

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

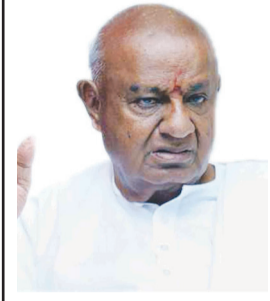
JAMMU, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

### Nishtha Sharma bags her second OG song Forever Wala Ishq

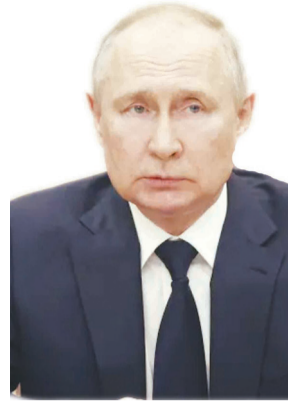


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### Veteran Karnataka politician D B Chandre Gowda dead

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### Russia Formally Withdraws From A Key Post-Cold War Security Treaty



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## BRIEFLY

### Soldier dies on duty near LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, Nov 7 (Agencies): A soldier died during duty along Line of Control in Poonch district on Tuesday, official said. They said the soldier, Naik Rohan Patel, fell unconscious, while moving towards drill. Thereafter, the soldier was immediately evacuated to hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

A police official confirmed the death of soldier.

### 3 houses gutted in overnight blaze in Srinagar's Alochi Bagh

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): At least 3 residential houses were gutted in a massive fire that broke out in Alochi Bagh area of Srinagar late last night, officials said on Tuesday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that fire broke out due to short-circuit in one of the houses.

He said that soon after the incident fire tenders reached to the spot to douse off the flames, however, by then the houses had suffered extensive damage.

The official said that there was no loss of life reported in the incident.

### Illegal Mining of Minerals: Police seizes 3 tippers & 4 tractors; arrests 7 Drivers in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday seized three tippers & four tractors besides arresting seven drivers.

A spokesperson said that the Police initiated the action under the supervision of DySP Hqs Baramulla assisted by SHO Baramulla & IC PP Delina.

The police seized 3 Tippers, 4 Tractors & arrested 7 drivers namely Ashiq Ahmad Dar son of Ab Rehman resident of Jalsheeri, Bashir Ahmad Khan son of Lal Din resident of Kanispora, Manzoor Ahmad Gojree son of

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## Vigilance Week celebrations concludes in J&K

### Boosts use of IT services for transparent government-to-citizen interactions

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, today chaired a meeting of Administrative Secretaries and took stock of activities undertaken during the course of vigilance week. During the meeting, it was informed that the government had been vigorously working to promote both preventive and participatory vigilance for bringing transparency and accountability in governance.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Police, all Administrative Secretaries of various departments, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of all districts.

The Commissioner Secretary, General



Administration Department informed the Chief Secretary that following the government's resolve to make government-to-citizen interactions more transparent and accessible through 1075 e-services which is highest in the country, along with related IT initiatives such as MobileDost, Rapid Assessment System, DigiDost for doorstep delivery of e-services,

linking of services with DigiLocker, there has been immense progress in mitigating corruption. The latest data indicates that more than 52 lac applications have been processed for availing various services in the online mode of which more than 42 lac have been disposed off.

To ensure time-bound delivery of online services, e-services are progressively being cov-

ered under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) with linkage to Auto-Appeal System (AAS) which escalates breach of timeline cases to the next authority for action against defaulting officer. As of now, around 64000 appeals have been generated with 32000 appeals disposed off. Besides, penalty proceedings have been initiated

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## J&K Police announces Rs 10 lakh reward for tip-off on recent targeted attacks by militants

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh each for information on the three recent targeted attacks by militants in the valley in which a cop and a non-local labourer were killed.

In a public notice, the police announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh each for credible infor-

mation about the terrorist attacks that took place on three consecutive days from October 30.

On October 29, police Inspector Masroor Ali Wani was critically injured when a lone terrorist shot at him while he was playing cricket in the Eidgah playground here.

The next day, a non-local labourer Mukesh

Kumar was shot dead in the Trumchi Nowpora area of Pulwama. A day later, Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad was shot dead outside his residence in the Wailoo Kralpora area of Baramulla.

"Information about the attacker or his associates or helpers or harbourers of the attacker can be shared with any

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## JKBOSE to conduct 10th to 12th standard exams from first week of March-2024 in Soft Zones

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) said that it will conduct annual regular exams of 10th to 12th standard from the first week of March-2024 for soft zones.

It also said that it will conduct the annual regular exams of hard zones of 10th to 12th standard from the second week of April-2024.

Director Academics of JKBOSE in a communique has said that annual regular exams of 10th standard will be conducted from the second week of March-2024 in soft zones.

Similarly, the annual regular exams of 11th standard in soft zones will commence from the last week of March.

Likewise, the exams of 12th standard will begin from the first week of

March 2024 respectively.

JKBOSE further said that it will conduct exams of hard and difficult zones of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh divisions from the second week of April-2024 for 10th and 12th standard and last week of April for 11th standard respectively.

According to the JKBOSE, for both hard and soft zones, it will

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## Police arrests three drug peddlers in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in North Kashmir's Baramulla district and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Spokesperson said that a police party of Police Post Kungam-dara headed by Incharge Police Post Kungam-dara under the supervision of SDPO Pattan at a checkpoint established at Nowlari Pattan, intercepted a vehicle (Honda City) bearing registra-



tion number DL7CF-6091 with 02 persons onboard. During their search, 7.1 Kgs of

Poppy Straw like contraband substance was recovered from their possession. They were

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## "Matter Of Pride": Maharashtra CM Shinde on Shivaji Maharaj Statue to be unveiled in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said it is a matter of pride that a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is to be unveiled in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday.

An equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been installed at 41 National Rifle (Maratha LI) near the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"It is a proud thing for the country that a magnificent equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will unveiled near the India-Pakistan border (in the Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir) on November 7. I am



very obliged to get a chance to be part of this event...." Eknath Shinde said on Monday.

Shinde on Monday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said.

As per the Depart-

ment of Information and Public Relations, Shinde met Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here.

Maharashtra's Minister for Forest, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries Sudhir Mungantiwar was also present in the meeting, it further said.

The statue will be

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## Four loaded magazines seized in Samba



JAMMU, Nov 7 (Agencies): Four loaded magazines along with some loose live rounds were recovered from a pond in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Tuesday, officials said. The recovery was made from Jakh village along the Jammu-Pathankot highway during cleaning of the roadside pond, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said the rusted condition of the magazines and the bullets suggest they were dumped in the pond a long time back.

## Soldier's conviction upheld: Dismissed from service, Given life Imprisonment

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): The Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) has upheld the conviction of a soldier and the sentence of dismissal from service and life imprisonment by a summary general court martial (SGCM) for allegedly shooting dead his colleague while on duty, reported The Tribune.

The incident occurred in December 2012 in an infantry unit deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. The deceased was on sentry duty during the evening hours when he was shot by the appellant-convict, who is presently serving the sentence.

In his petition before the AFT, the appellant-convict argued that the case relies on circumstantial evidence, and

the chain of events is incomplete. He claimed that the motive couldn't be established and suggested that another individual, who had relieved the deceased shortly before the incident, could be responsible for the crime.

"We are satisfied that the chain of events is complete, and no one other than the appellant-convict could have committed the crime," stated the Tribunal's bench, which comprises Justice Sudhir Mittal and Lt Gen Ravindra Pal Singh, on November 6, after scrutinizing the facts.

"In this case, in addition to the fact that they were last seen together, there are other unquestionable factors that establish the guilt of the

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## Vehicular Movement on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway to remain suspended

SRINAGAR, Nov 7 (Agencies): The vehicular movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) between Nashri and Navgum Tunnel on Wednesday.

An official source said that this suspension will be in effect from 12:00 AM to 4:00 AM. In light of the installation of girders at Nashri viaduct to ensure safety, no vehicles will be allowed to pass after 9:00 PM from Qazigund heading towards Jammu and after 10:00 PM from Udhampur towards

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# Heritage and Tourism Club (UTSAAH) celebrates resounding cultural fair



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: Heritage and Tourism Club (UTSAAH) in collaboration with the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), University of Jammu organised an event A Cultural Fair on Tuesday.

The event was organised with the primary objective of raising awareness about the rich local art and craft traditions of the region among the students of the university. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, graced the occasion, and Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean of Research Studies, University of Jammu, inaugurated the fair.

Prof. Umesh Rai appreciated the efforts of the Heritage and Tourism Club (UTSAAH) and SHTM for providing a platform for the students to demonstrate their entrepreneurial aptitude. He emphasised the university's commitment to nurturing a culture that encourages students to become job creators rather than merely job seekers, and events like these serve as an example of fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth of the region.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, stated that the Dogra culture is an invaluable part of Jammu and Kashmir's history, possessing a unique blend of traditions, art,

and customs that are a source of great pride for the community. She emphasised that it is the responsibility of educational institutions like the University of Jammu to not only preserve this cultural legacy but also to actively engage in its promotion.

Under the guidance of Prof. Satnam Kour, Chairperson (UTSAAH), Dr. Suvridha Khanna, Coordinator, Heritage and Tourism Club, and Dr. Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM, the event offered a wide range of cultural experiences.

Prof. Satnam Kour, Convener (UTSAAH), stated that this event is an endeavour to provide a platform for the students to embrace our culture, acquire new

skills, and nurture their entrepreneurial spirit so that they are better equipped to shape their future and make a positive impact on society.

One of the key highlights of the event was a historic tonga ride, which provided a glimpse into the region's history. Further, students and alumni of the University of Jammu showcased their entrepreneurial skills with stalls displaying traditional handicrafts and innovative creations. The event celebrated the creative talents of students, with exhibits ranging from candle making to cane products and bangle crafting.

An open mic session allowed participants to share their artistic talents, including singing, storytelling, and personal experiences, fostering an environment of cultural exchange and expression.

"A Cultural Fair" received overwhelming support from the university community and the public, making it a truly memorable event that achieved its mission of celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the region.

# Congress takes feedback from grass root level workers of party

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: A meeting of PCC General Secretaries in charge of various districts, District Presidents and Heads of Frontal Wings of the party was held here today at PCC HQ Shaheed Chowk Jammu to take feedback from the grass root level workers of the party.

The meeting was chaired by PCC President Viakr Rasool Wani along with Working President Raman Bhalla.

Vikar Rasool Wani said that BJP is running away from the much delayed Assembly elections in UT for fear of backlash and defeat, the people will teach BJP a lesson in all forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He asked the incharges of different districts of the party to hold regular meetings with the representatives of the PRI's including last contested candidates in the Panchayats and Municipal bodies to aggressively prepare for the forthcoming elections.

JKPCC Chief announced that the congress party will contest the elections to the Panchayats, urban local bodies, assembly and parliamentary with full force and complete preparations to give a befitting electoral defeat to the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir which has utterly failed to come up to the expectations of the people of the different sections and gave lot of miseries to each and every section of the society.

Bhalla lashed out at the BJP for depriving the people of their basic demo-



cratic rights in Jammu and Kashmir. The full fledged Dogra state has been downgraded arbitrarily and unilaterally depriving the people of their identity and rights and for the past 5 years there is no elected government after the desolation of the assembly in 2018.

Bhalla asked party cadres to expose the BJP in all fronts especially for depriving the people of J&K of the basic democratic rights and ruling Jammu Kashmir by proxy. He said that due to wrong policies adopted by the BJP Govt has failed to provide employment to educated youth, those already employed in different business enterprises have been left jobless due to economic losses. The unprecedented price hike, rising unemployment, economic distress, losses caused to small business enterprises, he added and said under BJP rule people are facing worst on every count.

The meeting also expressed shock over the loss of lives in a road accident in Rajouri where an over loaded tempo traveler rolled down into

a gorge near Palma on Rajouri-Budhal road Yesterday. The meeting conveyed deep sympathy with the bereaved families and prayed for early recover of the injured.

Senior leaders who attended and gave their inputs in the meeting include Vice President PCC I/C Jammu Urban Yash Pal Kundal, General Secretaries I/C Samba Pawan Raina, I/C Kathua Shashi Sharma, I/C Jammu Rural Narinder Gupta, I/C Udhampur Balbir Singh, I/C Poonch Shakeel Mir, I/C Ramban Pyare Lal Shan, DCC Presidents Shabir Ahmed Khan(Rajouri), Th. Manmohan Singh (Jammu Urban), Th. Shamer

Singh Chib (Jammu Rural), Rajinder Singh Kaka (Poonch), Sanjeev Sharma (Samba), Pankaj Dogra (Kathua) Aasif Naqeeb(Kishtwar) Sheikh Mujeeb (Doda) Pravez Ahmed Wani (Ramban), Vinod Khajuria (Udhampur), Bhopinder Singh Jamwal (Reasi), besides heads of Frontal Wings Shiv Kumar Sharma (INTUC), Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Aakash Bharat (PYC), Ajay Lakhotra (NSUI), Bhano Mahajan (Mahila Congress), Rajinder Singh Nathua(Minority), Shamsheer Bhagat(SC) Madan Lal Chalotra (CBC), H.L.Pandita (KP Cell), Bilal Ahmed (Social Media), Rakesh Wazir (Trade & Commerce) and others.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India informing that the e-Auction invited and to be opened on 10.11.2023 will now open as per schedule given below:-

Auction catalogue No.	EAFZR-PMBJK-1
Auction Date & Time	16.11.2023 at 12:30 hrs.
Name of work	Allotment of space on contract basis for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Railway Station Phagwara & Srinagar.

For participation, registration and further information please visit on Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 3476/2023

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

# The Photography Club of JU organises a two-day workshop with Canon India

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: In a bid to cultivate creativity and skill development among students, the Photography Club, UTSAAH, University of Jammu, in association with Canon India, today organised two days of photography workshop, wherein Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai interacted with the participants.

Talking to the participants, Prof. Umesh Rai emphatically encouraged and insisted on the students actively engage in such workshops.

Stressing the value of practical learning and skill enrichment, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the importance of such workshops in fostering holistic development and honing students' abilities beyond the confines of the academic curriculum.

This initiative aligns perfectly with our com-



mitment to fostering creativity and skill development among our students," Prof. Umesh Rai said.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Satnam Kour, Chairman of UTSAAH, who was the chief guest, said that under the guidance of Prof. Umesh Rai, 12 different clubs have been introduced to chisel and refine the talent of students.

Usually, students get stuck with academics, finding little or no time

or platform to exhibit their talents," said Prof. Satnam Kour, adding that these clubs were introduced with the intention of providing such platforms for talented students.

Earlier, Dr. Pritam Singh, Coordinator of the Photography Club, welcomed all the participants and briefed about the purpose and objectives of the workshop.

During this two-day workshop, students will be taught theoretical aspects of photography

followed by hands-on training," he said.

Underscoring the significance of participating in these workshops, Dr. Pritam stated that these Workshops not only complement theoretical knowledge but also provide invaluable real-world exposure, enabling students to acquire practical skills that are vital for their personal and professional growth.

Virendra Singh, photography mentor at Canon India, shared

his extensive knowledge and experience, offering insights into various photography techniques, equipment usage, and the latest trends in the industry.

Participants were engaged in hands-on sessions where they learned to capture compelling images and were given guidance on refining their photographic skills.

Students from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Psychology, Punjabi, The Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) and other departments of the university participated in the workshop.

Others present included Rakesh Sharma, Head IMFA; Dr. Amarjit Singh, Faculty IMFA; and Dr. Pardeep Singh and Dr. Ravia Gupta from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication Raman-deep is a technical specialist for Canon India.

# Civil Defense Awareness program held in CSU

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: A Civil Defense Awareness program was organized on Tuesday under the joint aegis of Sports, Culture and Youth Service Center and National Service Scheme Unit at Central Sanskrit University (CSU), Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

About 100 persons participated in it. On this occasion, the Chief Warden of Civil Defense, Paramjeet Kumar said that information was given on the ways to protect oneself as well as help others during accidents and disasters.

In the programme, the working of modern machines used during disasters was also explained to the participants. Along with this, information was given by giving examples that when a disaster occurs, how they have to help the people in



trouble while saving their lives. Civil Defense instructors Rajinder Kumar and Purshotam Kumar told the contestants how to give CPR to an accident victim so that the person's life

can be saved and how to deal with various challenges technically. On this occasion, Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra said that getting training from

such awareness programs helps a lot in times of disaster. He also appreciated the work of the civil defense team.

Dr. Yogendra Dixit, Coordinator of the National Service Scheme Unit, said that in the coming days, a training camp will also be organized for more than two hundred participants so that more and more people get basic training in civil defense. The guests were duly welcomed and thanked by Maninder Singh, Program Officer of the National Service Scheme Unit.

On this occasion, Deputy Warden of Civil Defense R. Vijay Mangotra, Training Incharge RD Saini, President of Sports, Culture and Youth Service Center Dr. Gopal Verma, Dr. Madan Singh, Dr. Prakash Yadav, Dr. Ratan Kumar, Dr. Shweta Sood, Dr. Shubhashree Dash were present.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR**

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Fresh e-NIT No. 124 of 2023-24 Dated 03.11.2023

(Single Cover System)

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Const. of extension counter of J&K Bank in prelab structure at GCW Udhampur (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call).	4.05	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	4202 Hr. Education
2.	Const. of Cabins at Signal Centre Distt. Police Line Udhampur (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call).	1.95	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Untied
3.	Fencing of town hall land and installation of shutters. (5 <sup>th</sup> Call)	1.95	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	MTMP
4.	Blacktopping of road from PMGSY road to Shiv Dev Singh house & Banshi Shop Kotli Jijan Pyt. Patta Block Udhampur (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call).	9.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"C/D"	Major Head 5475 NFB
5.	Const. of 01 Nos. MAC building at Nalli Nikka (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call).	13.03	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	180 Days	"B/C/D"	Aspirational Block Development Programme
6.	Interlocking tiles & repair on a danga near Pandav Mandir Hospital road W.No. 8 Udhampur (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call).	0.49	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	01 Month	"D"	14 <sup>th</sup> F.C

Position of AAA:- **Accorded**  
Position of T.S:- **Accorded**  
Position of Funds:- **Available**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-11-2023 to 13-11-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	04-11-2023 from 1200 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	13-11-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-11-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- 19892-96  
Dated:- 03.11.2023

**DIP/J-10713/23**

Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Udhampur

## EDITORIAL

INCREASING  
CRIMES

Crime is an act which is prohibited by law in the country and for which punishment is prescribed. Any actions done by any class of person, that violate social rules and laws, come under the category of crime.

There is no fixed definition or classification of crimes. With time these changes and necessary amendments keep happening. A decade ago, there were no special laws for rape, caste discrimination, illiteracy, and personal freedom against women. At that time all this did not fall under the category of crime. But after the making of the Constitution, the provision of punishment and fines for all types of crimes is fixed. In which various types of crimes have been defined precisely.

Crimes are increasing day by day in the society. The main reasons for the increase in crime are our changing lifestyle, social conditions, mental stress, increasing use of social media, and cheap internet. Many people learn to commit crimes by watching videos on the internet, while some provoke people through social media. One reason is that criminals do not fear punishment; the law of the country is very flexible.

Unemployment is one of the major problems of India. With the speed with which our population is increasing, lakhs of children are graduating every year. But this number of jobs is not being created every year. And the graph of unemployment is continuously increasing. Unemployment breaks the mood of any youth so much. Then he becomes eager to do anything out of greed for money.

In the present times, we are developing rapidly, but along with it many new diseases are emerging - mental disorders are one of them. Ever since we started busying ourselves with machines and the internet, our social life is decreasing. Today every second person suffers from loneliness. Some have mental stress or depression. Due to these disorders, today man's mental balance is deteriorating and he is moving towards committing crimes.

Drinking means taking intoxication is one of the worst habits of humans. Despite knowing that drinking alcohol is harmful to physical and mental health, a person still drinks alcohol and in an intoxicated state loses his senses and commits serious crimes. Because our constitution is the most flexible constitution the criminal is given opportunities to prove himself innocent and many times the criminal escapes punishment by presenting false evidence, proving himself innocent, and misusing the law and order. Our constitutional system works so slowly that it takes 10 to 20 years for a criminal to be punished. Indian law is not harsh, that is why criminals do not fear the law and continue committing crimes.

Today every person is roaming around with the internet in his pocket. Many revolutionary changes have taken place with the advent of the Internet, but its biggest impact is falling on the young generation. While social media has worked to connect people, it has also given rise to many types of crimes. Some people on social media make innocent people their victims by creating fake profile IDs and asking for money or secret information in return.

But most of the films are being made in which fighting, obscenity, and serious crimes are shown and these crimes are committed by none other than the hero and people consider the hero in the cinema as God, whoever the hero, people also try to do the same and forget the difference between right and wrong. Teasing girls, making fun of them, murdering someone for money, gang rape, all these people have learned from cinema and have committed criminal acts.

## It's time to end the anonymous funding of all Indian elections

By: Aakar Patel

The Supreme Court has finished hearing arguments on electoral bonds and will hopefully deliver a judgment soon. I say hopefully because it has now been six years since the scheme was introduced in the 2017 Budget.

Many readers will not know the background to the bonds and what they are. In brief, it allows unlimited, anonymous donations to any registered political party. The scheme also allows anyone, including foreign governments, criminal gangs and of course corporate interests, the ability to influence political parties because parties could accept money without revealing who gave it.

The process to fund a party anonymously was made easy. Bonds would be available in denominations of up to Rs 1 crore at State Bank of India branches in 29 cities. A donor could purchase them through their bank account and hand them over to the party or individual of their choice, who could encash them. They would be valid for 15 days.

The manner in which the scheme was introduced should alert us to the fact that something was off from the start. Four days before Budget 2017, a bureaucrat spotted the scheme in then finance minister Arun Jaitley's speech, and noted that the RBI's assent was required. This was because the introduction of bonds required changes to the RBI Act, something that the government apparently did

not know.

The officer drafted a proposed amendment to align the law with the change and sent the file up the ranks for the finance minister to see. The same day, January 28, 2017, a Saturday, the RBI was sent a five-line email seeking its comments. The reply came on Monday, January 30. The RBI said it was a bad idea as it went against the RBI's authority as the sole issuer of bearer instruments, meaning cash. These bonds, as they were anonymous, could become currency and undermine the faith in India's cash.

On this point, the RBI was unambiguous: amending the law to facilitate this "would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking legislation and doing so would set a bad precedent".

The second objection the RBI had was that "even the intended purpose of the transparency might not be achievable as the original buyer of the instrument (bond) need not be the actual contributor to the party". If person A purchased the bond and then sold it, at face value or more, to any entity, including a foreign government, that entity could gift it to a party. The nameless bond was as good as cash. "The bonds are bearer bonds and transferable by delivery", the RBI said, "hence, who finally and actually contributes the bond to the political party will not be known".

The last point it made was that what was proposed through the electoral bond scheme — transfer of money from bank

accounts of entities to political parties — could be done through a cheque, bank transfer or demand draft.

"There is no special need for, or advantage by, the creation of an Electoral Bearer Bond, that too by disturbing an established international practice." The man charged with steering the thing through was Hasmukh Adhia, an IAS officer from Gujarat with a Ph.D. in yoga. (He had earlier chaperoned the GST Bill, and after he retired, was made chairman of the Bank of Baroda and chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat). He dismissed the RBI's objections on two grounds.

First, he said: "It appears the RBI has not understood the proposed mechanism of having pre-paid instruments for the purpose of keeping the identity of the donor secret, while ensuring the donation is made only out of fully tax-paid money of a person." By this he meant because the original purchaser had to acquire the bonds through their official account, it made the donation clean. This was not a response to the RBI's specific objections. Adhia said the 15-day time limit for redemption would mitigate against the RBI's other fears, without explaining how.

Second, he said: "Also this advice has come quite late at a time when the Finance Bill is already printed." It had actually come within hours of being sent for. It was hardly the RBI's fault that the advice had not been sought earlier. This was deceit, but Adhia concluded: "We may,

therefore, go ahead with our proposal". His colleague, economic affairs secretary Tapan Ray, concurred with Adhia the same day, and on Wednesday, February 1, Jaitley announced the scheme which became law with the passage of the Union Budget.

Asked by journalist Nitin Sethi of Huffington Post (which carried a six-part investigation into electoral bonds, based on documents procured by RTI activist Commodore Lokesh Batra) why the government had ignored the RBI's objections, the finance ministry said it had taken the decision "in good faith and in the larger public interest".

When the law was passed, the details were not made public. This came in June 2017, when Tapan Ray revealed how the bonds would work in practice: "The information regarding purchaser and payee shall be kept secret by the issuer bank. These details would be beyond the purview of RTI." (Ray was made chairman of the Central Bank of India after he retired in 2018, and in 2019 was also made CEO and managing director of Gujarat International Finance Tec City.)

The next body to say the electoral bonds scheme was dangerous was the Election Commission. In an affidavit to the Supreme Court, it said that to exclude the reporting of donations received by political parties through electoral bonds would have "serious repercussions on the transparency aspect of political funding of political parties".

## Israel-Hamas war: Does expansion loom large?

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

One of the prime differences between the Arab-Israeli wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973, and the current standoff between Hamas and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), is the fact that the earlier wars ended in a double-quick timeframe with decisive IDF victories. The fact that Israel has continued for so long to delay a much-touted ground incursion into the Gaza Strip to achieve the neutralisation of Hamas exemplifies how far Israel's adversaries have undergone in "military" transformation. Even currently there is no surety on the status of Israel's potential victory as the IDF troops surround Gaza's built-up areas from land, sea and air. In 2006, Hezbollah displayed a professional propensity to perform in battle and hence the standoff was virtually stalemated in military terms. The method of conflict initiation by Hamas this time rightly received the widest condemnation from around the world. The deterrence angle imposed by Israel's war-fighting proficiency must have weighed heavily on the Hamas psyche. Hamas' terrorist-oriented concept actually does not fall under the ambit of the term "military"; it was designed without concern for civilian casualties to draw an "out of proportion" response. It also seems to have deterred a rapid Israeli response through the sheer depravity and impunity of its planned operation. One can visualise that there was a method in the madness in this conflict initiation.

On the face of it, the longer that this war persists the greater are the chances that it may spread beyond, into the volatile neighbourhood. The forms of warfare have changed

quite drastically since 1973 — with terrorists, mercenary forces and other irregulars joining the fray in today's wars. They usually play by no rules. Even the current standoff was initiated well outside anything called rules. Accordingly, Israel too has chosen not to follow the "holier than thou" advice that it is often receiving these days from all over the world. The dilemma of the United States is palpable because it is aware Israel cannot search and destroy Hamas surgically in the lanes and streets of Gaza. Hamas' strategy was probably designed to create that dilemma both for Israel and the US, and for the international community at large.

"Gaza is going to suffer... no nation will agree that your neighbour will slaughter babies, women or people... Unfortunately, it's happening. We live in a tough neighbourhood, and we need to survive... we have to be tough. We have no choice". Those are the words of a retired Israeli general officer, Noam Tibon, who was forced to pick up a weapon and with a few other soldiers rescue his son and his family from a kibbutz targeted by Hamas. If that is the reality, I can only see that Hamas' objective of making this a standoff as never before, something threatening Israel existentially and taking the war well beyond, could manifest. Its strategy perhaps included the revival of anti-Semitism due to the inevitable Israeli overkill response, which it probably anticipated. However, rarely do such suicidal strategies lead to planning for a second or third order effect.

The first strike by Hamas at Israeli civilian targets on October 7 was such a deplorable act that it stunned the world, including much of the

Arab world, which responded only in guarded tones. A month down the line, the cognitive side of the standoff appears changing, with perceptions about the Israeli response on Gaza being even more reprehensible than the Hamas strike. That over 9,000 Gaza civilians have been killed and humanitarian aid has been withheld is not aiding Israel. Is this what Hamas had planned? Moreover, is this the realist second order effect which is currently in the making; that is international opinion building against Israel to a breakpoint. There is the whole gamut of the presidential election in America, where at one time the Jewish lobby was considered all-powerful and influential. This time an Islamic lobby seems to be the greater worry.

All this has ramifications on the regional order, which will control the eventual response. Egypt and Saudi Arabia are telling Washington that the crisis in Gaza could revive extremist groups which could target the entire Middle East region. The cascading sympathy for Palestinians could be exploited by Hamas for a greater transnational terror revival. Although groups such as Hezbollah are doing only the bare minimum to have a foot in the door in the war against Israel, it is unlikely that Hasan Nasrullah will wish to fight the war of Hamas without a clear plan or objective. Only if Israel actually starts to execute its threat of displacing the Palestinian population into the Sinai area of Egypt and attempts replicating that with the West Bank's population into Jordan, will this go over the hump and lead to full-scale Islamic unity against Israel. Israel would probably realise that the stabilization of Israel-Egyptian ties has taken a

long and arduous process. Making an enemy of Egypt will not go in Israel's favour. There are enough leaderships who would not wish to see instability extending beyond the immediate battle zones. Saudi Arabia has been very balanced in approach and would not like to see a tilt in favour of turbulent forces such as ISIS and Hamas with their coming together. Saudi Arabia's future ambitions of its nationhood based on culturally enlightened and modern ideology can never be facilitated if it supports a volatile coalition of Arab states. Iran senses this drawback of the Saudis. It could, at the behest of the Russians, try to create threats against Israel, but may be unwilling to go beyond a point. Recall how its threats against US Army bases in Iraq in January 2020, after the assassination of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, fizzled out when it was challenged.

A few facts stare in the face. First, no military solution is possible and no side can win this war; expectations from Hamas are zero, being terrorist in content and irrational by nature. Israel, as an established state, should work on isolating Hamas and cultivate international public opinion. Second, a change of leadership on both sides will enhance the chances of some stability, although solutions are some light years away. Those solutions lie in the realm of the two-state proposal which India has always supported. The world cannot afford any more bloodletting of such proportions but it is almost certain that both the Ukraine-Russia war and the Israel-Hamas war will not find any grounds to bring about a ceasefire anytime in the future. It's far more important to prevent these fires from spreading.

## GDC Darhal organizes seminar on "Environmental Laws"

Top News Report

DARHAL, Nov 7: The environment protection and the constitution of India both have evolved over the years. As the need of the protection of environment and the realization of such concept has developed through several years, similarly the constitutional frameworks related to the protection of the environment also emerged through amendments and other related documents.

To mark the event NSS Unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal in collaboration with Dept. of EVS organized a seminar on Environmental Laws.

The focus of the event was to provide the constitutional mandate for the protection of environment as it was a serious issue.

Fayad Ahmed Bhat, Lecturer EVS briefly explain about Article 51 A(g) which was specifically



deals with the fundamental duty with respect to environment.

It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural-environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wild life and to have compassion for living creature.

The concept of fundamental duty is well recognized in the constitutions of socialist states. Clause (g) of article 51A provides for the protection and

improvement of the environment and it specifically puts stress on the air and water pollution by including matters like forests, lakes, rivers etc.

While Article 48-A speaks of environment, Article 51-A(g) employs the expression the natural environment and includes therein forests, lakes, rivers and wild life.

While Article 48 provides for cows and calves and other

mulch and draught cattle, Article 51-A(g) enjoins it as a fundamental duty of every citizen to have compassion for living creatures, which in its wider fold embraces the category of cattle spoken of specifically in Article 48.

The event was organized under the guidance of Prof. M. H. Shah, Principal of the College.

He exhorted that though there were some discussions regarding the protection of environment and incorporated specially two Articles relating to protection and improvement of environment where in the Constitution of India obligates the "State" as well as "Citizens" to "Protect and Improve" the environment.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, NSS Programme Officer and all the teaching as well as Non-teaching staff were graced the occasion.

## BSP concerns over frequently road accidents, functioning of traffic authorities is questionable

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: BSP J&K UT General Secretary Rajesh Gupta has expressed deep concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

In a statement released today, Gupta specifically referred to the recent Rajouri accident, in which three people lost their lives and several others sustained serious injuries after a mini bus falls in gorge.

Expressing shock and anguish, Gupta urged the authorities to implement a preventive strategy to curb accidents rather than relying solely on post-accident measures.



He highlighted the poor condition of roads in hilly areas, emphasizing that their deteriorated state makes them prone to accidents.

Gupta stated that numerous lives have been lost, and many people have suffered severe injuries due to road accidents in these areas.

He said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of

traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Department is questionable.

BSP leader called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to prioritize human lives, emphasizing that a person's life is more valuable than anything else.

He further emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant number of fatalities last year, marking the highest toll in a decade.

Gupta acknowledged that while the conflict in the region often dominates headlines, it is essential to address the issue of road accidents, which disproportionately affects the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Himani, Manav of DPS Jammu shine in 37th National Games of India



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: Himani Gupta (XI-G), a student of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school, J&K UT and her parents by winning silver medal and securing 189.60 points in Rhythmic Gymnastics Team Championship category in 37th National Games of India.

While Manav Gupta (Batch 2019-20), alumni of DPS Jammu also won silver medal in Aer-

obic Group in the same event. Manav had also represented the Indian Squad for Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup at Romania from 13-15 October, 2023 in Senior Category.

The National Games of India was organized by (IOA) Olympic Association of India held from 23-28 October, 2023 at Goa.

Gymnasts from 28 states, 8 Union Territories and Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) from India par-

ticipated in this prestigious event.

The Management DPS Jammu- President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and faculty congratulated Himani, Manav and their proud parents for the achievements.

They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

## Usha revitalizes Kashmir's Turai Kar in Srinagar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 7: Usha, India's leading consumer durables brand, supported the workshop "Let us Play Turai Kar!", an initiative to promote indigenous games amongst Kashmiri youth.

This event, in collaboration with the Mool Sustainability Research and Training Center (MOOL), saw enthusiastic participation from 190 children at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) in Lar, Ganderbal.

Seraj Ahmad, Principal, GBHSS school; Riyazul Gani, Lecturer, GBHSS school; Aisha, Senior Lecturer, GBHSS school, and Lubna Rafiqi, Sagg Eco Village, graced the event as the Guest of Honours, acknowledging and rewarding the spirited efforts of the young participants.

"India, with its rich tapestry of culture and heritage, is a repository of unique indigenous sports. Our dedication is not just to promote these games, like Turai Kar, but to recognize their intrinsic value in building community and nurturing the intrinsic bond between children and nature through playful engagement. The proactive involvement of Usha Silai



School Women, whether organizing, participating, or motivating, amplifies the spirit of these events, making them truly special," said Komal Mehra, Head - Sports Initiatives and Associations at Usha International.

MOOL, an esteemed charitable trust, holds a vision for sustainable transformation in Kashmir by bolstering capacity building, education, and holistic community development. Perfectly aligned with Usha's PLAY ethos, this partnership underscores the shared mission of both organizations: to champion and support local sports, thereby fostering personal growth and community development for Kashmir's younger generation.

Turai Kar, an evocative game symbolizing the spirit of "doing one's best", revolves around team dynamics where one side valiantly protects a chosen tree, while the opposition strives to bypass these guards to affectionately care for the same tree. The game culminates with participants from both teams embracing the tree, a poignant reminder of the quintessential bond between humans and nature.

Beyond mere recreation, Turai Kar instills values like teamwork, strategic thinking, time management, and heartfelt expression.

The winners for the Turai Kar event were Team Chinar, led by Tehseen Yousef from the boys' team, and Kite Flyers,

represented by Nazima, a CSS teacher from the girls' team.

Usha's unwavering commitment to rejuvenating local traditional sports is evident in its nationwide initiatives aimed at fostering active, healthy lifestyles and community involvement.

The invaluable support of Usha Silai School women, who often partake in these events, underlines this dedication. Usha's diverse sports initiatives span across India, encompassing strategic partnerships and supporting a myriad of sports, including those crafted for the visually challenged and other indigenous Indian regional sports.

These encompass strategic partnerships, including collaborations with the Mumbai Indians franchise, Ultimate Flying Disc, Golf, cricket for specially-abled, and sports designed for the visually challenged, such as athletics, kabaddi, judo, and powerlifting.

Additionally, Usha extends its support to indigenous Indian regional sports such as Kalari, Chhinj, Siat Khnam, Thang-Ta, Saz-Loung, Satoliya (popularly known as Pithu), Mallakhamb, and Gatka.

## GDC Kishtwar hosts awareness program on POCSO

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 7: Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar organized a highly impactful awareness program on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act as part of the Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) celebrations.

The event, held under the dedicated leadership of Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar and convener Prof. Swamiraj, witnessed an overwhelming participation of nearly 100 students.

Advocate Pooja Shan, a distinguished expert in the field, delivered an



enlightening lecture on the offense of sexual abuse against children and raised awareness about cases of sexual assault and the corresponding legal consequences.

Her lecture provided valuable insights into the various provisions of the law, ensuring that

the students were well-informed.

Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar encouraged the students to be proactive in speaking up against any offenses and creating a society where every individual feels safe and protected.

Prof. Swami Raj, in his inspiring speech,

highlighted the significance of raising one's voice against all forms of offense and being vigilant citizens.

He urged the students to extend support to others and play an active role in building a compassionate and responsible society.

The event was graced

by the esteemed presence of faculty members, including Prof. Umar Din, Dr. Tariq Tamkeen, Prof. Satish, Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Prof. Sonika Sen, Prof. Akshay Sharma, and Prof. Ajay.

Government Degree College Kishtwar remains dedicated to creating an inclusive and safe environment for its students.

Through this awareness program on the POCSO Act, the college aims to empower students with knowledge and equip them to protect themselves and others from sexual offenses.

## JKPJF holds Blood Donation Camp



Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Nov 7: A blood donation camp was organized in Govt. Medical College, Baramulla by Jammu & Kashmir People's Jus-

tice Front (JKPJF) in the memory of martyrdom of Maqbool Sherwani - The Lion of Baramulla.

In the blood donation camp about 50 units of blood were donated by the different workers of

the JKPJF. Among the District Presidents of Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla and Bandipora as well as the other party workers.

The Chairman of JKPJF Agha Syed Abbas Rizvi said that the aim of organizing this camp was to highlight the significance of sacrifice of Maqbool Sherwani for the Nation.

The bravery and subsequent martyrdom of Maqbool Sherwani in 1947 and the story of his role during the Pakistan-backed invasion of Kashmir needs to be mainstreamed throughout India.

## Kishtwar's Jal Shakti Department revives Non-Functional Hand Pumps

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 7: The Jal Shakti Department, Hydraulic Division Kishtwar under the aegis of District Administration Kishtwar has undertaken the massive task of repairing non-functional hand pumps, thereby transforming lives in the district of Kishtwar.

The repair work was made possible through the District Mineral Trust Fund (DMFT) of the district administration Kishtwar in spirit with



the commitment of the administration to ensure accessible drinking water for the residents of Kishtwar Town and its surrounding areas by augmenting the main tap water system.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Sunil Sharma, informed that as of now, they have successfully brought 5 hand pumps back to life, ensuring a vital source of clean and accessible water for the

local populace.

The remaining 58 hand pumps identified across the district are also in the process of being restored and are expected to be fully operational within a week.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, has urged the Jal Shakti authorities to expedite the pace and mobilize the necessary manpower and machinery to ensure these non-functional hand pumps are repaired within the set deadline.

## JU's Department of Education organizes Open Discussion

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: P.G. Department of Education under the ages of golden jubilee year celebrations organized Open discussion for students of Department of Education on the theme "Research Methodology" by Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay, professor, J N U University, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School



of Social Sciences, New Delhi.

The interaction with the delegate primarily focused on the sev-

eral aspects of dissertation as well as research. The prime aspects of discussion covered how to choose

an effective research topic, what facilitates choosing the right topic, review of related literature, comprehension of the literature gaps and how these factors facilitate effective research objectives.

Some questions regarding time frame, justification of the topic and research gaps were posed and discussed in open discussion.

## Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour is not just another film. It's converting theatres into live concert arenas for Swifties

Swifties' love for Taylor is real! An outing to a multiplex to watch the film Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour, directed by Sam Wrench, confirmed that.

It was not like watching any other film. A house full of her fans took over the cinema hall, cheering, singing, dancing to their idol's numbers for close to three hours. If you thought this was limited to the audi in which movie was playing, the answer is no. The long interval turned the snack lobby and even washrooms into concert grounds where Swifties had it all out, singing and dancing to their hearts' content.

And boy, they were dressed for the occasion! Short blingy numbers, face glitter, glass slippers to friendship bracelets, just to show their love for the 12 Grammys winner. The bracelet trend, inspired by her number, You're On Your Own, Kid that goes — Everything you lose is a step you take/So make the friendship bracelets/Take the moment and taste it — was on full display.

The movie that films the concert at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Los Angeles, is stupendous. Yes, it has Taylor for one, vibing with her army. Call it a cult if you may. And Taylor is enchanting on stage. Her history-making Eras Tour reportedly gave \$5.7 billion boost to the



US's economy with the sales of tickets, merchandise, hotel bookings, food bills and outfits. The Eras Tour movie itself broke box-office records after its release mid-October, giving the economy another boost.

The ongoing The Eras Tour began on March 17 in Arizona and has travelled through the US and Mexico aiming at total 146 shows across five continents. The tour, with a set list of 44 songs from different eras of Swift's career, has the next stop at Buenos Aires on November 9.

The film hit Indian screens this weekend, and the scene wasn't any different from how the concert film was received elsewhere in the world. The Swifties made cinemas their own personal concert. Enthusiastic singing, hugs and tears stream-

ing down, their love for Taylor had no parallels. Girls sure outnumbered boys here but those who showed up matched the energy, synergy, screamed out loud, and singing word to word, beat to beat.

Taylor packs in hit numbers in this concert taking along her fans on a journey from a teen to today (33 now). Of course, she sings amazingly well, and is pretty good with the guitar and the piano. Her humility, her love for the audience, her acknowledgment of the love of her fans that gives her the strength to experiment with her music... make her come across as a real person.

She shows how she carries herself through the long hours on the stage, quickly changes costumes, stage settings, without missing a beat. Super fit,

and strong, she rocks her glamorous costumes — the multi-coloured blingy numbers. Her multi-coloured paint on trimmed nails and glittering earpieces are the only other accessories, no jewellery whatsoever, and she looks divine!

And now the stage craft. "For Folklore, we brought our cabin to LA," she shares and fans breakout in screams as the The Last Great American Dynasty songstress admits dreaming of herself to be a Victorian lady. As someone living in the woods, collecting feathers for her pillows, making her fans give her a loud cheer right before she breaks into Betty. Right from clouds to oceans, snakes to stars, the set designs keep it refreshing throughout.

A shout-out to her phenomenal band and her dancers, who take as many costumes changes and move ever so swiftly between song to song, captivating the masses. Of course, all numbers cannot be accommodated but the ones that draw the loudest cheer remain — The Man, Champagne Problems, We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together, Bad Blood and Anti-Hero. Director Sam Wrench has beautifully delivered this piece that captures the transcendent Taylor phenomenon!

## Kylie Minogue frustrated by idea that she's 'unlucky in love'



Singer Kylie Minogue wants fans to "move on" from the idea that she is "unlucky" in love. The 55-year-old pop superstar has never tied the knot and called off her relationship with Paul

Solomons in February after five years of dating and while she would like fans to forget about her love life.

"There's a level of acceptance that that's the way it is, and I think

mostly it's driven by, we all love a bit of gossip. It's kind of like, what would've happened over the fence forever ago. But it would be great to move on from the 'she's lucky in love, she's unlucky in love', because it's just not that simple," she said in an interview.

The Spinning Around legend famously dated her Neighbours co-star Jason Donovan in the 1980s with whom she tied the knot on-screen in one of the soap's most memorable moments and she went on to speculate that the public's supposed fascination with her love life stemmed from the life of her fictional counterpart.

After her relationship with Jason, Minogue dated late INXS rocker Michael Hutchence before dating Stephane Sednaoui, Olivier Martinez, James Gooding, and called off her engagement to Joshua Sasse in 2017. She noted that her fans intentions are usually "well-meant" but insisted that she is "happy" being single right now. She said, "When it's good, it's well-meant, good intentions. But I'm happy where I am. I just will state that!"

## Nishtha Sharma bags her second OG song Forever Wala Ishq

Remarkably, this isn't the first time Nishtha Sharma has had the privilege to record an original song.

She is amongst those rare contestants whose calibre has landed her this coveted opportunity a second time, within the same season, that too in a span of just two weeks.

Following her impressive performance, Nishtha expressed that this was a dream come true, as she had the honour of working with the renowned composer Anu Malik for her single this time around.

Furthermore, the special guest for the evening, Mithun Chakraborty, also lauded her talent and even commemorated the moment with a clapboard click before



her exceptional performance on Zee TV's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa.

Anu Malik said, "From the very first day, I really wanted to work with Nishtha because she is one of the finest singers on the show. I also believe that she has the makings of a suc-

cessful playback singer. In fact, Nishtha knows how to bring variation, modulation, and style while performing, which certainly hints that a star is rising. Lastly, I would like to say, she's done complete justice to my composition. God bless her!"

## Madhavan, Kay Kay Menon-starrer 'The Railway Men' is heroic tale of bravery over disaster

The makers of R. Madhavan, Kay Kay Menon, Divyenndu, and Babil Khan- starrer 'The Railway Men' unveiled the trailer of the thrilling tale of heroism, hope and humanity during the darkest hours of gas leak tragedy in Bhopal.

The 2 minute 53 second trailer begins with Kay Kay Menon's character as a railway employee. Babil is introduced as another railway worker posted at Bhopal junction, while Divyenndu is a RPF personnel.

The happy glimpses of Bhopal are shown before the gas leak. The trailer further shows gas leak from Union Carbide factory and the chaos that follows it in the city.

Kay Kay says: "Jaldi sabko yahan se nikaalna hoga, warna ye Bhopal junction kabristan ban jayega." The video shows Madhavan's character as General Manager of Central Railways.

'The Railway Men' is a story of heroism demonstrated by the employees of the Indian



Railways in Bhopal. They rose against all odds to save people on the night of December 2, 1984, battling an invisible enemy in the air. Inspired by true stories, this gripping series is a celebration of the indomitable spirit of humanity.

The trailer highlights how courage can be found in the darkest of times and ordinary men can rise to extraordinary challenges. It brings forth the heroic attempt of individuals who worked tirelessly and in a race-against-time

and ensured the safety of hundreds of people on the fateful night of the world's worst industrial disaster.

Director Shiv Rawail said: "Directing this series has been a deeply emotional and rewarding journey. It's a story of the human spirit that needed to be told, to remind people of the power of resilience in the face of adversity."

"I am truly humbled and honoured to helm this series. To be able to execute my passion

project under the able guidance of YRF Entertainment; to be able to work with talent like R. Madhavan, Kay Kay Menon, Juhi Chawla, Raghubir Yadav, Divyenndu, Babil and so many others in my very first outing as a director and for this series to reach the global audience through Netflix is truly a dream come true," he added.

Akshaye Widhani, CEO, Yash Raj Films said: "The Railway Men is one such powerful story that stands testament to our pursuit of this trifecta."

Monika Shergill, VP, Content, Netflix India said: "The series captures an inspiring story with bravery and compassion at its heart. I'm confident that this moving story will appeal to our audiences and stay with them just like it stayed with me."

Produced by YRF Entertainment, 'The Railway Men' will premiere on November 18 on Netflix.

## Tara Sutaria feels a real connect with 'Apurva'

Actor Tara Sutaria is set to play a unique role in her upcoming movie 'Apurva,' which will be a refreshing contrast from her gorgeous performances.

Speaking about her belief in the role in 'Apurva,' Tara said in a statement, "It's crucial to genuinely believe in what you're doing, and I have a deep conviction in our film 'Apurva' ever since I met Nikhil sir and Murad Khetani sir during the narration. Apurva, truly reflects who I am in reality, despite the perception of me that's shaped by my roles in other films. I hope people can see what I genuinely believe in."

'Apurva,' set in one of India's most dangerous regions, Chambal, is the story of an ordinary girl who faces enormous odds and would go to any length to survive and live.

To fit the role, Tara

underwent a radical makeover. The actor refused to take a shower in order to completely embody the aspects of her character in 'Apurva.' The actor earlier said, "I am proudest of APURVA because I filmed every shot in the film myself. No excuses. I've never felt more strength and power than when we filmed.. (@nix\_bhat I owe a great deal to you for this, sir.) I recall not showering for over a week mid-schedule so that I looked and felt as awful as I was meant to, I rolled in mud and ash (this was honestly fun) and my hair wasn't brushed for weeks on end! Here's a little peek into how I looked when we shot the poster. Thank you all for SO much love. We as a team are overwhelmed. @avigowariker, thank you for all your help throughout the day." Directed by Nikhil



Nagesh Bhat, 'Apurva' also stars Rajpal Yadav, Abhishek Banerjee, and Dhairya Karwa.

Star Studios presents APURVA, a Cine1 Studios and Star Studios Production, is written

and directed by Nikhil Nagesh Bhat and produced by Murad Khetani.

'Apurva' will be released on Disney+ Hotstar on November 15.

## Rachi Sharma talks about her experience of Kumkum Bhagya promo shoot

Rachi Sharma has opened up on her wedding look in the new promo of Kumkum Bhagya, and shared how she carried the 10 kg lehenga during the sequence.

After a startling end to Abhi and Pragya's chapter, the show unfurled with several twists, turns, and challenges in the lives of Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chaphekar) that drove them apart, making fans eager to witness their reunion.

However, it seems that in the upcoming episodes, the whole tale is going to turn on its head as the show fast-forwards 20 years and starts following the life of Poorvi, Ranbir — Prachi's beloved daughter. The story progresses as Poorvi (Rachi) and Rajvansh Malhotra (Abrar Qazi) fall in love with each other at their



very first sight.

On the day of their wedding, while we see Poorvi whole-heartedly taking the vows as she

feels she has found the man of her dreams, we see Rajvansh doing the rituals half-heartedly.

During the promo

shoot, Rachi realised that the lehenga was almost 10 kg. It is a red lehenga, with heavy intricate silver work, teamed with a bright golden Kundan set with chooda in her wrists that made heads turn on set.

Talking about the same, Rachi shared, "When I got to know that it will be a wedding look for the shoot, I got very excited. Then, after hair and makeup, when it was time to wear the lehenga, that was a task because it was a very heavy one."

"We chose to do subtle makeup because the jewellery and lehenga were already making quite a statement. Through the shoot I got used to the weight and felt like a bride because I had people walk with me to help me carry my lehenga," she shared.

Kumkum Bhagya airs on Zee TV.



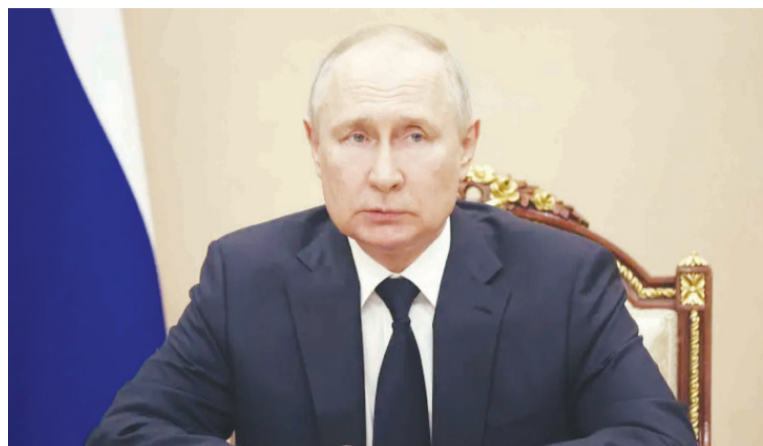
# Russia Formally Withdraws From A Key Post-Cold War Security Treaty

*The 1990 treaty placed limits on the deployment of military equipment to maintain military balance between NATO and the then-Warsaw Pact countries.*

MOSCOW, Nov 7 (Agencies): Russia formally withdrew on Tuesday from a key post-Cold War security treaty designed to de-escalate potential East-West conflicts, in a latest sign of rising tensions between Russia and NATO.

"At 00:00 on November 7, 2023, the procedure of Russia's withdrawal from the CFE (Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe), was completed," Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement on its website. "Thus, the international legal document, the validity of which was suspended by our country back in 2007, has finally become history for us."

The 1990 treaty, negotiated and concluded at the end of the Cold War and signed a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall, placed limits on the deployment



ment of military equipment to maintain military balance between NATO and the then-Warsaw Pact countries.

Russia suspended its participation in the treaty in 2007 and halted active participation in 2015.

In May 2023, well into the war

in Ukraine that Russia launched in February 2022, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree denouncing the pact, drawing condemnation from NATO for "undermining Euro-Atlantic security".

The war in Ukraine has triggered the worst crisis in Mos-

cow's relations with the West since the depths the Cold War, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying over the weekend that relations with the United States were below zero.

"The CFE Treaty was concluded at the end of the Cold War, when the formation of a new architecture of global and European security based on cooperation seemed possible, and appropriate attempts were made," the Russian foreign ministry said.

The actions of the United States to expand NATO led to alliance countries "openly circumventing" the group restrictions, however, the ministry added. "Thus, the CFE Treaty in its original form lost touch with reality."

# Israel Says Hamas Using Indonesia Funded Hospital, Jakarta Responds

JAKARTA, Nov 7 (Agencies): Indonesia denied on Tuesday an Israeli claim that a hospital built in Gaza using Indonesian funding sits atop a network of Hamas tunnels and is located near a launchpad for rocket attacks.

The hospital, situated in the north of the Gaza Strip near the fortified border with Israel, was built using Indonesian charity funds.

"The Indonesian Hospital in Gaza is a facility built by the Indonesian people entirely for humanitarian purposes and to serve the medical needs of the Palestinian people in Gaza," Indonesia's foreign ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

The statement came a day after Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said the Indonesian Hospital had been built at a site that sat on top of a network of Hamas tunnels.

He also said Hamas was using a nearby area as a base to launch rockets into Israel. "I will show you the reason why they built the hospital there. Unsurprisingly, Hamas built the hospital on top of their terror infrastructures," Hagari said in a video statement posted by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on YouTube. "Here, the IDF identified a launch pad, meaning they launch rock-

ets from here," he added, pointing to what he said was photographic evidence of his claim.

Iqbal refuted the claims about the hospital, which, like other medical centres in war-ravaged Gaza, is currently treating patients far beyond its capacity.

The Indonesian charity that operates the hospital, MER-C, also denied the facility was used by Hamas.

"What Israel accused us of can be a precondition for them to launch an attack at the Indonesian hospital in Gaza," MER-C chief Sarbini Abdul Murad said in Jakarta on Monday.

The "IDF's accusation is a precondition to justify attacks against us, therefore we need to debunk it", Murad added.

Hamas has repeatedly denied Israeli accusations that hospitals and other civilian infrastructure are being used by its operatives.

Israel has for a month relentlessly pounded the besieged Gaza Strip in its war on Hamas, after the group launched a cross-border attack on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians.

According to the Hamas-run health ministry, its campaign has killed more than 10,000 people -- 4,000 of them children.

# Next Pakistan Prime Minister won't be from Lahore: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto

KARACHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): In an apparent dig at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his hope that the next Prime Minister (PM) would not be from Lahore and hinted that his party would contest the polls "on its own" in the February 8 general election.

Former Foreign Minister Bhutto Zardari, 35, also clarified that his PPP does not need to look towards anyone to emerge victorious in the upcoming polls. "When it comes to elections, we only look towards the people of Pakistan. We do not look or pin any hope on anywhere else. The PM would only be that person who is elected by the people of Pakistan. And I understand that this time, the prime minister of the country will not be from Lahore," he said.

Bhutto Zardari's com-

ments came after PPP won big in the by-polls held across 14 districts of Sindh and also weeks after a telephone call between his father and former President Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif following the latter's return to Pakistan from a four-year-long self-imposed exile, indicating chances of a poll alliance between the two parties.

A reported contact between Nawaz Sharif and PPP leader and former Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has seemingly failed to thaw the ice between the two former allies, with the latter sticking to its complaint of an uneven playing field in the run-up to polls, the Dawn newspaper reported.

On Monday in his first meeting of the PML-N's secretariat after his return, Sharif, 73, also directed his party leaders to begin their preparations for the national elections scheduled on February 8.

Bhutto Zardari also termed PPP's success

in local government by-polls merely a trailer and said, "People proved that they are with the PPP". The News International reported.

"Even if our opponents unite, they won't be able to defeat the PPP," he claimed.

While congratulating Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab for winning by-polls in city local bodies, he asked the party workers to take this win as an opportunity to launch a campaign for the upcoming general elections, the Dawn newspaper reported.

In a separate statement, his father Asif Ali Zardari was said, "The sun of February 8 will rise with the news of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's victory. The days of suffering for the people are over, as the PPP will end their problems".

According to the latest announcements made by Pakistan's President House, general elections would be held on February 8 to elect a new government.

# "Despicable": UK's Suella Braverman Under Fire Over Homelessness Remarks

LONDON, Nov 7 (Agencies): UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman has come under fire from the Opposition and charities even as her own party colleagues distanced themselves from remarks that implied that some homeless people sleeping in tents on the streets of the country were making a "lifestyle choice".

The Indian-origin cabinet minister announced plans on social media over the weekend to crack down on the rows of tents occupied by homeless people as they caused nuisance and distress to residents.

However, some of her language has since been challenged with the Opposition Labour Party branding it "despicable".

"The British people are compassionate. We will always support those who are genuinely homeless. But we cannot allow our streets to be taken over by rows of tents occupied by people, many of them from abroad, living on the streets as a lifestyle choice," reads Suella Braverman's post on X.

"Unless we step in now to stop this, British cities will go the way of places in the US like San Francisco and Los Angeles where weak policies have led to an explosion of crime, drug taking, and squalor. Nobody in



Britain should be living in a tent on our streets," she said.

The minister goes on to claim that the government has put options in place for people who do not want to be sleeping rough and is working with local authorities to strengthen "wraparound support" including treatment for those with drug and alcohol addiction.

"What I want to stop, and what the law-abiding majority wants us to stop, is those who cause nuisance and distress to other people by pitching tents in public spaces, aggressively begging, stealing, taking drugs, littering, and blighting our communities," added Suella Braverman.

During a visit to a gas terminal in Norfolk on Monday morning, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was asked by reporters if his minister's comments were "offensive" and he declined to

repeat the phrase.

"I don't want anyone to sleep rough on our streets. That is why the government is investing GBP 2 billion over the next few years to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping," said Rishi Sunak.

"Our Homelessness Reduction Act which was a landmark law that we passed has already ensured that over 600,000 people have had their homelessness prevented or relieved so I am proud of that record. But of course, there is more to do and we will keep going so that nobody has to sleep rough on our streets," he said.

Meanwhile, Suella Braverman's fellow Goan-origin Cabinet colleague, Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho, admitted she "wouldn't necessarily use that language" as she attempted to defend the Home Secretary.

"I think she was talking about different things. She acknowledged that there are people who just, you know, need our compassion. They're struggling with things like addiction," she told 'Sky News'.

However, Labour's shadow leader of the Commons Lucy Powell accused Suella Braverman of seeking to divide people with such remarks.

"I think the comments of the home secretary are despicable, really. And they speak to what this government's whole meaning now seems to be about, which is creating more division, where division isn't needed, by trying to inflame and sort of false wedge political issues," Lucy Powell told 'Sky News'.

Fifteen of Britain's homelessness charities reacted by issuing a combined letter, addressed to Suella Braverman, to caution that her plan to ban tents for the homeless will lead to "totally preventable" street deaths.

"Sleeping on the street is not a lifestyle choice. Laying blame on people forced to sleep rough will only push people further away from help into poverty, putting them at risk of exploitation. At the extreme end, we will see an increase in deaths and fatalities, which are totally preventable," reads their letter, also posted on X.

# After Israel, Antony Blinken Arrives In Japan For Gaza-Dominated G7 Meet

TOKYO, Nov 7 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a meeting of G7 foreign ministers set to seek a common line on Gaza as calls mount for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Blinken made no public comment as he arrived for the two days of discussions in Tokyo following his latest whirlwind tour of the Middle East.

The Israeli military has relentlessly bombarded Gaza since October 7, when Hamas operatives launched an attack that left 1,400 dead in Israel, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

According to the Hamas-run health ministry, the death number in Gaza has surpassed 10,000 people -- including more than 4,000 children.

A key ally of Israel, the United States has resisted calling for a ceasefire, insisting that Israel has the right to respond -- though Washington has called for pauses in

the fighting.

In Turkey on Monday, Blinken said Washington was working "very aggressively" to expand aid for trapped civilians.

"I think we will see in the days ahead that the assistance can expand in significant ways," Blinken added, without providing details.

US President Joe Biden and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday discussed the potential for "tactical pauses," the White House said.

But Netanyahu on Monday vowed no let-up in the war to destroy Hamas.

France was the only G7 member to vote in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution last month seeking an immediate "humanitarian truce".

The United States voted against while Japan, Britain, Italy, Germany and Canada all abstained.

France said in a statement announcing Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna's attendance in Tokyo that the meeting



would discuss "the need to respond to the needs of civilian populations in Gaza and to respect international humanitarian law."

Colonna "will reiterate our condemnation of the terrorist actions of Hamas and the imperative of releasing the hostages," the statement added.

German counterpart Annalena Baerbock said the G7 would "discuss how we can achieve humanitarian pauses together to alleviate the suffering of the people in Gaza."

"For me it is clear that the Hamas terrorists have brought infinite suffering to Israel and the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza with the

horrific attacks of October 7. Hamas cannot be allowed to determine the fate of the people in the Gaza Strip," she added.

Valerie Niquet from the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) told agency that any joint G7 call for a humanitarian truce would be "without binding language and in general terms".

Ukraine war  
Another major topic at G7 will be the Ukraine war, with Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba set to join by video conference.

With some signs of fatigue in supporting Ukraine's war effort against Russia -- which used to make up the now-defunct G8 -- the G7 was expected to

stick to firm language condemning Moscow, experts said.

"The G7 has... been in the vanguard of the West's economic statecraft with regard to Russia since its invasion of Ukraine. I would expect the ministers' meeting to continue to voice support for this," Robert Ward from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) told agency.

Analysts said however that the G7 might moderate its language regarding China as tentative signs emerge that Beijing's tensions with the West may be easing.

These include upcoming talks between the United States and China ahead of the COP28 climate conference and President Xi Jinping's scheduled meeting with Biden in San Francisco.

Another G7 topic will be deepening ties with resource-rich and strategically located Central Asia, with foreign ministers from the region set to join by video conference.

# Donald Trump lashes out at judge, New York attorney-general as he testifies in fraud trial

*Trump's presence on the stand is a reminder of the legal troubles he faces as he vies to reclaim the White House in 2024*



NEW YORK, Nov 7 (Agencies): A defiant Donald Trump sparred with a New York judge and slammed the state attorney-general suing him on Monday, using the witness stand at his civil fraud trial to defend his riches and lash out at a case that imperils his real estate empire.

The former president's barbed testimony spurred the judge to

admonish, "This is not a political rally."

Trump's long-awaited testimony about property valuations and financial statements was punctuated by personal jabs at state Judge Arthur Engoron who, he said, was biased against him, and New York Attorney-General Letitia James, whom he derided as a "politi-

cal hack".  
He proudly boasted of his real estate business, "I'm worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements," and disputed claims that he had deceived banks and insurers.

"This is the opposite of fraud," he declared. Referring to James, a Democrat whose office brought the lawsuit, he said, "The fraud is her."

The testy exchanges and frequent rebukes from the judge underscored Trump's unwillingness to adapt his famously freewheeling rhetorical style to a formal courtroom setting governed by rules of evidence and legal protocol.

His presence on the stand was a reminder of the legal troubles he faces as he vies to reclaim the White House in 2024.





## Sensex, Nifty open lower tracking weak Asian peers; ONGC gains over 1%

The S&P BSE Sensex fell over 200 points in early trade to 64,755, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell nearly 50 points to trade at 19,362.

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Tuesday, tracking weakness in Asian markets on the back of mixed trade from China.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell over 200 points in early trade to 64,755, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell nearly 50 points to trade at 19,362. Broader market indices were also mixed, mirroring the weakness experienced by the benchmark indices.

Most of the sectoral indices were trading in negative territory, with Nifty Realty, Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services losing the most.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were ONGC, Dr Reddy's, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd



Bank and Bajaj Finance. On the other hand, the top losers were ICICI Bank, Power Grid, Asian Paints, Coal India and HDFC Bank.

Deven Mehata, research analyst at Choice Broking, said, "According to the charts Nifty may be taking support at 19,350, followed by 19,300 and 19,250. On the higher side, 19,500 can be an immediate resistance, followed by 19,550 and

19,600."

"Fitch Ratings on November 6 revised India's medium-term growth estimate upward by 70 basis points to 6.2 per cent from 5.5 per cent. The rising growth has helped markets to move higher. Investors holding long positions should keep trailing their stop loss. Traders are advised to buy the dips with a strict stop loss near 19,200 levels," he added.

## WeWork bankruptcy: Co-founder Adam Neumann's wealth soared as company struggled

Unlike WeWork's misfortunes, former CEO and co-founder Adam Neumann has seen a different financial trajectory.

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): Co-working giant WeWork filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in New Jersey, marking a drastic fall after a meteoric rise to become one of the US' most valuable startups. At the time of filing for bankruptcy, the company's valuation fell to \$45 million from its peak valuation of nearly \$47 billion five years ago.

The company's stock has plummeted by over 99 per cent since its ill-fated initial public offering (IPO) amid criticism of co-founder Adam Neumann's leadership style and challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic to the co-working model.

Unlike WeWork's misfortunes, former CEO and co-founder Adam Neumann has seen a different financial trajectory. Despite the company's woes, he experienced a significant increase in his wealth, with a substantial portion acquired during the firm's IPO process conducted through a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC).

As part of the SPAC deal, the 44-year-old received a reported \$480 million in 2021 for half of



his remaining stake in WeWork, alongside an additional \$185 million related to a non-compete agreement and \$106 million from a settlement.

In total, Neumann accumulated around \$770 million in cash from the 2021 SPAC process, despite no longer holding a management role at WeWork.

Despite the bankruptcy filing and his separation from WeWork since 2019, Neumann believes that, with the right strategy and team, WeWork can successfully

reorganise and thrive.

"As the co-founder of WeWork who spent a decade building the business with an amazing team of mission-driven people, the company's anticipated bankruptcy filing is disappointing. It has been challenging for me to watch from the sidelines since 2019 as WeWork has failed to take advantage of a product that is more relevant today than ever before," he said in a statement.

"I believe that, with the right strategy and team, a reorgani-

zation will enable WeWork to emerge successfully."

WeWork, co-founded by Adam Neumann in 2010 during the initial venture capital (VC) boom, quickly grew into a global enterprise, raising billions and doubling revenue year-on-year. At one point, it held the title of the most valuable startup in the United States.

In August of this year, WeWork's shares nosedived to near zero, with the company expressing significant doubt about its ability to remain in business as it grappled with mounting losses.

The SoftBank-backed company has confronted corporate governance issues and faced scrutiny over Adam Neumann's leadership style.

A series of high-profile executive departures, including CEO Sandeep Mathrani in May and three board members in August 2023, further compounded the company's troubles.

Japanese conglomerate SoftBank, a major WeWork investor, has invested substantial sums in rescue efforts, but the company's financial struggles persist.

## 'Bihar GDP growing faster than national average'

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): In a bid to attract investments and promote industrial growth, the Bihar government has launched a unique initiative offering rental industrial sheds to investors. Under this 'plug and play' scheme, the government provides ready-to-use industrial sheds spanning 24 lakh square feet, eliminating the need for investors to purchase land for their businesses.

"... We have created about 24 lakh square feet of industrial sheds, which we are giving as a plug and play, which means you can come with only machines you don't have to buy land and create buildings. This is only for the

high priority sectors like textile, leather, IT and food processing and there has been a good response to this," Sandeep Poundrik, additional principal secretary, Industry of Bihar, said while briefing the media during investors' meet in the national capital.

Investors can now avail of industrial sheds at a monthly rental ranging from Rs 4 to Rs 8 per square foot. This initiative allows investors to focus solely on establishing machinery and commencing production, streamlining the setup process. The state is particularly seeking investments in sectors such as manufacturing, food processing, and textiles.

When asked how



much investment commitment the state has received during road shows, Poundrik stated, "The response has been quite positive from many investors, they have shown interest. Many of them have also come to Bihar to get opportunities such as infrastructure, land etc and we have received commit-

ments from many companies, however, we are going to sign agreements in the December summit when they will sign MOUs and commit their investments in writing." The Bihar government is organizing the "Bihar Business Connect" global investment summit in Patna, the state capital, on Decem-

ber 13 and 14.

In addition, Poundrik stated Bihar's GDP is growing faster than the national average and the purchasing power is also growing. He further added that 17 units were sanctioned in the state by 5 PSUs, out of which 14 plants are coming up, representing an average investment of 200 crores each.

"This influx of approximately Rs 3000 crore in our ethanol sector marks a significant step towards Bihar's vision of becoming the ethanol hub of India," he added. He also updated that Vedanta is planning to set up a 50 MW solar power plant, and there are plans for two more solar plants in the near future.

## TVS Motor launches new autorickshaw - Duramax Plus - for Rs 2.4 lakh



NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): TVS Motor Company launched a new three-wheeler autorickshaw, TVS King Duramax Plus, and will be available in both CNG and petrol variants.

The three-wheeler will

be priced at Rs 2.57 lakh for the CNG Variant and Rs 2.36 lakh for the petrol variant.

The company said the new model boasts of several features such as dual-rated front suspension, a spacious cabin and an all-gear start

system.

It also sports what it called a "refreshed front look, featuring a state-of-the-art LED headlamp", it said.

TVS is one of the biggest three-wheeler makers in India, and competes with Bajaj Auto Ltd, the market leader.

"With this addition, we are confident of setting benchmarks in style, performance, and safety, ensuring that every journey is nothing short of exceptional," said Rajat Gupta, Commercial Mobility Business Head of TVS Motor.

## Chinese scientists claim anti-ageing breakthrough

BEIJING, Nov 7 (Agencies): Chinese researchers claimed to have identified a unique group of cells that contributes to the ageing process and might be mitigated with everyday vitamin C supplements.

The cell subtype surrounds the motor neurons in the spinal cord and is believed to accelerate the ageing process, making it a factor in the shuffling gait common among the elderly, according to an unedited paper published by the peer-reviewed journal Nature, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The seven-year study involved researchers from three labs who hoped their discovery could fill a knowledge gap in the poorly understood mechanisms underlying the relationship between ageing and the spinal cord's critical role in sustaining health and mobility.

The study based on animal experiments was jointly supervised by Liu Guanghui and Qu Jing from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Zoology, and Zhang Weiqi at the academy's Beijing Institute of Genomics.

The team analysed single cells to identify unique groups that developed around ageing motor neurons in the spinal cords of elderly primates, Liu said in an interview with China's state-owned Science and Technology Daily.

"These distinct cell clusters must have a specific life purpose. Our further investigation revealed that they secrete a 'toxic' protein that contributes to accelerating the ageing of motor neurons," he said.

Despite accounting for only about 0.3-0.4 per cent of all spinal cord cells, motor neurons are the principal actors in regulating body movement. They control the body's motor functions by



directing skeletal muscles throughout the body.

"Our research also confirms that motor neurons are the most sensitive cells in the spinal cord when it comes to ageing," the report quoted the paper as saying.

The researchers also tested whether vitamin C may play a role in reducing the signs of ageing. The everyday diet supplement has been around for decades but claims that it has anti-ageing properties have not been unequivocally proven in clinical trials.

The researchers tested the effects of vitamin C on 10 cynomolgus monkeys aged 17-18 years who were randomly divided into two groups.

One group was given a daily dose of vitamin C at 30mg/kg - dissolved in drinking water and given after breakfast - for 40 months. The other monkeys received the same quantity of drinking water, but without the supplement, to act as a control, the report said.

The researchers reported a "significant" improvement in the ageing-related indicators for the elderly monkeys' motor neurons, suggesting that oral vitamin C supplements could be beneficial.

## New flexible X-ray detectors could revolutionise cancer treatment: Study

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): Scientists have developed a new generation of low-cost, flexible X-ray detectors with potential applications ranging from cancer treatment to better airport scanners.

Traditionally, X-ray detectors are made of heavy, rigid material such as silicon or germanium, the researchers said.

The new detectors are cheaper and can be shaped around the objects that need to be scanned, improving accuracy when screening patients and reducing risk when imaging tumours and administering radiotherapy, they said.

## Depression, anxiety, stress can lead to poor heart health

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): Two preliminary studies to be unveiled at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2023 emphasise the connection between mental and physical health.

The studies shed light on how conditions like depression, anxiety, and chronic stress can heighten the risk of heart and brain health complications.

The findings of the study will be presented at the conference from November 11 to 13 in Philadelphia, a global platform for scientific knowledge and cardiovascular science.

The American Heart Association has long recognised the link between mental well-being and heart health, and these new

"This new material is flexible, low-cost, and sensitive. But what's exciting is that this material is tissue equivalent. This paves the way for live dosimetry (measurement of radiation), which just isn't possible with current technology," said Prabodhi Nanayakkara, who led the research at the University of Surrey in the UK.

The findings are published in the journal Advanced Science.

The researchers noted that most of the X-ray detectors on the market are heavy, rigid, energy-consuming and expensive if a large area needs to be covered.

Substances built up of hydrogen and carbon, known as organic semiconductors, offer a more flexible solution, but until now, did not allow as detailed an X-ray image to be produced as traditional detectors, they said.

To solve this challenge, the researchers created devices based on an ink by adding low quantities of high atomic number elements to an organic semiconductor.

Building on the team's previous research, their new detector behaves more like human tissue under X-rays, which they say could lead to new, safer techniques for administering

imaging methods such as radiotherapy, mammography and radiography.

"This new technology could be used in a variety of settings, such as radiotherapy, scanning historical artefacts and in security scanners," said Professor Ravi Silva, director of Surrey's Advanced Technology Institute.

"These results are very exciting, especially considering this was the first material investigated, and there is plenty of scope for further improvements," said study co-author, Professor Martin Heeney from Imperial College London, UK.

studies delve deeper into understanding the extent to which one's mental state can affect their heart health.

The first study, titled "Depression and anxiety accelerate the rate of gain of cardiovascular risk factors: mechanism leading to increased risk of cardiac events," examines how anxiety and depression can expedite the development of new cardiovascular disease risk factors.

This study reveals that people previously diagnosed with anxiety or depression developed these risk factors approximately six months earlier than those without such diagnoses, ultimately increasing their risk of heart attacks or strokes by around 35 per cent.

Additionally, the study suggests that depression and anxiety may induce brain changes that trigger downstream effects in the body, such as increased inflammation and fat deposition.

These findings underscore the importance of screening individuals with depression and anxiety for cardiovascular risk factors.

The second study, titled "Associations of cumulative perceived stress with cardiovascular risk factors and outcomes: findings from the Dallas Heart Study," takes a multidimensional approach to understanding the impact of cumulative stress on heart and brain health.

It introduces a "cumulative stress score" that considers

various aspects of stress, such as everyday stress, psychosocial stress, financial stress, and neighborhood-perceived stress.

This cumulative stress score was found to be strongly associated with a 22% increased risk of atherosclerosis (the buildup of fats, cholesterol and other substances called plaque in and on the artery walls), a 20% increased risk of overall cardiovascular disease.

This study emphasises the need to address cumulative stress as a multifaceted issue affecting heart and brain health.

Both studies bring attention to the mind-heart connection and the importance of considering cumulative stress levels when evaluating an individual's health.

# World Cup: Australia look to banish middle-order woes against plucky Afghanistan

Need only one win from their remaining two contests – against Afghanistan and Bangladesh – to become the third semifinalists

MUMBAI, Nov 7 (Agencies): With seats filling up fast for World Cup semifinals, Australia will look to banish middle-order woes and secure a final four spot against a fearless Afghanistan here on Tuesday.



Only two places remain up for the taking with rampant India slated to finish atop the World Cup points table. South Africa have also qualified.

With no other team directly threatening Australia's progression into the semifinals, Pat Cummins' men would like to finish the job at the first given opportunity here at the Wankhede Stadium — a venue that has been a paradise for batting but also supports the bowlers adequately if they are good enough to exploit the conditions. The battle promises to be an enticing watch given Afghanistan's battery of spinners and resolute batting itching to deliver a strong show against Australia, for whom leg-spinner Adam Zampa's 19 wickets in seven matches are the most for any bowler in this World Cup. Australia need only one win from their remaining two contests — against Afghanistan and Bangladesh — to become the third semifinalists and more importantly stay clear from the pack that is about to engage in a dogfight in the middle of the points table for the final spot. But the five-time champions

are also in a way, a bit far from their best even though they come into Tuesday's contest riding high on confidence of five consecutive wins, given that their middle-order is yet to come to the party. Steve Smith (one) and Marnus Labuschagne (two) are no ODI behemoths but a combined total of three fifties in seven matches each between Nos 3 and 4 would give any team a huge concern. But given how the duo batted in Ahmedabad on a pitch that was gripping and turning in Ahmedabad, both Smith and Labuschagne will hope for stronger returns against Afghanistan. For Labuschagne, his two fifties have come in the last three outings and his 83-ball 71 against England was a quality knock on a sluggish surface where Australia did just well

enough to make a total which was beyond England's reach. At the top, David Warner (428 runs in 7 matches at 61.14, 2x100s, 1x50s) has done the heavy lifting while Travis Head's strong beginning to the World Cup (120 runs in two matches) gives Australia the hope of a fiery start. With Mitchell Marsh returning, Australia must also be able to address the issue of Cameron Green's ordinary run with the bat among the team's designated all-rounders. For Afghanistan, who have lost all three ODIs to Australia including two at the World Cups, it will be imperative to keep building on the success they have garnered in this edition. With four wins in the last five matches, the Afghans have kept the semifinal dream alive but getting past Australia will be a humongous challenge, know-

ing that they are also required to improve the Net Run Rate in their respective last two league games. The consistency displayed with the bat by captain Hashmatullah Shahidi (282 runs), Rahmat Shah (264) Azmatullah Omarzai (234), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (234) and Ibrahim Zadran (232) has delivered three consecutive wins while chasing for Afghanistan, but playing against Australia will be a different ball game. With Rashid Khan (7 wickets) opting to have an extended batting session here on Sunday, there were clear indications which part of his game the star player wanted to work on more as his 56 runs in seven matches have not done justice to his abilities. Squads: Australia: Pat Cummins ©, Steve Smith, Alex Carey (wk), Josh Inglis (wk), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Mitch Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa, Mitchell Starc. Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi ©, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman, Naveen ul Haq.

# World Cup 2023: Afghanistan qualify for Champions Trophy for first time, set to play tournament in 2025



NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): High-flying Afghanistan have qualified for the Champions Trophy 2025. This is the first time in their cricketing history that Afghanistan will be playing the tournament. Afghanistan's qualification in the Champions Trophy was confirmed after Bangladesh defeated Sri Lanka in the World Cup 2023 on November 6, Monday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. The 2025 edition of the Champions Trophy will be hosted by Pakistan. Barring the hosts, the top 7 teams from the World Cup 2023

will qualify to play in the tournament. The 2023 Cricket World Cup has been a remarkable journey for the Afghanistan cricket team, which has been making waves with its impressive performance. Having only won a single game in their two previous World Cup editions, the team has had a dream run this year, securing victories against past champions England, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan's campaign has been marked by a series of consecutive victories that have revitalised their World

Cup journey. Afghanistan defeated Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Netherlands in back to back games to boost their hopes for a place in the semi-finals of the tournament. Afghanistan will next take on Australia in Mumbai on November 7, which will be crucial game for them in the tournament. Afghanistan currently stand in the 6 position in the league table after playing 7 matches. In case Afghanistan win against Australia in Mumbai, they will overthrow Pakistan from the 5th position in the league table. Afghanistan's run of fixtures will prove to be a steep test for them. After Australia in Mumbai, the team will be facing South Africa, who have already qualified for the semi-final in the tournament. While the fixtures might be tough, Hashmatullah Shahidi has backed his side and said that the team believes in their players and has the skill to see eye to eye against any international team.

# Mitchell Santner, Rachin Ravindra return as New Zealand name Test squad for Bangladesh tour

WELLINGTON, Nov 7 (Agencies): Mitchell Santner, Rachin Ravindra, and Kyle Jamieson have earned their spots back in the New Zealand squad as they prepare to begin their journey in the ICC World Test Championship against Bangladesh. The team's selection leans towards spin-heavy options, and they've also brought back the star of their World Test Championship 2021 triumph for the upcoming two-Test series in Bangladesh, set to commence later this month. In addition to Santner, the squad features Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi as the primary spin bowlers, reflecting their anticipation of spin-friendly conditions in Bangladesh. Santner, a left-arm orthodox spinner, is currently New Zealand's most effective bowler in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, having claimed 14 wickets. However, it's worth noting that Santner last appeared in a Test match in 2021, having played a total of 24 Tests to date.



"We've selected a squad we think can compete and succeed in Bangladesh. With Ajaz, Ish, Mitch, Glenn (Phillips) and Rachin, we have a strong spin group that will offer good variety and options during the series," New Zealand selector Sam Wells said. "Mitch had a strong back half of the (domestic) Plunket Shield campaign last summer and has made good strides in his red-ball bowling. He brings a wealth of experience in sub-continent conditions and adds depth to the batting line-up as a genuine all-rounder." New Zealand's spin department received an additional boost from the return of all-rounders Ravindra and Phillips, who primarily spe-

cialize in off-spin. Their impressive displays at the Cricket World Cup in India have earned them spots in the Test squad. Ravindra, who emerged as a standout player with three centuries during the Cricket World Cup, is on track to make his Test comeback, having last played against Bangladesh at Bay Oval in January 2022. Phillips, a dynamic player in white-ball cricket, has limited Test experience, having featured in just one Test match for New Zealand against Australia at the SCG in 2020. However, he was part of the touring Test squad in Pakistan last December, indicating the team's interest in his versatile skills.

# Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by three wickets in World Cup match marred by 'timed out' controversy

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): Angelo Mathews became the first batter to be timed out in international cricket as Bangladesh officially knocked Sri Lanka out of the World Cup with a three-wicket win in a dramatic match, which was held amid severe air pollution here. Despite the AQI hovering close to the 400 mark, it was business as usual after the two teams braved toxic conditions as Bangladesh bowled Sri Lanka out for 279 in 49.3 overs, with Charith Asalanka scoring a 105-ball 108. But Bangladesh chased down the target with 53 balls to spare. Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan (82), who took 2 for 57 with the ball, and Najmul Hossain Shanto (90) shared a 169-run stand off 147 balls to lay the foundation of the run chase. From 210 for 2, Bangladesh slumped to 269 for 7 before romping home in 41.1 overs with Tanzim Hasan Sakib (9) scoring the winning runs. The win snapped Bangladesh's six-match losing streak and kept them in the race for the Champions Trophy qualification, while denting Sri Lanka's chances for the 2025 event in Pakistan. The top seven teams from this World Cup will qualify for the Champions Trophy, while Pakistan, being the hosts, have qualified automatically.

For Sri Lanka, it was their sixth loss in eight games. Both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, who are at four points each, need to finish inside the top-8 to make the cut. Earlier, Mathews' controversial 'timed-out' dismissal almost derailed the Sri Lankan innings but Asalanka's timely hundred took them to 279 all out. Asalanka smashed six fours and five maximums during his gritty 108, his second ODI ton, to carry the team on his shoulders even as drama unfolded in the middle overs with Mathews getting out in a bizarre fashion. Asalanka forged a 63-run partnership with Sadeera Samarawickrama (41), before adding 78 off 82 balls with Dhananjaya de Silva (34). He also shared 45 off 48 balls with Maheesh Theekshana (22). Opener Pathum Nissanka also contributed with a 36-ball 41. Chasing the total, Bangladesh lost two quick wickets with Dhillshan Madushanka accounting for both the openers — Tanzim Hasan (9) and Litton Das (23). However, Shakib and Shanto steadied the ship, taking them across the 100-mark in the 18th over. Shakib was lucky to survive when he was dropped at covers by Asalanka off Mathews. He made it count, slamming 12 fours and two sixes in his over

two-hour stay at the crease. Mathews, however, removed both the set batters — dismissing Shakib in the 32nd over and then Shanto chopped on to the stumps. Shanto had 12 hits to the fence during his 101-ball innings. Needing 69 in 16.4 overs, Mahmudullah (22) and Mushfiqur Rahim (10) added another 38 runs but they were back in the hut, followed by Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3) before Towhid Hridoy (15) and Tanzim Sakib took them home. Bitter rivalry Mathews' dismissal added another chapter to the bitter rivalry between the two teams when he was timed out, the first instance in international cricket across formats. Mathews had walked in after Sadeera Samarawickrama holed out on the second ball of the 25th over off Shakib's bowling but he failed to get ready to face the ball within two minutes after realising that the strap of his helmet was broken. The delay prompted Bangladesh to appeal and the umpires upheld it despite Mathews' repeated pleas. Opting to field, wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahman produced a stunning catch to get rid of Kusal Perera (4) but Nissanka smashed Shoriful Islam for three fours in the third over to shake off the early jitters.

The opener did most of the damage as Sri Lanka reached 52 for 2 in the first power play. Sri Lanka skipper Kusal Mendis, who took 14 balls to get off the mark, clobbered Tanzim Sakib over mid-on for the first six of the innings before picking up another four but he holed out to Shoriful off Shakib. Nissanka then dragged one on to his stumps to hand Tanzim his first World Cup wicket as Sri Lanka lost two wickets in succession. Asalanka and Samarawickrama forged an alliance with the former hitting two sixes — one over long on from a slower ball from Tanzim and the other being off Shakib over long off. The duo added 63 off 69 balls and just when it seemed things were going their way, Bangladesh struck back with the wickets of Samarawickrama and Mathews. However, Asalanka dug his heels, curbed his attack and focused on rebuilding as he batted with the tail. He and De Silva (34) quickly recovered from the setback to take Sri Lanka across the 200 mark. Asalanka completed his fifty in the 31st over with a four off Tanzim but De Silva was stumped by Mushfiqur after the batter was flummoxed by Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

# "Never Seen A Team Go Down To...": Angelo Mathews' Scathing Attack At Bangladesh Amid Timed Out Row

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): Sri Lanka all-rounder Angelo Mathews on Monday called Bangladesh's decision to dismiss him via 'time out' as "disgraceful" and said it had left him in "complete shock". Mathews became the first batter to be timed out in international cricket as Bangladesh officially knocked Sri Lanka out of the World Cup with a three-wicket win in a dramatic match which was held amid severe air pollution here on

Monday. "I haven't done anything wrong. I had two minutes to get ready which I did but there was an equipment malfunction and I don't know where commonsense (had) gone. It was disgraceful from Shakib and Bangladesh," Mathews said during the post-match press conference. "If they want to play cricket like that, stoop to that level, it is something wrong drastically. If I got late, past my two minutes and the law says I have to get ready in two minutes, I still had five

more seconds to go. "It was just pure commonsense, I am not saying (doing) 'Mankading' or obstructing the field here, it is absolutely disgraceful." Mathews' dismissal added another chapter to the bitter rivalry between the two teams when he was timed out, the first instance in international cricket across formats. Mathews had walked in after Sadeera Samarawickrama holed out on the second ball of the 25th over off Shakib's bowling but he failed to get ready to face the ball within two minutes after

realising that the strap of his helmet was broken. The delay prompted Bangladesh to appeal and the umpires upheld it despite Mathews' repeated pleas. The two teams didn't shake hands after the match. "You want to respect people who respect us. We are all ambassadors of this beautiful game. If you don't respect and use your commonsense then what more you can ask for," he said on why Sri Lankan players did not shake hands with their opponents after the match.

"Until today I had utmost respect for him (Shakib) and Bangladesh team, obviously we all play to win and if it is within rules it is fine. But within two minutes I was there...we have video evidence. We will bring out a statement later. I am talking with proof from the time the catch was taken and then I got to the crease," Mathews said. "We talk about player safety. So, should I have played without my helmet on? So the umpires had a bigger job, they could have checked upstairs. Even

wicketkeepers don't open their helmet. It is commonsense. It was complete equipment malfunction. "In my 15 years, I have never seen a team going down to this level. Obviously umpires could have checked upstairs (with the TV umpire). I'm not saying that if I would have been there I would have won the match. "We need to have commonsense, it was clearly a malfunction. I didn't pull it (strap) and break it. I was in complete shock. Unfortunately, it happens with Bangladesh. I don't

think any other team would do that. "Shakib had the option, they knew it was not time wasting. He had the choice (to not approach the umpires) but he decided to go the other way." When Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan was asked if he had any regrets about his decision to appeal, he said, "No, not at all. I mean, one of our fielders came to me and said if you go by the law, he's out because he had not taken guard within the time-frame. "So then I appealed to

the umpire. We played Under-19 World Cup together, so I know Angelo for a long time since 2006. Yeah, I'm better within the rules." Asked if it was against the spirit of cricket, Shakib retorted back, "Well, then ICC should change the rules." Asked what Mathews told him when the incident happened, Shakib said, "He came and asked me whether I will withdraw my appeal or not. I said, 'you know, I understand your situation'. It was unfortunate, but I don't want to."

## Fabindia unveils 'Svarnim' Diwali collection

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: For the auspicious festival of Diwali, Fabindia, a much loved lifestyle brand, proudly unveils a Diwali Collection that encapsulates the very spirit of the festival. It is a reflection of those golden moments, connecting with loved ones, classic fragrances filling the air, family and friends celebrating with joy and love.

From Dhanteras to Diwali, Fabindia's Svarnim Collection meticulously transcends the boundaries of tradition and innovation, presenting a treat for the senses. It includes jewel tones of ruby reds, deep blues, rich purples and bright pinks, reds and yellows, to name a few.

Svarnim epitomizes the ethos of Fabindia—celebrating the grandeur of Indian heritage while



embracing the grace of modern living. The extensive range of handcrafted kurtas embellished with delicate embroidery like Zari work, Khari prints with rich brocade trims and stunning Banarasi, Maheshwari and

Chanderi silk saris are timeless masterpieces that will remain in vogue for generations.

Complete your looks opulently with intricately designed polki and pearl jewellery. Choose from an array of jutties and san-

dals featuring the brightest of colours. Match them with hand embroidered clutches and silk brocade potlis.

Illuminate your living spaces with Fabindia's handpicked Diwali decor. From enchanting diyas that flicker with ancient charm to mesmerizing wooden furniture and ceramic tableware that evoke cultural magnificence, our collection transforms your abode into a realm of luminous beauty.

Indulge in the joy of gifting with Fabindia's hand picked curation of gifts. Be it for close family and friends or colleagues, choose from apparel, home décor, personal care or thoughtfully created gift boxes.

The Svarnim collection is available at all Fabindia stores and online.

## Mission Directorate NULM/ AMRUT J&K organizes unique 'Water for Women, Women for Water' campaign



### Top News Report

JAMMU: The Mission Directorate NULM/ AMRUT J&K is organizing a unique initiative called the 'Water for Women, Women for Water' campaign in collaboration with DAY NULM to celebrate Jal Diwali to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance by giving first-hand knowledge about the water treatment processes and their roles and responsibility as well as on scope of their involvement with water supply schemes being implemented under AMRUT and other Urban functions.

The campaign is being organized on 07 November 2023 in Seetli Water Treatment Plant at Bye-Pass Nagrota to sensitize 6 Women Self Help Groups (40 participants) formed by Jammu Urban Development Agency (JUDA) under DAY-NULM with NULM City Co-ordinator Archana Bhat (Assistant Project Officer) and Tinna Sharma (Assistant Project Officer) about processes involved in supplying clean and safe drinking water to households.

The main objective of the visit is to foster a sense of belongingness and ownership among women towards the

water infrastructure.

The campaign kick started today on 7th November 2023 where Sh. Rajesh Sharma (XEN) along with Er. Pankaj Mohan (AEE) and other staff welcome the Self Help Group Members and demonstrated the step to step working of Water treatment Plant (Intake of raw water, Pre chlorination, Clon Flocculation, Filtration etc). The group members also visited the Water Testing Laboratory

Then field Kits were distributed among the Members and refreshments were also served to the visiting Self Help Group Members.

## Rama Ekadashi falls on Nov 9

### Top News Report

JAMMU Nov 7: Rama Ekadashi is an important fasting day in the Hindu calendar, and your provided information gives a detailed explanation of the significance of this observance, the fasting procedure, and the things to avoid during this time. Fasting on Rama Ekadashi is a way for devotees to seek spiritual purification, self-discipline, and the blessings of Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi.

Rama Ekadashi falls on November 9th, 2023. The fasting period begins on November 8th at 8:24 AM and concludes on November 9th at 10:42 AM. The sunrise on November 9th marks the time for observing the fast.

Fasting on Rama Ekadashi is believed to bring blessings, wealth, and prosperity. It is considered highly meritorious and is said to surpass the benefits of other religious practices.

The fasting procedure involves maintaining physical cleanliness, having a Satvik meal on Dashami, waking up early on Ekadashi, taking a bath, and

making a resolve to observe the fast. The day is devoted to worshipping Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi. The ritual includes a detailed puja, reciting mantras, and offering various items to the deities.

Chanting the "Om Namo Vasudevaya" mantra is recommended on Ekadashi, and it is believed to have physical and mental health benefits, promoting self-discipline and rejuvenation.

On Ekadashi, one should avoid tamasic (impure) food, maintain celibacy, abstain from alcohol and intoxicants, refrain from activities like shaving or cutting nails, and avoid wearing specific items such as belts, footwear, leather, and black-colored clothing. Hurting others is considered a grave sin on this day.

Overall, Rama Ekadashi is a sacred occasion for devotees to seek divine blessings, practice self-discipline, and cleanse themselves spiritually. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of balance in life and helping those in need through acts of charity and donation.

## Dimple leads protest against JMC



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: President of a Traders' Association, Sunil Dimple, led a protest rally in Amphalla voicing several grievances during the protest.

He alleged that traders had to personally pay for water tankers to address dust issues damaging their goods and that the Mayor of JMC, residing in Ward Number 16, had neglected residents and businesses in the area,

leading to dust pollution problems.

Dimple, along with fellow traders and shopkeepers, took it upon themselves to spray water on the road. He accused various government departments of failing to work efficiently.

Dust pollution was stated to have damaged goods and affected the health of traders and pedestrians.

Additionally, Dimple criticized the JMC

Mayor's performance, blaming corruption for a lack of development and poor living conditions in Jammu, which he claimed had become one of the dirtiest cities in India.

Prominent leaders, including Ashok Khana, Dev Raj, Babu, Vipan, Rakesh Sharma, Jetinder Gupta, Raju Kumar, Sonu Sharma, Kala Kumar, and others, supported this protest and its concerns.

## Nikon Z f camera launched at Chandigarh

### Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Nov 7: Nikon India introduced the highly anticipated Nikon Z f camera in India during a launch event at Chandigarh on Tuesday.

Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India Pvt. Ltd. said, "We, at Nikon India, are extremely thrilled at the launch of our new mirrorless camera, the Nikon Z f. The camera is perfect for modern-day creators as it is packed with AI-driven features like Portrait Impression Balance, Skin Softening, and Advance Auto Focus and be a good companion for wedding and wildlife photography. We are happy to be in Punjab — a state known for its vibrant wedding customs and magnificent festivities and happy to bring our new portfolio of products to this market."

## MoU signed between GCET Jammu and BIS-Jammu for collaborative initiatives



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 7: In a significant step towards fostering academic excellence and industry collaboration, the Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Indian Standards, Jammu (BIS-Jammu).

The MoU signing ceremony took place at GCET Jammu, witnessed by esteemed dignitaries. The MoU was signed by Principal GCET Jammu, Prof. (Dr.)

Sameru Sharma in the presence of Ashish Kumar Devedi, representative from BIS-Jammu and various faculty members from GCET Jammu.

The occasion was marked by the presence of key personalities, including Sohan Lal, Registrar GCET Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Simmi Dutta, Head, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Prof. (Dr.) Subhash Chander Dubey, Professor in the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Er. Sanjeev Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of

Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Raman Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Heera Saini, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Mathematics, and Er. Surjit Singh, Senior Laboratory Technician.

Expressing gratitude for the collaboration, Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma thanked BIS-Jammu for the healthy relationship with GCET Jammu established over the past one and a half years.

The MoU signifies a commitment to collaboration in organizing workshops, exposure visits,

and industrial visits for students in various industry players within the state.

As a result of this collaboration, students at GCET Jammu will benefit from enhanced growth opportunities and exposure to real-world industry practices.

The workshops and visits organized by BIS-Jammu will provide valuable insights into the functioning of various industries in the state, contributing to the holistic development of the students.

The entire event was seamlessly coordinated by Dr. Rajinder Singh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, and Mentor of Standards Club at GCET Jammu. GCET Jammu is now the third technical institution in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, alongside IIT Jammu and NIT Srinagar, to have signed an MoU with BIS-Jammu.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to academic excellence, industry relevance, and the overall development of the students.

## LFO-BHF "Mission R-SAP" empowers women across J&K



### Top News Report

JAMMU Nov 7: Live For Others- Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), is proud to announce a significant milestone in their joint initiative with J&K Bank, "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)".

This CSR project aims to provide access to menstrual hygiene by distributing 5,00,000 sanitary napkins and conducting 100 awareness seminars, benefiting 50,000 people across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir and remove the taboo regarding menstruation from the society.

The third district to successfully complete this mission is Shopian,

where more than 25,000 sanitary napkins were distributed, complemented by five impactful awareness lectures targets more than 2500 people.

The resource person for these seminars was Hafsa Arshad and Saqib Rehman.

These activities were carried out in both government and private schools and colleges located in peripheral areas, namely Govt. Degree College, Shopian; Springdales Educational Institute Shopian; Mohammadiya Institution, Shopian; Shah-I-Hamdaan Memorial Institute, Shopian; Rainbow International Educational Institute, Shopian.

"We are thrilled with

the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health and hygiene and currently we are looking forward to others districts and our team is simultaneously working on it," said Mr. Shah Aamir Muzaffar, Secretary (National Body).

Saqib Rehman extends their gratitude to the Chief Patron of Govt Degree College Shopian, Principal & staff members of all the schools and colleges for giving their full support in organising such seminars on this important topic and as well as students for showing their active participation and support.

Members who were present were Afreen Barkat, Maroofa Shah, Urfee Yousuf, Hafsa Arshad, Haadi, Tahir Maqbool, Aisha Fariana, Syed Gulnaz, Seema, Danish Ahmad Kumar, Uzaiba, Ifra Kan, Sheikh Shahid, Rasik Riyaz, and many more.