

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner Elvish Yadav confirms participation in Temptation Island India

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Sardar Patel's role in uniting India not allowed to be highlighted: Rajnath's veiled dig at Congress

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Israel will not agree to ceasefire, says PM Netanyahu, draws parallels to US position after bombing.....

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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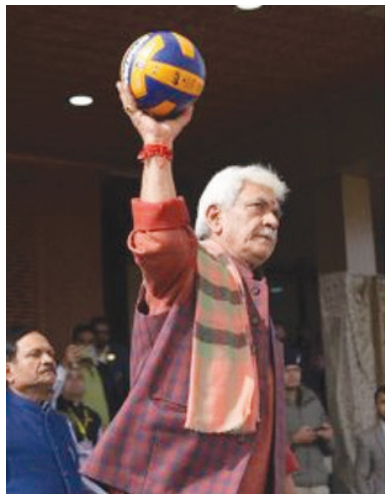
Vol.-14 Issue-299 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Criminal detained under PSA in Reasi

JAMMU, Oct 31 (Agencies): A man wanted in 14 criminal cases has been arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Tuesday, officials said. Umer Waseem Ghani, who hails from Bagga village of Mahore tehsil, was booked under the PSA by police and subsequently a detention order was issued by District Magistrate Babila Rakhwal. Ghani was found involved in 14 cases registered against him in Udhampur, Jammu and Reasi districts of Jammu and **Turn to page 9**

LG Sinha inaugurates 67th national school games in Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the 67th National School Games for football and volleyball that are being held here after a gap of eight years.

"Inaugurated 67th National School Games in Football U19 & Volleyball U17 Boys at Bakshi Stadium earlier today on the occasion of UT Foundation Day. 15,000 school children from Kashmir division and 2,000 athletes from all over the country are participating in this

mega sporting event," Sinha posted on X after declaring the five-day event open. Jammu and Kashmir last hosted the event in 2015. "Today, the tricolour is flying high in international sports arena. Eminent sportspersons are emerging from small

villages and towns and they have achieved excellence in international sporting events with their spectacular performance," Sinha said. He said the country is witnessing a resurgence of sports and a robust new sports culture. **Turn to page 9**

President Droupadi Murmu arrives in Leh for 2-Day Ladakh visit

LEH, Oct 31 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday reached Ladakh for her two day visit during which she is scheduled to take part in the Union Territory Foundation Day and also visit the Siachen base camp. An official said, the President was received by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, CEC Leh, CEC Kargil at Leh airport. He said that she will



attend Foundation Day celebrations in Leh and tomorrow she will visit Siachen base camp and interact with troops.

"On the same day, she will attend the civic reception to be hosted in her honor in Leh. The **Turn to page 9**

Northern Army commander visits forward areas in Ladakh, Reviews winter preparedness



LEH, Oct 31 (Agencies): Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday visited forward areas of Ladakh to review operational preparedness for the winter season and **Turn to page 9**

5TH UT FOUNDATION DAY

31ST October 2023

Greetings to the People of Jammu & Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Activate Win Go to Settings to

DIP/J-10378/23

10TH DAY/UTHALA**IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF**

SH. OM PRAKASH GUPTA S/O LATE SH. KASHMIR CHAND GUPTA (BASOHLI WALE) PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON 22ND OCTOBER 2023 DEVOTED HUSBAND TO SMT. VEENA GUPTA LOVING FATHER TO CHILDREN & SPOUSES:-

MANJULA & SURESH
ASHISH & ICHHETA
MUNISH & POOJA
DOTING GRAND FATHER TO:-
ASHIMA & ANNANYA
ARSHIA & AAYAN
AARUSHI & AAHNA
BELOVED BROTHER TO:-
LATE SH. PURAN CHAND & SANTOSH GUPTA
SH. SUBHASH CHAND & SHEELA GUPTA
WE WILL MISS YOUR LOVING PRESENCE ALWAYS
TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY, 30TH OF OCTOBER FROM 11:00AM TO 1:00 PM

RASAM PAGDI & UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON FRIDAY, 3RD OF NOVEMBER FROM 11:00AM TO 12:00 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE - K.C.COTTAGE, NEAR LAXMI MANDAPAM MANDIR, W.NO.13, SHASTRI NAGAR, KATHUA, J&K MOB: 9419212998, 8899888108



SHRI OM PRAKASH GUPTA
14-09-1942 TO 22-10-2023

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. PUSHPA KOUL** W/O LATE SHRI BANSI LAL KOUL ON 27/10/2023 ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF NAI SADAK SRINAGAR KASHMIR PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 18, LANE NO. 8, ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE BLOCK B JAMMU.

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR EDUCATION OFFICE ON 04/11/2023 AT 9 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
SH. CHAMAN LAL KOUL (BROTHER IN LAW)
SMT. REETA KOUL (SISTER IN LAW)
(SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW)
RAKESH KOUL & NISHA KOUL
VIJAY KOUL & SATYABHAMA KOUL
RAJ KUMAR KOUL & ANJALI KOUL
GRAND CHILDREN:
SHEBU, SHEKU, DIYA, GUGI
SISTER-IN-LAW
SMT. RATNI RAINA
SH. H.N RAZDAN & SMT. NANCY RAZDAN



SMT. PUSHPA KOUL

MOBILE NO. 9906009685

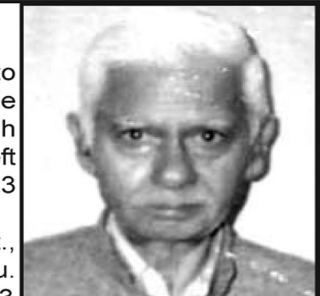
TENTH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you all the sad demise of our uncle **Sh. Suraj Singh Anthal** S/o Late Sh. Teja Singh Anthal R/o 25 - Panjirthi Chowk Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 21st of Oct., 2023 (Saturday).

TENTH DAY will be held on 29th of Oct., 2023 (Sunday) at 1100 hrs at Rani Park Jammu.
13TH DAY will be performed on 01.11.2023 Wednesday at 1200 hrs. at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN ANTHAL FAMILY

25 - PANJIRTHI CHOWK JAMMU
M: 7889494058, 7889519058



Sh. Suraj Singh Anthal
Senior Lecturer (Retd)
05.02.1932 - 21.10.2023

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Raj Rani Koul** Alias Amie Ji W/o Lt. Sh Sarvanand Koul on 27-10-23 originally resident of Janglat Mandi Anantnag Kashmir presently residing at H.No 28 Sec 2 Model Town Gangyal Jammu.

10th Day will be performed at Muthi Ghat Near Director Education Office on 04-11-23.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti

FAMILY IN GREIF

Sh. Ramesh Koul & Neelam Ji - (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Sanjay Koul - (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Babloo ji Jad and Sangeeta Bhat - (Son-in-law and Daughter)

9469208958, 9419641316, 9419644604



SMT. RAJ RANI KOUL
ALIAS AMIE JI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kapoor Singh Chib, Retd. Agriculture Assistant** R/o Deva/Bakore at present Lane No.4, House No. D-43, R/o Shiv Nagar Jammu on October 20th, 2023.

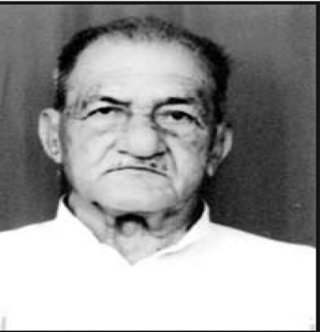
Tenth Day will be on 29-10-2023 (Sunday).

Kriya will be on 1-11-2023 (Wednesday).

Uthala will be on 3-11-2023 at our residence (Friday) House No. D-43, Lane No.4, Shiv Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Virender Singh Chib - Son
Surinder Singh Chib - Son
Santosh Devi - Wife
Balwan Singh Chib (Retd Inspector Police) - Younger Brother
Rajveer Singh Chib - Grand Son
Ranveer Singh - Grand Son
Suriti Rajput - Grand Daughter
Akriti Rajput - Grand Daughter
Phone No: 9797976930, 9906343029



Sh. Kapoor Singh Chib
Retd. Agriculture Assistant

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdr Jaswant Kour** Ji W/o S. Gurdarshan Singh Malhotra KAS (Retd.) (Senior Congress Leader) who left for heavenly abode on 27.10.2023 (Friday).

PROGRAM:
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 03.11.2023 (Friday) at 9:30 AM at our residence.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 05.11.2023 at 09:30 AM Kirtan and Antim Ardas will be held at Gurudwara BiBi Chand Kour Chand Nagar Jammu Opposite Hotel Fortune from 11:30 AM to 01:00 PM followed by Guru Ka Langar.

Grief Stricken:-
S. Gurdarshan Singh Malhotra Retd. KAS (Husband)
(Senior Congress Leader)

Daughter-in-law & Son

Sdn. Jasmeet Kour & S. Varinder Singh Malhotra (Insp. J&K Police)
Sdn. Harpreet Kour & S. Samarjit Singh Malhotra (Insp. J&K Police)
Sdn. Amandeep Kour & S. Manpreet Singh Malhotra (Editor North Update Newspaper)
Nephew: Mohinder Singh, Ravinder Singh (Excise Dept.) Retd, Paramjeet Singh SSP (Adl. S.P Kathua), Moukam Singh, Kulvinder Singh, Manjit Singh, Manohar Singh
Grand Childrens: S. Guneet Singh, Harman Kour, Harteshvan Singh, Aviraj Singh, Mahira Malhotra, Mavin Kour
R.S.V.P: Hotel Nagina (Below Gummatt Jammu), Hotel Nagina Inn (Katra), Hotel Sapan Plaza and Raj Deluxe (New Delhi), North Update (Newspaper), Malhotra Complex, Mahindra Watch Co. and Hotel, Harbajan Singh & Sons., Manjit Scooter Garage, Malhotra Communication, Malhotra's, Wadhwan's, Kohli's, Kamra's, Handa's (Family)
Contact Nos. 9419194059, 9419198744, 9419100084, 9858170000



Sardarni
Jaswant Kour Ji

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Neeraj Dewan** who left for heavenly abode on 21-10-2023, the Tenth Day will be held on 30-10-2023 at 10.00 am at our residence Dr. Chowdhary Lane, Roop Nagar Jammu, Kriya at 12.00 (Noon) at our residence on 31-10-2023. Uthala on 3-11-2023 (4 PM) at Aap Shambu Mandir Roop Nagar Jammu.

Grief Stricken

Sh Suresh Kumar Dewan -Husband

Sh Satish Dewan -Brother-in-law

Sh Pawan Dewan -Brother-in-law

Sh Manik and Riya -Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh Danish Dewan -Son

Mb. 94191-31733, 9796605070, 6005652715, 9086217188



Smt Neeraj Dewan

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT RATTAN RANI PANDITH** W/O LT. SH DAMODHAR PANDITH R/O LEV-ADOORA QAZIGUND KASHMIR A/P LANE NO. 18 BLOCK NO. 87 FLAT NO: 4 JAGTI MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 27-10-2023. MOURNING IS OBSERVED AT LANE 21 BACK SIDE NEAR SHARDA MEDICAL HALL JAGTI.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE ON 05-11-2023 (SUNDAY) AT 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh Som Nath Pandita & Lt Veena Ji -Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Sh Ramesh Pandita & Rozy Pandita -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Chand Krishan Pandita -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Vinod Kumar Pandith & Usha Pandith -Son & Daughter-in-law
Lt. Vijay Kumari & Sh Virender Ji -Daughter & Son-in-law
Girja Raina & Sh Ravi Raina -Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children: Deepak, Vikrant, Rohit, Ritu, Rahul, Akash, Mayank.
Mob. No. 9797581597, 6006097209, 7889909457



SMT RATTAN RANI
PANDITH

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchala Gupta** D/o Late Sh. Hari Dass Gupta Ji and W/o Sh. Surinder Gupta R/o Dimanagar, Punjab expired on 29-10-2023.

5th Day will be performed on 01-11-2023 (Wednesday) from 10 AM - 11 AM at Shiv Mandir, Sector- 5/7, Tikuta Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Sisters-in-law & Brothers**

Smt. Nirmal & Sh. Kameshwar Gupta

Smt. Rekha & Sh. Kamlesh Gupta

Smt. Nisha & Sh. Om Parkash Gupta

Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Kamla & Sh. Tara Chand Gupta

Smt. Anjani W/o Lt. Sh. Bharat Bhushan Gupta

Smt. Sunita W/o Lt. Sh. Ashok Mahajan

Smt. Anita & Sh. Suneet Gupta

Phone Nos.: 9419197585, 9419135136, 9419646478, 9419190492



Smt. Chanchala Gupta

10TH DAY/KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Om Parkash Tharmatt** S/o Late Sh. Devi Chand Tharmatt R/o Opp. Head Post Office Shakti Nagar Udhampur.

10th Day will be performed on Wednesday, 1st November 2023 at 11.00 AM at Jagriti Oldage Home Gandhi Hall Near Head Post Office, Bailian Bowli Road Udhampur.

Kriya will take place on Thursday 2nd November 2023, at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 10.00 AM

Uthala will take place on Friday 3rd November 2023, at our residence Shakti Nagar Udhampur at 02.00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Bhram Vadni (Daughter)

(Daughter)

Smt. Saty Nishta W/o Late Sh. Dr. Vijay Dobla

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. J M Tharmatt & Smt. Vikesh

Sh. S M Tharmatt & Smt. Neetu Sharma

Sh. K M Tharmatt & Smt. Sulekha Sharma

Grandson

Shivam Sharma, Roshni, Hemshekha Sharma

Achyut Sharma, Vrinda and Piyush

Mob.: 9419161473, 9419913562, 9906044672



SH. OM PARKASH
THARMATT

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sardarni Rajinder Kour** W/o Sardar Bhajan Singh R/o Phase-2, Pandoka Colony, Paloura, Jammu on 30th October, 2023.

PROGRAMME

Arambh Sri Akhand Path at residence 09:00 AM on 1-11-2023 (Wednesday)

Bhog Sri Akhand Path at residence at 09:00 AM on 3-11-2023 (Friday)

Antim Ardas at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Sarwal on 3-11-2023 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM (Friday)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdr. Mohinder Singh (Father) 9419852888

Sdr. Bhajan Singh (Husband) 7889767740

Sdr. Amarpal Singh (Son)

Sdr. Manjeet Singh (Devar)

Sdr. Surinder Singh Uncle & Sdn. Kulwant Kour (Chachi)



Sardarni Rajinder Kour

KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma** S/o Late Sh. B.D. Sharma R/o Ward No. 17, Behind Radio Station, Kathua, who left us for his heavenly abode on 21-10-2023.

Kriya - 31st October 2023.

Uthala - 1st Nov. 2023 at 11:30 AM.

at our residence Ward No. 17, Behind Radio Station Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Nirma Devi - Mother

Smt. Kumud Vashist - Wife

Trivith - Son

Arihanta - Daughter

Brothers & Sisters-in-law

Smt. Shashi Sharma & Sh. Sunil Sharma

Smt. Jeevan Shakti & Sh. Arun Sharma

Smt. Deepti Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma

Smt. Indu Bala & Sh. Rajeev Sharma

Mobile : 9419151755, 9419151900



Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma
(D.E. NTR BSNL Kathua)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. PRABHA WALI (TATHI)** W/O LT. M.K. WALI ERST WHILE R/O GUND AHALMAR NAISARAK SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT LANE NO.1-A 76/B ROOPNAGAR ENCLAVE NEAR H.D.F.C BANK JAMMU ON OCTOBER 25, 2023.

TENTH DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON NOV.02, 2023 AT 0900 HRS AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE, JAMMU.

GRIEF STRIKES

SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

SANJEEV WALI AND NEELAM -9796000427

DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

GOLDY AND R.N. PANDITA -9419121066

PRINCY AND MANOJ GUPTA -996172692

FUFI AND FUFU JI

SHANTA LABROO AND S.K. LABROO -7780963900

NAISI, LALITA TIROO -9643232360

MAMI AND MAMA JI

BABLI AND PRAN NATH KOUL-9796612443



SMT. PRABHA WALI
(TATHI)

GRAND CHILDREN
JANU, SHRUTI,
BULBUL, RONAK

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Karmyogi father Sh. Dwarika Nath Goja** S/o Late

Sona Ram Goja of Goja Mohalla Anantnag presently at Lane No.1, Anant

Vihar Lala-Da- Bagh, Near Army Gate Jammu on 28-10-2023 at 07 PM.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at

Muthi Ghat Near Director School Edu.

Jammu on 06-11-2023 at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Tej Krishan Goja & Rita G (Son & DIL) 9419101826

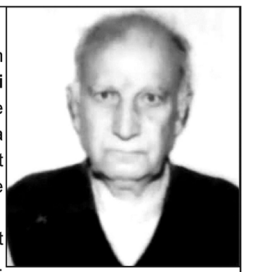
Mahraj Krishan Goja & Piyari G (do) 9419205830

Ravinder Goja & Pinky G (do) 9419216561

Ashwani Goja & Lily G (do) 9469160071

Brij Lal Hangloo- Brother-in-law

AND SAMAST PARIVARS OF, GOJA'S, RESHI'S, HANGLOO'S, HANDDO'S, BHAT'S, RAINA'S, SADHU'S & GRAND CHILDREN



Karmyogi father Sh.
Dwarika Nath Goja

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **S. Narinder Singh** who left for the heavenly abode on 27th October, 2023.

Akhand Path will immense on Wednesday, 1st November, 2023 at House No. 84, Lane No. 1, Ekta

Vihar, Gangyal, Jammum-180010 at 9.00 am.

Bhog will be held on Friday, 3rd November, 2023 at 9.30 am

Antim Ardas will be held on Friday, 3rd November, 2023 at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Bandhu Rakh, Jammu from 10.30 am to 12.00 Noon followed by Guru Ka Langar.

IN GRIEF

Rajinder Kour (Mother)

Rajinder Kour (Wife)

Chatter Singh & Surinder Kour (Father & Mother-in-law)

Gurmeet Singh & Ravinder Kour (Brother & Sister-in-law)

Majeet Kour & Pardeep Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Ranjeet Kour & Manjeet Singh (Sister & Brother-in-law)

RSVP

+919419109623, +918899657725



S. Narinder Singh

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow we inform you the sad demise of our beloved **S. Gurdeep Singh** S/O

Late S. Mohan Singh R/o Ward No. 7

Mohalla Khama Khan Poonch left for heavenly abode on 25-10-2023.

As per Programme:-

Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib:-

Nov(01-11-2023) Wednesday

Congress protests UT Divas, demands statehood, Assembly elections

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Congress today held a strong protest dharna to oppose the celebration of UT Divas by the Govt and the BJP and observed it black day and demanded early restoration of statehood and state assembly elections.

Led by JKPC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani along with Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice Presidents Th. Balwan Singh, Ravinder Sharma besides Vice Presidents, General Secretaries and large number of PCC functionaries, DCC Presidents, DCC Presidents, frontal wing heads and senior leaders of DCCs Jammu Urban and Rural, the protest sit in dharna at Shaheed Chowk was held for over two hours demanding statehood and assembly elections besides restoration of democracy including ULB and Panchayat elections.

A large number of workers including women workers carrying play cards raised strong slogans against UT Divas & BJP Govt. and demanded immediate restoration of statehood and democracy.

Prominent those who attended included Vice Presidents Ved Maha-



jan, Naresh K Gupta, Yash Pal Kundal, Vinod Sharma, Rajnish Sharma (Mian), Pranav Shagotra, General Secretaries Mohinder Bhardwaj, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, T.S. Tony, Naresh Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Amrit Bali, Shakeel Shah, S. Gurmit Singh, Narinder Sharma, Balbir Singh, Shakeel Mir, Subash Bhagat, Satish Sharma, Thomas Khokhar, DCC Presidents Th. Manmohan Singh (Jammu Urban), Shamsher Chib (Jammu Rural), Sanjeev Sharma (Samba), Pankaj Dogra (Kathua), Vinod Khajuria (Udhampur), Akash Bharat (PYC), Shameema

Raina (Mahila) Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ajay Lakhota (NSUI), Karan Bhagat (SC), Madan Chalotra (OBC), Krishan Bhagat (EX-MLA), besides Bhushan Dogra, Sanjeev Sharma Panda, Nirdosh Sharma, Rajveer Singh, Th. Hoshyar Singh, Pankaj Sharma, Satish Shastri, Pawan Bhagat, Paramjit Singh, Jyoti Vaid, Vijay Tagotra., Vijay Shastri, Jatin Raina, Ricky Dalotra, Parshotam Mehra, Camres David Bhaloo, Daleep Kumar, Bhavishya Soodan, Charanjit Bhagat, Sham Mehra, Com. Gurmeet Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Farooq Ahmed and others. JKPC Chief Vikar

Rasool Wani lashed out at the BJP led Centre Govt. and UT administration for celebrating UT divas, thus adding insult to the injuries of all people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the promise of restoration of statehood on the floor of parliament appears to be another Jumla of BJP Govt as it is for the first time that the UT divas is being celebrated on this day, which clearly indicates that BJP Govt does not want to return statehood to J&K. This is insult to the people of J&K who are hurt by the downgrading of historical Dogra State. He said that Congress shall launch a struggle and take it

to the block levels for restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections besides ULB and Panchayat elections.

Working President Raman Bhalla said that BJP should answer to the people why celebration of UT divas after 4 years and where is the promise of restoration of statehood. The historical Dogra state was downgraded into UT against the wishes of all people of J&K and asked BJP to explain to the people why no restoration of statehood after 4 years. He said people will teach a lesson to BJP for this betrayal besides large scale unemployment and price rise and taxes.

Th. Balwan Singh, Sr. Vice President hit out at BJP for the insult to the Dogra state by disbanding and downgrading into UT. The celebration of UT Divas is adding insult to the people and demanded immediate restoration of statehood and early elections.

Ravinder Sharma termed the UT Divas celebration as a gift of BJP to the people after 4 years and said that people would teach BJP a lesson but Centre is deferring all elections including assembly, ULB and Panchayats.

BMS demands release Budget of JKESIS

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: A meeting of the steering committee of BMS held under the chairmanship of Harbans Choudhary working President BMS along with Ashok Choudhary, Sachin Bali, Chanan Singh Toor, Shamsheer Chand, Sunil Kumar and Yog Raj Singh.

The BMS has taken serious note of casual approach of State Govt as Governing body meeting of the Jammu Kashmir Employees State Insurance Society was held on October 12, 2023 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Arun Mehta otherwise meeting was called after a gap of more than one year and during this long period the functioning of ESI Dispensaries are at grinding halt as no medicine are available in the ESI Dispensaries since January 2023 onward and poor workers / employers those who pay annual contributions amounting to 40 crores plus from their

salary and their medical reimbursement bills amounting to more than 5 crores are laying pending from the last 3 years and employees deputed in these dispensaries are without salary for the last about 4 months.

It is pertinent to mention here that all these issues were discussed in the governing body meeting which is the apex body and competent to decide all these matters but it seems Red tapism is still create hurdle in delivery of services and due to this poor workers are suffering in the absence of health services provided by the ESI and employees are also facing financial hardship.

BMS appealed to LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Arun Mehta to take the grievances of ESI Subscribers seriously those who are in lakhs and release the budget otherwise it is injustice with the subscribers and is a big question mark on so called good governance.

Pledge Ceremony organized by GDCW Kathua on National Unity Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 31: Government Degree College for Women, Kathua organized pledge ceremony under the banner of National Unity Day.

The theme of the Pledge was "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" The event

was attended by teaching and non-teaching staff along with the students of NCC and NSS, who gathered to take the pledge for the unity, integrity and security of the nation and vowed to spread the message among the fellow coun-

trymen. The event was graced by worthy principal, Dr. Savi Behl, Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme officer, Dr. Pallavi, Nodal officer of the Shikshit Bharat, Dr. Usha Kiran and other staff members of the college.

FFMA pays tributes to Sardar Patel, Indira Gandhi

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) organized a function under its Chairman, Rajiv Mahajan and Patron-in-Chief, Ved Gandotra to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Iron Man and the architect of Modern India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Floral tributes were paid to the great leader and the re-shaper of Modern India. A two-minute silence was also observed.



Speaking on the occasion, the members praised Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's farsightedness and authoritarian power, that he met all the heads of the princely and got all the state

merged as one great, sovereign Indian State. Chairman Rajiv Mahajan said that Vallabhbhai Patel contributed significantly to strengthening the cooperative movement in the country,

adding that the country's first home minister dedicated himself to the welfare of farmers. FFMA also remembered former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's death anniversary and

paid tribute on this day. Gandhi created history by providing an able and dynamic leadership to the country and was acknowledged a strong and visionary leader in the world, Rajiv Mahajan said adding that she was truly the leader of the all sections of plural Indian society and stood by her principles and laid down her life for the same, Speakers maintained.

Other members present were R.C Puri and Prof S.S Bhalwal, Karnail Chand, Parbhat Kapahi, Ravinder Mittal, Pritam Sharma.

Will resolve all pending issues of Displaced Persons if voted to power: Bukhari

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has assured that his Party will resolve all pending Displaced Persons (DPs) issues if they were voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

A meeting of DPs was organized by the Provincial President of Apni Party, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, and Provincial President, Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour here at Gandhi Nagar, Apni Party Office.

Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir, General Secretary Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President Jammu, S. Manjit Singh and others were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the DPs and their leaders' highlighted issues being confronted by them for the last several decades in presence of Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari.

After hearing their longstanding issues, Altaf Bukhari assured



that his Party will resolve the issues if voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The DPs grievances should have been resolved by the previous Govts. However, the traditional political parties did not give heed to the genuine demands of the DPs for the last several decades," he said.

Extending his support to their genuine cause, he said that he was concerned about the plight of the DPs and sought their social, economic, educational and political upliftment.

"We stand with the DPs and their demands like the release of pending sanctioned package of Govt of India, reservation in educational institution for their chil-

dren and employment," he said quoting the demands raised by the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, and Provincial President, Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour.

He said that these DPs had abandoned their houses/agricultural land following certain circumstances and settled in the border areas of Jammu region.

"The DPs are the first line of defence on the borders and they have given their sacrifices," he said while appreciating the DPs leaders for their struggle for their genuine demands.


Citing demands of the DPs, the Apni Party

President also sought on the spot fast track recruitment process of the unemployed educated youth in Paramilitary Forces, Indian Army and J&K Police for the DPs and other border residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

He again reminded that the Apni Party has always stood for the cause of the people in Jammu and Kashmir unlike other traditional political parties which work for their vote bank.

He said that it was the Apni Party that ensured protection to the jobs and land for the locals of Jammu and Kashmir when others were not willing to fight back following August 5, 2019.

Meanwhile, Senior Vice President, Apni



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION
Mendhar

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No.12 of 2023-24 Dated 28-10-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (in lacs)	Cost of doc't (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	Balance earth work of the road from bye pass road mendhar to holy shrine main chirag alam kasab km 1st and 2nd, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, (under UT sector Roads (MH 4059 SH 1027) 2023-24).	5.66	300	11320	45 Days	C,D Class
2	Construction of Road from Tarkhara to mohalla Barwal Basooni Dharana, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, (under UT sector Roads (MH 4059 SH 1027) 2023-24).	9.20	600	18400	45 Days	C,D, Class
3	Construction of Jaba Bhera To Sakhi Madidan Kalai Road, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, (under UT sector Roads (MH 4059 SH 1027) 2023-24).	8.69	600	17380	45 Days	C,D, Class
4	Upgradation of Road from Bhera to Kasab, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, (under UT sector Roads (MH 4059 SH 1027) 2023-24).	13.48	600	26960	45 Days	B,C,D, Class
5	Construction of Road from Mirza Nakka to Sangala Chowk, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, (under UT sector Roads (MH 4059 SH 1027) 2023-24).	10.16	600	20320	45 Days	B,C,D, Class
6	Construction of Road From Airfield To Mohalla Jogian, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, (under UT sector Roads (MH 4059 SH 1027) 2023-24).	8.18	600	16360	45 Days	C,D, Class

Position of AAA:- Accorded.
Position of T.S :- Accorded
Position of funds :- Partially/Available

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	28-10-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28-10-2023 to 08-11-2023, 1855Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	28-10-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-11-2023 up to 1855 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09-11-2023 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Mendhar.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Mendhar uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Mendhar, as mentioned in the bid documents.

2. Successful bidder will submit 3% additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. The total 5% will be released after completion of defect liability period of the work.

3. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Mendhar.

5. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.

6. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of the submission of bids.

7. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Mendhar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- XE/PWD/MDR: 95-101
Dated:- 28- 10- 2023

DIP/J-10368/23

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Mendhar

EDITORIAL

NATIONAL
UNITY DAY

India is a diverse country, inhabited by people of different religions, castes, and cultures. This diversity is the beauty of this country. But, sometimes this diversity also becomes a challenge to the unity and integrity of the country. At such times, the importance of National Unity Day increases even more.

National Unity Day is celebrated every year on 31 October in India. The purpose of celebrating this day is to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. On National Unity Day, we all should resolve to transform these differences into unity.

Many programs are organized to celebrate National Unity Day. Speeches, cultural programs, and marches are organized in these events. The objective of these programs is to awaken the feeling of national unity among the people.

The importance of National Unity Day is immense for the Indian society. The importance of this day is that it makes us understand the importance of our unity and diversity. India is a big country and has many castes, religions, languages and cultures. Despite this diversity, we need unity and harmony. National Unity Day reminds us that we are all one and together we have to contribute to the development of our country.

National Unity Day is an important day for us. On this day we should be resolved for the unity and integrity of the country. We must remember that we are all citizens of the same country, and we must work together.

India is a democracy, and here people have their freedom and freedom of expression. But, sometimes this freedom also becomes a challenge to the unity and integrity of the country. For example, some people discriminate against others on the basis of their religion or caste. This increases the feeling of communalism and casteism in the country.

Apart from this, economic inequality is also a big challenge in the country. When some people have a lot, and some have nothing, it increases dissatisfaction and unrest in the society. This also poses a threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

To maintain national unity, we have to face these challenges. We have to awaken the feeling of unity and brotherhood among the people. For this, we should make the efforts: Harmony and harmony should be increased among people of different religions and castes; Efforts should be made to reduce economic inequality; Programs should be organized to awaken the feeling of love and respect for the country among the people; We all should work together to ensure that India remains a united nation.

The Government of India has constructed an iconic statue on the banks of the Narmada River in Gujarat to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the 'Iron Man' of India. Also, remembering the struggles and sacrifice of Sardar Patel, the first Deputy Prime Minister of independent India, the Government of India had declared National Unity Day on the occasion of his birth anniversary. On this day, people remember the great deeds of Sardar Patel and organize National Unity Day.

Fissures in the Gulf region test for India's diplomacy

By: K.C. Singh

The death sentence pronounced on eight former officers of the Indian Navy by a Qatari court has shocked India. The government, having intervened diplomatically earlier, seemed shell-shocked, perhaps having accepted Qatari advice to await the trial's conclusion. The opacity, and often the vagaries, of the judicial processes in the Gulf nations should not have been ignored. The geopolitical fault-lines in the Gulf, as indeed the known predilections of the ruling Al Thani clan, should have been noted as other worrying elements.

The Thanis of Qatar and the Sauds of Saudi Arabia are ruling families with shared origins in the Nejd interior, the font of ultra conservative Wahhabism. Former ruler Hamed bin Khalifa Al Thani even claimed, to the annoyance of the Saudis, that their family was related to Al Wahab, the founder of Wahhabism. As Qatari wealth grew, especially after diversification into gas exports, these past rivalries worsened.

Similarly, Qatar's relations with the UAE also have a colourful past. After the British withdrawal from the Gulf region in 1971, when the former protectorates known as the Trucial States were regrouping as a new federation called the United Arab Emirates, the then ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Ahmad, favoured joining it. When he was in Dubai in 1972, the present Qatari ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad's grandfather overthrew him in a coup. The deposed ruler got sanctuary in the UAE and attempted many abortive coups.

These fault-lines were exacerbated after the 2011 Arab Spring, which destabilised many Arab regimes. Qatar's partiality

towards the Muslim Brotherhood, whose government succeeded the military dictatorship of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, drove the UAE and Saudi Arabia into open hostility with it. US President Donald Trump endorsed it during his Riyadh visit in 2017, his first official visit abroad. Egypt, by then again under military rule, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE cut off relations with Qatar and imposed a blockade. Their justification was Qatar's support of radical Islamist elements. Qatar's television channel Al Jazeera also irritated autocratic Arab regimes by its widely viewed reporting. The blockade ended only in January 2021, after President Joe Biden assumed charge in Washington.

Qatari Wahhabism is less stringent than its Saudi version. In addition, Sheikh Hamad, the present ruler's father who deposed his own father to capture power in 1995, had begun liberalising Qatar at a pace the other Gulf rulers found inconvenient, if not threatening. He told US television in 2013 that he supported democracy and a functioning Parliament. A WikiLeaks report quotes Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, the current UAE President, as saying that Qatar was "part of the Muslim Brotherhood".

Into this fragmented world stepped the newly-elected BJP government in 2014. The development of "special" relations with the rulers of the UAE and Saudi Arabia carried the risk that nations distrusting them may reassess their relations with India. Qatar had granted in 2010 citizenship to the iconic Indian artist M.F. Husain when he was living in Dubai in self-exile, threatened by far-right Indian groups. It also reacted strongly to the Islamophobic remarks by a BJP spokesperson.

Qatar has provided shelter to all manner of Islamist leaders, including those of Hamas. It played peacemaker in Yemen in 2007, an accord which later collapsed, and successfully in Lebanon in 2008. It is now at the centre of the hostage negotiations in the Israel-Hamas standoff. Thus, Qatar is not a small Gulf nation that can be cajoled or browbeaten. That Israel is being mentioned as the recipient of information allegedly passed by the former Navy officers facing the death penalty complicates the issue as strong anti-Israel feelings prevail in practically all Arab nations now.

India-Qatar relations are mutually beneficial. The Indian diaspora there numbering over eight lakhs and India importing 48 per cent of its LNG from Qatar limits India's leverage to apply diplomatic pressure. Thus, it would be sensible to first monitor and assist the appeal to the Higher Judicial Council. Meanwhile, the ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, can be quietly approached to make the case for a pardon or at least a reduced sentence. A signal from that level can put the reviewing court on a positive track. Direct engagement at the highest level can be counterproductive as it would not leave space for a face-saver for both sides.

The employer of the Indians is Dahra Global Technologies etc, an Omani company headed by Khamis Al Ajmi. He was also detained but let off last year. The company's businesses go beyond defence. It seems highly improbable that all eight former Indian Navy officers could have conspired as a group. They are former mid-level naval officers who understand the implication of leaking classified information.

That is why proper legal advice and a fair trial are absolutely necessary.

In 2002, a Jordanian journalist with Qatari television was entrapped and sentenced to death for espionage. What secret information could a journalist have passed on which impinged on Qatar's national security? Clearly, like in any family-ruled autocracy, the definition of sedition can be pretty wide. Criticism of a regime can be so construed, as many are discovering in India.

There is yet another dimension to the saga. Pakistan has bought MG-110 midget submarines from an Italian company called Cosmos. Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Fincantieri SpA in 2020, another Italian company, for similar vessels. After Qatar was blockaded in 2017, it increased its reliance on Iran and Turkey.

This new alliance of sorts has put Qatar in a camp that Israel views suspiciously. Even India would have been concerned about Pakistan's possible role.

In this complicated scenario, did someone mislead our former naval officers? It is important that the highest levels in Qatar are conveyed these possibilities and the absence of any desire to harm Qatar. However, getting across to those with access to the ruler is unlikely to be a straightforward diplomatic exercise. It took this writer two years to find the path in the UAE to the real decision-makers, bypassing their foreign ministry. India's then external affairs minister Jaswant Singh extended the writer's term by one year, realising this.

Indian diplomacy is now facing a major test, as the charges are extremely serious and the geopolitical situation very complex. Fortunately, India has quickly reverted to its balanced position on the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, with noticeable caveats like the latest abstention during the UN General Assembly vote.

Emphasises the importance of balancing traditional and virtual Learning



By: Vijay GarG

The education sector has undergone massive changes in recent years. The urgent need for democratisation of education and skills, and the incredible challenges faced the world over due to the Covid-19 pandemic have been some motivators for institutions to make big shifts.

In recent times, the advent of efficient technology for virtual classrooms has been instrumental in driving changes in pedagogy, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, when they were the only available option, and institutions scammed to move en masse to online learning.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION

It is time to relook at the

future of education in this age of ever-expanding virtual learning. Some questions that arise are: Is virtual learning as effective as physical classroom learning? Does virtual learning democratise access to education and facilitate global collaborative learning? What shifts are needed among teachers and students to ensure the effectiveness of learning in the era of virtual classrooms?

EFFICACY OF VIRTUAL LEARNING

Learning is a multi-faceted and complicated process, and long-term longitudinal studies are required to carefully measure the efficacy of online learning, and identify lacuna. Apart from the technical knowledge imparted, there are several other facets of learning, such as peer-to-peer learning, social learning, and personal development in a classroom, which are likely to be poorly served in a virtual learning environment.

DEMOCRATISATION OF EDUCATION

Of course, virtual learning democratises education and brings it to a large cross-section of the population. A surfeit of learning materials is available on the web on every

conceivable topic and online classrooms could potentially allow access to the best classes taught by the best professors, to students worldwide.

More importantly, access to quality internet and quiet spaces in crowded households are a real problem in much of the underdeveloped and developing world.

THE TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

While the various paradigms explored for virtual classrooms focus on the effectiveness of the learning process and the student experience, one should also consider the teacher's experience.

The interactive nature of teaching that is possible in a physical classroom is difficult to envisage online, and making the shift to online teaching requires considerable additional work (and mindset shifts) from teachers.

HYBRID CLASSROOMS AS A SOLUTION

Hybrid classrooms, which incorporate the best of physical and online classrooms, can lead to different models for collaborative teaching, and mitigate some of these challenges.

For example, at IIT Madras, we have introduced a joint

master's programme between Kathmandu University and IIT Madras, where the students are enrolled in both universities at the same time and earn credits from physical and hybrid classes, in the same semester.

The flexibility that this allows the students and the faculty is considerable, and this can be leveraged to develop extremely interesting academic programs, exploring complementary expertise to be harnessed in putting together academic programmes that are future-looking.

BALANCING THE PROS AND CONS

Much like everything else, virtual learning is a double-edged sword. While the opportunities that this opens up are enormous, it is important that educators take a balanced approach to understanding the effectiveness of the virtual teaching-learning process and be cognisant of aspects related to inclusion as we forge ahead.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout Punjab)

Congress observes Indira Gandhi's 39th Martyrdom Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Rich tributes were paid to the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary today, by the Congress party in Jammu and Sringar party headquarters besides in different dit. And Block Headquarters of the UT.

The Main function was held at PCC HQ Shaheed chowk, Jammu under the chairmanship of Shri Vikar Rasool Wani - President. Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice Presidents Th. Balwan Singh and Ravinder Sharma, besides Vice Presidents, General Secretaries, Dist. Presidents Jammu Urban and Jammu Rural and other districts, frontal heads, Secretaries and other prominent leaders attended the function.

Earlier floral tributes were paid by garlanding the statue of Smt. Indira Gandhi at Indira Chowk Jammu by the PCC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani, Ex-PCC President and CWC Member Shri G.A. Mir alongwith Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, senior Vice Presidents Th. Balwan Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Vice President Yogesh Sawhney, Sain Abdul Rashid, General Secretary Narinder Gupta, DCC President Jammu Urban Th. Manmohan Singh, Mahila President



Shameema Raina Seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, Ritu Choudhary & Bhanu Mahajan besides other prominent leaders. Congress Seva Dal has organized the function at Indira Chowk.

Rich tributes were also paid to Sardar Patel, first Dy Prime Minister and Home Minister and one of the greatest stalwarts of the country, on his birth anniversary today. His services in the freedom struggle and in the strengthening and consolidation of the country after independence were recalled.

Addressing the gathering at PCC HQ Shri Vikar Rasool Wani while paying floral tributes to Smt. Indira Gandhi remembered her supreme sacrifice for the unity and integrity of the nation. He said that Smt. Gandhi created history by providing an able and dynamic leadership to the Country and was acknowledged a strong

and visionary leader in the world. She will always be remembered as a leader of masses with strong commitment to the upliftment of poor and down trodden and devotion to the cause of the nation and integrity of the country.

Shri Raman Bhalla recalled her historical contributions in the form of Shimla agreement, which binds Pakistan to settle all outstanding issues with India including Kashmir through bilateral means, strengthening of Non Alienated Movement (NAM) in the World, besides liberating Bangladesh for which her leadership was commended by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee who compared her to Goddess Durga. He said that Congressmen should remain committed and strengthen

the principles for which Indira Ji lived and sacrificed her life.

Th. Balwan Singh in his address referred to the attempts to distort history by certain forces, who are trying to divert the attention of countrymen from the great contribution of Nehru- Gandhi leadership and the role of Congress party and its leadership from time to time. He said that time has come fully understand and recall the role of congress and its leadership on various fronts and counter those spreading falsehood in the society.

Ravinder Sharma, Shameema Raina and DCC President Th. Manmohan Singh and DCC President Jammu Rural Th. Shamsher Singh Chib while paying floral tributes to Smt. Indira Gandhi recalled her contributions and sacrifice her life for the unity and integrity of the

country.

Prominent those who attended included Vice Presidents Ved Mahajan, Naresh K Gupta, Yash Pal Kundal, Vinod Sharma, Rajnish Sharma (Mian), Pranav Shagotra, General Secretaries Mohinder Bhardwaj, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, T.S. Tony, Naresh Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Amrit Bali, Shakeel Shah, S. Gurmit Singh, Narinder Sharma, Balbir Singh, Shakeel Mir, Subash Bhagat, Satish Sharma, Thomas Khokhar, DCC Presidents Th. Manmohan Singh (Jammu Urban), Shamsher Chib (Jammu Rural), Sanjeev Sharma (Samba), Pankaj Dogra (Kathua), Vinod Khajuria (Udhampur), Akash Bharat (PYC), Shameema Raina (Mahila) Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ajay Lakhotra (NSUI), Karan Bhagat (SC), Madan Chalotra (OBC), Krishan Bhagat (EX-MLA), besides Bhushan Dogra, Sanjeev Sharma Panda, Nirdosh Sharma, Rajveer Singh, Th. Hoshyar Singh, Pankaj Sharma, Satish Shastri, Pawan Bhagat, Paramjit Singh, Jyoti Vaid, Vijay Tagotra., Vijay Shastri, Jatin Raina, Ricky Dalotra, Parshotam Mehra, Camres David Babloo, Daleep Kumar, Bhavishya Soodan, Charanjit Bhagat, Sham Mehra, Com. Gurmeet Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Farooq Ahmed and others.

HSS honours IGP Jammu, discuss issues of public importance

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: A delegation led by Hindustan Shiv Sena (HSS) state President Vikrant Kapoor met newly appointed Inspector General of Police Jammu Anand Jain and discussed various issues with him in detail.

During this, Vikrant Kapoor heartily congratulated Inspector General of Police Anand Jain on his appointment and also presented him a bouquet of flowers.

Vikrant Kapoor and other leaders discussed with the IGP the law and order situation as well as the successful campaign being run by the police against drug abuse and the efforts being made by the police to stop smuggling of milk cattle.

He also discussed



with Him in detail about making adequate security arrangements to deal with any untoward incident during the festive season.

After meeting the delegation, IGP Anand Jain assured the Hindustan Shiv Sena leaders that he would adopt a positive stance on the issues raised by them and take effective steps in this direction.

Other Hindustan Shiv Sena leaders included

in the delegation were Vice President Rohan Malwal, Jammu City President Apoorva Gupta, General Secretary Sagar Sharma and others.

At the same time, leaders of Hindustan Shiv Sena also visited Police Headquarters Jammu under the leadership of State President Vikrant Kapoor and distributed appreciation certificates to various officers for their good services.

BSP appoints Rajesh Gupta as JK UT Gen Secy

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K here today nominated Rajesh Gupta as Party's General secretary J&K.

The appointment was made by BSP president, JK UT S R Majotra.

Gupta has also included in Party's executive committee given the charge of media. Gupta will also look after District Jammu, District Reasi, District Rajouri and District Poonch.



Rajesh Gupta thanks to party Supremo Ms Mayawati and assured that he will give his 100% for the betterment of the people of J&K and for Bahujan Samaj Party. He further added that

BSP is an alternative for BJP, Cong and other regional parties those are lost their faith among the people in J&K UT.

Gupta listed absolute unselfishness, simplicity, avoiding run after ostentation and to be a person of judgement as qualities of a leader and stressed on love for the poor.

BSP General secretary said J&K needs true leaders. He said BJP leaders have no concern about genuine issues and problems of Jammu.

GDC Neeli Nallah organizes Pledge taking ceremony on National Unity Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Oct 31: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, NSS Unit GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur celebrated the National Unity Day.

The event was held under the guidance of Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj.

A pledge ceremony was performed in which Principal of the College along with staff members and a large number of students took pledge to dedicate themselves to preserve the Unity, integrity and security of the nation.

Principal of the college emphasized on the message about the



spirit of unification of country which was made possible by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The celebrations ended with an awareness rally on 'Run for Unity'. The whole event was organised by Dr. Radha Rani, NSS PO of the College in collaboration

with Department of Sports. The staff members who participated the event were Dr. Akhter Husain, Pradeep Kumar, Dr. Muntazir Ahmed Bhat, Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Mir, Swati Sharma, Davinder Kour, Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal and Suram Chand.

GCET Jammu organises various events to celebrate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: The NSS unit of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Jammu in collaboration with Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Club and Khidmat Club today organised various events to celebrate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and to commemorate the 148th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The events were held under the patronage of worthy Principal Prof.

Sameru Sharma.

While interacting with the students and staff, she emphasized upon the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the unification of our diverse Nation.

She also said that the main motive of celebrating this day is to maintain Nations unity and to aware the people about the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Indian history.

The events were started with Rashtriya Ekta Pledge taking ceremony

in which students from all the disciplines of engineering along with staff members took pledge to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the country. They also resolved to make their contribution for the internal security of the Nation. The pledge ceremony was followed by slogan writing competition in which score of students took part.

Prof. Sanjeev Gupta, Coordinator of Khidmat Club also briefed the students about the

upliftment and contribution of Iron man of India in attaining the unity and integrity.

He also said that this significant day reflects the values of unity and integrity that Sardar Patel stood for. The events were successfully organised by student volunteers Rakshant Balotra, Sunidhi Sharma, Arnab Sharma, Vinyak and Anubhav Dubey with the support of coordinators of different clubs.

Eat Right Millet Walkathon & Yoga session conducted at HQ Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 31: Under the aegis of FSSAI and in Compliance to the directions of Shakeel ul Rehman, Commissioner FDA J&K, Assistant Commissioner, Food safety, District Doda along with his team of Enforcement officers Javed Iqbal Bangroo, Food Safety Officer HQ Doda Addl. Asser and Farooq Ahmad Sheikh designated Officer Food Safety Kishtwar under the support of District Administration Doda and supported by the Taraq Ahmad Butt as Food Safety Guests as well as volunteer today organised Eat Right Millet Walkathon which was fagged off by Vishes Paul Mahajan DC Doda, Abbul Qayoom SSP Doda and Dr. Ravi Kumar Bharti ADC Doda as Chief Guest.

Accompanied by traf-

fic authorities, police officers the Walkathon commenced by 9.30 AM from District Police line towards and enrouted through market via Nagri which culminated at Community Hall in this Walkathon more than 200 students from different schools participated particularly Green Model Academy Doda and during this event Slogans were raised to explore the objectives of Millet and its importance in our daily life as an important Nutritional Component, moreover, Eat Right, Eat Healthy and Fortified slogans chanted with the message "Awo kum karain thora Tail chini aur Namak" and the yoga session was conducted at Community Hall Doda participated by 70 students who performed with excellence.

In his address DC Doda highlighted the objectives of such

events and said such programs are envisioned as massive outreach to the citizens to create and build awareness on Safe and healthy diets through an interactive and informative model. ADC Doda complimented the efforts of the Department of Food safety, Doda & tireless efforts of the organisers and stressed the need for holding such events at Tehsil levels to generate more & more awareness about the implementation of Millets and its usage also stressed on "Eat Right, Eat Healthy & Eat Fortified".

He further impressed upon the department to double the efforts in ensuring safe & wholesome food to the Consumers.

Dev Dutt Sharma Assistant Commissioner, Food safety Doda in his welcome address urged upon the

participants to explore Millet and its benefits and adopt healthy food habits and avoid junk food habits as much as possible to be away from food borne diseases. Besides highlighted the achievements of the Department and enjoined upon the Food Business operators especially manufacturers, Hoteliers, Restaurant owners to adopt Hygiene practice & undergo Hygiene ratings & undergo FoSTaC training so that clean & safe food is made available to the consumers.

Taraq Ahmad Butt as Food Safety Guest volunteer expressed that the year 2023 has been declared as The international year of Millet and is an opportunity to raise awareness of the multiple benefits of millets from Nutrition to Health and to environmental Sustainability and economic development.

GDC Kathua takes National Unity Day pledge

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 31: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as National Unity Day, is celebrated in India on October 31st each year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was a prominent leader in the Indian independence movement and played a crucial role in the unification of India's princely states after independence.

In the mentioned event at GDC Kathua, the National Unity Day pledge was administered by the NSS (National Service Scheme) Units.

The Principal of the college, Prof. Seema Mir, addressed the volunteers and highlighted the significance of observing National Unity Day, which is celebrated nationwide as a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 148th birth anniversary.

The pledge was read out by volunteer Minakshi Bakshi, and the event was witnessed by several faculty members, including Prof. Rajkiran Sharma, Prof. Jasvinder Singh, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Dr. Kehar Singh, Dr. Anupama Arora, Dr. Roshan Pakhru, and Dr. Amrik Singh.

The event was organized under the patronage of Prof. Seema Mir, the Principal of GDC Kathua, and was supervised by the NSS pro-



gram officers Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Neha Bandral, and Dr. Suresh Sharma. This event serves as a way for individuals to come together and pay homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contributions to the unity and integrity of India.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas / National Unity Day pledge was administered to commemorate the birth anniversary of Lt. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by NSS Units GDC Kathua today. The pledge was administered to honour the philanthropic ideals of Lt. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his commitment towards national unity. Principal of college Prof. Seema Mir addressed the volunteers that this occasion is being observed nationwide to pay tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the occasion of the 148th birth anni-

versary. She added that every Indian citizen should celebrate the National Unity Day, in honour of 'Sardar' Vallabhbhai Patel, who she recalled played a leadership role in the accession and integration of the princely states into the Union of India after Independence. The pledge was read out by volunteer Minakshi Bakshi.

This event was witnessed by Prof. Rajkiran Sharma, Prof. Jasvinder Singh, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Dr. Kehar Singh, Dr. Anupama Arora, Dr. Roshan Pakhru and Dr. Amrik Singh. Event was organized under the patronage of Prof. Seema Mir Principal GDC Kathua and under supervision of NSS program officers Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Neha Bandral and Dr. Suresh Sharma.

The director of upcoming Punjabi film Sarabha, based on the life of freedom fighter Kartar Singh Sarabha, says Punjab's history is full legends worth retelling

The trailer of Punjabi film Sarabha is creating a lot of buzz, as it is the first-ever attempt by any filmmaker to bring the story of freedom fighter Kartar Singh Sarabha on to the screen. As director Kavi Raz's Sarabha releases in theatres this Friday, he talks about his inspiration and how he ended up playing a part in the film too.

Just like Shoojit Sircar's Sardar Udham, Kavi Raz harboured the dream to make a film on Sarabha during his lifetime. He confesses, "I waited for three decades to finally bring it to the screen. It's both a fortunate and unfortunate situation for me. I feel happy to have made my thoughts a reality, but at the same time it's sad that not many filmmakers are turning to history for inspiration. Punjab's history is full of sacrifices and legends worth retelling. Even Bollywood is fishing out historical incidents for stories. It's high time we should catch up."

Right choice

The trailer has already crossed over 3.3 million views and even the songs have found favour. He explains, "It was both a natural progression as well as conscious attempt. As we know Sarabha was a writer himself,



so we incorporated some of his songs into the film, such as Seva Desh Di and Hind Wasiyon Rakhna Yaad Sanu."

On casting Japtej Singh for the titular character, Kavi shares how he was suggested many names from Bollywood. "I wanted the actor to look like Sarabha. For an established actor to play a historical figure, stardom often comes in the way because people have seen

them before and sometimes it's hard for the audiences to imagine their favourite actors in a biopic. So, Japtej was the right choice," he says.

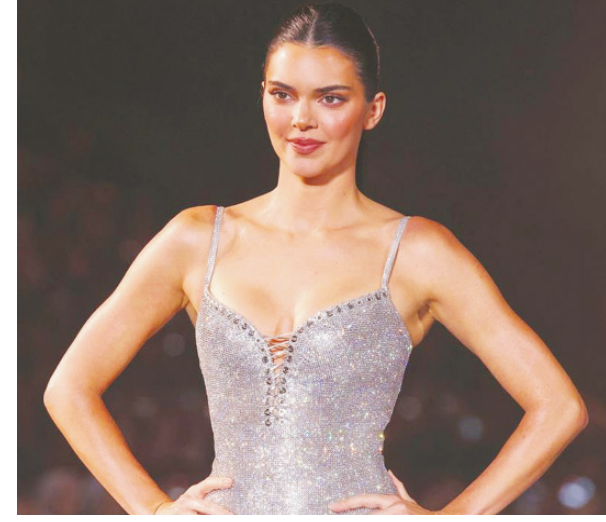
For the unversed, Japtej had previously played Milkha Singh's childhood version in Bhaag Milkha Bhaag and also served as a child actor in the films Son Of Manjeet Singh and Mitti Na Pharol Jogiya. Act of faith

The director also showcases his years of experience as an actor when he portrays Sohan Singh Bhakna in Sarabha. He says, "It was a last-minute decision as there was either date or budget issues with some actors who were shortlisted. So, like I have often done before, when any actor is short, I step up and this time it was to play Sohan Singh Bhakna." The Black Prince director-producer had earlier played a beggar in the same film.

The biggest challenge in the making of Sarabha was the pandemic, as the director couldn't shuttle between Los Angeles and India for the post-production work. While a lot of research went into making the film, Kavi says, "For those who feel some scenes are missing, we have kept all the relevant anecdotes from his life, including the one where Kartar Singh Sarabha and Bhagat Singh crossed paths."

As for the future, the director is working on a Hollywood series, an English film and also an untitled Punjabi film, which is in pre-production stage. He hopes to begin shooting of his next film by January next year.

Celebrities stepped out in full costume in Los Angeles as they attended Kendall Jenner's Halloween party



Celebrities stepped out in full costume in Los Angeles as they attended Kendall Jenner's Halloween party. The Kardashians star, 27, hosted a Halloween party at the Chateau Marmont on Saturday and the star-studded guest list included Billie Eilish, Channing Tatum and Zoe Kravitz.

Eilish, 21, arrived at the celebration with her buddy Devon Lee Carlson, adorned in a faux shotgun, cowboy hat and red wig. The What Was I Made For? singer channelled the Wild Wild

West for the celebration by dressing in a blue-and-white gingham top, a traditional Western belt and brown slacks. Tatum, 43, and Kravitz, 34, recreated Roman Polanski's 1968 thriller Rosemary's Baby with the Magic Mike actor dressed in a light blue onesie with a bonnet and his girlfriend in a long white nightgown with a knife, reminiscent of Mia Farrow's titular character.

Megan Fox, 37, wore a mini-schoolgirl skirt, blazer, white-collared shirt and red tie while

carrying a notebook that said Death Note, the movie on which they based their costumes. Machine Gun Kelly, in full-face makeup, a black wig and black feathers, and an all-black outfit, stepped out in their usual extravagant style. Natalia Bryant was also in attendance at Jenner's get-together, and the late Lakers player's oldest daughter was dressed in an all-white ballet outfit a la Black Swan. Bryant, 20, wore a full tutu and a feather headpiece in her hair.

Charli D'Amelio and Landon Barker, who dressed up as Romeo and Juliet, were present too. D'Amelio, 19, wore an all-white attire with high block heels and white wings, while Barker, 20, sported a knight-inspired dress with a mesh top and shoulder armour. This is an annual party thrown by Jenner, who frequently celebrates both the holiday and her birthday, November 3, in one joint event.

Filmmaker Rohit Shetty celebrated 15 years of his comedy film 'Golmaal Returns'

Filmmaker Rohit Shetty celebrated 15 years of his comedy film Golmaal Returns, starring Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor and Shreyas Talpade by sharing the poster of the film on Instagram. Alongside, he wrote, "Fun again...15 years of Golmaal Returns."

Helmed by Rohit Shetty, the film is a remake of the 1989 Marathi film Pheka Pheki. It is the second instalment in the Golmaal film series. It was one of the highest-grossing Hindi films of 2008.

Meanwhile, Rohit Shetty is all set to come up with his cop drama Singham Again.

The film is all set to hit the theatres on Independence Day 2024 and will face a big clash with Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2. Singham was released in 2011, starring Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in lead



roles, followed by Singham Returns in 2014.

Monika Khanna reveals she didn't know about character sketches

Known for her work in Aasman Se Aage, Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyaara Pyaara, and Thapki Pyar Ki etc, actress Monika Khanna shared that she never had any formal training in acting and learnt everything on the sets.

Monika will now be seen in the upcoming show Ikk Kudi Punjab Di.

"I don't have any formal training in acting. When I came to Mumbai, I unexpectedly landed a role in a show. I had the privilege of working with senior artistes," she shared.

She added that she



learnt by observing them and studying their performances.

"Everything I do in my shows, I've absorbed from the people I've worked with on set," Monika said.

The Durga Aur Charu fame actress went on, "While I may not be able to articulate the learning process, I have picked up nuances and insights. I've observed how other artistes approach their characters and wondered how I would have interpreted those roles if I were in their shoes."

"Initially, I didn't even know that character sketches were created

for roles, or that actors prepared for their characters in such depth. It gradually dawned on me that this preparation is essential before beginning a project. I've also learnt how challenging it can be to immerse yourself in a character and how it can impact your life," she added.

"I've been fortunate to work with some incredible people who were not only talented but also humble and kind. They generously shared their insights, pointed out my weaknesses, and guided me on areas where I could improve," she said.

Sonam Kapoor says she expresses herself through what she wears



Actress Sonam Kapoor, who is known for her fashion sense, spoke about when she styled herself in her film 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo'.

Sonam said, "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo was a film which reached the length and breadth of India. It was one of my films which worked very well and Anamika had done all the clothes that I had worn. I had styled myself in the

film; the western wear was what I had picked up, but all my Indian wear was designed by Anamika Khanna."

Sonam added, "I remember going to a couple of weddings and I saw a lot of girls wearing the same clothes, and I thought that was wonderful."

"I realised that is the power of cinema. I didn't understand it initially and Sooraj ji (Barjatya) told me that there was

this green sari that Madhuri (Dixit) had worn in one of his films and the lilac and yellow sari which Amrita (Rao) had worn and these outfits had really worked."

Sonam shared the BTS from her latest fashion shoot on Instagram.

She further added, "Sooraj ji was like, 'these are the colours that I want, and you will see that it will work'. In my late 20s, a lot of my friends were getting married at that time and I was going for these weddings and I saw a lot of them wearing these same Anamika outfits that I wore in 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' and I found that so amazing and felt so happy and proud!"

Sonam said that she has never followed any handbook on fashion.

"I am a Gemini, so every time I wake up in the morning, I feel I have a different mood everyday and I am a different person everyday. And I think the one way we can express ourselves is through what we wear. I feel, like anybody you see with whatever they wear, we can tell who they are, as people. It is one form of expression," she concluded.

Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner Elvish Yadav confirms participation in Temptation Island India



Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner Elvish Yadav has confirmed his participation in an exciting announcement in one of his vlogs, revealing his upcoming role in Temptation Island India.

Elvish said, "I am excited to be a part of Temptation Island India. I like how honest this show is. When you're in a relationship, sometimes you need to be sure about how strong your connection is and if you can trust your partner."

"This show helps you do that, so you can see if your partner is really the right one for you. It's like a clear way to figure out your relationship." Temptation Island India is all set to premiere on November 3 on JioCinema.

The adaptation of the youth-based show puts romantic relationships to the ultimate test where couples voluntarily separate and live on separate sides of a tropical paradise, while singles of the opposite gender tempt them to explore new connections.

Sushmita Sen reveals that she shot action sequence for Aarya 3 after heart attack

Sushmita Sen, who had suffered a heart attack during the filming of the third season of her hit streaming show Aarya, elaborated on how the environment and set-up on shoot helped her ease into the process.

Aarya is synonymous with strength, someone who can command a storm and be one too. However, Sushmita Sen, who plays this character is no less fierce.

After a deadly health scare, Sushmita jumped right back into the shoes of Aarya Sareen.

Opening up about returning to the sets of the show, Sushmita said, "I was itching to get back to work and I believe the longer you sit and ponder about a situation, you give it the chance to engulf you. The only way to move past any life challenge is to keep forging ahead and all I needed was the green light from my doctor to proceed."

"Earlier on, I didn't think shooting action sequences just one month after my heart attack was possible but the trust I had in my team was enough," said the former Miss Universe.



Sushmita added, "My confidence in returning to the set stemmed from knowing I had the necessary support anytime I needed it - whether it was people or even medical support - we had a complete hospital setup, doctors, an ambulance, and everything ready as we resumed shooting."

In the third season, Aarya has her eyes set

on the supply and transportation of the narcotic drug but is intercepted by Ila Arun, who herself is the undisputed queen on the supply side.

Created and co-directed by the visionary Ram Madhvani and co-produced by Amita Madhvani, Ram Madhvani Films and Endemol Shine India, Aarya 3 will air on Disney+ Hotstar from November 3.

“Politics Of Appeasement Biggest Hindrance In Our Development Journey”: PM Modi

KEVADIA, Oct 31 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said politics of appeasement is the biggest obstacle in the country's journey of development, and cautioned against “a very large political class” which cannot see a way of doing positive politics and can even compromise with the country's unity for their selfish goals.

In the last nine years, India's internal security has been getting challenges from multiple fronts, but because of the hard work of security forces, the enemies of the country are not being able to succeed like they did in the past, PM Modi said.

He was addressing a gathering at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat's Narmada district after paying floral tribute to Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary, which is celebrated as National Unity Day.

For India, the next 25 years of this century is the most important period, Modi said, adding that “we have to make our country prosperous and developed” and achieve the goal while drawing inspiration from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

“The biggest hindrance in our development journey is the politics of appeasement. Last many decades in India are witness to the fact that appeasers never see terrorism, its horrors and monstrosity. The appeasers do not hesitate to stand side by side with the enemies of humanity,” he said.

“They (appeasers) neglect investigating terrorist activities and avoid taking strict action against anti-national elements. The appeasement mindset is so dangerous that it reaches the court to save the terrorists. Such thinking cannot benefit any community. This can never be of any benefit to the country,” he said.

People have to remain cautious of such thinking which puts the unity at risk at every moment and in every corner of the country, the PM said.

PM Modi said there is a “very large political class” in the country which does not see any way of doing positive politics.

“Unfortunately, this political class is adopting such tactics which are against the society and the country. For this political class, their selfishness is



paramount even if it means that the unity of the country breaks,” he said.

Such political class is trying to achieve its political goals “by hurting the unity of the country,” the prime minister said.

“Only if the country remains alert about these will it be able to achieve its development goals. Efforts to maintain the unity of the country should not be abandoned even for a moment. We have to continuously live the mantra of unity, and contribute continuously to realise it,” PM Modi said.

He said the people should give their best in whichever field they work, and this is the best way to give a better future to the coming generations. “And this is what Sardar Saheb expects from all of us,” he added.

During the last nine years, India's internal security has been getting challenges from multiple fronts, but because of the hard work of security forces, the enemies of the country are not being able to succeed like they did in the past, PM Modi said.

People have still not forgotten those periods when they were filled with doubt when entering crowded markets, public places and places of economic activities, he said.

“There were conspiracies to halt the country's development by targeting them. People have seen the destruction caused by bomb blasts and also sluggishness of the then government in the name of investigation,” he said, adding that people should not let the country slide to that period.

The people of the country need to know, recognise and understand, and be cautious of those who are attacking the country's unity, PM Modi said.

“There came a period of 25 years preceding the country's independence during the last century when every Indian exhausted themselves to achieve independence. Now we are faced with a similar ‘Amrit Kaal’ of the next 25 years for a prosperous India as an opportunity. We have to achieve every goal with the inspiration of Sardar Patel,” he said.

He also referred to the abrogation of Article 370, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Who would have thought that Kashmir will be rid of Article 370? But today, the wall of Article 370 between Kashmir and the country has fallen. Sardar Saheb would be feeling the happiest and blessing us from wherever he is today.” “Today, our brothers and sisters have come out of the shadow of terrorism to breathe in one air and are moving forward step by step in the country's development,” he said.

The prime minister said today the entire world is looking at India's achievements.

“The world is surprised to see India's ability in the G20. We are proud that we are taking the world's largest democracy to a new height. We are proud that amidst various global crises, our borders are safe, and in the next few years we will become the third largest economic power,” he said.

In the ‘Amrit Kaal’, India has taken a pledge to move ahead by shedding the mindset of slavery, PM Modi said.

Due to the chaos in the world and the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation in some countries is at the highest point in 30-40 years and there is also unemployment. In such circumstances, India's flag continues to fly high,

the PM said.

“We are moving continuously ahead by overcoming one challenge after another. We have made new records, set new yardsticks. The country can see the influence of policies and decisions taken in the last nine years in every sphere of life,” he said.

More than 13.5 crore people have moved out of poverty. “India is confident that we can remove poverty from the country and will continuously work forward in this direction,” he said.

“Therefore, for every single Indian, this is a very important period. Nobody should do anything which can compromise the stability of the country. If we deviate from our steps, we will also deviate from our goal.

“The hard work with which 140 crore Indians have brought the country on the path of development should never go in vain. We have to keep the future in mind and stay up to date with our resolutions,” he said.

PM Modi said the work of the Sardar Sarovar Dam was pending for five-six decades, but it was completed in the last few years due to everyone's efforts.

Ekta Nagar, where the Statue of Unity is located, is being recognised today as a “global green city,” he said.

More than 1.5 lakh trees have been planted in the last six months. The place has added several attractions, and a boost to tourism has helped the locals, he said.

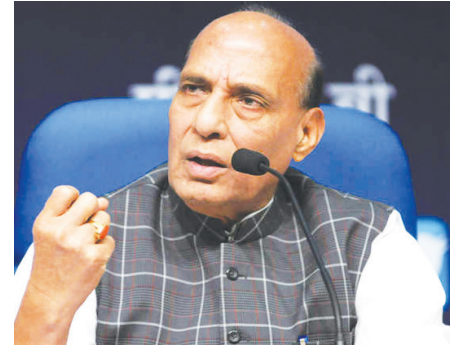
PM Modi said more than 1.5 crore tourists have visited Ekta Nagar in the last five years, and the number keeps increasing.

At Ekta Nagar, the PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth 160 crore.

The projects include a heritage train connecting Ekta Nagar to Ahmedabad, live telecast of Narmada aarti, a Kamalam park for dragon fruit, a walkway within the Statue of Unity, 30 e-buses, 210 e-bicycles and multiple golf carts, a city gas distribution network at Ekta Nagar and ‘Sahkar Bhawan’ of Gujarat State Cooperative Bank.

The PM also laid the foundation stone of a sub-district hospital with a trauma centre and a solar panel at Ekta Nagar.

Sardar Patel's role in uniting India not allowed to be highlighted: Rajnath's veiled dig at Congress



LUCKNOW, Oct 31 (Agencies): Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday hailed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 148th birth anniversary for his contribution in uniting the nation and took a veiled dig at the Congress, saying that his contribution was not allowed to be highlighted.

Singh flagged off the ‘Run for Unity’ programme here to mark the 148th birth anniversary of the country's first Home Minister in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The Central government has been observing October 31 as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day since 2014 to foster and reinforce its dedication to preserving and strengthening the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

Addressing a function organised here, Singh said, “The role of Sardar Patel in bringing together small princely states and creating a united India after Independence was not allowed to be prominently highlighted before the people of the country.”

Asserting that the Narendra Modi government has been working for the past 10 years to ensure that Sardar Patel gets the respect that he truly deserves, Singh said, “In 2013, when Narendra Modi ji was declared the prime ministerial candidate, our party had organized this programme and at that time I had flagged it off. Now, after 10 years, I am flagging off the Run for Unity programme as defense minister. This programme is organised every year so that the youth of the country can understand the importance of Sardar Patel and take inspiration from him to spread the message of unity and integrity among the people,” he said.

Citing the names of a few places, the Union minister said that had it not been for the far-sightedness of Sardar Patel, people would need passports and visas to visit these places.

If the issue of the merger of Jammu and Kashmir had been given to Sardar Patel to handle, then the problem of Article 370 would not have risen, he said.

“On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the first Home Minister of the country, while we remember and pay tributes to him, we should also remember all those freedom fighters and leaders who liberated India,” he said.

Speaking about the contribution of Sardar Patel, the defence minister said, “When India became independent on August 15, 1947, it was an India divided into 562 princely states. The British deliberately gave the opportunity to the princely states to remain separate instead of merging them. It was because of Sardar Patel as the Home Minister of the country that the whole India was able to unite.”

“It was Sardar Patel's foresight and his strategic-diplomatic ability that the unity and integrity of India could be ensured. You all must have heard about the cases of the Junagadh princely state and Nizamshahi princely state. Sardar Patel merged these two princely states into India,” Singh said.

“Imagine if Sardar Patel had not shown wisdom and determination, today Indians would have needed visas and passports to go to Junagadh and Hyderabad,” he said.

He said that Prime Minister Modi has got a 182-foot-tall statue of Sardar Patel constructed in Gujarat's Kevadia and named it ‘Statue of Unity’.

“It is bigger than the Statue of Liberty in New York. It is a matter of good fortune for us that no statue in the world is bigger than the statue of Sardar Patel,” Singh said.

Stressing the importance of National Unity Day, the defence minister said, “Sardar Patel's birth anniversary is a day of resolve for unity and solidarity. It is also a day for taking a pledge to maintain integrity.”

On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his deputies Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, and other leaders also paid tributes to Sardar Patel.

Rajnath Singh also paid tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her martyrdom day.

Indira Gandhi, India's first and only woman prime minister, was assassinated by her bodyguards on this day in 1984.

5 killed as car rams into tree in UP's Hardoi

HARDOI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Five people were killed when a car ramed into a tree near Khamaria bridge here, police said on Tuesday.

The accident took place on Monday night when the five belonging to Balapur Gautiya village were on their way to attend a feast, Superintendent of Police Keshav Chandra Goswami said.

The impact of the collision was so severe



that the bodies were taken out by cutting the vehicle.

The SP said the deceased had been identified as Rajaram (50), Hoshiar (55),

Mukesh (35), his son Ballu (4) and Manoj (28).

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the loss of lives.

It's for Apple to clarify; allegation baseless: BJP on alert to some opposition leaders

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): The BJP on Tuesday said it is for Apple to clarify the alerts it has sent to several people, including opposition leaders, about “state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise” their iPhones and rejected the allegations against the government as “baseless and false”.

Party leader and former Union IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters that instead of levelling allegations against the government, these leaders should take up the matter with



Apple and file FIRs.

He, however, cited his experience to claim that no telephone company does something like this and goes to CERT-In, an emergency response team, first to look into the matter.

Asked about the opposition leaders' charge, Prasad shot back, “It is for Apple to clarify. They should file an FIR if they have any problem. Who is stopping them?”

He recalled the controversy over the alleged use of Pegasus malware to hack into the phones of certain people, including opposition leaders, and said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had refused to deposit his iPhone before a committee appointed by the Supreme Court to look into the matter.

Several opposition lead-

ers on Tuesday claimed they had received an alert from Apple warning them of “state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise” their iPhones and posted purported screenshots of the message on their X handles.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, Trinamool Congress's Mahua Moitra, Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha, Congress's Shashi Tharoor and his party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khara shared the message from Apple on X.

There are apprehensions that ED will arrest Arvind Kejriwal on November 2: Atishi

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday claimed there are apprehensions that the Enforcement Directorate will arrest Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on November 2 after questioning him in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

The ruling party in Delhi also alleged that the BJP was trying to finish it off by putting its top leaders behind bars. Kejriwal has been issued the summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and according to the sources, the ED

will record his statement once he deposes at the probe agency's Delhi office at 11 am on November 2.

This is the first time that Kejriwal has been summoned by the ED. He was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the case in April.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Delhi Cabinet Minister Atishi claimed the BJP was using these tactics to target the AAP as it knows that it cannot defeat Kejriwal in elections.

“There are reports that Kejriwal will be arrested on November 2. If he is arrested, it won't be



because of corruption (charges) but because he has spoken against the BJP,” she said.

“The AAP defeated the BJP in Delhi Assembly polls twice and also in MCD polls. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scared of AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal. The BJP knows they cannot defeat the AAP in elections.”

Referring to the arrest of the AAP's top leadership, including Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Satyendar Jain, Atishi claimed it only means that the BJP wants to finish off the AAP.

Satyendar Jain has been granted bail in a money-laundering case. “After Kejriwal is arrested, the BJP will

target other leaders of the INDIA alliance and its chief ministers using the CBI and ED.

“Next, they will target Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren since they have been unable to defeat him. Then they will target Tejashwi Yadav since they have not been able to break the alliance in Bihar. Then Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will be targeted,” she claimed.

Atishi reiterated that AAP leaders are not scared of going to jail and will keep fighting to save the Constitution till their last breath.

Manipur riots: Moreh cop dies of bullet wound as armed miscreants open fire



IMPHAL, Oct 31 (Agencies): A police officer posted in ethnic riot-hit Manipur's Moreh town succumbed to bullet injuries on Tuesday morning. The officer sustained injuries after a few unidentified armed miscreants opened fire at a police team.

According to sources, armed miscreants opened fire at a police team that was inspecting a ground marked for helipad construction in Moreh.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Moreh, Chingtham Anand Kumar, was shot in his stomach during

the firing incident and later succumbed to his injuries.

Sources said no other officers were injured in the firing.

As per reports from the Moreh Police Station, the ambush was planned to kill the Superintendent of Special Commando.

Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes since May 3 between the majority Meitei community, concentrated in the Imphal valley, and the Kukis occupying the hills.

A UN envoy says that the Israel-Hamas war is spilling into Syria, which already has growing instability

Pedersen points to air strikes attributed to Israel hitting Syria's airports in Aleppo and Damascus several times

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Israel-Hamas war is spilling into Syria, fueled by growing instability, violence and a lack of progress towards a political solution to its 12-year conflict, the United Nations special envoy for the country said.

Geir Pedersen told the Security Council that on top of violence from the Syrian conflict, the Syrian people now face "a terrifying prospect of a potential wider escalation" following Hamas' October 7 attacks on Israel and the ongoing retaliatory military action.

"Spillover into Syria is not just a risk; it has already begun," the U.N. envoy for Syria said.

Pedersen pointed to air strikes attributed to Israel hitting Syria's airports in Aleppo and Damascus several times, and retaliation by the United States against what it said were multiple attacks on its forces by "groups that it claims are backed by Iran, including on Syrian territory."

With the region "at its most dangerous and tense," he said, "fuel is being added to a tinderbox that was already beginning to ignite" in Syria, which was seeing a surge in violence even before October 7.



Pedersen said the number of Syrians killed, injured and displaced is at its highest since 2020, citing a significant intensification of attacks in government-controlled areas, including an unclaimed attack on a graduation ceremony at a military academy in Homs, which the government attributes to terrorist organizations.

He also reported government rocket attacks throughout October on Hayat Tahrir al Sham — the insurgent group that rules much of rebel-held northwest Syria — as well as a major escalation of Turkish strikes in the northeast following an attack

on Turkish government facilities in Ankara. The Turkish strikes have killed dozens, damaged health facilities, schools and camps, and displaced more than 1,20,000 civilians, he said.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield accused 'terrorist groups', some backed by Syria and Iran, of threatening to expand the Gaza conflict "by using Syrian territory to plot and launch attacks against Israel". She also accused Syria of allowing Iran and terrorist groups to use its international airports for military purposes.

"We call on the regime to curb the activities of Iran-backed

militias in Syria, stop the flow of foreign arms and fighters through its territory, and cease escalatory actions in the Golan Heights," she said.

"The United States has warned all actors not to take advantage of the situation in Gaza to widen or deepen the conflict," Thomas-Greenfield said. "And we've made clear that we will respond to attacks on our own personnel and facilities in Syria or against US interests, and where appropriate, exercise our right to self-defense forcefully, proportionately and in a manner that minimizes civilian harm."

Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia of Russia, Syria's closest ally, accused Israeli forces of striking sites in Syria, including civilian airports, and called US attacks in the country "illegitimate actions" and "a gross violation of Syria's sovereignty." He also claimed US economic interests and involvement "in contraband with Syrian grain and oil" have prevailed over political interests.

Nebenzia said there is a sharp increase in tensions around the Israel-Hamas conflict and attacks like the ones by the US might provoke spillover to the entire region. "This must not be deemed acceptable," he said.

Israel will not agree to ceasefire, says PM Netanyahu, draws parallels to US position after bombing of Pearl Harbour



TEL AVIV, Oct 31 (Agencies): Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made it clear that Israel would not agree to a ceasefire, drawing parallels to the United States' position after the bombing of Pearl Harbour.

He noted that calls for a ceasefire between Israel and Gaza are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas.

While addressing a press briefing, Netanyahu said, "I want to make clear Israel's position regarding the ceasefire. Just as the United States would not agree to a ceasefire after the bombing of Pearl Har-

bour, or after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Israel will not agree to a cessation of hostilities after the horrific attacks of October 7."

"Calls for a ceasefire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terror, to surrender to barbarism. That will not happen. Ladies and gentlemen, the Bible says that there is a time for peace and a time for war. This is a time for war. A war for a common future," he added.

He called it a turning point for nations and said that it is time for everyone to decide if they are willing to fight

for a future of hope and promise or surrender to tyranny and terror. He said that Israel has been at war since October 7.

Netanyahu said, "The horrors that Hamas perpetrated on October 7 remind us that we will not realise the promise of a better future unless we, the civilised world, are willing to fight the barbarians because the barbarians are ready to fight us and their goal is clear, shatter that promise and future, destroy all that we cherish and usher in a world of fear and darkness."

He said, "This is a turning point, a turning point for leaders and nations. It is time for all of us to decide if we are willing to fight for a future of hope and promise or surrender to tyranny and terror. Now rest assured, Israel will fight. Since October 7, Israel has been at war. Israel did not start this war. Israel did not want this war. But Israel will win this war."

China Issues Highest Pollution Alert As Dense Fog Reduces Visibility

BEIJING, Oct 31 (Agencies): Authorities issued their highest warnings for fog and haze on Tuesday as smog enveloped major cities in northern China, warning the public that visibility could drop to less than 50 metres (164 feet). Northern province Hebei launched an anti-pollution emergency response, listing traffic safety controls for when necessary including suspending flight takeoffs and landings, temporarily closing highways, and suspending ferries, China's meteorological bureau said in a notice.

Authorities also warned road users to stop in safe parking areas when conditions required and asked people to stay indoors.

Beijing said it would implement traffic control measures if the capital activates its highest air pollution warning.

Heavy smog has engulfed the country's north for a few days while autumn temperatures soared to typical early summer levels



close to 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) in some areas. Experts said weak cold air currents from the north pole were a key factor behind the unusual weather.

As air pollution levels in the wider Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area and northern part of Henan province reached moderate to severe, pollution control experts said increased industrial activities, heavy trucking, and crop fires had contributed to the haze, state media CCTV reported.

Regional power consumption in late October was up 5% compared with the first half of the month, more significantly in the cement, brick, and tile industries, worsening conditions, CCTV

said.

Parts of Tianjin municipality and Hebei and Shandong provinces, as well as eastern areas of Jiangsu province, saw heavy fog resulting in visibility of less than 1 km (0.62 mile) on Tuesday morning, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said.

Until Thursday, light to moderate haze will continue to cover the central and southern parts of China's northern region, with severe haze forecast in the central parts, NMC said.

Cold air currents are forecast to stream in the north from Thursday night, creating conditions that could weaken and dissipate the haze, the weather forecaster said.

Bangladesh deploys paramilitary troops amid escalating political tensions

DHAKA, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Bangladesh government overnight deployed paramilitary troops and asked police departments and other law enforcement agencies to intensify security vigil, as a three-day nationwide transport blockade called by the main opposition BNP began on Tuesday, escalating tensions after two days of deadly violence this week.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said they have deployed forces across the country while several hundred paramilitary personnel would be on patrol in the national capital Dhaka.

"A required number of BGB platoons are dispatched countrywide to maintain law and order and guard major highways," a spokesperson of the paramilitary force told reporters, while elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) said they too would be on high alert in major cities.

Home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on late Monday convened a meeting of the "core committee on law and order affairs" and reviewed the security situation with senior officials of police and other law enforcement and security agencies.

"The heads of the law enforcement and intelligence agencies



have been asked to remain extra vigilant against any act of sabotage and violence during the 72 hours of opposition blockade," an official familiar with the meeting said.

But unidentified miscreants on Monday night set on fire two static empty buses in southeastern port city of Chattogram and Gazipur town on the outskirts of the capital, creating panic in the neighbourhoods.

No casualties were reported in the arsons but police and fire service officials said both the buses were completely gutted.

The opposition blockade starts a day after two garment workers died in clashes with police as they went on a rampage demanding higher wages in Gazipur industrial district, vis-

ibly a development having links with politics.

But according to officials concerned in home and labour ministries, directives were issued to settle the workers' unrest through tripartite negotiations to prevent any situation that could fuel political turmoil.

The factory workers have been staging protests for the past one week for higher wages as an earlier government-formed Wage Board was yet to reach an agreement with factory owners and labour representatives.

At least four people, including an on-duty policeman and three activists of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Awami League and former premier Khaleda Zia's BNP were killed

on Saturday and Sunday in Dhaka and elsewhere.

BNP on Saturday called a grand protest meeting rallying activists from different parts of the country and Awami League simultaneously staged a "peace rally" in the capital amid brewing tensions over the upcoming general elections expected to be held in early January.

Despite security vigils, BNP workers allegedly hacked to death a police constable, set ablaze several ambulances at Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital (CPH), a police booth and several vehicles, including buses elsewhere in the city on the day, when over 200 people were wounded.

The BNP rally ended abruptly as police fired tear gas canisters to tame "unruly elements", visibly prompting the opposition to call a nationwide stoppage on Sunday, when police arrested its de facto leader and secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir arrest for "instigating" violence.

During the day-long general strike, two activists of the ruling and main opposition parties were killed — one in Dhaka and another in northeastern Lalmonirhat — amid widespread violence.

Biden Administration Aims To Reduce AI Risks With New Executive Order

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden is seeking to reduce the risks that artificial intelligence (AI) poses to consumers, workers, minority groups and national security with a new executive action.

The order, which he is expected to sign at the White House, requires developers of AI systems that pose risks to US national security, the economy, public health or safety to share the results of safety tests with the US government, in line with the Defense Production Act, before they are released to the public.

It also directs agencies to set standards for that testing and address related chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and cybersecurity risks.

The move is the latest step by the administration to set parameters around AI as it makes rapid gains in capability and popularity in an environment of, so far, limited regulation. The order prompted a mixed response from industry and trade groups.

Bradley Tusk, CEO at Tusk Ventures, a venture capital firm with investments in tech and AI, welcomed the move. But he said tech companies would likely shy away from sharing proprietary data with the government over fears it could be provided to rivals.

"Without a real enforcement mechanism, which the executive order does not seem to have, the concept is great but adherence may be very limited," Tusk said.

NetChoice, a national

trade association that includes major tech platforms, described the order as an "AI Red Tape Wishlist," that will end up "stifling new companies and competitors from entering the marketplace and significantly expanding the power of the federal government over American innovation."

The new order goes beyond voluntary commitments made earlier this year by AI companies such as OpenAI, Alphabet and Meta Platforms, which pledged to watermark AI-generated content to make the technology safer.

As part of the order, the Commerce Department will "develop guidance for content authentication and watermarking" for labeling items that are generated by AI, to make sure government

communications are clear, the White House said in a release.

The Group of Seven industrial countries on Monday will agree a code of conduct for companies developing advanced artificial intelligence systems, according to a G7 document.

A senior administration official, briefing reporters ahead of the official unveiling of the order, pushed back against criticism that Europe had been more aggressive at regulating AI than the United States.

The official said the White House believed that legislative action from Congress was also necessary for AI governance. Biden is calling on Congress to pass legislation in particular on data privacy, the White House said.

"While this is a good

step forward, we need additional legislative measures." Senator Mark Warner, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement.

US officials have warned that AI can heighten the risk of bias and civil rights violations, and Biden's executive order seeks to address that by calling for guidance to landlords, federal benefits programs and federal contractors "to keep AI algorithms from being used to exacerbate discrimination," the release said.

The order also calls for the development of "best practices" to address harms that AI may cause workers, including job displacement, and requires a report on labor market impacts.

Thailand to offer Indian, Taiwanese tourists visa-free entry



BANGKOK, Oct 31 (Agencies): Thailand will offer visa-free entry to tourists from India and Taiwan, the prime minister announced Tuesday, as the government seeks to rebuild the key tourism sector after it was battered by the pandemic.

Indian and Taiwanese visitors will be entitled to stay for up to 30 days under the six-month trial, which will start next month.

Thailand's tourism sector accounts for almost 20 per cent of the overall GDP, but

it has struggled to get back on its feet since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will provide visa-free entry to India and Taiwan because a lot of their people like to travel to Thailand," Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting.

Until now, tourists from India and Taiwan have had to apply for a 15-day visa-on-arrival at immigration checkpoints, presenting a bank statement and proof of accommodation.

The move comes after the government opened a similar visa-free scheme for Chinese tourists in September.

Government spokesman Chai Watcharong said authorities hoped the scheme would attract 1.4 million extra tourists, generating an additional 55 billion baht (\$1.5 billion) in income.

About 1.2 million Indians visited Thailand in the first nine months of 2023 according to tourism ministry data — the fourth highest number after Malaysia, China and South Korea.

Srettha, who took power in August following months of political wrangling after a May election, has said boosting the tourism sector and stimulating the economy are among his top priorities.

Youth of J&K UT our most precious wealth: LG Sinha

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the closing ceremony of CRPF T20 Cricket Cup 2023 and felicitated the winner, runner-up and other outstanding players of the tournament.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the CRPF Srinagar Sector officials, and all the participating players and teams from Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar.

CRPF has always lived upto its motto of 'Service & Loyalty' and proven its mettle since inception in 1949 with single vision of 'Nation First'. Its effort to engage youth from Kashmir is creating new environment of peace, prosperity and building



moral leadership among young generation, the Lt Governor said.

He called for united efforts to establish a more conducive environment and provide platforms to nurture the budding sporting talents of Jammu Kashmir in diverse sports disci-

plines.

"The youth of J&K UT is our most precious wealth. The opportunity to compete in different sports will enable them to bring new hope, right skills to excel in life, courage to achieve success in every field and become role models for

children," the Lt Governor said.

The final was played between MLA Gymkhana Club Budgam and Kashmir Tigers Lal Chowk.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, SMC; Sh Aftab Malik, Chairman, DDC, Srinagar; Sh Nazir

Ahmad Khan, Chairman, DDC Budgam; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Nalin Prabhat, ADG CRPF; senior officers of Civil administration, Police and CRPF, sports lovers and youth in large number were present.

Omar dares BJP to hold polls in J&K, says 'BJP cannot win 10 seats'

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday challenged the BJP to hold the elections in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that they cannot even win 10 seats in J&K.

"I challenge them to hold the Assembly election in J&K. They will not even win 10 seats out of 90 seats across the length and breadth of J&K," said Omar Abdullah while addressing a public rally in Kupwara district.

He said, "All their (BJP) B, C, and D teams will be defeated if they hold the elections in J&K."

He said that the destruction and devastation done in J&K in the last five years by the BJP is unimaginable.

"They (BJP) took bribes from unemployed youth. They took bribes from big companies. There are allegations of huge corruption in other departments as well," he said.

He said the BJP knows if they hold elections in J&K everything will get exposed. "That is why they don't hold elections in Kashmir. They already witnessed people's resentment in Ladakh elections where they could manage to win only two seats out of 26," he said.

Abdullah said, "Either today, tomorrow or day-after-tomorrow, they (BJP) will have to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. They cannot run forever from elections. They have to hold elections someday in Kashmir."

He said that all the officers have been brought from outside to manage the affairs of Kashmir.

"These officers cannot speak the language, forget about the religion. There is not a single Muslim officer in Kashmir. What is our fault? Why such a treatment with us? Can they do such a thing in a state like Uttar Pradesh," Omar asked.

Offices, Panchayats, houses illuminated to celebrate J&K UT Foundation Day in Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 31: In a spectacular display of enthusiasm and patriotism, all government offices, Panchayat Ghars and many houses across the Doda district were illuminated last night to mark the celebration of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (UT) Foundation Day. This unique initiative, taken by the Doda Administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, aimed to create a festive and celebratory atmosphere to commemorate this momentous occasion.

The entire district was adorned with vibrant lights and decorations, symbolizing the unity and pride of the people of Doda. The illuminations added vibrancy to the streets and created a sense of joy and festivity among the residents. The cel-

ebrations not only showcased the grandeur of the occasion but also served as a reminder of the progress and achievements of the district over the years.

The illumination of all government offices demonstrated the commitment of the administration towards the welfare and development of the region. The buildings were beautifully lit up, reflecting the spirit of progress and growth that has been achieved under the government's initiatives. This visual spectacle served to inspire and motivate both government officials and the citizens to continue working towards the betterment of the district.

Furthermore, 237 Panchayats joined the celebrations by illuminating their respective Panchayat Ghars, emphasizing the grassroots level development and the strengthening

of local governance. The illuminated Panchayats not only depicted the progress made at the grassroots level but also symbolized the active participation and engagement of the local communities in the development process.

Not limited to government buildings, numerous houses across the district also participated in the celebrations by adorning themselves with lights and decorations. The illuminated houses added a personal touch to the festivities, reflecting the pride and enthusiasm of the residents in being part of the celebration of the J&K UT Foundation Day.

The entire district was witness to this magnificent display of unity and solidarity. The illuminated offices, Panchayats, and houses served as a visual representation of the progress and growth achieved in Doda

under the government's initiatives. The celebrations highlighted the collective effort and commitment of the community towards building a prosperous future for the district.

The Doda Administration expressed its gratitude to all the residents for their active participation and support in making this celebration a grand success. It is through such collective efforts and display of unity that the district can continue to progress and achieve greater heights.

The Doda Administration extends its warmest wishes to all the residents on the occasion of Jammu and Kashmir UT Foundation Day. It reaffirms its commitment to the overall development and welfare of the district and calls upon the residents to join hands in building a prosperous future for Doda.

Suresh starts black topping of Majoor-cheeral road



TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Oct 31: Fulfilling the long pending demand of the people BJP senior leader and DDC member Pandit Suresh Sharma, kick started the black topping work of Majoor - Cheeral road in Panchayat Majoor of block Chowki Choura falling under Chhamb assembly segment.

A large number of prominent people from Majoor Panchayat were present on the occasion, who expressed gratitude to their elected

representative for keeping his words of taking this work on priority.

Suresh Sharma, while interacting with the people, assured them that all such villages of Chowki Choura and Maira Mandrian blocks, which do not have proper road connectivity, will be linked with the pakka roads. He further informed that in the near future, a number of mega road works will be initiated and completed in a time frame manner. He assured that there will be no compromise on the quality of the material to be used, he

said. Suresh Sharma said that the Narendra Modi government at the centre is consistently working on many road projects in Jammu and Kashmir and every area will have a facelift.

"We are making all the efforts to ensure that no panchayat is left out from being included in the centre's prestigious projects of sufficient road connectivity," he said and added that Modi's many welfare schemes too are reaching the doorsteps of the poor and needy families.

BJP demeaned Dogra glory by bifurcating J&K State: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K National Conference today castigated BJP leadership in J&K for rubbing salt on the wounds of gallant Dogras by celebrating Foundation Day of UT of J&K, claiming that the day has demeaned the glory of this marshal community as the erstwhile J&K State was cut into pieces.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior NC leader said that people having the slightest idea of formation of erstwhile State of J&K know well that how bravely Maharaja Gulab Singh and his late General Zorawar Singh had fought to expand his empire from bound-

aries of Punjab upto China and Tibet making erstwhile State of J&K including Ladakh one of the biggest states in the country (area wise).

He termed it unfortunate that the local BJP leadership backstabbed the valiant people of J&K to allow the Centre to slice State into two UTs and leaving the people on the mercy of Bureaucrats who uncontrolled inflation and unemployment.

Rattan Lal said that J&K was a prosperous state but by mishandling the situation, BJP government lowered the dignity of people by showing no inclination towards the problems being faced by the people, it has turned them into second class citizens as for every

cause whether toll plaza, smart meter mismanagement, recruitment scams, etc. they have to fight for their rights.

The senior NC leader said that BJP leadership knows mistakes it had committed in J&K and that is the reason it is advocating to defer polls in the region as decimation of saffron party is inevitable. He said that on one side, HM Amit Shah claims that the power in J&K has been divided into hands of 30,000 people but on the other hand BJP Government is shirking to hold polls fearing debacle and in this course has dented the democracy badly.

The Provincial President said under incumbent government devel-

opment has become elusive with healthcare centres running without medicos, industries becoming defunct with new ventures seen nowhere. The condition of roads, electricity and water supply is also in worse conditions.

"Corruption is also touching skies as the case of IAS Officer Parmar, who became whistleblower in case of rampant corruption in Jal Shakti Department", he said.

Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that BJP leadership has proved to be a damp squib for J&K and therefore people should give chance to National Conference to once again rectify things and restore pristine glory of J&K and its people.

JU organizes lecture on 'Career Opportunities and Role of Industrialization'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 31: Directorate of Distance & Online Education (DD&OE), University of Jammu today organized a guest lecture on the topic "' Career opportunities and Role of Industrialisation' as part of the PCP for M.com students.

The lecture was delivered by Mr. Arshad Noomani, JKAS, Functional Manager, DIC, Jammu, and presided over by Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Director (DD&OE). The event was convened by Prof. Sandeep Tandon, Coordinator, M.Com. (DD&OE).

Prof. Sandeep Kour Tandon gave the welcome address in which she introduced the dig-



nitaries and apprised the students of the need for career counseling and its avenues.

Noomani, interacted with the students about their future career aspirations, and goals. He also spoke about the role, and importance of a focused approach and self-motivation for comprehensive development of students. Additionally, he discussed

the several initiatives being undertaken by the DIC, and government to promote industrialization and entrepreneurship in the UT.

In his presiding remarks, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, emphasized that such programmes offer unique perspectives in societal growth, and motivate students to broaden their horizons.

The programme was

attended by the faculty, officers, including Dr. Saran Preet Broca (Deputy registrar, DD&OE) and students of the Directorate. The programme culminated with the felicitation of the resource person. Formal vote of thanks was presented by the Teacher-Incharge, Ms. Avantika Bakshi along with Ms. Shriya Gupta from the Directorate.

FROM PAGE 1

LG Sinha inaugurates 67th national school games in Srinagar

"Our recent successes at the Asian Games and Asian Para Games have kindled high hopes to bring further transformation to achieve new heights in Olympics with our athletes' remarkable performance," he said.

The LG said Jammu and Kashmir has also improved sports infrastructure, giving opportunities to many.

"J&K has made a new beginning with

sports and sports culture development plan with adequate infrastructure, introducing sports as integral part of the educational curriculum, access to experts and outstanding coaching and providing opportunities to talents across the UT," he added.

President Droupadi Murmu arrives in Leh for 2-Day Ladakh visit

President will also interact with members of SHGs and local tribals," he said.

Northern Army com-

mander visits forward areas in Ladakh, Reviews winter preparedness

border defence infrastructure development.

The Army commander also felicitated the troops of the Indian Army, ITBP and GREF for their relentless efforts.

"The Army commander felicitated the troops of the Indian Army, ITBP and GREF for their relentless efforts in maintaining the highest standards of operational effectiveness under challenging conditions," the

officials said.

President Droupadi Murmu will embark on a two-day visit to Ladakh on October 31, an official statement from the President's Secretariat read.

On October 31, the President will grace the Foundation Day celebrations of Union Territory (UT) Ladakh at Leh.

On November 1, the President will visit Siachen Base Camp and interact with troops. On the same day, she will attend the civic reception to be hosted in her honour at Leh.

The President will also interact with members of SHGs and local tribals. Earlier, a terrorist was killed after the

army and police foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Keran sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said Monday. "In a joint operation that commenced yesterday, Army and Kupwara Police have successfully foiled an infiltration attempt in Jumagund area of Keran sector in which one terrorist has been killed. Search operation continues," posted Kashmir Zone Police on X.

Criminal detained under PSA in Reasi

Kashmir and Kangra and Dharamshala districts of Himachal Pradesh, they said.

Markets turn volatile after early gains

BSE climbs 339.67 points to 64,452.32; Nifty advances 92.8 points to 19,233.70

MUMBAI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices climbed over 300 points in early trade on Tuesday but soon turned volatile as investors retreated to the sidelines amid unabated foreign fund outflows and escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Besides, investor sentiments were cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 339.67 points to 64,452.32 in early trade. The Nifty advanced 92.8 points to 19,233.70.

Later, both the benchmark indices quoted flat in a volatile trade. The 30-share BSE benchmark traded 44.50 points down at 64,068.15, and the Nifty quoted 7.85 points lower at 19,133.05.

Among the Sensex



firms, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Power Grid, ITC and HDFC Bank were the major gainers.

Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel and Maruti were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo quoted in the green, while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong traded lower.

The US markets ended significantly higher on

Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.41 per cent to USD 87.81 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,761.86 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark jumped 329.85 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 64,112.65 on Monday. The Nifty advanced 93.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 19,140.90.

Air India, Akasa Air CEOs engage in war of words over pilot poaching: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): The Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of two Indian airlines, Air India and Akasa Air, are at odds over the poaching of pilots.

Akasa Air's CEO has accused Air India of breaching regulations by enticing its pilots away. In response, Air India has raised concerns that such actions could potentially violate competition laws by suggesting collusion to prevent pilots from changing jobs.

The conflict reveals the increasing competition in India's aviation market, driven by a strong rebound in air travel after the pandemic and a surge in new aircraft orders, which has led to a pilot shortage.

The exchange between the chief executives of the airlines, Campbell Wilson of Air India and Vinay Dube of low-cost airline Akasa, was detailed in a letter dated September 21, seen by news agency.

The letter was written by Air India CEO Campbell Wilson.

The letter came after a phone conversation between the two executives and a previous misfire from Dube expressing concerns about the Tata Group, the owner of Air India.

War of words
Air India's response to Akasa's



accusations was that government rules mandating a notice period of six to twelve months for pilots were "not currently enforceable."

Wilson also told his counterpart Dube that Akasa itself had "previously engaged in similar actions" by poaching pilots from Tata Group's budget carrier, Air India Express, and other airlines.

"It was a little surprising to us that Akasa now found the practice objectionable," Wilson wrote in the letter, as detailed in the agency report.

Akasa did not comment on its communication with Air India but stated that the pilot exit issue was "now behind us," and they are focused on growth. Air India and Akasa's CEOs have not yet publicly commented on the

matter.

It is worth noting that Akasa Air's Vinay Dube had earlier made it clear that he is "dead set against" the idea of having any such agreement between airlines.

"Not at all. Absolutely not. I am dead set against it. I think pilots like any other employees should be completely allowed to work with whatever airline they want and I don't believe that the airlines should collude on this topic at all. I don't think there is a need and I don't think it is right," he said.

This dispute occurs as Air India is in the midst of a hiring spree, with its subsidiary, Air India Express, aiming to expand its fleet to 170 aircraft over the next five years. Akasa recently lost approximately 10 per cent of its

450 pilots in a short period, with some joining Air India Express without completing their notice periods.

Akasa has expressed concerns about the pilot resignations and sued some of the pilots and the aviation regulator, but the lawsuits are still pending.

Meanwhile, Wilson said he had "cautioned" Vinay Dube during their telephone call that asking a competitor to collude in curbing employees' rights to switch employers "could be construed as potentially a contravention of competition law".

"I regret that you interpreted my courtesy of taking your call and listening to your request as assent," he added.

It may be noted that the Federation of Indian Pilots has noted the mass resignations at Akasa as a sign of employee discontent, while India's aviation regulator has indicated it cannot interfere in employment contract matters.

Akasa, a new entrant in the Indian aviation scene, began operations in 2022 and holds a 4 per cent market share, competing with established players like IndiGo and Tata Group's airlines.

Apple MacBook Pro with M3 chips to be available in India from Nov 7

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Apple's new MacBook Pro laptops and iMac with M3 chipsets will be available across 27 countries, including India, from November 7 onwards, according to an official statement.

The company announced the launch of three M3 chipset models with built-in next-generation Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) architecture and faster Central Processing Unit (CPU) with an eye on artificial intelligence (AI) use cases, gaming, entertainment professionals and other segments that need high-resolution image processing.

The company has launched two variants of MacBook Pro laptops with 14 and 16-inch displays at a starting price of Rs 1.69 lakh and Rs 2.49 lakh, respectively.

"Customers can order the new MacBook Pro starting today, Monday, October 30, at the Apple India store and on the Apple Store app in 27 countries and regions, including the US. It will begin arriving to customers, and will be at Apple store locations and Apple-authorized resellers, starting Tuesday, November 7," the company said in a statement. The development of AI technology has started pushing for GPU over CPU-based



processors to handle large amounts of computational requirements.

The M3 chipsets are based on three nanometer technology which means the transistors or the smallest data processing unit in the chipset is so small that two million of them can be embedded across a section of human hair.

The new iMac all-in-one desktops with eight-core GPU would

be available in India at a starting price of Rs 1.29 lakh from November 7.

iMac with a ten-core GPU would be available at a starting price of Rs 1.44 lakh.

"New iMac customers will enjoy all of these benefits and see up to four times faster performance than the bestselling 24-inch all-in-one PC with the latest Intel Core i7 processor," the statement said.

Meesho announces 'reset & recharge' break for its employees from November 11-19

BENGALURU, Oct 31 (Agencies): E-commerce marketplace Meesho has announced its third consecutive annual 'Reset and Recharge' break for its employees from November 11-19. Employees will enjoy a 9-day hiatus to unplug from work, and immerse themselves in festivities, the company said.

This comes after the Meesho Mega Blockbuster Sale, which witnessed 1.6 crore new app installs from October 6-15. The Reset and Recharge break is a part of Meesho's comprehensive wellness program, known as MeeCARE.



Recently, the company also revamped its parental policies and this includes financial aid, an extended 30-week leave for the primary caregiver, extra leave provisions for unforeseen circumstances and health issues, assurances of equitable performance evaluations, and a reintegration process into

the workforce.

Ashish Kumar Singh, Chief Human Resources Officer, Meesho, said, "Over the past couple of years, we have been impressed by the intangible yet profoundly positive influence that the Reset and Recharge break has exerted on our employees' mental well-being.

Notably, after their

return to work from the break, we observed a palpable sense of joy and renewed vigour in our team. This, perhaps, is one of the factors that helps Meeshoites bring their utmost potential to the workplace."

"Our employees have the liberty to unwind in their own way, whether it involves spending quality time with loved ones, embarking on adventures, or pursuing new hobbies. These forward-thinking policies have significantly bolstered our focus on employees and propelled us to maintain industry-leading retention rates," he added.

Study shows link between air pollution and Parkinson's disease

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Moderate level of fine particle pollution is associated with a 56 per cent higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease, new research in the US has found.

Previous studies have shown that fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, can cause inflammation in the brain, which is "a known mechanism by which Parkinson's disease could develop," according to lead researcher Brittany Krzyzanowski from Barrow Neurological Institute, Arizona.

The researchers also found that the relationship between air pollution and Parkinson's disease was not the same in every part of the country and that it varied in strength by region. They have published their findings in the journal *Neurology*.

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system characterised by tremors and impaired muscular coordination.

In this study, the researchers identified nearly 90,000 people with the neurological disease from the US's Medicare database of about 22 million people. Those identified were then geocoded to

the neighbourhood of their residence, which enabled the researchers to calculate the rates of the disease within each region.

The average annual concentrations of fine particulate matter in these specific regions were also calculated.

Thus, the researchers at Barrow were able to identify an association between a person's previous exposure to fine particulate matter and their later risk of developing Parkinson's disease.

They found that the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley was a Parkinson's disease hotspot, along with other US states including central North Dakota, parts of Texas, Kansas, eastern Michigan, and parts of Florida.

Further, people living in the western half of the US were found to be at a reduced risk of developing Parkinson's disease compared with the rest of the nation.

"Regional differences in Parkinson's disease might reflect regional differences in the composition of the particulate matter. Some areas may have particulate matter containing more toxic components compared to other areas,"

said Krzyzanowski.

Although the authors had not explored the different sources of air pollution, Krzyzanowski noted there was relatively high road network density in the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley and the rust belt makes up part of this region as well.

"This means that the pollution in these areas may contain more combustion particles from traffic and heavy metals from manufacturing which have been linked to cell death in the part of the brain involved in Parkinson's disease," said the lead researcher.

The researchers said that such population-based geographic studies had the potential to reveal important insight into the role of environmental toxins in the development and progression of Parkinson's.

"These same methods can be applied to explore other neurological health outcomes as well," said Krzyzanowski.

New cure for sickle cell disease coming soon

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): A new treatment for sickle cell disease is on the horizon. The genetic condition, till now, is only cured by bone marrow transplant. But soon, there could be a new cure.

On Tuesday, Food and Drug Administration advisors will look at a gene therapy that could tackle the root cause of the disease.

If it gets the FDA's green light, it will be the first gene therapy in the US using CRISPR, a gene-editing tool that won a Nobel Prize in 2020. A decision is expected in December.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. This disease affects the haemoglobin, a protein that carries oxygen through the body. In this, the red blood cells, which are normally disc-shaped, become crescent or sickle-shaped due to the genetic mutation.

The sickle-shaped cells can cause serious problems in the body like stroke, eye problems, pain, infections and others. It is a lifelong disease.

Dr Allison King, who specialises in treating sickle cell disease, is hopeful about these treatments.

"Anything that can help relieve somebody with this condition of the pain and the multiple health complications is amazing," said De King, a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, as quoted by the Associated Press. "It's horribly painful. Some people will say it's like being stabbed all over."

Right now, certain drugs and blood transfusions, with bone marrow transplants are the only permanent fix. But this new gene therapy, called "exa-cel," could provide a one-time solution.

It changes a patient's DNA in their blood cells, aiming to make the body produce healthy haemoglobin.

Although it's still being tested, early results are positive, with many patients experiencing relief from pain crises and avoiding hospital stays. The treatment is considered safe and groundbreaking.

There are concerns about possible unexpected effects on a person's genes, but the FDA will seek advice from experts in gene therapy.

If the therapy gets approval, the company has plans for post-approval safety checks and ongoing research.

The cost of these therapies is yet to be revealed, but it's suggested they might be worth it, given the high costs of current sickle cell treatments.

Earlier this year, India announced a mission to eliminate sickle cell anaemia by the year 2027. Sickle cell anaemia is the name of a specific form of SCD in which there are two sickle cell genes.

Doctors perform complex non-surgical valve implantation on young patient in Delhi

The Army Hospital (R&R) team has so far performed 13 cases of pulmonary valve implantation in the last one year



NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): An eight-year-old girl has received a new lease of life after undergoing a rare non-surgical procedure related to pulmonary valve at a leading Army hospital here.

The complex advanced intervention was performed on October 28 at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), defense officials said.

The girl, weighing a mere 28 kg, is the "youngest and smallest child in the country" to have undergone this non-surgical valve implantation, particularly in the government sector, they said.

The Army Hospital (R&R) team has so far performed 13 cases of pulmonary valve implantation in the last one year, which is the highest among the two government institutes in the country that have done such cases, officials added.

Till this procedure (trans catheter implantation of cardiac pulmonary valve) was introduced in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) by the team at Army Hospital (R&R) on

October 7, 2022, the cardiac (pulmonary) valve used to be replaced through an open heart by-pass surgery, which is not only extremely painful and cumbersome but also carries significant risk of morbidity and mortality as well as prolonged hospital stay, they said.

With this novel non-surgical procedure, a patient is discharged within two-three days post-intervention, without any scar on the body.

The introduction of this path-breaking highly specialised, non-surgical intervention in the armed forces and government sector of the country is a 'game-changer' and has opened fresh avenues for many such children requiring valve replacement, with significantly improved quality of life, the defense officials said.

It is a 'quantum leap' towards providing advanced cardiac care in children. It ushers a new era not only for the AFMS but also for other government hospitals of the country, taking them to a new higher platform, they said.

Messi wins record 8th Ballon d'Or, Bonmati claims women's award

Messi has won the most significant individual football award in the years of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023

PARIS, Oct 31 (Agencies): Lionel Messi won his record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or, while Spain's Aitana Bonmati claimed the women's award.

The Argentine soccer great won the award for his exceptional performance at the Qatar World Cup last year when he led Argentina to the trophy with seven goals and was named the best player of the tournament, Xinhua reports.

Messi has won the most significant individual football award in the years of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023.

"This is a gift to the



whole Argentina team for what we achieved," said Messi, paying tribute to his teammates. "Becoming world champion was the title we were missing. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make Argen-

tina the world champion team." He also dedicated the trophy to legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona, who passed away in 2020 and would have celebrated his 63rd birthday on Monday.

"Happy birthday Diego. This is for you too," he said.

Norwegian forward Erling Haaland came second for winning the UEFA Champions League, Premier League, and FA Cup

title with Manchester City, while Qatar World Cup golden boot winner Kylian Mbappe was third.

Bonmati lifted the women's Ballon d'Or, ahead of Australia's Sam Kerr and compatriot Salma Paralluelo, for winning Spain's first Women's World Cup title in August.

In other awards, England's Jude Bellingham was named the best under-21 player, while Haaland won the prize for the best striker of the year.

Messi's national team teammate Emiliano Martinez won the Lev Yashin Award for best goalkeeper.

More glory for Afghanistan, leave Lankans marooned



PUNE, Oct 31 (Agencies): A spirited Afghanistan upset another former champion today when Hashmatullah Shahidi's men defeated 1996 winners Sri Lanka by seven wickets to continue their memorable campaign at the ODI World Cup.

Their bowlers had laid the foundation of their third win in six matches when they bowled out Sri Lanka for a below-par 241 in 49.3 overs.

Three of their top five batters, including Shahidi, then produced half-centuries in a clinical chase which they accomplished in 45.2 overs to move to the fifth place in the points table. Azmatullah Omarzai (73) scored the winning run with Shahidi (58) looking on from the other end.

Shahidi and his men had stunned holders England and 1992

champions Pakistan earlier in the competition and they proved those were no flukes with yet another impressive display against Sri Lanka.

Put in to bat, several Sri Lankan batters got their eyes in but could not quite capitalise on those starts.

After the fall of Dimuth Karunaratne in the sixth over, Kusal Mendis (39) forged half-century partnerships with Pathum Nissanka (46) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (36) to steady the innings. At 134/2 in the 28th over, Sri Lanka looked well placed to reach the 275-mark but the plucky Afghans struck at regular intervals to peg them back.

Angelo Mathews and Maheesh Theekshana raised 45 quick runs for the eighth wicket but Sri Lanka still fell short of the 250-mark.

Afghanistan lost Rah-

manullah Gurbaz in the first over but Rahmat Shah (62) and Ibrahim Zadran (39) calmed the nerves with a 73-run partnership. Kasun Rajitha dismissed Rahmat but not before the batter had brought up his second successive fifty of the tournament. Shahidi and Omarzai mixed caution with occasional aggression in their unbroken century stand to take Afghanistan closer to the target.

With victory in sight, both decided to play their shots and Azmatullah scored the winning run when he attempted to hit a six and was dropped at deep mid-wicket.

"Quite happy and proud of the team...the way we performed in all departments. Pakistan chase gave us a lot of confidence and belief that we can chase any kind of target. We started really well in bowling; the chase was very professional and I am very happy about it. Coaches are always positive, we worked very hard before the World Cup. As a captain you should lead from the front foot so I am trying my best," said Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi.

"My Wife Works In Sports Media, I Heard...": Jasprit Bumrah Shuts Down Critics

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): India's marquee pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah put on a show against England, bagging three wickets in the team's 100-run win. Bumrah, with his three wickets in the match, set the foundation for Rohit & Co. as they look to defend a modest total of 239 runs.

After India's 6th win on the trot in the competition, Bumrah also responded to the social media venom he was subjected to.

The pace bowler said that he was delighted to have made a strong comeback to the national team.

Bumrah, who spend most of the last year on the sidelines due to injury troubles, said

that there were many who suggested that his career was over. The pacer, hence, was glad to have proved them wrong.

"My wife [the TV sports presenter Sanjana Ganesan] also works in the sports-media department. So yeah, I heard a lot of question marks on my career that I will never come back and all of that, but it doesn't really matter. I'm very happy," Bumrah told Sky Sports after India secured a 100-run win over defending champions England.

"I came back and I realised how much I love playing the game. I was not chasing anything. Great headspace was there when I came back from the injury.

So yeah, eventually I'm looking at the positives and trying to enjoy as much as you can," he further said.

India could only manage 239 runs after losing early wickets but the bowlers made up for the batters' errors with a stupendous show in Lucknow. Reflecting on the game against England, Bumrah said that he was happy that Jos Buttler's men put the Indian team under pressure.

"It was good challenge for us that we were put under pressure. We lost a little bit of early wickets. We had to squeeze in and in the field as well, we had to put in a lot of effort. So yeah, very happy with the result. It was really



good for us because we've been fielding first and we've been doing that for a while now. Because [India chased] in the previous series as well, which I played," Bumrah said.

"Usually when you bowl with the new ball, you first search for swing if there is some

swing. Otherwise, you just try and hit a hard length and make it as difficult as possible. So there was a little bit of swing, but not too much from my end. Then I tried to seam the ball a lot more and which was helping a little bit. So then I changed to seam bowling."

World Cup 2023: On Virat Kohli's birthday, CAB planning to distribute 70000 'Kohli masks' to fans at Eden

KOLKATA, Oct 31 (Agencies): Around 70,000 supporters will be provided with free 'Virat Kohli masks' to cheer the ace batter on his 35th birthday, which coincides with India's World Cup game against South Africa at the Eden Gardens on November 5.

To mark 'King Kohli's' birthday, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has made the

grand plan to distribute Kohli masks among the spectators.

The match is set to be a full house with all the tickets sold out much in advance.

Apart from distributing masks, the CAB has planned to have a cake-cutting ceremony before the start of the match and felicitate Kohli with a memento. "We hope to get an approval from the ICC on this. We want



to make the day special for Virat," CAB president Snehashish Ganguly told reporters here.

"We want every fan in the stadium wearing Kohli masks as he walks in. We plan to distribute about 70,000 masks on that day."

The Eden had a similar atmosphere when maestro Sachin Tendulkar played his 199th Test at the venue in November 2013.

Indian conditions different ball game for Pak

KOLKATA, Oct 31 (Agencies): Lack of swing in India has taken much sting out of the Pakistan pace attack in the ODI World Cup, head coach Grant Bradburn said ahead of today's clash against Bangladesh.

Pakistan's semifinals hopes hang in balance after just two wins in six matches and their bowling, usually their strong suit, has looked mostly pedestrian with Shaheen Afridi failing to produce his best form so far

in the tournament. "We have a great resource of fast bowling talent in Pakistan," Bradburn said today. "We do rely on swing, but we haven't experienced too much swing here. The balls are different. The conditions are different and certainly the ball tends to wear a lot quicker here."

Bradburn blamed the debacle on "foreign" Indian conditions and their lack of familiarity with the venues.

"This tournament is on

foreign conditions for us. None of our players have played here before. Every venue is a new one, including this one," he added. Pakistan must win their remaining three group matches and hope other results go their way to make the last four, a situation Bradburn called far from ideal.

"We're in a position that we didn't want to be. We were determined to be in control of our destiny but we're not," he said.

World Cup 2023: David Warner making his critics 'look stupid' amid sensational run for Australia



NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Veteran Australia opener David Warner said he is not fuelled by the urge to prove his critics wrong but cheekily added that he has been making them "look stupid" with his performances in World Cup 2023. Warner has been in fine form in the ongoing tournament, scoring 413 runs, including two hundreds and a fifty, in 6 matches for Australia.

Enjoying plenty of support from the crowd in India, Warner has shown signs of his fearless self, hitting more than a century in ODIs in a calendar year for the first time since 2020. The left-handed opener has helped Australia get off to flying starts, dominating the opposition's new-ball bowling attack so far in the tournament.

Much like Warner, Australia overcame a poor start to their World Cup 2023 campaign. The 5-time champions have stitched up a 4-match winning run to maintain their place in the top 4 and keep themselves in the hunt for a place in the semi-finals.

Warner has well and truly established himself as one of the greatest batters in ODI World Cups, hitting as many as 6 hundreds and equalling legendary Sachin Tendulkar's mark. Warner began with scores of 41, 13, and 11.

However, his 163 against Pakistan in Bengaluru was the turning point. He has since followed it up with scores of 104 against the Netherlands in Delhi and 81 against New Zealand in Dharamsala.

"Everyone keeps writing me off. I am doing as well as I can, I am just trying to go out there and start as well as I can up front in the first 10 (overs). If I get in, I try and make the most of it," Warner said, as quoted by cricket.com.au.

"It is also awesome to have Heady and Mitch there as well, because it allows that pressure to keep being put back onto the opposition."

When asked if he was getting extra motivation in a bid to prove his doubters wrong, Warner added: "Nup. I just make everyone look stupid."

"GOOD TO SEE HEAD FIRE" Warner opened with Mitchell Marsh in the first 5 World Cup matches before Travis Head joined him in the game against New Zealand. Head recovered earlier than expected from a hand injury to join the Australian camp midway through the tournament.

Against New Zealand in Dharamsala, Warner missed out on a hundred, but Head hit a sensational 67-ball 109 on his World Cup debut to help Australia post 388 on the board.

Australia held their nerves in a last-over thriller to win by 4 runs and stitch their 4th successive win of the tournament.

"It doesn't matter whether it's him or Mitch, they're both exactly the same player, but it's good to see Heady come out and fire," he added.

Australia will take on arch-rivals England, who are reeling at the bottom of the points table, in their next match in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

On this day in 2005: MS Dhoni sets a world record by a wicketkeeper-batter

MS Dhoni scored an unbeaten 183 against Sri Lanka back in 2005 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (Agencies): Back on October 31, 2005, MS Dhoni played one of the best knocks in his ODI career, if not his best.

Dhoni, who did not have not the experience of playing even a year for the Indian men's team, scored 183 runs off 145 balls with the help of 15 fours and 10 sixes against Sri Lanka at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

On the back of his knock, India chased down a target of 299 with 23 balls to spare and took a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series.

Coming to bat at No.3 with India losing the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar, Dhoni started cautiously before stepping on the gas.

With the knock, Dhoni set the



record for the highest individual score by a wicket-keeper batter in ODIs.

The then youngster broke the record of Adam Gilchrist, who set the record back in January 2004 against Zimbabwe at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart. Gilchrist scored 172 runs off 126 balls with 13 fours and three sixes.

Dhoni's record, in the mean-

time, stays intact even after 18 years.

South Africa's Quinton de Kock threatened to break the record twice with knocks of 174 (against Bangladesh in Mumbai in 2023) and 178 (against Australia in Centurion in 2016), but he fell short both times.

He also scored an unbeaten 168 against Bangladesh in Kimberley back in October 2017.

Back in March 2020, Litton Das scored 176 runs off 143 balls against Zimbabwe at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

With the 183-run knock, Dhoni also set the record for the highest individual score in a successful run-chase.

However, Shane Watson broke the record when he racked up an unbeaten 185 off 96 balls against Bangladesh in the 2011 World Cup match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Dhoni is currently third in the list of most runs by a wicket-keeper-batter in international cricket.

He scored 17266 runs in 538 matches at an average of 44.96 with 16 hundreds and 108 fifties. Kumar Sangakkara (10316) is on top of the list.

Government Polytechnic for Women observes National Unity Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: On the occasion of National Unity Day, Government Polytechnic for Women in Jammu, under the guidance of Principal Er Suket Gupta, conducted a series of meaningful activities to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a pivotal figure in the unification of India.

The day began with a solemn "Pledge," administered to all students and staff, in which they committed to preserving the Unity, Integrity, and



Security of the nation. This pledge served as a reminder of the significance of these values. Following this, the insti-

tution organized a "Run For Unity," symbolizing the unity of the nation and honoring Sardar Patel's contributions.

The run started at the main playfield and wound through various internal lanes, concluding at the main

college gate. Additionally, the Textile Designing Department held a poster making competition with the theme "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat," encouraging participants to create artwork that promotes the idea of "One India, Best India."

These activities not only paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel but also served as a reminder of the vital principles of national unity, integrity, and security that continue to be at the core of India's identity.

Our Mission is to serve the humanity: Keshav



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Samvedna Society, under the leadership of Chairman Keshav Chopra, organized its 77th Free Eye Screening/Check-Up camp for the devotees, pujaris, and Sewadars of the Maa Bawe Wali Temple in Bahu Fort.

The camp was conducted in collaboration with Sood Eye Centre, a unit of Agarwal Hospitals, and was inaugurated by Sub Divisional Police Officer East, Parupkar Singh (JKPS), who was accompanied by Incharge Police Post Bahu Fort Mandir, S-I Lekh Raj, and others.

A total of 112 patients received free-of-cost

treatment during the camp, which included services such as refraction, NCT (non-contact tonometry), AR (auto-refraction) check-up, and vision check-up. The medical team responsible for these services was headed by Dr. Rohan Sood, M.S. Eye Surgeon, and Dr. Amit Singh, M.S. Eye Surgeon. Additionally, free medicines were provided to the patients.

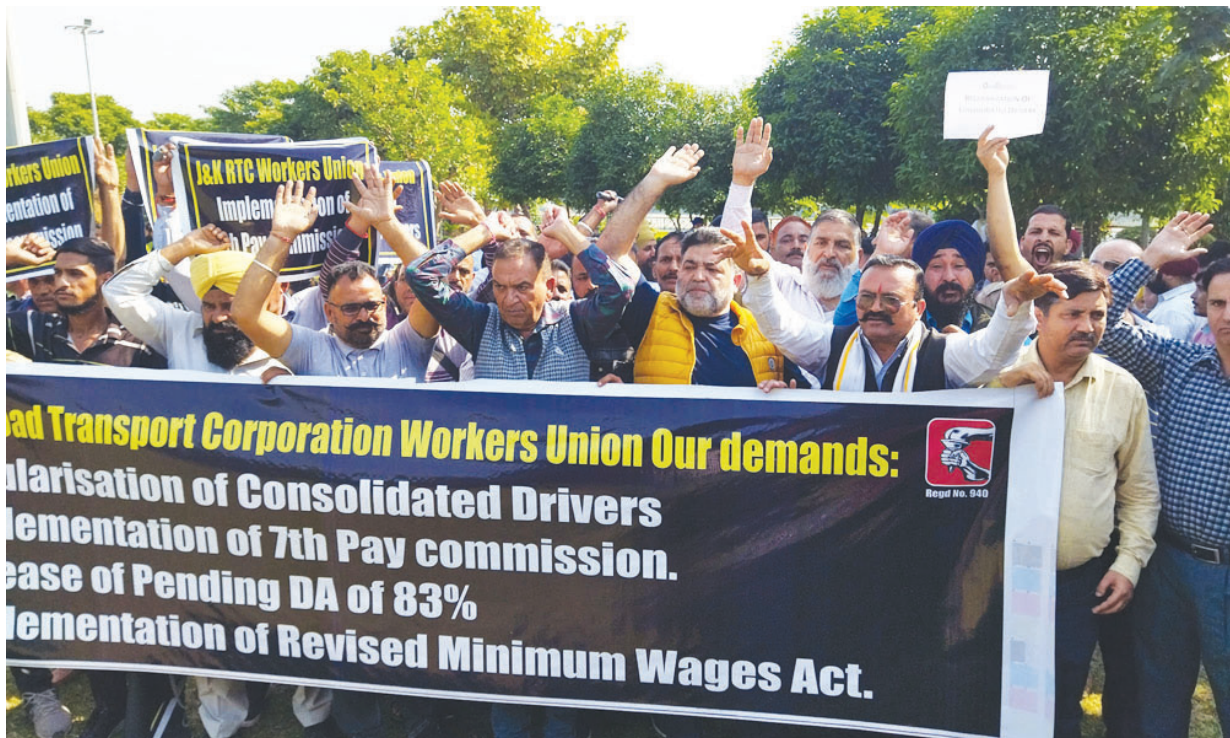
SDPO Parupkar Singh emphasized the importance of regular check-up camps and recognized the noble initiative's contribution to improving the well-being of individuals. He praised the efforts of the Samvedna team

and pledged full support and cooperation to the society.

Keshav Chopra expressed the society's commitment to providing the best treatment to the common man at their doorstep and announced their intention to organize more such camps in the future. He specifically mentioned that those who cannot afford treatment will receive it free of cost.

Several individuals, including Rohit Gupta, Vikas Kumar, Manoj Tandon, Sushil Gupta, Samiha Khajuria, Pratham Puri, Riya Rakesh, and others, were present at the event.

JKRTC employees hold protest, project demands



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: Provincial General Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation, Dilbagh Singh conveyed the grievances of JKRTC employees, shedding light on the hardships they currently face due to the denial of their just and reasonable demands.

The employees, who have devoted their time and dedication to JKRTC, expected their

legitimate concerns to be resolved, particularly regarding the regularization of consolidated employees, the release of pending Dearness Allowance (DA), and the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission, he said.

Despite repeated communications and meetings with government authorities, these issues remain unaddressed, he added.

Unlike JKRTC, employ-

ees of other corporations within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have already benefited from the 7th Pay Commission, receiving higher salaries, he said adding that JKRTC employees, despite contributing a record revenue of Rs. 193.60 Crores for the year 2022-23, receive a lower DA of 139%, causing financial strain due to the rising cost of living.

The Workers Union

had issued a notice to the government and JKRTC management, requesting action on these demands by October 31, 2023, but their concerns were met with silence, he said while addressing a protest rally here.

In response, JKRTC employees initiated a two-hour protest on Tuesday both in Jammu and Srinagar, led by prominent leaders within the Workers Union.

The protesters made it clear that if the government and management continue to ignore their pleas, they will escalate their struggle through

various forms of industrial action, including protest rallies, sit-ins, strikes, and more.

The immediate demands of the employees include the regularization of consolidated employees who have served satisfactorily for over eight years, the release of pending DA, and the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission, aligning their compensation with current standards. Additionally, the employees call for the implementation of the Revised Minimum Wages Act to ensure fair and updated wage standards.

They underscored the urgent need for these issues to be addressed to alleviate the financial strain and uncertainty faced by JKRTC employees.

The protest at Jammu led by Chairman Wajahat Hussain, other leaders present were vice Chairman Mohammad Farooq, Sr. Vice President Anchal Bakshi, Vice President Jagdish Singh, Manmohan Singh, Dharamveer, Rakesh Bakshi, Anil Singh, Ranjeet Singh, M. Amin, Anil Josrota, Maqbool Hussain Balwinder Singh and in Srinagar Vice Chairman Mohammad Yousuf Khan and Gh. Nabi Wani Provincial President commanded the protest.

Beans Affairs outlet opened in Palm Island Mall



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: Beans Affair 2.0 opened at the 4th floor of Palm Island Mall in Jammu. This cafe seems to be making a significant mark in the town's hospitality and service industry. The fact that it is one of the fastest-growing and one of the best cafes with professional staff and top-notch hospitality is certainly something to look forward to.

The owners, Yudhishthar Sharma and Rudra Sharma, bring their experience from the wedding planning business to this venture, which should contribute to a unique and enjoyable experience for customers.

It's noteworthy that the cafe already has a branch in Bahu Plaza, and the expansion to Palm Island Mall indicates their commitment to providing freshly prepared food and bev-

erages in a refreshing ambience.

The cafe was inaugurated in presence of PISOWA members, including Rajan Gupta, Pawan Singh Manhas, and Lokesh Sharma along with family members.

It's a positive sign for the cafe's success and its contribution to the community. It's always exciting to see local businesses thrive and offer excellent services to the residents and visitors.

PTTI Vijaypur observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Oct 31: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) organized National Unity Day on Tuesday on the eve of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

On the occasion, a pledge for Unity, Integrity and Security of the Nation was also taken by the police personnel and trainees of the Institute under the command of Shiv Kumar, Principal PTTI Vijaypur.

Subsequently, a March-Past was organized in which staff and trainees participated.

While speaking on

the occasion, Principal PTTI Vijaypur said that the "National Unity Day", also Known as "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" was introduced by the Government of India in 2014 and since then it is celebrated every year on 31st of October by the people across the Country as a special occasion, to enhance the spirit of unification of the Nation which was visualized by Ironman Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The aim of celebrating this event is to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary by remem-

bering his extraordinary works for the country and his efforts to unite the nation.

Lastly, Shiv Kumar, Principal PTTI Vijaypur, Devinder Gupta (Dy. SP R&D), Kuldeep Raj (Dy.SP Indoor/Tech), Khushwant Singh (Dy. SP Admn.), Insp. Vishal Kumar (CDI), Insp. Anil Kumar, Insp. Ram Lal, Insp. Kanwal Raina, Insp. Mulkh Raj, Insp. Vivek Kalsotra, Insp. Bhopinder Singh, Insp. Pawan Kumar, Insp. Ashish Dharmat, all staff and trainees showered flowers upon the photograph of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

J&K Youth Congress organizes Blood Donation Camp in Jammu North

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress organized a highly successful Blood Donation Camp in the region of Jammu North Assembly in honor of former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi on the occasion of her death anniversary.

The event, which took place on Tuesday, saw a significant turnout of donors and volunteers eager to make a difference in the lives of those in need. The blood donation camp was organized by AYC President Jammu North Sunil Singh along with District Jammu Urban team.

Former PYC President J&K Uday Bhanu Chib, Jatinder Chib Secretary JKPC, Anirudh Sawhney and Sahil Langleh both General Secretary JKPYC, Ajay Lakhotra NSUI state Chief, Happy Randhawa Chairman Research cell JKPYC, Deepanshu Bhatt, Anmol



Kohli AYC Jammu West, Sunny Jatt Ex DYC President Jammu Rural, Gourav Sharma, Sajal Mahajan, Arjun Chib, Rohit Singh Chib and others were present at the event.

The Blood Donation Camp was held at Ward No 66, Lower Roop Nagar, falling in Jammu North Assembly, and it aimed to address the constant demand for blood in medical emergencies, surgeries, and other critical situations.

The J&K Youth Congress leaders honored the first woman Prime Minister of India by organizing the blood donation camp. They said that they wanted to revive the values of the Congress Party and the former PM who led the country as a leader and visionary.

The Youth Congress played a pivotal role in coordinating and executing this vital community service. One of the primary objectives of

the event was to raise awareness about the importance of regular blood donation.

Many people joined the camp with a sense of purpose and the desire to contribute to the well-being of their fellow citizens.

The camp featured a well-organized system, where trained medical professionals collected the blood donations while ensuring the safety and comfort of the donors. Stringent

health and safety measures were adhered to, making the event a safe and secure environment for all participants.

The J&K Youth Congress leaders expressed their gratitude towards all the volunteers and donors, saying, "The success of this Blood Donation Camp is a testament to the compassion and generosity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We are overwhelmed by the response we received, and we hope that such initiatives will continue to save lives and strengthen our community bonds."

Local residents, youth, and members of various communities actively participated in the event. The camp not only helped meet the immediate need for blood but also instilled a sense of unity and solidarity among the people of Jammu North. They further said that the Congress party was dedicated to community service and kindness.