



# TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**10 passengers injured in cab accident in Poonch**

POONCH, Nov 12 (Agencies): At least ten passengers were injured in a road accident in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police said. A police official told Greater Kashmir that a cab carrying ten passengers met with an accident in Bandi Chichian area, leaving 10 passengers injured. He said the vehicle bearing registration number JK02W 7601 was on to Islama Abad area from Poonch when the mishap took place. The injured, he said, have been taken to the Poonch District Hospital for treatment. Further details are awaited.

**Pneumococcal vaccine reduces pneumonia deaths: DAK on world pneumonia day**

SRINAGAR, Nov 12: On world pneumonia day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Sunday said pneumococcal vaccine reduces risk of dying from pneumonia. "Pneumococcal vaccine prevents pneumonia deaths," said influenza expert and DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan. Quoting a study, Dr Hassan said pneumococcal vaccine was found to reduce the risk of death from pneumonia by 59% among elderly people. "The study also revealed that vaccine reduces the risk of getting pneumonia by 45%," he said. "The benefits of pneumococcal vaccine are impressive in children too. The vaccine has been found to decrease the mortality among young children by up to 30%," DAK President quoted another study. He said pneumonia is one of the leading causes of death. It is especially fatal in elderly, young children and those with underlying chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart, lung, liver and kidney disease. "The most frequent cause of pneumonia in children and elderly is pneumococcus, a bacterial infection which is primarily transmitted

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## Gulmarg draws record 14 lakh tourists, including 9,000 foreign visitors

SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): The world-renowned ski resort of Gulmarg has emerged as the top choice for tourists, attracting nearly 14 lakh visitors in the first ten months of the year, including 9,000 foreigners and around four lakh local tourists. Situated in the Pir Panjal range of the Western Himalayas at an altitude of 8,690 feet, Gulmarg, meaning 'Meadow of Flowers' in Kashmiri, is surrounded by snow-capped alps, lush green pastures, vibrant meadows, deep valleys, and pine-covered slopes. The main draw for visitors is the Gulmarg Gondola, Asia's largest and highest cable car project, ranking as the



world's second-largest and second-highest. According to the Directorate of Tourism, there has been a notable increase in tourist footfall from January to October, totalling 1,380,273 visitors, including 993,456 domestic tourists, 377,921 locals, and 8,896 foreign guests. Local residents express optimism, citing a fruitful tourism season with expectations of continued growth due to upcoming events and cultural programs. Tourists, lured by the prospect of witnessing snowfall, have been flocking to Gulmarg and its adjacent areas, such as Tangmarg, Boothapathri, Kongdori Peak, Affarwath Peak,

and Babreshi, where fresh snowfall has been experienced. Sajad Ahmad, a Gulmarg resident, acknowledges the improved tourism flow and anticipates further growth. Local hoteliers express gratitude to the tourism department for effective promotion, noting a positive trend in tourist influx. Tourism sector representatives welcome the resurgence in local business after nearly three years, with Gulmarg hoteliers reporting high occupancy rates. Lateef Ahmed, a local hotelier, expresses satisfaction with the current season, stating that all hotels are fully booked, marking a successful period after several years.

## Team India celebrates Diwali with family, extends greetings to people on festival of lights



BENGALURU, Nov 12 (Agencies): Team India extended greetings to people on the occasion of Diwali and celebrated the festival of lights

in the company of their loved ones. The players and their families gathered for a wonderful Diwali celebration, creating a

warm and welcoming atmosphere. The team and Team India support staff celebrated the auspicious occasion with family

and friends at the team hotel in Bengaluru a day before. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a video from the event.

## Village Defence Guards open fire on suspicion in Rajouri

JAMMU, Nov 12 (Agencies): Village defence guards on Sunday opened fire, observing suspicious movement in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. No one was injured in the firing that took place around 4 am in upper Dhangri, a village where terrorists killed seven persons in an attack early this year, officials said. The VDGs fired around two dozen rounds upon noticing some suspicious movement outside a house in the village. ■ Turn to page 9

## Uttarakhand: 36 labourers feared trapped as under-construction tunnel collapses in Uttarkashi

UTTARKASHI (Uttarakhand), Nov 12 (Agencies): At least 36 workers are feared to be trapped inside an under-construction tunnel that collapsed on the Yamunotri National Highway here in Uttarakhand's Uttarakashi district, officials said on Sunday. According to Uttarkashi Superintendent of Police, Arpan Yaduvanshi, a portion of the underconstruction tunnel connecting Silkyara to Dandalgaon collapsed on Saturday night. A part of the tunnel broke about 200 meters ahead of the starting point on the Silk-



yara side of Brahmakhal-Polgaon. Yaduvanshi said that according to the officials of Hydroelectricity Investment and

Development Company Limited (HIDCL), which is looking after the construction work of the tunnel, about 36 people are trapped in the tunnel and efforts are being made to rescue them safely. "Efforts are on to open the tunnel and the process of removing debris inside the tunnel is in progress," they said. A team from the State Disaster Response Team (SDRF) and police revenue have relief and rescue operation. District Magistrate and Superintendents of ■ Turn to page 9



Top News of J&K wishes Happy Deepawali to our esteemed readers

## J&K: Over 20,000 pashmina shawls, 9000 carpets issued GI Tags



SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir administration has achieved a milestone by issuing Geographic Indication labels to over 20,000 Pashmina shawls and 9000 carpets so far. Kashmir's Pashmina shawls and carpet got GI tags in the years 2021 and 2022, respectively, to fight counter-branding. As per the data available with news agency KNO, till October, a total of 20,126 Pash-

mina Shawls have been issued GI labels. During the same period as many as 9,700 carpets have been also GI Tag labelled. GI tagging is a recognition granted to products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation, or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin. This recognition not only adds value to the products but also protects the traditional ■ Turn to page 9

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**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 Ambarad (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

**Grand children:** Harshit, Jaival, Shriya, Himanshu, Koushak, Aayana, and Pihu



**SH. BRIJ LAL KOUL**

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

**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 am.

**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 & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved brother **Sh Rajinder Ganjoo (Raju Ji)** S/o Lt. Omkar Nath Ganjoo who left for heavenly abode on 6-11-2023.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday 15th Nov. at Muthi Ghat at 7.30 AM.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt Rani Ganjoo -Mother

Smt Madhu Ganjoo -Wife

**Brothers & Sisters-in-law**

Mrs & Mr Pummy & Suresh Ganjoo

Mrs & Mr Archana & Mahesh Ganjoo

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

Mrs & Mr Sunita & Sunil Bhan

Namita -Daughter

Naman -Son

Ph. 7780909719, 9910723668



**Sh Rajinder Ganjoo (Raju Ji)**

**BARKHI**

**SHIV RAM GUPTA (RETD. SR. LECTURER EDUCATION DEPTT)**

ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT US IN DEEP PAIN. YOUR MEMORIES ARE STILL FRESH AND YOUR PRESENCE IS FELT EVERYWHERE.

**BARKHI OF OUR BELOVED LATE SH. SHIV RAM GUPTA (KOHAG WALLE, BILLAWAR)** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 13TH OF NOVEMBER, 2023 (MONDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE F-258/10, SHAKTI NAGAR, JAMMU AT 12:00 NOON.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY**

**SMT. USHA GUPTA (WIFE)**

**SONS AND DAUGHTER IN LAW**

ER. RAJESH GUPTA & SMT. SONIKA MAHAJAN

SH. RAKESH GUPTA & SMT. NIDHI LANGER

SH SANJAY GUPTA & SMT. MEENAKSHI MAHAJAN

**GRAND SONS AND DAUGHTERS**

AKHILESH MALGURIA, DANISH MALGURIA, NAKSHITA, LAVANYA,

SHIVAAY MALGURIA

**ALL NEARS & DEARS**

9419131908, 9419281482, 9419132778



**SHIV RAM GUPTA (RETD. SR. LECTURER EDUCATION DEPTT)**

**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**

Rajindar Singh and Neelam Devi

Ravinder Rathore and Renu Arora

**Mob. 70064 33762,**

**Mob.9055333000**



**Smt. Maya Devi**

**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

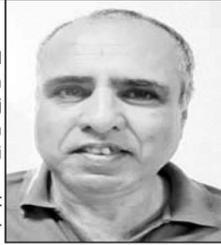
Sh. Ashok Kumar & Picha Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi

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**

Rajindar Singh and Neelam Devi

Ravinder Rathore and Renu Arora

**MOB: 70064 33762, 9055333000**



**SMT. MAYA DEVI**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Smt Neelam Gupta** W/o Sh Sudesh Gupta R/o Akhnor.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Monday, 13 November 2023 at Kameshwar Mandir 10 am to 11 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Sh Sudesh Gupta (Husband)

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Smt Ritika Gupta & Sh Aatish Gupta

Shubam Gupta (Son)

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Smt Isha Gupta & Sh Vikas Gupta

**AND ENTIRE JANDYAL FAMILY**

**Mobile Number : 9469032063,**

**9906290562**



**Smt Neelam Gupta**

**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 Rachanji 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. Ameet Singh (Manager SBI Bank)

**Sister in Law & Brothers**

Sdn Mohinder Kour & S Swarn 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**

Gurmiti 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**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Sunita Gupta** W/o Er. Virander Kumar Gupta R/o Lane No. 3, Shivpuri, Near Dreamland Park, Kathua.

**Tenth Day** shall be performed at our residence on Friday, 10th November, 2023 at 11.00 am. **Kriya** shall be performed at our residence on Monday, 13th November, 2023 at 12.30 pm.

**Grief Stricken**

**Husband**

Er. Virander Kumar Gupta (Chief Engineer, DIQC)

Dr. Aayushi & Adv. Pankaj Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-law

Dr. Komple Gupta - Daughter

Smt. Shakuntla Devi - Mother-in-law

**Devars & Devarnis**

Er. Narinder Gupta & Smt. Anju Gupta

Dr. Naresh Gupta & Dr. Shivani Gupta

Dr. Sanjeev Gupta & Dr. Payal Gupta

**Nanad & Nandoyi**

Smt. Manju Bala & Er. Sudesh 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 Drabiyar Habbakadal at present Block 49 Flat 03 Lane No. 9 Jagti Township on 05-11-2023.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 14-11-2023. Assembly will be held at Community Hall (Back Side) Lane No. 4 Jagti.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt Reetu & Sh Roop Krishan -Daughter-in-law & Son

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

Smt Reeta & Sh Sunil 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.

## 15 Corps Commander celebrates Diwali with troops along Line Of Control



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 12: The General Officer Commanding of the 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, on Sunday visited various formations, including those deployed along the Line of Control (LoC), to celebrate Diwali with troopers.

"#ChinarCorps Cdr

visited frontline units along the LoC and in hinterland to celebrate Diwali. He also conveyed best wishes for good health and happiness to their families on the occasion," the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said on X.

Lt General Ghai "complimented troops for their high morale and combat readiness", it

added.

In an earlier post, the 15 Corps extended Diwali greetings to all ranks and citizens of Kashmir.

"The Chinar Corps conveys best wishes for happiness and prosperity to all ranks, families, veterans, civil defence employees and citizens of Kashmir on the occasion of Diwali," it said.

## Army jawans celebrate Diwali with locals at Uri village near Line of Control



SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): The jawans of the Indian army celebrated Diwali here near

the Line of Control in Uri town of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The Festival of Lights is a much-awaited day throughout the country as it signifies the victory of good over evil.

## 7-year jail 'high' for offence of causing death by negligence, says parliamentary panel

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): A parliamentary committee has noted that the seven years' imprisonment prescribed in the proposed new criminal law for causing death by negligence is "high" and it should be reduced to five years.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by BJP MP Brijlal, also observed that the 10-year jail suggested in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for those who cause death of a person by rash or negligent act and escape from the scene of the incident or fail to report the incident to police or a magistrate, needed to further be deliberated for whether the clause should be retained at all.

"The committee feels that the punishment provided under clause 104(1) is high as compared to the provision for the same offence under section 304A of IPC. The committee, therefore, recommends that the proposed punishment under clause 104(1) may be reduced from seven years to five years," the panel noted.

According to the Section 104 (1) of the BNS, whoever causes the death of any person by any rash or negligent act, not amounting to culpable homicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term that may extend up to seven years, and shall also be liable to a fine.

For the same offence, the Indian Penal Code (304A) says: whoever causes the death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or both.

The committee is of the view that the clause 104(2) of the BNS may be against the Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India which says "No person accused of an offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself."

According to the clause 104(2) of the BNS, whoever causes the death of any person by any rash or negligent act, not amounting to culpable homicide, and escapes from the scene of the incident or fails to report the incident to a police officer or magistrate soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description of a term which may extend up to 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine.

The committee observed that the Supreme Court has widened the scope of the immunity given by the Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India by interpreting the word "witness" to include oral as well as documentary evidence so that no person can be compelled to be a witness to support a prosecution against himself.

"Hence, further contemplation is required, if the government still seeks to retain this new provision," the committee noted.

The committee also recommended that if this provision has to be retained, the government should limit the application of clause 104(2) of the BNS to motor vehicle accidents only.

In addition to that, the expression "or fails" should be replaced with "and fails" to provide for easier prosecution and less harsh punishment to a perpetrator who fulfils either of the duties mentioned in clause 104(2) of the BNS and the time period within which the perpetrator has to report the incident should be defined.

"In view of the above, the committee recommends re-drafting this clause in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice," it said.

The proposed laws are Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS-2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA-2023).

The three bills, which were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11, will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

The report of the parliamentary committee was submitted to Rajya Sabha on Friday.

## Dal Lake Fire: Condolences Expressed for Loss of Lives

SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, expressed deep sorrow for the loss of lives in a tragic fire incident at Dal Lake, Srinagar. "I am profoundly saddened by the loss of lives in the unfortunate fire incident at Dal Lake, Srinagar."

In a harrowing incident, a massive fire erupted during the wee hours on Saturday along Ghat No 09 in the Dal Lake area, wreaking havoc on the serene houseboats. The flames voraciously engulfed five iconic houseboats Safeena, Sabreena, Young Gulshan, Lala Rukh, and Khar Palace. The fire extended its destructive reach, reducing seven residential huts and neighbouring houses to ashes.

Regrettably, the devastating blaze claimed the lives of three tourists from Bangladesh — Anindaya Kowshal, Das Gupta, and Mohammad Moind — who were residing in houseboat Safeena.

LG Sinha expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. "I have directed the District Administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected persons," the Lt Governor said, in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson and In Charge Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq today expressed profound anguish over the death of three Bangladeshi tourists and complete damage to several houseboats in a massive overnight blaze in Dal Lake.

In a statement issued to press, Tanvir said, "My heart goes out to the family members of the three Bangladeshi Nationals who lost their lives in the tragic incident. I pray that the bereaved families find strength to bear this colossal loss," adding, "The news of the massive fire incident that has turned seven houseboats into ashes has saddened me. The

plight of the house boat owners, who make their humble living by letting out the houseboats for tourists is incomprehensible. I hope that the administration would do utmost help to the affected houseboat owners to assist them pull through the unfortunate event."

Sadiq further said that fire victims have borne losses worth crores that need to be adequately compensated by the administration in order to help them out.

"The district administration must dispatch its teams on ground zero to assess the losses incurred so that ex-gratia relief is disbursed to these families on a prompt basis. Besides paying an adequate compensation the concerned authorities should provide necessary clearance certificates to these fire victim families in order to repair their damaged houseboats without any impediments," he added.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc) expressed grief and sorrow about the fire incident in Dal Lake that occurred On Saturday in the wee hours.

In a statement issued by President KCC&I, Javid Ahmad Tenga urged Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to 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," reads the statement.

The Deputy Commissioner accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Tehsildar Khanyar, Aaliya Tabasum and other senior Officers of

District Administration visited the incident site and took spot review of post fire incident situation.

Interacting with the fire affected, the DC expressed support and sympathy with them on behalf of the District Administration Srinagar. He also assured that

every kind of possible support shall be provided from the District Administration for their immediate rehabilitation.

The DC also directed the concerned authorities to assess the losses and make a comprehensive report regarding the losses in

the incident. Moreover, the District Administration Srinagar provided immediate assistance to the affected 8 families in the form of 80 blankets, 40 mattresses, 40-bed sheets and 8 kitchen sets, besides Rs 160000 to all 8 affected families each Rs 19000 as an interim relief.

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No: 146 of 2023-24 Dated: 07-11-2023 (E-tendering).

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Ramban invites tenders by e-tendering mode on **stage rates** from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with J&K UT. CPWD, MES & Railways for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time & Date of Opening of	Class of Contractor	Type of contract
1	Restoration/Maintenance of Various roads by way of Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 falling under the jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Ramban	PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN	600	10000.00	16-11-2023 at 12.00 Hrs.	"A&B"	Stage Contract 2023-24
2	Restoration/Maintenance of Various roads by way of Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 falling under the jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gool:- i) Lohar Mohalla to Zaiyarat Sharief Road Length = 1.0 km ii) Mugie to Dharam Road Length = 2.50 Km iii) Tragwal Morh to Saibala Road Length = 2.0 Km iv) Gammon Store to Chandail Mohallah via Gagersullah (Length = 1.00km) v) Perthumla Kharback Road Length = 0.90 KM vi) Gool Bypass Road Road Length = 2.50 KM vii) Mohermal to Shan Mohalla Zalus Road Length = 1.00 KM viii) Shan Mohalla Zalus to Rai Court Mandir via Shanti Chashma Road L=1.20 KM		600	10000.00		"A&B"	Stage Contract 2023-24
3	Restoration/Maintenance of Various roads by way of Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 falling under the jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gool:- i) Gool Dheeda via Dachan Length = 5.00 km ii) Dachan to Ind via Sasal Road Length = 5.00 KM iii) Link Road to Ziyarat Shareef Asthankund Length = 1.00 KM iv) Jablie Gool to old PWD Dakbungalow via Forest Guest house Length = 1.30 Km v) Dachan Gali to Mahakund Road Length = 1.00 KM vi) Mahakund to Jabbar Road (Phase-II) Length = 2.00 km vii) Prinjat to Malik Mohallah Saibala via Lone Mohallah Road Length = 0.5 km viii) Qazi Morh to Dheeda Road Length = 0.5 km ix) Link road to Jamia Masjid Sharief at Gool Length = 0.3 km	PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN	600	10000.00	16-11-2023 at 12.00 Hrs.	"A&B"	Stage Contract 2023-24
4	Restoration/Maintenance of Various roads by way of Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 falling under the jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gool:- i) Jaman Hara Road Length = 0.70 KM ii) Link road to Ziyarat Shareef Jaba Road Length = 1.00 KM iii) Fareedabad Moila Road Length = 0.20 KM iv) Link road to ITI Gool Length = 0.30 KM v) Link road to employees Hostel Gool Length = 0.20 KM vi) Gool Gundi Dharam Tatapani Road Length = 4.00 KM vii) Hara Gali to Nakatop road Length = 1.00 KM viii) Ramakunda to Gool road Length = 4.750 KM		600	10000.00		"A&B"	Stage Contract 2023-24
5	Restoration/Maintenance of Various roads by way of Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 falling under the jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gool:- i) Ashmar Kadmira Road Length = 4.00 km ii) Shanabati-Karaa Road Length = 2.80 KM iii) Dhamaunkund to Shanabati Road Length = 1.90 km iv) Dangergam to Alotkop Road Length = 1.20KM v) Eidgah Thetharka Seripura Road Length = 2.00 km vi) Sangaldan Guralkhad to Jamia Masjid Suranda via Fulsar Length = 1.10 km vii) Sohil Morh to Suranda Road Length = 3.00 km viii) Suranda to Gameri Road Length = 0.30 km ix) Panchayat Ghar Dalwa to HSS Dalwa via Bali Mohalla Road Length = 2.80 km x) Sangaldan-Kanthan Road Length = 3.50 km	PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN	600	10000.00	16-11-2023 at 12.00 Hrs.	"A&B"	Stage Contract 2023-24
6	Restoration/Maintenance of Various roads by way of Snow Clearance for the year 2023-24 falling under the jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Batote i) Batote Boon Bari road ii) Baghu Nallah to Landhri road iii) Ladhwal Morh to Kothri road iv) Amarchasma to Nathatop road v) Batote Doda road vi) Old Highway Passing through Batote Market		600	10000.00		"A&B"	Stage Contract 2023-24

Position of AAA = SUBMITTED  
Position of funds = DEMANDED  
Technical Sanction = SUBMITTED

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-11-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 08-11-2023, 10.00 A.M to 15-11-2023, 4.00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	
4.	Bid submission Start Date	08-11-2023 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	15-11-2023 up to 4.00 P.M
6.	Submission of hard copy of tender documents	Only successful bidder who is declared as L1 should submit the hard copy after opening of financial bids
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) -[The date should be one day after deadline for receiving of hard copies]	16-11-2023 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Ramban.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

**NOTE: THE CONTRACTOR HAS TO DONE SNOW CLEARANCE WITH THE SNOW PLOUGH. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE PLOUGH TO THE CONTRACTOR ON RENTAL BASIS.**

1.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 [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per below schedule:

No: 18631-44  
Dated: 07-11-2023  
DIP/J-10947/23

Sd/-  
(Er. Abhishek Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division Ramban

## Three injured in North Kashmir road accident



SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): At least three persons were injured in a road accident in Baramulla district on Sunday officials said.

They said that at Baharen Mirgund Baramulla, a Maruti-800 bearing registration no JK01H

4935, skidded off the road, resulting in injuries to three persons.

They said that all three have been shifted to SKIMS Bemina for treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance and started an investigation.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railways, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India Invites Tenders (Two Packet System) for Development of GCT at Vijaypur Jammu, Railway Station, details as under:

SN	Station	Code	EMD required (In Rs.)	Tender form Cost (In Rs.)	Period of contract	Pre-Bid Meeting/Conference
1	Vijaypur Jammu	VJPJ	2,53,23,000/-	11800/-	35 years	11.12.2023

Bids will be received only on IREPS on 26.12.2023 upto 15:00 Hrs. For further details please visit on Railway's website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
No. 2-AC/Goods-GCT-VJPJ-FZR/23 Date: 09.11.2023  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3525/23

## EDITORIAL

TOURISM  
GROWTH

Tourism has taken shape as the world's largest industry growing rapidly in the last two decades. Today it has a share of 6 percent in world output and provides jobs to more than 100 million people around the globe. Since the end of the second world war, it has developed a solid gain in revenue and development potential and stands as a notable natural renewable resource industry.

Tourism – the travel based recreation provides an interesting alternative to people who lead a busy and routine life in their profession. They get a change in their normal and usual life. It is a normal desire for everybody to see new places and know about their life style. They wish to use their summer spells in the best possible manner. Tourism provides an opportunity to fulfill this instinct. This instinct gives a thrust to the tourism industry which has become the main source of income for several places not only in India, but abroad also.

In India, we can take examples of places like Varanasi, Vaishno Devi, Agra, Haridwar, Mussoorie, Manali etc. in this regard. Besides there are many stations which are thronged by tourists. It is a pride to note that India has a considerable number of tourists spots. They have a craze to visit these stations to satisfy their quest for exploring the historical aspects of this country. Tourism helps in filling up the gaps of budgets if any. Tourism generated inter-relationship, hospitality and employment, potentiality for people. Besides advantage, there are certain side effects on this account.

It is a normal habit with the backward or under – developed nations to take every tourist as a rich person. The tourist are often accompanied by some sales agents, who in old terminology, can be called as 'THUGS'. These guides or agents increase the prices in super effects. The tourist forms a very bad opinion about a place where he had been cheated so badly by the residents. We must remember that every tourist is an embassy or a representative of his country moving in our country. They are the best source of publicity attracting or repelling further tourists in our country. Thus, a bad experience for his deprives us from the visits of further tourist from the area.

Spoiling the environment is a common outcome of rushed tourist visits. Himalaya mountains having places like Nanda Devi tract gives a sad look due to over crowd of the tourists. It is a fact that hiss people cannot provide very high level of amenities for tourism. The shortage occurs for electricity or water or disposal of fuse. These problems create further damages to local masses. They create particular disturbance to circle of wild life up keep and natural settings of wild life are also affected due to excess tourism. Monuments too have suffered from tourism.

General instability of nation is causing damage to this industry, Kashmir is one of the examples Violence in Ayodhya, bomb – blasts in Mumbai, disturbance in Vadodara and Surat caused reduction of tourist visits to the area. Even on the whole India has to struggle hard to promote tourism. She must make use of this plan to earn more revenue. We have all the lush attraction to generate desires for a visit to this country by the tourist.

A major contribution in this respect can be by offering the best hospitality and courtesy. They should attempt to win their love and praise. We must be prepared to share the burden movement as host to tourist. As stated above, a tourists is the mouthpiece of a particular industry/country. The good image can induce them to talk good about us and bad behavior can make them spirit bad experiences and discourage tourism. We should keep it in mind that many of the Kashmir tourists have been diverted to Switzerland or any other hill stations.

## Why the whole world needs to keep the AI genie bottled

By: Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Humans have faced existential threats before during the 300,000 years they have been around. Self-inflicted harm exceeds damage from natural calamities. Science has grown our understanding of how human progress itself seeds new existential threats. And yet, humans have proliferated and benefited from each scientific iteration that outsourced work to machines. Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) different, and if so, how much time do we have left?

Elon Musk is being quite honest when he warns that AI would eventually eat all human jobs, rendering us redundant, although a mite optimistic when claiming that universal, abundant wealth – well beyond what Karl Marx and succeeding fellow romantics dreamed of – could be ours.

He recognises a problem. How to retain a sense of purpose and self-worth in a life of leisure – a conundrum familiar to the progeny of billionaires.

Humans are actually quite good at wasting time, as evidenced by America's \$600 billion sports industry, including the Olympics Games, where puny humans compete at jumping higher, running faster, throwing javelins further and wrestling each other, whilst machines and missiles outperform humans on the ground, in the air and in the water. Expect more of the same futile struggles for vanity trophies in the age of plenty.

The time horizon of the AI tipping point is uncertain. Given our experience with climate change, we are likely to wake up to reality too late. After all, a significant segment of the rich world still believes that climate change does not exist and even more believe that we are likely

to make the transition safely. Humans tend to be optimistic about the distant future but anxious about immediate outcomes – like will my doctor see me on time – and they are happy to be proven wrong when they survive despite the darkest predictions.

The median estimate at a 2015 conference of AI experts in Puerto Rico pegged 2045, with others assessing centuries, as the likely year by when generalised AI – capable of acting autonomously of human management and therefore, potentially, harmful rather than beneficial for humanity – could exist. This is about five decades earlier than the expected climate apocalypse in 2100 and serves to highlight the need for early, concerted global action.

The AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park, 80 km north of London, billed as the world's first, was organized by the UK recently. Another will follow, co-hosted by South Korea, about six months later, with France hosting the 2024 summit. It projects the UK as a nimble, pragmatic, technological lynchpin between the rumbustious free markets of the United States, the innovation unfriendly, rules-bound constraints of the European Union and the heavy hand of the State in China. To be sure, the UK has what it takes to walk the middle path independently and survive. According to a UK government-sponsored AI sector study published in 2023, it has 3,170 active AI companies, of which 60 per cent are dedicated AI businesses.

London, the southeast and the east of England account for 75 per cent of registered AI office addresses. Elon Musk, prodded at the meeting by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, said that the Bay Area in California and Greater London are the global drivers of innovation. Regional clusters

in the UK specialise in automotive, industrial automation and machinery; energy, utilities, and renewables; health, well-being and medical practice, and agricultural technology. Annual revenues are GBP 10.6 billion with 50,040 full time equivalent jobs. The contribution of AI to the national gross value (GVA) added is 1.3 per cent, or GBP 3.7 billion. Larger companies contribute more to GVA than smaller ones, illustrating the capital intensive, high R&D nature of deep technology.

The UK announced that it would establish the world's first AI Safety Institute to complement international efforts including at G-7, OECD, Council of Europe, United Nations and the Global Partnership on AI. The US has similarly decided on establishing an AI Safety Institute.

Clones are likely to proliferate. Twenty-eight nations, including the US, EU, China, India, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Germany, France, Israel, Ireland, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates participated and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.

The contents of the declaration are anodyne and designed to promote consensus. Motherhood and apple pie statements dominate. Savour this extract: "We welcome... the recognition that protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, bias mitigation, privacy and data protection needs to be addressed". This strategy to globalise the concerns around AI safety appears to replicate the non-binding nature of recent international agreements like the climate template. The risk here is that the longer the list of unfunded "concerns", the more difficult it

becomes to arrive at a workable, efficient, meaningful agreement.

Consider the Bletchley resolve to build "risk-based policies across our countries to ensure safety in light of such (AI related) risks, collaborating as appropriate, while recognising our approaches may differ, based on national circumstances and applicable legal frameworks".

The "One Problem Many Solutions" template can become a cop out, which pursues a formal "agreement" doggedly on generalities, without any bite, somewhat like the climate action agreement.

China was invited to attend, and it did. That can only have good consequences. Excluding the second largest economy would have diminished the summit. But the fact that Rishi Sunak publicly sought and got Elon Musk's endorsement of this outreach shows the extent of our splintered geopolitics and the demise of global collaboration. Possibly, a proxy yes vote from the US tech industry was the best possible olive branch whilst the pre-US elections standoff with China continues.

Consider another rhetorical resolve to identify "AI safety risks of shared concern, building a shared scientific and evidence-based understanding of these risks". In a world, adrift with a war in the heart of Europe and another in West Asia, both partly to shore up the political interests of the concerned governments, and selective trade restrictions proliferating, a shared world view and common aspirations must precede meaningful scientific collaboration amongst the major AI capable countries. We are far from there yet, and therein lies the real threat to humanity.

Amidst this dark reality, is the fact that myths surround AI and should be debunked. Robots are not killer machines unless they are programmed to be thus, like heat-sensing missiles. Robots are only as intelligent as you make them. So, keep the AI genie bottled well, and make sure that you don't wish for more than what you want.

## The mess in Gaza: Will Israel's war create many more groups like Hamas?

By: Farrukh Dhondy

For a month now, following the atrocities deliberately and strategically perpetrated by Hamas on October 7, when their militants smashed the enclosing barriers and slaughtered 1,400 Israeli men, women and children in a bordering kibbutz and at a music festival, the vengeance of Behncho-min Netanyahu's Zionist military has taken the lives of 10,000 civilian Palestinians – the majority of them women and children. No, I apologise, that should be 9,997 – three of the dead may have been Hamas "terrorists".

I am not shying away from that description. There is ample evidence from neutral humanitarian sources that the rule of Hamas over the Gaza Strip was not the most generous, democratic, free, restrained and humanitarian one. There is evidence of horrendous torture and capital sentencing of those whom Hamas suspected of being critical of their rule and aims, including members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Hamas knew precisely what the October 7 atrocities would bring about. It did. The Zionist vengeance, aimed as it says at eliminating Hamas, has starved, displaced and murdered the corralled innocents of Gaza and brought about the international polarisation of opinion.

The world does not know, yet,

what the states that surround Israel will do. Hezbollah in Lebanon, with much greater military capacity than Gaza's Hamas, hasn't yet committed to any large-scale operation. Two US aircraft-carriers and their protective flotillas are standing by... Iran, Saudi, Qatar...???

The UK's own Hedgie Sunoch has declared for Israel and so has Sir Keir Stamer of the Opposition Labour Party. Not that Behncho-min gives a flying-sexual-act for what the UK government or Opposition may think, but Hedgie and Keir are playing local politics. Stamer, displaying his anti-anti-Semitism, is in deep trouble as very many leading Labour figures, while recognising Hamas' atrocities as such, oppose his stance and call for an immediate ceasefire. Stop the bombing and the invasion of Gaza.

Gentle reader, I side with this opposition. The Zionist aim of eliminating Hamas is one of the biggest illusions of our era. Hamas is not just the present group of militants/terrorists. It's an ideology born of the resentment against historical injustice. Zionist genocide against the Gazan population will breed a hundred more Hamas-like forces.

Perhaps, gentle reader, I have wasted your time and perseverance on "facts", speculation and opinions that are now everywhere. And, of course, you know that in every civilised country there have been reactions against the meaningless

slaughter in this conflict.

Apart from the demonstrations in London and other UK cities, the media report on isolated incidents of anti-Semitism. Synagogues have been daubed with slogans and paint. Posters showing the hostages taken by Hamas have been torn down. Some Jewish schools say that they have been threatened and have closed down, proclaiming they fear assaults.

Though I haven't read of any convincing threats to it, I completely understand that the Jewish communities of Britain are cautious and fearful. There may indeed be some maniacs who believe that attacking Jews in London assists the Palestinian cause. And yes, there are people who are brought up with deep anti-Semitic, not necessarily religious, propagandist beliefs.

I don't understand anti-Semitism. I grew up in close friendship with Baghdadi Jewish families who lived and prospered in Pune (then Poona), where I went to school and college with George and Micael Iny, Daniel Sassoon, Eli Nissan, Jacob Mordecai and several others. There was no anti-Semitism in India in my childhood and teens. These several families had businesses – "clothing hosiery" – on Mahatma Gandhi Road and a synagogue called "Lal Deval" (it was made of red brick) at one end of Synagogue Street. (It couldn't have been at both ends, you idiot, why are you wasting

words – Ed. Well, there was an agiary, a Zoroastrian fire temple at the other end, but for some reason it wasn't called "Agiary Street" –fd.)

And I have taken to pointing out to my Jewish friends the passages in Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament that tell you that the Zoroastrian (Parsi) emperors Artaxerxes and Cyrus had sent armies to liberate the Jews and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish people were not at the time victims of what we today call "anti-Semitism". They were literally slaves to the Pharaohs of Egypt till Moses liberated them and they were weeping by the rivers of Babylon where the Assyrians took them captive. Which is when Artaxerxes noticed his cup-bearer Nehemiah was depressed and sent him to Jerusalem with a bit of a Parsi army to sort it out. Nehemiah did.

Do his Jewish descendants show any gratitude or offer any token of it – a bank account transfer, or even a case of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc – to this descendant of those Achaemenid emperors? Go figure... as the Americans say!

Forgive the frivolity, merey Meh-boob! It's only my way of getting my thoughts away from the sort of genocide, hysteria and meaningless, ancient prejudice and enmity and the greed for land that we should hope this 21st century could put behind us. Dream on!

## Prevention & treatment of gynaecological cancers

Young mothers & Asha workers play a crucial role in curbing the increased rate of gynaecological cancers in Kerala

KOCHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): Gynaecological cancers have seen a concerning rise in Kerala. According to the National Cancer Registry Programme, the incidence rate of gynaecological cancers in Kerala is 104.5 per 100,000 women the highest in India and significantly higher than the national average. This category encompasses a spectrum of cancers, including cervical, endometrial, ovarian, and vaginal.

One of the reasons for this high number could be Kerala's robust cancer registries bolstered by strong reporting mechanisms. While educating and empowering people to make healthy lifestyle choices can lower cancer incidences, early detection is essential for successful treatment.

When detected early, many gynaecological cancers can be treated effectively. Advanced robotic surgery technologies like the Da Vinci provide surgeons with unmatched dexterity and precision, which can help to preserve organs and improve the quality of life for women.

Root causes  
Hormonal imbalance, driven by unhealthy life-



styles, obesity, poor diet, and sedentary habits is a prominent factor in gynaecological cancers. Obesity triggers a cascade of hormonal imbalances by increasing oestrogen production, causing inflammation and insulin resistance. This can lead to diabetes, polycystic ovarian syndrome, etc., which can contribute to hormone-related ailments and infertility.

In today's day and age, when unhealthy eating habits and sedentary lifestyles are the norm, the burden of guiding young women and breaking the cycle lies on their parents. The importance of inculcating healthy lifestyles, seasonal diets, regular exercise, and maintain-

ing a healthy weight among their children can reduce the risk of cancers.

Lack of sex education In a society where discussions about sex education are often shrouded in silence, parents play a vital role in discussing the necessity of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and how it prevents cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is primarily transmitted through HPV, a virus acquired through unprotected sexual intercourse. In recent years, the age at which women engage in sexual activity has decreased significantly, emphasising the need for conversations about the vaccine and safe sexual practices at a younger age.

Early screening

Educating parents and passing the knowledge to their daughters is a promising avenue to detect gynaecological cancers in the early stages. Furthermore, understanding the importance of regular screening is essential. Every young woman should be acquainted with her body, comfortable with self-examinations, including breast checks, and report any persistent symptoms. Considering that gynaecological cancers often manifest without noticeable symptoms, regular screening and education facilitated by Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and Asha workers could prove to be a

game-changer.

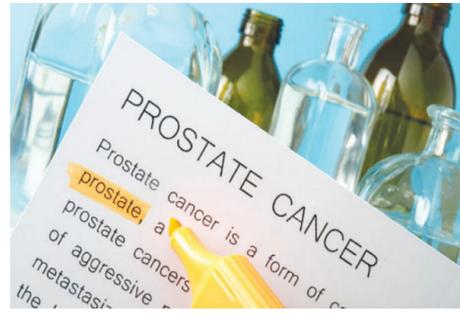
Treatment options In the initial stages, surgical removal of cancerous tissue is an effective form of treatment. But as the cancer progresses, treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.

The visual capabilities of robotic-assisted surgery enable surgeons to reach deeper pelvic areas, making the surgery more precise. All this is done accurately by using smaller ports, further enhancing its advantages over traditional minimally invasive methods.

The surge in gynaecological cancers in Kerala presents a complex challenge, but with education, early detection, and innovative treatment options, there is hope for a healthier future.

Mind and Body Got health concerns you want to share with a doctor? Are you looking for credible answers regarding symptoms, medicines or lifestyle disorders? Write to us on [cityexpresskoc@newindianexpress.com](mailto:cityexpresskoc@newindianexpress.com), and we will get healthcare professionals to answer them.

## Study finds 187 new genetic variants linked to prostate cancer



NEW YORK, Nov 12 (Agencies): Researchers have identified 187 new genetic variants linked to prostate cancer that can help predict who would or wouldn't develop the condition.

The team led by researchers at Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California also found 150 genetic variants from earlier research that were replaced by variants in nearby spots on the DNA double helix that better correlated with prostate cancer risk through the lens of the larger, more diverse sample.

"It's an important refinement to find markers that are better at capturing risk across populations," said Haiman, who is also

director of the USC Center for Genetic Epidemiology.

"The idea of precision medicine and global medicine for all rely on including and integrating information across populations, because the best marker determined in whites might not be the best marker overall."

The variants, derived from genomic information from close to 9,500,000 men, can help even distinguish between the likelihood of aggressive and less serious cases.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Genetics, the researchers compared genomic data from 156,319 prostate cancer patients with that of a control group totaling 788,443.

From the previous study, there was an 87

per cent increase in the number of prostate cancer cases included from men of African ancestry, 45 per cent from Latino ethnicity, 43 per cent from European ancestry and 26 per cent from Asian ancestry.

Because many prostate cancer cases diagnosed today might never reach the point where they are life-threatening -- leading to unnecessary treatment that can degrade quality of life -- differentiating between risk for aggressive disease is key.

Up until now, the scientists' system for calculating risk scores has correlated with likelihood of developing prostate cancer, but lacked predictive value about how serious a given case may be.

"We'll continue to improve this risk score, and look for markers that help to distinguish aggressive from less aggressive disease," Haiman said.

"Clinical trials will be required to evaluate the effectiveness of the risk score in helping doctors and patients make decisions about screening."

## Fluctuating BP a warning sign for dementia, heart disease: Study

SYDNEY, Nov 12 (Agencies): Fluctuating blood pressure can increase the risk of dementia and vascular problems in older people, a new study by Australian researchers has warned.

Short blood pressure (BP) fluctuations within 24 hours as well as over several days or weeks are linked with impaired cognition, according to University of South Australia (UniSA) researchers who led the study.

Higher systolic BP variations (the top number that measures the pressure in arteries when a heart beats) are also linked with stiffening of the arteries, associated with heart disease.

It is well known that high blood pressure is a risk factor for dementia, but little attention is paid to fluctuating blood pressure.

"Clinical treatments focus on hypertension, while ignoring the variability of blood pressure," lead author Daria Gutteridge said in the paper published in the journal Cerebral Circulation -

Cognition and Behaviour. "

Blood pressure can fluctuate across different time frames - short and long - and this appears to heighten the risk of dementia and blood vessel health," Gutteridge added.

To help explore the mechanisms that link BP fluctuations with dementia, the researchers recruited 70 healthy older adults aged 60-80 years, with no signs of dementia or cognitive impairment.

Their blood pressure was monitored, they completed a cognitive test, and their arterial stiffness in the brain and arteries was measured using transcranial doppler sonography and pulse wave analysis.

"We found that higher blood pressure variability within a day, as well as across days, was linked with reduced cognitive performance. We also found that higher blood pressure variations within the systolic BP were linked with higher blood vessel stiffness in the arteries," the authors wrote.

## Medicine to reduce obesity approved

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new medication for weight loss called Zepbound (tirzepatide), which has been developed by pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly.

This injection will be used for the treatment of chronic weight management in adults grappling with obesity or showing at least one weight-related condition, such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or elevated cholesterol levels.

"Obesity and overweight pose significant health risks, including associations with leading causes of mortality such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes," said Dr John Sharretts, Director of the Division of Diabetes, Lipid Disorders, and Obesity at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, in a statement.

Tirzepatide, the active component in Zepbound, is already sanctioned under the trade name Mounjaro for enhancing blood sugar control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus when used alongside diet and exercise.

It is expected that this medication will be available in the United States within weeks.

JPMorgan analysts have predicted annual sales for so-called GLP-1 drugs to reach \$140 billion by 2032, with the market dominated by Novo and Lilly.

Zepbound comes with a high list price of \$1,059.87 per month, which may limit the number of people who can receive it since insurance companies often do not cover weight loss medications, according to the news agency.

Medicare, the state subsidised insur-

ance for the elderly, is barred from covering it.

Zepbound operates by activating receptors for hormones secreted from the intestine, namely glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP), which results in appetite and food intake reduction.

The efficacy of Zepbound for chronic weight management was validated through two randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials involving adults with obesity or overweight and at least one weight-related condition.

In these trials, participants receiving Zepbound at all three dose levels experienced statistically significant reductions in body weight compared to those receiving a placebo, with a greater proportion achieving at least a 5% weight reduction.

One of the trials, which included adults without diabetes, demonstrated that those receiving the highest approved dosage of Zepbound (15 mg once weekly) experienced an average 18% reduction in body weight compared to the placebo group.

In the trial involving adults with type 2 diabetes, those receiving the highest approved dosage of Zepbound also saw a statistically significant average 12% reduction in body weight compared to the placebo group.

Zepbound, however, has potential side effects, including nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal discomfort, pain, injection site reactions, fatigue, hypersensitivity reactions, burping, hair loss, and gastroesophageal reflux disease.

## Malaria: How it turns fatal if left undiagnosed

CHENNAI, Nov 12 (Agencies): Malaria is a disease transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes that are infected by a plasmodium parasite. The intensity of the disease depends on the species of Plasmodium. The symptoms include rigour, fever and sweating, usually a few weeks after being bitten.

"The main symptom of malaria is fever with rigour. The fever is not continuous, but rather episodic. For example, the patient may have a fever for 30 minutes and won't have a fever for the rest of the day. The next episode may be within 24-48 hours. The gap between fever episodes depends on the species of the parasite," said Dr Shameer VK, assistant professor, of general medicine, at Government Medical College, Kozhikode.

Unlike seasonal flu, in which the patient experiences respiratory-related symptoms like sore throat, running nose and cough, in malaria such



symptoms are absent. "Dengue and chikungunya are similar to malaria, but the body pain is more specific. Joint pain is classical in chikungunya fever, while dengue fever is accompanied by headache and body pain. Except for the fever pattern, the symptoms are similar to dengue and malaria. Rashes on the skin are also a sign of dengue," he added.

Getting treated early will prevent any complications, but delaying it can cause severe complications like renal failure and even turn fatal. "One such complication is cerebral malaria which affects the brain. The symptoms will also

include seizures and altered behaviour. It is a life-threatening condition. Another danger is renal failure," Dr Shameer said.

Malaria can also result in a drop in red blood cells (RBC) for an adequate supply of oxygen to your body's tissues. "This parasite grows inside RBC and destroys it. If too much RBC is destroyed, it will lead to a drop in platelet count and result in anaemia, jaundice and black water fever," he added.

The presence of the parasite can be examined through blood tests. "The most conventional method used is peripheral smear test. A small drop of blood is dropped

on a glass slide to create a smear and it is examined under a microscope to check for the presence of the parasite. Only trained eyes can identify it and therefore sometimes small labs may not have the expertise for it," Dr Shameer said.

The disease is treated with anti-malarial drugs and based on the parasite you are infected with, the severity of the symptoms and other factors like age and whether you are pregnant.

Doctors have advised people to take preventive measures while travelling to or those living in areas endemic to malaria. Precautions include covering the skin to prevent mosquito bites, sleeping under a net, applying insect repellent and taking preventive medicine.

Box: Transmission cycle

Malaria spreads when a mosquito gets infected with the disease after biting an infected

person, and the infected mosquito then bites a non-infected person. The malaria parasites enter that person's bloodstream and travel to the liver. When the parasites mature, they leave the liver and infect red blood cells.

Infection: A mosquito becomes infected by feeding on a person who has malaria

Parasite transmission: An infected mosquito transmits malaria parasites to another person

Liver: Once the parasites enter the body, they travel to the liver - where some types can lie dormant for as long as a year.

RBC attack: When the parasites mature, they leave the liver and infect the red blood cells (RBC). This is when people develop malaria symptoms.

Cycle repeats: If an uninfected mosquito bites the person at this point in the cycle, it will become infected and can spread them other people.

## 5 cardiologist-approved aerobic exercises for the heart

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): In the last decade, researchers and experts have been focussing much on heart health, especially as events like heart attacks and cardiac arrests have seen a tremendous rise across the globe.

Cardiologists have long advocated for the inclusion of aerobic exercises in our daily routines, citing their numerous benefits for heart health.

These exercises, often referred to as "cardio," involve repetitive contraction of large muscle groups, which increases your heart rate and breathing.

The result is a healthier, stronger heart that can efficiently pump

blood throughout the body.

The American Heart Association emphasises that cycling helps reduce heart disease risk and maintains blood pressure. An hour-long leisure ride or a more strenuous half-hour ride thrice a week is ideal.

Here are five types of aerobic exercises recommended by cardiologists:

Brisk walking This is a moderate-intensity exercise that tops many heart-healthy activity lists. It's an excellent way to increase your physical activity without putting too much strain on your body.

Running A vigorous-intensity exercise, running can



significantly boost your heart rate, making it an effective cardio workout.

Cycling Whether you're cycling outdoors or using a stationary bike, this exercise is great for improving cardiovascular fitness.

Swimming This full-body workout not only strengthens your muscles but also

enhances your heart's ability to pump blood.

Jumping rope This high-intensity exercise can get your heart pumping, improving your overall aerobic fitness.

Benefits of aerobic exercises These exercises, when done regularly, can strengthen your heart muscle, improve blood

circulation, and increase oxygen levels in your blood.

They also help manage weight, prevent artery damage from high cholesterol, high blood sugar, and high blood pressure, all of which contribute to a healthier heart and lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

Moreover, aerobic exercises can improve the muscles' ability to pull oxygen out of the blood, reducing the need for the heart to pump more blood to the muscles.

They also work like beta blockers to slow the heart rate and lower blood pressure, reducing stress hormones that can put an extra burden on the heart.

## Salman Khan requests fans to protect 'Tiger 3' spoilers: 'We are counting on you'

Salman Khan says 'Tiger 3' is the perfect Diwali gift from us to you

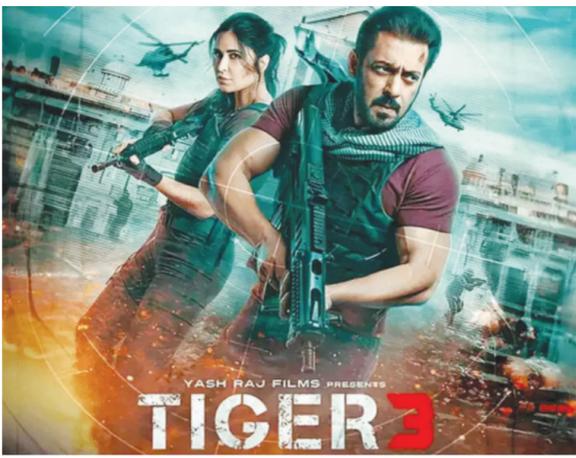
Superstar Salman Khan made an appeal to his fans and asked them not to reveal spoilers from his much-anticipated film "Tiger 3", which released on Diwali.

The Yash Raj Films project, directed by Maneesh Sharma, is a sequel to the 2017 film "Tiger Zinda Hai". It also stars Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi, while Shah Rukh Khan will make a special appearance as Pathaan.

There have also been reports of Hrithik Roshan reprising his role of Kabir from "War" movie.

"We have made #Tiger3 with a lot of passion & we are counting on you to protect our spoilers when you see the film. Spoilers can ruin the movie-watching experience. We trust you to do what is right. We hope #Tiger3 is the perfect Diwali gift from us to you," Salman posted on micro-blogging site X.

His co-stars, Katrina and



Emraan, also asked the fans to not spoil the film for others.

"The plot twists & surprises in #Tiger3 adds to the movie-watching experience of the film! Thus, we request you to not

reveal any spoilers. The power is in your hands to protect our labour of love so that it can deliver the best entertainment to people. Thank you and Happy Diwali," she said.

The Bollywood star has reprised her role of a former ISI agent Zoya in the much-anticipated movie.

Hashmi, who plays the antagonist in the movie, said the film has "countless secrets" and the team trusts the fans to keep them safe.

"Please don't reveal any spoilers as it will hamper the experience of watching the film in theatres. We have worked really hard to make #Tiger3 and we know you will support us fully! Happy Diwali," the actor posted.

"Tiger 3" released on Sunday in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu.

Set after the events of "Pathaan", the film see Salman's titular spy race against time to save both his family and country.

The movie marks the fifth film in the YRF Spy Universe, conceptualised by studio head Aditya Chopra.

## Into the deep ocean: Jason Momoa's Deep Rising to premiere in India



Hollywood star Jason Momoa's highly acclaimed film Deep Rising will be making its official Indian premiere at the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival 2023

(ALT EFF). The festival, which focuses on themes of environment, sustainability and climate change, now in its fourth edition, will take place from December 1 to 10 and feature more

than 60 films, including international and Indian features, shorts, student films and animated movies.

Deep Rising, narrated and produced by Momoa, and directed by Matthieu Ritz, is a real-life documentary that delves into the fate of the planet's last untouched wilderness — the deep ocean.

The film sheds light on the imminent threat faced by the deep ocean due to a secretive organisation's plans to allow massive extraction of seabed metals to address the world's energy crisis. Deep Rising showcases the vital relationship between the deep ocean and sustaining life on Earth.

## Vaani Kapoor is ready for a working Diwali in London

It will be a working Diwali for actor Vaani Kapoor.

She is currently in London for the shoot of her film. Interestingly, Vaani will celebrate the festival with her cast and crew on the sets of her upcoming project.

"I will be spending Diwali in London this year! Every year I really look forward to celebrating it in Delhi with my family by being a part of the puja, lighting diyas with my folks and indulging in some homemade delicacies," she shared.

Vaani added, "Whenever I have celebrated the festival in Mumbai my friends have always made it special for me. However this year I am away from the cheerful festive spirit of home and I am already missing my family and friends terribly.

This year, I will celebrate Diwali with the cast and crew of my upcoming film. I will treat myself to some traditional Indian food and soak in the festivities." In the coming months, Vaani will be seen headlining two diversely different projects - Maddock Films, Sarvagunn Sam-



panna, and Yash Raj crime thriller, 'Mandala Murders'. Films OTT show, a gritty

## Bhumi Pednekar: I eat sweets on Diwali without feeling guilty

Actor Bhumi Pednekar also talks about her favourite ritual on the festival and shares that the whole family get together to wash all the dias

Bhumi Pednekar's enthusiasm for Diwali is unmatched within her family. She describes herself as the "most passionate person" when it comes to celebrating this joyous festival. "Usually on Diwali, I make sure that I am at home if I am not shooting and this year too I will be celebrating it with them. My extended family is also down from the states and I am very excited to be with all my cousins. Starting from Dusshera till Diwali, festivities are non stop. I am the most passionate person in my family when it comes to Diwali," she tells us.

Growing up, Pednekar's father instilled in her a sense of reverence for Diwali, which has stayed with her throughout her life. "There have been traditions that my father passed on to us, which previously were passed on from his father. So before sunrise, we perform certain rituals. Then



we take our meal, sleep and then directly eat in the evening. For the celebration, we light up the entire house with lights as it's something that I

have loved ever since I was a baby. Even as a child, my mom tells me that I would start reacting to lights the moment I would see them. This

fascination with lights has only grown stronger over time," she shares with us

But that most treasured traditions that Pednekar and her family follow is that of washing earthen diyas together. She fondly recalls the joyous moments spent with her loved ones during this activity and says, "The whole family get together to wash all the dias and soak them in water. Those two hours we spend together are so much fun, and are filled with laughter, playful banter, discussions and arguments. We still ensure doing it together as it brings us close and create memories for all of us to cherish."

And you can't miss out on the food when it's Diwali. Pednekar as well is looking forward to it and is sure the treats will lead to her putting on some weight. "I love mithai and Indian food and it's the only time when I can have it guilt free. So I eat sweets on Diwali without feeling guilty. A very elaborate meal is cooked at home, which has a favourite

dish of everyone but something that I completely love is the Aate ka halwa that my mom makes for prasad. It's loaded with ghee and sugar and it just heals my soul," she says, adding, "Around this time, so many boxes of sweet come home that I can already see a gulaab jamun on one cheek and a rasgulla on another cheek (laughs)."

Diwali is also seen as a time for new beginnings and fresh starts. Talking about her personal goals and aspirations she has set for herself during this auspicious period, Pednekar says, "Diwali is a new start and for me I really hope there is a fresh beginning and growth as a person. We all hope that we become better in our craft, as a human, and I too hope that. But if I have to think of one specific thing, it would be to concentrate on my health and my mental health being over anything else. Last year was so intense for me because of work and hence, this year I just want to focus on my health."

## Sushant Singh Rajput fans angry as Ankit Lokhande's video revealing startling insights on their early days goes viral

In a surprising turn of events, Ankit Lokhande, known for her role in the popular TV show 'Pavitra Rishta' alongside the late Sushant Singh Rajput, has stirred controversy with revelations about their tumultuous relationship. The actress, currently a contestant on Bigg Boss 17, opened up about her initial impressions of Sushant in a throwback video that has now gone viral on social media.

During a conversation with Shekhar Suman on his chat show, Ankit disclosed, "Hum log set pe kaam karte the day and night aur pehle hi din se mujhe thoda Sushant accha nahi lagta tha. Jab woh set pe aaya toh he was like full of attitude toh mujhe laga jao, mujhe kaunsi padi hai teri. Tu dekh apne raste main raste (We used to work day and night on the set, and from the very first day, I didn't like Sushant much. When he came to the set, he was full of attitude, and I thought, 'Why should I bother with you? You stick to your path, and I'll stick to mine)."

Elaborating on their early days, Ankit revealed, "Humare bohot jhagde hote the, set pe toh mujhe jhaad deta tha. Main nayi nayi artist thi aur uska close chal raha hota tha mere saath



toh mujhe camera ke peeche khada kar ke bolta tha glycerin lo aur main leti thi aur main vaisehi expression deti thi jaise main apne close main doongi... Chinti karta tha ki aankhein neechi karo. (We used to have a lot of arguments, and he used to scold me on set. I was a new artist, and he would make me stand behind the camera, telling me to use glycerin for emotional scenes. I would act like I was filming my close-up, and he would pinch me to make me

look down)."

Ankit lightened the mood with a jest, "Sochiye main kitni seedhi thi, maine kitna atyachar saha hai. Uss vakt main zyada hi kuch pyaar main andhi ho gayi thi. (Imagine how innocent I was; I endured so much torture. I was blind in love)." She added, "Ab aankhein khul chuki hain aur maine yeh dekha ki woh mujhse bohot pyaar karta hai. (Now my eyes are open, and I can see how much he loved me)."

The revelation sparked a flurry of reactions from fans, with some expressing disbelief and others urging Ankit to refrain from dramatics inside the Bigg Boss house.

A fan wrote, "Yaar Ankit aap abhi nautanki mat karo kyunki bigg Boss mein aap Aakar sirf aur sirf Sushant ke bare mein hi baten kar rahe ho balki Sushant hamare sath nahin hai is duniya mein nahin hai aur ham Sushant ki asali naam maujudgi mein aap uske bare mein kuchh bhi bolo yah hamen manjur nahin hai kyunki Sushant ek Aisa Insan tha jiski jagah koi bhi nahin le sakta aur aap Sushant ko Sahi bolo ya galat ham uske bare mein kuchh bhi nahin manenge kyunki I love Sushant." One user commented, "Both of them after their break up ruined their lives." Another one said, "Shocking." Yet another Sushant Singh fan commented, "Meri sushant ko introvert hai aur introverts kisko bhi pahele acche nai lagte but how dare you to say that sushant had attitude bus unki talent se sabko jalan hoti bus."

The emotional disclosure has reignited discussions about the pair's past, leaving fans nostalgic and some questioning the choices made post their breakup.

## Sushmita Sen followed a ritual to come out of her character Aarya's 'don-giri'



Actress and former beauty queen Sushmita Sen has shared an interesting anecdote about how she would come out of the char-

acter of 'Aarya' post the shoot. She said that she used to come back and take a shower to wash her off. "I try very hard not

to talk to people like Aarya — there is a don-giri in Aarya and if you shoot an entire season, which is 42 days, and in these many days, one's personality can easily change," Sushmita said.

She added: "One can become Aarya very easily at any given moment of time. She is such a beautiful embodiment of shakti that at times you have to remember in real life, you have to tone it down a little.

After the shoot, I used to immediately come back and take a shower and wash her off and take it off. Earlier it used to be a little difficult but now it's a process of how to leave her at the set and come back."

Created and co-directed by Ram Madhvani and co-produced by Amita Madhvani, Ram Madhvani, Ram Madhvani Films and Endemol Shine India, 'Aarya' Season 3 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.

# PM Modi celebrates Diwali with soldiers in Himachal's Lepcha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished "wonderful health" to the people in the country in his Diwali message. He celebrates this year's Diwali with soldiers in Himachal's Lepcha.

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reached Lepcha in Himachal Pradesh, adjoining the Chinese border, to celebrate Diwali this year with soldiers, keeping in line with his tradition. PM Modi, who reached the remote village on Sunday morning, wrote on X, "Reached Lepcha in Himachal Pradesh to celebrate Diwali with our brave security forces". Earlier in the day, PM Modi wished "wonderful health" to the people in the country in his Diwali message. "Wishing everyone a Happy



Diwali! May this special festival bring joy, prosperity and wonderful health to everyone's lives," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a long-standing tradition of celebrating Diwali with soldiers guarding the country's borders. Since taking office in 2014, he has made it a point to spend the festival of lights with the armed forces, travelling to remote locations to express his gratitude for their sacrifices. Last year, he celebrated the festival of lights with soldiers in Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir.

# 4 of family from Madhya Pradesh die in road accident in Rajasthan's Bundi

KOTA, Nov 12 (Agencies): Four members of a family from Madhya Pradesh died in Rajasthan's Bundi district in the early hours of Sunday when their car collided with a truck on National Highway 52, police said. The incident occurred in the Hindoli police station area when the victims were headed for Pushkar, they said. The deceased were identified as Devi Singh (50), his wife Maankhor Kanwar (45), his brother Rajaram (40) and nephew Jitendra

(20), all residents of Gangukhedi village in Agar-Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh. The accident took place around 12.30 am when the SUV carrying the four people rammed into a heavy-duty truck from behind near Hindoli town, Circle Inspector at Hindoli police station Manoj Sikarwal said. The SUV was probably speeding and it seems that the truck ahead applied its brakes all of a sudden, causing the vehicle to ram into it, he said.

Three people died on the spot and the woman succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital on Sunday morning, the official said. The truck driver fled the spot leaving his vehicle behind, Sikarwal said, adding that efforts were underway to nab him. The bodies are at a mortuary and post-mortem examinations will be conducted later in the day after their family members arrive, police said.

# Women will get Rs 15,000 annual assistance if Congress retains power in Chhattisgarh: CM Baghel



RAIPUR, Nov 12 (Agencies): Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday said if the Congress retains power in Chhattisgarh, women will be given an annual financial assistance of Rs 15,000 in the state. The announcement, which comes ahead of the second phase of Chhattisgarh elections

scheduled for November 17, is being seen as a counter to the opposition BJP's promise in its poll manifesto of giving Rs 12,000 per year to married women. "Today, on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, with the blessings of Maa Lakshmi ji and Chhattisgarh Mahatari, an important deci-

sion has been taken for women empowerment," Baghel told reporters in Raipur. After the Congress Government is formed again in Chhattisgarh, women in the state will be provided an annual assistance of Rs 15,000 directly into their bank accounts under the "Chhattisgarh Gruha Lakshmi Yojana", he said. Baghel also wished people of the state on Diwali. The first phase of polling in 20 out of the total 90 assembly seats in the state was held on November 7. The remaining 70 seats will see voting on November 17.

# Delhi's air quality remains in 'poor' category despite rain

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): The Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in 'poor' category in the National Capital on Sunday morning. Air quality across Delhi continues to be in the 'poor' category, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said. As per the CPCB data, AQI in Anand Vihar was at 266, while at RK Puram it was recorded at 241 on Sunday morning at 07.00 am. Similarly, in Punjabi Bagh area it was at 233, and in ITO area it was recorded at 227. Vehicles entering the National Capital are being checked by officials amid the pollution-related GRAP-4 regulations. There was a slight improvement in Delhi's air quality on Saturday following rain on Friday. The air quality, which was previously categorised as 'very poor' by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), improved to the 'poor' category.



However, despite rain offering a slight respite, Delhi's air quality continued to be a matter of concern for residents. A local resident and morning walker at Kartavya Path noted, "After the rain, pollution has slightly decreased but the bad air quality condition persists. We are still facing problems in breathing." Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai had on Friday

announced that the state government would delay the proposed implementation of the odd-even car-rationing scheme in the city. There was also a dip in the levels of pollutants PM 2.5 and PM10 after 4 am across the National Capital and surrounding areas. For the next two days post-Diwali on Sunday, the weather department has forecast a partly

cloudy sky with mist or shallow fog in the mornings and thereafter, for the subsequent two days, it has forecast a mainly clear sky with shallow fog in the mornings. The Delhi Government is making efforts to execute anti-pollution measures, and it is also considering the idea of 'artificial rain' to curtail the pollution issue. Several ministers of the Aam Admi Party were also seen on the ground on Thursday night inspecting the execution of anti-pollution initiatives. Currently, Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been implemented in the National Capital. The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed grave concern over the hazardous air quality in the national capital and directed that farmers should stop stubble burning forthwith in Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, saying it was one of the major contributors to air pollution.

# "May India Be Illuminated With...": Rahul Gandhi's Diwali Wish

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday greeted people on the occasion of Diwali and hoped that the country be illuminated with truth, justice and love. "Best wishes to everyone on Diwali. Let the darkness of lies, injustice and hatred disappear, May our India be illuminated with truth, justice and love," the Congress leader posted on social media app X. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also extended warm greet-

ings to the people on Diwali and expressed hope that this unique festival of lights brings happiness, peace, and prosperity to everyone's lives. "I wish all the leaders and workers of the Congress Party a very happy Diwali. May this unique festival of lights bring happiness, peace, prosperity and prosperity in your life," Mr Kharge posted on X. He further hoped that there should be love, brotherhood, harmony and harmony in the society.



"Our only wish is that there should be love, brotherhood, harmony and harmony in the society, we all should keep fighting against injustice,

ignorance and discrimination and the lamp of happy hopes should keep burning," the Congress chief added. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu also greeted people on Diwali and wished that the festival brings joy, prosperity and health to everyone's lives. Diwali is observed on Amavasya (or the new moon), the 15th day of the month of Kartik, every year. This year, Diwali will be celebrated on November 12.

# Four of a family stabbed to death in Karnataka's Udupi, probe underway



MANGALURU, Nov 12 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, four members of a family were stabbed to death by an unidentified assailant at Kemmannu in Udupi district

on Sunday morning, police said. The deceased are Hasina (48) her children Afsan (23), Aseem (14), and Aynaz (20). Hasina's mother-in-law

suffered serious stab injuries and was admitted to the hospital. Superintendent of Police Dr K Arun said that four were murdered by stabbing. An investigation is in progress to ascertain the cause of the murders. No valuables have been stolen from the house. The investigation will be carried out from all angles. Sources said the victim's husband is working in the Gulf. Further investigations are underway in the case.

# 'Rs 25 lakh cause of dispute': Sisters die by suicide at Brahma Kumaris Ashram in Uttar Pradesh's Jagner

AGRA, Nov 12 (Agencies): Three people were arrested in connection with the suicide of two sisters, both inmates of Brahma Kumaris Ashram in Jagner, police said on Sunday. The sisters, Ekta Singhal, 38, and Shikha Singhal, 34, allegedly killed themselves Friday night at the ashram and left behind a note naming four people responsible for their action, they said. Besides the note, police also recovered their mobile phones from the ashram. An FIR was filed in the matter under section 306 of Indian Penal Code at Jagner Police Station in Agra district. "On Friday night, police got information about the suicide of two sisters associated with the Brahma Kumaris



Ashram," Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kheragarh, Mahesh Kumar, said. Kumar said both sisters had been living in the ashram for the past several years. In the suicide note, the sisters accused Neeraj, Tara Chand, Guddan, and Poonam of driving them to suicide, he said. "Neeraj Singhal is a cousin of the sisters and Tara Chand is their uncle. Poonam is a member of the ashram. Guddan too is a relative of the Singhals," Kumar

said. According to the ACP, the accused together had set up the ashram in Jagner. Later Poonam and Neeraj moved to its Gwalior centre. "As per the suicide note, an amount of Rs 25 lakh was the cause of the dispute," Kumar said. Jagner Police Station SHO Avneet Man said Tara Chand, Guddan, and Poonam have been arrested and a hunt is on for Neeraj Singhal.

# Main accused in Mathura murder and robbery case killed in encounter with police

MATHURA, Nov 12 (Agencies): The main accused in the murder of a businessman's wife in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura during a robbery attempt, has been killed in an encounter with the police, officials said on Sunday. According to the police, the accused, Farooq, who carried a bounty of Rs 50,000, was shot dead on Saturday night after he opened fire at the Special Operations Group (SOG). Farooq and his accomplice, Mohsin, were accused of murdering an elderly woman, Kalpana Agarwal, in Mathura's Guru Kripa Colony on November 4. Her husband, Krishna Kumar Agarwal, a businessman, was injured in the incident when the accused robbed their home. A huge amount of money and jewellery was looted from the residence. According to the police, Mohsin was the driver of the Agarwals. He had stolen a key to their house prior to the robbery. On the evening of November 3, he also secretly brought Farooq to the Agarwals' house, hiding him in the luggage compartment while dropping the businessman home. When they reached home, Mohsin handed over the key to Farooq, who



used it to enter the house late at night. During the robbery, he attacked the elderly couple and the woman succumbed to her injuries. After the crime, Farooq fled the area with the same car. Police officials identified the accused with the help of CCTV cameras and technical surveillance, and Mohsin was arrested a few days ago. The encounter happened when the officials tried to catch Farooq, who was shot in retaliation. Officials also recovered Rs 21.8 lakh in cash, diamonds, gold jewellery and a Toyota Innova Krista car that was looted, along with weapons and cartridges.

# Major fire broke out in an apartment building in Haryana's Sonapat, 15 persons rescued

CHANDIGARH, Nov 12 (Agencies): Fifteen people were rescued after a fire broke out on the seventh floor of a 14-floor residential apartment building in Haryana's Sonapat, police said on Sunday. "Fifteen people were rescued. All are safe," SHO, Bahalgarh, Sonapat, Inspector Devender said over the phone. The fire brigade team swiftly arrived at the scene and safely evacuated the residents. Upon receiving the information, a team of three fire tenders rushed to the location to douse the fire. Atul Garg, a senior officer with the fire department, said, "Yesterday, a call was received from Sonapat reporting a fire in a high-rise building and requesting a skylift to rescue those trapped on the upper floor." No major injuries or casualties were reported in the incident. The fire was successfully brought under control through the joint efforts of the Sonapat Fire Department and the Delhi Fire Department.



## Israel-Hamas conflict: Israel offers to evacuate babies from main Gaza hospital amid fierce fighting

Two babies died in intensive care, say Palestinian officials; WHO loses contact with Al Shifa hospital

GAZA/JERUSALEM, Nov 12 (Agencies): Israel's military said it was ready to evacuate babies from Gaza's largest hospital on Sunday, where Palestinian officials said two newborns died and dozens more were at risk after fuel ran out amid intense fighting in the area.

As the humanitarian situation worsened, Gaza's border authority said the Rafah crossing into Egypt would reopen on Sunday for foreign passport holders after closing on Friday.

Hamas said it had completely or partially destroyed more than 160 Israeli military targets in Gaza, including more than 25 vehicles in the past 48 hours. An Israeli military spokesperson said Hamas had lost control of northern Gaza.

At a news conference late on Saturday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the deaths of five more Israeli soldiers in Gaza. The Israeli military said 46 had been killed since its ground operations there began.

Israel said rockets were still being fired from Gaza into southern Israel, where it has said about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 taken hostage by Hamas last month.

Palestinian officials said on Friday that 11,078 Gaza residents had been killed in air and artillery strikes since October 7, around 40% of them children.

REPORTS OF POSSIBLE HOSTAGE DEAL

Israel's three major TV news channels, without citing named sources, said there was some progress toward a deal to free hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

Netanyahu said he would not discuss details of any possible deal, which according to N12 News would involve 50 to 100 women, children and elderly being released in stages during a three to five day pause in fighting.

According to the reports,



Israel would release women and minor Palestinian prisoners and consider letting fuel in to Gaza, while reserving the right to resume fighting.

In Tel Aviv, thousands joined a rally to support families of the hostages.

Gaza residents said Israeli troops, who went to war to eliminate Hamas after its deadly cross-border assault on Oct. 7, had been clashing with Hamas gunmen all night in and around Gaza City where the Al Shifa hospital, Gaza's largest, is located.

Ashraf Al-Qidra, who represents the health ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, said the hospital suspended operations after fuel ran out. He said two babies had died in an incubator as a result. He said there were 45 babies in total.

He said Israeli shelling killed a patient in intensive care and that Israeli snipers on rooftops fired into the medical complex from time to time, limiting people's ability to move.

The World Health Organisation expressed "grave concern" for the safety of everyone trapped in the hospital by the fighting and said it had lost communications with its contacts there.

ISRAEL SAYS IT WILL HELP EVACUATE BABIES

Israel's chief military spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said the Israeli military

would help evacuate babies from the hospital, at the request of the staff at Al Shifa.

Muhammad Abu Salmiya, the hospital's director, told Al Jazeera TV, that protecting patients was the priority.

"We contacted the Red Cross and informed them we ran out of water, oxygen, fuel, and everything," Abu Salmiya said.

"The premature babies, patients of the intensive care, and even wounded people couldn't survive with the lack of electricity... If the occupation forces want to evacuate the wounded people to any place in the world that is safer than the Gaza Strip, we are not against that."

Israel has said doctors, patients and thousands of evacuees who have taken refuge at hospitals in northern Gaza must leave so it can tackle Hamas gunmen who it says have placed command centres under and around them.

Hamas denies using hospitals this way. Medical staff say patients could die if they are moved and Palestinian officials say Israeli fire makes it dangerous for others to leave.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter called the evacuations "Gaza's Nakba" - a reference to mass dispossessions of Palestinians after Israel was founded in 1948.

"Operationally there's no way to conduct a war the way the

IDF (Israel Defense Forces) wants to conduct it inside Gaza territories," Dichter said. "I don't know how it will end." 'TOTALLY A WAR ZONE'

Ahmed al-Mokhallalati, a senior plastic surgeon at Al Shifa, told Reuters there had been continuous bombardment for more than 24 hours. He said most hospital staff and people sheltering there had left, but 500 patients remained.

"It's totally a war zone. It's a totally scary atmosphere here in the hospital," he said.

The military wing of Hamas ally Islamic Jihad, the Al-Quds Brigades, said it was "engaged in violent clashes in the vicinity of Al Shifa Medical Complex, Al Nasr neighbourhood, and Al Shati camp in Gaza."

Al Nasr is home to several major hospitals.

Israel said earlier it had killed what it called a Hamas "terrorist" who it said had prevented the evacuation of another hospital in the north, which Palestinian officials have said is out of service and surrounded by tanks.

It said Ahmed Siam was killed along with other militants while hiding in the Al Buraq school. Palestinian officials told Reuters on Friday at least 25 Palestinians had been killed in an Israeli strike at the school, which was packed with evacuees.

In London, at least 300,000 pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched and police arrested over 120 people as they sought to stop far-right counter-protesters ambushing the rally. Over 20,000 people joined a pro-Palestinian rally in Brussels.

Meeting in Saudi Arabia, Muslim and Arab countries called for an immediate end to military operations in Gaza, rejecting Israel's justification of self-defence. A communique issued at the summit urged the International Criminal Court to investigate "war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel is committing."

## Texas police officer, suspect killed in shooting; two other people found dead

Multiple officers opened fire, and the shooting will be investigated by both the Austin Police Department's internal affairs division and special investigation unit

TEXAS, Nov 12 (Agencies): A Texas police officer was killed Saturday in a shooting that left the shooter dead and a second officer wounded, authorities said.

Two other people were later found dead inside a home in Austin, according to interim Police Chief Robin Henderson.

An emotional Henderson, who paused often during a news conference and appeared to be choking back tears, said officers were called to the home shortly before 3 am Saturday by a woman screaming that she was being stabbed.

One person escaped the home before officers arrived, Henderson said, and told police the man in the home was armed with a knife.

Police then tried to enter the home and were met with gunfire, but did not return fire, retreated and called for a SWAT team, said Henderson, who did not take questions and was surrounded by about 10 other officers during her

comments.

"SWAT officers arrived on scene and forced entry into the residence ... to rescue the victims," Henderson said. "As SWAT officers entered the suspect immediately fired his gun at the officers and the SWAT officers returned fire."

Two officers and the suspect were struck by the gunfire. The suspect was killed at the scene and the two officers were taken to a hospital, where one died and the second was in stable condition, Henderson said.

"Two apparent victims of the suspect were located inside of the residence with fatal injuries," Henderson said.

Multiple officers opened fire, and the shooting will be investigated by both the Austin Police Department's internal affairs division and the department's special investigation unit in conjunction with the Travis County District Attorney's Office, Henderson said. No names have been released.

"I'm praying for the

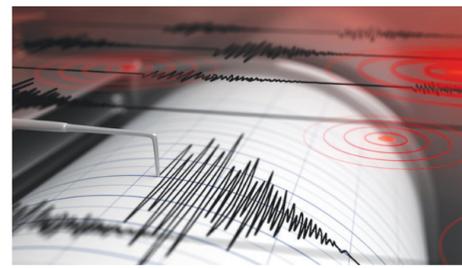
family of our fallen officer," Austin Mayor Kirk Watson said in a statement, and "for our officer who was shot and in surgery and his family."

"We rely on brave people who are in harm's way when they are serving us," Watson said. "This event jarringly brings home that truth." The Austin Police Retired Officers Association asked for prayers for both the slain and the wounded officer. "Our hearts are heavy this morning with the news of one of our brothers who shot and killed in the line of duty," the statement said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Gov. Greg Abbott also issued a statement calling for prayers for the family of the slain officer, for the wounded officer and for the city's police department.

"This tragedy is a reminder of the great risks and selfless leadership our law enforcement officers exercise every day to serve and protect their communities," Abbott said.

## Magnitude 5.6 earthquake strikes near West Timor, Indonesia



WEST TIMOR, Nov 12 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 5.6 struck near West Timor, in Indonesia, on Sunday, the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) said.

The quake was at a depth of 10 km (6.21 miles), GFZ said.

## PM Netanyahu rejects growing calls for cease-fire as Israel battles Hamas outside main Gaza hospital

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), Nov 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pushed back against growing international calls for a cease-fire, saying Israel's battle to crush Gaza's ruling Hamas militants will continue with "full force."

A cease-fire would be possible only if all 239 hostages held by militants in Gaza are released, Netanyahu said in a televised address.

The Israeli leader also insisted that after the war, now entering its sixth week, Gaza would be demilitarised and Israel would retain security control there. Asked what he meant by security control, Netanyahu said Israeli forces must be able to enter Gaza freely to hunt down militants.

He also rejected the idea that the Palestinian Authority, which currently administers autonomous areas in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, would at some stage control Gaza. Both positions run counter to post-war scenarios floated by Israel's closest ally, the United States.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said the US opposes an Israeli reoccupation of Gaza and envisions a unified Palestinian government in both Gaza and the West Bank at some stage as a step

toward Palestinian statehood.

For now, Netanyahu said, "the war against (Hamas) is advancing with full force, and it has one goal, to win. There is no alternative to victory."

Pressure was growing on Israel after frantic doctors at Gaza's largest hospital said the last generator had run out of fuel, causing the death of a premature baby, another child in an incubator and four other patients. Thousands of war-wounded, medical staff and displaced civilians were caught in the fighting.

In recent days, fighting near Shifa and other hospitals in northern Gaza has intensified and supplies have run out. The Israeli military has alleged, without providing evidence, that Hamas has established command posts in and underneath hospitals, using civilians as human shields. Medical staff at Shifa have denied such claims and accused Israel of harming civilians with indiscriminate attacks.

Shifa hospital director Mohammed Abu Selmia said the facility lost power Saturday.

"Medical devices stopped. Patients, especially those in intensive care, started to die," he said by phone, with gunfire and explosions in the background. He said Israeli troops were

"shooting at anyone outside or inside the hospital" and prevented movement between buildings.

The World Health Organisation later said it lost communication with its contacts at Shifa, according to a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Israel's military confirmed clashes outside the hospital, but Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari denied Shifa was under siege. He said troops will assist Sunday in moving babies treated there and said "we are speaking directly and regularly" with hospital staff.

Amos Yadlin, a former head of Israeli military intelligence, told broadcaster Channel 12 that as Israel aims to crush Hamas, taking control of the hospitals would be key but require "a lot of tactical creativity," without hurting patients, other civilians and Israeli hostages.

Six patients died at Shifa after the generator shut down, including the two children, spokesman with the Hamas-run Health Ministry said.

The "unbearably desperate situation" at Shifa must stop now, the International Committee of the Red Cross director general, Robert Mardini, said on social media. UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths posted that "there can be no justification for acts of



war in health care facilities."

Elsewhere, the Palestinian Red Crescent said Israeli tanks were 20 metres from al-Quds hospital in Gaza City, causing "a state of extreme panic and fear" among the 14,000 displaced people sheltering there.

Israel's military released footage which it said showed tanks operating in Gaza. The images showed shattered buildings, some on fire, and destroyed streets empty of anyone but troops.

A 57-nation gathering of Muslim and Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia called in their communique for an end to the war in Gaza and the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid. They also called on the International Court of Justice, a UN organ, to open an investigation into Israel's attacks, saying the war "cannot be called self-

defence and cannot be justified under any means."

Netanyahu has said the responsibility for any harm to civilians lies with Hamas, which denied it was preventing people in Gaza City from fleeing.

The spokesman of the Hamas military wing said militants were ambushing Israeli troops and vowed that Israel will face a long battle. The Qassam Brigades spokesman, who goes by Abu Obaida, acknowledged in audio aired on Al-Jazeera that the fight is disproportionate "but it is terrifying the strongest force in the region."

Israel's military has said soldiers have encountered hundreds of Hamas fighters in underground facilities, schools, mosques and clinics during the fighting. Israel has said a key goal of the war is to crush Hamas, which has

ruled Gaza for 16 years.

Following Hamas' deadly October 7 attack on Israel, in which at least 1,200 people were killed, Israel's allies have defended the country's right to protect itself. But now into the second month of war, there are growing differences over how Israel should conduct its fight.

The US has pushed for temporary pauses that would allow for wider distribution of badly needed aid to civilians in the besieged territory where conditions are increasingly dire. However, Israel has only agreed to brief daily periods during which civilians can flee the area of ground combat in northern Gaza and head south on foot along the territory's main north-south artery.

Since these evacuation windows were first announced a week ago, more than 1,500,000 civilians have fled the north, according to UN monitors. On Saturday, the military announced a new evacuation window, saying civilians could use the central road and a coastal road.

A stream of people fled southward on the main road, some on donkey-drawn carts. One man pushed two children in a wheelbarrow.

"Where to go, and what do they want from us?" said Yehia al-Kafarnah, one fleeing resident.

Palestinian civilians

and rights advocates have pushed back against Israel's portrayal of the southern evacuation zones as "relatively safe." They note that Israeli bombardment has continued across Gaza, including airstrikes in the south that Israel says target Hamas leaders but that have also killed women and children.

Demonstrations and outrage continued. Police said 3,000,000 Palestinian supporters marched peacefully in London, the largest such event there since the war started. Right-wing counterprotesters clashed with police.

FEAR GROWS INSIDE SHIFA

"Shelling and explosions never stopped," said Islam Mattar, one of thousands sheltering at Shifa. "Children here are terrified from the constant sound of explosions."

The Health Ministry told Al Jazeera there were still 1,500 patients at Shifa, along with 1,500 medical personnel and between 15,000 and 20,000 people seeking shelter.

Thousands have fled Shifa and other hospitals that have come under attack, but physicians said it's impossible for everyone to get out.

"We cannot evacuate ourselves and (leave) these people inside," a Doctors Without Bor-

ders surgeon at Shifa, Mohammed Obeid, was quoted as saying by the organization.

CASUALTIES RISE

More than 11,070 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, have been killed since the war began, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people have been reported missing and are thought to be possibly trapped or dead under the rubble.

At least 1,200 people have been killed in Israel, mainly in the initial Hamas attack, Israeli officials say. The military on Saturday confirmed the deaths of five reserve soldiers; 46 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the ground offensive began.

Nearly 240 people abducted by Hamas from Israel remain captive.

About 2,500,000 Israelis have been forced to evacuate from communities near Gaza and along the northern border with Lebanon, where Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have traded fire repeatedly.

"Hezbollah is dragging Lebanon into a possible war," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said after meeting with soldiers stationed along the border.

## Dal Lake blaze: Mehbooba visits affected families, demands soft loans for rebuilding houseboats



SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday visited the affected families who lost their houseboats and dwellings in a fire on Saturday. Three Bangladeshi tourists had died in the incident.

"Visited Dal (Lake), where several houseboats were ravaged by a massive fire on Saturday. Apart from extensive damage, three tourists tragically died despite the efforts of locals," Mufti posted on X.

She requested the Jammu and Kashmir Administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to provide soft loans to the affected families so that they can rebuild their houseboats.

"Request @manoj-sinha\_ji to provide soft loans & other essentials necessary for houseboat owners to rebuild. Perhaps in the future moving fire stations will help to prevent such incidents," she added.

Apni Party leader Altaf Bukhari, while expressing sympathies with the affected, urged the administration to assess the losses and compensate the victims accordingly.

"Sympathies with the house boat owners of Dal Lake who have lost property worth crores in a devastating fire mishap today. May the victims find strength in these testing times. I urge the authorities to assess the loss caused to the property and compensate the victims accordingly," Bukhari said.

A team of Apni Party leaders, including Noor Mohammad and Ashraf Mir, visited the site of the incident in the Dal Lake.

Expressing anguish over the incident, Lt Governor Sinha on Saturday said, "I am deeply pained by the loss of lives due to the unfortunate fire incident at the Dal Lake, Srinagar. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. I have directed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected people."

Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aijaz and senior tourism department officials visited the scene of the blaze on the Dal Lake and assured all possible help in rebuilding the damaged houseboats, the officials said.

## JKESTW society exbody greets JKITES on the eve of DEEPAWALI



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 12: Jammu and Kashmir Excise State Taxes Employees welfare society (JKESTW) EXC. BODY GREETES JKITES on the Auspicious occasion of Deepawali. In a message Society's President Vijay Sharma Rtd. DC said "On the joyous

occasion of Deepawali I convey my warm greetings and good wishes to all the citizens and in particular the members of society.

"Deepawali", the festival of lights is an occasion to share joy and festivity across all faiths and cultures. The diyas of deepawali signify the end of ignorance, triumph of good over evil, hope over despair, and inspire us to fight the darkness in all spheres of life.

May this deepawali usher in prosperity and happiness to all and illuminate the path of progress and well being said Sharma chairman TMF in a press release here this afternoon.

## Kashmiri displaced people wing of DPAP leaders greet the people on auspicious festival of Diwali

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 12: Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (DPAP) J&K leaders, extending their greetings on the occasion of Diwali. They emphasize the values of brotherhood, peace, communal harmony, and respect for elders, neighbors, and religious figures.

The leaders express their hope that displaced people will be able to celebrate the next Diwali in their birthplaces in the Valley. The message also includes

a list of leaders from various wings and units, including Mahila Wing, Youth Wing, and different unit presidents, each conveying their wishes for the success of DPAP in achieving its goals.

Diwali is a festival celebrated by various communities in India, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. The leaders' message reflects a desire for unity, peace, and prosperity for the people of J&K and India as a whole.

## JKBS members greet ADG Garib Dass, SSP M.L.Kaith on Diwali



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 12: On the eve of Diwali, all members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha got together to celebrate it with ADG Garib Dass and SSP M.L.Kaith at their residences today.

Both ADG and SSP warmly welcomed the members, distributed sweets among them and said, May this festival of lights bring peace and serenity to your homes and hearts.

Members too wished them abundant joy and happiness today and always.

After all these were done, all present on the occasion lighted up the crackers and saw them burst and explode into colorful displays. The entire sky was lit with the crackers, and all those had so much fun. It was a truly memorable day.

Prominent among the JKBS members who celebrated the festival

with SSP Kaith included JMC Rashpal Bhardwaj, JKBS' President Rachpal Kaith, General Secretary R.L.Kaith, Members: Hony Captain Om Parkash Kaith, Subedar Ram Paul Lakhotra, Naib Subedar Krishan Lal Kashyap, Panch Joginder Sargotra, Panch Joginder Kaith, Briender Kaith, Surjeet Kumar Kaith, Darshan Lal Lakhotra, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

## Samba Administration celebrates Deepawali with BSF Jawans on Border Posts

### Top News Report

SAMBA, Nov 12: The District Administration Samba, led by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, celebrated the auspicious occasion of Deepawali with the BSF jawans on the border posts along the International border (IB) of District Samba on Sunday.

The ADC Samba Suresh Sharma, accompanied by Tehsildar Ramgarh Abhimanyu Kalsotra and Tehsildar Samba Shabir Ahmed and Tehsildar Rajpura Subash Kumar, distributed sweets and greeted the jawans with warm wishes. They also interacted with the jawans and appreciated their dedication and bravery in guarding the nation's borders.

Speaking on the



occasion, ADC Samba lauded the soldiers for their penance and sacrifice. He stated that Administration and defence forces are part of one family. He also assured them of the administration's support and cooperation in addressing their issues.

The jawans expressed their gratitude to the Admin-

istration for their gesture of solidarity and goodwill. They also thanked the administration for providing them with support whenever required.

Samba Administration has been actively involved in organising various welfare and development activities for the people of the district, especially in the border areas of the District.

## Notorious drug peddler arrested, contraband substance, cash recovered

SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): Police have arrested a notorious drug peddler in the Pulwama area of South Kashmir and recovered a contraband substance and cash from his possession.

A police spokesperson in a statement said, "A police party of Police Station Pulwama at a checkpoint established on Sirnoo Mooghama Road intercepted a vehicle (Tata Mobile) bearing registration number JK13F-6030 driven by Feroz Ahmad Rather son of Ghulam Mohd Rather resident

of Karimabad Pulwama who after noticing police party tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During the search, 75 bottles of Codeine Phosphate and Cash amount of ₹39,050 (proceeds of narcotics) was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized."

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 301/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered and an investigation has been initiated.



## Maharashtra CM Shinde dismisses Uddhav Thackeray's threat over demolition of Shiv Sena (UBT) 'Shakha'

THANE, Nov 12 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Ekanth Shinde on Sunday dismissed Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's outburst over the demolition of his party's 'shakha' in the Thane district, calling it an empty threat.

Talking to reporters after attending a Diwali programme here, Shinde said Thackeray had to turn back when he attempted to visit the spot of the 'shakha' in Mumbai on Saturday.

Thackeray, along with top leaders of the Sena (UBT), went to Mumbai to visit the razed shakha but had to face resistance from workers of the Chief Minister's Shiv Sena, who raised slo-

gans and showed him black flags.

As the situation turned tense, Thackeray and his party colleagues left the site, just metres away from the razed shakha.

Thackeray's visit was nothing but an attempt to create a hurdle during the Diwali festivities, the chief minister said.

"The people of Mumbai showed their power during Thackeray's visit. Nothing works in front of people's power," he said.

Many senior leaders from Shiv Sena UBT had accompanied Thackeray, but Shiv Sena leader Naresh Mhaske was tough enough to take them on, Shinde said.

## Doda Admin discusses renovation plan for roads under GREF

### Top News Report

DODA, Nov 12: Pul-Doda to Chatergala Road via Bhadrawah town is of immense importance as it caters to major tourist destinations of the district. This road connects District Doda with District Kathua as an alternate route and has a far-reaching impact on the local economy and com-

merce. The tourist destinations like Guldanda, Chatergala, have seen heavy footfall of tourists from across the country during last winter. This year also the area received snowfall in the month of October and tourists started converging in the Bhadrawah Valley, Chatergala, and other hill points.

To evaluate the cur-

rent status and to take immediate measures to improve the road quality, Deputy Commissioner Singh held a meeting with OC GREF, ADC Bhadrawah and other concerned officials here in his office chamber.

The DC instructed to constitute a committee of AE GREF, Tehsildar Bhadrawah, and BDO Bhadrawah to submit

the detailed report of repair work required for the improvement of road infrastructure in the area. He impressed upon the GREF authorities to construct proper drainage system alongside road and de-clog the existing drains. DC Harvinder Singh has stressed on increasing the men and machinery required to clear the snow and slides

during the ensuing winter so that the road remains open for the residents and other winter tourism activities in the area. Deputy Commissioner has further ordered to remove the encroachments if any on the road taking help of the civil and police authorities of the sub district Bhadrawah.

## FROM PAGE 1

## Village Defence Guards open fire on suspicion in Rajouri

they said.

Police and army have launched a cordon and search operation in the village and adjoining areas as a precautionary measure, officials added.

## J&K: Over 20,000 pashmina shawls, 9000 carpets issued GI Tags

methods of production and ensures that consumers are getting authentic, high-quality items.

The granting of GI tag has enhanced the exports of the handicrafts, particularly Pashmina shawls and carpets.

Data suggests that in the last four years handicrafts worth Rs 4,740 crore have

been exported to various countries.

Official data revealed that handicrafts worth Rs 1116.37 crore were exported in FY 2022-23 against Rs 563.13 Crore in FY 2021-22.

"This year in the first quarter, handicrafts worth Rs 208.21 crore were exported from Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the world," data suggests.

It further states that an export strategy is being prepared by the government to double exports in the coming five years. "Export Strategy for Pashmina, Carpets, Paper Machie, Walnut and Sozni being prepared with an aim to double exports in 5 years. MoU Signed with NIFT for contemporary design and Packaging."

The official document said GI tagging has provided greater recognition and protection to the handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir subsequently boosting the local economy. "Jammu and Kashmir has become the first UT/State in India to issue QR-based labels for all its crafts. This move is expected to provide greater recognition and protection

to these crafts and also help in boosting the local economy," it said.

The document said that 12 more crafts are in the pipeline for GI tagging, including seven from Kashmir and five from Jammu.

"Jammu and Kashmir has a rich tradition of handicrafts, and the government has been taking various steps to promote and protect these crafts. As part of this effort, 10 crafts from Jammu and Kashmir have already been registered under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These crafts are Pashmina, Carpet, Sozni, Walnut Wood Carving, Kashmir Papier Mache, Kani Shawl, Khatamband, Basholi Painting, Basholi Pashmina and Chikri wood. Apart from these 10 crafts, 12 more crafts are in the pipeline for GI tagging, including seven from Kashmir and five from Jammu," it said.

## Uttarakhand: 36 labourers feared trapped

## as under-construction tunnel collapses in Uttarkashi

Police of Uttarkashi district are present on the spot

Information about the tunnel collapse was received at the District Control Room Uttarkashi with the caller requesting the assistance of an SDRF team at the spot.

Acting on the information, Commander SDRF, Manikant Mishra immediately directed a rescue team under the leadership of Inspector Jagdamba Vijalwan to leave for the spot with the necessary rescue equipment, they said.

"After reaching the spot, SDRF started a relief and rescue operation on a war footing in coordination with other rescue units," the official said.

## Pneumococcal vaccine

## reduces pneumonia deaths: DAK on world Pneumonia day

through respiratory droplets of the infected person. And, the single best way to prevent the infection is through vaccination," he said.

Dr Nisar said pneumonia is an infection where tiny air sacs in your lungs (alveoli) become inflamed. This can lead to symptoms such as fever, cough and difficulty in breathing. "Elderly people can manifest with atypical symptoms like feeling weak or experiencing confusion or delirium. In them pneumonia can be more difficult to recognize which can potentially result in a delay in diagnosis and treatment," he said.

"Every year on November 12, world pneumonia day is observed to spread awareness and educate people to combat this serious, potentially life-threatening lung infection," he added.

## 150 Bangladesh garment factories shut, 11,000 workers charged after clashes over minimum wage

Conditions are dire for many of the sector's four million workers, the vast majority of whom are women whose monthly pay, until recently, started at 8,300 taka (\$75 - Indian Rs 6300).

DHAKA, Nov 12 (Agencies): Bangladeshi garment manufacturers shuttered 150 factories "indefinitely", as police issued blanket charges for 11,000 workers in connection with violent protests demanding a higher minimum wage, officers said.

Bangladesh's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85 percent of its \$55 billion in annual exports, supplying many of the world's top brands including Levi's, Zara and H&M.

But conditions are dire for many of the sector's four million workers, the vast majority of whom are women whose monthly pay, until recently, started at 8,300 taka (\$75 - Indian Rs 6300).

Violent protests demanding better pay erupted last month, with at least three workers killed and more than 70 factories ransacked or damaged since, according to police.

A government-appointed panel raised the sector's wage by 56.25 percent to 12,500 taka, but garment workers have rejected the hike, instead demanding a 23,000 taka minimum wage.

15,000 workers clashed with police on a key highway and ransacked Tusuka, a top plant, along with a dozen other factories.

'Poverty wage'  
"Police have filed cases against 11,000 unidentified people over the attack on Tusuka garment factory," police



inspector Mosharrif Hossain told agency.

Bangladesh police often issue primary charges against thousands of people -- without specifying their names -- following large protests and political violence, a tactic that critics say is a way to crack down on dissent.

Human rights groups have previously warned such mass cases launched against thousands of unidentified people gives police the license to target innocent protesters.

Wage protests pose a major challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has ruled the country with an iron fist since 2009.

A resurgent opposition has challenged her rule as she readies for elections due before the end of January.

Police told agency that 150

factories had closed in the major industrial towns of Ashulia and Gazipur, both north of the capital Dhaka, as manufacturers feared further strikes when Bangladesh's working week began.

"The manufacturers invoked Section 13/1 of the labour laws and shut 130 factories at Ashulia indefinitely citing illegal strikes," Sarwar Alam, head of police in the manufacturing hub, told agency.

Ashulia is home to some of the biggest Bangladeshi factories, with some employing as many as 15,000 workers in a single multi-storied plant.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at around 10,000 workers in Ashulia when they attacked officers and factories with bricks and stones.

At least 20 factories were also shut down in Gazipur, which is

the largest industrial zone in the country, said its police chief Mohammad Sarwar Alam.

The minimum wage protests over the past two weeks have been the worst in more than a decade.

The prime minister has rejected any further pay hikes for workers and warned violent protests could cost jobs.

"If they take to the streets to protest at someone's instigation, they will lose their job, lose their work and will have to return to their village," Hasina said.

"If these factories are closed, if production is disrupted, exports are disrupted, where will their jobs be? They have to understand that."

But unions staged protests defying Hasina's warning.

They had dismissed the panel's decision, because the pay hike does not match the soaring cost of food, rent, health-care and school fees for their children.

The Netherlands-based Clean Clothes Campaign, a textile workers' rights group, has dismissed the new pay level as a "poverty wage".

Washington has condemned violence against protesting workers.

The United States, which is one of the largest buyers of Bangladesh-made garments, has called for a wage that "addresses the growing economic pressures faced by workers and their families".

## Moody's lowers US credit outlook, though keeps triple-A rating



WASHINGTON, Nov 12 (Agencies): The credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service lowered its outlook on the US government's debt to "negative" from "stable," citing the cost of rising interest rates and political polarization in Congress.

Moody's retained its top triple-A credit rating on US government debt, though it is the last of the three major credit rating agencies to do so. Fitch Ratings lowered its rating to AA+ from AAA in August, and Standard & Poor's downgraded the US in 2011. A reduced outlook, however, raises the risk that Moody's could eventually strip its triple-A rating from the US as well.

A lower rating on US debt could cost taxpayers if it leads borrowers to demand higher interest rates on Treasury bills and notes. The yield on the 10-year Treasury has risen significantly since July, from about

3.9 per cent to 4.6 per cent Friday, an unusually sharp rise.

Some market analysts have said the August Fitch downgrade may have contributed to that increase, though most point to other factors as bigger drivers, such as the Federal Reserve's commitment to keeping its benchmark rate at a 22-year high to battle inflation.

"In the context of higher interest rates, without effective fiscal policy measures to reduce government spending or increase revenues, Moody's expects that the US's fiscal deficits will remain very large, significantly weakening debt affordability," the agency said in a statement.

The Biden administration criticised Moody's decision.

"While the statement by Moody's maintains the United States' Aaa rating, we disagree with the shift to a negative outlook," Deputy Treas-

ury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said. "The American economy remains strong, and Treasury securities are the world's preeminent safe and liquid asset."

The federal government's budget deficit jumped to \$1.7 trillion in the budget year that ended September 30, up from \$1.38 trillion the previous year. Analysts have warned that with interest rates heading higher, interest costs on the national debt will eat up a rising share of tax revenue.

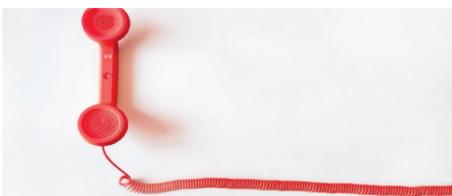
Separately, congressional lawmakers left Washington for the weekend without a plan to avoid a potential government shutdown that could occur by November 17. Moody's cited congressional dysfunction as one reason it lowered its outlook on US debt.

"Recently, multiple events have illustrated the depth of political divisions in the US: Renewed debt limit brinkmanship, the first ouster of a House Speaker in US history, prolonged inability of Congress to select a new House Speaker, and increased threats of another partial government shutdown," Moody's said.

## 'Telecom Dept doesn't make call threatening disconnection'

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) clarified that it doesn't make calls to citizens threatening disconnection. In a press note, DoT, the nodal agency for formulating policies, programs, and regulatory frameworks for the telecommunications sector in India, also warned citizens that the DoT does not communicate disconnection warnings via phone calls.

Any such call should be treated as suspicious. Lately, there has been surge in people getting calls claiming that



mobile numbers will be disconnected within two hours by the DoT. It also urged to people to exercise caution and not provide any personal information if they receive such calls.

"These calls are fraudulent attempts to deceive and potentially exploit individuals... Be aware that the DoT does not communicate

disconnection warnings via phone calls. Any such call should be treated as suspicious," said DoT in press note. It warned citizens not to share any personal information if you receive a call threatening disconnection. Also, the users need to verify the authenticity of such calls with your service providers.

## M-cap of four of top-10 most valued firms decline by Rs 23,417 crore; IT majors Infosys, TCS biggest laggards

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): The combined market valuation of four of the top-10 most valued firms fell by Rs 23,417.15 crore last week, with IT majors Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) taking the biggest hit.

Last week, the BSE benchmark advanced 540.9 points or 0.84 per cent.

While Reliance Industries Ltd, TCS, Hindustan Unilever Ltd and Infosys faced erosion from their market capi-



talisation (mcap), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, ITC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance witnessed a combined addition of Rs 17,386.45 crore.

The market valuation of Infosys fell by Rs 8,465.09 crore to Rs

Rs 5,84,284.61 crore and that of Reliance Industries dipped by Rs 3,213.62 crore to Rs 15,65,781.62 crore.

However, the valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 5,236.31 crore to Rs 11,31,079.20 crore.

ICICI Bank added Rs 3,520.92 crore taking its market valuation to Rs 6,57,563.38 crore.

The mcap of ITC climbed Rs 3,304.93 crore to reach Rs 5,44,004.63 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation surged Rs 2,669.67

crore to Rs 5,25,756.89 crore and that of Bajaj Finance gained Rs 1,539.04 crore to Rs 4,51,143.08 crore.

State Bank of India added Rs 1,115.58 crore taking its market valuation to Rs 5,17,092.02 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the most valued title followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, ITC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance.

## Muhurat Trading 2023: Check investment strategy, tips ahead of special session

Muhurat Trading 2023 Timing: The special trading session, occurring on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, will run from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM, allowing investors to participate in the market's festivities.

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) are set to light up Dalal Street with a special Muhurat trading session.

The special trading session, occurring on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, will run from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM, allowing investors to participate in the market's festivities.

What is Muhurat Trading?

Muhurat trading is a revered tradition in India where stock exchanges open for a one-hour trading session on Diwali, considered an auspicious time to invest in stocks.

Investors believe that trading during this 'muhurat' or auspicious hour brings prosperity and financial growth, setting the tone for a profitable year ahead. All trades executed

during this session are settled on the same day during the 15-minute pre-opening and closing sessions.

In 2022 and 2021, the Sensex and Nifty each gained approximately 0.88 per cent and 0.49 per cent, respectively, during the Muhurat trading sessions, providing a promising backdrop for this year's event.

What can you invest in?

During Muhurat trading, various trading windows will open across market segments. Investors can engage in trading equity, commodity derivatives, currency derivatives, equity futures & options, and securities lending & borrowing (SLB) within the same time slot.

Strategy for Muhurat Trading

Market experts advise investors to approach Muhurat trading with caution and a long-term

perspective.

While the occasion may seem like an opportunity for quick gains, it's important to exercise prudence. Due to limited liquidity on this day, it's advisable not to buy or sell large quantities.

New investors can start by making token investments in stocks of interest. Consulting a financial advisor is recommended for those unsure of where to invest.

Harjeet Singh Arora, Managing Director at Mastertrust, highlights that seven out of the past ten Muhurat trading sessions concluded with positive returns, emphasising the auspicious nature of this occasion for market participants.

"Meticulous planning is imperative, particularly within the short time frame of Muhurat trading. We have to clearly outline our financial goals whether we



are looking for short-term gains or long-term investments," Arora said.

"Usually, we witness volatile trading sessions hence thorough research is very important before deploying any trade. Look for companies with strong fundamentals, positive earnings reports, and growth potential. Additionally, we can also find stocks based on technical studies for short-term trading opportunities," he noted.

"However, given the short duration of muhurat trading, liquidity is also a big factor. Espe-

cially for intraday traders, choose stocks with sufficient liquidity to ensure smooth execution of trades," Arora added.

Meanwhile, Manoj Dalmia of Proficient Group of Companies advises maintaining a long-term perspective, avoiding overreliance on stock tips, and being mindful of potential price volatility.

Samvat 2080 outlook  
Samvat 2080 holds special significance in the Indian stock market as it marks the beginning of a new Hindu year and a fresh start for investors.

The bullish momentum in the market is supported by strong corporate performance, robust domestic economic numbers, and expectations of a return of pro-business policies. Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) in India and the conclusion of the US Federal Reserve's rate hike cycle further bolster the positive market outlook.

Sunil Nyati, Managing Director of Swastika Investmart Ltd, said, "With the Indian elections looming and an impending peak in the interest rate environment in the US, the outlook for the Indian equity markets is positive. It is expected that gold and equities will both perform well in the coming months, with gold that might further benefit from the anticipated economic slowdown in the US in 2024."

"My preferred choice

for investment leans heavily toward Indian equities as the favored asset class, the Indian equity markets are poised to outshine not only gold but also other global markets," he added.

Meanwhile, Harjeet Singh Arora of Mastertrust, said, "In light of mounting fundamental tailwinds, the market is poised to sustain its prevailing bullish momentum into Vikram Samvat 2080. Renowned global banks and financial institutions have clearly expressed optimism towards the Indian market. The stage of a bullish scenario is being set by strong corporate performance, overwhelming domestic economic numbers, and growing expectations of the return of the Modi government, known for its pro-business policies."

"Investment in equity

and gold should depend on your investment objective, time horizon, and risk profile, but proper asset allocation is required in the portfolio. Gold has been considered a safe-haven asset and used as a hedge against inflation. Gold should be viewed as a long-term investment option rather than a short-term investment. Equity markets have remained volatile both in India and globally but outperformed against other asset class," he added.

"One should invest in equity from a long-term investment perspective, the equity market can deliver a phenomenal return. Ideally, you should diversify investments in sync with your risk appetite and your original investment plan that you have made for achieving your short and long-term financial goals."

## India look to sustain momentum against Netherlands; Kohli has chance to get historic hundred

India have already qualified for the semifinals with eight victories in eight games

BENGALURU, Nov 12 (Agencies): The marauding Indians have not put a foot wrong in their authoritative run in the World Cup. It won't be a surprise if they go about plundering Netherlands in their final league game, where Virat Kohli would have a perfect opportunity to scale 'Mount 50' at his spiritual home.

India have already qualified for the semifinals while the eliminated Netherlands are on their way home, and this situation casts a perception of insignificance on their fixture.

But in reality, there are no academic-natured matches in a World Cup, where teams constantly try to better their best in the quest for ultimate glory.

India are no different as they look to maintain the momentum while ticking off a few team goals against the Netherlands, hence a large-scale change to the hosts playing 11 looks unlikely at this stage.

Since cricket is often a game of outcome and numbers, an approaching historic personal milestone gives this game an exciting undertone as well, which also carries importance from the team's perspective.

Kohli had equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI hundreds against South Africa at Kolkata, and the wait now is on for his 50th ton.

Kohli may like to insulate himself from the outside noise and focus on the job at his hand – continue churning out runs but expectations have only grown that he gets the milestone hundred at his IPL home.

So far, he has amassed 543 runs, leading India's batting chart. This is also the first time Kohli is going past the 500-run



mark in the 50-over World Cup.

He had made 282 runs in 2011, 305 in 2015, and 443 in 2019, while Tendulkar, Shikhar Dhawan, and Rohit Sharma played the lead roles with the bat in those editions.

Hence, Kohli will not want any slip up in India's last league game, using it as preparation ground to return to his sharp self ahead of the semifinals after a week-long gap following the match against the Proteas.

From a team point of view, the management might just want to see some runs against Suryakumar Yadav's name. He has made 85 runs from four matches at an average of 21.25.

He is the only missing individual piece in this Indian lineup where other frontline batters have made at least one fifty and the whole turn of events corroborates with his modest run in the ODIs as well.

Suryakumar got into the eleven after the injury-enforced absence of Hardik Pandya, but the Mumbaier has not really cashed in on the opportunity yet.

Netherlands gives him a good chance to correct that anomaly.

Similarly, the Indian batting upfront has a minor glitch, one that has gone a bit unnoticed in the flow of their eight successive wins in the tournament.

Openers Rohit and Shubman Gill have stitched together three fifty-plus stands in the tournament, but in five other matches they were separated quickly.

But in those three games, they went off the blocks quite quickly, putting the opposition through the wringer.

They have made 88 runs in 12.4 overs against Bangladesh, 71 in 11.1 overs against New Zealand, and 62 in 5.5 overs against South Africa.

But on other times, their alliance was snapped at 5, 32, 23, 26, and 4. The think tank would like them to expand the footprint of those three matches, and Netherlands, no respect lost here, give them a perfect platform to do that.

India's bowling, on the other hand, remained largely trouble-free with the three pacers and the two spinners delivering frequently.

Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, and Mohammed Siraj

have made run-making a hazardous option for opposition batters, but a bit more consistency in line and length from Siraj could be welcomed by the management.

But overall, this ultra-efficient five-man unit will be looking for one final rehearsal ahead of the last four match, potentially against New Zealand at Mumbai.

Turning to the Dutch camp, they will be a happy bunch to give at least a few rough moments to this red-hot Indian side.

They have some capable bowlers in Logan Van Beek, Bas de Leede, and Paul van Meekeren but on an often-smooth Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch they will be hard pressed to stop a strong Indian batting establishment.

Their top-order batters like Teja Nidamanuru, Max O'Dowd, and Wesley Barresi have struggled for runs in this tournament and tackling the well-oiled Indian bowlers could prove too hot a task for them.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma ©, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan, Prasad Krishna, Suryakumar Yadav.

Netherlands: Scott Edwards ©, Max O'Dowd, Bas de Leede, Vikram Singh, Teja Nidamanuru, Paul van Meekeren, Colin Ackermann, Roelof van der Merwe, Logan van Beek, Aryan Dutt, Ryan Klein, Wesley Barresi, Saqib Zulfiqar, Shariz Ahmad, Sybrand Engelbrecht.

## World Cup 2023: England seal Champions Trophy spot with comprehensive win over Pakistan, end campaign on high



KOLKATA, Oct 12 (Agencies): England ended their World Cup 2023 campaign on a high as the Jos Buttler-led side produced an all-round performance to beat Pakistan by 93 runs and secure the Champions Trophy spot at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

On the other hand, Pakistan crashed out of the semi-final race when they failed to chase down the target of 338 runs within 6.4 overs. Despite having eight points from eight games, Pakistan had an opportunity to surpass New Zealand's net run rate if they could achieve the challenging task.

Chasing 338 for a win, Pakistan made a horror start as England pacer David Willey struck twice to remove both openers, Abdullah Shafique and Fakhar Zaman early, leaving them reeling at 10 for 2. Despite the early setbacks, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan took on the responsibility of rebuilding the innings.

However, the momentum swung again when

Gus Atkinson removed Babar, who looked solid in his 38-run knock off 45 balls, to break the 50-plus 3rd-wicket stand. Rizwan then added 39 runs for the fourth wicket with Saud Shakeel before falling to Moeen Ali at 36.

Pakistan were 100 for 4 when Agha Salman joined Shakeel in the middle. Shakeel (29) wasted a good start while Iftikhar Ahmed (3) and Shadab Khan (4) fell in quick succession, leaving Pakistan at 150 for 7. Salman went on to hit his maiden World Cup fifty but could not save Pakistan from suffering another crushing loss in their final match. Salman Ali Agha's purposeful batting (scoring 51 off 45 balls) and the rearguard action from tail-ender Haris Rauf (with 35 runs off 23 balls) served as a valuable lesson for the top-order batsmen.

Earlier in the day, England showcased their formidable batting prowess with star performances from Ben Stokes, Joe Root, and Jonny Bairstow. Despite

a shaky start, the 2019 champions managed to post an imposing total of 337 for 9 against a struggling Pakistan attack.

Ben Stokes, making a comeback after missing the first three matches due to a hip injury, stole the spotlight with a remarkable 76-ball 84. Jonny Bairstow (59 off 61 balls) and Joe Root (60 off 72 balls) also played crucial roles in fortifying England's innings. This marked England's second consecutive 300-plus total, following their 339/9 against the Netherlands in the previous match.

The imposing target set by England posed a daunting challenge for Pakistan, who now found themselves in the unenviable position of needing to chase it down in just 6.4 overs. The mathematical improbability of achieving this task became evident, as even hitting 40 sixes off 40 deliveries could only propel them to 240.

Despite a strong foundation, England's batting lineup struggled in the final overs, managing only 97 runs in the last 10, losing seven wickets in the process. The late-game slump highlighted an area of concern for England as they approach the crucial knockout stages of the tournament.

## Cricket World Cup 2023: Mitchell Marsh Powers Australia To 8-Wicket Win Over Bangladesh

PUNE, Nov 12 (Agencies): Star all-rounder Mitchell Marsh displayed his six-hitting prowess on way to a magnificent 177 not out as Australia warmed up for the semifinals with an eight-wicket thrashing of Bangladesh in the World Cup in Pune on Saturday. Set a target of 307, Australia rode on Marsh's third ODI hundred and fifties from David Warner (53) and Steve Smith (63 not out) to complete the task with 32 balls in hand. The five-time champions will face South Africa in their semifinal in Kolkata on November 16.



In response, Australia lost Travis Head (10) early but Marsh and Warner shrugged off the jittery start to take them to 100 for 1 in 15 overs. Marsh looked in solid form, making an attacking start as Warner seemed happy to play the second fiddle.

Marsh cracked three fours off Mahedi Hasan in the fourth over before depositing Taskin Ahmed over deep square leg. He then danced down the pitch to clobber another six off Nasum Ahmed and repeated the treatment to Mehidy Hasan Miraz in the 12th over.

The result was Marsh raced to his fifty in 37 balls.

Warner used his pull shot to good use and ran well between the wickets to keep ticking along. He picked Nasum for special treatment, sending him across the fence twice in the seventh over.

In the 19th over, Warner cut the bowler for another four through the covers to bring up the 100-run stand with Marsh, before reaching his fifty with another boundary.

Mustafizur Rahman returned to remove Warner in the 23rd over though Shanto almost dropped the catch,

which reminded of Herschelle Gibbs' moment from the 1999 edition.

Marsh continued unfazed, owning the off side, using his cover drives and off drives to score maximum runs there.

He notched up his ton in the 31st over and then went after Mehidy with another maximum over long-on. Then he turned his attention to Mustafizur, smoking him over the sightscreen in the 33rd over before adding another one in the 42nd over.

One over later, Taskin was sent over mid-wicket as Australia galloped towards the target.

In the end, Smith knocked off the winning runs with a boundary off Mustafizur.

Opting to bowl, Josh Hazlewood (0/21) was on the money with the new ball, while Adam Zampa (2/32) scalped two to take the top position in the list of most wicket takers in this World Cup, and Sean Abbott (2/61), playing his first game, also took two wickets.

Litton Das (36) and Tanzid Hasan (36) gave Bangladesh a good start on a beller of a wicket as they were 76 for no loss at one stage. However, both frittered away their starts.

Pat Cummins, who conceded 10 runs in his first over, was taken to the cleaners by Tanzid in the sixth over, with two fours.

Litton joined the party with three boundaries in the eighth over as Tanzid brought up the team fifty with another four off Marsh, in 49 balls.

Abbott broke the partnership with Tanzid top-edging a short ball to hand the bowler a caught and bowl chance.

Najmul Hossain Shanto (45) also looked in fine fettle, producing two hits to the fence off Marsh, as Bangladesh scored 100 for one in 15.1 overs.

However, Zampa had Litton caught by Marnus Labuschagne at long-on.

Hridoy smashed two sixes en route to a 63-run alliance with Shanto, but Labuschagne produced a terrific throw to run out the stand-in skipper.

Mahmudullah (32) clobbered three sixes and a four during his 44-run stand with Hridoy as the 200 was up for Bangladesh in the 32nd over.

Mushfiqur Rahim (21) became the second victim of Zampa but Mehidy Hasan Miraz provided some impetus, blasting four boundaries before Abbott sent him back.

Bangladesh could add just 67 runs in the last 10 overs, but the total was enough to ensure that their net run rate wouldn't go below Sri Lanka in the race for the Championships trophy qualification.

## “Can't Say This Is The Best-Ever”: Sourav Ganguly On India's Bowling Attack



NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): Team India is having a dreamy run at the ongoing ODI World Cup as the hosts have clearly dominated the tournament by being unbeatable in all their eight games, so far. The Rohit Sharma-led side has clicked in both batting and bowling departments and registered massive wins

against many big teams. One factor which has definitely left a mark for India is their fiery pace attack, which consists of Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah. This trio has proven to be really deadly as it shares a whopping total of 41 wickets among itself.

As the tournament is now inching closer

towards the knockout stage, many discussions are going on that India's current bowling attack in their best-ever in limited overs format. However, former India skipper Sourav Ganguly has dismissed such an opinion and gave an example of India's bowling attack of 2003 World Cup.

“I can't say this is the best-ever Indian pace attack to date. In the 2003 World Cup, (Ashish) Nehra, Zaheer (Khan), and (Javagal) Srinath also bowled brilliantly,” Ganguly told Sports Tak.

“But yeah, it's exciting to see Bumrah, Shami and Siraj bowl. It's a big difference when you have Bumrah. There's

pressure from both ends as it is always about bowling in pairs. Bumrah makes a massive impact on the other two as well,” he added.

Shami was benched for the first four matches of the ongoing World Cup.

Ganguly agreed with the fact that the star pacer should have been included in the team from the very beginning of the tournament.

“Yes, Shami should have played in the XI a lot earlier. Look at the impact he has made,” said Ganguly.

Team India will now be squaring off against Netherlands in their last league stage match of World Cup 2023 on Sunday in Bengaluru.

## Confirmed: India To Face New Zealand In Cricket World Cup Semi-finals As Pakistan Get Eliminated

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Agencies): It is confirmed! India will face New Zealand in the semi-finals of the Cricket World Cup 2023 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday. In the other semi-final, South Africa will face Australia at the Eden Gardens on Thursday. The semi-final line-up was confirmed after the Babar Azam-led Pakistan got officially eliminated from World Cup 2023 after failing to chase a huge 338-run target in 6.4 overs against England - which was always going to be an impossible task.

After New Zealand's win over Sri Lanka on Thursday, the 2019 Cricket World Cup runners-up had all but assured themselves a semi-final spot.

However, Pakistan

and Afghanistan still had mathematical chance to qualify for the last four. They both needed to win their last round-robin matches by humongous margins to have a shot at a semi-final spot.

However, Afghanistan lost their last round-robin stage match to South Africa on Friday. On Saturday, Pakistan also needed a miracle. After England put up 337/9, Pakistan needed to chase down the target in just 6.4 overs, which was impossible in all practical sense. Pakistan reached 30/2 in 6.4 overs against defending champions England.

In the 2019 Cricket World Cup, India lost to New Zealand in the semi-finals. However, this time India have looked a must greater force with all the play-

ers in form.

“The bowlers have enjoyed bowling under the lights. Like going into the semi-final, would you prefer having them bowl first over here and just to get accost to the conditions of the Wankhede?” Indian cricket team coach Rahul Dravid was asked.

“We've done both things. To be honest with you, we bowled first. We batted first in this tournament. I think that's been the really good thing for us in eight games. I think in the first four or five, I think we batted first and then we had to chase in the last three. So, we've actually done both things and we're pretty comfortable with both things,” he replied.

“So, I'm not too worried about it. We'll have

a look at the wicket and see what we need to do and decide what we want to do. So, there are advantages and disadvantages of both things. I mean, there are arguments both ways of, you know, batting first and putting up a score and hopefully setting the tone that way.

“And there's also an argument of chasing as well, which means that you probably have to bowl in the sun and stuff. But look, again, the toss is not in our hands, it's not going to be in our hands in the semi-finals. And I think we are comfortable both ways. We will just make it. We will have a look at the wicket today and come tomorrow and have a look at the wicket as well. And then, you know, whatever call Rohit makes, we will go with it.”

## Sangram Sena celebrates Diwali with orphans, disabled children



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 12: The story of the children at the orphanage in Amphalla, Jammu, is both poignant and heart-warming. Despite the challenges of being separated from their biological families, these resilient children find solace and support in the orphanage's community. Diwali, a festival that traditionally emphasizes family bonds, takes on a special meaning for them as they forge new connections within their orphanage family. The celebration of Diwali becomes a symbol of togetherness for these children, fostering a sense of belonging that transcends their personal challenges. The

exchange of sweets, the sparkle of crackers, and the abundance of fruits contribute to a festive atmosphere, allowing them to experience the joy of the festival despite being away from their homes. The efforts of organizations like the All India Sangram Sena Trust are commendable in recognizing the importance of bringing joy into the lives of these children. By organizing events such as the Diwali celebration at the Ved Mandir orphanage, they not only provide material joys but also emotional support. The presence of notable figures, including Sh. Rajesh Raina, Capt. RS Langeh, and Rajesh Banathiya, alongside other VIPs, underscores the communal effort to

make a positive impact on the lives of these young individuals. In a world where these children may have felt forgotten, such initiatives shine a light on the compassion and generosity that can uplift them during special occasions like Diwali. The celebration becomes more than just a source of joy for the children; it serves as a reminder of the broader community's commitment to their well-being. These efforts help bridge the gap for these children, providing them with a sense of belonging and the understanding that they are not alone, especially during festive times when the emphasis on family can be particularly poignant.

## NIA files charge-sheet in cross-border arms smuggling case in Punjab

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge-sheet against a man in a case linked to cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition by drones in the border areas of Punjab's Gurdaspur district, an official said on Sunday.

The charge-sheet against Malkit Singh alias 'Pistol' was filed in the NIA special court in Mohali in Punjab, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The case was initially registered at the Dera Baba Nanak police station in Batala on March 24 following the seizure of firearms and ammunition, including five Austria-made pistols, 10 magazines and 91 live cartridges, by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel from a cremation ground at Bhagtana-Boharwala village.

On August 8, the NIA re-registered the case under various sections of the Arms Act, the Aircraft Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the spokesperson said.

The official said investigations revealed connections between members of the proscribed terrorist organisation Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and individuals based in Pakistan.

"The accused identified in this terror network include Malkit Singh, Taranjot Singh alias 'Tanna' and Gurjit Singh alias 'Paa'. In addition, it was found that these operatives were in direct communication with Pakistan-based drug smugglers, Rehmat Ali alias 'Miyani', Pakistan-based KLF and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) chief Lakhbir Singh Rode alias 'Babaji' and Ranjot Singh Rana," the spokesperson said.

The official said both the KLF and the ISYF were banned by the government in response to their orchestrated armed attacks on law enforcement personnel as well as for criminal intimidation, murder, extortion, fund-raising for terrorist activities and instilling terror among people, in furtherance of their violent campaign advocating the "secession of Punjab".

## Natrang stages hindi play 'Sahara'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 12: Natrang presented a new Hindi play 'Sahara' written and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Rani Park, Jammu under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'.

The play begins with the actors narrating about the orphaned children of people killed in wars, epidemics, natural disasters and accidents. Along with this, a girl narrates the painful story of her and her siblings becoming orphans after the untimely death of her father and mother, who were victims of terrorism. That's why artists inspire common people to support children.

In the second scene, a young girl Ganga narrates the painful story of her being orphaned, saying that as soon as she regained conscious-

ness in her childhood, she found herself in an orphanage. She did not know what parents and relationships were. Always longed for the love of her parents. But today she is very happy, because along with her parents, she has also got a life partner. She says she is no longer an orphan and has a family of her own, and this has been possible only because of the parents who adopted her.

Ganga's husband wanted from the very beginning to make a destitute girl his life partner. Although he faced some difficulty in convincing his parents about his marriage with Ganga, but ultimately, they agreed and he married Ganga. Even after five years of marriage, no child has been born to them. Ganga, who grew up in an orphanage, with the idea of adopting a child, reach-

es the District Child Protection Unit to know the rules and regulations of the adoption process. Here the officer provides information to Ganga as well as the general public about the rules applicable in the adoption process.

In another scene, an adult couple, who want to adopt a child between the ages of 6 and 18, learn about the rules of child adoption. While explaining the process of adoption of older children, the officer inspires the common people to support these orphan children and thus the play ends.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Abhimanyu Choudhary, Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat, Palshin Dutta, Mehak Chib and Vishal Sharma. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## CEC Kargil visits eastern portal of Zojila Tunnel



KARGIL, Nov 12 (Agencies): Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor (CEC), Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Dr Mohammad Jaffer Akhoun on Saturday visited eastern portal of Zojila to take assessment of the pace of construction works. During the visit, the CEC was informed that the work on Zojila Tunnel is undergoing on war footing basis. Till date pertaining to the head excavation works, from the eastern portal 3.7 kms have been completed and on the western portal 3.8 kms of excavation work has been completed besides the total length of the tunnel is 13.15 km. The CEC expressed satisfaction and happiness over the pace of works and applauded the immense efforts taken by the concerned executing agency and their workers for their

hard work and relentless services in making execution of this long pending dream of people of Ladakh. He also expressed sincere gratitude to Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, Nitin Gadkari for taking keen interest in the construction of Zojila Tunnel and expressed hope that under his able leadership the tunnel works will be completed at the earliest. CEC also expressed gratitude to Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited and NHIDCL for extending their efforts in the completion of the project. CEC Kargil also met the workers of NHIDCL working at the Eastern Portal of the tunnel and wished them Happy Diwali. He advised them to continue their efforts to complete the tunnel. Concerned officers of NHIDCL accompanied the CEC during the visit.

## Democratic Progressive Azad party, the only acceptable alternative : Mohd Amin Bhat

SRINAGAR, Nov 12 (Agencies): While speaking at a block level public meeting held at wakoora Ganderbal, provincial president of DPAP Mr. Mohammad Amin Bhat lamented at the disruptive forces and appealed to strengthen the hands of Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad. "We believe, it is only Azad sahab who can pull us out of the present mess," said Mr. Bhat. Other leaders who spoke on the occa-



sion include Mr. Shafiq Shabnam, General secretary, Peer Bilal, Zonal president, Mr. Aamir Bhat, District

president srinagar. Mr. Qaiser Jin, District president Ganderbal and Master Mohammad yusuf.

**Happy Diwali to all the people of Jammu & Kashmir**

**Rajiv Mahajan**  
J&K UT President  
Shri Ram Sena

**वन्दे मातरम्**

**सभ्य देशवासियों को दीपावली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ**

**जय हिन्द**

**महाराज हरि सिंह डॉ. श्याम प्रसाद मुखर्जी पं. प्रेम-नाथ देग्या**

**भारतीय जनता पार्टी**

**जम्मू व कश्मीर**