nordisk.

All the drugs, which carry retail price tags of \$900 a month or more, have been in shortage for months.

Tirzepatide targets two hormones that kick in after people eat to regulate appetite and the feeling of fullness communicated between the gut and the brain. Semaglutide, the drug used in Ozempic and Wegovy, targets one of those hormones.

The new study, which was funded by Eli Lilly, enrolled about 800 people who had obesity or were overweight with a weight-related



health complication — but not diabetes. On average, study participants weighed about 241 pounds (109.5 kilograms) to start and had a body-mass index — a common measure of obesity — of about 38.

After three months of intensive diet and exercise, more than 200 participants left the trial, either because they failed to lose enough weight or for other reasons. The remaining nearly 600 people were randomized to receive tirzepatide or a placebo via weekly injections for about 16 months. Nearly 500 people completed the study.

Participants in both groups lost about 7%

compared with just over 1% of those taking placebo.

That's higher than the results for semaglutide and similar to the results seen with bariatric surgery, said Apovian.

"We're doing a medical gastric bypass," she said.

Side effects including nausea, diarrhea and constipation were reported more frequently in people taking the drug than those taking the placebo. They were mostly mild to moderate and occurred primarily as the dose of the drug was escalated, the study found. More than 10% of those taking the drug discontinued the study because of side effects, compared with about 2% of those on placebo. Lilly is expected to publish the results soon of another study that the firm says shows similar high rates of weight loss. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted the company a fast-track review of the drug to treat obesity, which Eli Lilly may sell under a different brand name. A decision is expected by the end of the year.

Overall, about 88% of those taking tirzepatide lost 5% or more of their body weight during the trial, compared with almost 17% of those taking placebo. Nearly 29% of those taking the drug lost at least a quarter of their body weight,

## Sleeping less than 5 hrs a night raises depression risk



duration. They found that people sleeping five hours or less were 2.5 times more likely to develop depressive symptoms, while people with depressive symptoms were a third more likely to suffer from short sleep.

LONDON, Oct 20 (Agencies): Consistently sleeping less than five hours a night might raise the risk of developing depressive symptoms, according to a new genetic study.

Both sleep duration and depression are partly inherited from one generation to the next, according to researchers.

The study led by UCL (University College London) researchers and published in the journal Translational Psychiatry, analysed data from people with an average age of 65 and found short sleep was associated with the onset of depressive symptoms.

"Using genetic susceptibility to disease we determined that sleep likely precedes depressive symptoms, rather than the inverse," said lead author Odessa S. Hamilton.

For the study, the researchers used genetic and health data from 7,146 people recruited by the English Longitu-

dinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), a nationally representative population study in England.

They found that people with a stronger genetic predisposition to short sleep (less than five hours in a given night) were more likely to develop depressive symptoms over 4-12 years, but that people with a greater genetic predisposition to depression did not have an increased likelihood of short sleep.

Short and long sleep durations, along with depression, are major contributors to public health burden that are highly heritable.

"Polygenic scores, indices of an individual's genetic propensity for a trait, are thought to be key in beginning to understand the nature of sleep duration and depressive symptoms," said senior author Dr Olesya Ajnakina.

The research team also looked at non-genetic associations between depressive symptoms and sleep

They adjusted for a rich selection of factors that could affect the results such as education, wealth, smoking status, physical activity and limiting longstanding illness.

The researchers also found a link between sleeping long and developing depressive symptoms, with participants sleeping longer than nine hours being 1.5 times more likely to develop depressive symptoms than those who sleep an average of seven hours.

However, depressive symptoms were not associated with sleeping longer four to 12 years later, which corresponded to the genetic findings.

"Suboptimal sleep and depression increase with age, and with the worldwide phenomenon of population ageing there is a growing need to better understand the mechanism connecting depression and a lack of sleep," said professor Andrew Steptoe.

# ICC World Cup: Virat Kohli sniffs at Tendulkar's record as India slay Bangla Tigers by 7 wickets

India make it four wins out of four games and one more win would virtually put them in semi-finals

PUNE, Oct 20 (Agencies): The legend of Virat Kohli continued to grow exponentially as he reached within handshaking distance of Sachin Tendulkar's world record of 49 hundreds during India's walk-in-the-park seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in a World Cup game on Thursday.

Kohli, who plans 50-over chases with a precision of a surgeon, remained unbeaten on 103 off 97 balls as India knocked off the 258-run target with 51 balls remaining. India have now made it four wins out of four games and one more win would virtually put them in semi-finals.

While Kohli hit six fours and four sixes, it was his exemplary running between the wickets in pursuit of his 48th hundred that would be etched in the memory for the longest time.

But credit should also go to Ravindra Jadeja (2/38 in 10 overs) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/41 in 10 overs), who were exemplary covering all bases in absence of Hardik Pandya, who hobbled off the field after twisting his left ankle.

"Sorry for stealing it (the player of the Match award) from Jaddu. I wanted to make a big contribution. Have made fifties in World Cups, wanted to finish it off this time," Kohli said after the match.

While skipper Rohit Sharma (48 off 40 balls) and Shubman Gill (53 off 55 balls) added 88



in just 12.4 overs to set up the chase, it was a cakewalk for Kohli at a venue, with which he shares an intimate relation.

If Rohit rattled the Bangladeshis with an all-out attack, Kohli bled them with thousand cuts, running those twos in the 90s with effortless ease, another testimony to his fitness.

Earlier, as has been the case with each of India's opponents in the World Cup so far, scoring runs against arguably the best bowling attack in the competition proved a big ask for Bangladesh too, who managed a modest 256/8 on a batting-friendly surface.

In fact, Bangladesh squandered a terrific start which had them placed formidably at 90 for

no loss after 14 overs, but India's bowling once again came to fore on a featherbed here.

India lost Pandya as early as in the ninth over, when he tried to stop a straight drive off Litton Das' bat with his right foot and fell on the ground. Pandya received initial treatment on the field but as he began moving to his bowling mark, it became clear he would not continue and left the field subsequently.

With all options at his disposal, the fact that Rohit Sharma chose Virat Kohli to complete the injured Pandya's over — with India still in search of first breakthrough — showed how assured India are with their bowling attack in this competition.

Kuldeep Yadav provided the first breakthrough and Ravindra Jadeja the second, as it was India all the way with Bangladesh going at under five runs per over after a robust beginning.

In fact, Jadeja's was the standout performance with the all-rounder producing a measly 10-0-38-2 and a superb diving catch to dismiss Mushfiqur Rahim.

But the initial exchanges belonged to the young Tanzid Hasan, who struck a dazzling maiden fifty scoring 51 off 43 balls (5x4s, 3x6s). Litton Das made 82-ball 66 (7x4s), whereas Rahim's 38 and a late charge from Mahmudullah (46, 36 balls, 3x4s, 3x6s) brought the Tigers their runs.

With no assistance from the surface, the task to make early inroads with the new ball appeared challenging even though Jasprit Bumrah (2/41) found some movement in the air.

After a watchful start Das took on Mohammed Siraj (2/60) in the sixth over, hitting two fours to get a move on and Tanzid pulled Bumrah over fine leg for the first six of the innings in the next.

The Bangladesh openers immediately pressed on the scoring rate as 53 runs came off the last five overs in the powerplay.

# Shanto says Bangladesh had 'no intentions' to deny Virat Kohli a century

PUNE, Oct 20 (Agencies): Bangladesh stand-in captain Najmul Hossain Shanto has rubbished the suggestion that spinner Nasum Ahmed "intentionally" bowled a wide ball to deny Virat Kohli a century towards the end of India's chase in their World Cup clash.

Kohli was batting on 97 with nine overs left and India needing another two runs to achieve the target of 257 here on Thursday, when Ahmed sent a delivery down the leg side, which surprisingly was also not adjudged a wide by the on-field umpire Richard Kettleborough.

A couple of deliveries later, in the 42nd over, Kohli deposited the ball over deep midwicket to finish the game with a six, reaching 103 not out and completing India's comfortable win.

Shanto defended Ahmed after Bangladesh's third defeat on the bounce saying they wanted to play a "proper game".

"No, no. There was no such plan. It was a normal plan. No bowler had the intention to bowl

a wide ball. We tried to play a proper game. It was not intentional," Shanto told the media here on Thursday.

Shanto rued the fact that two of their batters, openers Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das, failed to notch up big scores after getting their respective fifties.

"We have had big runs before, but I think we are not taking the responsibility," he said.

"I would say, for those who are getting set here, if Litton or Tanzid could have played 120-130 run innings, it would have been easier for Mushi (Mushfiqur Rahim), (Towhid) Hridoy, or (Mahmudullah) Riyad. The middle-order didn't bat well, as well as those who were set (and) couldn't make runs," he said.

Shanto, who led the team in absence of regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan after he was sidelined with a quad injury, defended the team's preparations against the rampant Indian team.

"The preparation was very good, to be very

honest. The place where we were struggling, the top order, it did well," he said.

With no official update on Shakib's availability yet, Shanto said Bangladesh were hoping to have their skipper back in the side soon.

"He is recovering and he is in good condition. We did not want to take a risk since we have five more matches to go. He is in a good state, a lot better and there is improvement. We hope that maybe he will play in the next match," Shanto hoped.

Bangladesh's best batter on the day, Tanzid, who took on India's fast bowlers in the powerplay, said he was pleased with his knock, a maiden ODI fifty, but was aware that it did not help the team's cause.

"I failed in the last three matches but Thursday I could do something. I will try to work on my lackings. If the team does not win, this innings becomes worthless but it feels good if I can contribute for the team," said Tanzid.

# Injured Hardik Pandya Likely To Miss India's Cricket World Cup 2023 Match Against New Zealand: Sources

PUNE, Oct 20 (Agencies): India all-rounder Hardik Pandya is likely to miss the team's World Cup 2023 match against New Zealand, which will be played in Dharamsala on Sunday, October 22. Hardik limped off the pitch during India's match against Bangladesh after twisting his ankle. During the 9th over of the Bangladesh innings, Pandya tried to stop a shot from Litton Das with his right leg but ended up slipping in the process. He landed awkwardly on his left leg and the physio had to rush to the field as Pandya looked in pain. The BCCI later confirmed that Hardik was taken for scans, and is being monitored by the medical team.

However, sources close to the BCCI have told NDTV that Hardik will miss Sunday's game against New Zealand in Dharamsala. He is likely to join the team in Lucknow, ahead of India's match against England



on Sunday, October 29. Earlier, India captain Rohit had revealed that Hardik's injury is not too serious, but his availability against New Zealand remains a doubt.

"He (Pandya) pulled up a bit sore. There is no major damage, that is good for us. But obviously, with an injury like that, we have to assess every day and we will do whatever is required. (Game against NZ) Every game is a big game. (On the support) All of us in the squad have gone through

such pressure - crowds coming in big numbers. It is special for us. The crowd has not disappointed us and I am pretty sure it is going to get bigger and louder moving forward," Rohit had said after the match.

On Thursday, India defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets in Pune.

With four wins in four matches, India is in the second spot in the points table with eight points. New Zealand is at the top with a better net-run-rate.

# Manchester City Seek To Stop Rot As Chelsea Host Arsenal

MANCHESTER, Oct 20 (Agencies): Manchester City are aiming to avoid a third straight Premier League defeat for the first time in seven years when they host Brighton on Saturday, while Arsenal will provide a stiff test for resurgent Chelsea. Four sides are in the running to top the table at some stage this weekend, starting with Liverpool when they take on Everton in the Merseyside derby. AFP Sport looks at the pick of the action.

Can City halt slide? City's defeats by Wolves and Arsenal before the international break were the first back-to-back losses in the league for Pep Guardiola's men since 2018.

You have to go back to the days of Manuel Pellegrini in early 2016 for the last time the champions lost three in a row, but Brighton pose a significant threat to City, who are on a run of 20

straight home wins in all competitions.

Guardiola has hailed Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi as "one of the most influential managers in the last 20 years".

City have even appeared to copy the Seagulls' trait of trying to bait sides into pressing before quickly moving the ball into space this season.

However, Brighton have struggled to cope with the demands of the club's first-ever European campaign on top of their Premier League commitments.

De Zerbi's men are without a win in their past four games in all competitions, though they are still sixth in the table.

Chelsea's true test Arsenal's late winner against City two weeks ago has fuelled the Gunners' belief that they can end a 20-year wait to win the title.

Mikel Arteta's men are second, behind

north London rivals Tottenham only on goals scored, and will end Saturday top of the table if they win because Spurs are not in action until Monday.

The international break came at the wrong time for Chelsea after they posted back-to-back league wins under Mauricio Pochettino for the first time.

The Blues have finally found their scoring touch, netting six times in victories against Fulham and Burnley, but Arsenal will provide a much sterner test of whether Chelsea really have turned the corner.

Chelsea have not beaten their London rivals in the league at home since 2018. Should he end that barren run, Pochettino will go a long way to winning over the Stamford Bridge crowd after a frustrating start to his reign and do his old club Spurs a favour at the top of the table.

Klopp's quandary over South American stars

Another season of contrasting fortunes appears to be unfolding on Merseyside.

Liverpool have shown signs of being back to their best under Jurgen Klopp and are just three points off the top.

Everton, by contrast, look set for another relegation battle after taking just seven points from a soft schedule in their opening eight games.

The Toffees have not won at Anfield in front of a crowd since 1999. "Their record is very strong, they are a very good outfit, we know that," said Everton boss Sean Dyche. "Our record needs changing there, we know that."

"It's been a long time with not many wins but it's a tough place to go."

Klopp, whose team have taken just one point from their past two games, has a selection headache -- he is

unhappy at the 1130 GMT kick-off on Saturday, just days after some of his key players represented their countries in South America.

Alexis Mac Allister, Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez all played 90 minutes for Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay respectively in matches that finished in the early hours of Wednesday UK time.

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

Saturday  
Liverpool v Everton (1130), Bournemouth v Wolves, Brentford v Burnley, Manchester City v Brighton, Newcastle v Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest v Luton, Chelsea v Arsenal (1630), Sheffield United v Manchester United (1900).

Sunday  
Aston Villa v West Ham (1530).  
Monday  
Tottenham v Fulham (1900).

# Australia, Pakistan need to regain batting, bowling mojo to revive World Cup campaign

BENGALURU, Oct 20 (Agencies): Australia's cricketing DNA is constructed by meticulousness and Pakistan's by explosiveness.

When they meet each other here on Friday, Australia and Pakistan will have to regain those qualities in batting and bowling to infuse a fresh life into their World Cup campaign, which is yet to go into overdrive.

Pakistan's strength lies in their ability to play fearless cricket in the face of pressure. Make a quick rewind to their glory year of 1992 for a validation of that remark.

But in this World Cup, they caved in at the first hint of real pres-

sure, a match against India. There simply was no fight in their seven-wicket battering by the Men in Blue.

That mammoth chase of 345 at Hyderabad in their second match came on a featherbed against a vastly short of quality Sri Lanka, and taking it as a pointer will be sheer naivety.

Now, the Aussies offer another genuine pressure point to the Green Brigade. A side immersed in its own turmoil, the five-time champions are no India but they are a rival not to be scoffed at.

Pakistan will know that very well because Australia hold a 69-34 advantage in ODIs

and a 6-4 edge in the 50-over World Cups.

Pakistan perform will have to shed their timidity and it should start from the top. Opener Imam-ul-Haq has made just 63 runs from three matches, and the left-hander needs to give more solid support to Abdullah Shafique, who has replaced misfiring Fakhar Zaman.

They have another problem in the fluctuating form of skipper Babar Azam. Babar, Pakistan's batting mainstay, made a fifty against India, but it was preceded by two ordinary outings against Netherlands and Sri Lanka.

Both these batters will have to contribute heav-

ily against the Aussies, who have a pace attack that can potentially damage any batting line-up.

They also have to find a solution for the over-reliance of the middle-order on Mohammad Rizwan. The likes of Saud Shakeel, who made a fifty against Netherlands, and the hard-hitting Iftikhar Ahmed need to find the road that leads them to consistency.

In the absence of injured pacer Naseem Shah, Pakistan has leaned heavily on the 23-year-old shoulders of Shaheen Shah Afridi but the left-arm pacer is nowhere near his best in the tournament.

Afridi will have to rediscover his pace and swing, the combination that makes him so lethal in white ball formats.

Shadab Khan, their vice-captain and leg-spinner, has neither been able to chip in with ball nor with the bat in this edition of the World Cup. It will not be a big surprise if leggie Usama Mir comes in place for him on the morrow.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Aussies are in an even bigger hole. The defeats against India and South Africa have put them in an unenviable position where even one more loss can further peg back their semifinal ambitions.

Their victory over Sri Lanka is just a baby step as they have to build on it to reach the knockout stage.

The batters are the main culprits for pushing the Aussies into that squishy place. Apart from Josh Inglis no other Australian batsman has made a fifty in this event, and Marnus Labuschagne is the only batter to have scored more than 100 runs in total.

Imagine, Mitchell Starc (55) has more runs against his name than Glenn Maxwell (49) and almost as many as Steve Smith (65), David Warner (65) and Mitchell Marsh (59) from three matches.

If anything, it shows a

total downtime of their batting unit, and they need to better it against Pakistan.

But that does not absolve the Australian bowlers from their faults. While Starc, Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood have tried to keep things tight, skipper Pat Cummins remains a loose end in their bowling.

Cummins' mojo in red ball cricket has not really percolated to his white ball outings, at least consistently, and the 30-year-old will have to find his champion self here.

But the only hindrance for that is the smooth deck and shorter boundaries at the M Chinnas-

wamy Stadium, often a friend of the batters.

Teams: Australia: Pat Cummins ©, Steve Smith, Alex Carey (wk), Josh Inglis (wk), Sean Abbott, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa, Mitchell Starc.

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

## Mind Meet held at Central University

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 20: Department of Economics in collaboration with School of Languages, Central University of Jammu, organized a Thursday Mind Meet panel discussion focusing on the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020.

Kamal P. Patnaik, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh region was the Chief Guest and shared his thoughts on "New Education Policy for a New India".

Patnaik in his address covered the genesis of the National Educational Policy 2020 and underscored the mechanism of taking the Indian knowledge system forward. He not only shed light on the intricate nuances of the policy but also gave us a broader perspective on how it aligns with the economic and financial landscape of India.

He emphasised on 3 E's viz. Education, Ecology and Economy as foundation of NEP 2020. The correlation between education and the financial fabric of the nation was highlighted by him. He broadened the horizons of interventions by demonstrating the RBI's commitment not just



to monetary and fiscal matters, but also to the educational framework, which is the bedrock of our nation's future.

Patnaik referred how Indian Universities are undergoing changes to achieve the much-needed objectives.

He also pointed out what currently ails the Indian research and how NEP 2020 makes an attempt to make research responsible, relevant, people friendly while being at the forefront of learning. He discussed the regional imbalance that is currently observed in India.

Patnaik was optimistic about the outcome of the NEP 2020 that is intended to make research in Indian universities more proactive and inclusive.

He emphasised that a proper policy framework can bring in desired transformative changes in our educational country.

Ananya Khajuria, Research Scholar of the Department focussed on taking inclusive approach by encouraging collaborative research and student exchange programmes for the holistic development.

Janhavi Chohan, PG student of the Department appreciated the Government's initiatives to integrate traditional knowledge and values into the modern education system thereby fostering the deeper connection between students and their cultural roots.

Kritika, UG student of

the Department, showed concern about the education structure system wherein the inclusion of Indian regional languages has showed a positive impact on the students as well as on the teachers.

The Thursday Mind Meet programme is an outcome of consistent initiative by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain on research, dissemination and skill enhancement among the students.

He appreciated the initiatives taken by the Department of Economics and School of Languages and encouraged the Department to hold more events of this nature for the students' overall development.

Prof. Yashwant Singh,

Registrar, Central University of Jammu appreciated the initiatives taken by the Department of Economics and encouraged the Department to conduct more of these kind of events.

Professor Aswini Kumar Nanda, Head, Department of Economics welcomed the gathering. Prof. Vandana Sharma, Convener of Thursday Mind Meet Programme moderated the event. Dr Shaveta Kohli, Associate Professor, Department of Economics outlined the overview of the Panel discussion and proposed the formal vote of thanks.

The event was widely attended by the students and scholars of the various Departments of CUJ.

## Impressive Prabhat Pheri taken out on 6th day of Navratra Festival

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Oct 20: Katra town, the base of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has been witnessing Prabhat Pheri daily during Navratra Festival and it has emerged a vibrant spiritual event of Navratra Festival 2023 as it directly connects with devotion of Maa Vaishno Devi.

It is pertinent to mention here that long time ago during the yesteryears of ethnic India, people from villages used to get up early in the morning before sun rays and take rounds of the village chanting and singing Bhajans.

It is believed that Prabhat Pheri invokes the good spirits and chases the evil spirits, further welcomes the morning with good vibrations.

Senior officers of civil and police administration including devotees and locals took part in Prabhat Pheri which was arranged by J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri with active support of SMVD Shrine Board Katra, J&K Tourism Department and District Administration Reasi.

On the occasion of 6th

Navratra, Deepak Gupta AEE PHE, the chief guest, and Rajat Abrol EO Municipal Committee Katra Guest of Honour, in presence of Babu Ram Dubey senior citizen, Jaywant Gore group leader of Ahmed Nagar Yatries and Dr. Prikshit Sharma Tourist Officer Katra inaugurated the Prabhat Pheri.

Prabhat Pheri, took out from Bus Stand Katra depicting Jhankies of Maa Katyayani and Maa Yashoda and Krishan Bhagwan. The Prabhat Pheri passed through Shiv Mandir, Ban Ganga road, Darshani Deodi, CRPF Gate, Hanuman Mandir, Sheelta Mata Mandir, and then culminated at Bus Stand.

Central Bureau of Communication groups of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and J&K under the leadership of Durga Dass participated in the Prabhat Pheri.

Today Baldev & group of Chintamani Mohalla joined the Prabhat Pheri and infused more enthusiasm to it.

Chief Guest said that Prabhat Pheri symbolizes purification of the self besides highlighting spirituality as it breaks bad habit and form new

habit which are conducive to health and life-style.

President J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri Raj Kumar Padha highlighted the fast growing popularity of the Prabhat Pheri and said that this event would definitely bring peace and prosperity in the J&K UT.

He also asserted that we should follow the footsteps of Maa Katyayani by shunning the evil forces and purify our souls which would lead us to the path of virtue & inner peace.

After culmination of Prabhat Pheri a ceremony was organized to felicitate the chief guest and guests of honour with mementos by the association members.

Among others present were CRPF Assistant Commandant Arvind Kumar, SI Bhanwar Singh, Ajay Sharma, R S Manhas, Ramnik Sharma, Raj Kumar Dubey, Manoj Sadhotra, Rakesh Sharma, Rajesh Gupta, Brij Mohan Suri, Murlidhar, Vimal Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Rattan Chand, Renuji Dhar, P N Kaul, Suman Kotwal, Sanjay Tickoo, P N Rana and Rajinder Singh.

## GDC Darhal organizes documentary screen show on 'Khadi Mahotsav'

### TOP NEWS REPORT

DARHAL, Oct 20: In continuation to the events organized under the awareness campaign on "Khadi Mahotsav" NSS unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organized "Screening of Documentary on Khadi" on 20th of October under the flagship banner of "AtmaNirbar Bharat".

The event based on the theme "Khadi for

AtmaNirbar Bharat" and aimed at sensitizing citizens, particularly students and youth to make them aware of the importance of local produce like Khadi and handloom for our economy, ecology, women empowerment and to encourage them to promote and adopt them.

NSS Volunteers of the College participated in the event with great zeal, enthusiasm and fervor.

The programme was organized under the supervision and leadership of Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal of the College.

In his address, he briefed the students about the khadi is the fabric of freedom struggle and the Father of the Nation. Mahatma Gandhi developed the concept of Khadi as a means to provide employment to the unemployed rural popu-

lation and make them self-reliant.

He further said that Khadi Mahotsav is aimed at sensitizing citizens, particularly students and youth to make them aware of the importance of local produce like Khadi and handloom for our economy, ecology, women empowerment and to encourage them to promote and adopt them.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil

Kumar Mangoch (NSS PO) and the faculty members who make the event successful were Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi, Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Shah and Prof. Tahir Mahmood.

The event culminated with a pledge taken ceremony to regularly use Khadi and village industries products to contribute to an increased livelihood of the artisans of the country.



## Moot Court mock drill held at PTTI Vijaypur

### TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Oct 20: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur held Moot Court Mock Drill proceedings under UAPA cases to aware the Police personnel how to appear and depose their statements before the Courts as Prosecution witnesses.

The proceedings were held at newly established Moot Court PTTI Vijaypur under the supervision of Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, DIG SIU Jammu Zone who is designated as Nodal Officer for Jammu Zone by PHQ-J&K for organizing Moot Court Proceedings for prosecution witnesses.

On the occasion, mock drill of a UAPA case of District Kathua was conducted in which Police witnesses of the said case appeared before the Moot Court and cross examined by designated defense counsel.

Earlier, Shiv Kumar,



Principal PTTI Vijaypur welcomed the DIG SIU Jammu Zone and other Investigating officers of various districts.

While speaking on the occasion, DIG SIU Jammu Zone commended the efforts of Principal PTTI Vijaypur for establishment of moot court in the Institute at short notice and expressed hope that the moot court trials would surely help trainees/Police Personnel to comprehend the court proceedings better and would also refine their capabilities to fix

investigation lacunas.

He emphasized upon Police personnel to always keep note pads and pens with them to note down activities related to the case at the scene of occurrence and thereafter as well to remember the same as and when required as prosecution witness.

Besides this, instructions were also issued to Investigating Officers for properly briefing Police personnel accompanying them during Investigation of the case on daily basis for achieving

logical conclusion of the Police cases.

Among other Dhusyant Sharma, SSP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur, Zia-Ul-Haq ( DySP Outdoor), Kuldeep Raj (Dy.SP Indoor/Tech), Khushwant Singh (Dy.SP Admn.), Chief Investigation Officers (Dy.SP's) of different districts namely Tilak Raj Bhardwaj, Vishal Sharma, Rajesh Jasrotia, Sahil Mahajan, Aijaz Choudhary and others officers/officials/trainees of PTTI Vijaypur were present on the occasion.

## Awareness Program on RTI Act 2005, PSGA 2011 held in GDC Kathua

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 20: NAAC & IQAC of Govt Degree College Kathua in collaboration with Distt Legal Services Authority Kathua organized an awareness program on Right to Information Act 2005 and Public Services Guarantees Act 2011 which was attended by more than 100 participants.

The event was organized under the mentorship of Principal, GDC, Kathua Prof Seema Mir and with coordinated efforts of Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener & NAAC Coordinator, Prof. Jasvinder Singh, IQAC Convener, Dr. Ram Singh Co-Convener and Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Organizing Secretary.

The event was started with the kindling of lights by resource persons Puneet Kumari, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Council, Adv Neeraj Kumar Asstt. Legal Aid Defense Counsel Distt Distt Legal Services Authority Kathua in presence of senior faculty members Prof.

Rakesh Singh, Coordinator NAAC, Prof. Jasvinder Singh, IQAC Co-ordinator, Prof. Raj Kiran, Dr. Ram Singh, and Dr. Pankaj Gupta. The organizing committee members Dr.Roshan Lal, Dr. Suresh Sharma, Prof. Neha Bandral, Prof. Himani Arora and Dr. Kamaldeep Singh also played a crucial role in successful organization of the event.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal GDC Kathua stressed on the need of such type of awareness programs for the younger generations as they are very important at this time to increase the awareness among the common mass to ensure good governance and accountability of public authorities. She congratulated the Convener and members of organizing team for taking this initiative by collaborating with Distt Legal Services Authority Kathua.

Prof. Rakesh Singh, Coordinator NAAC and Convener of the event in his welcome address made the participants

aware about the RTI act 2005 and PSGA 2011. He said that the aim of this program was to make participants aware about the salient features of the RTI act, 2005 and Public safety guarantee act 2011. Moreover, he encouraged the participants to take benefit from such programs and disseminate the knowledge gained among society at large.

Resource Person Advocate Neeraj Kumar, delivered a very informative talk on right to information act 2005. He talked in detail about the objectives, intentions and procedures of the law. He also made the participants aware about the remedies under the Act.

He explained that corruption can be eradicated from the society by proper utilization of this act by the people. He however also gave a word of caution for not misusing the provision of the act for deriving personal benefits.

Puneet Kumari in her deliberations about Public services Guar-

antees Act 2011 made the participants aware of procedure to appeal under law. She spoke about the ways to implement the law in a time bound manner. She also emphasized that participants have a more responsibility to further disseminate the knowledge and help the common masses.

The students were very enthusiastic during the event and the queries raised by them were very nicely responded by the resource persons.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof. Neha Bandral. A vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Assistant Professor in Chemistry.

He thanked all the participants for attending the program and assured every possible help to the community for the awareness of the RTI act 2005 and Public Service Guarantee Act 2011.

Others who attended the programme were Prof. Rahul Sharma, Prof. Jagdish, Prof. Bharat and Prof. Anil Kumar.