

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Mrunal Thakur's character in 'Pippa' is actively involved in the war**



NATIONAL | 7

**Veteran Telugu actor Chandra Mohan passes away**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**French President Macron calls for Gaza ceasefire, Netanyahu responds**



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## BRIEFLY

### Human Skeleton recovered in North Kashmir: Police

SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): A human skeleton was recovered in Vijbal area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. A police official told local news gatherer KS that Fruit Mandi Sopore has recovered one unidentified human skull without remaining body in suspicious condition at Vijbal Sopore. The officer said that proceedings U/S 174 CrPC has been initiated into the case.

### Jammu and Kashmir: High Court quashes two PSA orders

SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has nullified two orders under the Public Safety Act, noting that if the detention order mirrors the dossier, it suggests "non-application of mind by the detaining authority." Quashing detention order (No 50/DMK/PSA/2022), dated June 25, 2022, by District Magistrate Kulgam against Shabir Ahmad Khanday of Bugam Kulgam, a bench of Justice M A Chowdhary referred to a Supreme Court's judgment, stating that "liberty of a subject is a serious matter and is not to be trifled with in this casual, indifferent and routine manner."

"In a case titled 'Jai Singh & Ors vs State of Jammu & Kashmir' reported as AIR 1985 SC 764, it has been observed that if the detention order is a verbatim copy of the dossier, it speaks about non-application of mind by the detaining authority," the court said and ordered Khanday's release forthwith provided he is not required in connection with any other case(s). The court also quashed the detention order (No. 02/DMP/PSA/22) dated April 7, 2022 passed by District Magistrate Pulwama by virtue of Aamir Amin Dar of Noorabad Tral was booked under PSA.

"The law is well settled that if the order of detention comes to an end either by revocation or by the expiry of

Turn to page 9

## PM Modi has stopped infiltrators, Abrogated Article 370 in J&K: Amit Shah

DHAR (MP), Nov 11 (Agencies): Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government that has the courage to stop infiltrators in the country and it is not possible for the Congress and leaders of the opposition bloc INDIA to do so. Modi ji has done the job of stopping infiltrators in the country and it is not possible for Congress and INDIA bloc leaders to do so. Whether infiltrators should be stopped or not, he asked while addressing a public meeting at



Manawar in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh ahead of the November 17 assembly elections. It was the Modi government that abrogated Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir despite Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi claiming that it would lead to a blood-bath but nothing happened, Shah said. The home minister hit out at the Congress for what he called destroying the culture of the country and said it was

the Modi government which nurtured and prevented it.

Shah also blamed the Congress in the state for stopping several welfare schemes, including 'Teerth Darshan Yojna', when it was in power for 15 months after the 2018 elections.

Urging people to vote for the BJP, he said that this time people will celebrate three Diwalis first, on Sunday; second on December 3, when results of the assembly polls will be announced; and the third, on January 22, when the consecration of Lord Ram will take place in Ayodhya.

## Three dead in Dal Lake blaze in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): Three bodies were recovered from the houseboats gutted in a blaze in the Dal Lake here on Saturday, officials said. The charred bodies

were recovered in the early hours of Saturday near ghat number nine, the officials said. They said the deceased's identification was being ascertained. The deceased included

a man and a woman, while the third victim's gender could not be ascertained so far. The fire broke out in the tourist hub of the Dal Lake early Saturday, destroying property

worth crores of rupees, officials said.

The cause of the fire, which consumed five houseboats and an equal number of huts attached to them, was

Turn to page 9

## NIA files supplementary charge-sheet in KTF recruitment, arms smuggling case

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary charge-sheet against four people in the Khalistan Tiger Force recruitment and arms smuggling case, an official said on Saturday.

The charge-sheet was filed before the Special NIA Court, New Delhi, against Amritpal Singh alias Ammy and Amrik Singh, both deported from the Philippines, and Jassa Singh and Gagandeep Singh alias Mithi, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

Earlier, the agency had filed a charge-sheet against nine accused persons in the case on July 22.

Twelve other members of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) terrorist outfit and their associates, linked with the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and the KTF, are under investigation for their role and involvement in this terror conspiracy.

The spokesperson said that a "listed individual terrorist", Canada-based Arshdeep Singh alias Arsh Dala, in association with accused Manpreet Singh alias Peeta, had indoctrinated and recruited Amritpal, Amrik, Jassa and Gagandeep into his terrorist group, the spokesperson said.

Turn to page 9

## Charge-sheet produces in fake PRC fraud by POJK Refugee for 4.5 Lakh Relief; EOW CBJ

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu produced 158 page charge-sheet in the Court of law in case FIR No. 06/2020 U/S 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 201, 120-B/RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu against accused 1) Mohinder Pal Singh 2) Ajit Pal Singh (Expired) both sons of Piara Lal @ Piara Singh R/o Korotana Kalan Tehsil-RS Pura (Now Suchetgarh) Distt. Jammu, A/P village Magarpur Tehsil Mustafabad Distt. Yamuna Nagar Haryana for their involvement in hatch-



ing criminal conspiracy and managing fake PRC with the motive of using it as genuine before the office of PRO (Provincial Rehabilitation Office) Jammu to avail Rehabilitation package/ compensation of an amount of Rs.4,49,692 as POJK Refugee.

The case owes its origin to a written complaint lodged by Gurnam

Singh S/o Gian Singh R/o Nai Basti Korotana Khurd, Tehsil Suchetgarh, R.S Pura Jammu, alleging therein that the accused is a displaced person of Jalbhi Tehsil Bhimber District Mirpur and he manipulated the permanent resident certificate in his favour by producing the fraudulent documents. After obtaining the PRC (Permanent resident certificate) the accused connived with the concerned Revenue Authorities and got the original file and record destroyed to hush up the fraud and later produced the PRC as genuine before the concerned

Turn to page 9

## Sisodia reaches home from Tihar Jail to meet ailing wife



NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday reached his residence here from Tihar Jail to meet his ailing wife after permission from a city court.

Sisodia, who is in jail in connection with the alleged liquor scam case, was allowed to meet his wife for six

hours between 10 am and 4 pm.

Sisodia accompanied by the police personnel reached his home on Mathura Road in a prison van at around 10 am.

In June too he was granted permission by the Delhi High Court to meet his wife Seema, who suffers from multiple sclerosis. However,

he could not meet her as she was hospitalised after a sudden deterioration in her condition.

The court while permitting Sisodia to meet his wife ordered him not to talk to the media or indulge in any political activity.

A senior leader of AAP, Sisodia held the post of deputy chief minister besides holding various portfolios, including the Excise Department, in the Arvind Kejriwal government before his arrest by the CBI in February.

He resigned as deputy CM and minister of different departments after being arrested but his family lived at his then-official residence on

Turn to page 9

## Several houseboats and residential structures gutted in a massive fire in Dal Lake



SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): At least five houseboats and a dozen residential structures were gutted in a massive fire in Dal Lake on Saturday, officials said. Fire and Emergency officials said that a fire broke out at 5 am in one

of the houseboats near the Ghat number 9 in the Dal Lake and engulfed other nearby houseboats and other wooden residential structures.

The fire tenders were rushed from the river station Nehru Park, Batmaloo, and Gawkadial

to douse the leaping flames, they said.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, they said. No one was injured in the incident.

The loss to the property is said to be in crores of rupees.

## Weather to remain dry after snowfall, rains lash J&K

SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): Weather improved on Saturday after snowfall on higher reaches and widespread rains on plains brought the temperature down and closed several roads in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meteorological department Srinagar forecast of weather is likely to remain dry during the next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir.

The sky was cloudy with cold conditions prevailing around Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley.

Higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley experienced snowfall, while plains were lashed by widespread rains on Friday bringing down the temperature.

Due to snowfall, several roads including Razdan Pass, Zojila Pass, Kishtwar-Anantnag Road, Mughal, Phirkiyan Gali, Machil, Sadna Top, and Srinagar-Sonamarg Road were closed for traffic movement.

"Traffic on Srinagar-Jammu national highway and Srinagar-Sonamarg Gurni road connecting Ladakh was restored and traffic plying normally," J&K Traffic Police said on X.

However, they said the historical Mughal road connecting south Kashmir's Shopian district with the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division remained closed due to the accumulation of

Turn to page 9

## Three R&B SEs promoted as CEs

SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): Three Superintending Engineers of PW(R&B) have been appointed as Chief Engineers (CEs) by the JKUT Government.

Nisar Ahmed Pandith, SE R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian Circle, will serve as Chief Engineer R&B South Kashmir alongside his existing responsibilities until a permanent arrangement is determined by the Government.

Similarly, Sajjad Ahmed Naqeeb, SE R&B Circle, Srinagar South, will take on the role of Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir in addition to his current duties.

Firdous Ahmed Kushkhan, SE R&B Circle Bandipora, is assigned the responsibility of

Turn to page 9

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

**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



**SH. BRIJ LAL KOUL**

**Contact Numbers:**  
9469141363,  
7889668353,  
700642521,  
9797325838.

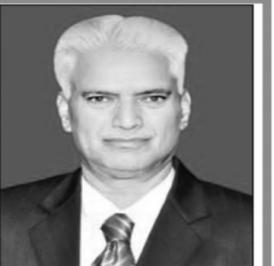
**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Moti Lal Pahey (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 Neerja- Wife  
**Brother and Sister in Law**  
Sh. Brij Nath and Late Smt Lalita  
Sh. Nana Ji & Smt Santosh  
Sh. Roshan Lal & Smt Pinky  
**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 Pahey (Koul) Parivar & All Nears & Dears**  
**Contact No: 9086540411, 9419316278 & 9419425568**



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

**CHOUBARSI**

You are near, Even if we don't see you ...  
You are with us, even if you are far away...  
You are in our heart, in our thoughts...  
In our lives, Always...

Four years have passed since you left for heavenly abode. You were the guiding light not only for us but everyone who came in touch with you. We all miss you very much and you will always be remembered with great respect & love.

**Choubarisi of Late Sh. Rattan Chand Gupta "Plassi wale"** will be performed at our residence at W.No.-3, Krishna Colony, Kathua at 12:00 Noon on 12th of Nov. 2023 (Sunday)

**IN GRIEF**

Dulari Rani Gupta - Wife (9419150398)

**Daughters-in-law & Sons**

Smt. Reva Gupta & Suresh Gupta  
(9419108042)

Smt. Amita Gupta & Rakesh Gupta (9419107156)

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Smt. Anita Gupta & Dershan K. Gupta  
Smt. Babita Gupta & Permodh K. Gupta

**Deeply Remembered by**

**Grand Children & Great Grand Children**



**Late Sh. Rattan Chand Gupta "Plassi wale"**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

In loving memory of **SMT. SHIV KUMARI** W/o Sh. PRATHVI NATH RAINA of Lane-21, Block-116, Flat No.18, Jagti colony, Nagrota, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 08th November 2023.

Your memories will forever stay with us. We will miss you. May god give peace to your noble soul.

**Tenth Day Kriya**

**Day & Date :** Friday 17th November.

**Venue :** Muthi Ghat near Directorate Education Office.

**Time :** 9:00 a.m.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**Daughters and Sons-in-law**

Smt. Santosh Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Pran Nath Bhat  
Smt. Princy Raina Ghoshal W/o Sh.Soumendra K. Ghoshal

**Grand Children:**

Abijay Bhat & Pooja Bhat (Daughter-in-law)  
Deepali Bhat, Riptika Ghoshal, Jyotika Ghoshal

**Contact : 9622210700, 9149521469**



**SMT. SHIV KUMARI**

**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).

**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 12-11-2023 (Sunday) at 8:30am

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

(Sister-in-law & Brother)  
Smt Vijanti & Sh Avtar Krishan Mussa 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, Anitra, Tsiya (Grandchildren)



**Shri Radha Krishen Mussa 22-02-1938 to 03-11-2023**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

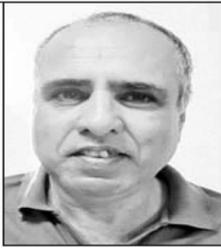
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh. Mahisher Nath Bhat of Raj Ghat Baramulla who left for heavenly abode on 07-11-2023 at present Lower Roop Nagar Muthi Sector 5/5.

The **10TH DAY** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Education Office on 16-11-2023 Thursday at 8.30 AM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Girija Bhat - Wife  
Sh. Ashok Kumar & Picha Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi  
Sh. Naveen Bhat & Sneha Bhat - Son & Daughter in Law  
Sh. Rahul Bhat & Neelam Bhat - Son & Daughter in Law  
Saksham & Aratrika - Grand Children

**CONTACT NO: 9469213465, 8424048202, 7830008692**



**SH. CHAMAN LAL BHAT**

**UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you of the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Maya Devi** W/o Late. Capt. Piyar Singh **UTHALA** will be held on Monday 13th of November 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**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

"To live - love & then part, is a sad tale of human heart" (Pardesi RKM)

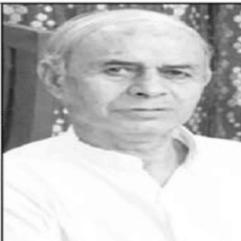
परदेसी श्री राधाकृष्ण मुस्सा (चाचाजी) का देहावसान 3 नवंबर 2023 को मुम्बई में हुआ। वे एक देदीयमान ज्ञान के प्रकाश-पुंज थे। उनके सौम्य, प्रतिभावान, मिलनसार, छत्रतुल्य व्यक्तित्व को भावपूर्ण श्रद्धांजलि। दसवें दिन की क्रिया मुझी घाट, जम्मू पर 12 नवंबर 2023 (रविवार) को प्रातः 8:30 बजे संपन्न होगी।

**शोकाकुल**

महाराजकृष्ण भरत

(9419113462)

मुस्सा परिवार एवं सगे-संबंधी



**श्री राधाकृष्ण मुस्सा (चाचाजी)**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

*Death is certain for one who has been born and rebirth is inevitable for one who has Died.*

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of a beloved husband, a supportive father and a loving brother **Mr. Dileep Kumar Shah** S/o Lt Shri Shamboo Nath Shah from Rainawari (Reinwoor).

Our hero, who was the anchor of our laughter, and the one who taught us to navigate life's journey with kindness.

In every cherished memory, he remains our king, guiding us even in his absence like an angel.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 18-11-2023 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 AM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Manju Shah- Wife  
Shah's, Raina's, Kaul's, Safayas & Bhats

**Residence: H. No 4 Ajit Colony Talab Tillo Camp Gole Gujral Jammu +919796622668**



**MR. DILEEP KUMAR SHAH**

**TENTH DAY**

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib Ji** shall take place on 12th Nov 2023 (Sunday) at 9.00 AM at our residence H. No 209, Sector E Sainik Colony Jammu  
**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib Ji** shall take place on 14th of Nov 2023 (Tuesday) at 9.00 AM at our residence H. no 209 Sector E, Sainik Colony Jammu  
**Kirtan & Ardas shall** take place on 14th of Nov 2023 (Tuesday) from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Sainik Colony Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sdn Gurdeep Kour-Wife  
Daughter in Law & Son  
Sdn Rachanjit Kour & Brinder Pal Singh (Chief Engineer Merchant Navy)  
**Daughters & Son in Law**  
Er Baljeet Kour & S. Davinder Pal Singh - Indian Navy  
Dr Balwinder Kour - Associate Professor, Physics  
Dr Gurinder Kour (Senior Lecturer, Physics, & S. Arneet Singh (Manager SBI Bank)  
**Sister in Law & Brothers**  
Sdn Mohinder Kour & S Swam Singh  
Sdn Surjeet Kour & Late S. Darshan Singh  
Sdn Avinash Kour & S. Rewail Singh  
**Sister & Brother in Law**  
Sdn Rewail Kour & S. Mohinder Singh  
**Nephews**  
S. Manjeet Singh (AEE, PDD)  
S. Kuldeep Singh (SDAO)  
S. Ranjeet Singh Tohra (President DGPC, Jammu)



**S. BACHAN SINGH S/O LATE S. PHERA SINGH**

Dr. Ravinder Singh- Associate Professor, SKUAST  
Er. Surjeet Singh (Merchant Navy)  
Er. Amandeep Singh  
S. Hardeep Singh  
**Grand Children**  
Gurnidh Pal Singh, Simardeep Kour, Tejveer Singh, Baanvi Kour, Tabjot Singh

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

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of my beloved **Karmyogi Shri. Padam Nath Puri (Dady ji)** S/o Late. Vasdev Puri R/o Chanapora Srinagar A/P H.No 129, Lane No. 4 Anand Nagar Bohri, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 4 -11-23 (Saturday).

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi ghat on 13-11-23 (Monday) at 9:30 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sh.Radhey Sham Puri (Brother)  
(Nephew & Daughter in law)  
Sh.Rohit Puri & Smt.Purnima Puri (Nephew & Daughter in law)  
Sh. Ashwani Puri & Smt. Pooja Kapoor (Son in law & Niece)  
Sh.Ravinder Koul & Smt. Anju Koul

**Grand Children:-**

Osheen & Ritvik ,Tejas & Krishti. Angel & Ruhani

**MOBILE NOS: 7889766934, 7889798894, 9906392061**



**KARMYOGI SHRI. PADAM NATH PURI**

**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, RAWALS, 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, Anitra, Tsiya (Grandchildren)



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

**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**

Er. Virander Kumar Gupta (Chief Engineer, DIQC)

Dr. Aayushi & 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 & Nandoyi

Smt. Manju Bala & Er. Suresh Gupta

Mob:- 9419150447, 9419150355, 9469275511, 9419107895



**Smt. Sunita Gupta**

**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 Drabariy 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 Krishen - Daughter-in-law & Son

Indu Kaw W/o Lt. B. L. Kaw - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Reeta & Sh Sunit Dhar - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Pummy & Sh Rajinder Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law

Shivani, Kartic, Vinayak, Sunny, Amit, Vikram, Anupam, Rishab & Ritik.

Contact No. 9796615705, 7006652858



**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.

## Advisor Bhatnagar chairs joint BoDs meet of JKHC, JKHDC

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired the joint Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation (JKHC) and J&K Handloom Development Corporation (JKHDC) at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the BoDs held extensive assessment aimed to evaluate the progress made by these corporations in promoting and preserving the rich heritage of handicrafts and handloom in the region besides various physical and financial aspects of the corporations, were also evaluated during the meeting. The Board also reviewed the progress and performance of the showrooms of the Corporation.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh; Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah; Director Handicrafts & Handloom Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Special Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, K.S. Chib; Managing Director JKHC and other senior officers of both these Corporations in



person and through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar called upon the officers of both Corporations to optimally use the available resources of their entities for effective revenue generation.

He stressed upon the management of both these corporations to chalk out a comprehensive marketing strategy for handicraft, handloom and other handmade traditional craft items of J&K so that these items could be marketed in a very effective manner. He also asked the officers to examine the sales and marketing strategies of the corporations and suggested them

not to promote or sell any product that is not manufactured in J&K.

The Advisor impressed upon the management of the corporation to co-ordinate with different stakeholders and departments for opening of new showrooms at famous tourist places like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Gulmarg and other famous places so that the visitors footfall is encashed for enhancing the benefits to local artisans and craftsmen by providing them higher sales through the Corporation.

He also directed them to rationalize shop presence at other locations and explore various other non-conventional marketing methods.

He also advised the management to engage and utilize the services of IT professionals to enhance turnover and better inventory management.

The Advisor also advised them to create software for feedback link for customers so that necessary steps are taken accordingly.

The Advisor expressed his appreciation for the corporations in contributing to the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir through revival and promotion of traditional crafts.

During the meeting, the Managing Director JKHC gave a detailed presentation on the performance and functioning of both these Corporations.

## DC takes comprehensive review of achievements under Power Sector in Rajouri District

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 11: In a significant step towards enhancing the standard of living and ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the consumers, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of power sector projects in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid, XEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid, along with other concerned officers.

The primary focus of this meeting was to evaluate the status of the power sector projects undertaken as part of the DDC, PRI grants, TSP and SSY.

During the review, it was informed that a total of 140 projects were approved, with an

impressive 15 projects already having been completed. These projects have been carefully proposed to fortify the essential infrastructure of the area, thereby ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the people of Rajouri.

Deputy Commissioner, cognizant of the importance of these projects in improving the lives of the residents of the district, stressed the urgency of expediting the allotment process. He underscored the need to adhere to strict timelines to ensure the timely completion of all projects. This commitment to adhering to schedules aligns with the goal of administration of guaranteeing continuous and adequate power supply to the public.

The DC emphasized, "Our priority is to enhance the quality

of life for our citizens by providing them with reliable power infrastructure. This review is a testament to our dedication to this cause. We are committed to creating an environment where residents can thrive, and this begins with reliable access to electricity."

By facilitating the timely completion of these projects, the District Administration aims to not only enhance the infrastructure of the region but also significantly elevate standard of living for the people of Rajouri.

The meeting ended with a call to action for all officers involved in these projects, with a renewed commitment to ensuring that the people of Rajouri can soon enjoy a better quality of life, powered by reliable and uninterrupted electricity.

## Newly constructed 180-Bedded building commissioned at GMC&AH Rajouri

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today visited Government Medical College and Associated Hospital (GMC&AH) to ensure smooth operation of the newly constructed 180-bedded additional building there.

The newly constructed building is set to address the growing healthcare needs of the community, with

two vital departments, Ophthalmology and Radiation Oncology, now operational within its premises. The strategic implementation of these departments aligns with a holistic approach to healthcare, covering both preventive and specialized medical services.

The expansion has augmented the total bed capacity of the hospital to 500, a noteworthy achievement that is expected to alleviate patient load, reduce waiting times,

and elevate the overall quality of patient care. This milestone underscores the dedication of the administration to meet the rising demands for healthcare services in Rajouri and its surrounding areas.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of this expansion, stating, "The new building is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing accessible and high-quality healthcare to the people of Rajouri.

The addition of specialized departments will enhance the capability of the hospital to address diverse medical needs effectively."

The increased capacity is poised to make a tangible difference in the lives of the residents, ensuring that they have timely access to advanced medical treatments. The additional beds and improved facilities are expected to enhance the operational efficiency of the hospital and create a more con-

ducive environment for both patients and healthcare professionals.

This development is a stride forward in the continuous efforts to bolster the healthcare infrastructure in Rajouri. The administration expresses gratitude to all stakeholders, including the hospital staff, for their tireless efforts in making this expansion a reality. The newly inaugurated building stands as a symbol of progress and a promise to prioritize the well-being of the

community.

Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria, and Medical Superintendent of Associated Hospital GMC Rajouri, Dr Mehmoed Hussain Bajar; Dr Javed Ahmed; Dr Shazia Qayoom HOD Department Ophthalmology and Dr Abdul Hakeem HOD Department of Radiation Oncology/Radiotherapy were also present.

## Deputy Commissioner Rajouri inspects progress on NH144A Widening Project

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal on Saturday conducted a comprehensive inspection to meticulously review the progress on the ongoing widening project of NH144A at different construction sites.

This ambitious initiative comprises eight distinct packages, all united in the common objective of enhancing transportation efficiency and connectivity for the residents of Rajouri. Envisioned to bring about a transformative impact, the expanded road is poised not only to facilitate smoother travel but also to invigorate economic opportunities and trade within the region.

The thorough evaluation took place at the Chingus site, where the pivotal wet mix macadamization work is



currently in progress. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, during his visit, underscored the paramount importance of expeditiously completing the project while maintaining unwavering commitment to the highest quality standards.

He emphasized that this infrastructural metamorphosis is destined to yield far-reaching benefits, impacting both residents and businesses, and thereby contributing significantly to the overall progress of the region.

"The widening of the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway stands as a monumental stride towards fostering growth and development in Rajouri. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the seamless execution of this project, upholding the pinnacle of quality standards," remarked Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, emphasizing the gravity of this transformative initiative.

This endeavor signifies a momentous step towards realizing

the visionary goal of an interconnected and prosperous Rajouri. The administration, in collaborative efforts with various stakeholders, remains resolute in its commitment to fulfilling this promise.

The ultimate aim is to provide residents with a brighter future, characterized by a well-connected transportation network that transcends existing limitations. As the relentless work on NH144A progresses, the people of Rajouri are fervently anticipating the culmination of this transformative project, eagerly awaiting the manifold benefits it promises to usher into their lives.

Among the others, OC BRO, Ankit Sharma and Assistant Commissioner Defence, Saleem Quershii besides other BRO officials accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during his visit.

## KCCI expresses grief and sorrow about the fire incident in Dal Lake

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 11: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc) expressed its grief and sorrow about the fire incident in Dal Lake that occurred today the 11th of November, 2023 in the wee hours. The five Houseboats worth crores of rupees reported completely gutted in the fire incident is indeed a great loss to the heritage houseboat population. The President KCCI, Javid Ahmad Tenga urge and expect that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT, J&K, Mr. Manoj Sinha will have the loss assessed and extend necessary moral and monetary compensation to the victims of the fire incident and help them rehabilitate on war footing basis. While the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry stand with the affected families in this hour of their grief, it has impressed upon the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to issue quick permission for reconstruction of these gutted houseboats and supply the required quantity of timber-suitable class at the earliest.

## DC Ramban reviews ICDS sector, applauds progress

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, Nov 11: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary today conducted a meticulous review of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) sector in Ramban District. The review encompassed a thorough evaluation of ongoing schemes and initiatives geared towards enhancing the well-being of beneficiaries, with a specific focus on women and children.

Highlighting the district's prowess, PO ICDS, in a detailed presentation, said that Ramban's ICDS projects are taking lead in implementation, beneficiary care, and overall

outcomes. Notably, the district secured the top rank on the Poshan tracker, surpassing all others in the Union Territory in recent months. This achievement follows a commendable ascent, with Ramban jumping from the 19th position to clinch the leading rank in implementation of parameters in just six months.

The ICDS infrastructure in the district boasts 802 functional Anganwadi Centres, strategically distributed between 771 rural and 32 urban centres. To ensure effective monitoring, all 802 centres have been geographically tagged. The district benefits from a robust workforce, with 715 Anganwadi work-

ers and 756 Anganwadi helpers actively contributing to the cause. A recent recruitment drive further fortified the team, bringing in 65 Sanginis (AWWs) and 68 Helpers (AWHs).

In terms of beneficiaries, a total of 23,708 individuals, including 2,179 pregnant and lactating women, are registered, with 22,163 Aadhaar verifications completed.

The district's ICDS initiatives adopt a three-pronged focus, encompassing nutritional support for beneficiaries (SNP), early childhood care and education (ECCE), and enhanced healthcare for children and women.

Critical to the success of these endeavors are

the capacity-building initiatives undertaken. All Anganwadi workers have received training in early childhood care & education, technological tools for monitoring, and an emphasis on nutrition and health tracking.

The Deputy Commissioner commended the progress and achievements of the ICDS sector in Ramban. During the review meeting, he directed the ICDS authorities to maintain a continuous follow-up on malnourished children and women, ensuring prompt tracking and implementation of corrective measures. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated his commitment to prioritizing the well-being of the community, particularly the vulnerable sections.



**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BILLAWAR**  
Email:- Xenpwdbillawar@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 06 of 2023-24 Dated 08-11-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of balance work of PHC Karanwara, Kathua	PWD (R&B) Division Billawar	85.02	1500/-	2% of Adv. Cost (Rs. 170040/-)	12 Months	25/11/2023 (1200 hours)	'A'

**Position of AAA** :- **Accorded**  
**Technical Sanction** :- **Sanctioned**  
**Position of Funds** :- **Demanded**  
**Intending Department** :- **Directorate of Health Services, Jammu.**

(i) If the contractor / firms fails to complete the work within the time mentioned in the NIT / Contract, then the allotted contract will automatically treated as cancelled after forfeiting the performance security of the contractor / firm and work put to fresh tender without serving any notice from this office.

(ii) 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	08-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-11-2023 to 24-11-2023 upto 1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	10-11-2023 at 1000 hours
4	Bid Submission End Date	24-11-2023 upto 1600 hours
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25-11-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No., name of work e-NIT No. & dt: duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar and upload the same i.e treasury challan Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar. The CDR/FDR/BG 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 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance.

**DIP/J-10917/23**

## EDITORIAL

RESERVATION-MERE  
POLITICS OR MORE

India is the only country in the world where reservation is provided on the grounds of caste in the educational institutes, government jobs etc.

During the framing of constitution the legendary leaders of the country supported and included the reservation criterion for the SCs and STs of the country. The policy was made an integral part of Constitution by the efforts of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, regarded as the father of the Indian constitution, who participated in Round Table Conferences and fought for the rights of depressed class.

In 1935 the British passed the Government of India Act 1935. The Act brought the term "Scheduled Castes" into use, and defined the group as including "such castes, races or tribes or parts of groups within castes, races or tribes, which appear to His Majesty in Council to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as the 'Depressed Classes', as His Majesty in Council may prefer."

Our mother India has been facing the politics from years, pre-independence was the period when the Britishers exploited the discrimination on the basis of caste under the motto "divide and rule" and coming back to the present this reservation is literally a vote bank gimmick and the OBC reservation add pepper to it.

We need to work on grass roots. Special schools should be made for SC and ST where best teachers should be employed to teach them who will build them upto the level of upper category students. For competitions, copious number of coaching institutes should be setup for them and that too should be cost free.

If this country wants equality in practical sense the practice of introducing self with our surname should be discouraged and the schools or the higher educational institute should admit the students with his name only excluding his caste.

It is well said "we can change the system by being in the system" complying this, I would like to express some measures within the reservation policies.

If the reservation is that mandatory then the community list should be regulated every year. The reservation policy advocates equality and provision of rights but if it is capitalized by few SC/ST communities like meena, then again everyone would long to know what is the fate of the upliftment of the rest SC/ST communities.

Coming to the OBC reservation its a masterpiece of the astute political leaders and vote bank based politics of this largest democratic country. OBC also includes some castes that have never been assaulted and some of them are rich land owners too for e.g. yadav. From which angle or criterion they have been included in backward list. It is said that it is framed to uplift those communities who have been neglected during the SC/ST survey. My point is why the SC/ST list amended wasn't and those neglected communities are included.

People respect the cause with which this quota system was framed during the drafting of the constitution. But the way it has shaped up is definitely not fruitful to the community for which it has been made.

The politicians should think of the country and should halt their avarice of being the ruling party by adopting some vote bank based strategies and policies and start stalking some policies which can actually unite this country.

## Light up Lives, Not the Skies: A Call for Eco-Friendly Deepawali



By: Dr. Ashaq Hussain

No crackers roar, no skies ablaze, Nature's harmony, let's embrace

Candles flicker, gentle and kind, A celebration of heart and mind

Deepawali, commonly known as Diwali, is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in India and around the world. Rooted in Hindu mythology, this festival symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Over the years, Deepawali has evolved into a joyous occasion marked by vibrant decorations, delicious feasts, and the iconic burst of firecrackers. While the latter has become an integral part of the celebration, it is crucial to re-evaluate the environmental impact of this tradition and consider the need to celebrate Deepawali without firecrackers.

Deepawali has a rich cultural and historical significance that dates back thousands of years. It is associated with various legends and stories from Hindu mythology, most notably the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating the demon king Ravana. The lighting of oil lamps, or diyas, is believed to symbolize the people of Ayodhya lighting up their homes to welcome Lord Rama. This tradition has endured through the centuries, symbolizing the triumph of righteousness and the dispelling of darkness. Over time, Deepawali has evolved

into a multicultural celebration, embraced by people of various faiths and backgrounds, promoting unity and the spirit of togetherness.

In the past, Deepawali celebrations were characterized by a simple yet profound observance of traditions. Traditionally, Deepawali was used to be celebrated by lighting oil lamps, decorating homes with colorful rangoli, exchanging gifts and sweets, and spending quality time with family and friends and additionally, the worship of Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity was also used to be a part of celebrations to invite good fortune into one's home. These customs reflect the essence of Deepawali as a festival of joy, love, and spiritual enlightenment with emphasis on fostering unity and acknowledging the importance of inner spiritual illumination. However, with time, the celebration has taken on a more extravagant form, with the introduction of elaborate firework displays and bursting of firecrackers has become synonymous with Deepawali celebrations.

Infact, the loud and colourful explosions were initially believed to drive away evil spirits, adding a sense of festivity to the occasion. However, the indiscriminate use of firecrackers has led to significant concerns in modern times as Firecrackers contain various chemicals that can be harmful to both the environment and human health. The combustion of these fireworks releases toxic substances such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, heavy metals like lead and cadmium, and particulate matter into the air. These pollutants contribute to air pollution, respiratory problems, and can even have detrimental effects on the cardiovascular system.

Moreover, the heavy metals

accumulate in the environment over time, posing a risk to plants, animals, and humans. Inhaling the smoke produced by fireworks can also be harmful, especially for individuals with respiratory issues. In addition to air pollution, the residues from firecrackers contaminate soil and water sources, posing a threat to ecosystems and aquatic life. Furthermore, the loud noise produced by firecrackers have adverse effects on hearing, especially for those in close proximity to the explosions. The sudden loud sounds cause stress, anxiety, and hearing damage. The excessive use of fireworks also poses fire hazards, leading to accidents and injuries. Thus, today we are enough aware of the ecological consequences of our actions, so it is crucial to reconsider the necessity of using firecrackers in Deepawali celebrations and say no to noise, yes to nature so as to celebrate Diwali with a Green Signature.

Thus, at present considering the harmful effects and growing awareness about the environmental challenges and health impact of fireworks that we face today, there is an urgent need to revisit our traditions and adopt more ecofriendly and sustainable practices to celebrate deepawali and do believe that celebrating Deepawali without firecrackers does not diminish the essence of the festival; rather, it aligns with the principles of environmental conservation and a responsible religious citizen. Many individuals and communities have already embraced ecofriendly Deepawali celebrations, focusing on traditional customs that promote harmony with nature.

Thus, it is imperative to acknowledge that the essence of the festival lies in the values it represents - the triumph of

good over evil and the spread of light. Thus, there is a growing need to shift the focus from extravagant firework displays to more sustainable and eco-friendly celebrations so as to preserve the true spirit of Deepawali and address environmental concerns. Embracing eco-friendly practices such as decorating with traditional diyas, opting for sustainable materials in decorations, and engaging in community service can help maintain the festive atmosphere without compromising the environment. Thus, this Deepawali is a time for joy, reflection, and cultural unity. As we celebrate this festival, it is essential to recognize the impact our traditions can have on the environment. By choosing to celebrate Deepawali without firecrackers, we contribute to the well-being of our planet and future generations. Choosing today to celebrate Deepawali without firecrackers, we can contribute to a healthier planet while upholding the core values that make this festival truly special. Thus, it is the time to redefine our festivities, embracing a more conscious and responsible approach to celebrate the essence of Deepawali. In doing so, we honor the spirit of Deepawali and contribute to the broader goal of creating a cleaner, healthier planet for all. Let today all we "Say No to Smoke, Yes to Smile: Eco Diwali, Celebrate in Style. To end with wish you all a Green and ecofriendly Diwali for a Bright Future.

(Dr. Ashaq Hussain is Associate Professor Chemistry at Govt Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu and can be reached at [joinchemistry@gmail.com](mailto:joinchemistry@gmail.com))

## The Suffocating Wind snatching away the Colours of Childhood



By: Vijay Garg

The suffocating air is creating innumerable problems for the school children of the capital Delhi and surrounding areas on the front of physical health, education and human nature. These days, amid increasing pollution in Delhi, school holidays have been extended and children of older classes have been given the option of online studies. The dangerous conditions of air pollu-

tion have reached the highest level in terms of health, and the health risks of children are now in front of us in the form of diseases. Even the children in the womb are coming into the world with many diseases due to this poison being breathed in. This has also changed Balman's behavior. Pollution is having adverse effects on the mental health of children. Contaminated air is also increasing anger, irritability and stress in the new generation. Pollution in Delhi, which is among the most polluted cities of the world, is becoming a big problem for school students every year. The air becoming more poisonous year after year is endangering the lives of children from many aspects. experts. According to the WHO, the most dangerous level of airborne pollution

occurs between 5 to 8 in the morning. This is the time for children to go to school. Toxic breath, which poses a health risk to people of all ages, causes more damage to the soft organs of children. Even the fetus is not untouched by this. Some time ago, after a study conducted on 45 thousand babies who lost their lives in the mother's womb in 137 countries of the world including India, it came to light that the cause of death of 40 percent of these unborn babies was air. The PM present in the air was 2.5 particles. Due to polluted air, the incidence of diseases like pneumonia, heart disease, bronchitis and asthma increases in children. Air pollution is becoming a major cause of lung infection in children under five years of age. Due to the poison dissolved in the air, the risk of

diseases like confusion and loss of memory power is also increasing in the new generation. Breathing polluted air also has adverse effects on children's sleep. Stress hormones increase due to pollutants entering the body through breath. Not only this, due to polluted air Children feel lonely due to less outdoor activities in indoor conditions. Undoubtedly, due to suffocation, every aspect of children's life is being adversely affected. In such a situation, instead of blaming, appropriate action is necessary on every front. In inheritance to children The environment for living a healthy life is most important.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout)

## B2V-5 Programme in full swing at Anantnag; 177 panchayats covered in phase-Ist

### Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Nov 11: The first round of phase five of Back to Village (B2V-5) programme concluded today in 177 panchayats at Anantnag.

The outreach programme witnessed huge public participation across all areas reflecting the success of the programme and high expectations of the people on the UT Govt. and District Administration in bringing a positive change for progress, development, and prosperity of the region.

The Visiting/ Prabhari Officers (VOs) on day 2nd along with supporting staff and field functionaries of the line departments listened to villagers participating in the Gram Sabhas and prepared the Gram



Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) as per their wishes.

The Prabhari Officers also ensured the awareness and saturation of all the government schemes. They submitted the report of their visit, aspirations, and feedback of the people, in a designated portal and also shared a hard copy of the same in the district level cell created for the compilation of the data/ reports.

The VOs exhorted upon the penetration of online services in the rural population to expedite the public services delivery in a transparent manner.

They also inspected various government institutions viz schools, Anganwadi Centres, Ration depots, Health institutions, Patwar khanas, Panchayat Ghars etc.

The VOs on the occasion visited the sites of

ongoing and completed works under MGN-REGA, Capex Budget, PMAY, SBM, and other such schemes.

Interaction meetings with the general public, especially youth, awareness on Self-Employment schemes, feedback on welfare schemes, services delivery, and the punctuality of officials in the villages was reviewed by the visiting officers.

The resource persons

of various departments also educated the public about scores of welfare schemes and programmes being implemented in the district and motivated them to avail the benefits of the same.

The mega outreach programmes in Anantnag under the unique initiative of the UT Government, is being supervised and managed by the District Administration Anantnag under the leadership of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, SF.Hamid.

Officers said that the B2V-5 Programme is aimed to involve the general public and government officials in a joint effort to deliver the mission of equitable development in rural areas.

## Round II of B2V-5 concludes at Shopian, covering 34 panchayats



### Top News Report

SHOPIAN, Nov 11: On the concluding day of round second of ongoing Back to Village (B2V5) programme, 34 Visiting/Prabhari Officers continued their visit to designated panchayats across Shopian district, interacting with the public on various issues of public importance.

During these programmes, a variety of stalls were installed by concerned departments to showcase the flagship schemes and other services being provided by them for the convenience of the people.

The Visiting Officers (VOs) also held scores of Gram Sabhas and delved into different policy issues and discussed the development plans of panchayats. They also inspected several community institutions, including schools, health centres, anganwadi centres, ration depots and other government offices. They also assessed ongoing and completed works, reinforcing the importance of effective project execution.

In addition, the Prabhari Officers inaugurated various essential projects. These devel-

opmental works are expected to make a significant impact on the lives of the local population.

During these programmes, the cultural dimension was equally vibrant with songs, dramas and folk shows held in schools, besides cleanliness drives, plantation drives and issuance of land passbooks also held. The VOs dedicated efforts towards raising awareness about digital services, transparency, a corruption-free system and the vision of a Nasha Mukta (drug-free) India among the public.

## DLSA Budgam to organise 4th National Lok Adalat on December- 9

### Top News Report

BUDGAM, Nov 11: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority is going to organize 4th National Lok Adalat on 09-12-2023 within the premises of District Court Complex Budgam and Taluka Courts at Magam, Beerwah, Chadoora and Charis-harief.

Parties or their Advocates whose cases are pending before any Court at District Court Complex Budgam and before Taluka Courts and are desirous to settle their cases/ claims/matters through the Lok Adalat scheduled herein above shall approach the concerned Courts by or before 05-12-2023.

Besides parties whose cases are not pending (i.e. Pre Litigation

matters) in any court but desires to settle their disputes can also approach Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam on cell no's 7006884946, 6005861030 and 9906921210 email id: dlsabudgam2020@gmail.com by or before 05-10-2023, So that their cases, claims or matters can be settled amicably in the National Lok Adalat.

## DLSA Srinagar, GGHSS Chanpora organize Awareness program to observe 'National Education Day'

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 11: As part of calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority Srinagar, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar today celebrated National Education Day in collaboration with the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, (GGHSS) Chanpora Srinagar by organizing an awareness program at the school.

This event marks a significant milestone in the promotion of education, and also aligns with the ethos of the National Educational Policy, recognizing the fundamental right of every child to receive quality education.

In a bid to fortify the commitment to education, DLSA Srinagar has joined hands with Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Chanpora, Srinagar to amplify the impact



of educational initiatives and foster an environment where learning is not just a right but a celebrated privilege.

At the heart of this collaboration is the recognition that education is not just a privilege but a fundamental right. The right of every child to receive quality education is enshrined in the constitution, and initiatives like these reaffirm the commitment to making education accessible to all.

National Education Day,

observed annually on November 11th, commemorates the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the crucial role education plays in the holistic development of individuals and the nation as a whole.

The awareness programme commenced with the address by resource persons of DLSA Srinagar, Adv. Syed Shabana and Adv. Suhaila Ali (Panel

Lawyers) highlighting Provisions of Right to Education Amendment Act 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all Children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right.

The speakers also highlighted the recently implemented National Education Policy (NEP), which envisions a transformative and holistic approach to education. The NEP underscores the importance of an inclusive, flexible, and multidisciplinary education system that empowers students to become well-rounded, creative, and critical thinkers.

The Program was attended by the Staff members and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff of the School and students.

## Manjit Singh demands restoration of democratic system in J&K



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Demanding restoration of democratic system in J&K, the Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has impressed upon the party leaders and workers to intensify their door-to-door campaign to spread the developmental agenda of the Party.

A meeting of Apni Party's ward members was chaired by Manjit Singh at Party Office in Gandhi Nagar to discuss the political scenario and emerging situation especially after the delay in holding Panchayati Raj, Urban Local Body, and Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting had also held threadbare discussion over various issues referring to the development including poor implementation of Smart City Project, drainage/sewage, traffic jam, congested roads in old city, scattered garbage and blockage in the drainage system etc.

In his address, the Former Minister said that it is unfortunate to note about the unneces-

sary delay in restoring the democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir even as the situation is conducive, and the people have repeatedly raised their voice for the holding of Assembly Elections.

"There is a feeling among the people that they have remained unrepresented in the present form of Govt, and therefore, the officials are not listening to the people," he said, citing example of the poorly implemented Smart City Project by utilizing crores of rupees (public money) to develop / face lift Jammu City to improve basic amenities etc.

However, the Smart City Project works have caused great inconvenience to the people and the roads are being dug for one reason or another wasting the public money without any kind of accountability," he said.

He further questioned the authorities for their silence over the protection of historic sites in Jammu's historic places like Mubarak Mandi, three/four entry points at Gumat Bazaar area etc.

"It appears authori-

ties plan developments from the comfort of their offices," he said and added that the Old Railway Station at Bikram Chowk and it remains still missing and waiting for restoration. The old Railway Station Building is not visible, and the site remains completely encroached or taken over by a new concrete building which has erased Jammu and Kashmir's history.

He further appealed to the Govt to seriously work for the development, preservation and protection of historic sites in Jammu.

He said that public issues are increasing, and the authorities remain unconcerned because of the absence of an elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The holding of Assembly Elections in J&K is necessary to restore confidence with the restoration of statehood to the erstwhile state," he added. Earlier, he issued certain directions to the Party leaders and workers to hold regular interaction with the people in each ward in Jammu and listen to their grievances for early redressal of their issues.

## Annual Sports Day of APS Nagrota 2023

### Top News Report

NAGROTA, Nov 11: Army Public School, Nagrota celebrated its Annual Sports Meet 2023 in the school campus amidst great mirth, verve and camaraderie. Dr (Mrs) Punita Jain, Zonal President White Knight AWWA was the chief guest of the day. Mrs Namita Singh, Zonal Vice President White Knight AWWA, graced the occasion as guest of honour. The eventful and energetic day commenced with the traditional torch relay conducted by the senior students of the school.

The Principal of the school, Mrs Ruchi Bahl, welcomed the chief guest and all esteemed dignitaries with great fervour.

The athletes from classes 1st to 9th took part in various races viz hurdle race, basketball dribbling, 100-metre race, lemon-spoon race, duck-walk race etc. The shining stars also presented special events like march past, yoga and calisthenic drill which enthralled everyone with the synchronised and rhythmical movements.

There was a grand prize distribution ceremony wherein the winners of various races were felicitated with medals for their unwavering commitment to win. The chief guest addressed the audience with her insightful thoughts, congratulated the winners and encouraged them to take part in such events more fervently and motivated them for their future endeavours. She further unveiled the latest edition of school magazine 'Reflections'. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks followed by National Anthem.



## Baaghi greets people on the eve of historic Bandi Chhor Diwas & Diwali

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Baaghi greeted all the Sikhs across the globe on the historic 'Bandi Chhor Diwas'-to mark the release of 52 Hindu Princes from the Gwalior fort by Sixth Guru Sri Hargobind Sahib ji on the in year 1612. On this day, Sikhs recall the story of Guru Hargobind Sahib and his release from prison. The Guru sahib had refused to be released unless 52 hindu kings were also freed. Like the Guru who believed that the freedom and rights of others were more important than his own, Bandi Chhor Divas reminds us of the importance of respect, freedom, and inclusion. It marks the release of the sixth Guru, Sri Guru Hargobind sahib ji, from incarceration by the Mughals in the 17th century — and is celebrated as "Bandi Chhor" Diwas across the globe.

Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas with great joy. Families and friends would normally gather to pray, exchange sweets, and light up their homes and Gurdwaras. Diwali is a very important occasion for the Sikhs, for it is believed that it was during this time that Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji was released in 1619 AD from the Gwalior fort along with 52 other Kings. The Sikhs celebrate Diwali as the Bandhi Chor



Diwas with great fervor. This celebration is also an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the Sikhs to build the Nation and globe and also during this pandemic, said Baaghi.

Diwali is a Hindu religious festival of lights and is one of the most important festivals within Hinduism. Diwali is observed on the 15th day of Kartik, the holiest month in the Hindu lunar calendar and it is believed that on this day Lord Rama (the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu) returned from a 14-year-long exile during which he fought and won a battle against the demon king Ravan. One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance."

Baaghi said that on this auspicious occasion I wish and pray that all good values of love, compassion, tolerance, mutual respect and brotherhood become hallmark of our soci-

ety to take forward the Nation on the path of progress, prosperity and lasting peace. This festival symbolizes the triumph of truth and righteousness over falsehood and of good over evil and highlights the ethos and high values of the country's civilizational history.

He hoped that the festival would further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, brotherhood, amity, tranquility and secularism, which are the hallmarks of our glorious composite cultural traditions and prayed for the well-being of the people of the Nation. Let us light the lamps of compassion, love and righteousness and resolve to fight against environmental degradation, illiteracy, inequality, poverty, discrimination and malice. Let us combine and promote fraternity, the dignity of individual and unity and integrity of the nation, said Baaghi.

He expressed hope and prayed that a million lamps illuminating India & our hearts on this festival of lights would end the gloom of pandemic, darkness of economic recession and distress being caused to fellow citizens.

Baaghi also hoped that this festive, joyous and pious occasion will put the Nation back on to the path of progress, harmony and prosperity.

## Karan Johar announces Janhvi Kapoor, Rajkummar Rao's sports drama 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' release date

Finally, the release date for Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao-starrer 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' has been locked.

Karan Johar took his Instagram and wrote, "It's all heart and more, that makes a magical story 'pitch-er perfect'!

#MrAndMrsMahi in cinemas on 19th April, 2024."

Dharma Productions took to their official Instagram and announced the new release date.

Along with the post, they wrote, "Two hearts chasing one dream & it's just pitch-er perfect! The field is set for #MrAndMrsMahi, coming to cinemas on 19th April 2024." 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' is a sports drama. The film marks Janhvi and Rajkummar's second collaboration after 'Roohi'.

The film is directed by Sharan Sharma, who made his directorial debut with 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl'.

In May this year, after the film's wrap up, Janhvi penned a lengthy note expressing gratitude to the whole team.

"2 years since I first picked up my bat. And now we've finally wrapped #MrAndMrsMahi.. I thought I'd wake up today feeling lighter and relieved because we all gave more to this film than we thought was even possible.



But I feel kind of empty. Like a blank canvas. I feel like we've been to war and back, and I saw so many heroes in action. @vikrant\_yeligeti @abhishek-nayar we would have been lost without you'll. And I would have definitely collapsed on day 1 only @manushnandandop sir you carried us on your shoulders and made sure we reached the finish line. @anaygoswamy for making every battle look like a beautiful painting. Our entire AD team!!!! Lead by @deepu\_sharma\_ @sankyluthra you guys are the real heroes. You'll never gave up, and never stepped down in moments of adversity, you'll rose to every occasion. Fought every battle,"

she wrote.

Heaping praises on Sharan (director), Janhvi added, "@sharansharma you made sure, no matter how difficult things got, that none of us were compromising on our attempt at excellence. Under the burden of the worlds stress, still pushing, never settling. And along with @mehrotranikhil allowed us to find and create moments of truth and beauty. And gave me Mahima. Despite how hard it's been, I know she has been a gift to me that's meant more than even I'm being able to realise at this point. @rajkummar\_rao I am so lucky, to have worked with you and witnessed your genius. "You added magic to our film.

My team @rivieralynn @sushmitavankar for keeping me sane. For giving me strength. For lifting me up when I needed it. For having my back always. And making me look cute @priyanka.s.borkar on and off set support lol. @sheetal\_f\_khan @tanvichemburkar."

She also thanked Karan for believing in her. "@karanjohar I hope we've made you proud! Thank you for believing in this film the way that you have. @apoorva1972. In many ways, waking up this morning felt like a rebirth. Every act of creation is first an act of destruction". It's safe to say at many moments it felt like the grind was destroying us. And had destroyed us, mentally, physically, but I have my faith in what we have created through it. Can't wait for you guys to see it," she added.

Meanwhile, Janhvi Kapoor is all set for her upcoming Pan-India film 'Devara'.

Helmed by Koratala Siva the film stars Janhvi Kapoor, Jr NTR, and Saif Ali Khan in the lead roles.

'Devara' marks the first collaboration of Janhvi with the 'RRR' actor.

Rajkummar was recently seen in the series 'Guns & Gulaabs' which is streaming on the OTT platform Netflix.

## Nicki Minaj regrets plastic surgery



Singer-songwriter Nicki Minaj has regrets about some of her plas-

tic surgery decisions. "I guarantee you, if you change anything on your

body and do anything surgical and all this, you're going to — more than likely, not definitely, more than likely — look back one day and say, 'I was fine just the way I was'," she said.

The 40-year-old rapper confessed her regrets on Thursday's episode of The Run-Through with Vogue podcast. Nicki told podcast hosts Chioma Nnadi and Chloe Malle, "That's what happened to me. I could not believe even some of the photos that I didn't love."

During the interview, Nicki immediately told the co-hosts that she prefers not to look at older photos of herself 'because I didn't like the way I looked'. "I didn't like being skinny... It was a lot of things," she continued. And when I look back at myself now, I literally was like, 'Oh, I'm about to look like that girl again'. "The reason why I wasn't able to look back at my old photos was I didn't like the way I looked physically," Nicki added.

## Mrunal Thakur's character in 'Pippa' is actively involved in the war

Actress Mrunal Thakur will be seen in the film 'Pippa', based on the critically acclaimed novel 'The Burning Chaffees'. She is overjoyed about being a part of a film where a female character is given a well-defined arc, challenging the traditional gender norms seen in war dramas.

Mrunal plays Radha, a medical student and cryptographer, who becomes an essential part of the war alongside her siblings.

In discussing her role, Mrunal shared: "Radha is a character close to my heart. She represents the resilience and strength of women, not just emotionally, but also intellectually. It was refreshing to see a female character



actively involved in the war effort, making significant contributions through her expertise in cryptography." She said: "Pippa show-

cases a different perspective, and I am honored to bring Radha's story to life". 'Pippa', directed by Raja Menon, also stars Ishan Khatter.

## Michelle Lee shares details of towel fight scene with Katrina Kaif in 'Tiger 3'

Hollywood actress Michelle Lee, renowned for her expertise in shooting intense fight sequences, is all set to make a thrilling appearance alongside Bollywood star Katrina Kaif in the upcoming action-packed movie, 'Tiger 3'.

Michelle Lee has previously showcased her action prowess alongside Hollywood A-listers, such as Scarlett Johansson in 'Black Widow', Johnny Depp in 'Pirates of the Caribbean', Brad Pitt in 'Bullet Train', and Tom Hardy in 'Venom'.

The buzz around 'Tiger 3' skyrocketed when the trailer, featuring a sizzling towel fight scene in a Turkish hammam, was unveiled. Speaking about this adrenaline-pumping sequence, Michelle Lee stated, "I thought it was pretty epic when we were shooting it. We learned and practiced the fight for a couple of weeks before we shot it. The set design was absolutely gorgeous, and the fight was genuinely enjoyable. It was a fantastic experience to be a part of an



international film."

What's not surprising is that the towel fight scene has become one of the most talked-about aspects of 'Tiger 3', given the incredible skill and effort invested in its execution. Michelle Lee revealed that she rehearsed with Katrina Kaif for over two weeks to perfect the sequence.

Lee further praised Katrina Kaif for her dedication to action sequences, describing her as "graceful and professional."

According to Michelle, Katrina's commitment to precise movements and choreography made their collaboration seamless. Their hard work and dedication to the scene are evident as they both worked up a sweat during its execution.

The remarkable towel fight sequence in the Hammam presented its own unique set of challenges. Michelle Lee humorously commented, "One of the main challenges was definitely the wardrobe! Our towels

needed to stay in the proper place, and with so much movement and fight choreography, it was certainly a challenge. We ended up having the towels sewn closed at certain points, which greatly helped."

Another challenge was maintaining the right distance during the fight to make it look dangerous and powerful while ensuring safety. Michelle Lee quipped, "Can you imagine if I actually got her?! But I'm a professional, lol. So things went smoothly, and neither of us got hurt. We just had to make it work for the camera."

'Tiger 3', a part of the YRF Spy Universe, has been produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Maneesh Sharma. The film is scheduled for a Diwali release on November 12, featuring versions in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

The sizzling towel fight scene in 'Tiger 3' promises to be an action-packed highlight in a film that's eagerly awaited by fans of both Hollywood and Bollywood.

## Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif invite fans to celebrate Diwali with their 'Tiger 3'

One of the most successful on-screen jodis of Indian cinema, Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif, who have never had a Diwali release together are super excited to celebrate this festival with 'Tiger 3'.

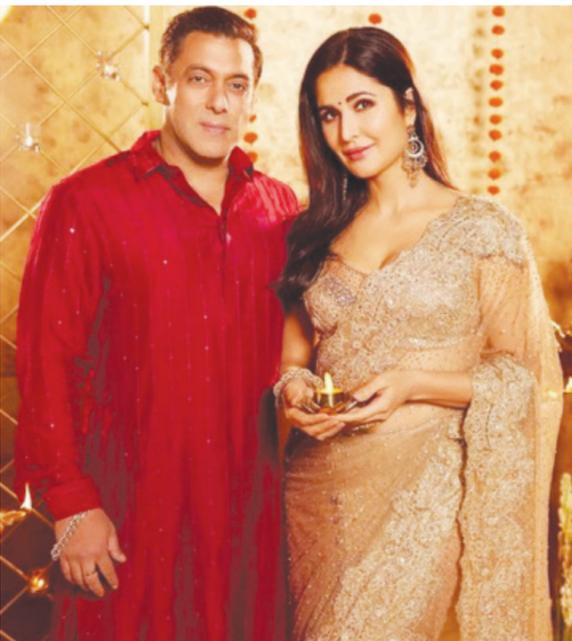
Taking to Instagram, Salman shared a picture featuring the pair to wish fans Diwali in advance.

In the picture, Salman and Katrina can be seen dressed in their traditional best.

Salman dressed in a red kurta payama, while Katrina opted for a sheer saree for the occasion. She can also be seen holding a diya in her hands.

Sharing the picture, he wrote, "Happy Diwali [?]" #Tiger3 releasing on this Sunday, 12th November in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu." As soon as the picture was uploaded, fans and industry friends chimed in the comment section.

One of the users wrote, "Wish This Was Their Real Pic Of Their Real Life This Couple." Another user commented, "They look so nice together." Salman said, "It is always special to have a release in Diwali because I have very fond memories of how the festival has always blessed me with good luck. It is quite amazing that Katrina and I, as a pair,



haven't had any Diwali release and Tiger 3 will be our first Diwali film! As co-stars, we have done films that have been loved by many people. So, if we can give them the best Diwali with Tiger 3, we would be very humbled." Katrina shared, "This Diwali is

extra special because I have a release in Tiger 3, a film which is about triumph over evil. It's also my first film with Salman to be releasing on Diwali! Salman and I are looking forward to entertaining everyone and adding even more joy and excitement

to this Diwali's festivities." She added, "This year I feel we will be celebrating Diwali with everyone all through the country with our film release and I hope we give everyone an amazing Diwali gift in Tiger 3! Diwali has a special place in the hearts of these two actors as it's loaded with nostalgia.

Salman stated, "For me, Diwali has always been that festival that brings people together, brings families together. I'm looking forward to spending this Diwali with my folks. I will watch Tiger 3 with my entire family this Diwali and I hope everyone does too and thoroughly enjoys this big screen experience." "Diwali has always been a festival all about celebration. For me, it is a festival of togetherness, love, light, celebrating our families and bonds of friendship and the acknowledgment that good will always triumph over the bad," Katrina added.

Directed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' stars Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi in lead roles.

Produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Maneesh Sharma, the film is set to hit theatres on November 12 in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

## Political innings?: Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson approached to run for the White House



Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has been approached by political parties to run in the next US election.

The wrestler-turned-actor had previously discussed the prospect of entering the political arena, and Johnson

has now revealed that he was approached by political parties about making a run for the White House. During an appearance on the What Now? with Trevor Noah podcast, Johnson shared: "At the end of 2022, representatives of various parties visited me and asked if I was going to run, and if I could run."

In 2021, a poll revealed that almost half of Americans would support the star if he decided to run for the presidency! The 51-year-old actor has admitted to being flattered by the support and said he was 'really honoured' by the result of the poll. He shared: "That was an interesting poll that happened and I was really moved by that. I was really blown away and I was really honoured."

Meanwhile, the Hollywood star suggested in 2021 that he could run for the White House in a bid to bring the country together.

## Ayodhya eyes new world record with 24 lakh diyas at 51 ghats during Deepotsav

**Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh is gearing up for the Deepotsav event, where 24 lakh diyas will be illuminated at 51 ghats, in another attempt to create a Guinness World Record.**

LUCKNOW, Nov 11 (Agencies): On the eve of Diwali, the temple town of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh will aim to set a new Guinness World Record when 24 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) will be illuminated at 51 ghats during the Deepotsav programme.

The programme is scheduled to begin at 3 pm and will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

As many as 25,000 volunteers will light 24 lakh lamps. A team from the Guinness Book of World Records will be present



ent at the Deepotsav event and count the diyas with a drone camera.

Nearly all cabinet ministers of the Uttar Pradesh government are expected to be present at

the programme in Ayodhya.

A spectacular laser show will be held after Deepotsav.

On security preparations for Deepotsav, Ayodhya Range Inspector General (IG) Praveen Kumar said, "The area has been divided into 14 police zones. We have also taken the help of Artificial Intelligence. The crowd and traffic will be regulated."

Last year, over 15 lakh diyas were lit by more than 20,000 volunteers on the banks of river Sarayu in Ayodhya, setting a new Guinness World Record.

## Clear, blue skies in Delhi, air quality improves further

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Delhiites woke up to clear, blue skies and abundant sunshine on Saturday, marking a welcome relief from the suffocating haze that persisted for around two weeks.

At 7 am, the capital's air quality index (AQI) stood at 219, which is a marked improvement compared to Thursday's 24-hour average AQI of 437.

The notable improvement is attributable to intermittent rain over the last 32 hours and wind speed favourable for the

dispersion of pollutants. The city experienced "very poor" to "severe" air quality for two weeks starting October 28.

Neighboring Gurugram (181), Ghaziabad (157), Greater Noida (131), Noida (148) and Faridabad (174) also recorded a significant improvement in air quality.

The IMD had earlier predicted a marginal improvement in the air quality just ahead of Diwali, owing to favourable meteorological conditions, including light rain, under the

influence of a western disturbance.

The western disturbance led to rain over most parts of northwest India, including Punjab and Haryana, effectively reducing the contribution of smoke from stubble-burning to Delhi's air pollution.

Once the western disturbance passes, the wind speed will increase to around 15 kilometres per hour on November 11 (Saturday) which will help disperse pollutants ahead of Diwali (November 12), an IMD official said earlier.

## 5 killed, 60 injured in bus collision on Chennai-Bengaluru highway in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Five people were killed, and about 60 passengers were injured after two buses collided head-on on the Chennai-Bengaluru national highway in Tamil Nadu's Tirupattur district early on Saturday morning, according to the police.

The State Express Transport Corporation bus, travelling from Chennai to Bengaluru, collided with a Bengaluru-bound omnibus from Chennai at Chettiyapanur around 4 am.

"The SETC bus first hit the median and then collided with the omnibus, leading to the



mishap," officials said. The fatal accident claimed the lives of four people on the spot, including a woman identified as Rithika (32) from Guduvanchery, Mohammed Firoz (37) from Vaniyambadi, the SETC bus driver K Elumalai (47), and B Ajith (25) of Chittoor. The omnibus driver, N

Syed, died later. Due to the impact of the accident, the front portions of the two vehicles were completely destroyed.

A rescue operation was launched, and the injured were shifted to nearby hospitals. Police have initiated an investigation into the incident.

## IIT KGP ranked 5th in India in QS Asia World University Ranking 2024

KOLKATA, Nov 11 (Agencies): Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has occupied overall fifth rank in India and 59th in Asia, in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia World University Rankings for 2024, the institute said in a statement on Saturday.

The largest and first IIT in the country has made its entry at the top of the QS Asia University Rankings with an overall score of 54.5, the statement said.

Being fourth among all the IITs in India and occupying the fifth spot after the Indian Institute of Science, IIT Kharagpur has performed well in parameters like inter-



national research network, papers per faculty, employer and academic reputation, and staff members with PhD.

The 2024 World University Ranking QS Asia features 148 Indian universities being

listed in total. The ranking features top universities from Asia.

Speaking on the QS Asia University Rankings 2024, Prof V K Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur, commented, "IIT Kharagpur has upheld the nation's

resolve to excel the standards of globalisation with advance manufacturing systems and transportation, safety engineering and analytics, quality and reliability, affordable healthcare, precision agriculture and food nutrition, and

smart infrastructure to contribute towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat".

"As an institute of eminence, technological research parks, centre of excellence, start-up incubators, lab to market products and nano missions are the new local ecology for innovation and technological pursuits of our institute. Successful implementation of Technology Vision 2047 as instituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi require participation of several stakeholders including government agencies, public and private enterprises, and academic and research organizations," he said.

## Four killed after oil tanker hits two vehicles on Delhi-Jaipur highway near Gurugram

GURUGRAM, Nov 11 (Agencies): Three friends were charred to death in a car and a pickup van driver died of injuries after a speeding oil tanker coming from the opposite direction collided with the vehicles on the Delhi-Jaipur highway here, police said on Saturday.

The accident occurred around 11.50 pm on Friday near Sidhrawali village, they said.

The oil tanker was coming from the Jaipur side when it smashed through the divider, went to the other side of the highway and collided with the Datsun Go car and the pickup van, police said.

The car was headed for Bhiwadi and it caught fire after the crash due to the CNG cylinders in it, they said.

The three deceased occupants of the car were identified as Jitender of Panipat's

Samalkha, Lokesh Saini of Jind's Anaj Mandi and Pawan Dubey of Bihar.

ASI Vinod Kumar said the three worked for a private company in Manesar and were going from Gurugram to Bhiwadi in Rajasthan to give a gift to a vendor.

The pickup van driver who died after his vehicle was hit by the oil tanker was identified as Trilok Sharma of Pataudi in Gurugram.

Police spokesperson Subhash Boken said, "When our police team reached the spot, the car was gutted in fire and three people were charred to death.

The driver of a pickup van also died on the spot."

An FIR has been registered against the tanker driver under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC at the Bilaspur police station, police added.

## Digvijaya Singh's "Maharaja Betrayed Congress" Jibe At Jyotiraditya Scindia

GUNA, Nov 11 (Agencies): Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh has taken a potshot at Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, saying he didn't expect that such a "king" of the Scindia family would betray Congress like this.

Mr Singh made the remark while addressing a program in Bamori assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district on Friday in view of the state assembly polls scheduled next week.

"I did not expect that such a king of the Scindia family would betray Congress like this. What did the Congress not offer him? First, they made bade Maharaja (Madhavrao Scindia) MP from here then former PMs Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi made him a minister, gave respect. Jyotiraditya Scindia came to Congress and the Congress made him MP and then minister twice. What is the reason that he left," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Mr Singh further targeted state Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia, saying he was sold out to the BJP.

"Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath made him (Mahendra Singh Sisodia) a minister on the recommendation of Jyotiraditya Scindia, but he was sold



out to the BJP," he added.

Mr Sisodia is contesting from Bamori assembly seat in next week's polls while Congress has fielded Rishi Agarwal from the seat.

Madhya Pradesh will go to polls in a single phase on November 17 and the counting of votes will take place on December 3. Voters will choose legislators for 230 Assembly constituencies.

The last state assembly polls in 2018 saw the Congress coming to power, with veteran leader Kamal Nath taking oath as the chief minister. A political upheaval rocked the state in 2020 after then-Congressman Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with 22 loyalist MLAs, switched over to the saffron camp.

The Congress government fell after being reduced to a minority and the BJP formed the government, with Shivraj Singh Chouhan returning as chief minister.

## Veteran Telugu actor Chandra Mohan passes away

HYDERABAD, Nov 11 (Agencies): Veteran Telugu actor Chandra Mohan passed away here on Saturday due to ill-health. He was 82.

Chandra Mohan, known for his versatile roles in a career spanning over five decades, was taken to a private super-specialty hospital on Saturday morning with complaints of being unresponsive for some 20 minutes.

He was suffering from cardiac problems.

Though he was resuscitated for 55 minutes, he could not be revived further and was declared dead at about 10 am, hospital sources said.

Chandra Mohan, who started his career with 'Rangula Ratnam' in 1966, acted in about 600 films.

Some of his memorable films include 'Subhodayam', 'Sirisiri Muvva', 'Sankarabharam', 'Seetamalakshmi',



'Alluri Sitarama Raju', 'Akhari Poratam', and 'Nuvvu naku Nachav'.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, actor-turned-politician and Janasena Party founder Pawan Kalyan, renowned actor and TDP MLA N Balakrishna, and TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh were among leaders who condoled the death of Chandra Mohan.

Chandra Mohan's demise is a great loss to the Telugu film industry, CM KCR said, adding he stood as an inspiration to many actors.

Also, Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer and Chief Min-

ister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed grief over the death of the veteran actor. "Nazeer expressed profound grief over the passing away of popular Tollywood actor Mallampalli Chandrasekhara Rao, widely known as Chandra Mohan, in Hyderabad on Saturday," a Raj Bhavan press release said.

The Governor noted that the versatile actor played myriad roles over the decades and won several accolades such as the Filmfare award and Nandi award.

Condoling Chandra Mohan's death, the Chief Minister highlighted that the veteran thespian had carved a niche for himself in numerous films.

Reddy said Chandra Mohan worked under great directors and production houses, conveying his condolences to the bereaved family members.

## 1 dead, several injured in stampede at Surat railway station in Gujarat

SURAT, Nov 11 (Agencies): One person was killed and several others were injured after a stampede occurred at the Surat railway station in Gujarat on Saturday.

A huge crowd of people going to their native places for Diwali had gathered at the station to travel to different states.

While boarding the train, a stampede occurred, killing one person, while several others fainted and were

injured. Immediate medical assistance was provided to the injured.

Meanwhile, Surat's MP and state railways minister, Darshana Jardosh, visited the hospital to meet the injured.

SPECIAL TRAINS DURING FESTIVAL SEASON

Chief PRO, Sumit Thakor said, "In view of the festive season, this year, Western Railways have run 46 pairs special trains with

about 400 trips covering Mumbai, Gujarat, and parts of Madhya Pradesh. Over 7 lakh passengers are travelling to their destination using these trains"

"Keeping in view the festive rush, special arrangements have been made for crowd management. Nearly 165 RPF and GRP jawans have been deployed at Surat station and additional counters have been opened," he added.

## New Karnataka BJP chief eyes 2024 Lok Sabha polls, says 'biggest challenge is...'

**BY Vijayendra, the newly appointed Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party chief, said he was focusing on the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.**

BENGALURU, Nov 11 (Agencies): Newly appointed Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief BY Vijayendra on Saturday said his biggest challenge was to retain the Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Vijayendra said, "I am thankful to the party high command for giving me this opportunity to work as the state president of the party. The biggest



challenge is to retain the Lok Sabha seats in the forthcoming elections."

Speaking about disgruntled leaders quitting the party and joining

Congress, he said, "I am in touch with unhappy leaders. Our primary goal is to strengthen PM (Narendra) Modi's brand in the Lok Sabha election."

Responding to Congress' 'dynasty politics' dig over his appointment, Vijaendra said, "People will give a befitting reply to the allegations of Congress in the Lok Sabha elections."

Vijayendra was

appointed the new chief of BJP's Karnataka unit on Friday. He replaced Nalin Kumar Kateel.

According to the appointment letter, BJP national president JP Nadda appointed Vijayendra, who was earlier the party's vice-president of the state unit, as the new in-charge with immediate effect. The development comes in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

## Israel faces pressure over Gaza deaths as fighting rages near hospitals

GAZA, Nov 11 (Agencies): Israel faced mounting international pressure, including from its main ally the United States, to do more to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza as the death toll rose and fighting intensified near and around hospitals.

The number of Palestinians killed during the bombardment of the coastal enclave in the past five weeks rose above 11,000, according to Gaza health officials, as Israeli forces waged war on Hamas militants who carried out the deadly October 7 rampage in southern Israel.

In his strongest comments to date on the plight of civilians caught in the cross-fire, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters on a visit to India on Friday: "Far too many Palestinians have been killed; far too many have suffered these past weeks."

But Blinken reaffirmed US support for Israel's campaign to ensure that Gaza can no longer be used "as a platform for launching terrorism."

French President Emmanuel Macron, in a BBC interview published late on Friday, said Israel must stop bombing Gaza and killing civilians. France, he said, "clearly condemns" the "terrorist" actions of Hamas, but that while recognising Israel's right to protect itself, "we do urge them to stop this bombing" in Gaza.

In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said world leaders should be condemning Hamas, and not Israel.

"These crimes that Hamas (is) committing today in Gaza will be committed tomorrow in Paris, New York and anywhere in the world," Netanyahu said.

Israel has said that Hamas militants, who are holding as



many as 240 hostages of different nationalities taken in last month's attack, would exploit a truce to regroup if there were a ceasefire.

Saudi Arabia will host an extraordinary joint Islamic-Arab summit in Riyadh on Saturday, the Saudi foreign ministry said.

The joint meeting "will be held in response to the exceptional circumstances taking place in the Palestinian Gaza Strip as countries feel the need to unify efforts and come out with a unified collective position," it said.

**OVERCROWDED HOSPITALS HIT BY EXPLOSIONS, GUNFIRE**

Fighting intensified overnight into Saturday near Gaza City's overcrowded hospitals, which Palestinian officials said were hit by explosions and gunfire.

"Israel is now launching a war on Gaza City hospitals," said Mohammad Abu Selmeiyah, director of Al Shifa hospital.

He said later that at least 25 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Al-Buraq school in Gaza City, where people whose homes had been destroyed were sheltering.

Gaza officials said missiles landed in a courtyard of Al Shifa, the enclave's biggest hospital, in the early hours of Friday,

damaged the Indonesian Hospital and reportedly set fire to the Nasser Rantissi paediatric cancer hospital.

Israel's military said later that a misfired projectile launched by Palestinian militants in Gaza had hit Shifa.

The hospitals, filled with displaced people as well as patients and medical staff, are in northern Gaza, where Israel says the Hamas militants are concentrated.

Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy said the Hamas headquarters was in Shifa hospital's basement, which meant the facility could lose its protected status and become a legitimate target.

Israel says Hamas hides weapons in tunnels under hospitals, charges Hamas denies.

World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that health workers the group was in contact with at Shifa had been forced to leave the hospital in search of safety.

"Many of the thousands sheltering at the hospital are forced to evacuate due to security risks, while many still remain there," Tedros wrote on social media.

'NO ONE IS SAFE'

Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra said Israel had bombed Shifa hospital buildings five times.

"One Palestinian was killed and several were wounded in the early morning attack," he said by phone. Videos verified by Reuters showed scenes of panic and people covered in blood.

Israeli tanks have taken up positions around the Nasser Rantissi hospital as well as the Al-Quds hospital, medical staff said earlier.

The Palestinian Red Cross said Israeli forces were shooting at Al-Quds hospital, and there were violent clashes, with one person killed and 28 wounded, most of them children.

Israeli army spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hecht said at a briefing the army "does not fire on hospitals. If we see Hamas terrorists firing from hospitals we'll do what we need to do. We're aware of the sensitivity (of hospitals), but again, if we see Hamas terrorists, we'll kill them." Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan said Israel had created a task force to establish hospitals in southern Gaza. On October 12, Israel ordered some 1.1 million people in Gaza to move south ahead of its ground invasion.

Palestinian officials said on Friday that 11,078 Gaza residents had been killed in air and artillery strikes since October 7.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said around 1,200 people had been killed, mostly civilians, in the Hamas attack on October 7, a revision of the earlier death toll, although it added that might change again once all the bodies are identified.

Israel has also said 39 soldiers have been killed in combat since October 7.

## Over half of Sudan's population needs humanitarian aid after nearly 7 months of war, UN says

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 11 (Agencies): Almost seven months of war between Sudan's military and a powerful paramilitary group have left a wave of destruction with over half the population in need of humanitarian aid and raised fears of a repeat of the deadly ethnic conflict in Darfur 20 years ago.

"What is happening is verging on pure evil," the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in the African nation said.

Sudan has fallen out of the spotlight since it was engulfed in chaos starting in mid-April, when simmering tensions between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and the commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open warfare.

But Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the resident UN humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, told a United Nations news conference that "the situation is horrific and grim" and "frankly, we are running out of words to describe the horror of what is happening." She stressed that "the Sudan crisis has few equals."

Fighting is continuing to rage despite the warring parties signing a statement after peace talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, pledging to protect civilians and provide unimpeded humanitarian access to the 25 million people who require assistance, she said. The warring generals made a commitment to establish a Humanitarian Forum, with UN participation, Nkweta-Salami said. And after its launch on Monday, the UN hopes that their commitments in Jeddah will be implemented.

She said the decimated health sector — with more than 70% of health facilities in conflict areas out of service — was extremely worrying giving outbreaks of cholera, dengue, malaria and measles; reports of escalating violence against civilians; and fighting spreading to Sudan's breadbasket.

"What we see is rising hunger," the humanitarian coordinator said, and high levels of malnutrition among children.

The UN is targeting about 12 million people for aid — about half those in need. But its appeal for \$2.6 billion for

the 2023 humanitarian response in Sudan is just over a third funded, and Nkweta-Salami urged donors to provide additional money.

She stressed that access to things like hotspots along with protection of civilians are key challenges.

Nkweta-Salami was asked about her comment that "what is happening is verging on pure evil," and whether she was worried that ethnic-based violence in Sudan's vast western Darfur region would lead to a repetition of the conflict there in 2003.

It began when rebels from Darfur's ethnic central and sub-Saharan African community launched an insurgency, complaining of oppression by the Arab-dominated government in the capital, Khartoum. The government responded with a scorched-earth campaign of aerial bombings and unleashed militias known as the Janjaweed, who are accused of mass killings and rapes. Some 300,000 people died in the Darfur conflict, 2.7 million were driven from their homes, and Darfur became synonymous with genocide and war crimes, particularly by the Janjaweed.

Nkweta-Salami said the UN is very worried about fighting in Darfur today and continues to raise the alarm and engage the warring parties to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians.

"We will continue to hope that we don't find ourselves treading down the same path," she said.

But fears are mounting that the horrors of Darfur 20 years ago are returning, with reports of widespread killings, rapes and destruction of villages in the region.

Nkweta-Salami said she was particularly alarmed by violence against women, "and in some cases young girls being raped in front of their mothers," as well as the harrowing stories about attacks and human rights abuses from refugees who fled Darfur to neighboring Chad.

The UN has heard of crimes against Darfur's Masalit ethnic community, which "are really egregious violations of human rights," she said, "and it must stop."

## French President Macron calls for Gaza ceasefire, Netanyahu responds

PARIS, Nov 11 (Agencies): Israel must stop bombing Gaza and killing civilians, French President Emmanuel Macron told the BBC in an interview.

Macron said there was "no justification" for the bombing and saying a ceasefire would benefit Israel.

He said that France "clearly condemns" the "terrorist" actions of Hamas, but that while recognising Israel's right to protect itself, "we do urge them to stop this bombing" in Gaza.

When asked if he wanted other leaders - including in the United States and Britain - to join his calls for a ceasefire, Macron said: "I hope they will."



Israel has faced growing calls for restraint in its month-long war with Hamas but says the Gaza-based militants, who attacked Israel on Oct. 7 and took hostages, would exploit a truce to regroup.

In a statement responding to Macron's comments, Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that world leaders should be condemning Hamas, and not Israel.

"These crimes that Hamas (is) committing today in Gaza will be committed tomorrow in Paris, New York and anywhere in the world," Netanyahu said.

Macron's interview to the BBC aired a day after a humanitarian conference on Gaza was held in Paris.

Macron said the "clear conclusion" of all governments and agencies present at that summit was "that there is no other solution than first a humanitarian pause, going to a ceasefire, which will allow [us] to protect... all civilians having nothing to do with terrorists".

"De facto - today, civilians are bombed - de facto. These babies, these ladies, these old people are bombed and killed. So there is no reason for that and no legitimacy. So we do urge Israel to stop," he said.

## Gaza In Focus As Arab Leaders, Iran President Meet In Saudi Arabia



RIYADH, Nov 11 (Agencies): Arab leaders and Iran's president are in the Saudi capital Saturday for summits expected to underscore demands that Israel's war in Gaza end before the violence draws in other countries.

The emergency meetings of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation come after Hamas militants' bloody October 7 attacks that Israeli officials say left about 1,200 people dead and 239 taken hostage.

Israel's subsequent aerial and ground offensive has killed more than 11,000 people, mostly civilians and many of them children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

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

The Arab League aims to demonstrate "how the Arabs will move on the international scene to stop the aggression, support Palestine and its people, condemn the Israeli occupation, and hold it accountable for its crimes", the bloc's

assistant secretary-general, Hossam Zaki, said this week.

But Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad on Friday said it did not "expect anything" from the meeting, criticising Arab leaders for the delay.

"We are not placing our hopes on such meetings, for we have seen their results over many years," Mohammad al-Hindi, the group's deputy secretary-general, told a press conference in Beirut.

"The fact that this conference will be held after 35 days (of war) is an indication of its outcomes."

Israel and its main backer the United States have so far rebuffed demands for a ceasefire, a position that is expected to draw heavy criticism during Saturday's meetings.

A united "diplomatic front... will generate diplomatic pressure from Arab and Muslim states," said Saudi analyst Aziz Alghashian.

Criticism from regional leaders so far indicates "that this is not just about Israel-Palestine -- this is about what is facilitating Israel to do this, which is basically the United

States and the West", he added.

That clash has been on display during US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visits to the region, as well as during a stop this week in Riyadh by British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, who met with a number of his Arab counterparts who have called for a ceasefire.

"What we have said is that calling for a ceasefire is understandable, but what we also recognise is that Israel is taking action to secure its own stability and its own security," Cleverly said.

"Of course we want to see this terrible situation resolved as quickly as possible. The immediate challenge is the humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza. That's why we are focusing on that."

- Raisi to Riyadh - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's expected attendance at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting will be his first trip to Saudi Arabia since the two Middle East heavyweights reached a surprise rapprochement deal in March, ending seven years of severed

ties. Iran backs Hamas as well as Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Huthi rebels, placing it at the centre of concerns the war could expand.

The conflict has already fuelled cross-border exchanges between the Israeli army and Hezbollah, and the Huthis have claimed responsibility for "ballistic missiles" the rebels said targeted southern Israel.

Analysts say Saudi Arabia feels vulnerable to potential attacks because of its close ties with the Washington and the fact that it was considering normalising ties with Israel before the war broke out.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Friday condemned "continued violations of international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupation forces," his first public comments on the war, though Riyadh has levelled similar criticism in multiple statements.

Kim Ghattas, author of a book on the Iran-Saudi rivalry, said during a panel organised by the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington that "the Saudis are hoping that the fact they didn't normalise yet, and the fact that they have a channel to the Iranians, gives them some protection."

"And I think the Iranians are hoping that the fact that they're in touch with the Saudis and maintaining that channel, that it gives them some protection too."

## Pakistan ex-PM Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi likely to be arrested: Sources

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11 (Agencies): Bushra Bibi, wife of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan who is currently jailed, might also be arrested in the near future, sources said.

The informed sources said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is cross checking certain pieces of "evidence", which if confirmed, will change the status of Bushra Bibi from a "witness" to "accused" and she might be arrested as well, The News reported.

The evidence, it is said, pertains to some financial transactions that Bushra Bibi allegedly received.

The latest report, leaked to the media and

the follow-up press conferences on the subject by PML-N and MQM, about Farah Shahzadi are also a prelude to some added problems for Imran Khan.

Meanwhile, the NAB has also accelerated its probe towards conclusion in Imran Khan's alleged corruption cases - Toshakhana and the UK's NCA (National Crime Agency).

The NAC's 190 million pounds case is also known as the Al-Qadir Trust case.

According to the sources, the Bureau may soon conclude these probes and decide about filing of references against Imran Khan.

On Thursday, news about the alleged corruption of Farah



Shahzadi was reported by different TV channels while quoting government sources.

Later, PML-N's Atta Tarar held a detailed press conference on Farah's alleged corruption and linked her with Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, The News reported.

It was claimed that Farah's declared and non-declared assets had grown by a staggering 4,520 million PKR from 2017 to 2020. It was reported,

"The government sources released a public report on Thursday, alleging Farah Gogi did massive corruption during the PTI government. Over Rs14 billion are lying in 102 bank accounts of Farah Gogi, her husband Ahsan Jamil Gujjar and their partners. The declared and non-declared assets of Farah Shahzadi alias Farah Gogi increased by Rs 4,520 million from 2017 to 2020."

# Kishtwar To Emerge As North India's Major 'Power Hub': Dr Jitendra

KISHTWAR, Nov 11 (Agencies) : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy & Department of Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said today that Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar is all set to emerge North India's major "power hub" generating around 6,000 MW of power after the completion of the ongoing power projects.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who was an extensive tour of the remote and peripheral areas of the hill district of Kishtwar, visited Gulabgarh in the Paddar area and far-off village of Massu, where he also inaugurated the new School set up by "Shiksha Bharti" for the village children.

The Union Minister, who is also a known Physician and Diabetologist, also participated in the Multi Speciality Medical Camp organised by the Indian Army at village Gulabgarh.

Later, Dr Jitendra Singh held public

interactions in remote village Massu as well as in Gulabgarh, in the presence of the district administration officers. He also addressed the local PRIs including BDC Members, Councillors, Sarpanches as well as prominent activists of the region.

During his address and later speaking to the media, Dr Jitendra Singh said that 6 to 7 major Hydro power projects have come in the region in a short span of 9 to 10 years ever since Shri Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister.

Elaborating on this, he pointed out that the largest capacity project is Pakal Dul with a capacity of 1000 MW. Its estimated cost, as of now, is Rs.8,112.12 crore and expected timeline of completion is 2025. Another major project is Kiru Hydroelectric project with a capacity of 624 MW. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4,285.59 crore and the timeline in this case is also 2025, he said.

The Minister further informed that at

the same time, 850 MW Rattle project has been revived as a joint venture between the centre and UT of J&K. In addition, the existing Dulhasti power station has an installed capacity of 390 MW, while Dulhasti II Hydroelectric project will have a capacity of 260 MW.

Dr Jitendra Singh said these projects shall not only augment the power supply position thereby making up for the shortage of power supply in the UT of J&K, but the huge investment being made for construction of these projects is also a boost for direct as well as indirect opportunities for the local people.

For six long decades, said Dr Jitendra Singh, the successive governments at the Centre and the State had ignored Kishtwar region because of their vote bank politics. It was only after Prime Minister Modi took over that he changed the work culture and ensured that all neglected regions would be given their due attention and priority so that they may also rise to the same

level.

For example, he said, for several years, people here had been agitating and demanding a Degree college for Paddar but Congress and National Conference governments deliberately ignored this demand. It was only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014 that a Degree college was sanctioned for Paddar under Centre's scheme RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan).

Citing another example, Dr Jitendra Singh said that before 2014, road travel to Kishtwar was cumbersome and on the slightest landside, the Doda-Kishtwar road got blocked. But today, the road travel time from Jammu to Kishtwar has reduced from over 7 hours in 2014 to less than 5 hours now. Similarly, he said, during these 9 years, Kishtwar has come up on the Aviation Map of India and has been sanctioned an airport under Centre's UDAAN Scheme, which nobody had

ever imagined.

Similarly, Dr Jitendra Singh said, three new national highways including Khilani-Sudhmahadev Highway, a series of Degree Colleges, mobile towers enroute Machail Yatra and other remote areas have also come up during the Modi government, he said.

As for Machail, Dr Jitendra Singh said, mobile towers have been set up, multiple toilet complexes constructed and solar plants installed for regular power supply, and all this happened only after 2014. Not only this, the motorable road to Machail is under fast track construction and the day is not far when Kishtwar to Machail travel would be just about 1 1/2 to 2 hours, he added.

Meanwhile, the Multi speciality medical camp organised by the Army at Gulabgarh provided medical care to nearly 2,000 patients. All the villagers registered for the camp were ushered to General OPD, where Medical Officers and Specialists elicited the clinical

details and advised investigations, where required. The cases of Anaemia, Hypertension, Diabetes, Migraine, Cervical Spondylosis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis were diagnosed and managed. The Medical Specialist provided consultation and treatment to the patients. Patients with diabetes were counselled for dietary modification. Patients with known Hypertension were educated about the diseases and their antihypertensive medications were optimised as per their recorded BP in camp with healthy dietary advice. Patients with tuberculosis were counselled for anti-tubercular drug treatment with advice to follow up at DOTS Centers.

Dr Jitendra Singh thanked the Army and the team led by Major General Shivendra Singh for providing the much needed medical facilities to this remote hilly rural area. He said, the people of this region are eagerly thankful to the Army who has stood by them during the time of terrorism and also come forward to serve them at the time of peace.

## GDC Marh observes National Education Day

**Top News Report**  
JAMMU, Nov 11: To celebrate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India, Government Degree College Marh today observed National Education Day in virtual mode under the supervision of Principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The principal emphasized the need to connect with elders, reduce the screen time and celebrate forthcoming Diwali by not creating air, water, sound pollution as the air pollution deteriorates the health of senior citizens. The

theme of the programme selected was Embracing Innovation which highlights the significance of innovative approaches to promote creative forward thinking teaching methods.

Under the mentioned theme HOD department of Education Dr. Ashu Jolly initiated a new project "EACH ONE TEACH ONE ADULT ILLITERATE" where in all the students of different semesters/ department gave basic literacy to the adults at their homes and locality and boosted them to have self confidence among themselves as citizen of democratic country



Bharat. They were also motivated to become active learners in the basic skills of a healthy life. The data regarding the problems faced by adults in the society as illiterate was also collected and it was decided that the college shall continue the project, initiated, seeking help from local administration

also. The adults, especially females, actively participated and cooperated and had basic learning.

Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul congratulated the HOD Education and all the students for this innovative approach and becoming responsible citizens of society, locality and family.

The local areas in the periphery of the college covered under this project include Ghou Manhasan, Bhadrora, Thub, Dhateriyal, Gajansoo, Nagbani, Plasran and Sangrampur.

The students who actively imparted literacy to their elders are Priya Sharma of village Karloop, Priyanka of village Thub, Mansha Meenia roll no 112 1st sem, Palvi Jagotra roll no 9 1st sem, Ritika 3rd sem, Abhay Singh Jamwal 1st sem, Raveena Kousar roll no 2, Rahul 1st sem, Ketan 1st sem, Vanshika Bhagat roll no 104, Khushi Choudhary roll no 4 1st sem and Damini Sharma 1st sem.

## Doda: 487 PMAY (U) houses completed, work on 1046 underway across 3 Municipal Townships

**Top News Report**  
DODA, Nov 11: To evaluate the implementation and progress under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Urban, a meeting of the Officers of line Departments was held today here under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Harvinder Singh.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Chowdhary Dil Mir, Chief Planning Officer, Suresh Kumar, ACD Doda Phulail Singh; besides officers of Housing Board and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

At the outset, the CPO presented a detailed appraisal about the implementation of the PMAY-Urban scheme in different parts of the District. The DC was apprised that as on date, as many as have been completed so far in

Municipal Council Doda and twin Municipal Committees of Bhaderwah and Thathri. It was further given out that more than 1046 houses are at different phases of construction.

The meeting was also apprised about the release of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd installments in favour of beneficiaries who have started construction of their houses under PMAY (U) in the district. The DC was also apprised that an amount of Rs 16.50 crores have been disbursed till date in the accounts of genuine beneficiaries after following due procedure and multilevel verification.

Pertinent to mention that Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) has been launched by the Government with the aim to provide ease of living to weaker sections in urban areas.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure the completion of ongoing works by 31st of December 2023. DFOs have been asked to provide timber to the beneficiaries under PMAY on priority basis so that their houses can be completed timely and houseless are provided their own permanent houses. He asked the concerned to ensure that the scheme guidelines are followed in letter and spirit so that all genuine eligible beneficiaries are benefited under the PMAY-U scheme in the District. He impressed upon the field functionaries to follow the robust mechanism already put in place to ensure immediate verification and processing of cases at each stage of construction and consequent disbursement of payments to the verified beneficiaries under the scheme.

## DC inspects key tourism potential localities, roads in Bhaderwah Valley

**Top News Report**  
DODA, Nov 11: To assess the availability of local infrastructure, Harvinder Singh, District Development Commissioner Doda, today undertook a comprehensive tour of Bhaderwah and inspected assets created by Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA) at key tourist spots in the area.

The focal points of the inspection tour were the Tourist Convention Centre Tilligarh Resort, Yatri Niwas building, Gupt Ganga Temple, Vasuki Nag Temple, and the surrounding roads.

During the inspection, the DDC was accompanied by ADC Bhaderwah Chowdhary Dil Mir, CEO of BDA Bal Krishan, ACD Phulail Singh, Tehsildar, BDO and other prominent figures. The DDC exhorted for ensuring the vital tourist facilities are well-maintained and equipped to cater to the needs of residents and visitors alike.

The team examined the Tourist Convention Center, emphasizing its role as a potential hub for tourism activities. Yatri Niwas, Gupt Ganga Temple, and Vasuki Nag Temple were also visited, and directions were passed to maintain their sanctity, safety, cleanliness for religious and tourism purposes.

Furthermore, the inspection extended to the external and internal roads to assess their condition and identify any areas requiring immediate attention. The proactive approach by the District Administration underscores its commitment to foster a conducive environment for both residents and tourists in Bhaderwah.

Harvinder Singh emphasized the importance of regular inspection of the assets by the concerned officers to ensure that the vital facilities are well-maintained and able to meet the growing demands of the community.

## DC Ramban reviews preparations for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

**Top News Report**  
RAMBAN, Nov 11: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today asked the stakeholder departments to gear up for making foolproof arrangements for the upcoming Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma was also present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure maximum public participation, particularly youth in Yatra which aim to raise awareness about the Government's achievements and extend benefits of Centrally Sponsored Schemes among beneficiaries.

It was informed that a Digital Van will traverse all Panchayats delivering the Prime Minister's message and hosting promotional events. The district administration will prepare a comprehensive schedule to cover all blocks and urban areas, with Nodal Officers assigned spe-

cific duties for a smooth yatra passage, the meeting was informed.

During the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of flagship schemes and underlined the need for effective projection of the same to maximize their impact.

Directing to set up a control room at district headquarters, the DC also constituted a team headed by the ADDC composed of ADC and other senior officers at district level. The Sub Division Magistrates and Tehsildars will head the committees at respective Sub Division and Tehsil levels. He further directed officers to prepare action plans for their departments and stay informed about the schemes, latest data of beneficiaries and scheme coverage.

The DC directed ADDC to depute senior officers in blocks to coordinate the arrangements for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, besides organizing training sessions for the officers and resource persons of line

departments.

Meanwhile, SSP suggested that the family members of the Martyrs would be honoured during the Sankalp Yatra, ensuring that they are getting benefits of the schemes meant for them and for which they are eligible.

Prominent schemes slated for promotion include PM Vishwakarma, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Mudra Loan, PMSGP, Mumkin, Poshan Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, PM Awas Yojana (Rural), PM Kisan Saman, Kisan Credit Card, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Har Ghar Jal - Jal Jeevan Mission, etc.

Among others, ADDC, Rajinder Sharma, PO ICDS, Jehangir Hashmi, ADC Harbans Sharma, ACR Giasul Haq, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Dy.DEO, ACD, Chief Planning Officer, and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

## Doda admin undertakes household survey to identify substance abuse cases

**Top News Report**  
DODA, Nov 11: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh today asked the stakeholder Departments (s) to ensure effective working of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Rehabilitation Centres, besides other measures to reduce the substance abuse in the district, for making Doda drugs free.

The nodal officer for ATF, Dr Zia Showkat informed the chair that there are 376 registered patients in ATF at GMC Doda. He added that additional trained staff is required to start fully functional IPD for the addiction patients. The DC instructed the stakeholders to take up the matter with the concerned higher authority, arrange training for available staff and manage the staff from GMC Doda to create an IPD facility for the

patients.

While reviewing the status of functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre at Old Hospital Bhaderwah, it was informed that the staff and other required facilities are being arranged for its full functioning. The DC exhorted to make the Centre fully functional so that the de-addiction and rehabilitation of the addicts was ensured in the district.

The meeting decided to constitute village level committees comprising Lumbardars, Chowkidars, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and one local teacher to conduct random surveys to identify substance abuse cases. The committee members shall be given hands-on training in the next week, and actual survey of at least 100 households per village shall start by 20th of November 2023. Similar committees have

been ordered in municipal areas for the survey on substance abuse.

DC also reviewed the working of Drug De-addiction Centre in District Police line and other measures taken by the District Administration to curb the menace.

DC stressed for insightful counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation of the addicts while taking stringent legal action against the drug peddlers.

The DC called upon ADCs and SDMs to ensure the survey of substance abuse is completed within the set timeline in their respective jurisdictions besides identifying drug peddlers for timely action.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Abdul Qayoom; ADC Doda, Dr R K Bharti; ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mir; SDMs; DPO ICDS Doda, CMO and other concerned.

### FROM PAGE 1

#### Three dead in Dal Lake blaze in Srinagar

not immediately known.

#### Weather to remain dry after snowfall, rains lash J&K

snowfall.

Snow clearance operations on other far-flung routes are in progress, they said.

The minimum temperature recorded at Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, on Saturday at 4.2 degrees Celsius and it also experienced 9.2mm of rainfall till 0830 hours today, Qazigund 3.6 degrees Celsius and experienced 31.4mm rainfall, Pahalgam 2.2 degree Celsius and it also experienced 7.2mm 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 rainfall, the MeT office said.

#### Three R&B SEs promoted as CEs

Chief Engineer, R&B North Kashmir, along with his existing duties, until the Government establishes a regular arrangement.

#### NIA files supplementary charge-sheet in KTF recruitment, arms smuggling case

Operating from the Philippines, Amritpal and Amrik were actively engaged in recruiting youngsters. Their activities extended to smuggling of arms and explosives from Pakistan as well as carrying out extortion and subsequently channelising the extortion proceeds for terrorist activities, the official said.

During the course of investigation, the NIA successfully got Amritpal and Amrik deported from the Philippines, the spokesperson said.

"The charge-sheeted accused persons played a pivotal role, at the behest of Arsh Dala, in a larger conspiracy, primarily focused on raising funds for the proscribed KTF," the spokesperson said.

The official said Arshdeep and his arrested accomplice Manpreet arranged the recruitment of potential members, forming terrorist gangs in Punjab, and carrying out targeted killings and firings at the residences of potential victims, coercing them into complying with their extortion demands.

"Investigations have also revealed that extortion funds were being systematically channelled to various foreign countries through both banking and non-banking channels. These illicit financial transactions were aimed at fuelling terrorist activities in India," the spokesperson said.

The agency said investigations have further revealed that KTF operatives based abroad were involved in regular recruitment and handling of their terror syndicate associates.

"They were also involved in smuggling of arms, ammunition, and explosives from across the border through drones etc. These terror hardware supplies were then

used for carrying out terrorist activities on Indian soil," the spokesperson said.

#### Charge-sheet produces in fake PRC fraud by POJK Refugee for 4.5 Lakh Relief; EOW CBJ

authorities to claim one time Settlement Relief as POJK refugee.

On receipt of the complaint a preliminary verification was initiated and during probe the allegations were prima facie substantiated, leading to the registration of formal case for indepth investigation. During the course of investigation relevant record was seized, statement of witnesses recorded, Scientific, Circumstantial and other Material evidence was gathered and offences U/S 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 201, 120-B/ RPC were established against the accused and the charge sheet was produced in the Court of law for judicial determination.

#### Sisodia reaches home from Tihar Jail to meet

#### ailing wife

Mathura Road sharing it with Education Minister Atishi.

Recently, Sisodia's bail application in the case was rejected by the Supreme Court.

#### Jammu and Kashmir: High Court quashes two PSA orders

the period of order of detention, there must be fresh facts for passing a subsequent order of detention," the court said, adding, " When the detention order has been quashed by the Court, the grounds of said detention order are not to be taken into consideration either as a whole or in part even along with the fresh grounds of detention in order to pass a fresh detention order and, if such previous grounds of detention are taken into consideration while passing a fresh detention order, the order of detention will be vitiated." While quashing the detention order, the court also ordered Amir's release forthwith if not required in any other case.

## New Bill seeks to consolidate self-regulation in broadcast sector, extends to OTT, digital media

**Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023 seeks to replace Cable Television Networks Regulation Act of 1995**

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): The government unveiled a Bill that seeks to consolidate the regulatory framework for broadcasting services, including Over-The-Top (OTT) and digital media content.

The Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023 seeks to replace the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act of 1995 and other rules and guidelines governing the broadcasting sector, and strengthen self-regulation on content.

"This pivotal legislation modernises our broadcasting sector's regulatory framework, replacing outdated Acts, Rules, and Guidelines with a unified, future-focused approach," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said on X.

Thakur said the draft legislation seeks to advance Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for ease of doing business and ease of living, and adapts to the dynamic world of OTT, digital media, DTH, IPTV and more, promoting technological advancement and service evolu-



tion.

The information and broadcasting ministry has invited comments on the Bill from stakeholders, including domain experts, broadcasting services providers and the general public, within the next month.

The Bill has provisions for setting up Content Evaluation Committees by broadcasters and strengthening self-regulations. It also seeks to set up a Broadcast Advisory Council to advise the government on

advertisement code and programme code violations.

The Broadcast Advisory Council, which will be headed by a sectoral expert and have eminent persons and bureaucrats as members, is set to replace the Inter-Departmental Committee, which comprises mainly bureaucrats.

The Bill also seeks to empower self-regulating bodies to penalise its members for contravention of norms and articles or the programme and advertisement

codes through monetary and non-monetary penalties.

The statutory penalties proposed in the Bill include advisory, warning, censure or monetary penalties for operators and broadcasters. It also has a provision for imprisonment and/or fines, but only for very serious offenses, thus ensuring a balanced approach to regulation.

In a statement, the ministry said to keep pace with evolving technologies and services, the Bill introduces definitions for contemporary broadcasting terms and incorporates provisions for emerging broadcasting technologies.

It allows for a differentiated approach to the programme and advertisement codes across various services and requires self-classification by broadcasters and robust access control measures for restricted content.

The monetary penalties and fines, proposed in the Bill, are linked to the financial capacity of the entity, taking into account their investment and turnover to ensure fairness and equity.

## At Rs 10.60 lakh cr, direct tax kitty up 22% so far in FY'24



NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Net direct tax collection swelled 22% so far this fiscal year to Rs 10.60 lakh crore, crossing 58% of the Budget target for the full year, the Income Tax Department said on Friday. The net corporate tax collection grew 12.48% and personal income tax mop-up rose 31.77%.

"Direct tax collection, net of refunds, stands

at Rs 10.60 lakh crore which is 21.82% higher than the net collection for the corresponding period of last year.

"This collection is 58.15% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for FY 2023-24," the I-T Department said. Refunds totalling Rs 1.77 lakh crore have been issued between April 1 and November 9, 2023. On a gross basis, col-

lection from direct tax, which includes corporate and Personal Income Tax (PIT), rose 17.59% to Rs 12.37 lakh crore. The growth rate for corporate income tax (CIT) is 7.13%, while that for PIT is 28.29%.

The 2023-24 Budget has pegged direct tax collection at a little over Rs 18.23 lakh crore, a 9.75% higher than Rs 16.61 lakh crore mopped up last fiscal.

## Industrial output growth slips to 5.8% in Sept

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): India's industrial production growth decelerated to 5.8% in September from 10.3% in August, though on an annual basis, the output of manufacturing and mining sectors showed an improvement, according to the official data.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 3.3% in September 2022.

During April-September 2023-24, the IIP growth works out to be 6%, down from 7.1% in the corresponding period a year ago.

"The growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous



year are to be interpreted, considering the unusual circumstances on account of the Covid pandemic since March 2020," an official statement said.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 4.5% in September 2023 against a 2% growth a year ago. Power gener-

ation rose 9.9% in September 2023 compared to 11.6% growth in the year-ago period.

Mining output rose by 11.5% in the month under review against a 5.2% contraction a year ago. As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment grew 7.4% in September this year compared to 11.4% growth in the year-ago month.

Consumer durables output during the month grew by 1% against a contraction of 5.5%. Consumer non-durable goods output increased by 2.7% compared to a contraction of 5.7% a year earlier.

Infrastructure/construction goods posted a growth of 7.5% against an 8.2% expansion a year ago.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged 8% growth in the month compared to 9.5% in the year-ago period.

The intermediate goods output in September rose 5.8% from 1.7% growth during the corresponding month last year.

## Electric PV sales rise to 51,953 units in Apr-Oct

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Electric passenger vehicle (PV) sales topped the 48,105-unit mark in less than seven months of the current fiscal. According to data compiled by the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, 51,953 electric PVs were sold during April-October in the current fiscal as compared to 48,105 units in the entire fiscal last year.



In 2022-23, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) were selling around 4,009 electric cars per month, while

this fiscal the sales have risen to 7,422 units per month (on an average).

Automakers feel the share of electric cars will

increase significantly in coming years.

"Today, you have CNG roughly 10-12% of the total PV market, electric will be about 2%, 15% will be the diesel, and rest would be the petrol.

If I have to imagine 2030, I think 25% plus or 25-30% will be CNG, electric should be around 30%, diesel will come down significantly," said Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors.

## Reliance raises Rs 20,000 cr at 7.79% interest

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Reliance Industries has raised Rs 20,000 crore in the largest bond issue by a non-financial Indian firm,

paying 7.79% interest rate, the company said.

The coupon rate is 40 basis points more than the government's borrowing cost.

"We wish to inform that the company today allotted 20 lakh secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of the face

value of Rs 1,00,000 each.

Issued on private placement basis," the company said in a stock exchange filing.

## Low-fat diet may help reduce fatigue in people with multiple sclerosis



NEW YORK, Nov 11 (Agencies): People with multiple sclerosis (MS) could benefit from a low-fat diet to improve the fatigue that's a debilitating, and often-underappreciated, symptom of the condition, according to a small study, led by an Indian-origin researcher.

A low-fat diet is one that restricts fat, and often saturated fat and cholesterol as well.

MS is a potentially disabling disease of the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system). Fatigue that occurs with the degenerative disease can make it harder for people to go about with everyday tasks.

"Fatigue is very disabling for MS patients," said principal investigator and senior author

Vijayshree Yadav, Professor of neurology at the Oregon Health & Science University, in the US.

"There is no FDA-approved drug for fatigue, but we know that fatigue greatly affects their quality of life," she added.

In the study, published in the Multiple Sclerosis Journal, the researchers conducted a randomised controlled trial in which 39 people with MS who experienced fatigue were divided into two groups: 19 people were placed in the control group and received diet training at the completion of the study after 16 weeks.

The other 20 received nutrition counselling from dietitians and then adhered to a low-fat diet, which was confirmed

through routine blood sampling revealing clear signals of reduced caloric intake.

"You cannot really fudge the biomarkers," Yadav said.

In contrast to a 2016 study that tested a purely plant-based diet, the new study was modified to include meat while still remaining low-fat. Exercise was not part of the programme, meaning the study solely focused on diet as an intervention.

Compared with the control group, the active group of participants revealed significant improvement in fatigue, which was gauged through the Modified Fatigue Impact Scale.

Every four weeks, participants answered standardised questions measuring aspects such as their ability to pay attention, concentrate and to carry out routine physical activities.

"The results reinforced what we had seen before," Yadav said. "A low-fat diet can truly make a difference in a patient's fatigue level, even without going so far as to make it a vegan diet."

## First chikungunya vaccine, Ixchiq, approved by US Food and Drug Administration

**The most commonly reported side effects were headache, fatigue, muscle pain, joint pain, fever, nausea and tenderness at the injection site, says the federal agency**

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (Agencies): Ixchiq, the first chikungunya vaccine, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for individuals 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk of exposure to mosquito-borne virus.

Containing a live, weakened version of the chikungunya-causing virus, Ixchiq is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle and may cause symptoms in the recipient similar to those experienced by people having the viral disease, the FDA said in a statement.

"Infection with chikungunya virus can lead to severe disease and prolonged health problems, particularly for older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions," said Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

"Today's approval addresses an unmet medical need and is an important advancement in the prevention of a potentially debilitating disease with limited treatment options," said Marks.

The effectiveness of the vac-



cine was determined through a clinical study in individuals 18 years of age and older in the US, the agency's statement said.

The level of antibody generated in the 266 vaccinated participants was "based on a level shown to be protective in non-human primates that had received blood from people who had been vaccinated", it said.

The study had compared the immune response of these indi-

viduals with that of 96 participants receiving placebo, it said.

The safety of Ixchiq was evaluated in two clinical studies conducted in North America in which about 3,500 participants 18 years of age and older received a dose of the vaccine with one study including about 1,000 participants who received a placebo, the FDA said.

The most commonly reported side effects were headache, fatigue, muscle pain, joint pain,

fever, nausea and tenderness at the injection site, the federal agency said.

About 1.6 per cent of the recipients exhibited severe chikungunya-like adverse reactions that prevented daily activity and/or required medical intervention and two were hospitalised. In some, the adverse reactions lasted for at least 30 days, the agency said.

The FDA granted approval of Ixchiq to Valneva Austria GmbH, a biotechnology company in Vienna, Austria, it said.

The agency also said that Ixchiq was approved using the Accelerated Approval pathway, based on evidence of effectiveness obtained through clinical studies.

As a condition for approval for Ixchiq, the FDA requires confirmatory clinical studies to be conducted to verify clinical benefit, the agency said.

The agency also requires the biotechnology company to conduct a post-marketing study to assess the serious risk of severe chikungunya-like adverse reactions following administration of Ixchiq, it said.

## Kohli gets ready for Kiwis

BENGALURU, Nov 11 (Agencies): Virat Kohli's net sessions are almost as intense and well-calculated as his real-game batting. India's optional nets here today witnessed Kohli meticulously going about polishing his skills against short-pitched bowling and left-arm spin, preparing no doubt for India's potential semifinal against New Zealand.

The Kiwis are in the poll position to face India in Mumbai on November 15. The immediate goal in front of Kohli might be the Netherlands game, but he will also have an eye on India's semifinal.

One of the challenges the Black Caps will pose to Kohli will be through Lockie Ferguson. The express pacer is yet to fire like he did in the 2019 World Cup, partially because of a right Achilles issue. But Ferguson showed signs of hitting his peak against Sri Lanka here yesterday, rattling the middle and lower order with a barrage of short-pitched balls.

Ferguson is quite certain to repeat the tactics against India. Though Kohli owns one of the better pulls in con-



temporary cricket, the former India captain did not leave anything to chance. Pacer Shardul Thakur bowled an array of bouncers at Kohli and he had little difficulty in smoking several of them away, some shots travelling as far as the second tier.

The 35-year-old also attempted a couple of ramp shots, which might prove handy against a bowler like Ferguson who can hit north of 150 kmph.

The second testing point for Kohli might come in the form of Mitchell Santner's left-arm spin. In the past, left-arm spinners such as Keshav Maharaj, Shikib Al Hasan and

Dunith Wellalage have had success against Kohli. Since January 2021, Kohli averages just over 13 against left-arm spinners with a strike-rate of 66.

Santner has been New Zealand's best bowler here, consistently hitting the right length to keep the batters' largely silent. It has reflected in his numbers — 16 wickets from nine matches with an economy rate of 4.6. Kohli averages just 9.33 across 17 matches against Santner, having been dismissed three times.

NZ ready for business end

Ferguson said New Zealand would head into a likely semifinal against

India charged with confidence after snapping a four-match losing streak against Sri Lanka.

"We've had some tight games and some tight losses over the last few weeks but certainly within the camp there's a lot of confidence in the type of cricket we play," Ferguson said.

"We know that if we play the way we want to play, we'll come out on the right side of the draw. We'll see what happens in the last few games ... hopefully we'll have a couple more pushes."

Strike duo Trent Boult and Tim Southee accounted for Sri Lanka's four top-order wickets, Ferguson and Santner took over in the middle overs before all-rounder Rachin Ravindra mopped up the tail.

"Throughout the World Cup, the bowling attacks that have done well have passed the baton to the next bowler," Ferguson said.

"The more you build the pressure, eventually something will happen. We probably haven't had as much as we'd have liked over the whole World Cup but it was nice to see Boult and Tim get some early wickets," he added.

## Under-fire Babar feeling no captaincy pressure

KOLKATA, Nov 11 (Agencies): Pakistan's Babar Azam does not think the burden of captaincy has affected his batting at the World Cup and is not losing sleep over whether he will keep the job after the showpiece event.

The 1992 champions are fifth on the points table and face a virtually impossible task to make the semifinals when they take on holders England, who have already been eliminated, in their final group match today.

Pakistan must not only match New Zealand's five wins from nine matches but also need to massively improve their net run-rate to make the knockout stage.

If they bat first, Babar's team will have to beat England by at least 287 runs to leapfrog New Zealand into the last-four.

While chasing, they need to win with 284 balls to spare. Both the scenarios look highly unlikely, and speculation is rife over whether Babar would retain the



captaincy after their campaign.

He sought to steer clear of any speculation, however, and said his focus was solely on finishing their group stage on a winning note at Eden Gardens. "Once we go back to Pakistan ... we will see what happens," the 29-year-old said today. "Right now, I am not focusing on this. My focus is on the next match."

Babar entered the World Cup as the top-ranked ODI batter but his average of 40.28

is behind three of his teammates, while several former players have found his leadership uninspiring.

His highest score of 74 came in their shock loss to Afghanistan but Babar denied that the captaincy was affecting his form with the bat.

"I have been captaining my team for the last three years and I have never felt pressure," he said. "I have not performed the way I should have in the World Cup, that's why people are saying that I am under

pressure. Over the last two-and-a-half or three years I was the one who was performing for the side and leading the team."

Dawid Malan will not be surprised if tomorrow's match against Pakistan proves to be his last for England, who might opt for a 50-over reset following their dismal World Cup title defence, the opening batter said today.

The debacle has prompted demands for a complete overhaul of the 50-over side, and Malan knows age is not on his side even though he has been England's best batter in the tournament.

"I guess I'm in a unique situation being the second oldest in this team," the 36-year-old said. "I don't know what my future holds, whether that will be my choice or the team's choice. Today could be the last game of cricket for England for me and it could still be the start of another journey. Who knows? We'll only find out when the dust settles."

## SA flex muscles as they wrap up group stage with win over Afghanistan

AHMEDABAD, Nov 11 (Agencies): South Africa saw off a spirited fight-back from Afghanistan to win by five wickets with 15 balls to spare in their final World Cup group game and consolidate second place in the standings.

South Africa have 14 points from their nine games, two points ahead of Australia who play Bangladesh today while Afghanistan are sixth.

Both South Africa and Australia have already qualified for the semifinals, with the two teams set to play each other in Kolkata on Thursday.

"They say winning is a habit so we want to take that momentum through, we take a lot of confidence," South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma said. "We did something differently today, we normally bat first but we batted second. To get over the line in that manner will give

us confidence. We'd like to be playing here again (in the final) in front of a full capacity crowd. But there's a hurdle we have to get over first against Australia in Kolkata."

Afghanistan opted to bat first but they failed to build partnerships as South Africa picked up wickets regularly.

The Asian side posted 244 on the back of Azmatullah Omarzai's unbeaten knock of 97, which included seven boundaries and three sixes.

Gerald Coetzee was the pick of the South African bowlers with figures of 4/44 while Quinton de Kock finished with six catches to tie the record for most wicketkeeping dismissals in a World Cup match. In response, de Kock set up the chase with a breezy 41 that took him to the top of scoring charts on 591 runs.

## IOC to take call on Afghanistan's participation in Olympics, confirms ICC CEO Geoff Allardice

LOS ANGELES, Nov 11 (Agencies): The International Olympic Council (IOC), holds the reins concerning Afghanistan's involvement in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, not the International Cricket Council (ICC). This stance was put forward by ICC's CEO, Geoff Allardice, in response to the dilemma of Afghanistan's female cricket players, who were forced into exile following the Taliban's resurgence to power in 2021.

In October, the IOC consented to include T20 cricket, a highly popular sport amongst Commonwealth countries and younger audiences, in the LA28 Olympics.

The decision was influenced by the sport's potential for



expanding into markets such as the U.S.

The ICC had advised a six-team format across both male and female contests, a proposal that received the IOC's approval.

By 2025, the LA28 and ICC aim to establish a competitive

structure and the qualifying process for teams. The push for gender equality by the LA28 organisers is evident, given that the Olympics typically features participation from both men and women in individual and team sports.

However, Afghanistan's wom-

en's cricket team is currently non-operational. A significant majority of the team, 22 out of 25 contracted players, have moved abroad since the Taliban seized power in August 2021. Notwithstanding, there remains a potential for the male team to partake in the event in 2028.

"In terms of the position of the National Olympic Committee of Afghanistan, it's probably something for the IOC to be able to address more accurately than me. But I know that they (IOC) have been following the progress or the developments there. Our position on cricket and supporting our member in Afghanistan is not dissimilar to those of other international sporting organizations," Allardice told BBC.

## Fantastic to have three Indians in Candidates, says Anand

CHENNAI, Nov 11 (Agencies): With the Asian Games Silver medal, qualification for the FIDE Candidates Tournament in Canada (April 2 - 25, 2024), and just three points distance between her and the Grandmaster title, 2023 has been a special year for chess star R Vaishali. The upcoming edition of the candidates is special as for the first time there are three chess players from the country — Vaishali, her brother R Praggnanandhaa, and Vidit Gujrathi.



India's first grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand, is thrilled for the contingent. "That's fantastic. I was the only one playing in the Candidates in the past," Anand said after the felicitation program organised for Vaishali and Basketball player R Sruthy by MOP Vaishnav College in Chennai. "This is the first time it has happened. In fact, it was a late surprise. Until a couple of weeks ago, Praggnanandhaa was the only one and now suddenly, there are three Indians. It's wonderful to have such a significant representation."

Candidates Tournament is organised by the International Chess Federation as a final contest to determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship. The winner of this tournament gets to play in the World Championship against the current world champion. Praising Vaishali for her resolve through the ups and downs she had, Anand said,

"Within Women's rankings, she is just outside the top 10—the third Indian woman to qualify for the candidate's title," before adding, "I believe Vaishali will work hard. She has training events like the World Rapid Blitz and the Tata Steel Chess Tournament coming up. She will have enough time to prepare for the Candidates Tournament in April."

"It was such a dominating performance at Isle of Men (in the FIDE Grand Swiss chess event, where she confirmed her entry for the Candidates tournament), which means she is ready to compete, but she knows she has to work hard. One cannot overwork. She needs to balance work, rest, and getting there (at the candidates) well-prepared," he added.

"It is special," Vaishali expressed her views on having three players competing in the Candidates tournament. "I am excited for the Candidates. First of all, I did not expect

to be in the Candidates this year. I played a really good game in the Isle of Man. I have some time to work on it, so I am hoping to give my best. I have been discussing a lot of things with Anand sir and RB Ramesh sir as well. Hopefully, we will be able to make a correct plan and proceed. (Me and my brother) went to the Asian Youth Championship in the age-group. Now, together we are going for the big stage, so I am very happy. Yes, there will be pressure on the Candidates, but it will be the first time for me so I want to enjoy it as well," the 22-year-old said.

MOP Vaishnav college felicitated the chess champion who was part of the 10-member squad that bagged the silver medal in the 2023 Asian Games Hangzhou with a cash award of ₹1 Lakh, while Sruthy, who represented India in the women's basketball team that made it to the quarterfinals received ₹25,000 from the college.

## World Cup 2023: Viv Richards wants India to come out all guns blazing in knockout matches

BENGALURU, Nov 11 (Agencies): India should try and win World Cup 2023 undefeated feels legendary Viv Richards. In an ICC column, Richards has said that winning the ODI World Cup undefeated is a feat that teams strive for and India should do the same.

India are the only unbeaten team in the World Cup 2023, having won 8 out of 8 matches they have played so far. The Rohit Sharma side will take on the Netherlands in their final group stage match of the tournament and after that will most likely take on New Zealand in the semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium in Bengaluru.

"I believe they can go all the way unbeaten, which is really something to strive for. There may be some fears of 'we have played so well so far, there may be a bad game around the corner in the semi-final'. They have to try and nullify those and banish any negative thoughts," Richards said via ICC.

The legendary batter



recommended that India keep their aggressive approach in the knockout game as well, since it has benefited their side. Fans have had complaints from India for being reserved in the ICC tournaments, but under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, India have had an ultra-aggressive approach, both with bat and ball.

"India have a mindset that they can go all the way playing like this," Richards said on his column for the ICC.

"That absolutely

should be their mindset and would be mine if I was in that dressing room — let's go out with all guns blazing. That approach has worked so far and if that changes, things may go astray," Richard further added.

The focus will be on Virat Kohli as India play the Netherlands in Bengaluru on Sunday, 12 November. The senior India batter will be hunting his 50th ODI century, a feat that has never been achieved before in the history of cricket. Richards lauded Kohli

for his mentality and said that he would go down as one of the all-time greats.

"I am a huge fan of Virat, I have been for a long time, and he continues to show why he has to go down as one of the all-time greats, right up there with the likes of the great Sachin," Richards said.

"Virat will have been through some tough times before this World Cup and some folks were even brave enough to call for his head," he further added.

"Credit must be given to the backroom staff and everyone who backed him. So much was said about his form but he is back on top of his game. It is phenomenal to see an individual who has had his low points bouncing back and playing like this. They say form is temporary — and he has certainly proven that class is permanent. I am so happy for him, he looks so focused and he is a credit to the game of cricket," concluded the legendary West Indies player.

## MP Khatana accuses Cong of thriving on communal politics



### Top News Report

JAMMU / POKHRAN (Rajasthan), Nov 11: In a series of impassioned addresses during various meetings in support of BJP Candidate Mahant Pratappuri ji Maharaj in the Pokhran assembly constituency, BJP MP Rajya Sabha (Nominated) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana accused Congress of thriving on communal politics and denying minorities the benefits of development and growth. He said that BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided equal opportunities to the minorities and even special schemes for their economic growth and development.

MP Khatana emphasized the contrast between the Congress and the BJP in their approach to minority

development, claiming that the Congress had resorted to divisive tactics that instilled fear among minorities. He alleged that the Congress party, during its tenure, had neglected the minorities' rights to development and growth.

MP Khatana praised the BJP-led government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing minorities with equal opportunities and introducing special schemes tailored to their development and growth. He highlighted the inclusive policies of the BJP, asserting that the party was committed to fostering an environment where every citizen, irrespective of their background, could thrive.

MP Khatana pledged the BJP's commitment

to transforming Rajasthan's developmental and economic landscape if the party is given the mandate in the upcoming elections. He outlined the party's vision for inclusive growth, job creation, and infrastructure development that would benefit all sections of society, including minorities.

The MP called upon the voters in the Pokhran assembly constituency to support BJP Candidate Mahant Pratappuri ji Maharaj and expressed confidence that, under the BJP's leadership, Rajasthan would experience a positive and transformative change.

Khatana said that BJP is determined to the overall development and upliftment of all communities in the state.

## Kartik Amavasya (Somvati Amavasya) on Nov 13: Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Jammu and Kashmir : Amavasya occurs only once in the month, and the lord of Amavasya is considered as Pitru Dev (ancestor deity). Kartik Somvati Amavasya falls on Monday, November 13th. On this day, various religious activities related to offering to ancestors and other charitable deeds are performed. Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, explained that from a religious perspective, this day involves offering Pinda to ancestors and performing other virtuous

deeds. According to religious scriptures, individuals who take a sacred bath in rivers on this day will attain prosperity and be free from various diseases and sorrows. If unable to bathe in rivers, pouring Ganga water into household water and donating to the needy is also considered beneficial. Offering flour balls to fish in rivers or ponds on Amavasya is also considered auspicious. The commencement of Kartik Somvati Amavasya is on November 12th, Sunday, at 2:45 PM, and it concludes on November 13th, Monday, at 2:57 PM. Lighting lamps in the evening is considered auspicious.

## Apni Party leaders condole family members of ex-hockey player in Jammu who was killed in Portugal

### Top News Report

JAMMU: Apni Party leaders today visited the residence of a former national level hockey player namely Gurpreet Singh here at Camp Gole Gujral in Jammu to condole his family members and relatives. Gurpreet Singh was shot dead under mysterious circumstances in Portugal.

The Apni Party leaders including Provincial President Apni Party Transport Union, Tirath Singh, Provincial General Secretary Transport Union, Yash Choudhary, District President Minority Wing, Vice President Minority Wing, Gurpreet Singh Awal, and others met the bereaved family members, and con-

veyed their condolences to the family members. The inconsolable family and relatives demanded that the Govt of India should bring back the body of their son Gurpreet Singh from Portugal to Jammu so that they can perform his last rites as per the rituals.

The Apni Party leaders expressed their sympathies with the bereaved family members and assured that they would highlight their demand so that the body of their son could be brought to Jammu.

The Party leaders prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

## J&K getting special attention in health sector: Arvind



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Jammu and Kashmir BJP secretary and Reasi district prabhari, Arvind Gupta, has hailed the decision of the government to increase the number of BAMS seats from 60 to 100 and also the number of beds from 60 to 150 or even 200, based on requirement and occupancy. He said that it is one more step towards enhancing the intake of students for Ayurvedic medical seats and also further strengthening the Ayurvedic healthcare infrastructure in the UT.

Arvind Gupta said that during the past over nine years, after BJP led government under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was formed at the centre, the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and now the Union Territory, is getting special attention in healthcare and medical education sector.

Arvind Gupta said that, both, Jammu as

well as Kashmir, has got separate AIIMS, new medical colleges in various districts have come up with best healthcare infrastructure, number of seats for MBBS courses have been increased. The people in Jammu and Kashmir have been issued Ayushman Gold Health cards for free medical treatment upto rupees five lakh. These are few examples which display the commitment of the Modi government to provide better and easily accessible medical facilities.

Gupta said that in comparison to the previous governments of Congress and other parties, the present government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has got appreciation for its untiring efforts for reaching doorsteps of the poor, needy and marginalized sections with an objective of mitigating their problems and bringing changes in their lives.

He said that it is not only health sector but many other fields, where Modi government has brought revolutionary changes and put the nation and its people on the path of peace, progress, healthy and dignified living.

## "Swachh Diwali Subh Diwali campaign" GDC Chatroo organized Cleanliness Drive



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: NSS unit of Govt. Degree College Chatroo organized a mega cleanliness drive and awareness campaign within and around the college campus. The initiative was carried out as part of "Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali" Celebration campaign from 7th to 9th November. The campaign aims at invoking the cultural significance of Diwali with the journey of Swachh Bharat and the principles of lifestyles for environment. The cleanliness drive was organised under the supervision and able guidance of college

principal Dr Ved Kumar. NSS students, teaching faculty and principal of the college actively participated in the cleanliness drive and cleaned the college campus and collected garbage from every nook and corner of college premises. Volunteers diligently collected scattered waste, particularly plastic and polythene, ensuring its proper disposal. The cleanliness drive and awareness campaign was expanded to local village Udil Gujraan. During the campaign public of udil gujraan were aware about cleanliness around their surrounding and urged them to reduce the use

of polythene and single use plastic. They also encouraged for clean and ecofriendly diwali celebrations. Moreover signature campaign was also carried out in which around 50 students of the college actively participated which demonstrate collaborative commitment to celebrate Diwali in an ecofriendly manner. Principal Dr Ved Kumar interacted with the NSS volunteers before the campaign's launch, commending their dedication and encouraging them to extend efforts to their villages. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the NSS Program officer and volunteers.

## Ashwani holds public darbar at BJP headquarter



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: Sharing various path breaking steps of the Union Government under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, for bringing the rural and far-flung areas at par with the Urban areas in matter of basic amenities, BJP senior leader and former MLA Ashwani Sharma, said that there is a visible change in the lives of rural people.

He was interacting with the people, during his weekly public darbar at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ashwani Sharma, alongwith BJP Health & Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan, was apprised of the problems by a large number of people and various deputations who had reached party office to seek interven-

tion of the former MLA in getting their problems resolved. Their problems were listened patiently and taken up with the senior officials of the concerned departments for proper and early redressal.

Ashwani Sharma said that today there has been vast change in the lives of the people in villages as they too are getting the basic amenities and their areas have got a facelift. He said that the people, in the past during the rule of Congress and other parties were deprived of the basic facilities and there was a big gap between the Urban and Rural areas in various fields.

Today rural population, particularly the people in villages are getting water through tap, almost every village connected with the major towns and cities

through proper road network, better healthcare infrastructure has been established in Government Dispensaries, Sub-District Hospital, School have been upgraded, the farmer are getting fertilizers, pesticides on time and financial assistance under PM Kissan Samman Nidhi etc.

Ashwani Sharma said that the credit for improving the socio-economic status of the village people goes to PM Narendra Modi, who is concerned and committed for the welfare of the farmers and want to see them prosper and progress. He asked the people in the public darbar to inform their near ones, neighbours, friends, relatives etc. about the pro-people, pro-poor, pro-development programmes and policies of Narendra Modi government.

## Mehbooba Mufti's cousin Sarwar Mufti joins GN Azad-led DPAP in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Nov 11 (Agencies): In a major set back to People's Democratic Party, Sarwar Mufti, cousin of former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday joined Democratic Progressive Azad Party in Bijbehara area of Anantnag. Sarwar joined the party at a function presided

over by DPAP president Ghulam Nabi Azad in Bijbehara town.

Before going to attend party function, Azad along with other leaders went to Padshahi Bagh to offer Fateh-e-Khani at grave of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, however, upon reaching door of the grave locked.

Later, Azad along with other leaders offered Fateh-e-Khani outside the grave.

Meanwhile, DPAP leader Mohammad Amin Bhat said that it is unfortunate that door of the grave was open for Ravindra Raina but closed for Gh Nabi Azad.

## BSP condoles party President Majotra's death

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 11: An emergent meeting of BSP was called by Rajesh Gupta General Secretary BSP J&K UT on Saturday to condole the death of party's J&K UT unit President S R Majotra.

In a statement on Saturday, he said S R Majotra died in a mishap he accidentally fall from his Kathua residence roof top when he was climbing the stairs. He was 72 and survived by his wife and three sons.

Paying tributes to S R Majotra Gupta

said he was very active and dedicated towards his party. His untimely death has created a vacuum in the party which will never be fulfilled. Gupta prayed to almighty to give strength to the family members of Majotra and give space to noble soul in heaven.

Others those pay tributes to S R Majotra were Badri Nath, Charanjeet Chargo, Adv. Shashi Bhushan, Gaurav Kumar, Raja Singh, Darshan Rana, Mrs. Nisha Angral, Kaushal Targotra, Subedar Ramesh Chander, Ranjeet Kumar, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Kartar Chand and others.