

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Had stagnated as an actor before Arya, says Sushmita Sen**

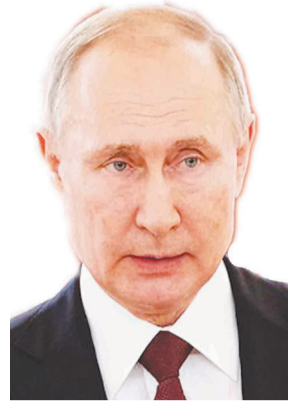


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**Mahua Moitra says she will be back with a bigger mandate in 2024, a day after Lok Sabha Ethics Committee....**

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**Putin and top military leaders visit southern military headquarters to assess his war in Ukraine**



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## BRIEFLY

### SIA Raids multiple locations in Kashmir in terror funding case

SRINAGAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) is conducting raids at multiple locations in the Union Territory in connection with its ongoing probe into the terror-funding case. The raids are being carried out in Srinagar, Anantnag and Pulwama districts in the Kashmir Valley, sources said. The agency has conducted similar raids on Wednesday too.

### CRPF trooper shoots himself dead in Qazigund

SRINAGAR, Nov 10: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Jawan allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle near the Jawhar tunnel in the Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said. The CRPF Jawan was on duty near B-top in the Jawhar Tunnel area of Qazigund when he shot himself. "The CRPF man died on the spot." "The body was shifted to hospital for post-mortem and necessary legal procedures. The motive behind him taking this extreme step was not immediately known."

### 7-year-old child dies after vehicle falls into ditch near Katra

KATRA, Nov 10 (Agencies): A vehicle carrying around eight devotees fell into a ditch today. The bus was coming back to Delhi from Katra. A total of eight passengers were travelling in the vehicle out of which seven suffered severe injuries and a 7-year-old child lost his life on the spot. The incident took place at around 5:00 am in Nomai area after the travelling tempo lost its balance. The injured are undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Katra.

## BSF jawan martyred in Pak ceasefire violation saved lives of 12 colleagues in 1998; won 7 bravery awards

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): The 50-year-old Border Security Force Head Constable Lal Fam Kima, who succumbed to injuries while retaliating to the fresh ceasefire violation by Pakistan Rangers late on Wednesday had saved the lives of 12 of his colleagues in 1998 during an anti-terror operation.

The BSF Head Constable was honoured with seven bravery awards in his 27-year career in the border guarding force.

Deployed in the BSF on April 21, 1996, Lal Fam Kima succumbed to his injuries received in an unprovoked firing resorted by Pakistan Rangers deployed near the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramgarh sector.

The firing started on the intervening night of November 8-9 by Pakistan Rangers and the BSF defiantly replied to the violation of the ceasefire along the international border in the Ramgarh and Arnia sectors in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district.

BSF's Deputy Inspector General SS Mand, now deployed in Jammu and Kashmir's Sunderbani, told ANI that Kima's bravery avoided



casualties of 12 BSF personnel in an anti-terror operation conducted once in 1998 in the hilly town of Gool in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Presently deployed with 148 Battalion of BSF, February 10, 1973, born Kima, as per Mand, Keema played a major role in an operation in 1998 when there was a fierce encounter with terrorists in the upper reaches of Gool.

"The terrorists were held up in a Dhoke (a manmade place like bunkers). BSF had cornered them and were trying to smoke them out by lobbing grenades from the roof of the dhoke. Suddenly there was a huge blast. The terrorists

had blown up the dhoke along with themselves in a desperate attempt to cause maximum casualties to BSF in this suicide attempt," Mand remembered the incident while talking to ANI on the phone.

"The walls of Dhoke collapsed and BSF troops on the top somehow were lucky to be saved. As after every success, the troops rushed inside the smouldering remnants of the dhoke. More than a dozen troops with some officers were rummaging through the dhoke with three dead terrorists lying in whatever was left of the Dhoke."

Suddenly, Mand said, there was a loud shriek, "TUM...PIN NIKALE-GA" (you will take out the pin) followed by a burst fire of LMG (Light Machine Gun), sending everyone scampering for cover.

"This was our Constable Lal Fam Kima, who had spotted the almost dead terrorist removing the pin from a grenade even while he was taking his last breath. While the rest of the party was busy rummaging and recovering war-like stores, it was ever-alert Kima who spotted the

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## Snowfall, rains resulting in closure of several roads in J&K



SRINAGAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): Higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir experienced fresh snowfall on Friday while plains were lashed by widespread rains resulting in the closure of several roads, officials said.

They said the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley including Razdan Pass, Pir Ki Gali, Zojila Pass, Sinthan Top, Sonamarg, Gulmarg,

Doodpathri, Kulgam and Machil experienced snowfall, while plains were lashed by widespread rains on Friday.

Due to snowfall several roads including Razdan Pass, Zojila Pass, Kishtwar-Anantnag road, Mughal road connecting south Kashmir's Shopian district with the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu, Phirkiyan Gali, Machil in Kupwara and Srinagar-

Sonamarg road have been closed for traffic movement.

However, traffic on Srinagar-Jammu national highway was plying normally amid rainfall, J&K traffic police said on X.

The Meteorological Department Srinagar forecast of fairly widespread rain in plains and snowfall over higher reaches of J&K during the next 24 hours.

There would be a Turn to page 9

## Narco-terror module case: J-K SIA searches house of key accused in Poonch

JAMMU/MENDHAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday searched the house of a key accused in a narco-terror module case in a hamlet near the Line of Control in Poonch district, officials said.

A SIA team had taken accused Mohammad Iqbal, who was

arrested from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district in October, along with it to Karmara, they said. The case pertains to cross-border smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotics into Poonch, the officials said.

Three accomplices of Iqbal were caught with a huge cache of arms, explosives and narcotics near the border fence in Poonch's Karmara area

on the intervening night of May 30 and 31, they said. Iqbal was at large since then.

He had fled from the area, and using technical surveillance as well as intelligence inputs, it was found that he was hiding in Mandi district, the officials said and added that he was arrested by SIA in October.

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## DM slaps PSA on notorious bovine smuggler at Reasi

REASI, Nov 10: District Magistrate Reasi Vishesh Paul Mahajan today slapped Public Safety Act on notorious bovine smuggler Mohammad Azam S/o Abdul Hussain, Age 25 Years R/o village Kothian Tehsil Pouni District

Reasi who has been convicted by the courts in multiple FIRs registered in various Police Stations viz. Sunderbani, Akhnoor, Pouni. His repeated criminal acts of Bovine Smuggling were considered a threat to public order and tranquility in the District.

The District Magistrate Reasi has reiterated that anyone found involved in disturbing the public order and tranquility shall be strictly dealt with under the law. There shall be zero tolerance and no leniency towards the anti-social elements involved in

Turn to page 9

## 18 children missing from Srinagar Orphanage

SRINAGAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Friday said at least 18 children are missing from an orphanage in Srinagar while the SDM Srinagar sealed the Trust for running without registration.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), CWC

Srinagar chairperson Dr Khair-un-Nisa said that they had visited the Al-Miskeen Yateem Trust at Nundreshi Colony, Bemina, Srinagar in the past many a times and asked the Trust head to get registered under Juvenile Justice Act (JJA). "The trust had sought one month's time but even after over

a month, the trust head failed to come up with registration. Today, we found 18 children missing from the trust and we don't know where these kids are," she said, adding that the Trust was locked and children were missing.

"Today, SDM Srinagar sealed the Trust as it

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## Patients shiver with cold, DAK urges JK admin to start heating system in Kashmir hospitals

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 10: Urging Jammu and Kashmir (JK) administration to start heating system in Kashmir hospitals, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said patients are shivering with cold as heating systems of hospitals have not been started yet.

With temperatures dipping, DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said patients face huge inconvenience as heating systems of hospitals are not operational yet. Dr Hassan said lack of heating in hospitals is putting the lives of patients at risk.

"Cardiac and Stroke patients in hospitals are at increased risk of death as cold thickens blood and constricts the arteries," he said.

"Even the condition of Asthmatics and patients with Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases worsens in hospitals because of cold conditions," he added.

The DAK President said the cold conditions in hospitals increase the risk of expectant mothers having premature delivery.

"Children and elderly are especially prone to

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## ED attaches Rs 24.95 crore worth properties of Hero MotoCorp's Pawan Kant Munjal

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Friday said it had attached assets worth Rs 24.95 crore of Hero MotoCorp executive chairperson Pawan Kant Munjal as part of a money-laundering investigation against him.

Three immovable properties of Munjal located in Delhi have been provisionally attached under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA),

the central agency said in a statement.

Munjal, it said, is the CMD and Chairman of Hero MotoCorp Ltd and the assets are worth about Rs 24.95 crore.

The ED had carried out raids against Munjal and his companies in August after filing a PMLA case against him that was filed after taking cognisance of a Directorate of Revenue Intelligence charge sheet that accused him of

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## Jammu-Srinagar National Highway closed

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed for traffic movement after mudslides and shooting stones occurred along the road stretch near the Mehar area of Ramban district on Friday.

The highway got blocked due to mudslides and shooting stones near Mehar area

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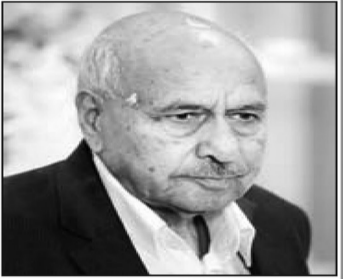
Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503



**10TH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad departure of our revered Papa Ji, **Sh. Om Parkash Gupta**, R/o Akhnoor, for his Eternal Heavenly Abode on 31-10-2023.  
**10TH DAY, RASAM** shall be performed in Kameshwar Mandir, Akhnoor on Thursday, 09-11-2023, at 11.A.M.  
**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** shall be performed in Kameshwar Mandir, Akhnoor on Saturday, 11-11-2023, at 3.00 PM TO 4.00 P.M.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Brother and Bhabhi  
Dr. KL Gupta and Smt. Mini Gupta  
**Sisters and Brothers-in-Law**  
Smt. Krishna Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Joginder Pal Gupta  
Smt. Vaishno Gupta and Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta  
Smt. Shakti Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Subhash Chander Gupta  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
Badri Nath Gupta and Anu Gupta  
Ram Lal Gupta and Anita Gupta  
Brij Bhushan Gupta and Sabita Gupta  
Rakesh Gupta and Rachna Gupta  
**Daughter and Son-in-Law**  
Anju and Rakesh Gupta (Elora Textiles Jammu)



**Sh. Om Parkash Gupta**

M/s Dhani Ram Om Parkash, Akhnoor  
M/s Om Parkash Ram Lal, 4A-Nehru Market Jammu  
PHONE: 9419100102, 9419100103

**TENTH DAY**

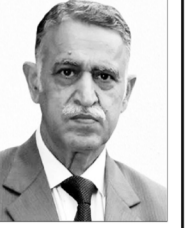
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Kharoo W/o Sh. K.L. Kharoo** originally resident of Banamohalla, Srinagar, Kashmir, At Present Lane No-3, Amrit Vihar, Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra Clinic Lane, Barnai, Jammu on 02-11-2023.  
**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Saturday, 11th November, 2023 at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) at 9 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**SAMAST KHAROO FAMILY AND ALL EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS**



**SMT. NANCY KHAROO**

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Dr Anil Bhatt** S/o Late Sh. J N Bhatt of Badri Nagar, Paonta Sahib (HP), original resident of Motiyar Rainawari Sgr Kmr on 3-11-2023 (Thursday).  
**10th Day** will be observed on 12-11-2023 (Sunday) at Yammuna Ghat, Paonta Sahib (HP)  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Jeevika & Piyush Bhatt (Daughter-in-law & Son) Mobile No. 9902649926, 9741232317  
Smt. Tushima Rattan & Varun Rattan (Daughter & Son-in-law) Mob No. 8146307857, 8146307934  
(HANDOO'S, RAWAL'S, BHATT'S, ZUTSHI'S, KALLA'S)



**Dr Anil Bhatt**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Radha Krishen Mussa**, S/o Late Sh. Jia Lal Mussa, R/o Mattan (Martand), Distt. Anantnag, Kashmir, who left for heavenly abode on 03-11-2023 in Navi Mumbai.  
The **Mourning** will be held at H. No. 102, Adarsh Nagar, Paloura, Jammu (Landmark: J&K Bank Paloura) from 08-11-2023 (Wednesday)  
**TENTH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 12-11-2023 at 9:00 am  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Vijanti & Sh. Avtar Krishan Mussa (Sister-in-law & Brother) Mob: 6005154632  
Smt. Anjana & Sh. Raj Kumar Mussa (Daughter-in-law & Son)  
Smt. Swati & Sh. Ashok Kumar (Daughter-in-law & Son) - 097699 86733  
Smt. Renu & Sh. Sushil Kumar (Daughter-in-law & Son)  
Aditya, Adarsh, Antra, Tsija (Grandchildren)



Late Sh. Radha Krishen Mussa 22-02-1938 to 03-11-2023

**OBITUARY FROM MALUN SIDE**

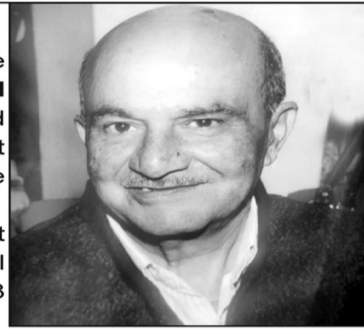
With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Karmyogi Girja Bhat (Sheela)** W/o Lt. Sh. Dwarka Nath Bhat originally from Khrew, Pampore, Kashmir at present H.No. 227, Amar Colony Extn. Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu.  
**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education Deptt. on 14-11-2023 at 8.00 am.  
**Grief Stricken**  
**Kalla's Parivar**



**Karmyogi Girja Bhat (Sheela)**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With deep sadness, we announce the passing away of our beloved **Sh. Brij Lal Koul**, son of the late Sh. Jia Lal Koul, and resident of Wahibugh, Pulwama, at present H.No-4 Vassant Enclave Trilokpur Gole Gujral Jammu on November 6, 2023.  
The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) Jammu on November 15, 2023 (Wednesday) at 9:30 am.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Nancy Koul (Wife)  
Smt. & Shri H.K. Tickoo (Sister and Brother-in-Law)  
Smt. & Shri A.K. Koul (Bhabhi and Brother)  
Smt. & Shri M.K. Koul (Sister and Brother-in-Law)  
Smt. and Shri Sanjay Koul (Daughter-in-Law and Son)  
Smt. and Shri Ashok Raina (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Smt. & Shri Ravi Raina (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Smt. & Shri Arun Ambardar (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
**Grand children:** Harshit, Jaival, Shriya, Himanshu, Koushak, Aayana, and Pihu  
**Contact Numbers:**  
9469141363,  
7889668353,  
700642521,  
9797325838.



**SH. BRIJ LAL KOUL**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Maya Devi** W/o Late Piyar Singh who left for heavenly abode on 02-11-2023. May the Lord grant peace to the divine soul.  
**10TH DAY** shall be performed on 11-11-2023 (Saturday) at 12 Noon at our residence R/o Kotla Morh Near Air Force Officers Mess Road Udhampur.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Rajinder Singh and Neelam Devi  
Ravinder Rathore and Renu Arora  
**Mob. 70064 33762**  
**Mob.9055333000**



**Smt. Maya Devi**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

We are immensely grieved to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Harsh Sharma** H/o Shamli Sharma who left us for heavenly abode on 01 November 2023. We request you all to gather for his **TENTH DAY** which will be performed on 10-Nov 2023 (Friday) at 11 AM at our residence.  
**RASAM KRIYA** will be performed on 11-Nov 2023 (Saturday) from 11 AM to 1 PM at our residence.  
**UTHALA** will be performed on 11-Nov 2023 (Saturday) at Lane No 26 Kailash Dham Shiv Mandir, Greater Kailash, Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Shamli Sharma W/o Late Sh. Harsh Sharma  
Mr. Abhishek Sharma- **Son**  
Smt. Apoorvi Sharma W/o Sh. Sahib Vaid - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Shammi Sharma W/o Sh. Vijay Sharma  
Smt. Anjali Sharma W/o Sh. Vipan Sharma  
**AND ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS.**  
**MOB: 7006639334, 9419149171, 9086008874**



**HARSH SHARMA**  
MAY 27, 1961-NOVEMBER 01, 2023

**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Krishan Kumar Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Sharma on 1st Nov 2023.  
**Tenth Day** will be performed on 10-11-2023 at our residence H.No. 42A, Patoli Magotrian, Jammu at 11:00 am.  
**Kriya** will be performed on 11-11-2023 at our residence.  
**Rasam Pagri/ Uthala** will be performed on 11-11-2023 at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Chanchala Sharma (Wife)  
**Son & Daughter in law**  
Sh. Rajnish Kumar Sharma & Smt. Surekha Sharma  
Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sharma & Smt. Kamini Sharma  
Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sharma & Smt. Arunima Sharma  
**Contact No. 9419138136, 9419112395, 9419112240**



**Sh. Krishan Kumar Sharma**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Sandeep Gupta (Baby Shah)** son of late Amrit Sagar Gupta, R/o Shakti Nagar Kishtwar Ward No 10. **10th Day** will be performed on 9th November, 2023 (Thursday) at Shiv Mandir Kishtwar at 10 am.  
**Kriya** will be performed on 11th November 2023 (Saturday) at our residence.  
**Uthala** will be performed on 11th November 2023 (Saturday) at 3:30 P.M  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Pramila Gupta (Mother)  
Anju Bala (Wife)  
Abhik , Rakshit (Sons)  
**7006217566, 7051032777, 9149707277, 7006120775**



**Sh Sandeep Gupta (Baby Shah)**

**TENTH (10TH) DAY/ KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Joginder Pal** S/o Late Sh. Hakumat Rai R/o Ward No 6 R.S.Pura who expired on 2-11-2023.  
**Tenth Day** ritual will be performed at Devi Dwara Mandir R.S.Pura on 11-11-2023 (Saturday) from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
**Jojra Family, R.S.Pura**



**Sh. Joginder Pal**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Maya Devi** W/o Late Piyar Singh who left for heavenly abode on 02-11-2023. May the Lord grant peace to the divine soul.  
**10TH DAY** shall be performed on 11-11-2023 (Saturday ) at 12 Noon at Residence R/o Kotla Morh Near Air Force Officers Mess Road Udhampur.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Rajinder Singh and Neelam Devi  
Ravinder Rathore and Renu Arora  
**Mob. 70064 33762, 9055333000**



**SMT. MAYA DEVI**

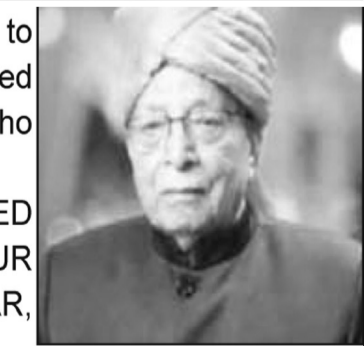
**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Moti Lal Padey (Koul)** R/o H. No 619-A, Lane No 17 Surya Vihar Talab Tillo Patta Bohri, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 03-11-2023.  
May god grant peace to the divine soul.  
**10TH DAY** shall be performed on 12-11-2023 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Office at 9.00 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Neeraja - **Wife**  
**Brother and Sister in Law**  
Sh. Brij Nath and Late Smt Lalita  
Sh. Nana Ji & Smt Santosh  
Sh. Roshan Lal & Smt Pinkey  
**Son & Daughter in Law**  
Mr Deepak & Mrs Bindu  
**Daughter and Son in Law**  
Mrs Renuka & Mr Rakesh Koul  
Mrs Pinky & Mr Vinod Raina  
**Grand Children**  
Rishi, Ridhul, Diya, Vibhu, Vishu  
**Samast Padey (Koul) Parivar & All Nears & Dears**  
**Contact No: 9086540411, 9419316278 & 9419425568**



**SH. MOTI LAL PADEY (KOUL)**

With grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Jija Ji Sh. Surinder Pal Gupta Ji** who left for the heavenly abode.  
**FIFTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON SATURDAY 11 NOV. 2023, AT OUR RESIDENCE: 459-A GANDHI NAGAR, NEAR NIDAAN DIAGNOSTIC LAB**  
**TIMINGS: 10-11 AM**  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Late Smt Krishna Devi & Sh Harnam Das (Brother in law)  
Smt.Bimla Devi & Sh. Jagdish Pal Gupta (Brother in law)  
Sh.Jatinder kumar & Sh.Narinder Kumar  
Mrs.Palak Mahajan & Mr.Amit Mahajan  
**CONTACT NO. 9419106843, 9796497178, 9419211385**



**SH. SURINDER GUPTA**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Sunita Gupta** W/o Er. Virander Kumar Gupta R/o Lane No. 3, Shivpuri, Near Dreamland Park, Kathua.  
**Tenth Day** shall be performed at our residence on Friday, 10th November, 2023 at 11.00 am.  
**Kriya** shall be performed at our residence on Monday, 13th November, 2023 at 12.30 pm.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Husband  
Er. Virander Kumar Gupta (Chief Engineer, DIC)  
Dr. Ayushi & Adv. Pankaj Sharma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Dr. Komple Gupta - **Daughter**  
Smt. Shakuntla Devi - **Mother-in-law**  
Devars & Devaranis  
Er. Narinder Gupta & Smt. Anju Gupta  
Dr. Nareesh Gupta & Dr. Shivani Gupta  
Dr. Sanjeev Gupta & Dr. Payal Gupta  
**Nanad & Nandoy!**  
Smt. Manju Bala & Er. Sudesh Gupta  
**Mob:- 9419150447, 9419150355, 9469275511, 9419107895**



**Smt. Sunita Gupta**

**SHADMOS/MASVAR**

In remembrance of our beloved papa, who graced our lives with warmth, love, and unforgettable memories, we invite friends, family, and loved ones to join us in commemorating their life as we mark the 6th month since their passing. Memories of your love, teaching & guidance as fresh as ever with us. We pay respectable homage and pray to Almighty for eternal peaceful place in heaven.  
**SHADMOS** and **MASVAR** of our beloved father **Late Shri S K Tikoo** may be performed at our residence House No 50 Lane No 2 Sarawati Vihar Barnai behind Kangra fort Barnai Jammu. 181205.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Shanta Tikoo - **Wife**  
Sh. Sanjay Tikoo & Smt Meenakshi Tikoo - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Anil Tikoo & Smt Sunita Tikoo - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Smt Dolly & Sh. Sanjay Dhar - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt Purnima & Sh. Ashok Sachru - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Contact No- 788932081, 9419124070**



**Late Shri S K Tikoo**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform sudden demise of our mother **Smt Rani Devi (Kishni Ji)** W/o Lt. Dina Nath R/o Drabryar Habbakadal at present Block 49 Flat 03 Lane No. 9 Jagti Township on 05-11-2023.  
**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 14-11-2023. Assembly will be held at Community Hall (Back Side) Lane No. 4 Jagti.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Smt Reetu & Sh. Roop Krishan - **Daughter-in-law & Son**  
Indu Kaw W/o Lt. B. Kaw - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt Rekha & Sh. Sunil Dhar - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt Purnima & Sh. Rajinder Raina - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Shivani, Kartic, Vinayak, Sunny, Amit, Vikram, Anupam, Rishab & Ritik.  
**Contact No. 9786515705, 7006652859**



**Smt Rani Devi (Kishni Ji)**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

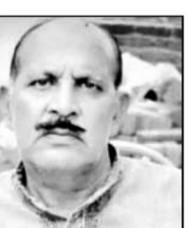
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **SH. VIDHYA DHAR SHARMA**, S/o Late Pandit SHANKU RAM R/O Miran Sahib, Teh. R.S.Pura who left us for the heavenly abode on 02.11.2023.  
**Tenth Day** will be performed on Saturday 11.11.2023 at 11:00 AM at our residence. **Kriya** will be performed on Sunday 12.11.2023 at 1:00 PM at our residence. **Uthala** will be performed on Monday 13.11.2023 at 4:00 PM at our residence, Miran Sahib, Tehsil R.S.PURA, Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Smt. Darshana Devi - **Wife**  
**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Anil Sharma and Monika Sharma  
Bharat Sharma and Minakshi Sharma  
**Daughters and Son-in-laws**  
Rita Sharma and Tarsem Sharma  
Jyoti Sharma and Gopal Sharma  
Veena Sharma and Tarsem Sharma



**SH. VIDHYA DHAR SHARMA**

**10TH DAY & UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Sh Balwant Singh Ji** R/o Channi Rama, Jammu near ITBP Camp who left us for heavenly abode on 03-11-2023.  
**Tenth Day** will be held on 11/11/2023 (Saturday) at Channi Rama, Jammu.  
**UTHALA** will be held on 15/11/2023 (Wednesday) at our residence Channi Rama, Jammu from 3. PM to 4 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Parvati Devi - **Wife**  
**Son & Daughter-in-laws**  
Sh Jagdev Singh & Chanchal Devi  
Sh Ramesh Singh & Sweetsy Devi  
Sh Pritam Singh & Seema Devi  
Sh Joginder Singh & Sarika Devi  
Sh Ashok Singh & Niju Devi  
**Grand Sons & Grand Daughters**  
Anupriya, Tarun, Diksha, Sneha, Bhoomi, Vasu, Gokul, Aani, Anvi, Mani, Tanvi  
**Contact No. 9469132816**



**Sh Balwant Singh Ji (13/05/1940-03/11/23)**

**DISCLAIMER**

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## Whopping 185 JJM projects costing Rs 748.31 cr taken up in District Doda; 82452 households provided Tap Connections

DDC reviews progress of work; Asks to provide more 1000 FHTCs by Nov 15

### Top News Report

DODA, Nov 10: District Development Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, who is also Chairman District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district, in a meeting of Jal Shakti Department (JSD) held here in DC office complex. DDC reviewed scheme wise progress of JJM schemes and issued specific direction and timelines.

The DDC was informed that 185 projects at an estimated cost of Rs 748.31 crore have been tendered, allotted and execution has been started on ground in the district under JJM, to provide safe drinking water through tap water con-



nections to every household. In the above said 185 JJM schemes, 372 Slow Sand Filtration plants are to be constructed, out of which 207 have been allotted and work on 133 has been started on the ground. Out of 2 Rapid Sand Filtration plants, one has been allotted, while Work on 3 Borewells has been started out of 05 sanc-

tioned Borewell projects.

The Chairman DWSM (DDC) was informed that out of the target of 111216 FHTCs to provide all the households in the district safe and adequate tap drinking water, 82452 FHTCs have been completed. In this regard, DDC has asked the engineers to complete 1000 more FHTCs by Novem-

ber 15th and complete the target as per the already given timeline. Furthermore, the SE JSD has been instructed to monitor personally, daily progress, and ensure all the schemes under prestigious JJM are completed in a given timeline. He asked the SE to submit a PERT Chart of all the schemes, and adhere to the timeline maintaining highest standards of quality. Regarding some re-tendered Slow Sand Filtration plants, Borewells and Rapid Sand Filtration plants, the DDC urged to allot and start execution of work immediately, in two days, on successfully tendered works.

The meeting was attended by CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, SE Hydraulic Circle Doda Anil Gupta, Executive Engineers (All), AEEs (All) and other concerned officials.

## 8th National Ayurveda Day Celebrated at Doda

AYUSH practitioners, experts promote ancient Indian healing system



### Top News Report

DODA, Nov 10: District Ayush Office Doda, in collaboration with District Administration, celebrated 8th National Ayurveda Day (Dhanwantri Jayanti) with great enthusiasm and zeal here in Town Hall. The event saw a gathering of Ayurveda practitioners, experts, and enthusiasts who came together to promote the ancient Indian healing system.

Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom, inaugurated the programme and a free Ayurvedic Medical Camp. The event was kicked off with the lighting of the traditional lamp followed by informative sessions on the benefits of Ayurveda.

The celebration also included yoga and meditation sessions, highlighting the importance of a balanced lifestyle

for overall well-being. Renowned Ayurveda practitioners and scholars were also present to share their knowledge and insight on the holistic approach to health and wellness.

The theme for this year's National Ayurveda Day was "Ayurveda for one health". The event aimed to raise awareness about the role of Ayurveda in preventing and managing a better lifestyle and to address the growing health concerns in India.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC emphasised the role of yoga in day to day life and exhorted the need to grow and use the local medicinal plants in day-to-day requirements. He firmly assured that Ayurveda is going to play a crucial role in the healthcare system in coming times. Doda will be the hub for Ayurvedic medicine, as the National level High Altitude Medicinal Plant

is coming up in Bhadrawah, the DC added.

Attendees at the event were given free consultation and demonstration of Ayurvedic treatments. Herbal medicine stalls were installed in the town Hall for the awareness of the people. The 8th National Ayurveda Day celebration at Town Hall Doda was a resounding success, bringing attention to the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda and its relevance in today's modern world. It served as a reminder of the importance of embracing traditional healing practices for a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.

The programme was attended by CEO Doda Parshotam Gorla, District Ayush Officer Dr Ajay Tikoo, Retired officers and officials of the department, PRIs, local people, and Officials of District Ayush Department Doda.

## Diwali preparations reviewed in Rajouri

# DC asks for strict market checking, observance of safety norms

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 10: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today reviewed the arrangements for the celebration of festival of lights-Diwali here at a meeting of officers and representatives of different organisations.

With unwavering focus, the meeting delved into essential facets such as seamless water and power supply, healthcare provisions, parking logistics, and efficient transport services.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal fervently emphasized the imperative duty of officers and officials to furnish the populace with indispensable amenities, encom-



passing potable water, sanitation, medical care, efficient transportation, uninterrupted power and water provisioning, and all other requisite essentials.

The vigilant law enforcement agencies received firm directives to deploy ample police personnel on this holy occasion, safeguarding the security of the public. Traffic authorities, likewise,

were tasked with crafting a meticulous traffic management and parking strategy to ensure the smooth flow of vehicles on the designated day.

Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal enjoined the concerned authorities from the Power Development Department and Jal Shakti Department to guarantee uninterrupted

power and water supply for the community during the festive period.

The concerned officer from the fire and emergency department received explicit instructions to maintain a state of readiness for fire tenders, both day and night. The Executive Officer MC Rajouri was mandated to ensure the cleanliness of the town throughout the festivities. Additionally, the Health Department was tasked with ensuring the availability of comprehensive medical facilities to address any potential emergencies.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal impressively underscored the urgency of completing all essential festival-related preparations well in advance to ensure that the public

encounters no inconvenience during these auspicious occasions.

Officers who attended the meeting were ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma; ARTO, Pawan Kumar; EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid; EO MC Rajouri, Mushtaq Hussain and other concerned officers.

Among the others, President Beopar Mandal, Rajesh Gupta; Secretary Beopar Mandal, Ripu Daman Gupta; Vice President Sanatan Dharm Sabha, Anshuman Chopra and Ashish Gupta from Sanatan Dharm Sabha.

## B2V-5 programme concludes across all 178 Panchayats in Kulgam

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 10: The phase fifth of Back to Village (B2V-5) programme concluded today with active participation and interaction between Prabhari Officers and the public at Kulgam.

During the outreach programme, all the 178 panchayats of the district were covered under two phases and the programme witnessed participation of PRIs and public in large. Under the first phase 84 panchayats were covered and in the second phase 94 panchayats were covered.

Today on the fourth day of the programme, Prabhari Officers including Director Education, Tassaduq Hussain Mir; Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, G.N.Ito; Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather; Director RDD, Shabir Hussain Bhat and other Prabhari officers remained available in their designated Panchayats and listened to the aspirations of the people and took feedback to ensure effective implementation of developmental schemes.

During the programme, Visiting Officers held scores of Gram Sabhas and informed people about the centrally sponsored and UT-run schemes for the welfare of the general public.

Prabhari Officers in all the panchayats interacted with the public and undertook review of previous and current year deliverables with special focus on improving e-services penetration and user experience for greater accessibility.

They also inspected various government offices and establishments and took first hand appraisal of availability of facilities and functioning of these institutions.

Several developmental projects were also dedicated to Public which were inaugurated by these Prabhari Officers.

Throughout the programme, Prabhari Officers also reviewed implementation status of schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, APY, Pension schemes, rejuvenation and restoration of water bodies etc and emphasised upon the saturation of KCC, ABHA cards, golden cards, land passbooks etc.

Awareness sessions on various self employment and other welfare schemes were also held.

Exciting cultural and sports events were also organised showcasing talent and promoting a spirit of unity.

## JKTJAC deputation meets DSEJ, Raises burning issues of the Teachers

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: A deputation of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) led by UT President Vinod Sharma called on Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma JKAS in his Office Chamber today on 10.11.2023.

While interacting with the Director Mr Vinod Sharma raised the burning issues of the teaching fraternity which include:-

- Conversion of RRETs to Teachers Grade II/III by arranging a divisional level Committee meeting so that eligible RRETs get their salaries,

- Regularisation of ReTs whose files are lying in Directorate

- Release of more than two years salary in favour of RRETs who have not been converted to Teachers' Grade II/III due to various reasons as their families are on the verge of starvation,

- Conversion of EVs to ReTs as they are suffering badly, as they have



acquired their required qualifications in stipulated time period given by the department,

- Providing Enrollment/ Post facto permission in favour of teachers who are pursuing/ have pursued higher qualifications,

- Resumption of mutual transfer cases of teachers Grade II/III as many files are lying in Directorate office

- Provision of earned leave in favour of teachers engaged during summer/winter vacation for summer/winter camps and for other duties

The Director listened the deputation quite patiently and assured

to redress each and every issue raised by the JKTJAC leadership. He also said that divisional level Committee meeting for conversion will be held on November 17. He also assured to issue DPC list within days.

Others who were part of the deputation included:- Rajesh Jamwal(Prov. president), Sham Sharma(Utadv), Sukesh Khajuria(Ut Press sec), Lekh Raj Parihar(DP Udh), Ravinder Manhas(Dp Jammu), Balwan Singh(DP Reasi), Bhupinder Gupta, Vinod Kumar, Vishal Sharma, Sandeep Kumar, Vipenkumar and others.

## BJP Mahila Morcha protests against Bihar CM's 'anti-women' remark

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: The Pertinent metion here that, Nitish Kumar, in a speech in the Bihar Assembly, said that women's education does not lead to population control, and that in fact, educated women have more children than uneducated women. He also said that women should focus on their household duties instead of pursuing higher education.

Talking to reporters, Divya Jain, President BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South strongly condemned Kumar's comments as "shameful" and "insensitive." She said that Nitish's comments are a reflection of the "I.N.D.I. Alliance mentality" and that they show that the alliance is trying to take India back to the last century.



"Nitish's comments are an insult to all women," She said, adding "He is trying to portray women as mindless baby-making machines. We will not tolerate such regressive thinking."

Divya Jain accused Nitish of

hypocrisy. She said that Nitish claims to support women's empowerment, but his actions speak otherwise.

"Nitish's comments show that he does not respect women," she said, adding "He is using women

as scapegoats for the country's population problem. We will not let him get away with this."

The senior BJP leader demanded that Nitish apologize for his comments and that he be held accountable for his words. "Indian women are Durga and we will not tolerate such disrespect from anyone," she asserted.

Among those who joined the protest include Bharat Bhushan Mandal President Gandhi Nagar, Narinder Prabhari Gandhi Nagar Mandal, Vinod Sharma Ward President, Meetu Sharma and Bharti Gupta General Secretaries Jammu South, Ritika Dhiman Gandhi Nagar Mandal President, Priyanka Sharma Gandhi Nagar Mandal General Secretary, Lovisha Gupta Ward President and civil society members.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION SATWARI  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Shorte-NIT No. 29 of 2023-24 Dated 07-11-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Advertis ed Cost (in lacs)	Cost of estimate (in lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	General up-keeping / Maintenance of Satwari RS Pura Road and Painting of centre verge and adjoining link during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024 (Stagework) RS Pura	7.90	600	(2% of the advertised Cost)	Upto 31 March 2024	21/11/2023	"C" & "D"

**Position/AAA :-Accorded**  
**Position/OTS :-Accorded**  
**Major Head of Account :-Under Non plan for the Year 2023-24**  
**Position of funds :-Demanded**

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	07/11/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07/11/2023
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	08/11/2023 at 12:00 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari
4	Bid submission Start Date	07/11/2023 at 18:00 Hrs.
5	Bid Submission End Date	20/11/2023 upto 18:00 Hrs.
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21/11/2023 on or after 14:00 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari and upload the same. e-treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BLG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari. The CDR/FDR/BLG shall be valid for 45 days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 Besu bmitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari at the time of allotment.

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

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid 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 responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari. The date and time of opening of bids shall be intimated separately.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if -

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021. No: 300-304

Dated: 07/11/2023

DIP/J-10876/23  
sd-  
Executive  
Engineer PWD (R&B)  
Division Satwari



## EDITORIAL

CLIMATIC  
FACTORS

The important factors in winter season are the Dry Continental Winds from Central and West-ern Asia. A high pressure area develops in the north of the Himalayas in Central and West Asia. From this area wind blows towards north-western plains. This is a dry continental airmass. Due to the influence of this airmass the north-western Indian Sub-continent becomes dry and cold. Zone of Contact: the Indian Trade Winds come in contact with the northwest continental airmass. This creates a Zone of Contact between the Indian Trade Winds and the north-west Continental Winds. The situation of this zone of contact is not stationary and often reaches the middle Ganga Valley. This results in the extension of cold and dry winds in the Ganga Valley. This makes the season cold and dry. When this zone of contact shifts to north the cold and dry wind situations is confined to the north only. Around 3 km above the earth's surface, the pattern of winds rotation is different. The main characteristics are the pressure changes in the lower air have virtually no effect on the upper air and the upper air of western and Central Asia is under the control of the westerlies. These winds blow parallel to the highland area of Tibet in the north of the Himalayas.

The speed of these winds is almost constant. This wind current is called Jet Stream.

Due to the obstacle of Tibet, the jet stream is divided into two branches The Northern Jet Stream which blows to the north of Tibet from the west to the east and the Southern Jet Stream that blows to the south of Tibet from the east to the west.

The Southern Jet Stream plays an important role in winter season. This attracts the low pressure areas from the Mediterranean Sea and the West Asia (mainly from the Oman Gulf).

These low pressure areas are called Western Depressions and are responsible for the rainfall in the winter season in north-ern India.

There are six seasons in a year. Winter is one of them. It is felt in India from the month of November till the end of February. It covers the two months named Pausha and Magha as per the Oriya Calendar. Normally, the days are short and nights are long in this season.

The winter scene is quite interesting. In the morning the sky remains foggy. There is also cold. Wind blows from the north. The sun appears very late in the morning. The sun light is also not hot. The weather is quite pleasant.

In any other season we become tired very soon if we do any work. But in winter we do not get tired easily. The village life is very dull in this season. Due to extreme cold people do not like to come out of their houses before sunrise. People often light fires both in the morning and in the evening and gather round the fires in order to get-warmth.

In town areas, cloth merchants display varieties of woolen clothes in their shops. People buy blankets, sweaters, mufflers, gloves, and monkey caps, etc. in order to protect their body from chilly winter. Although the rich can fight the cold in this season, the poor face enormous difficulty. They have no warm dresses. Their houses are also exposed to winter wind. So they suffer more than the rich.

Apart from it, we get varieties of vegetables, such as peas, brinjals, beans, cauliflowers and cabbages. Some fruits such as guavas and oranges are available in large quantity in this season. The people in Orissa celebrate the Samba Dasami festival in this season.

The Winter Season is a preparatory season for the spring. Therefore, it is said, "if winter comes can spring be far behind meaning?"

## Chinese going a step backwards, taking away the sky from women

By: Anita Anand

In the last week of October 2023, the 13th National Women's Congress of China opened in Beijing. President Xi Jinping, addressing the 1,800 delegates, said: "We should actively foster a new type of marriage and child-bearing culture." He went on to say party officials must influence young people's views on "love and marriage, fertility and family".

The National Women's Congress is the most powerful organisation among Chinese women's federations at all levels, bringing together women's views and aspirations and making inputs into policies which have consequences for gender equality, social justice, and women's rights.

Held every five years, the congress is a forum for the ruling Communist Party of China to demonstrate its commitment to women. But recently, there is some backsliding. The central message at this year's congress was for women to get married and have babies. In previous years, the speeches also included women's participation in the workforce. This year, Mr Xi made no mention of this. And, for the first time in two decades, this year there were no women in the Communist Party's main executive policymaking body. Backsliding.

What can explain this? Among other things, China has a demographic crisis. In the beginning of 2023, the government figures indicated that the year before there were 9.56 million births and 10.41 million deaths, making it the first

time that deaths outnumbered births since Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward and economic experiment that led to famine and death in the 1960s. Faced with this, a slowing economy and what it sees as the rise of feminism, the party is choosing to push women back into the home, to take care of children and the elderly. According to President Xi, this is essential for "China's path to modernisation".

Is it possible that China and other countries now see their path to modernisation by riding on the backs of women? Or more precisely, the wombs of women? In the late 1970s, China's challenge was to curb a large and growing population and for women to be part of the much needed labour force. In 1979, China adopted the one-child policy, mandating that a married couple could have only one child except in the case of extraordinary circumstances. In 2015, it was replaced by a two-child policy. In 2021, all restrictions were lifted, allowing Chinese couples to have any number of children.

The current policies define a mother as a married woman and favour married mothers. Cash bonuses are given to families with new babies. Many cities and workplaces have expanded maternity leave and added an extra month for second-time and third-time married mothers. These rewards are available only for married couples, not for single and independent women who, in some cases, would prefer to adopt, parent alone or not bear children at all. Subtle and not-so-subtle forms of discrimina-

tion. The government's focus on increasing the birth rate does not commensurate with assistance in childcare, one of the main reasons women are having less or no children.

It was not always like this. The leader Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms in 1978 included women in diverse ways, changing their image as "iron women", or women who could do men's work too, propagated during the pre-reform period. Increasing globalisation and China as a choice of location for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 gave a boost to Chinese women's aspirations and their mainstreaming into the international feminist movement.

In contemporary China, while women's rights have improved a great deal, they face discrimination in the workforce. There is a wide and persistent gender pay gap and many private firms turn down female job applicants in case they choose to have children, despite the fact that women are more qualified than men.

Under President Xi, the gains of women have been lost. The government has shut down many activist NGOs, censored feminist platforms, and feminism is seen by nationalists as a toxic Western ideology.

China and other countries use women as ping pong balls to increase and decrease their populations. Contraception enabled women to find agency and determine if and when they want children. Women and men are socialised to believe that they are not complete until they have a partner in marriage and become

parents. These new policies capitalise on the guilt, especially women, experience should they choose to do otherwise. Women, no matter how attractive the incentives, will become resentful wives and mothers when their independence and agency is taken away from them. This is not helpful to society, even a modern society as

President Xi wants and sees it.

The path to modernisation by China and other countries calls for new ways of thinking and acting. Current policies of incentives for increasing births by encouraging women to stay home and raise children is not modernity. It is moving backwards.

The reason birth rates are going down and women do not want to have children is because of insufficient childcare and the abdication of the state's responsibility to provide such services.

Besides being wives and mothers, women want to work outside the home, often because they need money, want to be engaged in and contribute to society, and feel good about themselves.

They need to be outside the home, interacting with the world.

In the mid-1960s, during the Cultural Revolution, the Communist leader Mao Zedong proclaimed that "women hold up half the sky", a slogan that personified freedom and liberation for women, and equality between men and women. Today, China's leaders have taken away the sky from women.

## Digital Banking Courses To Help Students Understand Online Banking Mechanisms Better



By: Vijay GarG

To strengthen the digital banking system and participate in the fast-growing banking system, Commerce students are taking up short courses in digital banking and cyber security to address the looming threat in the online banking system. Students are getting employable in the e-banking system.

Career options  
These short courses are helping students to take diverse job roles such as security analyst, internal auditor, stock analyst, and many more. However, to remain relevant in the field, students will have to upskill by enrolling in short-term courses based

on new technologies. With digital banking expanding each day, the technological demand is increasing too.

Increasing market demand  
"These days all the private and public sector banks are encouraging their customers to adopt digital banking to reduce the fallout in the branches. Hence due to these evolutionary changes, most students are learning 'Digital banking' courses along with the basic commerce degree. The demand for skilled digital banking systems has increased after the pandemic era. The B Com syllabus has a special emphasis on digital banking, in the Insurance and Banking subject. At the master's level, we have an advanced module."

The B Com syllabus has tweaked its curriculum, which now emphasizes Cybersecurity courses along with Digital Banking to regulate the increasing threats of financial frauds and even cyber-crimes. "Digital banking domain is continuously evolving due to technological advancements. Furthermore, there is an addi-

tional thrust on 'Green Banking', which the students must learn to encourage paperless banking," explains Upadhyay. Most BCom undergrads intern at the Bank of Baroda for hands-on training in digital banking products.

"In the current times it is essential to teach the topic of digital banking to the students so that the right manpower can be produced in the future to deal with the challenges that arise out of the digital banking. After gaining the requisite knowledge of know-how of digital banking, students can get employed in Fintech companies like Paytm, Bharat Pay, Google Pay, etc. In addition to this, students can also work to find ways to innovate digital products. The course curriculum of Digital Banking is a combination of Banking and Technology topics. The digital banking course is offered at both undergrad and masters levels, which makes the graduates skilled for fintech jobs."

Curricula of Digital Banking  
The course includes deeper analysis of subjects includ-

ing Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, ATM, Forex settlement, ATM, Cryptocurrency, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning among others.

"There is no provision for professional bankers to specialise in digital banking at the university. However, a committee for financial inclusion was recently formed at the university that conducted a workshop on financial inclusion where senior officials from SEBI delivered long sessions for students."

Placement scenario  
In the past five years, placement has increased for graduates specialising in digital banking. Almost 90% of MBA students with specialisation in digital banking are getting offers from banks and prominent UPI apps. Fresh graduates get initial salaries of Rs 8 to 10 LPA.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout)



## PTTI Vijaypur conducts lecture on Chat Gpt & Artificial Intelligence: Mapping Advantage And Threat

### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Nov 10: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur, organized a lecture on ChatGPT & Artificial Intelligence: Mapping advantage and threat for staff and trainees of various courses. On the occasion Dr. Ekta Manhas, Asstt. Professor Department of National Security Studies, Central University Jammu was the Chief Guest, who delivered a comprehensive lecture on the ChatGPT & Artificial Intelligence, its mapping advantage and threat. She said that Artificial Intelligence is a



powerful tool that helps us rethink how we use information, analyze data, and make better decisions. Shri Shiv Kumar, IPS, Principal PTTI Vijaypur expressed his gratitude to Dr. Ekta Manhas for sparing her valuable time to interact with staff and trainees. He said that the aim of

the lecture was to aware Police Personnel about emerging security Challenges due to Artificial Intelligence.

Among others, Shri Khushwant Singh Dy.SP (Admn.), Insp. Anil Kumar, Insp. Ram Lal, Insp. Mulkh Raj, Insp. Ashish Dharmat were present on the occasion.

## Diwali, Narak Chaturdashi on November 12: Mahant Rohit Shastri

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Diwali is celebrated on the Amavasya of the Kartik month. In this regard, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, said that Diwali is one of the country's biggest festivals. Performing puja on Diwali with the right auspicious timing and method ensures the continuous blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. This year, Diwali and Narak Chaturdashi fall on the same day, Sunday, November 12. As per the scriptures, Narak Chaturdashi is observed on the day of sunrise, so this year, it will be observed on November 12, Sunday. Narak Chaturdashi is also known as Chhoti Diwali.

The Amavasya period begins on November 12, Sunday, at 02:45 PM and concludes on November 13, Monday, at 02:57 PM. Diwali Amavasya is observed on the night of November 12. Since Amavasya ends on November 13, Monday, at 02:57 PM, Diwali and Narak Chaturdashi (Chhoti Diwali) will be celebrated on the same day, November 12, Sunday.

Goddess Lakshmi emerged from the Samudra Manthan on the Amavasya day of Kartik month. On this day, Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile. The citizens lit lamps and celebrated, symbolizing the end of darkness. Mahant Rohit Shastri mentioned that this Diwali will be beneficial and auspicious for traders and the public, bringing prosperity and good fortune.

Lakshmi Puja Muhurat 12 November Sunday: From 05:41 PM to 07:37 PM on November 12. Pradosh Kaal is from 05:28 PM to 08:08 PM. Auspicious Choghadiya Puja Muhurat on Diwali:

- Afternoon Muhurat (Shubh): 01:27 PM to 02:46 PM

- Evening Muhurat (Shubh, Amrit, Chal): 05:29 PM to 10:26 PM  
- Night Muhurat (Labh): 01:43 AM to 03:22 AM  
- Ushakal Muhurat (Shubh): 05:02 AM to 06:41 AM

Recommended Deities for Worship:

Worship Lord Ganesh, Shri Lakshmi-Narayan, Lord Kubera, and perform Kalash Puja. Lighting lamps and offering prayers are considered auspicious.

Puja Procedure:

Take a pure water bath, purify the puja area with Ganga water, and perform Shodashopachar Puja for Lord Ganesh, Kubera, and Lakshmi-Narayan. Light lamps, recite Shri Suktam, Kanakadhara Stotram, Laxmi Chalisa, or any Laxmi mantra. The night of Diwali is significant for chanting mantras, performing austerities, and spiritual practices.

Puja Mantra:

"Om Hiranyavarnan Harinim Suvarna Rajat Srajam

Chandram Hiranyamayim Lakshmi Jaatavedo Ma Aavaha."

After the puja, offer kheer and perform Aarti. Keep the deities' idols in the puja area throughout the night and immerse them the next day.

Things to Buy on Diwali:

This day is considered auspicious for buying property, land, houses, shops, jewelry, gold, silver, utensils, electronic items, and making investments. Avoid consuming tamasic items, alcohol, and gambling during this time for positive effects on both the body and future.

Puja Materials:

Milk, curd, honey, sugar, desi ghee, lotus and rose flowers, betel leaves, turmeric, sandalwood, rice, betel nuts, supari, seasonal fruits, flower garland, perfume, sindoor, kumkum, betel nuts, durva grass, cardamom, camphor, haldi-chuna paste, fragrant substances, dhoop, incense sticks, and a red or yellow cloth.

## Army's DODA BN 12 Kumao organises cricket match in Mandi



### Top News Report

MANDI, Nov 10 Indian Army's DODA BN 12 Kumao unit in organizing a cricket match in Mandi, district Poonch. Such events play a crucial role in fostering a sense of sportsmanship and camaraderie among the local youth.

The match between MHS DAV Public

School Poonch and Govt Higher Secondary School Chandak must have been an exciting and spirited competition, judging by the full zeal with which it was played. The fact that the event received an overwhelming response from the youth indicates the importance and impact of such initiatives in the community.

The army's emphasis on promoting sportsmanship and building relationships with the local youth is commendable. These efforts go a long way in not only providing recreational opportunities but also in strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the community.

The success of the cricket match reflects positively on the army's engagement with the local population. Initiatives like these contribute significantly to building trust, understanding, and goodwill between the military and civilians. It's encouraging to see events that bring people together in the spirit of friendly competition and mutual respect.

## DPS Jammu Students Clinch 7 Gold Medals In District Roller Skating Championship



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: The students of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents clinching 7 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals in District Roller Skating Championship organized by Jammu & Kashmir Roller Skating Association held from 2-5 November, 2023 at M.A Stadium, Jammu. The detailed result is as follows:

• Pratyaksha Gupta

(X-D) – 2 gold medals

• Mridul Jungtal (III-E) – 2 gold medals

• Saanvi Grover (VIII-B) – 2 gold medals

• Aarav Dafara (VI-D) – 1 gold medal

• Hridayansh Chib (VIII-F) – 1 gold & 1 silver medal

• Zayafat John (VI-J) – 1 gold & 1 silver medal

• Rayansh Mahajan (I-C) – 1 gold & 1 silver medal

• Trisha Jamwal (IV-E) – 1 silver medal

• Rajanya Khajuria (VII-I) – 1 silver medal

• Aayan Singh Langhe (IV-B) – 2 bronze medals

• Virraaj Gandotra (VI-B) – 1 bronze medal

Further, Mr. Parth Slathia, School Skating Coach had also won gold medal in Inline Hockey event in the same competition.

The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K Ajatshatru Singh Ji, distinguished PVC-Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, Hon'ble Director-Sh. S.S Sodhi Ji along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ms. Ruchi Chabra and faculty congratulated the winners, their parents and coach for their achievements. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

## Army celebrated World Science Day at AGS wayne Kupwara

### Top News Report

KUPWARA, Nov 10 : In an initiative to raise awareness about the importance of science in our daily life Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers conducted a debate competition for the students of AGS Wayne on 10 Nov 23.

The aim of the competition was to highlight the developments achieved by humans in scientific field and to make youth aware about the blessings of science.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated annually on November 10. It is a day to acknowledge the role of science in society and highlights the significant role of involving the public in debates surrounding the effects of new scientific innovations and to create awareness among people. The day aims to connect science with society to provide citizens with



knowledge of science for sustainable development and peaceful cohabitation. World Science Day was started as a way of opening up the world of scientific research and discovery to engage everybody in current scientific issues and developments like artificial intelligence or renewable energy.

In this regard a debate competition was conducted by Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers at Army Goodwill School Wayne which was enthusiastically welcomed by the students. The Competition saw an active participation of 12 students from class 8th

to class 11th including boys and girls.

The competition was judged by a jury of three judges where Khushboo Majeed, Khushboo Jaan and Insha Zahoor all from class 9th grabbed 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

The events were presided over by OIC AGS Wayne along with Principal, staff and more than 100 students.

At last the chief guest awarded the position holders with certificates and prizes. He applauded them for their performance and assured them for continued possible support from Army in future as well.

## AJBRCEAK extends

## Diwali greetings & urged Lt Governor to fulfill his commitment - Chairman, President

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Chairman and other members of the All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir, extending greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Diwali. The message expresses the significance of Diwali as a festival of lights, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and inspiring the fight against darkness in all aspects of life.

The Chairman, Sh Vipen Kumar, expresses hope that the LG (Lieutenant Governor) will grant the employees' wishes and issue a comprehensive Transfer policy. The message appreciates the employee-friendly approach of the LG Administration and hopes for the realization of the commitment of providing opportunities for employees to work in their home district/division.

President AJBRCEAK Mr Anil Radhey also extends warm greetings on Diwali, emphasizing the festival's symbolism in overcoming darkness in life. He requests the administration to ensure the safety and security of employees working in remote areas of the Kashmir valley, particularly in District Kupwara and Baramulla.

Various committee members, including Vice Chairman Mr Kuldeep Kumar, Vice President Mr Sukhdev Radha, Gen Secretary Mr Yashpal Bhagat, and others, join in the Diwali wishes and prayers for peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. They express the hope that the festival brings joy and removes darkness from people's lives.

Overall, the message conveys a positive and festive spirit, along with a hopeful anticipation for the fulfillment of the employees' requests and the progress and well-being of the region.

## Rich Harvest School celebrates DIWALI



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Rich Harvest School, Scholars celebrated the festival of lights by participating in Rangoli, Diya

making, Lantern making and card making competitions. In a special assembly, the Students showcased their talents by enacting in Role plays

depicting short sketches from the holy Ramayan. They sang bhajans and danced with joy to celebrate the pious festival. The entire campus wore a festive look with colourful decorations of Diyas, Rangoli, balloons and bunting.

The Head of the Institute, Ms. Anita Bhatia, congratulated the staff & students and emphasized the importance of eco-friendly Diwali.

## GDC Kishtwar organized awareness program on Right to Education



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, No 10: The awareness program on the "Right to Education" organized by Govt. Degree College Kishtwar in celebration of Constitution Day 2023. The efforts made by Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar and Prof Swami Raj Chauhan, the convener, in providing a platform for education awareness are commendable. The emphasis on the significance of the Right to Education Act 2009 by Assistant Pro-

fessor M M Mattoo is crucial, and it's encouraging to know that the Act has brought about a paradigm shift in the education system at the elementary level. This reflects a commitment to ensuring that education is a fundamental right for all individuals aged 6 to 14.

The participation of around 100 students in the awareness program indicates a positive response from the student community. The question hour session,

where students could address their queries, adds an interactive and engaging element to the event, fostering a better understanding of the right to education.

The formal votes of thanks by Prof Swami Raj Chauhan and the presence of all faculty members demonstrate a collaborative effort in making the awareness program successful. Such initiatives play a vital role in promoting awareness and understanding of fundamental rights, contributing to the overall development of society.

Congratulations to Govt. Degree College Kishtwar for taking proactive steps in educating and empowering the community about the Right to Education. It's events like these that contribute to a more informed and empowered society.



## Indraneil Sengupta, who will be seen in Aarya 3, says OTT space should not be mixed with television

Actor Indraneil Sengupta is the latest addition to the cast of Aarya, a Disney+Hotstar original. He portrays the character of Sooraj, one of the antagonists in the third season. Excited about the series, Indraneil shares, "Aarya has more challenges this season. It's going to be more action for the viewers."

While in season two Sooraj's name was brought up by the makers, it was only in season three that Indraneil joined in. Sooraj is the husband of Nandani, who accidentally died because of Aarya and in season three he has landed from overseas with the sole purpose of taking revenge from Aarya.

Indraneil says, "Sooraj does not belong to a drug cartel or gangster family. He was living a happy and peaceful life abroad. Suddenly because of his wife's death, he becomes a different person."

All praise for creator Ram Madhvani and his team, Sengupta admits it's probably for the first time that he had agreed to do a workshop before the shoot.



He explains, "Director Kapil Sharma handled all my scenes and I loved how they kept pushing everybody until they got it right."

Being subtle

Sengupta played a bisexual character in Bengali film Arekti Premer Golpo way back in 2008. Cut to post-Covid era where

one sees in the face LGBTQIA+ representation, sometimes even forced, in a plot, Sengupta draws a contrast. He shares, "I really think when the LGBTQIA+ character is introduced subtly in the narrative, it's more acceptable. LGBTQIA+ identity should not be a glaring fact about that character. In Aarya, Vikas

Kumar, who plays ACP Khan, is gay but that is never forced in the narrative; it's organic."

Sengupta, who is more into inclusivity, says, "When there is a hot topic, people exploit it to the fullest. But when you try to exploit it, you absolutely dilute it and make a mockery of it, which is not how it should be."

Blurring lines

One thing that he is worried about when it comes to OTT and its future, is the bridge that's being built between OTT and television. He opines, "OTT space should not be mixed with television. However, OTT is also moving towards a television kind of sensibility, which is a little sad."

On the work front, he awaits the release of second season of Zee5 series Mithya and a yet-untitled Bengali film. At times, Sengupta feels he is a little interested in film-making but then he thinks he is not equipped for it. "I think it needs a lot of work behind the scenes. That time has not come yet," he signs off.

## Had stagnated as an actor before Aarya, says Sushmita Sen



Sushmita Sen recently talked about her transformative experience of

working in Aarya. She said she had kind of stagnated as an actor,

but after meeting filmmaker Ram Madhvani she said yes to the web series.

Sushmita said: "I had kind of stagnated as an actor. I was not learning anything, but wanted to learn. I did not want to do the old stuff again. Then I met Ram and knew of Aarya. In flat five minutes, I said yes, and I thought, 'My God, I have to pull this off.'"

She added, "He came to me and said, 'I'll need you to do workshops. You'll have to unlearn and relearn'. I was like, 'This is what I've been wanting. There is a lot I have to unlearn because I'm a 90s kid and actor'. So there was a lot to do there, and the process was made so friendly and so warm that I came back as a newcomer with a completely different approach." Aarya Season 3 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.

## Wamiqa Gabbi roots for animal-friendly Diwali

As the loud noises and flashes cause severe anxiety in animals during Diwali, actress Wamiqa Gabbi urged everyone to take care of strays this festive season.

"As an animal lover and advocate, I feel a deep empathy for the animals who experience distress during festivals like Diwali. I feel we should celebrate, with grandiose and fervour, celebrate with compassion, but ensuring that our festivities do not inadvertently harm those who cannot speak for themselves. I have always strived to use my voice in whatever capacity through my platforms to make people realise, that celebrating and empathy during such times are both equally important," Wamiqa emphasised.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court directed all states to take steps



to minimise air pollution, especially during the festive season. The key is to sensitise people, the court added. On September 22, the top court had shot down demands by firecracker manufacturers

and Centre to allow the production of joint crackers and improved green crackers having lesser concentration of barium salts - once banned by the top court in October 2018 for being a health hazard.

## Kim Kardashian decides to remain single for another year

Kim Kardashian on the recent episode of the popular reality show The Kardashians spoke about her plans to date again, though it wouldn't be any time in the next year.

Kim and her hairstylist Chris Appleton were on their way to Las Vegas for the latter's wedding with Euphoria star Lukas Gage when the subject came up.

"So, you think you've got one more wedding inside you?" Chris, 40, asked Kim, to which she responded, "I don't know, I think I go back and forth." Chris pointed out that as long as he's known Kim, "this is the best you've ever been." He went on to tell her, "You look amazing, you're in control of everything, you have the kids down, the business down, and I don't know, I just feel like you're in a good place, happy."

Kim simply credited that to being "in a calm place," as she added,



"So, maybe that's when it's good to invite energy (in)." During a candid interview, a producer inquired about Kim's "two years of wanting to be single." At first, the reality star appeared perplexed, saying, "When did I say that?" Kim voiced her approval after the producer stated that she made the statement "probably a year" ago.

"OK, so I've got a year to go," she said. "I think that will be really good for me. (I'm) not looking, they seem to find me, but I'm not looking!"

Though Kim isn't looking for love, she does know what she wants in a future spouse. As she's revealed in past episodes, the reality star keeps a "manifest list" of attributes she's looking for in her future relationship.

On their flight to Vegas, Kim opened up about her list to Chris and Lukas, 28, and read off some of the qualities

she wanted, including "someone who calms me and drives me wild, no airing out our dirty laundry, a person who accepts you and pushes you to your highest potential. I do think my list is ever-evolving and growing and I won't stop until he fits every single one of those," Kim added in a confessional.

Later, in the programme, after Chris and Lukas' wedding, she revealed why she still believes in love despite being a "three-time divorcee." "Of course, I would be the Grinch if I didn't," she told the cameras. "It's so fun, falling in love is the most fun thing on the planet." This isn't the first time Kim has opened up about her dating life on The Kardashians. During an episode that aired last month, the reality star discussed would dating will look like when she finds the right person in the future.

## Sumbul Touqeer talks about the difference between daily soaps and reality shows



Sumbul Touqeer, who is playing the lead role in Kavya, is happy with the way her career has shaped up. She played the lead in Imlie as well and acted in the film Article 15. She has also done many hit shows like Jodha Akbar, Gangaa, Balveer and Chandragupta Maurya

She made headlines when she did Bigg Boss. On being asked what difference she finds in doing daily shows and reality shows, she says, "Daily soaps are like daal chawal, the audience relate and emote with soap characters and reality show content

is unpredictable and generates a lot of curiosity. People know me by name wherever I go. On being asked about the adulation she says, "I am a people's person and always value my fans. About celebration of festivals, she says, "I have been brought up in a cosmopolitan environment so I celebrate all the festivals and I request my fans to celebrate eco-friendly Diwali. One shouldn't burn crackers. We are facing a pollution problem. So, if we can't solve the problem we should not increase the problem."

## Zac Efron says he would be 'honoured' to play Matthew Perry in biopic, 'he was a mentor to me'



Hollywood actor Zac Efron remembered his late '17 Again' co-star Matthew Perry while walking the red carpet for the world premiere of his new film 'The Iron Claw' in Dallas, Texas, reported People.

He told People that he would love to play Perry, who died last month at the age of 54 in a future biopic as Perry previously expressed he would want Efron for the role.

"I'm honored to hear he was thinking of me to play him," Efron said. "We'll see. I'd be honored to do it." Noting that he is "devastated" by Perry's loss, Efron also recounts fond memories he has of filming the 2009 comedy '17 Again' alongside the 'Friends' star.

"He was a mentor to me, and we made a really cool film together," he says. "I looked up to him, I learned comedic timing from that guy. I mean, when we were film-

ing 17 Again, it was so surreal for me to look across and have him be there, because I've learned so much from him, from his whole life." According to People, in '17 Again', Efron played a younger version of Perry's Mike O'Donnell. The film centers on 37-year-old Mike, who has regrets about how his life turned out until he gets the chance for a do-over when he falls into a time vortex and becomes a teenager again.

Perry "wanted to make a movie about his life and have a biopic made," according to Entertainment reporter Athena Crosby, who was pictured dining with Perry at the Hotel Bel-Air the day before he passed away. Perry also "wanted Zac Efron, who's played him already, to play him again because he said he did such a good job," Crosby previously told People.

The cast of '17 Again' also

included Leslie Mann, Michelle Trachtenberg, Jim Gaffigan and Thomas Lennon. Lennon, who also worked with Perry on The Odd Couple television series that began in 2015, wrote a tribute to Perry published by Variety.

"Matty had huge feelings and was not afraid to make you a part of those feelings. A comedy sword-swallower using real swords. The swords hurt," wrote Lennon, 53, later adding, "Matty was always trying to get better. Matty was ready to talk. Matty didn't want to be alone. Matty wanted to make you laugh even if swallowing the swords hurt."

Best known for playing Chandler Bing on 10 seasons of the sitcom 'Friends', Perry was also known for movies like 2000's 'The Whole Nine Yards', 1997's 'Fools Rush In' and 1999's 'Three to Tango'.

Perry's family said in a statement to People that they are "heartbroken" by his "tragic" death.

"We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of our beloved son and brother. Matthew brought so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend," they said. "You all meant so much to him and we appreciate the tremendous outpouring of love."

Efron stars in 'The Iron Claw' alongside Jeremy Allen White, Harris Dickinson, and Stanley Simons as the real-life sibling pro wrestlers that made up the Von Erich family. 'The Iron Claw' is in theaters on December 22.

## The Boys Season 4 reveals first look of Butcher and Homelander

Prime Video has released first-look teaser art of Billy Butcher, portrayed by Karl Urban, and Homelander, portrayed by Antony Starr, from the upcoming Season 4 of The Boys, following the explosive season finale of Gen V, where fans got to see Butcher and Homelander's surprise cameos.

The Emmy-nominated global hit series will return in 2024. The Boys is a fun and irreverent take on what happens when superheroes — who are as popular as celebrities, as influential as politicians, and as revered as gods — abuse their superpowers rather than use them for good. Intent on stopping the corrupt superheroes, The Boys, a group of vigilantes, continue their heroic quest to expose the truth about The Seven



and Vought — the multibillion-dollar conglomerate that manages the superheroes and covers up their dirty secrets. It's seemingly powerless against the super powerful.



## India, US hold 2+2 ministerial dialogue to further expand global strategic partnership

The US delegation is led by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): India and the US on Friday held extensive deliberations to further expand their global strategic partnership through greater defence industrial ties, enhancing engagement in the Indo-Pacific and boosting cooperation in key areas such as critical minerals and high-technology.

The US delegation at the 2+2 ministerial talks was led by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh headed the Indian side.

"Our dialogue today will be an opportunity to advance the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden to build a forward looking partnership and construct a shared global agenda," Jaishankar said in his televised opening remarks.



Jaishankar said in his televised opening remarks.

"We are exploring cooperation in new domains such as critical technologies, collaboration in civil outer space and in areas of critical minerals," he said.

In his remarks, Blinken said both sides are promoting a free and open, prosperous, secure and resilient Indo-Pacific includ-

ing by strengthening the US-India partnership through the Quad.

He said the focus is to bolster the partnership in international peace, security and specifically working to promote rules-based order, uphold principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

In his opening comments,

Singh said the India-US bilateral relationship has seen a growing interest in strategic convergence and enhanced defence cooperation.

"Defence cooperation remains one of the most important pillars of our bilateral relationship," he said.

"We look forward to closely working with the US across domains of capability building," Singh said.

US Defence Secretary Austin, in his opening remarks, said in the face of urgent global challenges, it is more important than ever that the world's two largest democracies exchange views, find common goals and "deliver for our people".

"Our increasingly strong ties give us all hope for the future of this partnership and our common efforts towards a more secure world," he said.

## Crop residue burning in Punjab and other states has to be stopped, says Supreme Court



NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday said crop residue burning in Punjab and some other states adjacent to Delhi had to be stopped and solution found to reduce the pol-

lution level in the national capital region (NCR).

While hearing a matter relating to the debilitating air pollution in the Delhi-NCR, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed there were

several reports and committees on the pollution issue, but nothing was happening at the ground level.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, said the apex court wanted to see the results.

The Supreme Court was informed that every endeavour was being made to bring farm fires under control.

The top court is seized of a plea filed in 1985 by environmentalist MC Mehta on air pollution and the issue of crop residue burning had arisen during the hearing of the matter.

## 3 killed as Innova hits multiple cars on Mumbai's Bandra-Worli Sea Link

MUMBAI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Three people were killed and six injured as a speeding Toyota Innova hit multiple vehicles on the Bandra-Worli Sea Link here, a police official said on Friday.

Two of the injured are in a serious condition, the official said.

Krishnakant Upadhyay, deputy commissioner of police (DCP) - Zone 9, said the Innova first hit a Mercedes Benz car about 100 metres

before the toll booth, which is at the Bandra end of the sea link, on the north-bound lane.

"The driver of the Innova tried to escape from the spot and sped away. As the vehicle reached the toll booth, it rammied into many cars, leaving nine people injured. Later, three of them were declared dead," the DCP said.

Six of the injured people, including the driver of the Innova, are being treated. Two

of them are in a serious condition, he said.

Barring the Innova, five more vehicles were involved in the accident on the sea link, he said.

Seven people, including the driver, were travelling on the Innova at the time of the accident, the official said.

A case is being registered against the driver of the Innova on the basis of preliminary information and further investigation is under way, he added.

## Mahua Moitra says she will be back with a bigger mandate in 2024, a day after Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommends her expulsion

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Friday said she would be back with a bigger mandate in 2024, a day after the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommended her expulsion from the House in the "cash-for-query" matter.

In a post on X, the TMC MP said, "Proud to go down in parliamentary history as 1st person to be unethically expelled by Ethics



Comm whose mandate doesn't include expulsion. 1st expel & THEN ask govt to ask CBI to find evidence. Kangaroo court, monkey business from start to finish."

"Never Waste a Good Crisis they say... - this just helped me double my 2024 winning margin," Moitra said.

The Ethics Committee on Thursday recom-

mended Moitra's expulsion, capping a fortnight of actions that included the deposition of three people over three sittings.

The committee, chaired by BJP Lok Sabha member Vinod Kumar Sonkar, met here and adopted its 479-page report which, according to sources, recommended Moitra's expulsion, possibly the first such action against an MP by the panel.

Sonkar told reporters

that six members of the panel supported the adoption of the report and four opposed it.

The four opposition members said the panel's recommendation was "prejudiced" and "incorrect", and said businessman Darshan Hiranandani, who is alleged to have given bribes to Moitra, should have been asked to depose before the panel.

He has only filed an affidavit.

## Delhi Police arrest two sharpshooters of Neeraj Bawania-Naveen Bali gang

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested two sharpshooters of Naveen Bali-Neeraj Bawania gang who were tasked to kill a rival gang member of Neetu Dabodha gang, an officer said on Friday.

The gangsters were identified as Tinku alias Deva (29) and Kabir a.k.a Baba (20), both residents of Haryana. They were tasked to kill one Devender, also a resident of Haryana, for refusing to pay extortion money.

"Acting on the inputs, a trap was set at the designated location, intercepting a car approaching from Bawana. Two individuals, Tinku and Kabir, attempted to flee

but were subdued by the team," said the Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav.

They were found in possession of two pistols and 13 live cartridges. The duo was involved in a shooting incident on August 23, targeting Sunny, an arch-rival of gangster Himanshu, resulting in injuries and a fatality.

Interrogation exposed the gang's malevolent plans, including eliminating rivals and extorting money. Their thwarted murder attempts included Sundar Malik, a member of a rival gang, and Devender, who had previously survived a gunshot attack. "They were also direct-



ed to fire at Gulia Nursing Home and Radha Krishna Vidya Mandir in Beri, Haryana, due to non-compliance with extortion demands," said Yadav.

Himanshu, overseeing both his own gang and Neeraj Bawania-Bali gang from abroad, communicated with shooters through WhatsApp and Zangi App.

"He instructed them to stay in pairs at different locations, collect weapons discreetly, and destroy evidence after committing crimes. The shooters, denied the use of SIM cards, relied on Wi-Fi from passers-by, deleting data daily to maintain secrecy," said the Special CP.

The roots of this criminal network trace back

to childhood friends Neeraj Bawana and Naveen Balli, who joined the Neetu Dabodha Gang. "Their criminal activities escalated, leading to the formation of their own gang in 2012. The rivalry intensified after the killing of Ajay alias Sonu Dada by Neetu Dabodha in 2012, culminating in numerous casualties on both sides," said the Special CP.

Following Neetu Dabodha's encounter by Delhi Police, Paras assumed leadership but was later killed by Neeraj Bawana and Balli in a police van in 2015, further escalating the violence between the two factions.

## IIT-B students lodge complaint against professor, guest speaker over talk supporting Palestinian militants

MUMBAI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have lodged a police complaint against a professor and a guest speaker for allegedly speaking in support of Palestinian militants during a virtual lecture, an official said on Friday.

The students, in a complaint lodged on Wednesday, demanded action against Professor Sharmistha Saha of the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) department and guest speaker Sudhanva Deshpande for the talk held on November 6.

"We denounce the blatant attempt by Professor Sharmistha

Saha, under the pretext of academic course 'HS 835 Performance Theory & Praxis' to host such hateful speakers to indoctrinate students with biased and factually false stories," a student told agency.

In their complaint letter to the police, students claimed that Saha had "inappropriately used her position to invite Deshpande (a radical Leftist as part of her course work HS 835".

They alleged that Deshpande had glorified Palestinian terrorist Zakaria Zubeidi, and this has troubling consequences for the academic integrity and safety of IIT Bombay.

"During the event, Deshpande made a

statement that has raised significant concern. He not only admitted to having met Palestinian terrorist Zubeidi in 2015 but also defended and glorified violence and armed rebellion.

Zubeidi is a known figure associated with the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an organisation designated as a terrorist entity by various governments and international organisations, including the United States, the European Union and Israel," the letter stated.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades have been linked to numerous acts of terrorism and attacks targeting civilians, making their association deeply problematic, it said.

## Drunk Man Beats 2-Year-Old Stepdaughter To Death In UP, Arrested

SAMBHAL (UP), Nov 10 (Agencies): A man was arrested in this district for allegedly beating up his wife and two stepdaughters daughters, resulting in the death of one of the minors, police said on Friday.

His wife and their other stepdaughter have been hospitalised with serious injuries, a police official said on Friday.

According to the police, the incident took place on Thursday night in Hayat Nagar area of the district.

Superintendent of Police Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said Munna (27) got married to Shaista Begum almost five months ago. She had two daughters from her previous marriage.

On Thursday night, Munna in an inebriated condition beat up Shaista Begum, her daughters Mannat (2) and Mantasha (three and half years old).



While Mannat died on the spot, Mantasha and her mother were seriously injured, Gunawat said.

He added that the injured mother and daughter have been sent to Moradabad for treatment.

The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, the SP said, adding that Munna was arrested on Thursday night.

## Bihar gangster beaten to death by doctor, hospital staff over argument

BEGUSARAI, Nov 10 (Agencies): A gangster, who had gone to a private hospital for treatment, was allegedly beaten to death by one of the doctors and other staff in Bihar's Begusarai. Following the incident, several followers of the gangster set fire to the hospital and to half a dozen huts of the accused doctor.

Chandan Kumar, the gangster, had gone to the Riya Hospital in Rupnagar village to receive treatment. Following an argument with the doctor, he was allegedly beaten to death. According to his supporters, the doctor and the other staff plotted the killing and also used sharp objects to kill the gangster. The accused doctor has been identified as Ajit Paswan.

The police rushed to the spot after the gangster's supporters set fire to the hospital and the huts.

"The gangster used to visit the hospital for treatment. An argument ensued after the doctor refused to treat him, following which, the gangster was beaten to death," said SP Yogendra Kumar.

A team has been formed under DSP Amit Kumar and efforts are being made to arrest the doctor and the compounder involved in the incident, the official further added.

## Cross-firing between police, wanted criminals at wedding in Amritsar



AMRITSAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): A cross-firing took place between the Amritsar Police personnel and wanted criminals at a wedding venue in the city. The

police had been on the look out for those who were engaged in the cross-firing.

The police had received information that those wanted were

headed to a wedding in Varpal on the Tarn Taran road. The police chased the accused to the wedding resort.

According to police, the accused fired shots at the SHO, following which cross-firing ensued between the criminals and the police. Police also said both the bride and the groom's families did not know the criminals.

Those wanted by the police have been arrested and further investigation into the case is underway, said DSP Sucha Singh.



## Fresh airstrikes hit at least three hospitals in Gaza including Al-Shifa: Local media

Scores of wounded people are being treated at the Al-Shifa Hospital following overnight Israeli strikes and shelling.

GAZA, Nov 10 (Agencies): Israel launched air strikes on or near at least three hospitals on Friday, Gaza officials said, as reported by agency.

"The Israeli occupation launched simultaneous strikes on a number of hospitals during the past hours," Gaza Ministry of Health spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra told Al Jazeera, adding that they targeted the courtyard of Al Shifa, the biggest hospital in Gaza City, and there were casualties.

He said the Al-Rantisi Pediatric Hospital and Al-Nasr Children's Hospital were being bombed on Friday and that strikes on the hospital grounds at Al-Rantisi had set vehicles on fire but were now partly extinguished, agency reported.

Dr Mohammad Abu Selmia, general director of Gaza City's



main hospital, told the Associated Press that at least one shell had landed very close to the hospital at around dawn Thursday, resulting in only a few people sustaining minor injuries.

Scores of wounded people are being treated at the Al-Shifa Hospital following overnight Israeli strikes and shelling. He said it would've been a "catastrophe" had the shell landed any

closer, adding that conditions at the hospital are "disastrous in every sense of the word."

Israel's ground forces in the Gaza Strip have been zeroing in on the Hamas militants' vast tunnel network beneath the enclave. They claimed on Monday that they had caused significant damage to "underground and aboveground infrastructure" in overnight strikes.

The Israeli military has stated that many of Hamas' tunnels, command centers, and rocket launchers are situated in close proximity to schools, hospitals, and humanitarian institutions in northern Gaza. It is also feared that these strikes and operations could harm the hostages, who are believed to be held in the tunnels.

"Underground, long tunnels that connect to hospitals and schools are connected by them — they have communication rooms, ammunition warehouses, places to stay and everything in order to be used as a br of terrorism to harm the citizens of the State of Israel and the soldiers of the IDF," Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said at a press briefing on Tuesday, NBC reported in a translation from Jewish.

## Putin and top military leaders visit southern military headquarters to assess his war in Ukraine



MOSCOW, Nov 10 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the Southern Military District headquarters in Rostov-on-Don as he assessed the state of his country's forces in Ukraine as the war drags on toward winter. It was his second public visit to the headquarters in less than a month.

Video shared by a Russian state news agency showed Putin being greeted late Thursday by Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff.

Almost 21 months of war have significantly eroded both Russia's and Ukraine's military resources. As winter comes, the fighting is likely to further

settle into attritional warfare and analysts expect little change to the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

In Rostov-on-Don, less than 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Ukraine's southern border, Putin was "introduced to new types of military equipment" and was informed about the progress of the war, his spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said, according to Russian state news agency Tass.

Putin made the visit on the way back from a trip to Kazakhstan, where he aimed to cement ties with Russia's ex-Soviet neighbor and major economic partner in the midst of tensions with the West over Ukraine.

Around the time that Putin was visiting his southern military headquarters, Russia launched a drone attack on Ukraine. The Ukrainian Air Force said it intercepted five drones and one missile launched at the Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Kyiv regions of Ukraine. Another drone and missile were not intercepted but there were no immediate official reports of casualties or damage as a result of the attacks.

## Pakistani fisherman becomes millionaire overnight after selling rare fish

KARACHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): A fisherman in Pakistan's Karachi city became a millionaire overnight after auctioning a haul of rare fish which has many medicinal properties.

Haji Baloch, who lives in the impoverished Ibrahim Hyderi fishing village, and his workers caught the fish known as golden fish or 'Sowa' in the local dialect from the Arabian Sea on Monday.

"The entire catch was sold for some 70 million rupees at the Karachi harbour on Friday morning when fishermen auctioned off their catch," Mubarak Khan of the Pakistan Fishermen Folk Forum said.

The Sowa fish is considered priceless and rare since substances from its belly are said to have great healing and medicinal properties. A thread-like

substance from the fish is also used in surgical procedures. "One fish fetches around 7 million rupees in the auction," Baloch said.

The fish, which often weighs between 20 to 40 kgs and grows up to 1.5 m, is much sought after in East Asian countries.

More importantly, the Sowa also holds cultural and traditional significance, finding its use in traditional medicines and local cuisine.

"We were fishing in the open sea of Karachi when we came across this huge cache of golden fish, and it was a windfall for us," he said.

Haji said he would share the money with his crew of seven people.

The fish comes near the coast only during breeding season.

## Rishi Sunak Faces Pressure To Fire Minister Over Remarks On Palestine Rally

LONDON, Nov 10 (Agencies): UK interior minister Suella Braverman's job was hanging in the balance after she criticised policing of pro-Palestinian marches in comments made without Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's approval.

Sunak is facing mounting calls to sack Braverman after she suggested officers "play favourites" when policing protests and claimed they largely ignored "pro-Palestinian mobs" during recent demonstrations against the Israel-Hamas war.

The comments, seen as red meat to the right wing of the governing Conservative party, come after she described the rallies calling for a ceasefire in Gaza as "hate marches", days after claiming some people were homeless as a "lifestyle choice".

Downing Street insisted it had full confidence in Braverman but said it was investigating how her comments in an opinion piece in The Times were published without its consent, as required by the ministerial code.

"The content was not agreed with Number 10," a spokesman for Sunak told reporters, referring to the Prime Minister's Downing Street office.

According to people familiar with the matter, the speech was sent to Sunak's office, which requested changes that were not made.

Braverman's words have heightened speculation she is positioning herself for a future Tory leadership contest or that they are a deliberate ploy by Sunak's party to appeal to right-wingers before the next general election.

Sunak has described a planned pro-Palestinian march in London on Saturday -- Armistice Day, when Britain honours its war dead -- as "provocative and disrespectful" and suggested London's Metropolitan Police ban it.

Police have said the march does not meet the legal threshold for requesting a government order to stop it.

Tensions between London's Met Police and Sunak appeared to ease after an emergency meeting at which the force's chief, Mark Rowley, confirmed the march would not clash with remembrance events for the country's war dead.

But Braverman's article was scathing about the Met's policing.

"Right-wing and nationalist protest-

ers who engage in aggression are rightly met with a stern response yet pro-Palestinian mobs displaying almost identical behaviour are largely ignored, even when clearly breaking the law," she wrote.

The outspoken Braverman added she did not believe the protests were "merely a cry for help for Gaza" but were more an "assertion of primacy by certain groups -- particularly Islamists".

Tom Winsor, a former police watchdog chief, said the home secretary's claim that the police were softer on left-wing groups went too far and were contrary to the principle of police independence.

"Crosses the line" "By applying pressure to the commissioner of the Met in this way, I think that crosses the line," Winsor told BBC radio.

Opposition MPs called on Sunak to immediately replace Braverman, but a spokeswoman for the PM told reporters that there was no "timescale" on the inquiry. The leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, said Braverman was "out of control" and Sunak was "too weak to do anything about it".

London has seen large demonstrations on four successive weekends since the Hamas attacks in southern Israel on October 7, which Israel says left 1,400 people dead, mostly civilians. They also took 240 hostages.

Since then, Israel has relentlessly bombed Gaza and sent in ground troops. The Palestinian territory's Hamas-run health ministry says more than 10,000 people have been killed.

The Met police have made almost 200 arrests since the Hamas attacks, either for hate crimes or incidents linked to the protests, while anti-Semitism cases have surged.

Braverman's fondness for stoking culture wars may prove useful to the Tories as they try to overhaul huge deficits to Labour in opinion polls before an election that must be held by January 2025.

Braverman, whose Indian-origin parents emigrated to Britain in the 1960s, recently described multiculturalism as a "misguided dogma".

She has attacked the United Nations Refugee Convention and warned that Britain faces a "hurricane" of immigration, and once called liberals "tofu-eating wokerati".

## Israel Agrees Pauses In Fighting But Rules Out Ceasefire

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, Nov 10 (Agencies): Israel has agreed pauses in its offensive in northern Gaza that will allow some civilians to flee heavy fighting, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ruled out any broader ceasefire as a "surrender" to Hamas.

US President Joe Biden welcomed the pauses, which formalise an arrangement that has already seen tens of thousands of Palestinians flee devastation in northern Gaza, but also said there was "no possibility" of a ceasefire.

Netanyahu said Israeli troops were performing "exceptionally well" in the offensive launched after Hamas fighters poured across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 240 hostage.

Vowing to destroy Hamas, Israel retaliated with an aerial bombing and ground offensive that the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip says has killed more than 10,800 people, mostly civilians and many of them children.

Netanyahu said Israel does not "seek to govern Gaza."

"We don't seek to occupy it, but we seek to give it and us a better future," he told Fox News.

Tens of thousands of civilians have streamed out of devastated northern Gaza in recent days, with men, women and children clutching meagre possessions as they emerge from the



devastated warzone.

They have fled close-quarter fighting, with Hamas operatives using rocket-propelled grenades against Israeli troops backed by armoured vehicles and heavy airstrikes.

The Israeli army said it struck a shipping container on the Gaza coast that contained rocket launchers, while Hamas's military wing said it had fired rockets at Re'im military base in southern Israel.

The UN agency responsible for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said 70,000 people had travelled south on the route since November 4, most of them walking.

Almost 1.6 million people have been internally displaced since October 7, it added, more than half the area's population.

But the UN estimates hundreds of thousands of civilians remain in the fiercest battle zones in the north.

And while Biden welcomed the pauses as a "step in the right direction", there was little hope for the broader halt to fighting that aid groups and the UN say is desperately needed.

"A ceasefire with Hamas means surrender to Hamas, surrender to terror," Netanyahu told Fox.

"There won't be a ceasefire without the release of Israeli hostages, that's not going to happen."

- 'Most tragic situation' -

Aid groups have pleaded for a ceasefire, warning of a humanitarian "catastrophe" in Gaza, where food, water and medicine are in short supply.

"It's the first thing I think about when I wake up: how am I going to feed the children today," Amal al-Robayaa told AFP in Rafah, where she was sheltering with her husband, six children, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren at a UN school.

Oxfam France director Cecile Dufflot said staff were reporting "the worst, the most tragic situation that they have ever seen" in the territory.

Overnight, fierce clashes continued, and Hamas-run local authorities accused Israel of shelling the areas of several hospitals in northern Gaza.

The Al-Shifa hospital, where an estimated 60,000 people have taken refuge, along with the Rantisi children's hospital and the Indo-

nesian hospital all came under fire overnight, Hamas authorities said.

The bombardments caused injuries but no deaths, they added.

Israel has accused Hamas of using hospitals including Al-Shifa to hide its military operations. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the alleged bombardments.

Complicating Israel's military push is the fate of around 240 hostages abducted on October 7.

CIA director Bill Burns and David Barnea, head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, were in Doha for talks on pauses that would include hostage releases and more aid for Gaza, an official told AFP.

- 'Everything stopped' -

Palestinian group Islamic Jihad released a video Thursday claiming to show two hostages -- a woman in her 70s and a 13-year-old boy -- which, if verified, would suggest not all captives are held by Hamas.

Israel's military slammed the video as "psychological terrorism".

Four hostages have been freed so far, and the desperate relatives of those still held have piled pressure on Israeli and US authorities to secure the release of their loved ones.

"We don't sleep well. We don't eat well," Ronen Neutra, whose son Omer is being held hostage, told AFP in an interview.

"Everything stopped." Inside Gaza, the intense combat and effective blockade of the

densely populated territory have led to increasingly dire conditions.

Donors at an aid conference in Paris have pledged around \$1.1 billion, but access to Gaza remains very limited, with around 100 trucks a day able to enter, far below the pre-war average.

"In our most conservative scenario, this conflict is likely to set back development (in the Palestinian territories) by well over a decade," UNDP administrator Achim Steiner told AFP.

Israeli officials however insist there is "no humanitarian crisis" in Gaza.

Violence has surged in the occupied West Bank since the conflict erupted, with at least 14 Palestinians killed on Thursday alone, according to the Ramallah-based health ministry.

The conflict has also stoked regional tensions, with cross-border exchanges between the Israeli army and Lebanon's Hezbollah, and Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels saying they launched "ballistic missiles" at southern Israel.

A drone hit a school in southern Israel's Eilat on Thursday and Israeli air defences later intercepted a missile over the Red Sea, the military said.

On Friday, the military said it struck the source of the drone, in Syrian territory.

It did not identify the organisation behind the drone, but said it "holds the Syrian regime fully responsible for every terror activity emanating from its territory."

## Pakistanis Wait For New Passports As Country Runs Out Of Lamination Paper: Report

PESHAWAR, Nov 10 (Agencies): Pakistani citizens looking to secure new passports are facing a bizarre hurdle in the process -- lamination paper shortage.

Reports say the country has been hit by a massive scarcity of lamination paper that has led to a nationwide shortage of the travel document.

Thousands who need to fly out of the country for study, work, or leisure are now struggling to obtain the green-coloured book with no end to their ordeal in sight, a report by news agency said.

Students in Pakistan are stuck at home with approved visas to pursue degrees in UK or Italy, waiting on their pass-

ports to arrive. Many are scared the endless wait might lead to them losing these opportunities, threatening to shatter their aspirations.

"My student visa for Italy was recently approved and I had to be in the country in October. However, the unavailability of a passport robbed me of an opportunity to leave," Hira, a student, said.

The country, which imports lamination papers from France, faced similar delay in printing in 2013 due to The Directorate General of Immigration & Passports (DGI&P) owing money to printers and a lack of lamination papers.

Qadir Yar Tiwana, the Director General for Media of the Min-



istry of Interior, assured that the government was trying to end the crisis as soon as possible. "The situation will soon be under control and passport issuance will continue as normal," he said.

Many residents complained of receiving messages from the DGI&P telling them their passport was ready for pickup but

when they reached the passport office they were turned away.

"Ever since September the passport office has been stating that your passport will come next week but multiple weeks have passed and they keep repeating the same," said Muhammad Imran, a resident of Peshawar.

Reportedly, the passport offices in Pakistani cities are also clueless about when the process could be restarted. A senior officer Peshawar passport office, told news agency, that they could presently only process 12 to 13 passports per day as compared to 3,000 to 4,000 passports per day earlier. Their best guess? Another month or two of wait.



**Amid rain and snowfall, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina holds 'Booth Jan Samvad' programmes in Chenani constituency**

**Modi schemes benefitting every section: Raina**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir led by its President Ravinder Raina and General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul held various programmes under the "Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan" in various districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Amid rain and snowfall, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, today, addressed the 'Booth Jan Samvad' programmes in Chenani town, Sudh Mahadev, Latti and Narsoo areas of Chenani constituency.

Addressing the Booth Jan Samvad, Ravinder Raina said that BJP leaders are holding these programmes in every panchayat to interact with the common masses. He



said that the motive is to acquaint the people with the brilliant policies and works of PM Modi at the ground level. He said that the BJP leaders are holding these programmes in the forms of 'Choupals' at the booth level. He mentioned that in the ongoing 3-day visit to this region, he will hold more programmes in Mantalai, Latti-Marothi, Gori, Dudu Basantgarh, Ramnagar, Majalta, Khoon and other areas.

Raina stressed that in these programmes, party leaders are presenting all the public welfare policies and the schemes like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Ladli Beti Yojana, 6000 rupees to farmers, scholarships to needy students, unprecedented developments in infrastructure before the common masses. He said that the numerous welfare schemes launched by Modi government are benefitting

every section and uplifting them, both socially and economically, across the country.

J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul addressed the Booth Jan Samvad programme in booth numbers 33 & 34 in Shakti Maidan Mandal in Mendhar constituency in Poonch. District President Poonch Rajesh Kumar accompanied him and Vikas was the youth speaker on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, while addressing on the occasion, said that BJP carries the distinction of being the only political party that remains connected with the common people at the ground level. The worker of BJP always remain connected with the people and is concerned with the issues faced by the people, said Koul and added that the PM Modi through all these years has worked tirelessly to serve the people with all the people centric policies and successfully delivered the required benefits to the needy and the deserving population.

Similar programmes were also held in booth-101,102, Panchayat-Khagrore, Basohli Mandal, Basohli Constituency in District Basohli.

**Rekha celebrated Diwali with the children of Dashmesh Bharati Vidhya Mandir**



Top News Report

JAMMU, 10 Nov: Diwali, the festival of colors of lights, was celebrated today with great pomp and show in Dashmesh Bharati Vidya Mandir High School, Dashmesh Nagar Digiana in Jammu South in the esteem presence of BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan along with Councillor Pawan Singh, School Principal Meenakshi Sambyal, teachers, staff members include students participating in the festival event in the school premises. The event started with Saraswati Vandana and later cultural programmes were presented by children. Besides the participants, the school staff also took great initiative in glorifying and embroidering the program during the Diwali festival with fervor and enthusiasm. The school was decorated with beautiful Rangolis, Torans, house boards, and diyas. The day began with a cultural extravaganza where a beautiful cultural program was organized by the kids. An inter-house folk dance

competition was also organized and another colorful event of the day was the rangoli competition.

Rekha Mahajan encouraged the students to celebrate pollution-free Diwali in connection with Diwali. Dashmesh High School organized various competitions like Rangoli making, mehendi, Diya and pot making, card making, etc according to different age groups in its premises. Rekha admired and upgraded the morale of the students including the teaching staff. She noted every class displayed their talent and came up with a lot of innovative ideas which were visible in the designs made by them.

Rekha Mahajan addressed the gathering and underscored the essence of the Diwali festival a celebration of life, sharing of the light of goodness and happiness with each other, and praying for prosperity and happiness of all. She also conveyed the message of a clean, safe, and pollution-free Diwali. She also felicitated the teachers and staff on the occasion.

**Indian exporters on Amazon Global Selling get ready for a bumper holiday shopping season**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Amazon announced today that Indian exporters on its Amazon Global Selling program are geared to showcase millions of 'Made in India' products to customers across the world during the annual Black Friday and Cyber Monday (BFCM) sale events. This year, customers will have more days to shop than last year's event. Indian exporters have launched over 50,000 new products on Amazon's global websites for the sale event that starts on 17 Nov and ends on 27 Nov. Amazon customers globally will be able to discover and enjoy a range of products across categories including Home and Kitchen, STEM Toys, Apparel, Health and Personal Care, Office

Products, Jewelry, Beauty and Furniture by exporters across India. Black Friday and Cyber Monday are significant events marking the beginning of the holiday season globally and customers at this time are looking at items for use at home and for gifting to friends and family.

Multiple peak seasons for Indian exporters with Amazon Global Selling Amazon Global Selling provides exporters access to multiple peak shopping seasons and global events through the year. These events like the BFCM sale, the Prime Day etc. have traditionally been periods of high growth for Indian exporters. In the recently concluded Prime Big Deal Days Sale on 10 and 11 October 2023, Indian exporters on Amazon Global Selling saw their business grow nearly 70% YoY

and 170% vs business as usual (BAU) period. The highest growth was seen in categories like Home <78% YoY >, Beauty <196% YoY>, Kitchen <79% YoY>, Health & Personal Care <87% YoY>, Furniture <95% YoY> with US & UK driving major portion of the business for Indian exporters. Both Japan and Australia emerged as new high growth destination for Indian exporters with sellers witnessing nearly 200% YoY growth during the two days of the sale. The top 5 products sold by Indian Exporters during the sale included Bedsheets, Scrub Apparel Sets, Oral Care Products, Rugs and Kitchen Products.

During the Prime Day Sale in July 2023, Indian exporters on Amazon Global Selling saw their business grow nearly

70% (YoY). The highest growth was seen in categories like Beauty <125% YoY growth>, Apparel <122% YoY growth>, Home <81% YoY growth>, Furniture <75% YoY growth> and Kitchen <52% YoY growth> with US, UK and Middle East driving business growth for Indian exporters. Japan emerged as the new high growth destination for Indian exporters with sellers seeing over 55% business growth YOY respectively. The top 5 products sold by Indian Exporters during Prime Day 2023 included Bedsheets, Scrub Apparel Sets, STEM Toys, Kitchen products and Windshield Sunshades.

Bhupen Wakankar, Director, Global Trade, Amazon India said, "The global holiday season which commences with the BFCM sale

has always been a key growth period for Indian exporters on Amazon Global Selling. With tens of thousands of Indian exporters showcasing a vast Made in India selection to customers globally, we believe that the 2023 BFCM sale and the holiday season will help accelerate the growth of sellers on our program. The addition of ocean freight on SEND and the reduced subscription fee offer is part of Amazon's endeavor to make exports easier and accessible for businesses of all sizes and we will continue to take steps to expand the ecommerce exports opportunity to lakhs of entrepreneurs across the country as we work towards our goal of enabling \$20 billion in cumulative ecommerce exports from India by 2025."

**CII J&K delegation meets MD, SIDCO to address Industrial Development Concerns**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: A delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jammu and Kashmir, led by Mr. Archit Puri, Chairman CII J&K UT Council met with Mr. Inderjeet, MD, JKSIDCO. The meeting focused on addressing

various critical issues related to industrial development and ease of doing business in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. During the discussions, the delegation raised concerns regarding the extension of provisional registration to industrial units

under the New Policy. CII J&K UT Council also Suggested a working mechanism to be put in place between JK SIDCO, Power Department & Pollution Control Board .

In response, Mr. Inderjeet acknowledged the importance of resolving these pressing issues faced by the industrial sector. He assured that department would take proactive steps to address these challenges faced by industries. He asked the delegation to bring to his notice any issues or concerns being faced on ground and assured action will be taken on merit.

**FROM PAGE 1**

**BSF jawan martyred in Pak ceasefire violation saved lives of 12 colleagues in 1998; won 7 bravery awards**

surreptitious movement of dying terrorists trying to blast the grenade," the DIG continued.

Had the terrorist been successful, Man said, we would have certainly suffered dozens of casualties and the successful and clean operation would have turned sour.

"Ever since, this anecdote from 25 years back remained embedded in the corridors of my mind and I have related it endlessly as an example for young troops. Such acts sometimes are either not recorded or forgotten in the din of almost weekly encounters and firing," said Mand, adding Kima was then deployed with the 66 Battalion of the BSF.

As per the DIG, Kima was "fearless back then when he was a young constable of two-three years of service and fearless now as a Head Constable."

"This simple, humble and unassuming warrior lived bravely and laid down his life bravely. My salute to dear brother in arms. Heartfelt condolences to your family and all troops of 66 Battalion," said Mand.

A resident of Mizoram, Kima, who was to retire on February 28, 2033, was also honoured with seven bravery awards in his career by the force, this included four DIG rewards (two times in 1999, in 2006 and in 2012), two cash rewards (2001 and 2002) and one Commandant CC reward in 2005.

Kima is survived by his 77-year-old mother, wife, two daughters and a son. He was rushed to Community Health Centre

Ramgarh for treatment, from where he was shifted to a Military hospital.

After receiving first aid, Kima later succumbed to his injuries received in the unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers that led to a heavy exchange of fire between the BSF troopers and the Rangers around 2 or 2:30 am.

**Snowfall, rains result in closure of several roads in J&K**

gradual decrease in precipitation from late afternoon onwards", it said. It said there is currently light to moderate rain/snowfall (over higher reaches) at most places of Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather is likely to remain dry with warm days from November 11 to 17, the MeT office said. Kashmir weather, an independent weather observer Faizan Arif forecast that the current weather system responsible for widespread rainfall across J&K is now moving eastwards. Improvement in weather is expected during the day from north Kashmir. Srinagar and its adjoining areas were lashed by widespread rains disrupting normal life and resulting in drop in the temperature.

Many low lying roads were inundated due to the rain waters. The minimum temperature recorded at Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday at 6.3 degree Celsius and it also experienced 17.5mm of rainfall till 0830 hours today, Qazigund 5.0 degree Celsius and experienced 12.0mm rainfall, Pahalgam 4.7 degree Celsius and it also experienced 6.4mm rainfall, Kupwara 4.2 and it experienced 29.8mm rainfall, Kokernag 6.2 degree Celsius and it also experienced 5.8mm rainfall and Gulmarg recorded a low of -1.5 and it also received 22.2mm of rain-

**Narco-terror module case: J-K SIA searches house of key accused in Poonch**

The handler of the module, Mohammad Javed, who was also absconding, was arrested on August 19 by the SIA in an operation in Delhi. This further led to the arrest of another accused, Lyaqat, on August 25 from Poonch, they said.

During investigation, it was found that people of other countries were involved in the operations of the narco-terror module, the officials said.

So far, six arrests have been made in Further SIA investigation into aspects of cross-border operations of the module, which smuggled arms, explosives and narcotics, is underway, the officials said.

In May, Mohd Farooq (26), Mohd Riaz (23) and Mohd Zubair (22) were arrested and an AK assault rifle, two pistols, six grenades, a 10-kg IED and 20 packets of suspected heroin, which they were trying to smuggle into the country, were seized.

The accused persons were intercepted by army personnel and there was an exchange of fire between them, in which a soldier and a terrorist had suffered injuries.

The SIA had also conducted raids at several places in Poonch for three consecutive days from July 26 to 28, following the recovery of seven kg of heroin, more than Rs 2 crore cash and a pistol along with some ammunition from the house of a drug smuggler Rafiq Lala in Danna Doyiyar area of Sathra on March 3.

Further SIA investigation into aspects of cross-border operations of the module, which smuggled arms, explosives and

narcotics, is underway, the officials said.

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**Patients shiver with cold, DAK urges JK admin to start heating system in Kashmir hospitals**

hypothermia that can lead to respiratory and cardiac dysfunction and even death," he said.

Dr Nisar said it is difficult for doctors, nurses and paramedical staff to work in cold conditions especially during night hours when temperatures fall sharply.

"The majority of the peripheral hospitals are without inbuilt central heating systems and they rely on traditional heaters without vent which do more harm than good to patients," he said.

**ED attaches Rs 24.95 crore worth properties of**

**Hero MotoCorp's Pawan Kant Munjal**

taking foreign exchange/currency out of India illegally.

"The prosecution complaint alleges that foreign currency/foreign exchange equivalent to Rs 54 crore was illegally taken out of India," the ED said.

**Jammu-Srinagar National Highway closed**

after heavy rainfall in the area. "Efforts are on to ensure early opening of the highway." Meanwhile, officials said that the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gulmarg (SSG) road has also been closed due to snow accumulation.

The higher reaches of Kashmir experienced a fresh spell of snowfall, while plains received rain, leading to a significant drop in the minimum temperature.

The snowfall led to closure of several roads including Razdan Pass, Pir Ki Gali, Zojilja Pass, and Sinthan Top.m.

**DM slaps PSA on notorious bovine smuggler at Reasi**

Bovine Smuggling, Illegal Mining and Drug Trafficking etc.

**18 children missing from Srinagar Orphanage**

was running illegally," Dr Nisa said, adding that all the 18 missing children should be produced before the CWC forthwith. "For us, 18 children are missing," she said.



## Markets fall in early trade on weak global trends, unabated foreign fund outflows

**The 30-share BSE Sensex falls 251.25 points to 64,580.95, extending its previous day's decline**

MUMBAI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Friday due to weak trends in global markets and unabated foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 251.25 points to 64,580.95, extending its previous day's decline. The Nifty declined 65.85 points to 19,329.45.

Among the Sensex firms, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints,



Tata Steel, Maruti, Tata Motors and Nestle were the major laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Tech Mahindra and NTPC were among

the gainers.

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

## India sees brisk gold sales on pre-Diwali Dhanteras festival

*'Rates have softened and consumer demand has picked up'*

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Pre-Diwali Dhanteras buying of gold and silver in India, the world's largest gold consumer, kick-started on a positive note on Friday on recovery of consumer demand with the softening of gold prices.

Gold prices have fallen by Rs 800-1,500 per 10 gram (24 carat) from the peak Rs 63,000-level on October 28 and this has evoked buying on Dhanteras, considered the most auspicious day in Hindu calendar for buying items ranging from precious metals to utensils, with traders expecting gold sales to surpass last year's level.



On Thursday, Gold prices plunged Rs 400 to Rs 60,950 per 10 grams in the national capital.

Gold prices in Delhi were ruling at Rs 50,139 per ten grams, excluding taxes, on 2022 Dhanteras day. In normal years, about 20-30 tonnes of gold are sold on a

Dhanteras day.

Traders said footfalls are expected to pick up after 12 noon and will continue till late at night.

The best muhurat to buy silver and gold on Dhanteras will start at 12.35 pm on Friday and end at 1.57 pm on November 11, as per Drikpanchang.

"Gold prices are in favour of business. We are positive about good sales today. We are receiving positive response from consumers and footfalls are gradually increasing," All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Director Dinesh Jain told agency.

With diamond prices fallen, the younger generation is buying lightweight jewellery and some are buying gold and silver coins, he said.

Jain, who is also the managing director of Mumbai-based PM Shah & Co Jewellers that has five stores, said, "We expect good sales this Dhanteras.

The correct sale picture will be known in the evening."

All India Gems & Jewellery Trade Federation ex-chairman Manish Jain said, "Rates have softened and consumer demand has picked up. We are seeing good footfalls." Consumers are buying gold and silver coins, and even silver utensils for puja purposes, he added.

Since Dhanteras last year, gold has given a mind-boggling return of almost 20 per cent, easily beating the Nifty 50, added Deveya Gaglani, Research Analyst (Commodities) at Axis Securities.

## Dabur's Burmans want Sebi to probe Religare chairperson: Report

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): In a fresh twist in the Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) takeover saga, the Burman family, who are the promoters of the FMCG giant Dabur, has urged the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to investigate stock trades executed by REL's chairperson, Rashmi Saluja.

An Economic Times report suggested that entities controlled by the Burman family, the largest shareholders of REL, have written to Sebi and stock exchanges, seeking a probe.

In an email seen by the publication, four entities - MB Finmart, Puran Associates, VIC Enterprises and Milky Investment and Trading Co - that collectively hold 21.24 per cent in REL said Rashmi Saluja sold a portion of her personal shareholdings in the firm soon after meeting with a representative of the Burmans.

The entities noted in the email that the representative had informed Saluja that the Burmans intend to make an open offer to acquire control of the company. However, a Religare spokesperson told ET that the meeting with the Burmans' representative had nothing to do with the sale of shares by



Saluja.

The letter by the entities controlled by the Burman family comes after REL's independent directors accused the Dabur promoters of fraud and regulatory breaches pertaining to the takeover of the financial services firm.

Meanwhile, the Burman family entities in their letter to the market regulator and exchange said they had written to the board of Religare on October 26, regarding the sale of 1.29 million shares by Rashmi Saluja for Rs 34.71 crore on September 21-22.

They noted that there was a 45-minute meeting between Saluja and the Burman family's representative, Arjun Lamba, on September 20 at around 4 pm at The Oberoi Hotel in Delhi. The entities wrote that the representative had informed about the Burmans' intention to make an open offer to REL's public share-

holders.

It may be noted that the Burman family had, through various entities, accumulated a 21.5 per cent stake in REL by August, and in September, and another 5.27 per cent in September. This triggered a mandatory open offer to buy an extra 26 per cent from the public.

The Burman Family in an October 26 letter, details of which were cited in the ET report, said the information was communicated to you (Rashmi Saluja) on a confidential basis in your professional capacity as an executive chairperson of the company.

"Thereafter, to our surprise, we note that shortly after our meeting, you had undertaken the following trades," the letter said.

Highlighting the trades, the letter said: "We trust that your decision-making process regarding the aforesaid trades aligns with the high standards of

market integrity associated with your role. However, as shareholders holding a 21.24 per cent stake in the company, and with a commitment to preserving the best interests of both the company and its investors, we believe it is our responsibility to bring these trades to the attention of the board of directors."

However, a Religare spokesperson told the business daily that the meeting had nothing to do with the sale of shares, as those were employee stock options that were sold.

"As per standard corporate governance, exercising of listed stock options by employees requires requisite approvals which spans across several months before the actual sale," a Religare spokesperson was quoted as saying in the ET report.

"The process involves financing from external lenders as well as approvals for pledging financing, or revocation and eventual sale. In the said allegation, the entire process started months before the eventual sale of ESOPs on September 21," the spokesperson added.

Religare also noted that this process was carried out before the "said meeting" on September 20.

## Sony's CEO demand casts shadow on merger with Zee: Report

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Talks regarding the high-stakes merger between Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEE) and Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) have hit a roadblock due to a last-minute demand from Sony to have its own executive lead the combined entity, in contrast to the prior agreement with Punit Goenka, reported livemint.com.

Two informed sources told the business daily that failure to reach an agreement by the December 21 deadline could jeopardise what is considered the largest merger in India's entertainment industry.

In a scheme of arrangement inked on December 21, 2021, both entertainment giants had agreed that Punit Goenka, Zee's current Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), would retain these positions in the merged entity for a period of five years.

The ownership structure was outlined as SPNI holding 50.86 per cent of the merged entity, Zee's promoters (the Goenka family) with 3.99 per cent, and the remaining 45.15 per cent being with public shareholders.

Since this agreement, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated an investigation into Goenka and his father, Subhash Chandra, concerning alleged fund diversion.

Goenka received temporary relief from an appellate court against a Sebi order that barred him from assuming

leadership positions in publicly listed companies.

However, Sony perceives these allegations and the ongoing investigation as corporate governance concerns and is now advocating for its executive to lead the merged entity, notwithstanding the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approving the composite scheme of arrangement.

"Even though there is no legal obstacle to appointing Goenka as Managing Director and CEO, Sony is mindful of the ongoing investigation, which may or may not result in his conviction. Sony, however, seeks to exercise caution and nominate its India Managing Director, NP Singh, as the head of the merged company," one of the sources quoted in the livemint.com report said.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking Sony executive confirmed the decision to the publication.

"SPE (Sony Pictures Entertainment, the parent company of SPNI) leadership has already conveyed to NP Singh in India their desire for him to assume control of the merged entity instead of Goenka," the official said.

"However, now that the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has lifted the restrictions on Goenka, Zee officials are not in favour of this last-minute alteration. As of now, discussions regarding integration between the two companies have come to a standstill," the person

added.

## WHO updates its guidance on treatments for COVID-19

**WHO recommends the use of antiviral drug nirmatrelvir-ritonavir in patients with non-severe COVID-19 at high and moderate risk of hospital admission**

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): The World Health Organization (WHO) has updated its guidance on treatments for patients with COVID-19, providing latest, trustworthy advice on the management of the disease to help doctors make better decisions.

The new recommendations published by the British Medical Journal are part of a living guideline, developed by the WHO with the methodological support of the non-profit Norwegian MAGIC Evidence Ecosystem Foundation.

The guidelines include latest clinical trial evidence for existing and new COVID-19 therapies, and takes account of evidence relating to safety, prognosis, resources, access, and equity issues, and patient's values and preferences, the WHO said.

The update includes distinct risk categories to help doctors accurately assess whether an individual is at high, moderate, or low risk of



hospital admission and tailor treatment accordingly.

WHO recommends the use of antiviral drug nirmatrelvir-ritonavir in patients with non-severe COVID-19 at high and moderate risk of hospital admission.

It also recommends against the use of the antiviral drugs remdesivir and molnupiravir for patients with non-severe COVID-19 at moderate and low risk of hospital admission. WHO suggests treatment for patients at high risk of admission.

The update also recommends against the use of a new antiviral VV116 for patients with

COVID-19 except in clinical trials, regardless of illness severity.

The WHO strongly recommends against the use of ivermectin for patients with non-severe COVID-19.

The experts say the new recommendations reflect changes in the virulence and transmissibility of circulating Sars-CoV-2 variants and sub-variants, along with changes in immunity related to global vaccinations.

These changes have led to lower baseline risks of severe illness and death for most patients with non-severe COVID-19, they said.

## Diwali 2023: Maintain a healthy body weight keeping these tips in mind

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Diwali celebrations are in full swing and while this season insists on indulging oneself in scrumptious meals, it's important to maintain a sustainable weight loss regime and a healthy Body Mass Index (BMI).

As the polluted air has shrouded Delhi with a thick layer of toxic smog, respiratory illnesses are rampantly affecting many, resulting in symptoms like persistent cough, wheezing, sneezing and shortness of breath.

Diet is one of the major components of boosting immunity and maintaining a healthy body weight amid an environment of illnesses during Diwali.

To ensure one doesn't overeat or suffer from food poisoning, nutritionist Nmami Agarwal shared an Instagram Reel revealing tips on keeping yourself healthy and not stressing about losing weight.

"Set a realistic, sustainable goal. Do not aim for massive weight loss," the video clip featured her voiceover.

The nutritionist added that exercise is important and therefore, plan accordingly without stressing over the fact that one has to hit the gym. "You can also walk," she said.

The next step: Hydrate well. "Have coconut water, and vegetable juice to get an extra dose of vitamins and minerals," the expert said.

As one cannot keep away from sugar, Nmami Agarwal said to opt for natural sugar, instead, in the form of fruits.

"Eat seasonal, add more greens to your diet. Add ajwain and fennel seeds to boost digestion. You can also make a concoction of these ingredients," she suggested.

Meanwhile, "continue with your food and exercise routine," she said.

"I don't know who needs to hear this but weight loss is not difficult. Don't keep stressing yourself on how to lose weight. It's a process that is best enjoyed with consistency. This festive season lose your weight not your mind," the nutritionist captioned her post.

## 1 in 3 deaths from skin cancer due to working under the sun: UN agencies

GENEVA, Nov 10 (Agencies): Working under the sun is leading to nearly 1 in 3 deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer, according to joint estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The research released in the journal Environment International finds that outdoor workers carry a large and increasing burden of non-melanoma skin cancer and calls for action to prevent this serious workplace hazard and the loss of workers' lives it causes.

According to the joint estimates, 1.6 billion people of working age (15 years or older) were exposed to solar ultraviolet radiation while working outdoors in 2019, equivalent to 28 per cent of all working-age people.

In the same year, almost 18,960 people in 183 countries died from non-melanoma skin cancer due to having worked outdoors in the sun. The number increased by 88 per cent from 10,088 deaths

in 2000.

The estimates establish occupational exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation as the third highest attributable burden of cancer deaths globally, behind only asbestos and silica dust.

"Unprotected exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation at work is a major cause of occupational skin cancer," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, in a statement.

"But there are effective solutions to protect workers from the sun's harmful rays, and prevent their deadly effects," he added.

The WHO called for more action to protect workers from hazardous outdoor work in the sunlight. As skin cancer develops after years or even decades of exposure, workers must be protected from solar ultraviolet radiation at work from young working age onwards.

Governments should establish, implement and enforce policies and regulations that

protect outdoor workers from sun-induced skin cancer by providing shade, shifting working hours away from the solar noon, providing education and training, and equipping workers with sunscreen and personal protective clothing (such as broad-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirts and long trousers), the UN health body said.

"A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental right at work," said Gilbert F. Houngbo, ILO Director-General, in the statement.

"Death caused by unprotected exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation while working is largely preventable through cost-effective measures. It is urgent that governments, employers and workers and their representatives work together in a framework of well-defined rights, responsibilities and duties to reduce the occupational risk of UV exposure. This can save thousands of lives every year," Houngbo added.



## World Cup 2023: This is the strongest Indian ODI team ever, says Dinesh Karthik ahead of Netherlands clash

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Veteran India wicket-keeping batter Dinesh Karthik has called the current team the best Indian ODI side ever. The Men in Blue are all set to take on the Netherlands in their final World Cup 2023 group-stage match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on November 12.

Speaking to Cricbuzz, Karthik said this is probably India's strongest-ever team in ODIs, stressing that no Indian team has dominated in the World Cups like this one. India has won all its eight matches in the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and sit atop the points table.

"I'm going out on a limb to say this but this Indian team is probably the strongest team that



India has ever had in ODIs. In World Cups for sure. There's no Indian team that has dominated like this current 2023 team. You have to pit it against other Indian teams which have done very well but it will run other teams very close to it being the greatest ODI team ever in terms of performances and pressure,"

said Karthik.

Talking about the semi-finals, Karthik said that India will have to make a big decision at the toss since the ball will move in the powerplay in Mumbai. India will most probably face New Zealand in the semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. However, Pakistan and Afghani-

stan still remain in the hunt for the last semi-final spot.

"It's in Mumbai, the first big decision, if they win the toss, will be if they would bat first or bowl first because there will be dew but then they will have to get past that first spell. The first 10 overs the ball swings and moves. There's no question what the level is going to be till the finals. It's going to be the same XI. Every player has ticked the box and is looking good for the semis," Karthik added.

India has 16 points from eight matches in the 2023 World Cup with a net run-rate of +2.456. They became the first team to qualify for the knockout stages of the 2023 World Cup and have cemented the top spot in the group stage.

## Australia's talismanic skipper Lanning retires



MELBOURNE, Nov 10 (Agencies): Meg Lanning, captain of Australia's all-conquering women's cricket team, today announced her international retire-

ment after a decorated 13-year career including seven world titles. Out of those seven trophies, five were won by Australia under Lanning's leadership.

The 31-year-old also led Australia to a Commonwealth Games gold medal last year and is the country's leading run scorer across formats with 8,352 runs in 241 games (six Tests, 103 ODIs and 132 T20s). Lanning, however, will continue to play in T20 leagues around the world.

"The decision to step away from international cricket was a difficult one to make, but I feel now is the right time for me," Lanning said in a statement. "I've been incredibly fortunate to enjoy a 13-year international career, but I know now is the right time for me to move on."

## ThunderBolt hits Islanders

Pacer scripts crushing win over Sri Lanka as New Zealanders put one foot in semis

BENGALURU, Nov 10 (Agencies): New Zealand returned to winning ways at the World Cup following a four-match slump as they defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and all but secured their place in the semifinals.

Opening batsmen Devon Conway (45) and Rachin Ravindra (42) got fourth-placed New Zealand's chase of 172 off to a fast start and Daryl Mitchell (43) took them close before they crossed the finish line in 23.2 overs.

Victory left New Zealand on 10 points, in pole position to claim the last semifinals spot and join India, South Africa and Australia. Pakistan will now need to beat England by an almost impossible margin to leapfrog New Zealand on net run-rate. Afghanistan, who also had slim hopes of qualifying for the knockouts, find themselves in a similar position as their Asian neighbours before their clash with South Africa.

"Really good performance," said New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson. "The early wickets and spin was a challenge through those middle overs. The pitch really slowed down later. The guys showed some good intent later with the chase, so great performance overall. We thought there was going



to be some weather later but there wasn't any. Hard to read such things."

Earlier, seamer Trent Boult and off-spinner Mitchell Santner landed timely blows as Sri Lanka limped to 171 all out after an early blitz by Kusal Perera (51) and a defiant late effort by Maheesh Theekshana (38 not out).

"Nice to get a bit of success at the top. A must-win game, the pleasure is about getting the result," said Player of the Match Boult, who went past 600 international wickets. Barring an unlikely miracle in Pakistan's last game, New Zealand will take on hosts India in the semifinals.

"Everyone wants a piece of the strong home nation," Boult said. "We're looking forward to it. It'll be exciting to face India in the semifinals. They're playing phenomenal cricket."

Williamson's decision to bowl after winning the toss paid off early, as Boult (3/37) and Tim

Southee (1/52) tore through the Sri Lankan top-order to leave them in some trouble at 32/3 inside five overs.

Perera, who was dropped on zero by Tom Latham in the second over, punished New Zealand with a 22-ball fifty but lost another partner when Boult trapped Charith Asalanka lbw to turn up the heat on the 1996 champions.

A fit-again Lockie Ferguson (2/35) struck in his second over to dismiss the aggressive Perera as Sri Lanka collapsed to 70/5 and eventually folded in the 47th over for a modest total after Santner (2/22) and Ravindra (2/21) joined the party.

End of road for Pakistan?

To surpass New Zealand's NRR, Pakistan have to beat England by at least 287 runs. If they bowl first, Pakistan will have just 3.4 overs to chase down the target if they can restrict England to 150. Afghanistan must beat South Africa by at least 438 runs.

## Australia T20Is: Hardik Pandya unlikely to be available, one among Suryakumar or Ruturaj to lead

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (Agencies): Injured T20I captain Hardik Pandya is unlikely to be available for India's upcoming five-match series against Australia starting November 23 as the star all-rounder will require more time to recover from his left-ankle ligament tear.

It is understood that the team for the home T20I series against Australia will be announced only after India's World Cup semifinal, which in all likelihood will be played in Mumbai on November 15.

According to sources in the BCCI, a more practical scenario for Hardik would be to get fit by the time the South Africa T20 series starts from December 10 in Durban.

"There is some time before Hardik can be declared fit and available for selection. It would be more practical for him to try and complete his rehabilitation with a possible 'RTP' (Return To Play) during SA series. It will certainly be NCA Sports science team's call," a senior BCCI source privy to the developments told agency on conditions of anonymity.

It is understood that either Suryakumar



Yadav, the designated vice-captain of the T20I side, or Asian Games gold-winning skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad will be leading the side.

While Surya is playing in the ODI World Cup, unlike seniors like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and the pace unit, which needs to be fresh for the Test series, the Mumbai Indians star is currently being looked at as a two-format white-ball specialists.

It is an accepted norm that white-ball Indian specialists (especially batters) can play 25-30 games per year across two white-ball formats apart from IPL, fitness permitting.

Hence, if Surya himself doesn't ask for rest, he is the favourite to lead the side. If not, Ruturaj is the next best choice.

Looking at T20 World Cup in the Americas

The T20 World Cup will be held in the Americas (United States and West Indies) in June and July next year after the IPL and the core team for the Australia series will be formed by all those who played in Ireland and the Asian Games.

"Obviously, during any big event, someone like Jasprit Bumrah will be pressed into the action as he would be nicely warmed up with sufficient game time post the Indian Premier League. Ditto for a Mohammed Siraj," the official said.

The likes of Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar are likely to be picked for the series.

For the upcoming Australia series, it is expected that the likes of Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Yuzvendra Chahal are expected to make a comeback to the side

apart from those who performed during the Asian Games.

If Axar Patel recovers from his hamstring injury, he will be selected as Ravindra Jadeja surely would get rest before the South Africa tour.

What about Bhuv, Parag, Abhishek?

If one goes by the pattern of Indian team selection over the past few years, the key to success has been consistency in selection.

To be selected in the Indian team, good show in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) is important but it is more important to crack the IPL code year after year.

There are three prominent SMAT performers this time -- Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag and veteran Bhuvneshwar Kumar -- but the question remains where will they be fitted?

Bhuvneshwar had been exceptional in the tournament with 16 wickets from seven games with an economy rate of under six runs per over.

The swing is back and, for the domestic batters, he was virtually unplayable. But with an average speed of 128-130 kph, will he still be effective in interna-

tional cricket is something Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues need to address.

Similarly, Abhishek Sharma (485 runs, 2 hundreds, 3 fifties) has scored all his runs at the opening slot where India already has Ruturaj, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ishan Kishan and even Shubman Gill when he is well rested.

Abhishek's left-arm spin is an advantage but might not be good enough as of now to merit selection.

In case of the flamboyant Riyan (510 and 11 wickets), possibly the first cricketer from Assam who is very close to national selection, his competitors for middle-order slots are Rahul Tripathi, Tilak Varma and Rinku Singh, who have been proven IPL performers and deserve a long rope in T20 format going into next year's World Cup.

In case of his off-spin, Riyan has Washington Sundar, who if fit, walks into the T20 squad, as competitor.

Riyan's name is under consideration but whether he leapfrogs any of the current IPL middle-order performers, courtesy his seven fifties in SMAT, is there to be seen.

## SA believe they can ace the chase



AHMEDABAD, Nov 10 (Agencies): Both of South Africa's defeats at the ODI World Cup came while chasing but batter David Miller does not think this is a major concern for them heading into the business end of the showpiece tournament.

South Africa have secured their semifinals spot after six wins in eight matches and the top half of their batting order had been in red-hot form before they came unstuck against India in their last match when they were skittled for 83.

They have looked more comfortable setting targets but Miller said they are also usually at ease chasing a total. "I think we have chased a lot of games in the past, and I don't think it's something

that is a huge issue at all," the batter said ahead of today's match against Afghanistan. "The guys certainly have the skill and believe that we can chase anything. I think it's just comparing to what we have done batting first, which has been exceptional."

"We haven't been horrific chasing, it's just been one or two games where we slipped up, which is part of the game. We have spoken about and dissected that. It's just about making sure that we've got that platform and giving ourselves the best chance to chase down a total," he added.

Miller was wary of Afghanistan, who have beaten three former champions in the tournament and still have mathematical chances of making the semifinals.

"They're a team that's certainly growing in confidence. They've showed that they can compete. I mean this World Cup they've done really, really well, beaten some big teams," Miller said.

"They're a really strong team, and they have a chance to make the semifinals. So, it's good to see. That's the joy of World Cup. You see different teams doing well...It's great to see and good for cricket."

## VAR controversies prompt calls for action in Premier League

LONDON, Nov 10 (Agencies): VAR was supposed to help cut out egregious and costly refereeing mistakes but the technology has come under heavy fire from Premier League managers who have lost faith in the system.

The video assistant referee was introduced in the 2019/20 season for "clear and obvious errors" or "serious missed incidents" in specific situations.

The promise was that it would lead to "more correct and fairer judgements", even though the Premier League conceded that 100 per cent accuracy was impossible.

But feelings are running high after high-profile incidents that have overshadowed the action on the pitch.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta launched a blistering attack on the decision to let Newcastle's goal stand after his team's 1-0 defeat last weekend, labelling it a "disgrace".

Anthony Gordon's second-half goal was checked for three separate VAR offences but survived them all to earn Newcastle the three points.

"We didn't deserve to lose the match," Arteta told Sky Sports. "We lost the match because of the clear and obvious decisions. It's embarrassing. A disgrace."

The Spaniard's comments were made in the heat of the moment but the club came out strongly in support of their manager in a statement the following day.

"Arsenal Football Club wholeheartedly supports Mikel Arteta's post-match comments after yet more unacceptable refereeing and VAR errors on Saturday evening," Arsenal said.

"Sporting integrity" The angry fallout after the game at St James' Park echoed another VAR controversy in the high-stakes fixture between Tottenham and Liverpool in late September.

Officials wrongly disallowed a goal from Luis Diaz after a misunderstanding over the on-field decision and Spurs went on to win 2-1 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Referees body Professional Game Match Officials Ltd (PGMOL) released the audio of the decision that led to the disallowed Diaz goal.

In the recording, video assistant referee Darren England says the check is "perfect" before swearing when he realises a mistake has been made. "They've restarted the game. Can't do anything, can't do anything," he adds in exasperation.

PGMOL admitted a "significant human error" and Liverpool issued a statement in which they said "sporting integrity" had been undermined.

"We fully accept the pressures that match officials work under but these pressures are supposed to be alleviated, not exacerbated, by the existence and implementation of VAR," the club said.

Manager Jurgen Klopp even called for the game to be replayed.

Wolves have far more cause for complaint, with four high-profile penalty decisions going against them, potentially with far-reaching consequences.

Arteta stuck to his guns before Arsenal's Champions League match against Sevilla this week, suggesting it was the duty of managers to discuss the issues around the use of VAR.

"Errors are part of evolution," he said. "The trajectory is never going to be (always upwards), there are always going to be bumps in the road and these things are necessary to improve the game in the right way."

"But we have to talk loudly. If you have a problem and you put it in your drawer, the problem is in the drawer and it's going to stink at some point."

League Managers Association chief executive Richard Bevan says coaches want to see changes -- including the video assistant referee working with the same referee each week.

"PGMOL have confirmed to us that they are actively looking at how best to incorporate VARs into match-day refereeing teams, to ensure the dynamic between on-field referee and VAR is conducive to producing positive outcomes," Bevan told the Daily Mail.

"The managers are also calling for a review (and simplification) of the interpretation of the term 'clear and obvious' in VAR decision-making, as this is a cause of much confusion at present."

Henry Winter, chief football writer for The Times, urged the Premier League to listen to the managers of its clubs.

"Anyone who attends a game or watches on television knows that VAR has never been more contentious," he said.

"Some grown-up debate is required. The starting point is that, love it or loathe it, VAR is here to stay."

"We live in a technological age and other sports have embraced it successfully, so it's about English football getting it right."



## Rajouri Admin gears up for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

DC Vikas Kundal discusses arrangements

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 10: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal on Friday convened a comprehensive meeting to review and strategise the arrangements for the impending "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra."

In a detailed discussion, the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal expounded upon the expansive scope of the Yatra, which primarily aims at ensuring the effective execution of the Central government welfare schemes in rural India. The Yatra will commence from Budhal Old on 15th November 2023 in the district.

The fundamental objectives of the Viksit Bharat Yatra were elucidated, encompassing critical aspects such as reaching out to the vulnerable sections eligible under various schemes



but yet to benefit, disseminating information, and fostering awareness about the schemes. The initiative further seeks to establish direct interaction with beneficiaries, sharing personal stories and experiences, while also enrolling potential beneficiaries based on information ascertained during the Yatra.

The meeting delved into an extensive discussion on various schemes targeting both rural and urban awareness. Heads of Departments provided in-depth updates on the current status of scheme saturation and outlined strategies

to achieve optimal coverage during the Yatra.

Specific focus was placed on key schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Saman Nidhi, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban), Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma, Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Abhiyaan, among others.

The meeting also highlighted the deployment

of a Mobile Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van, designed to traverse all panchayats and urban areas. The primary objective of the van is to achieve saturation of all schemes and enhance awareness among the populace.

Emphasizing the imperative need for collaborative efforts, the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal directed all stakeholders to work in synergy, aiming for the seamless implementation of the ambitious initiative.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal issued a

directive, underscoring the paramount importance of ensuring the seamless and efficient conduct of the Yatra within the district, emphasizing the critical role each stakeholder plays in the successful execution of this transformative initiative.

Among the others who attended the meeting were ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh; ADC Kalakote, Krishan Lal; ADC Koteranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; SDM Thanamandi, Shafeeq Mir; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; CAO, Sohan Singh; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin and other concerned officers.

## Lack of cleanliness of Smart City opposite Hari Singh High School and Eidgah Jammu: Gurmeet Singh



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: The leaders, including Gurmeet Singh, President of Beopar Mandal, General Secretary of JKPC, and District General Secretary of Congress, have visited the affected areas and observed the lack of cleanliness.

The area around Eidgah road, opposite Hari Singh High School, and near Gujjar Hostel in Jammu East has not been cleaned for more than 25 days. The accumulation of waste is seen as a potential breeding ground for diseases like Dengue and the Omicron variant.

Responsibility of Municipality: The leaders emphasize that it is the responsibility of the Municipality, along with the appointed supervisor, to maintain cleanliness in the area. However, no action has been taken by municipal

officers or the supervisor in the past 25 days.

The leaders are urging for immediate action, including the installation of dustbins in high-traffic areas, to prevent the spread of diseases. They propose a fine of Rs 25,000 for the concerned supervisor if negligence is identified.

The leaders are requesting the LG to issue strict instructions to relevant departments to address the cleanliness issue and prevent the further spread of diseases.

There's mention of Rs. 30,000 Crore sanctioned for Pradhan Mantri Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and the leaders express confusion about the utilization of this fund in Jammu. They call for a CBI inquiry to disclose the details of the amount spent by the State Government.

The message lists several leaders who accompanied Gurmeet Singh during the visit to the affected areas.

The leaders are raising serious concerns about the lack of cleanliness in specific areas of Jammu, urging immediate action to avoid the spread of diseases, and calling for an inquiry into the allocation and utilization of funds for cleanliness programs.

## DLTFC approves 33 JKREGP cases at Kathua

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 10: A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee was held today under the Chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas here in the DC Office complex, the other day.

The committee securitised the loan applications of the unemployed youth of the district who had applied online under J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) being implemented by J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board.

After scrutinizing the



applications, the Committee approved 33 cases complete in all respects besides finding 13 applications deficient of documents thus deferring the same till the next meeting of DLTFC

District Officer KVIB Kathua Harvinder Singh, LDM SBI Kathua, Superintendent ITI Kathua Representatives of DIC, Cluster Head J&K Bank, J&K Gramen Bank were also present in the meeting.

## Dimple demands restoration of Statehood, Art 370

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Mission Statehood President Sunil Dimple demanded restoration of statehood and Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference, Dimple stated that they aim to bring back the J&K state and Article 370 based on the conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh during the standstill agreement.

He mentioned that the verdict on their petitions filed against the abrogation of Article 370 and the restoration of J&K statehood will be announced shortly.

Dimple expressed dissatisfaction with the way the BJP government is handling J&K affairs, predicting the loss of all six parliamentary seats in J&K and Ladakh.

He asserted that their struggle will continue until the implemen-



tation of the conditions of the Instrument of Accession, Article 370, 35-A, state subject, and the unification of J&K, Ladakh, PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan.

Dimple claimed that, after the restoration of the popular government and Article 370, they would reverse anti-J&K laws imposed by the BJP government.

He emphasized the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir as a state, highlighting the conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh.

Dimple criticized the alleged imposition of an undeclared emergency, restrictions on free speech, and the ban on government employees from raising their demands or protesting.

Dimple objected to what he sees as attempts by the BJP to change the history, identity, culture, and demography of Jammu and Kashmir, citing the installation of a Shiva Ji statue and UT day celebration.

He raised concerns about increasing poverty and unemployment, the influence of

mafias, and the sale of Jammu and Kashmir after its demotion to a union territory.

Dimple demanded the withdrawal of undemocratic orders, including the ban on government employees from raising their demands or protesting.

Dimple expressed doubt about the sincerity of the Indian government, particularly the BJP, in fulfilling commitments regarding the restoration of statehood and elections.

He called on BJP-RSS leaders to clarify their stand on the conditions of the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1947.

Overall, Sunil Dimple's statements reflect a strong stance on political, economic, and social issues related to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the historical context and conditions of accession.

## Maa Bawe Wali records team felicitates Bollywood Singer Sultana Nooran

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 10: Sahil Mahajan, the Managing Director of Maa Bawe Wali Records, highlighted the sincere efforts of Sultana Nooran in the field of singing during the simple yet impressive function.

The presence of notable individuals like Ashok Gupta (Sewa Sansthan Jagran Committee President), Gourav Bali (Businessman), Rocky Rajat, and Kunal Abrol at the event further emphasizes the significance of the occasion.

Sahil Mahajan's acknowledgment of Sultana Nooran's role in creating awareness and contributing to the wel-

fare of singers reflects the commitment of Maa Bawe Wali Records to support and promote talent in the industry. It's heartening to see recognition not only for artistic achievements but also for the positive impact that artists like Sultana Nooran can have on society.

Events like these contribute to the sense of community within the entertainment industry and encourage artists to continue their meaningful contributions. Congratulations to Sultana Nooran on this well-deserved honor, and kudos to Maa Bawe Wali Records for recognizing and supporting talent in the field of singing.



## Narinder inaugurates Shaheen Boutique at Bus Stand RS Pura



### Top News Report

RS PURA, Nov 10: Social Activist and PDP District Jammu Media coordinator Narinder Sharma today inaugurated Shaheen Boutique at Bus Stand RS Pura owned by Ashwani Sharma and Ashu Mehra.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma laid stress on idea of making women self sufficient and actually creating jobs for others. Challenges to decent work are different in rural and urban areas, but women in rural areas face additional hurdles to access decent work. Higher labour force participation in rural areas in the developing world and widespread

decent work deficits of rural jobs reveal the need to promote healthy rural labour markets for everyone, added Sharma.

Sharma further said that monetary independence grants women the freedom of choice – the choice to live life on their own terms, the choice to exit abusive households and families, the choice to access healthcare facilities and the ability to provide for their dependents such as aging parents and young children.

Sharma said women play a major role in the rural economy as farmers, wage earners and entrepreneurs.

They also take responsibility for the well-being

of the members of their families, including food provision and care for children and the elderly.

Yet, women in rural areas face constraints in engaging in economic activities because of gender-based discrimination and social norms, involvement in unpaid work, and unequal access to education, healthcare, property, and financial and other services.

Promoting and ensuring gender equality, and empowering rural women, not only contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, but also enhances the effectiveness of poverty reduction and food security initiatives, added Sharma.

While interacting with the media persons, owners of the Boutique revealed that the concept of involving local artisans in creating the best Indo-Western outfits and to make them available at decent rate is their dream, which is going to get true through this expansion.

## GDCW Kathua organizes awareness program on Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 10: Government Degree College for Women Kathua, took a proactive stance in promoting a cleaner and greener Diwali through a special program on 'Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali', under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Savi Behl, the Principal of the college. The initiative aimed to create sense of responsibility among students for celebrating a pollution-free Diwali. The highlight of the event was the 'Swachh Diwali Signature Campaign', encouraging students to pledge their commitment to a clean and green Diwali by signing a dedicated pledge

board. This unique initiative sought to raise awareness about the importance of celebrating festivals in an environmentally friendly manner. As part of the program, a documentary was also screened for students, shedding light on the impact of Diwali celebrations on the environment and providing insights into sustainable and eco-friendly practices. The screening aimed to educate students about the adverse effects of pollution during the festive season and inspire them to adopt responsible ways of celebrating. The event also provided a platform for students to express their views on Diwali celebrations and share innovative

ideas on making the festival more eco-conscious. Their enthusiastic participation showcased a deep commitment to embracing a cleaner and pollution-free Diwali. The program was coordinated by faculty members: Dr. Anupam Manuhaar, Department of Economics, Ms. Ambika Rajput, Department of English and Ms. Pallavi, Department of Political Science, and the program was graced by several esteemed faculty members: Dr. Rachna Devi, Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Dr. Renu, Mr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Vaishno Devi, and Dr. Shivali. Their collaborative efforts ensured the success of the 'Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali campaign' at Government Degree College for Women, Kathua. Principal Dr. Savi Behl expressed her appreciation for the active participation and commitment shown by both students and faculty members. She emphasized the college's ongoing dedication to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices.