

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Landmine explosion near LoC in Poonch, 3 Army Personnel injured

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): Three Army personnel were injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The soldiers were patrolling Phagwari Gali area in Mendhar sector when the landmine got activated, the officials said quoting preliminary information.

The injured were evacuated to a nearby medical facility and later two of them were referred to a military hospital in Rajouri for specialised treatment, the officials said.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, the officials said.

### 3.2 magnitude earthquake hits Doda

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 3.2 occurred in J&K's Doda at around 12 pm on Wednesday, as reported by the National Center for Seismology.

### Man murders mother, minor daughter; arrested: Police

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): Police Tuesday arrested the man, accused of killing his mother and three-month-old daughter with a sharp-edged weapon in Bishnah, within three hours of the commission of the offence.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Dr Vinod Kumar confirmed the arrest and said that legal proceedings were initiated into the matter. "Bishnah double murder case put everyone in a state of shock as the accused brutally murdered his mother and three-month old daughter and the matter was taken on

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## Security beefed up across Kashmir in wake of fresh spate of Terrorist attacks

SRINAGAR, Nov 1 (Agencies): Security has been beefed up across Kashmir in the wake of a fresh spate of terrorist attacks in the valley which resulted in the killing of a police personnel and a non-local labourer, officials said.

Security forces have intensified checking and frisking of vehicles and pedestrians in several



parts of the city here as well as in other parts of the valley, the officials said.

Nakas and mobile vehicle checkpoints (MVCP) have been established at all major intersections of the city, its entry/exit points, and important roads leading to district headquarters, they added.

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### JK paid Rs 4811.09 Crore in Seven Months

SRINAGAR, Nov 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir is exhibiting a better GST growth in comparison to the rest of the country, officials said.

"GST revenue collections from J&K (SGST) have shown 33.20 per cent growth, surpassing the National average of 15 per cent for the current financial year," Commissioner State Taxes, J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh was quoted as having told the media. "Upto the end of October 2023, a total GST revenue (SGST and IGST) of 4811.09 crore has been realised, showing an overall growth of 20.31 per cent."

Over the years, the tax payers base in Jammu and Kashmir has increased. In 2017-18,

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## Army Chief visits Siachen base camp, forward posts

LEH, Nov 1 (Agencies): Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Wednesday visited the Siachen Base Camp and forward posts, and reviewed the operational preparedness there, sources said.

Gen Pande reached Leh on Tuesday, they

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## High Court sets guidelines for arrest, detention in J&K

SRINAGAR, Nov 1 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has established guidelines concerning the arrest, detention, and bail of individuals accused in criminal cases.

The directions are applicable to all criminal cases involving offences that may result in imprisonment for up to seven

years, with or without a fine.

According to a notification from the High Court's Registrar General, these guidelines were formulated in line with the Supreme Court's directives in Md Asfak Alam vs State of Jharkhand, in which the court called for authorities to avoid unnecessary arrests.

The High Court has also warned that failure to adhere to these guidelines could subject the erring police officers to departmental action and contempt of court proceedings.

Furthermore, if a magistrate authorises the detention of an accused without recording reasons, they may also face

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## Notorious drug peddler arrested in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): A drug peddler has been arrested under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said on Wednesday.

According to them, the accused, Asif Iqbal

of Kishtwar, had established his base in the Bhatindi area of Jammu city from where he used to supply drugs to the local youths.

Due to his consistent involvement in drug peddling and criminal activities, and to protect the young generation from addiction, it was deemed

necessary to subject him to stringent preventive measures, the officials said.

After obtaining orders under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act from higher authorities, the accused was arrested and sent to district jail in

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## Price of commercial LPG cylinder hiked by Rs 101, effective from November 1

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): In a move that is set to impact businesses and consumers, oil marketing companies (OMCs) have announced an increase in the prices of commercial LPG gas cylinders.

Effective from November 1, the retail price of the 19 Kg commercial LPG gas cylinder in Delhi will see a hike of Rs 101, bringing the new rate to Rs 1833 per



cylinder, according to official sources.

This price revision

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## SIA Completes 2 Yrs Existence, Anti-Terror Agency Go All Out in Achieving Zero Terrorism in J&K

SRINAGAR, Nov 1 (Agencies): As J&K Police State Investigation Agency (SIA) completes two years of existence, the agency played a pivotal role in achieving 'zero terrorism' in Jammu and Kashmir.

The SIA, formed on November 1, 2021, as part of a broader counter-terror strategy, was primarily tasked with investigating and prosecuting terror-related cases in Jammu and Kashmir and was designated as the nodal agency for coordinating with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other central agencies.

"SIA considers itself a dedicated ally and integral part of the country's anti-terror law enforcement establishment and has successfully led its substantial assistance in various important cases (Mirwaiz Molvi Farooq killing in 1990) to India's national investigating agencies like the NIA, CBI, ED, etc, which has



reinforced the efforts of all agencies in India's fight against terrorism," a statement of the Agency said.

In these two years, the agency registered 45 cases and took over an additional 12 cases from other police stations in J&K for further investigation.

"The agency has successfully charged 31 cases, bringing perpetrators to justice, and arrested 99 accused persons," he said.

The agency has successfully investigated a wide range of cases pertaining to espionage, terror financing, narcoterrorism, terror acts,

and minority killings. Notably, the SIA unearthed the modus operandi and larger criminal conspiracy of adversaries involved in financing terrorism through the proceeds of narcotics, the use of crypto-currencies, etc.

SIA has played a pivotal role in investigating nine different cases related to SIM cards found to be misused for the perpetuation of unlawful acts, revealing vulnerabilities in the SIM issuance process.

In another very important terror financing case involving former minister Babu Singh, nine

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## Police arrest 425 drug peddlers, file 242 cases under NDPS act in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Nov 1 (Agencies): Police have arrested 425 drug peddlers, including 69 hard-core ones, and filed 242 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act during this year in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Wednesday.

Police said as of October 31, the police have filed 242 cases under the NDPS Act, resulting in the arrest of 425 drug peddlers, which include 69 hard-core drug peddlers who have been booked under PIT NDPS

and the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Properties of drug peddlers' worth in crores have also been attached, they said.

The police have also made substantial seizures of contraband worth crores in the black market and properties of drug peddlers worth Rs 2.3 crores, comprising three houses, three vehicles, and cash amounting to Rs 1.2 Crore has also been attached by the police.

The Baramulla Police, under its relentless campaign against drug

peddling, has achieved remarkable success, as the number of registered cases has significantly dropped in recent months.

During the first half of the year, from January to June, there was an increase in cases, with numbers surging from 10 to 40 cases in April alone.

However, this trend has reversed from July onwards, with 18 cases registered in the month, followed by 15 in August, 18 cases in September, and another 11 cases in

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9419143503

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

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.



Smt Neeraj Dewan

**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

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 AHLAMAR 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 09:00 HRS AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE, JAMMU. **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**  
SANDEEV WALI AND NEELAM -979600427  
**DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW**  
GOLDY AND R.N. PANDITA -9419121066  
PRINCY AND MANOJ GUPTA -996172692  
**FUFI AND FUFA JI**  
SHANTA LABROO AND S.K. LABROO -7789063900  
NASTI. LAITA TIROO -9643252360  
**MAMI AND MAMA JI**  
BABL 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 Sons 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.



Karmyogi father Sh. Dwarika Nath Goja

**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, HANDOO'S, BHAT'S, RAINA'S, SADHU'S & GRAND CHILDREN

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. 990609685

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

KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT. NEELAM NARGOTRA W/O SH. JYOTI PARKASH NARGOTRA R/O 37-A B/C GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2023. KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2023 FROM 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM AT 37-A,B/C GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU (NEAR MEDICARE NURSING HOME). **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
J.P. NARGOTRA. (RETD. CHIEF ENGINEER)  
**SONS & DAUGHTER IN LAWS**  
SMT. SUGANDHA & RAJIV NARGOTRA  
SMT. TARU & RAHUL NARGOTRA  
**SISTER IN LAW**  
SMT. KANTA NARGOTRA  
**SISTERS**  
MRS VEENA SURI  
MS ANUPAMA VOHRA  
**BROTHER IN LAW**  
MR. RANDEV NARDA  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
ARNAV, ARSHIA, AARAV AND AHAAN & NARGOTRA, MALHOTRA AND KATOOCH FAMILY  
9419191908, 8491900748



SMT NEELAM NARGOTRA

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

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 Ardhas 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 GREIF**  
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)  
RSPV  
+919419109629, +918899657725



S. Narinder Singh

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

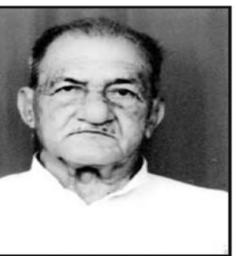
With profound grief & sorrow we inform you the sad demise of our beloved S. Gurdeep Singh, Police Inspector S/O Late S. Mohan Singh R/o Ward No. 7 Mohalla khama Khan Poonch left for heavenly abode on 25-10-2023. **As per Programme:-**  
Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib:- Nov(01-11-2023) Wednesday 9:00 am at our residence.  
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib:- Nov (03-11-2023) Friday 9:30 am at our residence.  
**Kirtan and Antim Ardhas:-**  
Gurudwara Shri Mahant Sahib Ji Near District Hospital Poonch (10:30 Am to 12:30 Pm)  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sdn. Davinder Kour (Mother)  
Sdn. Palvinder Kour (Wife) P.No:- (9622125039)  
S. Hitkar Singh (Son)



S. Gurdeep Singh Police Inspector

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  
Sunita 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:**  
Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 03.11.2023 (Friday) at 9:30 AM at our residence.  
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 05.11.2023 at 09:30 AM  
Kirtan and Antim Ardhas 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)  
**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 Deptt.) 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 Gummat 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

"Always In Our Hearts"  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved (Papa Ji) Sub. Sh Chhattar Singh Charak S/o Late Shri Punjab Singh Charak R/o House No.14 (Private), Sec. No.2, Channi Himmat Jammu left for heavenly abode on 23-10-2023. 10th Day will be performed on 1st of November (Wednesday) 2023 at our residence at 11 am. Kriya will be performed on 4th of November (Saturday) 2023 at our residence at 12 Noon. Uthala will be performed on 4th of November (Saturday) 2023 at our residence at 2 PM. **Grief Stricken**  
Smt Shakuntla Devi - Wife  
**Brothers & Bhabis**  
Parth Singh Charak & Bimla Charak  
Kehar Singh Charak & Neelam Charak  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Janak Singh Charak & Seema Charak  
Charan Dev Singh Charak & Anuradha Charak  
Dilawar Singh Charak & Anuradha Charak  
Balbir Singh Charak & Neha Charak  
Arjun Singh Charak & Preeti Charak  
**Sons-in-law & Daughters**  
Vijay Singh Manhas & Kamlesh Kumari  
Satish Singh Sumberla & Bandana Kumari

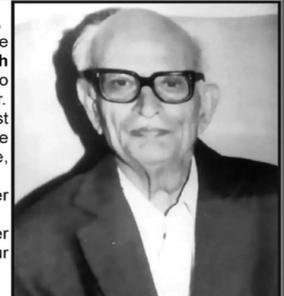


Sub. Sh Chhattar Singh Charak

Contact No. 9419797224, 7780824231, 9796027108, 9419122089

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, Baillan 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. Bhrum Vadni (Daughter) (Daughter)  
Smt. Saty Nishta W/o Late Sh. Dr. Vijay Dobbila  
**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**  
Aramb 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 Ardhas at Gurudwara 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

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Shariika Devi (Koul) W/o Lt. Sh Pushkar Nath Koul erstwhile resident of Village Kwarhama, Tangmar Kmr, presently at G-92, Shanti Nagar, Toph Sherkhania Jammu on 24-10-2023. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 02-11-2023 (9:00 am) sharp at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. M.L. Koul -Brother-in-law  
Smt. Shanta Koul -Sister-in-law  
Smt. Kishni Koul -do-  
Raj Kumar Koul & Sunita Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Vijay Kumar Koul & Veena Koul -do-  
Vijay Warikoo & Pinki Ji - Son-in-law & Daughter  
Tej Krishen & Girja Koul  
Ashok Koul & Veena Ji  
Manoj Koul & Dazi Ji  
Ramesh Koul & Sheelta  
**Grand Children :** Pallab Koul, Aasvi, Akriti



SMT. SHARIKA DEVI (KOUL)

Mob: 9086195572, 9596627610, 9891909900

OBITUARY / TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Mohini Raina W/o Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Raina R/o H.No. 247, Sec. 5, Channi Himmat, Jammu on 29-10-2023. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 07-11-2023 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Ramesh Kumar Raina & Suman Raina  
S. K. Raina & Vijay Raina  
Vinod Kumar & Suneta Raina  
Shruti Raina & Abhishek Jyotshi  
Shrawan Raina & Vidhisha Jassal  
Shaleen Raina & Pankhudi Uphadya  
Karan Raina, Simidhni Raina, Shaisha Jyotshi  
Mob: 9419187610, 9697503076, 9419182782



SMT. MOHINI RAINA

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Ashok Kumar Gupta S/o L.Sh. Vishwa Nath Pandotra R/o Ward No. 4, Kathua expired on 23-10-2023. TENTH DAY will be performed on 1-11-2023 (Wednesday) at our residence Ward No. 4 Kathua 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Kriya, 13th Day will be performed on 4-11-2023 at 11 AM to 2 PM and Rasam Pagri at 4 PM at our residence Ward No. 4, Kathua. **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sunita Gupta- Wife  
Sahil Mahajan - Son  
Sh. Rattan Lal Gupta & Smt. Champa Devi - Jija Ji & Didi  
Sh. Rajinder Mahajan & Smt. Sheela Devi - Jija Ji & Didi  
Sh. Rajinder Kumar Padotra & Smt. Renu Bala - Brother & Bhabhi  
Sh. Sanjeev Kumar & Smt. Suman Gupta- Brother -& Bhabhi  
Miss Surbhi Gupta, Sajal Mahajan, Sayam Mahajan Shashant Mahajan - Niece & Nephew  
M/S ASHOK KUMAR & CO. KATHUA 9419151851  
M/S PADOTRA MEDICAL HALL KATHUA - 9419247612  
M/S PADOTRA KARYANA STORE W.NO. 6 KATHUA 9906199700



Sh Ashok Kumar Gupta

10TH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA

"Noble Souls Never Die"  
In the Loving Memory of Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Anand S/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Anand R/o H. No 236, L. No 9 Shakti Nagar Jammu who passed away peacefully on 23-10-2023. DEVOTED HUSBAND TO SMT. Neeru Anand LOVING FATHER TO CHILDREN & SPOUSES:- Rupali Verma & Sunil Verma  
Sonali Verma & Munish Verma  
DOTING GRAND FATHER TO:-  
Aashray, Jeevanshi, Pranav, Adwait  
BELOVED BROTHER TO:-  
Sh. Dev Raj Anand & Smt. Raj, Dulari Anand  
Sh. Raj Kumar Anand & Smt. Renu Anand  
Sh. Narinder Kumar Anand & Smt. Renu Anand  
Mr. Vinod Bawa & Mrs. Sucheta Gupta- Nephew & Daughter-in-Law  
Mr. Puneet Anand & Mrs. Supriya Anand- Nephew & Daughter-in-Law  
Mr. Ramesh Anand- Nephew  
Seema Anand- Niece  
TENTH DAY will be performed on Wednesday 1st of Nov at 11 AM to our residence, 13TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Saturday 4th of Nov at 12 Noon at our residence and UTHALA from 4 to 5 PM at Shiv Durga Mandir, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu. With Regards: Anand Family  
MOB: 7889649513, 9797409324



Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Anand

DISCLAIMER

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# Cong & partners played politics over dead bodies: MP Khatana

## Top News Report

JAMMU / POKHRAN, Nov 1: In a scathing criticism of the Congress party and its partners in crime, the National Conference, PDP, and others, MP Rajya Sabha and Senior leader Bharatiya Janata Party Er. Gulam Ali Khatana expressed concern and outrage over the continued exploitation of the minority communities for political gain.

Addressing various public meetings in support of BJP candidate Mahant Pratappuri Maharaj in Pokhran assembly constituency, MP Khatana said, "It is indeed disheartening to witness a deliberate attempt by certain political forces to play politics over the dead bodies of our minority brethren."

He further said that the Congress party, which claims to champion the cause of minorities, has associated the names



of our minority brothers and sisters with the nefarious terms of mafia and terrorism. Such baseless allegations not only tarnish the image of the entire minority community but also perpetuate stereotypes and biases that are detrimental to our nation's unity and progress.

"I would like to remind the Congress party and its allies that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party has been working tirelessly to chan-

nelize the energy and potential of all sections of society, including minorities, towards the noble goal of nation-building: said MP Khatana adding, Our government is committed to fostering an environment where every citizen, regardless of their religion or background, can contribute to the growth and development of our great nation," he said.

He said that it is clear that the minority communities, especially Muslims, have grown increasingly aware of the real

intentions of the Congress party, which has been using them as a mere vote bank.

The politics of divisive rhetoric and empty promises have no place in the progressive and inclusive India that we aim to build under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

He asked the Congress party and its alliance partners to abandon their regressive tactics and join us in the spirit of unity and progress.

Let us work together to create a stronger, more prosperous, and harmonious India where every citizen can thrive without fear or prejudice.

He asked political leaders to refrain from exploiting the emotions and identities of the minority communities for their personal or party gain.

MP Khatana urged the voters in Rajasthan to vote for BJP for a bright future and peaceful existence.

## Two days 11th district Jammu Ju-Jitsu Championship concludes



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Two Days 11th district Jammu Ju-Jitsu Championship came to a thrilling conclusion.

The championship showcasing the remarkable skills and talent of young athletes in the region witnessed tremendous response from various schools and clubs with as many as three hundred-plus participants featuring in the event.

The event was organized by the Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K at JKSC Hall, Indoor Sports Complex, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. The athletes from 24 different schools and clubs gathered to compete in various Ju-Jitsu cat-

egories with participants displaying exceptional discipline, strength, and agility, leaving the spectators awe-inspired throughout the event.

While speaking on the occasion, CA Lalit K Gupta - Chief Guest said that this championship symbolizes the talent of the youth of the region, adding that Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K is committed to the encouragement and promotion of sports all over J&K

Also on the valedictory occasion Anupama Sinha, Principal KC International School Jammu, Manjeet Singh, Chairman - Kalarippayattu Association of J&K & SGSD International School, Jammu were present as the Guests

of Honour for the event.

The championship was also chaired by Tarsem Sharma, Dr. Navneet Gupta, Ritika Slathia, Sahil Sharma and Amit Singh as the special guests for the occasion.

The Official Team for the championship included Danish Sharma, Harsh Vardhan Raina, Rohini Chib, Manish Gill, Koushal Garg, Rudrakshit Gupta, Jaspreet Kaur, Vikas Dhar, Surjit Ravinder, Saksham Langeh and Jaideep Manhas.

KC International School - Jammu was declared the overall winner of the event followed by KC Gurukul School as 1st runner up while United Martial Academy bagged 2nd runner-up jointly.

## Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP condemns attack on police personnel, civilians in Valley

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Kashmiri Displaced People Wing DPAP J&K Leaders Sanjay Dhar President, P.L Pandita Chairman, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, Gowhar Wani Spokesperson, Raj Kumar Ticku General Secretary and Naveen Gosani Youth President condemned the ghastly attack on Police Personnel and Civilians in Valley.

These leaders pay rich tributes to the deceased and wished to bestow courage to the family for bearing the loss of life of their family member in this ghastly attack, besides praying for recovery of injured Police Personnel.

They further appealed GOI as well as to the Lt Governor to intensify the operations more vigorously for eradication of the menace of terrorism from

the valley and pave a way for peace, progress and prosperity which is the need of the hour.

The leaders have demanded immediate working out a concrete Policy with special powers to the Armed Forces to curb the anti national elements, who are bent to disturb the Normalcy and peace in Valley and the leaders appeal the Civil Society of Kashmir to advise common people of valley to come on front line for bringing peace and normalcy in the Valley.

The Leaders have appealed the Govt. of India to work out a special policy for creating avenues of employment in J&K so that the youth involved in anti national activities are absorbed for strengthening the mainstream of development, peace and prosperity.

## Cancer awareness campaign organized



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Cancer awareness campaign supported by Govt SDH Kot Bhalwal, Shankus Hospital, Rotary Club Bahu, Indian Red Cross Society J&K in collaboration with NGO Support organized at at Kot Bhalwal block Graink Panchayat.

Dr. Navneet Kaur, founder Chairperson NGO Support organised and Co-hosted a programme along with specialists from Shankus Cancer Hospital and Doctors and team of SDH Bhalwal.

The programme was attended by ASHA workers.

A large number of women from the rural belt of Bhalwal Block and Mathwar Block associated with Umeed Group participated in the awareness programme.

Dr Navneet gave the welcome address to the participants and briefed, "October is the breast cancer awareness month and a number of awareness campaigns were held this month".

By organising such awareness campaigns she firmly believes to work in collaboration with other esteemed Govt & Private institutions with her NGO to spread the message of Cancer Awareness, she said.

## DHSS bags first prize in inter school debate competition

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Chief Education Office, Jammu in collaboration with Power Grid Corporation of India Limited during the Vigilance awareness week organized the Debate Competition on the Topic "Say no to Corruption; Commit to the Nation is the way forward" in the Govt. Higher Secondary School, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

Sania Sarkar of class XII of Dogra Higher Secondary School maintaining the tradition of bringing laurels to the school bagged First position in the Inter School Debate Competition wherein nearly 30 students from 15 different schools of Jammu participated.

Gambhir Dev Singh Charak Manager DHSS, honored Sania Sarkar and appreciated her mentor and guide in the school. Ganesh Dass, Head Master and Reetika Sharma, Co-ordinator were also present in the special assembly.

## Love and acceptance connects humanity with spirituality: Satguru Mata Sudiksha



### Top News Report

SAMALKHA, Nov 1: With emphatic deliverance of message of Sukoon, 76th Nirankari Sant Samagam concluded.

"Love and acceptance for everyone around us and everything happening brings forth transformation to the inner self of an individual beautifying one inside out, thereby rendering humanity effective," was exhorted by Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj while addressing the devotees on the concluding day of 76th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam being held at GT Road Samalkha (Haryana).

The event was organised on 650 acres of land and saw a massive gathering of saints and devotees hailing from various parts of the country representing multi-faceted traditions, languages and cultures of India.

Devotees from across the world too, participated and contributed in the

event. The venue in a way exemplified a world family gathered with one motive on a common platform.

Her Holiness further enlightened that all negativities of the mind get eradicated with God Knowledge. God is eternal, omnipresent and the all-pervading Divine light illuminates perpetually. Saints guided by this Divine Light are not affected by any worldly influences and remain equipoised in every situation of life.

Satguru Mata explained that the disposition of the saints, while traversing the path of spirituality stay above any difference of social status, caste, color and religious beliefs and do not allow them to become obstacles. They accept everybody through their behaviour and actions.

Her Holiness insisted on need for love in all our relationships without being judgmental and guided us to become love in order to spread love. Her Holiness by blessing all the devotees to lead a life filled with humanity and enjoy the bliss of human life by being a light house for the society and world as a whole concluded the session.

The highlight of the event on the concluding day was a multi-lingual poetic symposium based on the theme of the Samagam: Sukoon—peace within wherein about 25 poets presented their works in various languages viz Hindi, Punjabi, Marathi, Nepali, Urdu and English.

Noteworthy was the Poetic Symposium organised for children poets on the first day and for the women folk on the second day of the Samagam.

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER MARH  
ADDITIONAL MELA OFFICER, BAWAJITTO MAL SHRINE  
JHIRI, JAMMU  
(Village Halqa, Post Office Halqa, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu - 181206)

### SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) FOR TENT HOUSE&LIGHTS FOR ONE DAY VIP FUNCTION

For and on behalf of Chairman (Deputy Commissioner), Bawajitto Mal Shrine Jhiri, Marh, Jammu, sealed proposals are invited for "Tent House & Lights for one day VIP Function" during JhiriMela scheduled to be held from 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 to 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2023 at Bawajitto Shrine, Panchayat Kalyanpur, Tehsil & Sub-Division Marh.

The sealed tender shall reach to office of the Block Development Officer, Marh (Additional Mela Officer, Bawajitto Mal Shrine, Jhiri) by or before 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 up to 03:00pm sharp by hand or through registered post. The proposals shall be opened on same day at 04:00 pm by a committee headed by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh constituted for the purpose. The parties may remain present either in person or through their representatives during the opening of proposals.

The bidders shall get the copy of tender document any working day w.e.f.31.10.2023 till 06.11.2023 (01:00 pm) i.e last date of submission of tender document from the office of Block Development Officer, Marh on payment of cash/account payee cheque of Rs.500/-favoured in the name of Block Development Officer, Marh.

The last date for receipt of tenders along with all requisite documents/mandatory formalities shall be 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 up to 03:00 pm. The description of the NIT is as below:-

S.No	Particulars of Item	Quantity	Unit
1	Tea & Snack	300	Pcs
2	Waiters	15	Units
3	Non LIT Board (4x6 Standee) (4x6x8 PCS)	192	Sq.ft.
4	Printer Flex (8x4) (8x4x6 PCS)	192	Sq.ft.
5	Printer Flex (30x8) Backdrop (30x8x1 PCS)	240	Sq.ft.
6	Invitation Card	500	Pcs
7	Sofa Set for VIP (2 Seater)	28	Pcs
8	Center Table for VIP (3x6)	18	Pcs
9	Mist Fans	5	Pcs
10	Water proof pandal (45x30)	1350	Sq.ft.
11	Dunlop chair with cover	6	Pcs
12	GENSET (62 KV)	1	Pc
12	Carpet Runner (4x30) (4x30x140x5.90 SFT)	140	Sq.ft.
13	LED Wall P4 (20x12)	240	Sq.ft.
14	LED TV	2	Pcs
15	VIP Entrance (waterproof with curtains)	1	Job
16	Mobile Toilet (AC vanity van)	1	Pc
17	Live Streaming	1	Job
18	Decoration of Pandal (with exotic flowers)	100	R.ft.

### Terms and conditions of NIT:-

- The estimated cost of tender is Rs. 5.70 lacs.
- The bidder must be registered under appropriate authority.
- The bidder must not have been under any declaration of ineligibility by any authority. A declaration to the effect should be furnished.
- A consistent history of litigation or arbitration awards against the bidder may result in disqualification.
- Each bidder shall submit only one bid against this NIP.
- The bidder must have valid PAN card.
- The bidder shall have the valid GST No. from the appropriate authority. Proof of GST filed during last three financial years (ending March, 2023) shall be provided.
- Average Annual financial turnover of related services during the last three years, ending 31<sup>st</sup> March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% (Thirty percent) of the estimated cost.
- The bidder must have at least three years experience (ending month of March prior to the bid opening) of providing similar type of VIP function services to Government departments/PSUs.
- The bidder must have successfully executed/completed similar VIP function services during the last three years, ending 31<sup>st</sup> March of the previous financial year:-
  - Three similar completed services costing not less than the amount equal to 40% (Forty percent) of the estimated cost; or
  - Two similar completed services costing not less than the amount equal to 50% (Fifty percent) of the estimated cost; or
  - One similar completed service costing not less than the amount equal to 80% (Eighty percent) of the estimated cost.
- Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) - The bidder shall submit Bid Security for an amount of Rs. 11400/- i.e @ 2% of the estimated cost of contract in the form of an account payee demand draft, fixed deposit receipt or banker's cheque. The Bid Security of unsuccessful Bidders will be returned to them after award of contract, however, the Bid Security of successful bidder will be released/refunded on receipt of performance security.
- Performance Security/Security Deposit (SD) / Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) - The successful bidder shall provide Security Deposit @ 10 % of the estimated cost of contract in the form of an account payee demand draft, fixed deposit receipt from a commercial bank. The Security Deposit shall be provided by the contractor immediately after award of contract. It will be refunded to the contractor without interest, after he duly performs and completes the contract in all respects, failing which, the Security Deposit of contractor shall be forfeited without any notice.
- Payment will be released after successful completion of contract up to the satisfaction of Additional Mela Officer. All taxes applicable shall be deducted before releasing payment to the contractor.
- The payment of items not covered in BOQ will be made as per latest approved Government rates and where approved Government rates are not available, the payment shall be made as per rates recommended by the committee.
- The contract will be awarded to L-1 bidder. In case, L-1 fails to provide satisfactory services or have adverse reporting of functioning, the contract will be awarded to next bidder at L-1 rates.
- The bidder shall visit the Mela site at his own responsibility to access the overall situation before submission of proposal.
- The bidder shall undertake to maintain discipline at the site under all circumstances.
- The successful bidder shall execute an agreement with the Additional Mela Officer for adhering to the terms and conditions of contract.
- The bidder shall not have been blacklisted by any of the State/UT/Central Govt. organization. An affidavit duly attested by a Judicial/Executive Magistrate shall be submitted along with proposal.
- All the required deposits shall be favoured in the official Account No. of Block Development Officer, Marh as per below detail:-

Bank Name	IFSC Code	Account No.
J&K Bank, Branch Tirath Nagar Talab Tillo Jammu	JAKA0TTALAB	124601020000137

DIP/J-10386/23

BDO/M/23-24/1833-36  
Dated:- 28.10.2023.

**Kapil Deol (JKAS)**  
Block Development Officer, Marh  
Additional Mela Officer, Bawa Jitto Mal Shrine, Jhiri

## EDITORIAL

RESPECT  
WOMEN

After Brahma, the place of woman who distributes human beings on this earth is supreme. Woman – lives in the form of mother, sister, daughter and wife. It is woman who establishes human connection with society. But it is unfortunate that by not giving proper respect to the midwives in this world, they have tried to keep them under their control from the very beginning. The form of a woman is considered a symbol of the goddess. Its respect has the potential to change the entire world.

The status of women was good in ancient India. Women had a respectable place in the Vedic period. Romsa, Lopamudra officers composed the hymns of Rigveda, while Kaikai, Mandodari etc. are famous for their bravery and discretion. The ideals of Sita, Anusuiya, Sulochana etc. are accepted even today. The importance of Gandhari, Kunti Draupati of the Mahabharata period cannot be forgotten, women were venerable in that period.

In ancient India, women used to receive education by following Brahmacharya. After that she planned her marriage. 500 years before Isha, it has been revealed by Grammar Parani that women at that time also studied the Vedas. They used to compose stotras and were called Brahma Vadini. In ancient India, men and women were considered equal and were given equal respect.

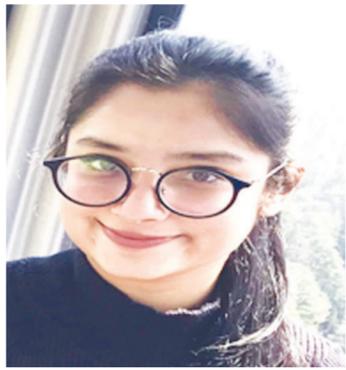
According to Manusmriti:- Where women are respected and their needs and expectations are fulfilled, the gods and goddesses remain happy at that place, society and family. Where this does not happen and they are treated with disdain, there is no God's grace and the work done there is not successful.

Man and woman are the two wheels of the chariot of life. The unity of man and woman is the ideal of a meaningful human life. Therefore, it is a mistake to consider it as a Badni.

Today's women, apart from household chores, are fulfilling the double responsibility of studying and doing housework and job is a right-hand job for a woman. Then why doesn't a man understand that a woman gives her entire life for her home, her children and her family. So respect him and not insult him!

Don't embarrass the woman or yourself. Little girls who are the form of goddess. So accept it as it is. Instead of lowering their mentality and doing things in such a way that there is no scope for justice and forgiveness later, such fallen people will have to change their mentality.

Nowadays, such incidents are heard that one feels angry and ashamed towards that person. In the country where women are worshipped, women are insulted in the same country and in the whole world. The government will have to make strict laws against this so that such a person gets scared before doing anything. Therefore, respect for women should be supreme in every region, caste, society and religion.



By: Kanka Pandita

One of the important issues on which people gave mandate to the present government is eradication of corruption menace which unfortunately continues unabated. Public at large expect result oriented actions, at least to create mass awareness against this evil. Every year around these days, government is celebrating Vigilance Awareness Week which is a symbolism type without much seriousness at the ground level. Addressing this vital problem seriously, that is actively eating our society, needs urgent redressal.

Killing corruption menace by creating sustained public awareness campaign in which not only government need to participate but people en masse should play their responsible role for ending up this exercise with great success. Zero tolerance towards corruption is the need of the hour in order to evolve corruption free environment that will reform our

country to an vibrant Nation.

Government of the day need to sensitise its all departments and their employees continuously on this important issue to make these public servants answerable and result oriented. Employees, be it from government or private sector, should be made accountable so that people have faith and confidence in the system. Anti corruption agencies need be supported with adequate infrastructure and equipped with well trained honest manpower and stress need be laid on granting adequate judicial powers rather than empowering them with vast administrative jurisdiction. At the same time, system need to have proper check and balance on their functioning, so as not to misuse such agencies for settling personal scores and political vendetta. Such agencies must not succumb to undue tactical pressure of their petty benefactors for their petty benefits that not only conveys wrong message to the masses but in turn encourage law breakers. Anti corruption agencies need to realise the seriousness of this malignancy and establish a connect with the people so as to expose this menace at the grass root level and create sufficient knowledge about its consequences especially among the corrupt. Several national level Non Government Organizations like Anti

Corruption Foundation, who work with limited resources strive for creating mass awareness against corruption, need to be encouraged. Sufficient examples of discouraging such frontrunners have been seen in the past which not only waste public money but conveys the message of inefficient governance.

While killing corruption, it is also important to understand the genesis of corruption, so as to tackle it more specifically rather than holistically. Corruption in our society is perceived to be financial fraud or economic crime when corruption is actually much more broader term with wide ambit and different ramifications. It ranges from intellectual corruption to physical corruption, to sexual corruption, to moral corruption, to social corruption, to religious corruption, to ethnic corruption and very many types of corruption, all having negative implications on our socio economic development. Basically corruption occurs either by need or by greed and both these factors correlate with the mindset of an individual. It is fundamentally related to moral and ethical values of a person those develop during one's upbringing.

Mainly anti corruption eradication measures act by adopting two way approach in fighting corruption menace. One method is punitive that deals with creating much

needed awareness so as follow thumb rule of "prevention is better than cure". It creates fear in the mind of corrupt due to horrible consequences of corruption and builds morale against unfair and illegal practices. All actions under this exercise are aimed to produce deterrence that creates sense of discipline and responsibility. This approach is purely educative and propulsive in nature. The other method is punitive that provides punishment after committing the crime. It is reformative that corrects human aberrations and serves lesson for others.

Conclusively, not without using anti corruption agencies as tool for victimization, together with the government we need to change our mindset, feel collectively responsible and fight consciously for creating much needed mass vigilance awareness and encourage anti corruption agencies including NGOs to fight against this chronic menace in order to rebuilt corrupt free environment.

(Author is MBBS student & Executive Member of Anti Corruption Foundation)

## Animal Trainer - How to become an Animal Trainer



By: Vijay GarG

Animal Trainers (Pet Trainers) are trained instructors who use a variety of techniques in teaching dogs, horses or even marine animals to behave in a certain way. He or she gets animals accustomed to human contact and teaches them to respond to commands. An animal trainer may work with show animals, service animals or family pets.

They also train animals for riding, harness, security, performance or obedience or assisting persons with disabilities. Accustom animals to human voice and contact; and condition animals to respond to commands. Train animals according to prescribed standards for show or competition. They may also train animals to carry pack loads or work as part of pack team.

Animal Trainer Eligibility Though there is no special qualification for it, they should be expected 12th class

pass at least.

Animal Trainer Required Skills

Animal Trainers should have good instructing skills like teaching others how to do something.

They possess good communication, strong animal handling skills and ability to read animal body language, a love for working with animals and their guardians, patience, ability to adapt quickly and make decisions and physical fitness.

They should be able to understand behaves and activities of animal, their moods and teach them about following instructions.

They should also be courageous and bold as sometimes they could have faced some danger in handling animals, and may get some injury.

Their nature must be friendly towards them as an animal cannot speak, they mostly understanding the language of love and peace.

Institutes offering Courses for Animal Trainer

Dog Training Institute, Mohali

Dog Clinic & Pet Shoppe, Panchkula

How to become Animal Trainer?

For becoming Animal Trainer, one has to follow below-mentioned steps:

Step 1

The minimum requirement is a high school diploma to work as an animal trainer. For entry-level positions, Animal

Trainers are usually trained on the job by an experienced trainer.

Step 2

Candidates need to have some training and additional education in case they want to become a special trainer for special animals like Dog Trainer, etc. also, if they want to train marine animals, they need to have a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology, Marine Biology, Animal Science, or a related field. Along with this, they also need to be able to swim very well.

Degree courses:

B.Sc. (Hons.) (Zoology)

B.Sc. (Zoology)

B.Sc. (Marine Science)

Educational qualification:

For graduation courses, they should be passed 12th class with one of animal science subjects.

Step 3

Candidates willing to have further Master's Degree, they can go for it as it gives them a detailed behaviour view of animals. Also in some places, it is necessary for having jobs. They can have post graduation in animal science.

Animal Trainer Job Description

Animal Trainers normally use positive reinforcement which includes toys, food, rubdowns, play, etc. Some others may also use punishment to train the animals. They instruct the animals to respond under diverse conditions and obey particular commands. Many other dif-

ferent animal care responsibilities like preparing food, providing surrounding and habitat which is clean and safe are also supervised by the animal trainers.

Animal Trainer Career Prospects

Animal Trainers are employed in many places like kennels, zoos, stables, animal shelters, pet stores, veterinary clinics and aquariums. Some of the work may be physically or emotionally demanding, and the number of work-related injuries and illnesses is higher than the national average. They can also have jobs in houses for taking care of family pets. They can also do free service for the uplift of animals in society.

Animal Trainer Salary

Animal Trainers, generally, earning a monthly salary of Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 per month in a professionally run Animal Training Academy. At some place, they are paid on per hour basis like Rs.50 or Rs.100, etc. They have also good work scope with film and entertainment industries, government organizations and research facilities, where they could get a better salary on monthly basis.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

## Ritu Singh honored with “Woman of the Decade” and “Iconic Women Changing the World” Awards

Top News Report

LONDON (U.K), Nov 1: The 2023 Women Economic Forum (WEF) in London marked a pivotal moment in the global movement for gender equality. The event, organised by Dr. Harbeen Arora Rai, the Founder & President of G100 and Women Economic Forum and Krishna Pujara CEO, Saheli, UK brought together influential women from around the world dedicated to advancing women's empowerment, visibility, and economic influence.

Under the theme “Economic Cooperation for Recovery & Resilience: Empowering SHEconomy,” Ritu Singh, a prominent delegate from India, played a central role in discussions and collaborations focused on enhancing women's economic empowerment across various facets of life.

In a remarkable recognition of her tireless efforts and outstanding contributions, Ritu Singh was bestowed with the prestigious “Woman of the Decade” and “Iconic Women



Changing the World” awards by the Women Economic Forum.

These honours were presented during the event, which took place from October 28th to October 31st, 2023, in London, UK. The awards were presented by both Lord Rami Ranger, Member of the British Empire, India and Dr. Harbeen Arora Rai, two esteemed figures in the realm of women's empow-

erment. Ritu Singh's dedication and tireless work in the realm of women's economic empowerment have earned her these prestigious accolades. Her participation as a distinguished delegate at the Women Economic Forum London 2023 underscores her unwavering commitment to fostering meaningful conversations, building a

supportive community, facilitating invaluable connections, and encouraging fruitful collaborations among women globally.

The Women Economic Forum has long been a catalyst for positive change, inspiring women to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations and promoting gender equality.

Ritu Singh's recognition as the “Woman of the Decade” and “Iconic Women Changing the World” is a testament to her exceptional achievements in the realm of women's empowerment and her unwavering dedication to creating a more inclusive, equal, and prosperous world for all.

The event saw the participation of women from across the globe, including representatives from Members of the British Empire, coming together to share ideas and foster collaborations that will drive economic empowerment and gender equality. It served as a remarkable platform for women to connect and initiate change on a global scale.

## SMVDU organizes Run for Unity on Rastriya Ekta Diwas

Top News Report



KATRA, Nov 1: NSS SMVDU organized Run for Unity on the occasion of Rastriya Ekta Diwas to celebrate the birth anniversary of Iron Man Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

The event was organized under the aegis of Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign.

The Unity run was flagged off by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar. Before the start of the run all partici-

pants took the Rastriya Ekta Pledge. Volunteer Suhani Sharma recited a poem on the occasion.

The unity run was started from the Administrative block to the residential area and then back to the starting point. Around 100 participants joined the event and covered around 3 Km distance during the run.

NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep thanked all the participants and volunteers for supporting the event.

## Tall claims made by Govt for improved situation in JKUT proved futile: TMF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Team Mask Force Chairman Vijay Sharma strongly condemned the recent target killing of a police officer in Baramulla district, Srinagar.

The Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar, was martyred in a militant attack outside his residence in Karpora, Pattan area of the district.

Despite being rushed to a nearby hospital, he succumbed to his injuries. This incident marks the third terrorist



attack in as many days in Kashmir.

Vijay said that the government's claims of normalcy in Kashmir are contradicted by these ongoing terrorist acts, making their efforts to curtail militant activities

seem futile. Despite the government's efforts, the region continues to experience incidents of militancy, undermining the notion of a stable situation in Kashmir, he added.

Vijay Sharma expressed concern about the recurring acts of militancy and questions the government's assertions about the normal situation in the region.

He called for stronger measures to address the security challenges in Kashmir.

## NSS Units of GDC Kathua take ‘integrity pledge’

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 1: Scores of college teachers, non teaching staff and students across various departments took the ‘integrity pledge’ by participating in signature campaign organized by NSS Units GDC Kathua.

This event was organized as part of Vigilance Awareness Week (October 30 to November 5th) celebrations.

The event was commenced with the signature of today's Incharge principal Prof Raj Kiran Sharma along with senior faculty members Dr Ram Singh, Dr Shub Kumar, Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Amreek Singh,



Rajneesh Sharma and Dr Vakil Singh.

All present swore to stand against corruption in all forms and to maintain the highest standards of integrity in their personal and professional lives.

Prof Raj Kiran Sharma addressed students

that Vigilance Week attempts to uphold integrity, encourage ethical government, and increase public awareness of the dangers of corruption. Say no to corruption; commit to the nation is this year's theme for Vigilance Week, emphasizing the

need for a community-wide effort to fight corruption and clear the way for a more open and equitable society.

NSS programme officer Prof Manmohan Singh stressed on the significance of collective efforts in creating a corruption-free soci-

ety, where government resources are utilized for the betterment of the people.

He said that a series of activities have been scheduled throughout the week to aware students about the ill effects of corruption and ways to combat it.

The event concluded with a commitment from all attendees to work together to eliminate corruption, thereby ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for the region.

The event was organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by NSS Program officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Dr Neha Bandral and Dr Suresh Sharma.

## Painting and Debate Competition held at GDC Chatroo



Top News Report

CHATROO, Nov 1: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Chatroo organised a debate and painting competitions under

vigilance awareness week campaign.

The events were held under the supervision of Principal of the college Dr Ved Kumar and convenorship of Prof.

Chander Parkash NSS programme officer.

These events were held regarding the celebration of vigilance awareness week.

In these events a large

number of students participated. In Painting competition Kajol Devi of 5th sem. got first position Soniya Devi of 3rd sem got second and Bisma Jaan of 3rd

sem got third position respectively.

In Debate competition Waseem Ahmed, Amir Reshi and Aqib Husain got 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

Events were judged by Dr. Jaiwardhan Manhas, Dr. Imam and Dr Haq Nawaz. Winners of the said competitions were felicitated with certificates by the Principal of the college.

These events were organised under the theme “say no to corruption: commit to the nation” The programme was coordinated by Dr. Jaswant Singh.

## Station Director AIR visits Poonch Campus, engages with Department of Sericulture students



Top News Report

POONCH, Nov 1: The Department of Sericulture at Poonch Campus, University of Jammu, had the privilege of hosting the Station Director of All India Radio Poonch Ghulam Nabi Mir on a remarkable visit to their campus.

The visit, which took place today, was a notable event that aimed at fostering interactions with students and gaining insights into the innovative Cocoon craft initiative at Poonch Campus.

The Station Director's visit is a testament to the significance and recognition of the dedicated efforts and initiatives in the field of Sericulture and cocoon craft at Poonch Campus.

This visit provided an invaluable opportunity for students to engage with a highly regarded professional from the media industry, potentially opening new doors to learning and growth.

During the visit, the Station Director, AIR Poonch, Ghulam Nabi Mir extended congratulations to the Director Poonch Campus, particularly highlighting Dr. Rubia Bukhari, for their pioneering initiative in Cocoon craft, which has been garnering attention and appreciation.

The Station Director also lauded the hard work and dedication of the students involved in this innovative craft.

In response to the visit, Director Poonch Campus, Prof. Rakesh Vaid, expressed his gratitude to the Station

Director, AIR Poonch, for taking the time to visit the campus and engage with the students.

Prof. Vaid emphasized the importance of such interactions in providing students with real-world insights and experiences.

“The Department of Sericulture at Poonch Campus looks forward to more such interactions in the future, which will undoubtedly inspire and guide the students on their academic and creative journey,” added Director Poonch Campus.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari, who Incharge the Department of Sericulture and leads the Cocoon craft initiative, provided a comprehensive briefing to the Station Director, AIR Poonch, about the intricacies and artistic aspects of cocoon art and craft.

“This interaction served to further enrich the knowledge and appreciation of this innovative initiative,” she added. The visit of the Station Director, All India Radio Poonch, was a significant milestone for Poonch Campus, and it reinforces the institution's commitment to promoting excellence in the field of sericulture and craft. It also reflects the power of collaboration between academia and industry professionals.

Present on the occasion includes Dr Suraksha Chanotra, Dr Jyoti Angotra, Dr Palvi Sharma, Kalpna Sudan, Sahil Choudhary, Mohd Sagheer and Sandeep Kumar.

## Dimple leads protest against the UT Day celebration

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: President, Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple led a protest against the celebration of Union Territory (UT) Day and burned copies of the celebration materials, alleging that the government's actions are a conspiracy to weaken their petitions in the Supreme Court.

Dimple demanded the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, the implementation of the instruments of accession conditions, the reinstatement of Article 370 and Article 35-A, protection of state subjects, and the unification of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and

Baltistan into a single Jammu and Kashmir state.

Dimple questioned the achievements of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and expressed concerns about increasing poverty, unemployment, and various issues like mining, liquor mafia, and more.

Dimple alleged that the BJP government, along with the Jammu and Kashmir government, is not sincere in their commitments and is conspiring by celebrating UT Day.

He raised questions about the permission for the UT Day celebration and expresses the anger of the people of Jammu and Kashmir over this act. Dimple appealed to



the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the Supreme Court bench to take contempt action against the Jammu and Kashmir government for celebrating UT Day while the case related to the state's status is pending in court. He also called on BJP

and RSS leaders to clarify their position regarding the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by the former Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947, alleging that these conditions were broken when Article 370 was

abrogated in 2019.

Dimple urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir and all political parties to unite and demand the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the preservation of its identity, culture, and history.

## Here's how celebs plan to celebrate Karwa Chauth, which marks the bond of love between a husband and wife

A day that begins right before the crack of dawn — with sargi, dolling up for the evening puja and completing it with the moon making its special appearance, leading to feasting — Karwa Chauth, the North Indian ritual made popular by Karan Johar on screen, is here again! A day to celebrate the marital bond, coupled with some mehendi, bangles and bindi, here are celebs sharing what they enjoy the most.

### Beautiful tradition

Karwa Chauth is a beautiful tradition. Every year, I get sargi from my mother-in-law. I put together a new outfit. Over the years, things have slightly changed, as now men also fast for their wives. This adaptability is the beauty of tradition. I get thirsty, more than hungry, over the day. Harbhajan keeps a close watch for the precious moon to make an appearance for me to complete the fast. It's important to have a supportive spouse on the special day, and life. — Geeta Basra, actress Love and devotion

Every year, my wife observes Karwa Chauth



fast for my long life. I make sure to come home on time and spend time with her. It is a beautiful expression of love and devotion between partners. She is a stabilising force in my life. It's an opportunity to cherish our bond, and I'm looking forward to making this day special for her. — Arjun Bijlani, Actor

Colourful celebration Usually on Karwa Chauth, I have a mehendi party with all my friends. It is a big deal for all of us — we make sure to dress up like brides. It's fun and

celebratory. It's very colourful. Since I am shooting this year on Karwa Chauth, my husband will come to the sets to perform the rituals with me, so looking forward to it. — Sheeba Akashdeep, Actress Day to remember

Recently, I got married to my long-time girlfriend Andria, and I intend to keep a fast for her. I have asked for an early pack-up on Karwa Chauth. I will accompany my wife for sargi, which my mother has sent for her from Delhi. We both will get dressed in traditional attire, go to the

terrace and perform the rituals when the moon comes out. I'm eagerly anticipating this Karwa Chauth to strengthen our bond and make it a day to remember. — Manit Joura, Actor

Equal contribution Karwa Chauth has traditionally been portrayed as a festival where a woman prays for her husband's long life, but, I believe, that a relationship is better when both the partners make equal contribution. So, if my wife is fasting for me, I will do the same for her. I belong to a Punjabi family, so sargi is

an important part of the day. I will wake up early to help my wife with the rituals and follow the same. — Abhishek Malik, actor

### Reel celebration

Even though I have never witnessed Karwa Chauth at home, I am excited because we are going to shoot a Karwa Chauth scene for our show Udaariyaan. In this special reel-life celebration, I will be fasting for my onscreen husband. This festival holds a special significance in our culture, and I am excited that the audience, which has loved this show, will get to see this time-honoured tradition on television. — Aditi Bhagat, Actress

### Special feeling

Karwa Chauth, a celebration of love and togetherness for married couples, has an extra-special place in my heart. My wife and I are fasting for each other. I plan to get home early to catch a sight of the moon in the evening sky. We will pray for each other's well-being and wrap the day with a sumptuous dinner. — Rajveer Singh, actor

## Will Smith recalls exact moment when he realised he wanted to be 'on camera'



Hollywood actor Will Smith still remembers the precise moment he decided he wanted to pursue a career in acting. The 55-year-old musician Will Smith has delved into hip-hop history in his new podcast Class of '88, covering everything from his own days performing as part of a hip-hop duo with DJ Jazzy Jeff before

moving into acting. The Oscar winner talked candidly about realising early in his music career that he had a gift for 'front of the camera' in the podcast's first episode, which came out on Friday. Smith explained that he got the acting bug on the sets of the music video for Parents Just Don't Understand, the second single

of their 1988 sophomore studio album He's the DJ, I'm the Rapper.

Smith 'desperately wanted to be respected as a rapper', therefore he was first anxious about the cheerful song's release as a single. However, the experience of making the campy visual, in which he plays a melancholic adolescent and theatrically raps the lyrics, proved to be a formative one.

"To help promote the song, Jive Records decided to make a video," the King Richard star said on the podcast. Producer Ann Carli brought in a director, Scott Kalvert, who had a cool visual style, and that ultimately became the Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince signature style — bright and colourful with the stylised set covered with graffiti. I rapped straight into the camera while an actress playing my mom chased me around with a rolling pin. I think it was during the making of that video I realised that I loved being on camera."

## Meg Ryan returns to romantic comedies as star, writer and director

Meg Ryan, the actor who charmed audiences in Sleepless in Seattle, When Harry Met Sally and You've Got Mail, is returning to the big screen in a romantic comedy, which she has written, directed and produced.

Eight years after her last Hollywood film, Ryan stars in What Happens Later as Willa, a woman who reunites with a former partner (X-Files star David Duchovny) when they are both snowed in at an airport. Ryan said she spent three years working to bring the project to the screen. It premieres in theatres on Friday. "It takes me a long time to do anything," she said in an interview.

What Happens Later is among the several films from independent



production companies to receive waivers from the SAG-AFTRA actors' union, meaning the actors were free to speak about the movie despite the ongoing strike.

Duchovny praised Ryan's work in all of

her different roles on the film, "Meg wears that responsibility really lightly, which is nice," he said. "You never got the sense that she was overwhelmed or feeling the pressure, which I'm sure she was from time to time."

## Ankita Lokhande opens up on breakup with Sushant Singh Rajput on 'Bigg Boss 17', 'wo ek raat mein gayab ho gaya'

Ankita Lokhande, a contestant on 'Bigg Boss 17', recently opened up about her relationship with the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput and how she coped with their breakup. The couple had initially met on the sets of Pavitra Rishta in 2009 and started dating in 2010, but they separated in 2016. During a conversation with Munawar Faruqi on the show, Ankita revealed that she and Sushant dated for almost seven years.

She expressed that Sushant's sudden disappearance coincided with his increasing success, and she felt that people were trying to manipulate him during that time. However, she mentioned that Sushant never provided her with an explanation for their breakup.

Ankita said, "Woh [Sushant Singh Rajput] ek dum ek raat mein gayab ho gaya. Success mil rahi thi toh log uske kaan bhar rahe the. But theek hai. Woh uska matter tha. Mainay



usko kabhi roka bhi nahi."

She continued, "Tab toh koi nahi tha na mere sath. Woh phase mainay akele guzara mainay. Tab logonay kyun nahi kaha ki aapko Ankita ke sath rehna chahiye. Kaha thay log. Mainay toh woh phase akele guzara na."

To this, Munawar enquired, "Was there any specific reason

for the break up?' Ankita replies, "There was no reason. And I was blank. Ek raat main cheezay palti hain."

Ankita Lokhande, who is now married to Vicky Jain, also shared that after their breakup, it took her two and a half years to move on. She added that, although Sushant had moved on after their breakup, she

found it challenging to think of herself with someone else for an extended period.

Their chemistry as Archana and Manav on the show 'Pavitra Rishta' was a hit and fans showered adulation on the two. It was in 2011 that Sushant decided to leave the show to pursue a career in Bollywood. Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead in his Mumbai apartment on June 14, 2020. His untimely death was a shock to the entire nation. He was in a relationship with actress Rhea Chakraborty at the time of his death. Ankita Lokhande had paid a visit to his family a day after the funeral.

Ankita has been vocal about her relationship with Sushant Singh Rajput and there have been occasions that she has candidly discussed things about her ex-boyfriend on national television. She says her husband Vicky Jain has been supportive throughout this process.

## Kangana Ranaut criticises Punjabi-Canadian rapper Shubh for celebrating Indira Gandhi's assassination

Controversy surrounds Shubh as he allegedly flaunts graphic hoodie during performance

Kangana Ranaut, who portrayed the lead role in the recently released film 'Tejas', has strongly criticised the Punjabi-Canadian rapper Shubhneet Singh, known by his stage name Shubh.

Shubh has once again found himself in the centre of a controversy, following his earlier involvement in the 'distorted map of India' controversy.

During one of his live stage performances, a fan from the audience handed Shubh a hoodie.

Upon receiving the hoodie, Shubh examined it before displaying it to the live audience. Allegations are that the hoodie bore a graphic representation of the events surrounding the assassination of India's former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, by her bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh.



An Internet user shared a low-quality video of the event where Shubh was showcasing the hoodie. The user captioned the video with, "Khalistani singer Shubh glorified Indira Gandhi's killers in London by wearing a hoodie featuring a picture and the date of her assassination on a map of Punjab."

Earlier, when he posted a distorted map of Bharat, Congress and the leftist ecosystem defended him vigorously."

Retweeting the video, Kangana slammed Shubh. She wrote, "Celebrating the cowardly killing of an elderly woman by those she trusted as her protec-

tors.

When individuals are entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding others but exploit that trust and faith by using the very weapons they were meant to protect with to commit a heinous act, it is a display of cowardice, not bravery."

She added, "One

should feel ashamed of such a cowardly attack on an elderly woman who was unarmed and unsuspecting, a woman who was the chosen leader of a democracy. There is nothing to glorify here, Shubham ji. Shame."

Shubh has been embroiled in controversies for several months now. It all began when Canada accused India of being involved in the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in the Canadian province of British Columbia, leading to heightened diplomatic tensions between the two nations.

Amidst this dispute, Shubh faced allegations of supporting Khalistani separatists due to his alleged posting of a distorted map of India on his social media platform.

## Kirti Dhiman shines in the MasterChef India Kitchen



The sizzle of pans and the aroma of spices fill the air as MasterChef India kicks off the heart-pounding competition to find the next culinary genius of the country. The stage is set with the top 12 contestants, who are showcasing their culinary prowess and challenging the normal standards to emerge

as the ultimate MasterChef. The show is streaming from Monday to Friday at 8 pm only on Sony LIV.

One of these talented individuals is Kirti Dhiman, from Gobindgarh, Punjab, who is a talented 23-year-old baker with big dreams. Her culinary journey began in the fifth grade

when she was inspired by her father's Sunday cooking sessions. Those special moments with her dad sparked her passion for cooking and set her on a path to explore the culinary arts.

The lockdown provided a unique opportunity for Kirti to take her culinary experiments to the next level. She started experimenting in the kitchen, and it quickly became a family affair with friendly cooking competitions. Kirti aspires to follow in the footsteps of renowned chefs like Ranveer Brar. Her ultimate goal is to establish herself as a trusted culinary expert and make a name for herself in the world of food. MasterChef India on Sony LIV, with Chefs Vikas Khanna, Ranveer Brar and Pooja Dhingra at the helm, boasts of a gastronomical extravaganza like no other.

# PM Modi, Sheikh Hasina Inaugurate India-Bangladesh Mega Rail Project

During the inauguration ceremony, Sheikh Hasina also extended Diwali greetings to Prime Minister Modi and the people of India.

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated three Indian-assisted development projects via video conferencing on Wednesday.

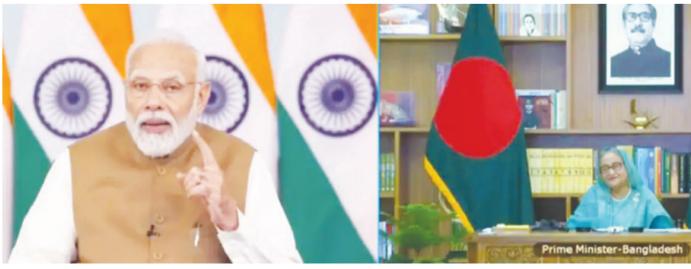
The three projects are the Akhaura- Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link, Khulna - Mongla Port Rail Line and Unit - II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Rampal, Bangladesh.

The inauguration of rail and power sector projects between India and Bangladesh lay focus on strengthened ties and partnership between the two countries.

"The joint inauguration of these important projects manifests the firm friendship and collaboration between our two friendly countries. I would like to thank PM Modi for the warm hospitality during my visit in September 2023 to attend the G20 Summit," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said.

"I express my gratitude for your commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two countries, Sheikh Hasina said.

The Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link project has been executed under a Government of India grant assistance of 392.52 crore extended to Bangladesh. The



length of the rail link is 12.24 km with a 6.78 km Dual Gauge rail line in Bangladesh and 5.46 km in Tripura.

The Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line Project has been implemented under the Government of India's concessional Line of Credit with a total project cost of USD 388.92 million. The project entails the construction of approximately 65 km of broad gauge rail route between Mongla Port and the existing rail network in Khulna. With this, Mongla, the second largest port of Bangladesh, gets connected with the broad-gauge railway network.

The Maitree Super Thermal Power Project, under an Indian Concessional Financing Scheme loan of 1.6 billion US dollars, is a 1320 MW Super Thermal Power Plant located in Rampal in Khulna Division of Bangladesh. The project has been implemented by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Limited which is a 50:50

Joint Venture company between India's NTPC Ltd and Bangladesh Power Development Board. These projects will strengthen connectivity and energy security in the region.

During the inauguration ceremony, Sheikh Hasina also extended greetings to Prime Minister Modi and the people of India in advance of Diwali.

"I would conclude her by conveying warm greetings in advance for the upcoming Diwali. I wish Your Excellency PM Modi and the people of India a very Happy Diwali," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said.

Over the last decade, the Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue has served as a critical platform for strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. The theme of this year's Dialogue is 'Fostering a comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership', BNN News reported.

Earlier this March, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, a cross-border energy pipeline, built at an estimated cost of 377 crore, of which the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline was built at a cost of approx. 285 crore, which has been borne by the Government of India under grant assistance, read Prime Minister's Office press release.

The Pipeline has the capacity to transport 1 Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD). It will supply High-Speed Diesel initially to seven districts in northern Bangladesh. The operation of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will put in place a sustainable, reliable, cost-effective and environment-friendly mode of transporting HSD from India to Bangladesh.

Moreover, in September, the 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG)

between India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the two nations discussed various bilateral issues, including removal of port restrictions, the groundwork for the commencement of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The meeting was co-chaired by the Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Vipul Bansal and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, Noor Md. Mahbul Haq.

The Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) Meetings between India and Bangladesh are held annually to discuss key trade-related issues and "explore opportunities for economic and technical collaboration, promotion, facilitation, expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit."

Moreover, these meetings play a crucial role in quickly resolving bilateral issues by removing trade barriers, simplifying customs procedures, improvement of infrastructure, logistics, and transit facilities to facilitate smoother cross-border trade.

## Realisation about fragility of earth common among astronauts upon return: Rakesh Sharma

Sharma was the first Indian to venture into space

KOLKATA, Nov 1 (Agencies): Every astronaut comes back with the realisation about the fragility of earth, the "heaven" that people should stop "ruining" by exhausting its resources, Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to venture into space, said.

Sharma also said people should learn about sustainability before making attempts to find habitable places other than earth.

"Almost every space traveller comes back with the realisation about the fragility of our planet... That is where (the space) you get to see the big picture...that our earth is just a pale blue dot," he said during a recent interactive session at a museum launch here.

"So instead of ruining heaven, which is what we have, I don't much endorse the rush to build up a far-off hell somewhere else before we learn sustainability... Unfortunately, there are not many people talking about it, even those who return from space," the



74-year-old former wing commander said.

Sharma was a part of the Soviet Union's 'Soyuz T-11' expedition, launched in April 1984. He remains the first and only Indian to journey into space.

He was here to inaugurate the Museum of Astronomy and Space Science on the premises of the Indian Centre for Space Physics.

During the address, he urged all stakeholders to look at ways to be more sustainable for safeguarding the planet.

"Earth has got limited resources, but our expenditure of those is just not compatible. We will be running out of resources and ruining

the only place that can sustain life till as far as the telescopes tell us," Sharma said.

The celebrated astronaut said the space sector in India has been opened up by the government, with the private sector participating "wholeheartedly" and start-ups beginning to "mushroom".

He also expressed hope that more Indian astronauts would travel to space, as part of the country's ambitious human spaceflight mission 'Gaganyaan'.

"Now that four other guys (selected for the Gaganyaan mission) are under training, I am hoping that life will probably come somewhere back to normal," Sharma said on a lighter note.

The Gaganyaan project plans to launch human crew to an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian waters, according to ISRO. It is targeted for launch in the fourth quarter of 2024.

## Breath analyser test: DGCA issues revised norms; pilots, crew members barred from using mouthwash, tooth gel

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Pilots and crew members cannot use mouthwash, tooth gel or any such substance that has alcoholic content, as that could result in positive breath analyser test, according to revised norms issued by aviation regulator DGCA.

Besides, various changes have been made to the norms pertaining to the procedure for medical examination of aircraft personnel for alcohol consumption.

In a release on Wednesday, DGCA said it had revised the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on procedure for medical examination of aircraft personnel for alcohol consumption coupled with streamlining provisions of the existing regulations in line with feedback from industry and stakeholders from time to time for more effective implementation.

"No crew member shall consume any drug/formulation or use any substance such as mouthwash/tooth gel or any such product which has alcoholic content.

"This may result in positive breath analyser test. Any crew member who is undergoing such medication shall consult the company doctor before undertaking flying assignment," as per the DGCA.

The watchdog, in the draft CAR, had proposed

barring crew from using any "drug/formulation or use any substance such as mouthwash/tooth gel/perfume or any such product which has alcoholic content".

The word 'perfume' is not included in the final CAR.

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), breath analyser equipment with fuel cell technology has been made mandatory and a procedure for oversight and surveillance of calibration agencies has been introduced.

"To prevent missed breath analyser cases, a provision has been introduced wherein the operating crew travelling as passengers shall undergo breath analyser test at the boarding station in case of ramp to ramp transfer for operating flight," it said in the CAR dated October 30.

Among other requirements, camera recording of breath analyser testing has been made mandatory for the operators engaged in seasonal pilgrimage operations and non-scheduled operators. Also, state governments should ensure the compliance of this requirement at base stations and in cases where they are away from base station for more than two days and operate a flight from there.

"If any crew member/student pilot after reaching the airport feels that he/she is unable to dis-

charge his flying duties safely due to sickness, the crew member will intimate his company and in such case the breath-analyser test shall not be conducted and the same will not be considered as missed BA.

"However, the crew member/student pilot shall not be rostered for flying duties on that day and subsequently shall be rostered for flying duties after review by the company doctor," the release said.

To facilitate the operators, especially in general aviation, the regulator has enhanced the scope of facilities for undergoing the breath analyser examination.

Under the DGCA norms, for all scheduled operators, each flight crew member and cabin crew member shall be subjected to pre-flight breath analyser examination at first departure airport during a flight duty period.

For all scheduled flights originating from destinations outside India, post-flight breath analyser examination of each flight crew and cabin crew shall be carried out at the first port of landing in India, as per the norms.

Stringent punishments are in place when a crew tests positive in a breath analyser test, depending on whether it is repetitive. It is applicable for both pre and post flight tests.

## Diamonds worth Rs 5.62 cr stolen from Mumbai gems store; 2 employees among 3 held

MUMBAI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Diamonds worth Rs 5.62 crore have been allegedly stolen from a gems company store in Mumbai over six months following which police have arrested three men, including two employees of the firm, an official said on Wednesday.

Sanjay Shah, one of the directors of JB and Brothers Private Limited, who has a store at the Bharat Diamond Bourse in Bandra-Kurla Complex here, approached the police claiming that diamonds worth Rs 5.62 crore were missing from their stock, the official from BKC police station said.

The complainant suspected that the firm's employees, Prashant Shah and Vishal Shah, both from Kandivali, were stealing diamonds from their store since April, he said.

Nilesh Shah, a former employee of the firm, allegedly helped the duo in selling the stolen diamonds, the police said quoting the FIR.

The police have arrested the three accused and booked them under relevant Indian Penal Code sections, including 420 (cheating), the official said.

An investigation was on into the case, the police added.

## BJP MLA's missing wife traced, found near Lucknow Barabanki highway

LUCKNOW, Nov 1 (Agencies): The Lucknow Police have recovered Pushpa Verma, wife of BJP MLA Sitaram Verma, who had gone missing from her home here, said officials on Wednesday.

She had gone missing on Tuesday morning. Pushpa Verma was recovered from Safedabad on the Lucknow-Barabanki route on Wednesday.

The police were questioning her.

Pushpa had suddenly disappeared from her home in Lucknow's Ghazipur Sector-8 on Tuesday morning.

The MLA's son had filed a case at the Ghazipur police station and multiple police teams had been set up to trace her.

DCP North Qasim Abdi told reporters that MLA Sitaram Verma has a house in Ghazipur Sector-8 where his wife Pushpa Verma, 65, lives with her family.

The DCP said that around 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Pushpa was seen near Aurobindo Park outpost in Indira Nagar. Police searched for her with the help of CCTV cameras and social media.

The family had told the police that Pushpa Verma was suffering from amnesia and was also undergoing treatment for the same.

## Time for courts to wake up to blatant misuse of PMLA: Sibal after ED summons Kejriwal



NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): It is time for courts to wake up to the blatant misuse of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said on Wednesday.

Sibal, a prominent opposition voice and a senior advocate, in a post on X, said, "Kejriwal summoned by ED. ED targeting leaders of almost all political opposition parties."

"ED and denial of bail to leaders has become a political weapon in the hands of the government. Time for courts to wake up to the blatant misuse of PMLA," the former Union minister said.

In another post on Tuesday after the Supreme Court denied bail to Delhi's former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in the excise policy case, Sibal had said the INDIA bloc must speak in one voice

case once he deposes at the probe agency's Delhi office at 11 am on November 2.

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as all opposition leaders were being targeted.

"Supreme Court rejects Sisodia's bail. Bail law on its head. The process is the punishment. All opposition leaders were targeted. Send them to jail, proof can come later. The INDIA alliance must speak up in one voice," he had said.

Delhi's former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and AAP MP Sanjay Singh have been arrested by the ED in the excise policy case so far. 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.

Sibal, who was a Union minister during UPA I and II, quit the Congress in May last year and was elected to the Rajya Sabha as an Independent member with the Samajwadi Party's support.

He has floated a non-electoral platform 'Insaaf' aimed at fighting injustice.

## TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu reaches home after release on bail

AMARAVATI, Nov 1 (Agencies): TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu reached his home in Undavalli here early on Wednesday after being released on bail in the Skill Development Corporation scam case.

The former Andhra Pradesh chief minister reached his home around 6 am to an emotional welcome from family members and party supporters following a 13-hour journey from Rajamahendravaram where he was lodged in the central prison.

The TDP chief later participated in prayers with wife N Bhuvaneshwari and relatives.



The Andhra Pradesh High Court had on Tuesday granted interim bail for a period of four weeks to Naidu on health grounds.

Naidu's convoy left Rajamahendravaram in East Godavari district around 5 pm on Tuesday.

On the way to Undavalli in Guntur district, where his Andhra Pradesh residence was

located on the banks of the Krishna river, hundreds of people gathered on the roadside to cheer the former CM.

Traffic came to a standstill for about 5 km during the initial part of his journey as scores of party supporters came to catch a glimpse of Naidu.

Several TDP leaders also accompanied the party supremo's convoy.

## China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan, sending 43 planes and 7 ships near self-governing island

Such Chinese manoeuvres have become frequent and aggressive since then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022

TAIPEI (TAIWAN), Nov 1 (Agencies): Taiwan said on Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6.00 am on Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognises as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan's air defence identification zone but not into its actual airspace.

Such Chinese manoeuvres have become frequent and aggressive since then-US



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022. China suspended military communication with the US to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

China's military manoeuvres are seen as intended to

break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel and wearing down its equipment. Despite that, the present status of de-facto independence remains widely popular among the island's voters and the defence budget has been increased to purchase new equipment from the US, its chief ally, and to produce some

items locally, including submarines.

At an international defence forum in Beijing on Monday, China's second-ranking military official Gen. Zhang Youxia reiterated threats by the Chinese government to retaliate against moves toward establishing Taiwan's formal independence, saying that "no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to happen".

Zhang, who is also vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the world's largest standing military, opened the three-day event in the absence of former Defence Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who would have normally hosted the event.

Li was removed from his position last week after a two-month absence from public view. The government has not provided any reason for his removal.

## Israeli airstrikes crush apartments in Gaza refugee camp, as ground troops battle Hamas militants



KHAN YOUNIS, Nov 1 (Agencies): A barrage of Israeli airstrikes levelled apartment buildings in a refugee camp near Gaza City on Tuesday, and footage showed rescuers pulling men, women and children out of the rubble.

Israel said the strike destroyed a Hamas command centre set up in civilian houses and a network of tunnels underneath.

The toll from the strikes in the Jabalyia camp was not immediately

known. The Israeli military said a large number of militants were killed, including the commander overseeing Hamas operations in northern Gaza.

The director of the nearby hospital where casualties were taken, Dr Atef Al-Kahlot, said hundreds were wounded or killed, but he did not provide exact figures. Neither side's account could be independently confirmed.

The strike underlined the anticipated surge in casualties on both

sides as Israeli troops battling Hamas militants advance deeper into the northern Gaza Strip toward dense, residential neighbourhoods. Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten Israel following its bloody October 7 rampage, which ignited the war.

Israel said two of its soldiers were killed in fighting in northern Gaza, the first military deaths it reported since the ground offensive into the tiny Mediterranean territory accelerated late last week.

Several hundred thousand Palestinians remain in northern Gaza in the path of the ground assault. They have crowded into homes or are packed by the thousands into hospitals that are already overwhelmed with patients and running low on supplies.

## Israel-Hamas war: First foreigners leave Gaza for Egypt through Rafah crossing

CAIRO, Nov 1 (Agencies): Scores of foreign passport holders started leaving war-torn Gaza Wednesday after Egypt opened the Rafah crossing for the first time since the Israel-Hamas war began on October 7, AFP correspondents said.

Hundreds of wounded Gaza residents and foreigners gathered at the Egypt border Wednesday, poised to flee the shattered territory that is still reeling from a deadly Israeli strike on a refugee camp.

It was not immediately clear how many people managed to leave via Rafah on Gaza's southern border with Egypt, but live footage from the scene showed crowds of people entering the Palestinian side of the terminal.

Although more than 200 trucks of desperately needed aid have crossed into Gaza from Egypt, no people have been allowed to flee the battered enclave, with some 400 foreigners and dual nationals expected to make the crossing on Wednesday.

Convoys of desperately needed aid have passed between Egypt and Gaza but no people have been allowed to cross. Some 400 foreigners and dual nationals along with some 90 sick and wounded are expected to leave on Wednesday.

"A first group of foreign passport holders is going to pass through the Rafah terminal to Egypt on Wednesday," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Foreign governments say there are passport holders from 44 countries, as well as 28 agencies, including UN bodies, living in the Gaza Strip where 2.4 million people have endured more than three weeks of unrelenting Israeli bombardment in response to the October 7 Hamas attacks.

According to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, more than 8,500 people have been killed in the bombardments, two-thirds of them women and children.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on Gaza's largest refugee camp killed at least 47 people Tuesday, including, Israel said, a Hamas commander involved in the



October 7 attacks.

A large explosion ripped through the densely packed Jabalia camp before nightfall, tearing facades off nearby buildings and leaving a deep, debris-littered crater. Wails filled the air as hundreds of bystanders and volunteers clawed at concrete blocks and twisted metal looking for survivors.

Agency witnessed at least 47 corpses being recovered.

Horrified resident Ragheb Aqal, 41, likened the explosion to "an earthquake" and spoke of seeing "homes buried under the rubble and body parts and martyrs and wounded in huge numbers".

Israel said its warplanes had struck a "vast" tunnel complex at the site, killing "many Hamas terrorists", including local battalion commander Ibrahim Biari.

Military spokesman Jonathan Conricus described Biari as "pivotal in the planning and execution" of the raids by Hamas, which Israel has vowed to "crush" in retribution.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry denounced the incident as "a heinous Israeli massacre" and said an initial toll of 50 dead and 150 wounded was sure to rise.

Tuesday's strike sparked more international condemnation, with Bolivia announcing it was cutting ties. And Qatar warned that expanded strikes would "undermine mediation and de-escalation efforts."

Doha hosts several senior Hamas officials and is a key channel in trying to secure the release of some 240 hostages believed to have been taken by Palestinian militants on October 7.

Saudi Arabia also criti-

cised the strike, with its foreign ministry issuing a statement saying it condemned "in the strongest terms possible the inhumane targeting by the Israeli occupation forces of the Jabalia refugee camp."

But there is little sign of the conflict abating.

As the aerial war continued, Israel said nine soldiers were killed as troops engaged in "fierce battles" with Hamas militants "deep inside the Gaza Strip" on Tuesday.

Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, has vowed to turn Gaza into a "graveyard" for invading forces.

No ceasefire  
Aid groups and the United Nations warned time is running out for many of the territory's 2.4 million people denied access to food, water, fuel and medicine. Surgeons are conducting amputations on hospital floors without anaesthetic, and children are forced to drink salty water, said Jean-Francois Corty, vice-president of Medecins du Monde, which has 20 staff on the ground.

The Palestinian telecommunications agency said Wednesday that phone and internet services had "been completely cut off in Gaza", the second such blackout in a week.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed international calls for a humanitarian ceasefire. He said they amount to "a call for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terrorism, to surrender to barbarism."

"This will not happen," he said.  
Israeli officials said that 70 trucks with aid were allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt on Tuesday. That is one of the biggest flows since a US-brokered deal

was reached, but much less than humanitarian groups say is needed.

Israel fears that food, water, and medicine coming into Gaza could be diverted to Hamas, or that aid shipments could conceal arms or other supplies. As a result, Israeli security personnel carry out stringent inspections that have slowed the flow of aid to a trickle.

"No words"  
As Israel steps up its assault on Gaza, the families of hostages are struggling with an unbearable wait for news of relatives thought to be held in the labyrinth of tunnels deep below Gaza.

"It's really hell. There are no words to express this," said Hadas Kalderon as she walked past the blackened homes of kibbutz Nir Oz.

There gunmen killed her mother and niece and kidnapped her 12-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter.

"I don't have any control and knowledge about army actions, I just know my children are still there in the middle of a war," said the 56-year-old.

Israelis also face a daily barrage of aerial attacks from Hamas and other Iran-backed groups around the Middle East.

Yemen's Huthi rebels said they had "launched a large batch of ballistic missiles... and a large number of armed aircraft" towards Israel on Tuesday.

Israel's military said a "hostile aircraft intrusion" had set off warning sirens in Eilat, its Red Sea resort, and a surface-to-surface missile was "successfully intercepted."

In the north, Israel has traded near-daily fire with Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement.

## India-Born Author Nandini Das Wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize

LONDON, Nov 1 (Agencies): India-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a leading international non-fiction prize worth GBP 25,000, for her book 'Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire'.

The UK-based academic's debut work, described as the "true origin story of Britain and India told through England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts", was revealed as this year's winner at a ceremony at the British Academy in London on Tuesday evening.

As a Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, the 49-year-old author has sought to present a new perspective on the origins of empire through the story of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century.

"By using contemporary sources by Indian and British political figures, officials and merchants she has given the story an unparalleled immediacy that brings to life these early encounters and the misunderstandings that sometimes threatened to wreck the whole endeavour," said Professor Charles Tripp, Chair

of the prize jury.

"At the same time, she grants us a privileged vantage point from which we can appreciate how a measure of mutual understanding did begin to emerge, even though it was vulnerable to the ups and downs of Mughal politics and to the restless ambitions of the British," he said.

He described how through her beautiful writing and exceptional research, the jury was drawn to the contrast between an impoverished, insecure Britain and the flourishing, confident Mughal Empire and the often-amusing, sometimes querulous exchanges between their various representatives.

"Moreover, we were reminded through this story of the first ambassadorial mission of the value of international diplomacy, but also of the cultural minefields that surround it in ways that still have resonance today," he added.

The British Academy Book Prize, formerly known as the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize, was established in 2013 to reward and celebrate the best works of non-fiction that demonstrate rigour and originality and have contributed to public understanding of other world cultures and their interaction.

Professor Julia Black,



President of the British Academy, noted: "This is the British Academy's 11th year of celebrating well-researched books that improve global cultural understanding. Every year, the need to understand each other across borders, boundaries and cultures seems ever more pressing. This year is no exception.

"The power of good writing and a well-told story in getting people to understand each other should not be underestimated. This book does just that, drawing on the best of the academic and the literary traditions to shed light on how we are today." Das will receive GBP 25,000 for winning the prize and each of the shortlisted works, including 'Black Ghost of Empire: The Long Death of Slavery and the Failure of Emancipation' by Caribbean-born Kris Manjappa of mixed African and Indian parentage, will receive GBP 1,000 each.

The others making up this year's shortlist

unveiled in September included 'Red Memory: Living, Remembering and Forgetting China's Cultural Revolution' by Tania Branigan; 'The Violence of Colonial Photography' by Daniel Foliard; 'Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World' by Irene Vallejo; and 'Ritual: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living' by Dimitris Xygalatas.

The 2023 judging panel for the British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding included of Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed FBA, Visiting Professor at the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics; Professor Rebecca Earle, food historian and Professor of History at the University of Warwick; Fatima Manji, award-winning broadcaster; and Professor Gary Younge Hon, the award-winning author, broadcaster and Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester.

## China's Biggest Antarctic Fleet Sets Off To Build Fifth Research Station

BEIJING, Nov 1 (Agencies): Two Chinese icebreaker research vessels and a cargo ship set sail today for the Antarctic with more than 460 personnel on board to help complete construction of China's fifth station on the world's southernmost continent.

China's biggest flotilla of research vessels deployed to the Antarctic will focus on building the station on the rocky, windswept Inexpressible Island near the Ross Sea, a deep Southern Ocean bay named after a 19th century British explorer.

Work on the first Chi-

nese station in the Pacific sector began in 2018. It will be used to conduct research on the region's environment, state television reported.

China has four research stations in the Antarctic built from 1985 to 2014. A U.S.-based think tank estimated the fifth could be finished next year.

The facility is expected to include an observatory with a satellite ground station, and should help China "fill in a major gap" in its ability to access the continent, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a report this year.

The station is also well situated to collect signals intelligence over Australia and New Zealand and telemetry data on rockets launched from Australia's new Arnhem Space Centre, it said.

China rejects suggestions that its stations would be used for espionage.

The two icebreakers, Xuelong 1 and Xuelong 2, the name means "Snow Dragon" in Chinese, set sail from Shanghai with mostly personnel and logistics supplies on board.

The cargo ship "Tianhui", or "Divine Blessings", taking construc-

tion material for the station, set off from the eastern port of Zhangjiagang.

The five-month mission will include a survey on the impact of climate change.

The two icebreakers will also conduct environmental surveys in the Prydzey Bay, the Astronaut Sea in south-east Antarctica, and in the Ross Sea and Amundsen Sea in the west.

The mission, China's 40th to the Antarctic, will also cooperate with countries including the United States, Britain, and Russia on logistics supply, state media said.

## BSP Gen Secy pledges to eradicate spend forces, discrimination in Jammu region

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT General Secretary Rajesh Gupta on Wednesday pledged to eradicate spend forces and discrimination in the Jammu region.

"BJP, has failed to address the genuine issues of people from Jammu region in the absence of elected Government," the BSP leader claimed.

In an interview with a local channel, Gupta said that BJP leadership has failed on all fronts in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that claims of BJP of ushering a new dawn post Arti-

cle 370 abrogation, have proved to be a farce.

"The development inertia, crashing economy, inflation, soaring unemployment, resentment among farmers and border dwellers, etc. has made the situation in J&K from bad to worse," he said adding, "The BJP-led central government, saying its 'hollow policies' have resulted in increasing the sufferings of the people."

He criticised the BJP for hoodwinking public opinion by raking up residuary and emotive issues to divert attention from its failures on all fronts.

BSP leader asked the J&K government to reanalyze its



decision to install smart meters. He said that the government should take senior departmental officials, elected public representatives, and heads of various social and political organizations on board to find an amicable way to meet aspirants of electricity consumers.

"Jammu has witnessed huge setbacks due to the revocation of Statehood but the BJP government is suppressing political and civil rights," he continued.

Gupta claimed that with each passing day, it's becoming clear that BJP leaders from the Jammu region have not been able to give proper feedback to the policymakers in New Delhi and claimed that J&K BJP has no say in Raj Bhawan.

"Disillusionment of people with BJP is growing as the governance is at the lowest ebb and development has taken nose dive in past over nine years," he added that BJP leaders seem to be unaware of ground realities.

## Refresher course for Pujaris commences at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine



Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 1: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) in its pursuit to upgrade and sharpen the skills on religious practices and rituals for their pujaris commenced eleven days well crafted refresher course today at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine as per the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor JK-UT).

The course was formally inaugurated by Dr. Murl Manohar, Vice Chancellor, Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit University New Delhi in the presence of Umesh Sharma, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Bhawan, Head Pujari and other dignitaries on the occasion.

The training shall be imparted on Ritualistic

Skills by experts from well renowned institutions of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, Kashi, Varanasi in collaboration with Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basohli, Kathua.

The refresher course shall cover 31 Pujaris in two batches with focus on the specific rituals, mantras and practices that a Pujari needs to master besides, highly specific and professional approach about their Pujan Vidhi.

The main training contents include Karam Kaand, Upasna Kaand, Gyan Kand, Suktas, Stotras and Sandya Vandhan etc.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB while complimenting the experts said that these refresher programs fostering a culture of continuous learning shall be help-

ful for the enhancement of the skills of the Pujaris and their intellectual development.

Dr. Sunil Sharma, Joint Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB while deliberating on various aspects of the refresher course hoped that this will reinforce and upgrade participants' existing knowledge and religious skills.

The experts who will be marking their expertise in the course included Prof. Rajneesh Kumar Shukla, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Srinivas Varkhedi, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Bihari Lal Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ram Raj Upadhyay, Professor Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Jyotishacharya; Dr. Chandresh Upadhyay, Vedacharya, Dr. Abhishek Upadhyay and Dr. Bharat Bhushan Pandey.

## Narotam inaugurates tile work in Shahi Masjid, Upper Mast Garh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Narotam Sharma, the Councillor of Ward No 3, on Wednesday initiated tile work in the Shahi Masjid and lanes in the Upper Mast Garh area.

This initiative was undertaken in response to the demands of the local residents for tile work in mosques and lane repairs in the ward. The tile work project has been budgeted at Rs 8.50 Lakh. He expressed his congratulations to the residents for having their demands met and assured that all pending projects would also be initiated and



completed within a specified timeframe. He emphasized that Ward No 3 has seen significant developmental activities from 2019 until now, reaching every corner of the area.

Narotam also underlined the inclusiveness of the BJP, stating that the party serves all sections of society, echoing the mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Sabka Saath, Sabka

Vikas, aur Sabka Vishwas," which is the guiding principle for every worker and leader in the party.

He instructed the concerned officers to ensure the completion of the project within the stipulated time frame. The inaugural ceremony was attended by several prominent leaders and residents, including State Vice President BJP Yudhveer Sethi, East Mandal President Parveen Kerni, General Secretary Kuldeep Khandari, Booth President Sanjay Abrol, Sanjay Mengi, Kuldeep Sharma, Sarooj Gupta, Kailash Chowdhary, Amzad Shekh, and Subash Sharma.

### FROM PAGE 1

## Security beefed up across Kashmir in wake of fresh spate of Terrorist attacks

Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary CRPF personnel have been deployed at sensitive places, especially around minority population areas, the officials said.

They said the security forces are also keeping a watch, including night domination, in the areas where non-locals reside. While most of the non-local labourers have left the valley because of the cold weather, few are still putting up in ghettos, they added.

The valley has seen a fresh spate of terrorist attacks. Terrorists shot dead a policeman, a father of seven, outside his house in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

On Sunday, a police officer was critically injured in firing by terrorists in Srinagar while a labourer from Uttar Pradesh was shot dead in Pulwama district on Monday.

A senior police official said the focus of the security apparatus is to prevent the loss of life of even a single person.

Referring to the modus operandi of the attacks, the police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attacks are mafia-style where a new recruit is given a task to prove loyalty by hitting a soft target before joining the terror ranks.

In the wake of the attacks, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will chair the meeting of Unified Headquarters (UHQ) on Wednesday.

The high-level meeting, which will be held at the Raj Bhawan here, will discuss the prevailing security scenario of J-K, the officials said.

The meeting will be the first for the newly appointed Jammu and Kashmir Police chief R R Swain.

Apart from Swain, the Army's top brass, including General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) Northern Command, both General Officers Commanding (GOCs) of Army in Kashmir and Jammu (15th and 16th Corps), Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Home Secretary R K Goyal, all heads of CAPFs, intelligence agencies, would attend the meeting.

## SIA Completes 2 Yrs Existence, Anti-Terror Agency Go All Out in Achieving Zero Terrorism in J&K

accused persons were arrested, and a hawala network involved in terror financing was busted, in which terrorist sympathizers in J&K were operating through Dubai using crypto wallets, SIA said.

The agency was successful in busting a narco-terror module by digging deep into a larger criminal conspiracy hatched by the lynchpin, a woman OGW of a proscribed

terrorist organization.

"Investigation exposed the cross-LOC narcotics and drug smuggling module operating under a well-knit criminal conspiracy with the active support and connivance of agencies of Pakistan hostile to India," SIA said.

The agency also managed to defeat the evil designs of the enemy by arresting a mole in the force who, in "connivance" with terrorist organizations and the agencies of Pakistan, was providing vital information and documents pertaining to security forces and important installations to the enemy, thereby helping secessionist agencies wage war against India.

Taking stringent measures to curb the terror ecosystem, during this period, SIA conducted raids at 166 locations across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Following the legal process of attachment of properties used for anti-national activities, 217 properties associated with Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel), an unlawful association in India, were identified, out of which 57 properties were notified under UAPA provisions, which significantly weakened the logistics of the proscribed outfit," SIA said.

Pursuing its larger objective of taking the investigation and prosecution of terror-related cases to its logical conclusions, the investigation of the three-decade-old case of the murder of Neel Kanth Ganjoo is being actively pursued, demonstrating its unwavering commitment and resolve to deliver justice in all terror incidents, no matter how old they may be.

The agency, in an inquiry, uncovered a module involved in the laundering of illegal proceeds and its use in unlawful activities. The inquiry resulted in the registration of a formal criminal case. During the investigation, SIA unveiled money laundering to the tune of more than Rs. 85 crore. The case is under active investigation, and SIA reiterates its commitment to bringing all those involved to justice, besides unraveling the broader nexus behind this act.

The agency, in a resounding blow to terror financing, froze INR 1,21,84,382 in 134 bank accounts, believed to be proceeds of crime, and seized INR 5,19,86,810 in cash. Pakistani currency worth 9,820 and 15,000 US dollars were also seized during this period, SIA said.

The agency has initiated a special drive to trace all absconders of terrorism-related cases, including old TADA and POTA cases, and produce them before the courts for trial under law. They have identified 734 absconders of TADA/POTA cases, out of which 369 have been verified and 82 traced at home.

While taking action against high-profile terror sympathizers operating internationally, the agency suspended seven passports, impounded two passports, and issued 17 lookout circulars (LoCs).

For the first time in Jammu and Kashmir, three black notices for identification of the dead bodies of Pakistani terrorists were issued through INTERPOL, the SIA said.

## in J&K

departmental action by the High Court. The issued guidelines are as follows; Police officers should not automatically arrest individuals accused under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which pertains to cruelty to married women by their spouses or in-laws.

The police must first ascertain whether it is necessary to arrest the accused based on the criteria in Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which outlines situations where police may arrest without a warrant.

Police officers should be made aware of the checklist in Section 41(1)(b)(ii) of the CrPC, which specifies additional circumstances necessitating an arrest. When an accused is presented before a magistrate for further detention, this checklist and the reasons or evidence justifying the arrest should be submitted to the magistrate.

The magistrate may only authorize further detention of the accused after reviewing the report submitted by the police and being satisfied regarding the need for extended detention.

If a decision is made not to arrest an accused after a case has been initiated, this must be communicated to the magistrate within two weeks, which may be extended with recorded reasons by the superintendent of police.

After a case is filed, the accused should be served a notice to appear before the police under Section 41A of the CrPC, which addresses situations where arrest is not necessary, within two weeks. This time frame may be extended by the superintendent of police with documented reasons.

## Police arrest 425 drug peddlers, file 242 cases under NDPS act in Baramulla

October. Police have also seized 2.670 kg of brown sugar worth Rs 3.47 crore, heroin worth Rs 6.33 crore, charas worth Rs 59.04 crore, pomegranate straw, and cannabis powder worth Rs 1.29 crore during the period.

Thirty-one vehicles and cash worth Rs 1.13 crore were also seized from the drug peddlers during the period, police added.

"Citizens of the district have shown utmost faith and satisfaction in the action of the police against drugs, and they have expressed their total support to the police", they said.

Police said it will remain steadfast in its commitment to confront drug smugglers and to seize both movable and immovable property used for illicit trafficking within the district.

Police have also urged the general population of the district to come forward with information about drug peddlers in their areas (whose identities will be kept confidential) to eradicate the menace of drugs from society.

High Court sets guidelines for arrest, detention

## Notorious drug peddler arrested in Kishtwar

Kishtwar on Wednesday, they said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said the police are determined to eliminate the menace of drug abuse from society and safeguard the youth of Kishtwar.

## Price of commercial LPG cylinder hiked by Rs 101, effective from November 1

follows a previous increase that occurred on October 1, when public sector OMCs raised the price of 19 KG commercial LPG gas cylinders by Rs 209.

As a result of this adjustment, the updated price in Delhi stands at Rs 1731.50, compared to the previous month's rate of Rs 1522.50.

Similar increases were observed in other major cities, with Kolkata witnessing a hike to Rs 1839.50, Mumbai to Rs 1684.00, and Chennai to Rs 1898.00 for a 19 Kg commercial LPG cylinder.

The rise in prices has left business owners, particularly shopkeepers and restaurateurs deeply concerned. Inflation has been an ongoing issue, and the additional increase in the price of commercial LPG cylinders only adds to their worries.

Shopkeepers are now urging the government to take measures to control inflation and ease the financial burden on small businesses.

Monthly revisions for both commercial and domestic LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) cylinders occur on the first day of each month, in line with government regulations and market dynamics.

In August, OMCs had taken the opposite approach, slashing the prices of commercial LPG cylinders by Rs 99.75, offering some relief to businesses and consumers.

The increase in commercial LPG gas cylinder prices comes as a challenge for businesses already grappling with inflation, and it emphasizes the need for policy actions to stabilize prices and support small enterprises during these trying times.

## Man murders mother, minor daughter; arrested: Police

priority. The accused has been arrested within three hours and the investigation, legal proceedings into the matter are going on," SSP Jammu said.

He said that the accused after committing the offence fled away from the spot on his motorcycle bearing registration number JK02CN-0372. "On getting the information, teams immediately reached the spot and secured the scene of crime. All the police nakas in the entire area were put on high alert while multiple police teams were constituted and all sources were activated and accused was arrested."

## Markets drop in early trade on foreign capital outflows

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 193.99 points to 63,680.94. The Nifty slipped 47 points to 19,032.60.

MUMBAI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Wednesday due to weakness in banking, financial and metal stocks amid unabated foreign fund outflows.

Investors preferred to remain on the sidelines ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 193.99 points to 63,680.94. The Nifty slipped 47 points to 19,032.60.

Among the Sensex firms, JSW Steel, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Power Grid and Nestle were the major laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finserv and Tata Motors were the major gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai



and Hong Kong were trading in the green.

The US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.05 per cent to USD 87.41 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 696.02 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"It is important to understand that equity markets globally are being impacted more by the spike in US bond yields rather than the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The US 10-year bond yield above 4.9 per cent will continue to be a major headwind for stock markets, particularly for those in emerging markets.

Sustained selling by FIIs is likely to continue weighing on markets," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE benchmark declined 237.72 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 63,874.93 on Tuesday.

The Nifty dipped 61.30 points or 0.32 per cent to 19,079.60.

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## Festive impact: Record sales for Maruti; Hyundai, Mahindra, Tata Motors, Toyota report robust growth

India's third largest carmaker- Tata Motors- reported a growth of 7% in domestic PV at 48,337 units in October 2023.

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): On the back of strong demand in the Navratri/Dussehra festive period, passenger vehicle (PV) sales grew at a robust pace in October.

Maruti Suzuki (MSIL), India's largest carmaker sold nearly 2 lakh vehicles (domestic plus exports) last month. In total, MSIL sold 199,217 units, which is its highest-ever monthly sales volume.

The company also recorded its highest-ever monthly domestic PV sales at 168,047 units in October 2023 as against 140,337 units sold in the same month last year.

Besides, sales to other OEM and exports stood at 5,325 units and 21,951 units, respectively. Maruti's LCV sales stood at 3,894 units last month.

Maruti's October sales were aided by recovery in the mini and compact segment. Month-on-month basis, this segment's sales grew from 78,903 units in September 2023 to 95,230 units in October 2023. On an annual basis, this segment's degrowth came down to about 3-4%.

Maruti continues to ride high in the SUV segment as sales



in this segment almost doubled year-on-year to 59,147 units.

Hyundai Motor India (HMI) registered total sales of 68,728 units in October 2023, up 18% year-on-year. Total sales in October 2023 include domestic sales of 55,128 units (up 15%) and exports of 13,600 units (up 36%).

Tarun Garg, COO, of Hyundai Motor India said, "As we enter the peak of festive season in India, Hyundai Motor India registered robust sales number of 55,128 units in the domestic market in the month of October. The recent announcement of standardizing of 6 airbags across all Hyundai models and variants has been extremely well received by our valued customers.

Also, the supply situation is back to full normalcy and our network is geared up to delight customers with the delivery of their favourite Hyundai cars". India's third largest carmaker- Tata Motors- reported a growth of 7% in domestic PV at 48,337 units in October 2023.

SUV major Mahindra & Mahindra said that in the Utility Vehicles segment, it recorded the highest sales for the fourth consecutive month.

In October, the company sold 43,708 vehicles in the domestic market, a growth of 36% and overall, 44,264 vehicles, including exports. The domestic sales for Commercial Vehicles stood at 25,715 units, also the highest ever.

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Veejay Nakra, President, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd., "In October, we clocked the highest ever volumes at 80,679 vehicles, a growth of 32%. Both SUVs and CVs individually achieved highest highest-ever volumes for the third consecutive month at 43,708 and 25,715 vehicles respectively. While the strong festive demand should see us continue our growth momentum in November, we will keep a close watch on select supply-related challenges."

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) sold 21,879 units last month, indicating a sharp rise of 66% in comparison with October 2022, when the sales stood at 13,143 units. The company sold a total of 20,542 units in the domestic market and exported 1,337 units.

Atul Sood, Vice President of Sales, and Strategic Marketing at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "This year, the offtake of festive season has been very strong for both TKM and well as the industry... Given strong market sentiments around Diwali, we remain confident of a very buoyant performance in the coming months as well."

## Maybe not 70 hours, but Indians are among hardest workers in the world

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): A recent statement by Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy has set the stage for a debate about work productivity and the merits of long working hours, a topic that resonates with many in our fast-paced world. Murthy's call for 70-hour workweeks among India's youth prompted both applause and skepticism.

But, surprisingly, data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) reveals that Indians are already among the hardest workers globally, dedicating an average of 47.7 hours per week per employed individual as of 2023.

What's more, when this number is stacked up against the ten largest economies worldwide, India takes the lead with the lengthiest average workweek.

Globally, India secures the seventh position, with only a handful of nations surpassing the Indian work ethic, including Qatar, Congo, Lesotho, Bhutan, Gambia, and the United Arab Emirates. This data has piqued the interest of the International



Labour Organization, which is reportedly considering the production of an India-specific report on working hours.

In a recent podcast, Narayana Murthy noted that India's work productivity lags behind much of the world. His solution?

India's youth should be ready to embrace a 70-hour workweek, a strategy employed by post-World War II Germany and Japan to drive their economies forward. Murthy's comments stirred quite a stir, with reactions spanning from supportive nods to critical headshakes.

In fact, the call for long work-

ing hours isn't unique to Murthy. Just last year, Shantanu Deshpande, CEO of Bombay Shaving Company, advocated for 18-hour workdays in the early stages of one's career. However, his stance led to a significant backlash on LinkedIn and a subsequent apology.

As the debate rages on, it's worth noting that an analysis of ILO data alongside corresponding GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) per capita figures reveals an intriguing pattern. There seems to be an inverse correlation between prosperity and weekly working hours, mean-

ing that countries with higher per capita GDP tend to have shorter working hours.

Take, for instance, India, which boasts the highest weekly working hours among the top ten global economies but holds the lowest per capita GDP. On the flip side, France, with the shortest working week among these economies at 30.1 hours, enjoys one of the highest per capita GDP figures at \$55,493.

K Pandiarajan, Executive Chairman and HR expert at Ma Foi Strategic Consultants, has weighed in on the matter, advocating for a balanced approach.

He suggested that India should avoid simply adopting the Western model of a 35-hour workweek. Instead, he encourages finding a golden middle ground of 48 hours per week while ensuring the health and fitness of employees are taken into account.

The discussion over working hours is far from over, and it raises pertinent questions about India's path toward enhancing economic competitiveness while prioritizing the well-being of its workforce.

## YouTube launches global effort to crack down on users with ad blockers



NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Google-owned YouTube has doubled down on its effort to crack down on users with ad blockers on its platform globally.

An increasing number of YouTube users are now seeing a warning, asking them to turn off ad blockers and watch ads or pay USD 14 for a YouTube Premium subscription, according to Android Authority.

Over the past several weeks, more users with ad blockers installed have found themselves unable to watch YouTube videos.

Now, the company has launched a global effort to encourage users to allow ads or try YouTube Premium (which includes YouTube Music).

A company spokesperson told The Verge that the "use of ad blockers" violates the platform's terms of service.

"Ads support a diverse ecosystem of creators globally and allow billions to access their favourite content on YouTube," the spokesperson was quoted as saying.

YouTube in June confirmed that it was disabling videos for users with ad blockers. At that time, it was only a "small experiment globally". YouTube introduced unskippable 30-second ads to its TV app in May and later began experimenting with longer but less frequent ad breaks on TV, too.

Last month, the streaming platform announced to end its lower-cost subscription plan 'Premium Lite', after piloting it for two years in select countries.

The company announced to no longer offer 'Premium Lite' after October 25. YouTube's 'Premium Lite' plan, which costs USD 7.39 per month was first introduced in select European countries in 2021, and offered ad-free viewing across YouTube's spectrum of apps and formats.

However, it did not include Premium's other features such as offline downloads, background playback, or any YouTube Music benefits. The removal came after YouTube Premium raised its individual plan prices for the first time, with the plan now starting at USD 13.99 per month. Meanwhile, family plans were increased to USD 22.99 per month late last year.

## World's 2nd man to receive genetically modified pig's heart dies in US

NEW YORK, Nov 1 (Agencies): The second man ever to receive a genetically modified pig's heart has died six weeks after US surgeons performed the second such historic transplant, doctors at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) announced on Wednesday.

Lawrence Faucette, 58, suffering from terminal heart disease became the second patient in the world to receive a transplant of a genetically modified pig heart on September 20.

The doctors in a statement said that Faucette had initially made significant progress after his surgery. His transplanted heart performed well, with no signs of rejection during the first month, and he also engaged in physical therapy to regain the ability to walk.

However, "In recent days, his heart began to show initial signs of rejection -- the most significant challenge with



traditional transplants involving human organs as well," the doctors said in a statement.

"Despite the medical team's greatest efforts, Faucette ultimately succumbed on October 30."

"Faucette's last wish was for us to make the most of what we have learned from our experience, so others may be guaranteed a chance for a new heart when a human organ is unavailable," Bartley P. Griffith, MD, who surgically transplanted the pig heart into both the first and second patient at the hospital, said in a statement.

Incidentally, the first such surgery, performed in January, 2022, con-

ducted on David Bennett by the same surgeons also died last year, two months after his transplant.

He had developed multiple complications, and traces of a virus that infects pigs were found in his new heart.

"We intend to conduct an extensive analysis to identify factors that can be prevented in future transplants, this will allow us to continue to move forward and educate our colleagues in the field on our experience," Muhammad M. Mohiuddin, Professor of Surgery and Scientific/Program Director of the Cardiac Xenotransplantation Programme at UMSOM.

## Study finds fossil fuels cause irregular heart rhythm in mammals

LONDON, Nov 1 (Agencies): Researchers have for the first time found that phenanthrene one of the most common byproducts of the burning of fossil fuels causes heart arrhythmias in mice, proving that it is toxic to mammals. Phenanthrene is a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) that is present in crude oil and is emitted into the air when fossil fuels are burnt. Previous studies have established phenanthrene's toxicity to the hearts of fish and crustaceans. But now researchers from the University of Manchester in the UK have discovered the change also occurs in healthy mouse hearts when directly exposed to phenanthrene, mimicking what happens when humans breathe in

pollution. "We've known that phenanthrene is causally linked to cardiotoxicity in fish for many years -- scientists recognised this following the disastrous impact of the Exxon Valdez oil disaster in Alaska in 1989," said Professor Holly Shiels from the varsity. "But we now know this same effect occurs in mammals, and we are also able to show its causal mechanism. It is widely known that PAH's in general are bad for human health, but no one really studied the impact of the lower molecular weight PAH's. Shiels said. In the study, when phenanthrene was applied to an isolated mouse heart, it caused monophasic tachycardia, which is when the heart starts to beat too quickly. Tachycardia

is a form of arrhythmia common in people who have scarring caused by a heart attack or past heart disease. The researchers were able to isolate single heart muscle cells known as myocytes to understand how electrical dysfunction arrhythmias were achieved.

They showed that phenanthrene disrupts the contractile and electrical function of the mouse heart by blocking ion channels required for synchronous beating of the heart. "Similar effects in humans could have serious health consequences which is why we need greater regulatory attention of this ubiquitous pollutant generated from fossil-fuel combustion," added lead author Dr Sana Yaar, from the varsity.

## Brain health: Five most damaging habits to avoid

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Our brain, known as the command centre of the body, is a complex organ that requires constant care and attention. However, certain habits can significantly impair its function and overall health. Four main habits can influence poor brain health and affect cognitive function - too much sitting, lack of socialising, inadequate sleep and chronic stress, according to Harvard Medical School.

Sitting for too long According to a study published in PLOS One in 2018, excessive sitting can lead to changes in the medial temporal lobe (MTL), a brain region crucial for memory formation.

Individuals who sat for prolonged periods had thinner MTL regions, which could potentially lead to cognitive decline and dementia. To counteract this, it's recommended to engage in physical activity every 15 to 30

minutes.

Lack of socialising

Loneliness and isolation can accelerate cognitive decline and increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease. A study published in The Journals of Gerontology: Series B in July 2021 found that less socially active individuals experienced more significant loss of the brain's grey matter, responsible for processing information. Regular interaction with a small group of people can help maintain mental stimulation and combat loneliness.

Inadequate sleep

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that one-third of adults don't get the recommended seven to eight hours of sleep.

Insufficient sleep can lead to a decline in cognitive skills such as memory, reasoning, and problem-solving. It's essential to priori-

tize sleep and create an environment conducive to restful slumber.

Chronic stress

Persistent stress can damage brain cells and shrink the prefrontal cortex, the area responsible for memory and learning.

Managing stress through mindfulness techniques, deep breathing exercises, and maintaining a flexible mindset can help protect your brain health.

Unhealthy diet

Overeating and consuming too much junk food can harm your brain. Overeating has been linked to memory loss and cognitive decline in older adults.

Similarly, a diet high in junk food can lead to obesity and diabetes, which can further damage the brain. Maintaining a balanced diet with portion control is crucial for optimal brain health.

## No fireworks display in Delhi, Mumbai during World Cup matches due to worsening air pollution

1 match in Delhi, 2 matches and 1 semi-final in Mumbai to be played

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): The BCCI has banned the display of fireworks during the remaining World Cup games in Delhi and Mumbai due to worsening air quality in the two mega cities.

Delhi has only one match left to host, the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka game on November 6, while Mumbai are scheduled to host two more league games, on November 2 and November 7, and the semi-final on November 15.

"BCCI is sensitive to environmental concerns. I took up the matter formally with the ICC and there won't be any fireworks display in Mumbai, which can add to the pollution level," said BCCI



secretary Jay Shah in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Board is committed to combating environmental issues and will always place the inter-

est of our fans and stakeholders at the forefront. The BCCI acknowledges the urgent concern surrounding air quality in both Mumbai and New Delhi.

"While we strive to host the ICC World Cup in a manner befitting the celebration of cricket, we remain steadfast in our commitment to prioritising the health and safety of all our stakeholders."

Delhi's air quality remained in the "very poor" category for the fifth consecutive day on Wednesday with an air quality index (AQI) of 372.

The pollution situation has been alarming in Mumbai also.

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday expressed concern over the "deteriorating" air quality index in Mumbai while taking suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the issue.

## 4 detained for waving Palestinian flag during Pakistan-Bangladesh match in Kolkata



KOLKATA, Nov 1 (Agencies): Four people were detained at Maidan police station here for waving the

Palestinian flag during the Pakistan-Bangladesh World Cup cricket match at the Eden Gardens, police said.

"We had detained them for waving the Palestinian flag near Gate 6 and Block G1 (during the match on Tuesday)," a senior police officer said.

They, however, did not raise any slogan, he said.

After preliminary questioning, the four spectators – residents of Bally, Ekbalpore and Karaya areas – were let off, the officer told agency.

Initial probe found that the four, all in their mid-twenties, were protesting against the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza, and chose the international match for their stir.

## Pakistan thump Bangladesh to stay alive in semifinals race

KOLKATA, Nov 1 (Agencies): Former champions Pakistan kept alive their slender chances of making the semifinals of the ODI World Cup with a comprehensive seven-wicket victory against Bangladesh today. Electing to bat, Bangladesh could never really recover from a top-order collapse and posted a modest 204 before being all out in the 46th over at the Eden Gardens.

Pakistan's three-pronged pace attack impressed with the new ball and were equally effective in the death overs with only Mahmudullah (56) managing a half-century for Bangladesh. Openers Fakhar Zaman (81) and Abdullah Shafique (68) combined in a 128-run stand to set up their

victory that came with 17.3 overs to spare in a major net run-rate boost for them.

Babar Azam's men moved to fifth place in the points table after their third win in seven matches.

Head coach Grant Bradburn had rued how lack of swing in India had defanged Pakistan's pace attack, usually their strong suit, in the tournament.

Bradburn must have been pleased as the pace trio of Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Wasim and Haris Rauf collectively claimed eight of the 10 Bangladesh wickets in the match. Left-arm quick Afridi (3/23) struck with his fifth delivery, trapping Tanzid Hasan lbw for his 100th ODI wicket. Najmul Hossain Shanto fell in Afridi's

next over and Bangladesh slumped to 23/3 after Rauf (2/36) had Mushfiqur Rahim caught behind in the sixth over. Litton Das (45) and Mahmudullah arrested the slide but the flourish Bangladesh needed did not materialise.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan made 43 but Wasim claimed three wickets in his last seven deliveries to hasten Bangladesh's collapse.

Replacing Imam-ul-Haq at the top of the order, Fakhar found his form as he and Abdullah started dictating terms right from the start.

A ball after Abdullah brought up his fifty with a single off Taskin Ahmed, Fakhar reached his own in a more spectacular manner by hitting the pacer over his head for a six.

## In top-tier battle, New Zealand take on South Africa

A win can inch either side closer to a semifinal berth at the ongoing World Cup.

PUNE, Nov 1 (Agencies): The last time South Africa and New Zealand faced each other in the knockout of the ODI World Cup, at Eden Park in Auckland, Grant Elliott broke the hearts of millions of South Africans with the six over long-on with just one ball to spare. That took New Zealand to the final of the 2015 WC, but their Trans-Tasman rivals proved to be too strong at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Kiwis dusted themselves off to make the final of the 2019 edition of the ODI WC, only to get their hearts broken over a boundary count rule while struggling South Africa couldn't make it to the semifinal.

A lot has changed since then for both teams.

After the retirement of Faf du Plessis, the Temba Bavuma-led side has seen the rise of the likes of Heinrich Klaasen and resurgence of the players like Quinton de Kock, David Miller, and Aiden Markram. De Kock, playing his final WC for the country is currently at the top of the run charts, while Markram



and Klaasen have scored 300+ runs in the competition. With the bat, while batting first, South Africa has showcased the value of saving the wickets and going gung-ho in the death overs. This has been possible because of one of the strongest middle order in the competition, backed by Marco Jansen, who has been exceptional with the ball, but handy with the bat as well.

The nery chase against Pakistan in Chennai did test the Proteas, but their spinners, mainly Tabraiz Shamsi came to the party in Chennai. Jansen and

Kagiso Rabada, make a very potent new ball attack, with Gerald Coetzee marshaling the middle overs. Their bowling has not disappointed them in the tournament so far, but they have an opportunity to put the batting collapse against the Netherlands behind them and get closer to sealing the semifinal spot with a win over New Zealand in Pune.

New Zealand, on the other hand, is going through a mid-tournament slump after starting with four back-to-back wins. The Dharamsala leg of the competition was not that fruitful for

the Kiwis as they lost to India despite Daryl Mitchell's century and couldn't close off the tense finish against Australia. In the absence of injured Kane Williamson, Tom Latham has led the side exceptionally well. Rachin Ravindra, at the age, has been the mainstay of the team. Along with him, Mitchell and Jimmy Neesham were the stars of the show against Australia even in the loss.

The Kiwi bowling unit got a shock against the Aussie when Travis Head and David Warner added 175 runs in just 19 overs, but the bowlers, led by Glenn Phillips and Trent Boult pulled things back. Hopefully, they have learned their lessons in that fixture, considering how dangerous South African top-order can get.

The recent results at the tournament suggest that the side chasing the total has a good chance to come out victorious. That may be the situation, but these two sides have to fight it out to make their case for the semifinal spot.

## Cricket World Cup 2023: Semi-Final Qualification Scenario For All 10 Teams Explained

With six wins in six matches, India are one win away from making the World Cup 2023 semi-finals.

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): The ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 has reached a critical juncture in the group stage, wherein teams have three games left to secure a berth in the semi-finals.

A total of 9 teams are still in contention for one of the semi-final spots, with Bangladesh being the only one to be knocked out. No team, yet, has confirmed their progress or been knocked out of contention for the semis. Host nation India is in pole position to make the World Cup 2023 semi-finals as they are atop the standings with six wins in six matches. South Africa, who have won five of six games, along with New Zealand and Australia currently complete the top four.

ICC World Cup 2023 semi-finals qualification scenarios

India, currently on 12 points, need only one more point to secure a semi-final berth in the World Cup 2023. A win or a tie or a no result in either of their final three games will be enough to ensure their progress as all other teams outside the current top four can only get to a maximum of 12 points.

India face Sri Lanka next at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on November 2. It is followed by South Africa

on November 5 and their final group-stage match against the Netherlands on November 12.

In case India lose all three matches, an Afghanistan defeat in their next match will seal India's semi-final berth.

South Africa The Temba Bavuma-led South African team need three more points to guarantee a place in the semi-finals. However, they play top-four rivals New Zealand and India, followed by challengers Afghanistan in their final three group games.

Meanwhile, only one win could also be enough for the Proteas to make the knockouts, depending on the results of the teams currently placed between 5th and 10th positions on the points table.

New Zealand New Zealand began the tournament with four wins on the bounce but lost to India and Australia thereafter. The Blackcaps will need at least two victories from their remaining three matches to advance into the semi-finals.

New Zealand will take on South Africa in Pune on November 1. A win for the Kiwis will help them strengthen their chances of making it to the next round while also potentially opening it to a three-way battle for the second spot in the points table.



On the other hand, the Blackcaps can also go through to the semis despite a defeat to the Proteas by beating Sri Lanka and Pakistan in their other two matches, which would also dent the qualification hopes for those two teams.

Australia Australia are in a similar situation as their trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand. Pat Cummins and Co. need two wins in three games to strengthen their chances of a spot in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-finals.

After defeats in their opening two games, Australia are on a four-match winning streak while boosting their net run rate after a 309-run success against the Netherlands. The five-time ODI World Cup winners will take on reigning champions England next.

A win against England will put them one win away from the next round.

However, if they lose to the Three Lions, Australia can still progress with

victories against Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Two defeats, meanwhile, would not necessarily be the end of the road for Australia, courtesy of their net run rate. But they will have to depend on other results to advance to the semis.

Afghanistan Afghanistan bolstered their chances of making the World Cup semi-finals for the first time after beating Sri Lanka by seven wickets on October 30. They can achieve a maximum of 12 points, considering they beat the Netherlands, Australia and South Africa.

However, Afghanistan will need either Australia or New Zealand to lose at least one match by a massive margin or lose two while winning all three of their upcoming encounters in the tournament to stand a chance of progressing to the next stage.

Sri Lanka The 1996 World Cup champions Sri Lanka, too, are not mathematically ruled out of semi-final qualification in this

edition. They currently have four points and with three matches to go, the Lankans can score a maximum of 10 points.

Firstly, Sri Lanka would need to win all their remaining three games, which includes beating two of the current top four teams, India and New Zealand. Sri Lanka will also need at least two of the five teams currently above them to not notch more than 10 points. They would also need to hope that those teams end up with an inferior net run rate compared to them.

Pakistan Alike Sri Lanka, Pakistan can also notch a maximum of 10 points in the group stage.

The Babar Azam-led outfit defeated Bangladesh to keep their campaign alive, but also need to win against New Zealand and England in their two remaining matches while also hoping that the current top four teams - India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa - lose their remaining matches to stand a chance to qualify.

However, even one defeat could end the road for the 1992 World Cup winners if Australia and New Zealand win one of their remaining three matches.

Netherlands The Netherlands, too,

are on four points with three matches to go, wherein they will take on Afghanistan, England and India. The Dutch need to win all three games with a massive victory margin, to stand a chance of making it to their first-ever World Cup semi-finals.

At the same time, they will also hope that no more than three teams finish the group stage with 10 points or more as the Netherlands can score a maximum of 10 themselves.

Bangladesh The defeat against Pakistan knocked Bangladesh out of the World Cup semi-finals race. Even mathematical permutations and combinations can't see them secure a top 4 spot now.

England The defending champions England are all but out of semi-final contention in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, although they can mathematically still qualify. The Englishmen would need to beat Australia, the Netherlands and Pakistan by massive margins and similar to Bangladesh, hope that only three teams finish with more than eight points in the standings.

However, a defeat in either of the three matches would see them exit the tournament in the group stage itself.

## Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar wins 50m rifle 3P gold in Asian Shooting Championship



CHANGWON, Nov 1 (Agencies): Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual event and helped India grab a team silver at the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Tomar shot 463.5 in the final to win the gold.

China's Tian Jiaming took the silver with a score of 462.7.

Another Chinese, Du Linshu picked up the bronze with 450.3.

Tomar had finished fifth in the qualification

round with 591. The Indian trio of Tomar, Swapnil Kusale and Akhil Sheoran won the team silver with a total score of 1764, behind China (1777).

India has already got a maximum of two possible Olympic quota places in this event through Kusale and Sheoran.

Kusale had won the Paris Games quota during the World Championships in Cairo last year.

Sheoran did the same in this year's World Championships in Baku.

# BJP Govt has converted J&K into a workshop

## Weird experimentation of saffron regime responsible for present crisis in UT: Harsh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Holding the BJP regime responsible for the present crisis in J&K, Harsh Dev Singh state president JKNPP and former minister said that its imprudence and flawed policies had resulted in unabated bloodshed and mayhem claiming precious lives of innocents as well as security personnel.

He said that militancy had almost died down in J&K during the popular govts but the reckless experimentation of the present rulers resulted in gradual deterioration of security scenario creating early 90's situation in the erstwhile state.

Accusing the BJP govt of deflecting the blame on Pakistan every day and for every act of violence, Singh questioned the locus of the BJP for continuing in power.

"You can't abdicate your responsibility by merely accusing Pakistan. It is your primary duty and constitutional obligation to protect the lives of the citizens on which count you have failed miserably", asserted Singh.

Accusing the BJP govt of having converted J&K into a laboratory and conducting weird



experimentation over it during the last few years, Harsh Dev said that such a flawed approach of the centre had led to massive complications with an all-round disenchantment prevailing in the new UT as a consequence thereof. What was the rationale in breaking the oldest state and converting it into UTs? questioned Singh.

"Not only was the state demoted to the level of UT, but the people have been deprived of their right to have a democratically elected

govt for the last more than 3 years. The Assembly having been suspended and consequently dissolved in 2018, the people are being subjected to proxy rule of the centre. A Domicile law which allows the outsiders to reside in J&K and to become its residents getting all the rights of 'state subject' has further added fuel to the fire. The growing alienation amongst the youth in particular is being downplayed and disregarded. The entire focus of the BJP govt is on its political expansion deliriously oblivious of the growing tensions and escalation in militancy in the UT. And while the killings of innocents has become a routine affair in J&K, the BJP leadership continues to harp on formation of govt in J&K and winning 50 seats therein without uttering a word to save the erstwhile Dogra state from death and destruction. It seems that the BJP wants to keep the pot boiling in J&K so that it could exploit the present situation as political firecracker in other states for its vote bank politics, asserted Harsh.

He added further the normalcy shall never be achieved as long as centre continued to rule J&K by proxy.

# UT Foundation Day celebrated at Handicrafts Complex Janipur



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Under the guidance of Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industry & Commerce Department, one day awareness camp was organized by Assistant Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu Joginder Mangol on the occasion of UT Foundation Day at Handicrafts Showroom Janipur, here.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Vikas Gupta, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu alongwith Fared Ahmed Kohli, Development Officer.

The activities lead by the Chief Guest on the occasion include Integrity pledge for citi-

zens, Unity in diversity pledge, distribution of registration certificates and Sanction letters for Credit Card Scheme.

On the occasion, Vikas Gupta has highlighted different welfare schemes for artisans/ weavers viz. Training centres, Credit Card Scheme for artisans, Karkhandar scheme for skill-upliftment, formation of Cooperative societies etc.

The Chief Guest also talked about the recent advancements of the Department like allotment of equal share for Jammu Division in terms of representation at National level exhibitions, recognition of Handicrafts products in

terms of GI Tagging like Basohli Painting, Chikri wood and Basohli Pashmina, Record breaking achievement in formation of 400 No Industrial cooperative societies in Division Jammu and establishment of Common Facility Centres.

Fared Ahmed Kohli speaking on the occasion, impressed on the need to unify and work in coordination to create a progressive society.

The programme concluded by vote of thanks by Handicrafts Training Officer Simmi. The AHTOs, Craft Instructors and other officials of the Assistant Director Handicrafts, Jammu were also present on the occasion.

# SMVDU scholar delivers lecture at Chalapathi Institute of Technology



### Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 1: The Department of CSE-AI/AIML, Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh organized a one-day guest lecture on 6th October, 2023.

Participants witnessed an enlightening lecture titled "Impact of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare" by Abhigya Mahajan, Research Scholar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, working under the guidance of Dr. Baijnath Kaushik.

The lecture aimed to equip participants with the essential skills and

knowledge required for the role of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Mahajan covered various topics related to Artificial Intelligence, including their importance in the Healthcare system in India.

Addressing the participants, Mahajan also discussed the challenges of integrating Artificial intelligence into Healthcare.

The lecture was followed by a lively interactive session, during which attendees had the opportunity to pose questions and engage in discussions with Mahajan.

Participants appreciated the insightful and practical advice offered during the session, which they believe it would significantly benefit their knowledge regarding Artificial Intelligence.

The principal Dr. K. Kiran Kumar expressed his gratitude to Mahajan for sharing their expertise and knowledge with the academic community at Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

# Karva Chauth celebrated with fervour at Aryans



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: To apprise the significance of Indian festivals, Aryans group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh celebrated Karva Chauth with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm on Wednesday. The Staff from Engineering, Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, Management, Paramedical, Physiotherapy, Education etc participated in various activities organized in the campus.

On this occasion, the activities like thali making, nail-art and Mehandi competition were held. The staff participated in the activities enthusiastically

and showcased their talent in all these disciplines. All women staff sang songs & danced in groups to make this day more special. Dr. Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans Group of colleges congratulated all staff.

It is to mention that this is a most loved festival in India & married Women observe fast on Karva Chauth. The celebrations began early in morning before the sunrise, with women having Sargi after which they don't have to drink even water till they offer Arghya to the moon. They pray for the prosperous, good health and long life of their husbands.

# Godrej Agrovet launches 'Rashinban' pest control product in association with Nissan Chemical Corporation

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL), one of India's largest diversified agri-business, today announced the launch of an advanced pest control product Rashinban in India. With the patent chemistry discovered and developed by Japan's Nissan Chemical Corporation, Rashinban is being launched for the first time globally in India through collaboration with GAVL to protect the Chilli crops during the flowering stage.

Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director, GAVL, commented, "Through our partnership with Nissan Chemical Corporation, our endeavour is to introduce solutions that uplift and prosper Indian farming families. Our new product Rashinban is recommended specifically for the active flowering stage of Chilli plants to provide holistic efficacy. Along with the already existing products, Hanabi and Gracia, the addition of Rashinban in the portfolio will enable us to serve the entire value chain of Chilli crop. We are certain that the launch of Rashinban will



help aid India's contribution to global Chilli market scale greater heights."

Dr. Rajkumar Yadav, Managing Director of Nissan Chemical Corporation (India), expressed his views about the partnership with GAVL, stating, "We are delighted to collaborate with GAVL for the global-first launch of Rashinban and contribute to company's endeavour to uplifting Indian farming families. Rashinban is another result of our efforts to support the growth and sustainability of Indian agriculture. We are confident that like our previous products, Rashinban too will be widely

adopted by the farming community."

Burjis Godrej, Executive Director and COO, Crop Protection Business, GAVL said, "At GAVL, our mission is to bring forth innovative solutions tailored to the Indian market. Chilli farmers today need to ensure that their crop receives right quantity of nutrient at the right time across the crop's growth cycle and free from abiotic stress to ensure a high-quality yield. And it is herein that we continue to launch innovative solutions and educate farmers on the importance of leveraging our wide range of products for

pest control and subsequent integration of appropriate measures."

Highlighting Rashinban's efficacy controlling different pests, Rajavelu NK, CEO, Crop Protection Business, GAVL, said, "Following launch of Gracia in 2022, our 'Start with Gracia' focus enabled farmers to proactively protect their seedlings. However, during our field visits and discussions with the farmers, it was brought to our notice that crops continued to get wiped out due to invasive pests. To address the same, we decided to launch Rashinban."

# No alternative to an elected Govt in J&K: Manjit Singh



### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Nov 1: Asserting that there is no alternative to an elected Govt, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister Manjit Singh on Wednesday demanded restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir.

Expressing his concern over the growing public issues, the Former Minister said the delay in holding Panchayati Raj, Urban Local Body and Assembly Elections in J&K is unacceptable.

"The elections were delayed without citing concrete reasons. On the ground, the people want the elections to be held so that the public representatives can ensure all round development and employment for the unemployed youth," said Manjit Singh while addressing a monthly meeting of Apni Party leaders and workers in Vijaypur.

The Apni Party meeting discussed existing political scenarios and developmental issues being faced by the people.

While addressing the gathering, the Former Minister appreciated the Apni Party leaders for their hard work and strengthening the roots of the Party in Samba District.

He expressed concern over the delay in PRI, ULB and Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir that has generated a feeling of alienation among the masses in both the Regions.

"The authorities are taking decisions unilaterally by not consulting the public representatives. These decisions have often led to resentment because of anti-people policies," he said,

while citing the Jammu-Pathankot highway which is in shabby condition from Vijaypur to Bari Brahmana.

The highway poses a serious threat to the commuters and locals because the work is in progress in an unplanned and unscientific manner that needs to be reviewed and the administration must investigate the concerns of the people regarding the ongoing working of the highway by NHAI.

"The NHAI work causes long traffic jams and people have to wait for hours together to reach from one place to another from Vijaypur to Bari Brahmana," he said.

He said, "The construction apparently handed over to the inexperienced and qualified contractors which is causing disturbance and threat to the lives of the commuters."

Meanwhile, he said that the public issues can be resolved by an elected Govt for which the Assembly Elections should be held and Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir should be restored, he added.

"There is resentment among the people in absence of an elected Govt and other elected institutions leaving them unrepresented in the Govt's decision making. The authorities work in a wayward manner, which has irked the people," he said.

Referring to the development, he said that the road infrastructure in border villages is badly damaged, and they need to be widened for free movement of vehicles and villagers. "The single roads connecting the villages often lead to road mishap. Therefore, a

proper road connectivity should be provided. The 24/7 electricity and regular drinking water supply should be ensured," he said.

He alleged that the SC and ST basties have been ignored regarding development and basic amenities. "The authorities should take strict action against the field staff and other officers incharge for ignoring development in the SC/ST residential colonies," he added.

He further raised the issue of individual bunkers for each family living close to the International Border in Jammu, Samba and Kashmir should be constructed by the Govt keeping in view the hostile situation border.

"The people are worried about their harvest in border areas of Jammu, Samba and Kathua and want peace to be maintained to ensure they do not get displaced, and their crops do not get destroyed," he said while describing fear among the border residents.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting include District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, ST President, Saleem Aalam Choudhary, General Secretary SC Wing, Capt. Joginder, SC Wing Provincial President Jammu, Lovely Mangol, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District Legal Cell, President, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, District President Youth Wing, Mangat Ram, Block President Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, Block President Bari Brahmana, Block Babu Ram Bhagat, Block President Vijaypur, Mohan Lal Sharma, Block Secretary, Sai Bhagat Ram, Office Secretary, Brij Mohan Dutta, Irshan Choudhary, and others.