

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Mainly dry weather to continue till 26th November: MeT

SRINAGAR, Nov 17 (Agencies): The meteorological department forecasts generally dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir until November 26th, with occasional cloudiness on the 18th and 25th of November.

An official from the department mentioned that the current weather is mainly clear to partly cloudy across most places in the region.

Despite these conditions, shallow fog with mist during morning and evening hours may affect visibility in certain areas. The official assured that there will be no significant weather activity until November 26th.

Highlighting the minimum temperatures, the official noted a significant dip across various stations in the Kashmir Division.

Konibal recorded the lowest minimum temperature at -3.5°C, closely followed by Pahlgam at -3°C. In Gulmarg, the mercury settled at -1.5°C, while in Kupwara, it was -0.2°C.

Qazigund recorded -0.1°C, Banihal settled at 2.2°C, and Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.6°C.

The observed shift in temperatures indicates a cooler period for the region, according to the meteorological department.

Police arrest notorious bootlegger in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Nov 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested a notorious bootlegger in Sopore and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

A police party headed by SHO PS Tarzoo at a checkpoint established at Amargrah crossing intercepted a suspicious person carrying two bags, who was signalled to stop for checking, a police spokesman said in a statement. "The said person after noticing the police party tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully."

"During the search, 39 bottles of illicit liquor were recovered

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LG Manoj Sinha honors freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai on birth anniversary

JAMMU, Nov 17 (Agencies): LG Manoj Sinha on Friday paid heartfelt tributes to the revered freedom fighter and social reformer, Punjab Kesari Lala Lajpat Rai Ji, on the occasion of his punyatithi.

Sinha highlighted Rai's indelible contributions to India's independence struggle and acknowledged his enduring legacy in shaping the nation's socio-political landscape.



Lala Lajpat Rai was a pivotal character in the Indian independence movement who had a profound influence on early Indian literature and journalism in addition to politics.

Rai, who died on November 17, 1928, from a brain injury sustained after being batoned at a protest, was vital in influencing India's literary scene and the developing press in the years leading up to

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J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides delegation call on Lt Governor



JAMMU, Nov 17 (Agencies): A delegation of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Lt Governor

lauded the cadets and officials for promoting the values of self-discipline, service and patriotism among youth and contributing to the national development.

The delegation also

submitted a memorandum to the Lt Governor on the promotion of Scouts & Guides activities in Universities and enhancing Admission quota of Scouts and Guides.

Army defuses unexploded ordnances in Kargil



KARGIL, Nov 17 (Agencies): The army on Thursday defused 45 unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the Kargil district of the Union Territory of Ladakh, officials said.

In a post on X, Northern Command Indian Army said, "To ensure safety of movement for all, #DhruvaSappers' Bomb Disposal Team successfully neutralized 45 Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) in Kur-bathang Area, #Kargil, working hand-in-hand with Civil Administration and @KargilPolice to secure areas around Pashkun."

"#IndianArmy remains dedicated to safeguarding our citizens, with collaborative efforts ensuring the safety of lives", it said.

Antiviral drugs reduce risk of flu deaths: DAK

SRINAGAR, Nov 17:

With surge in number of flu cases in Kashmir valley, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday urged doctors to prescribe antiviral drugs for flu patients.

"Antiviral medication reduces risk of flu deaths," said influenza expert and DAK Presi-

dent Dr Nisar ul Hassan. Quoting a large study, he said early treatment with antiviral medication reduces the risk of flu death by 60 percent.

Dr Hassan said clinicians should prescribe antiviral medication to flu patients as early as possible and should not wait for the lab test results as

delay could be fatal.

"Flu antivirals work best for treatment when they are started within two days of onset of illness," he said.

"However, starting them later can still be helpful," he added.

The DAK President said antiviral

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Militant killed in ongoing encounter in Rajouri village

RAJOURI, Nov 17 (Agencies): A militant has been killed in an encounter that broke out in Guller Gabbar village of Rajouri district, officials said.

An official said that a cordon search operation was launched in the area on today morning after information regarding suspicious moment.

He said that during the CASO, contact got established with the hiding terrorists. The official said that in the ensuing gunfight one militant has been killed, while operation is going on.

Army celebrates National Journalism Day at Kupwara



KUPWARA, Nov 17: To commemorate National Journalism Day, Indian Army's Kupwara Territorial conducted a felicitation ceremony for Media fraternity of Kupwara at Pathahirri.

The aim of this felicitation Ceremony was to strengthen the bond between Army and

Awaam by means of media and further consolidate the symbolic relationship between the two noble institutions that carry a widespread responsibility towards the nation and has high stakes in the overall development of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event was attend-

ed by Yahya Sultan (President Media Fraternity Kupwara) along with 12 other media persons and officers from Indian Army. These media persons were awarded with appreciation certificates by the Army along with prizes.

After the felicitation ceremony refreshments

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Kulgam Encounter : 5 Lashkar terrorists killed, bodies being retrieved, says IGP Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Nov 17 (Agencies): Five terrorists believed to be belonging to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba have been killed in the ongoing encounter with security forces in the Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi said on Friday.

Sharing details about the operation, IGP Birdi stated that security forces had received

inputs regarding movement of some terrorists in Kulgam.

"During the search operation, a terrorist fired from a house after which an encounter broke out. So far, five terrorists, possibly of LeT have been killed and some bodies have been sighted According to Kashmir police, the operation is in its final stages and the area is being sanitised.

The police, earlier, confirmed that the exchange of heavy fire between the security forces and the terrorists from across the border was still ongoing.

The encounter broke out on Thursday afternoon at the Samno pocket of the DH Pora area of Kulgam district.

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Sumo vehicle rolls down gorge in Thanamandi, 2 dead, 6 injured

JAMMU, Nov 17 (Agencies): At least two persons were killed and six others injured after a sumo vehicle they were on board met with an accident in Thanamandi area in Rajouri district.

As per reports, a sumo vehicle bearing registration number JK11 3494 rolled down into a gorge, leaving two dead and six others injured.

The injured persons have been evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment.

More details awaited.

Good News for Pensioners: J&K Govt to release Rs 500 cr for settlement of GPF claims



SRINAGAR, Nov 17 (Agencies): To address the long pending demand of release of General Provident Fund (GPF) claims by pensioners and employees, finance department will release Rs 500 cr to settle the claims within few days. Reports also said that

Government has also issued specific directions to GST and Industries and Commerce Department to promptly clear pending GST reimbursement cases and release of turnover incentives to the industrial units.

Reports added that the Chief Secretary issued

the directions for settlement of GPF claims at earliest after the issue was deliberated in the meeting of finance department.

Reports further said that Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary to the Government Finance Department apprised the Chief Secretary that Rs 500 crore are being provided shortly for the settlement of GPF claims and will be released to the treasuries across the Union Territory within few days.

Notably, Pensioners in J&K were suffering hardships due to inordinate delay in the payment of

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JU to launch historic 'College on Wheels'

LG to flag-off contingent of 700 students from Katra Railway Station on Nov 19

Train journey to be a life changing experience for students: Prof Dinesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 17: In a ground-breaking move, University of Jammu is all set to launch historic 'College on Wheels' also known as Jammu and Kashmir Gyanodaya Express, a transformative educational journey that sets more than 700 girls on a unique learning adventure.

The historic Gyanodaya Express shall be flagged-off by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, and Chancellor University of Jammu, Manoj Sinha on 19th of November, 2023 from Katra Railway Station, Jammu.

Speaking during a curtain raiser ceremony, Prof Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman Higher Education Council J&K UT and former Vice Chancellor Delhi University and, said that the enlarged definition of education is search of 'inner self'.

"In order to recognize yourself, one need to understand inner self. This journey is largely inspired by the life and examples of Mahatma Gandhi, who used to say, like Rabin-dranath Tagore, Socrates and Kabir, that education is outside the classroom as much as it is inside the classroom," he said and added that train journey would be a life changing experience for students.

He said that Gandhi became Mahatma Gandhi largely due to train journey.

"He had not been Mahatma Gandhi, if he had not been thrown out of the train. He understood India after he undertook a year-long epic train journey to see every corner of the country and its problems," said Prof Dinesh Singh, adding that even during freedom struggle and mass mobilization, Mahatma Gandhi used to travel through train, so the role of train in the life of Mahatma Gandhi was very important.

He stated that this particular educational journey is inspired by the concept and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

"In this train students are



expected to recognize themselves and I am hopeful that other universities of the country would get inspired from this initiative and also make it an important part of their curriculum," Prof Dinesh Singh said and emphasized that one more important feature of this journey is that the students shall be taught about operating Charkha and student who will spin longest thread from Charkha shall be rewarded.

He further said that during this journey, students will get a chance to visit Ashrams of Mahatma Gandhi in Sabar-mati and Vardha, wherein they will go through the history and significance of these places in freedom struggle.

"The initiative provides students with firsthand exposure to diverse landscapes, cultures, and communities, enriching their understanding of the world," Prof Dinesh Singh said and added that collaborative projects with local communities contribute to meaningful social impact. He further appreciated and acknowledged the role and support of the Lieutenant Governor's administration.

"This particular initiative is a dream of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha and Vice Chairman Higher Education Council J&K UT, Dinesh Singh, wherein University of Jammu has been selected as a nodal institute," said Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai while addressing media.

He said that this innovative educational program will take learning of students to new horizons, quite literally.

"More than 700 students along with 100 faculty members from seven academic institutions of Jammu and Kashmir, besides Cluster Innovation Center Delhi, IIT Bombay and more than 20 affiliated colleges of J&K UT are participating in this momentous journey," said Vice Chancellor, adding that the seven educational institutions included Kashmir University, Cluster University of Srinagar, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Cluster University of Jammu, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Mata Vaishno Devi University and University of Jammu.

He shared that this is first of its kind educational journey in the history of Jammu and Kashmir in which more than 700 students are selected on the basis of the merit of their projects.

"These projects are interdisciplinary in nature, as students from different backgrounds are part of single group, working under the supervision of a mentor," said Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai, adding that these students were selected after proper screening of their projects and each group of seven to eight students shall be supervised by a mentor.

Giving further details, Prof Umesh Rai said that there is facility of library on the train, so that every student must read at

least one book and write review of the same. There would be presentations by every student.

"Through this initiative of College on Wheels, we are trying to dissolve boundaries of the subjects, it will change the education concept of four walls of classroom and I must say that this is not a train journey but to be precise a life journey, in which these students shall discover their inner self," said Prof Umesh Rai, adding "This initiative aligns with our commitment to providing innovative, experiential learning opportunities."

He said "The 'College on Wheels' initiative redefines the traditional classroom experience by blending academics with adventure. Students will embark on a transformative educational journey, traveling to various destinations via train, creating a dynamic and immersive learning environment."

The journey is scheduled to flag-off from Katra Railway Station by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on 19th of November 2023. The route of the train shall be from Jammu to Delhi, Ahmadabad, Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Delhi and back to Jammu.

During the course of the journey, students shall visit both the houses of Parliament, President House, IIT Bombay, Shipyards of Bombay and Goa, ISRO and some other relevant places.

Earlier, Prof Naresh Padha Coordinator College on Wheels, delivered the formal welcome address, whereas Dr Vinay Thusoo conducted the proceedings of the function.

Others present on the occasion included, Dr Garima Gupta (Head Department of Journalism and Media Studies), Dr Neeraj Sharma (Special Secretary to Vice Chancellor), Dr Daud Iqbal Baba (Nodal Officer, College on Wheels), Dr Shalu Sharma (Nodal Officer, College on Wheels), Dr Bindoo Sangra (Department of Law) and Dr Akhilesh Sharma (Liaison Officer).

Manipulating poll delay BJP Govt's assault on democracy in J&K: Sadhotra



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 17: A meeting of J&K National Conference functionaries of Jammu District Urban was held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

The meeting was attended by senior National Conference functionaries included Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former minister and Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC, Jammu. Senior Party leaders Blmla Luthra, Ayub Malik, Abdul Gani Teli and others.

At the outset of the meeting, Chand Mohan Sharma, President NC's Jammu District Urban, apprised the senior functionaries of the party about the hardships being faced by the people of Jammu city in absence of popular government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing party workers, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra observed that manipulating delay in holding Assembly polls in J&K is a glare example of BJP Government demolishing the basic concept of democracy in this part of the country. He said that BJP Government has demeaned Indian democracy, which at one point of time is con-

sidered as the biggest democracy of the world, by showing reluctance on holding Assembly elections in J&K fearing its devastation due to anti-people policies which it has been implementing on the name of reforms and development. He said that elections are due since long but knowing well about their probable worst ever political debacle the BJP Government is running from polls.

"This is nothing but the diminishing of democracy by a party which boasted at all forums about being champion of electoral reforms and guardian of democracy", he said, adding that BJP is defaming country by manipulating poll delay and denying democratic right of voting to the people of J&K by deferring polls on one pretext or the other.

Rattan Lal Gupta, NC Provincial President Jammu, in his address, said that the entire world is gazing at J&K and how the BJP Government is denying democratic rights to people. He said that BJP's model of democracy is authoritarian because it wanted to impose governance without holding elections thus marring the very spirit of democracy, which the Constitution of the country has guaranteed to the

citizens.

"National Conference firmly believes that the development of our cities and towns is essential for the overall growth and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. We promise to provide state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructures such as roads, parks, playgrounds, public toilets, waste management systems, and uninterrupted electricity and water supply," he said.

Rattan Lal Gupta asked the party workers to gear up for the upcoming polls by spreading awareness among voters about the betrayal by the government at the Centre. He called on the people to support the National Conference in the upcoming polls. The Provincial President emphasized that only National Conference has the will and potential to ensure equitable development in Jammu and Kashmir and also to get all the amenities without any denial.

Those who were present in the meeting included Harshvardhan Singh NCSU, Sandeep Singh Wazir, Tejinder Singh, Gurnam Singh, Ashwani Charak, Haji Maqbool, Parvinder Singh, Dharminder Sharma, Anoop Sharma, Ajay Kumar and others.

Poonch lifts DYSS Inter District Division Level Taekwondo Competition overall trophy



Top News Report

POONCH, Nov 17: Inter district division level Taekwondo Competition organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports District Poonch under the guidance of Director Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K Subash Chander Chibber, Deputy Director Central Jatinder Mishra, and Joint Director YSS Suram Chand Sharma concluded here at JKSC indoor complex of sports stadium on Friday.

A total of 200 players in Under 14, 17 and 19 age group from eight districts of Jammu Division took part in this competition held under the supervision of Mohd Qasim District Youth Services and Sports

Officer Poonch. The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Dr Mohammad Tanveer, Chief Executive Officer Tourism Authority Poonch while Prem Prakash Luthra Senior Vice President PDTA was the Guest of Honour.

Other distinguished guests were Narinder Singh ZPEO Poonch, Manjeet Singh ZPEO Sathra, Rajinder Singh ZPEO Mandi, Kulwant Singh ZPEO Surankote, Jatinder Singh Tandon ZPEO Nangali and Amresh Sharma ZPEO Kuniyian zone.

Earlier, the gathering was welcomed by DYSSO Poonch Mohd Qasim.

The chief guest interacted with all the Taekwondo players from all Districts of Jammu

Division. He also congratulated Department of Youth services and Sports for giving excellent platform to the youth by organising these kind of events. Later all the dignitaries distributed medals, trophies and certificates to all the winners.

Poonch district remain overall winner in under 14, 17 and 19 year age group by winning 14 gold medals and lifted overall trophy of AAG boys while Jammu and Doda remained at second and third place respectively.

All bouts are held under the technical Supervision of Rajinder Singh Physical Education Teacher and National Referee, Barinder Singh Manhas PET National Referee,

Nitin Singh Rathore ReK National Referee, Sandeep Kumar ReK, Waqar Ahmed ReK, Tarun Nadh Physical Education Teacher and Ankush Singh ReK.

Arun Kumar Udhampur, Ikmanpal Singh Poonch and Toseef Tahir Poonch adjudged as best players in under 14, 17 and 19 year age group.

Prominent others were present on the occasion were Nirdosh Kumar IC Manager Sports Stadium Poonch, Ramesh Kumar PEM, Singh PEM both activities Incharge In DYSS office Poonch, Vijay Kumar PEM Stage secretary and IC Press and Publicity Harjeet Kour PEM all PEM, PET and ReK of the department were present on the occasion

SKJVS Trust delegation meets Sanjeev Verma, advocates astrological consultation for Govt Calendar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 17: The delegation from Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan (SKJVS) Trust, led by President Mahant Rohit Shastri met with Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department in Jammu.

During the meeting, the delegation presented a book titled "Sara Sanskrit Bodh" to Verma and submitted a memorandum.

They suggested that the government should consult expert astrolo-



gers before preparing the official calendar.

The delegation believed that by incorporating astrological considerations, the government can accurately determine the dates of fasts and festivals and align them with the official holidays.

This, they argued,

would eliminate confusion in society arising from inconsistencies between government holidays and actual days of fasting and celebration.

The delegation expressed concern about the existing discrepancies where government holidays may

not coincide with the days recognized by astrology and scholars, leading to confusion in society.

They proposed that by consulting astrologers and using the Panchang Diwakar (almanac), the government can publish festival-related holidays in the official calendar, resolving the prevailing confusion.

The presence of Trust Trustees Deepak Gupta and Naresh Raina at the meeting indicated the formal representation of the trust's views and suggestions to the government.

Motiaz Antaliya groundbreaking ceremony held at Kasauli

Top News Report



CHANDIGARH, Nov 17: Real estate developer Motiaz, has officially announced the groundbreaking ceremony for his latest project, Motiaz Antaliya in the picturesque Kasauli hills today.

Mukul Bansal, MD Motiaz said "Antaliya aspires to redefine the concept of luxury

living with the development of approximately 31 opulent cottages, meticulously designed to deliver a vibrant and immersive living experience.

These exquisite cottages will be within the breathtaking natural splendor of the Kasauli valley, offering residents a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

EDITORIAL

NEWSPAPERS
IMPORTANCE

Newspapers have great importance in our lives. One thing we like every morning with tea is newspapers. Through newspapers we get information about the complete events that happened yesterday. We read newspapers to know the right kind of information which is necessary for us in the country and abroad.

Along with the country and abroad, we also get information about what we like and the places we like. It is through newspapers that we get information about our surroundings. Newspapers are very important in today's times. Newspapers have become an important basis of our lives today.

Newspapers have great importance in our daily life. We enjoy newspapers every morning which tell us about daily life events. The importance of newspaper character is very important for us through newspapers. In our life, whatever work we do, we do it only after seeing the daily horoscope and we see that horoscope also from the newspaper.

We get to know and learn a lot from daily newspapers. If there is no news in life, we cannot guess what we will do next and what we should do.

We also use newspapers to hear and know about the daily life events of the country and the world. There are a lot of discussions about the sports world these days, we get information about them only through these newspapers. News is a medium to know all the information.

Whatever we hear, we hear it only through newspapers. We can read this newspaper online as well as at home. Through newspapers we can read about any type of information. It is a common thing for everyone to gather information through newspapers.

You must have seen many people that they start reading newspapers at any time. The best time to read newspapers should be in the morning. We get a lot of new information by reading newspapers, so I believe that we should read these newspapers every morning. If you read these newspapers during the day then they are not good for you.

If you really want to learn something new then you should read newspapers in the morning only. We have already received information about the news we read during the day. Therefore, we urge you to read the news in the morning only so that you can get good news every morning itself. Newspapers have become the first necessity of our life. It also tells us about some interesting information including events. We also get to know about this type of information which is necessary for us to know about recent events.

Newspaper characters are very important in our lives. We get many types of information through newspapers. One should develop a good habit of reading news daily.

Act fast to clean air, or economy will take a hit

By: Chandrakant
Lahariya

For nearly the entire past decade -- every year from early November onwards -- Delhi and much of North India faces a familiar challenge of worsening air quality, which badly impacts everyone and everyday life. The manifestation of the rising air pollution includes an increase in visits to doctor's clinics and temporary closure of primary schools and sometimes even secondary schools. This also brings it to prime-time TV, leading newspaper headlines and office discussions. These discourses are often so similar and generic that if one by mistake picks up a news report from an earlier year or a television clip from one of past years, one might easily think it is from the current news cycle.

In late October 2023, the worsening air quality in Mumbai made headlines. Then, in early November 2023, the Delhi air quality became severe, many days before the day of Diwali. The Central government ritualistically enforced the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The schools were ordered to temporarily shut. The so-called "odd-even" car rationing curbs had been planned in Delhi and offices were shifted to partial capacity. The paddy stubble burning and farm fires were already making news from Punjab and Haryana.

The fact is air quality in most north Indian districts is nearly similar and in the category of poor, if not worse. It is just that the majority of those cities and the states do not measure sufficiently, and that's why we do not know enough about them.

By now, the adverse impact of air pollution on human health is widely known and well rec-

ognised. Complex terms such as AQI, or Air Quality Index, have entered household use. However, much of this awareness and understanding has not resulted in the necessary action. The PM2.5 and PM10 and other air pollutants are associated with multiple health conditions, which affects nearly every organ of the body. Air pollution worsens the health of people with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as people who are asthmatic or have a pre-existing respiratory or lung disease. Air pollutants are causative contributory factors in heart attack, stroke, diabetes mellitus and even cancer. Air pollution affects the cognitive development in children and is associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. It is often quoted that breathing in severe air quality is equivalent to smoking 10 to 15 cigarettes in a day.

The key pollutant PM 2.5, or particulate matter of 2.5 micron or less, has a WHO permissible limit of 15 microgram per cubic meter for 24 hours. In India, the permissible limit is 40, which is already nearly three-fold of WHO standards for PM2.5. On most of the clean air days -- around the year, Indian cities have PM2.5 levels higher than WHO norms. In winter months, even the Indian standards for both PM2.5 and AQI are crossed by many degrees. On certain days, such as in the immediate post-Diwali period, at many places it was up to 100-fold of the recommended limit.

The situation is worrying as this continues to happen in spite of public discourse and repeated political commitments to tackle the challenge. Also, the bursting of firecrackers on Diwali continues despite the Supreme Court having banned the bursting of firecrackers. This Diwali

2023, the bursting of firecrackers brought the air quality to AQI levels worse than Diwali 2022, and the AQI on November 13, the day after Diwali, was nearly double of the AQI level a day before Diwali.

It seems that at many levels, our approach to air pollution has become one of indifference, and to a large extent certain people have started the rationalisation of poor AQI in Indian cities. For example, many argue that air pollution is an unavoidable outcome of economic growth. They forget that many countries have achieved good economic status and also keep their air clean.

There are many strong arguments for keeping air quality better, even from an economic growth perspective. The poor quality and related health conditions results in increased worker absenteeism and reduced work-force output, and thus adversely impacting economic growth. This also results in individual and state-level health expenditures.

There is an economic impact of air pollution. A Reserve Bank of India report from the department of economic policy and research estimated that by 2030, due to labour hour losses due to climate change, upto 4.5 per cent of India's GDP could be hit. The annual cycle of the closure of manufacturing units, construction and services hubs and people not coming out to buy things are added to this list. The same was estimated in other reports, including a June 2023 World Bank study. A Dalberg report estimated that air pollution costs Indian businesses close to \$95 billion annually, which affects around three per cent of the country's GDP. Two-thirds of the world's 30 worst polluted cities are in India. A higher PM2.5 level in any city

results in a higher per capita economic loss for that city. Clearly, given India's economic losses, we should urgently consider taking action to improve air quality.

The need for clean air is well recognized. India launched a national clean air programme in 2019. The aim has been to reduce PM2.5 and PM10 levels by 20-30 per cent by 2024, against the base year of 2017. It has a wide range of appropriate suggestions, such as reduction in vehicular pollution through regulatory norms, tackling industrial emission, improvement in roads and bridges; better monitoring of air quality and prevention and control of paddy stubble-burning.

A lot has been discussed and understood in the last decade to tackle the challenge and improve air quality. Most Indian cities and states such as Delhi have prepared GRAP, which is enforced. However, the approach is too late and too little responding to the challenge. What is done is very much akin to shutting the stable door after the horse has already bolted. Everything which needs to be done is known. However, what is required is that action for keeping air clean have to be taken around the year, with mid- to short-term planning, and sufficiently funded. It also requires citizens' participation and government accountability. The regulation and enforcement of regulatory measures in this area should be more stringent.

Two days before Diwali, it was not government intervention but that of nature, which some much-needed rain, which slightly improved the air quality from severe to poor. However, Mother Nature cannot come to the rescue every time. We need to act, and act fast.

Opportunities are Increasing in the New Era of Banking



By: Vijay Garg

Getting a job in a bank is like a dream come true for any graduate. But if we talk about traditional banking sector, here competitive examinations prove to be a big challenge in the path of opportunity in this sector. While traditional banking is still the niche choice for the youth, there has also been an increase in the number of institutions baking on the technology platform and new banking niches like neobanks and digital banks. Among these, only graduates with understanding of banking can upscale. By doing this you can find opportunities for yourself. What is digital and neo banking Digital Banking: Ever since the emergence of financial technology companies, sensing the need of the times, traditional banking institutions also had to come to the digital platform of banking. In this way systems like net banking became popu-

lar. Automated processes were added to it, which is called digital banking. Now digital banking includes both those types of banks, which are present online as a branch or are completely doing banking based on digital technology. Are. In this way, a digital banker becomes a part of the information and promotion campaign of his bank's financial products, creating new customers through mobile banking. Neo Banking: These are banks that do business entirely online and are known for specialized services like micro agriculture or international banking. More than 50 neo banks are operating in India. Like Razor pay Xer, Open, Insta Pay, Fee Money etc. Understanding of financial transactions is important Another finance and It is important to understand commerce, on the other hand nickels will also be required. These technical skills come in handy Related to Digital Banking: Knowledge of digital banking technologies like digital banking platforms, mobile banking applications, online banking systems and fintech solutions etc. will help. Programming and Development related: Digestive R to create data based applications. Strong knowledge of SQL etc. and skills in working on multiple cloud platforms to manage digital banking infrastructure. Also, the skills of online communication servicing, user expe-

rience user interface, etc. will prove to be additional essential qualifications for you. Data visualization and related technical skin related to cyber security in digital banking like co-block-chain, data privacy regulations, risk management etc. Where to learn: There are various platforms for this which will help you, like Udemy, Coursera, edX Google let what should be the roadmap Graduation in Finance, Economics, Computer Science or related field. banking data Do courses in analytics or fintech. In this way you will be equipped with the necessary techniques in digital banking. Intern at a digital banking platform. It would be better to go to a digital bank after working in a traditional bank. In this way your grip will increase. there is so much kind of work • Digital Banking Product Manager • Banking Analyst • Banking Text Digital Banking Marketeer Fraud & Risk Analyst • Marketing & Customer Care TA Scientist Machine Learning Engineer US & UI Designer online course • Digital Banking through SBI on Business Model S • Digital Banking 2023 Master Class and Introduction to Fintech Demi • Metals of Digital • Post Graduate Course in Retail Banking Main sources of course •BSE Institute Limited • Global Academy of Learning "It doesn't matter whether you are an MBA or a normal gradu-

ate, but the more beneficial you prove to the bank by constantly upgrading yourself, the better it will be for your career. Opportunities will increase. Banks also offer courses It is visible that the axis Banks: Big banks like ICICI Bank of India can start banking by typing from a university. Getting it done. Since there are many types of work in the bank, like customer handling and loan section etc. then you can learn from these courses. You can specialize in any one of these areas. Global opportunities too Global banking is its own world. To get opportunities in this, it is necessary to have command over a foreign language. For example, those who know Arabic can get access to the language in foreign countries and in the banks of countries like France, German language, Germany and Austria. practical get information If you want to prepare yourself to work in a bank, then you should start from the lower level. Work at the stall in life as well. Here you will know how to do it and your hesitation will also be removed. You have been working in a call center for some time now where issues related to the banking sector are resolved.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout)

It was Malaika Arora, not Deepika, I discovered first, says Farah Khan, reveals how Shah Rukh took good care of her during 'Chaiyya chaiyya' shoot on train

Tagging her as her 'first child', filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan says she discovered Malaika Arora first and then Deepika Padukone.

Speaking about her own experience of shooting on a moving train for the song 'Chaiyya chaiyya', 'Jhalak Dikhla Jaa', judge Malaika said: "I remember how challenging it is to dance on a moving train; we were all scared, so obviously, the attempt you made here on this moving platform must have been difficult for you too. It was a very good element that you brought in."

The anecdotes were shared on the celebrity dance show, where contestants attempted to try something new in the 'Pehli Baar' challenge, in the coming episode. Sangeeta Phogat, known for her accomplishments in the wrestling arena, leaves a lasting impression with her act on the Bollywood track 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' with choreographer Bharat Ghare.

Farah Khan, who had originally choreographed the song,



reveals how she discovered the dazzling Malaika.

She said, "Everyone says I discovered Deepika, but I discovered Malaika first. She is my first child. Two days before the shoot

of the song, I called Malaika to do this song. Before her, we had approached six-seven heroines but, nothing worked out.

"We were in a fix about whom to choose for this song. That's

when Mickey Contractor told me that Malaika is a very good dancer. I said, 'Malaika is a model', and I wondered how she would do this Indian dance in a ghagra-choli. So, I called her to Ooty two days before, and we rehearsed at night, and we shot during the day."

Malaika was trembling as she climbed onto the train for the dance number.

"We just made her climb the train. She was trembling; literally, there was no safety, nothing. She had no makeup on, just kajal and a tattoo that Geeta made on her arms. And of course, Shah Rukh was there with her."

Farah revealed that Shah Rukh Khan took good care of Malaika.

"More than me, I think Shah Rukh took great care of her. Everyone used to ask us about safety precautions, and the only precaution I took was to take extra dancers. Laughs!"

The show airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Now, deepfake video showing actress Kajol changing her outfit on camera goes viral

Earlier Rashmika Mandanna and Katrina Kaif's morphed clips had gone viral



After Rashmika Mandanna and Katrina Kaif's videos, a new deepfake clip showing actress Kajol changing her outfit on camera has gone viral on social media.

Deepfake AI is a type of artificial intelligence used to create convincing images, audio and video hoaxes. In the clip, the woman with Kajol's face morphed on

her body is seen changing clothes on camera.

The influencer, identified as Rosie Breen, originally posted the video on TikTok on June 5, as part of the 'Get Ready With Me' (GRWM) trend.

But in the morphed video, Breen's face have been placed with that of Kajol. However, as per several fact-

checking platforms like BoomLive, the video is actually of an English social media influencer, who originally posted the clip on TikTok as part of the 'Get Ready With Me' trend.

The deepfake video surfaced a few days back.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police have questioned a 19-year-old youth from Bihar in connection with a deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna that was widely circulated on social media recently.

The police suspect that the youth had first uploaded the video on his social media platform and later shared it widely on other platforms.

Mouni Roy calls every step of her journey to stardom 'a learning experience'

Actress Mouni Roy has carved quite a niche in the world of entertainment.

From humble beginnings to rising on her own merit to being praised for her performance in Sultan of Delhi, Mouni has called every single step of her journey to stardom a learning experience.

Reflecting on her journey to getting where she is now, the actress said: "Every step of this journey has been a learning experience, full of love and support. I am overwhelmed by the affection and am deeply grateful. Here's to continuing this beautiful journey together!"

Essaying the role of Nayantra Gangopadhyay, the actress has received a lot of praise for her performance in the crime-thriller series, despite the show itself not being too well received.

On the screen, Mouni



Roy will next be seen in The Virgin Tree, which is currently under production. Apart from that, she is also a judge in the

Bengali language reality show Dance Bangla Dance 12, and the host of the reality-TV show Temptation Island India.

Somy Ali calls Salman Khan 'coward, sadistic, narcissistic abuser of women', 'I detest him'

Former actress Somy Ali has spoken about her equation with ex-beau Salman Khan and called him a "coward, sadist and a narcissistic abuser of women." She has also spoke about the superstar's involvement in banning her show 'Fight Or Flight'.

"(Salman Khan's) first girlfriend was a young lady named Shaheen, then came Sangeeta Bijlani, and I was his third girlfriend. We never got married as the closest he got to marriage was with Sangeeta given their wedding cards had already been printed when I entered his life, but that relationship broke up because of me and I am not proud of that fact."

"But as karma has it, the same happened to me with his countless affairs and I also suffered unimaginable abuse at the hands of Salman, physical, verbal and sexual," she said in statement.

She claims that Salman has a "knack for changing girlfriends."

"I can say that Salman has a knack for changing girlfriends every seven years, but if I am not mistaken and you would know this as a reporter better than me, he has been quite consistent with Lulia Vântur. If there's any truth to that, I genu-



inely wish them both all the best."

Somy and Salman are not on talking terms.

"We do not speak because I absolutely detest him as a human being. He's a cowardly man who hides what he truly is, which is a sadistic and narcissistic abuser of women. He treated me worse than a dog in front of his family, friends and even his house help which is why they all disrespected me and treated me poorly including his bodyguard, Shera."

"Salman has mental health issues and he believes himself to be God. His fans are illiterate masses who have no idea how much he has abused all

his girlfriends and recently he sent his PR Team to the Discovery + office in Mumbai and had my docu-series on my NGO banned all over India."

"He did this solely because in the second episode without even taking his name I talk about being abused by an actor in India and he didn't want his reputation to be tarnished. Let's not forget that aside from Ms. Rai (Aishwarya Rai Bachchan) and myself no one has had the guts to stand up to this man who wears many masks."

"After banning my show he had an attorney send me a threatening email to sue me if I wouldn't shut up about who Salman truly is. He still sends

his PR Team to various offices to stop an interview I did about his abusive nature. Why would someone keep trying to shut things up if they weren't guilty? But it's me who has to bear the brunt of speaking my truth and being called names that I can't mention in an interview," she shared.

Somy reveals being repeatedly blamed for saying these things to gain publicity.

"Why would someone who has received immense press in the US and is a recipient of two Presidential awards from President Obama and President George H.W. Walker Bush talk about a two-bit unknown actor in the US and who himself is an illiterate oblivious fool like his fans? He's a cowardly thug and a street bhai in the real sense of using an attorney to scare me and shut me up."

"Too bad it didn't and will never work. I always spoke about him abusing me when I was in a relationship with him and spoke with all the tabloids and I would be abused for doing that back then in the 90s as well. Hence, I was quiet until he poked the lion by banning my show," she said, sounding upset.

Mariah Carey talks about her favourite Christmas songs, movies

Mariah Carey says she cooks Italian food for Christmas

American singer, songwriter, record producer, and actor Mariah Carey has spoken about all the Christmas things she's "obsessed" with.

She recently appeared on 'The Jennifer Hudson Show' and talked about her favourite Christmas movies and songs- outside of her own hits 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' and 'Oh Santa!', reported 'People' magazine.

"My favourite all-time Christmas song is Nat King Cole's version of [The] Christmas Song -- that's my favourite," Carey, 54, told host Jennifer Hudson who noted, "That was my grandmother's favourite." She added that she doesn't "let anybody listen to anything but Christmas music" when she celebrates the holiday -- and even the "movies have to be Christmas-

related." "Do you have a favourite Christmas movie?" Hudson asked.

"Well, I enjoy 'Elf.' "I have to say that," Carey admitted. "Then there's the original 'Miracle on 34th Street', which I like." It's an older one, but it has something special about it." Hudson noted that her own favourite is 'Home Alone'. "Yes, everybody loves Home Alone!" Carey said.

However, the 'Emotions' singer's Christmas spirit extends beyond music and films. Carey also stated that she enjoys making her home feel festive, which includes having many Christmas trees throughout her home.

"In the main part of the house, there will be a nice, tall Christmas tree with gold and silver -- not actual gold," Carey explained. "Then I have a smaller multi-



colored-lights tree, like the Charlie Brown tree, with some ornaments that my fans made for me and different stuff like that."

She and her family also shoot "little pictures" in the form of Polaroids and "put them on the tree" -- and she even cooks for the holidays, despite the fact that "nobody believes me." "I cook Italian food on the 23rd, because my father had a recipe for linguine with white clam sauce that he left for me before he passed away. It's very good," said the five-time Grammy winner.

"I make that and some other things." "I do a traditional Christmas dinner, and I help. I'm not there doing everything alone. I'm not gonna say that. But I do add a little bit of seasoning," Carey added, reported People.

Border was the first film I saw in theatre with my father, says Mrunal Thakur



Mrunal Thakur fondly recalled her first cinematic experience with JP Dutta's iconic film Border, which left an indelible mark on her. Since then, she has been captivated by the

lives of army personnel and their stories of valour.

"Border was a film that left an everlasting impression on me, and it ignited my interest in the lives of our brave

soldiers. Working on Pippa allowed me to revisit that same world and feel a deep connection to the sacrifices made by our armed forces.

"It was the first film I watched in the theatres with my father and was deeply inspired to be part of a film that displays the valour and strength of the armed forces," shared Mrunal, reflecting on her emotional journey during the filming process of Pippa.

In Pippa, Mrunal steps into the shoes of an intelligence officer appointed by RAW, a role that showcases her acting prowess. She portrays the on-screen sister to the talented actors Ishaan Khatter and Priyanshu Painyuli, bringing forth a compelling dynamic to the narrative. The film, based on the book The Burning Chaffees, revolves around the heroic exploits of Brigadier Balram.

PM Modi raises 'deepfake' issue, says media must educate people

Flagging the misuse of AI for creating 'deepfakes', he says media must educate people about this crisis in making

NEW DELHI, Nov 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the threats of deep fakes in new-age digital media content and said that it was important to understand how Artificial Intelligence (AI) works since they could be used to purposefully spread false information or have malicious intent behind their use.



Addressing the gathering at the Diwali Milan program at the BJP Headquarters on Friday, Prime Minister Modi spoke to the journalists about the dangers of deep fakes in digital media.

The prime minister urged the media persons to educate the people about the negative effects of using artificial intelligence to spread harmful content such as misrepresentation of individuals in deep fakes.

"I recently saw a video in which I was seen singing a Garba song. There are many other such videos online," said PM Modi adding that the looming threat of Deepfake has become a great concern and can create

a lot of problems for all of us. Deepfakes are used to purposefully spread false information or they may have a malicious intent behind their use. They can be designed to harass, intimidate, demean and undermine people. Deepfakes can also create misinformation and confusion about important issues.

The Centre has said that creation and circulation of deepfakes carry strong penalty - Rs

1 lakh in fine and three years in jail.

Misrepresentation of individuals in Deepfakes has led to the generation of blackmail materials to falsely incriminate people. As these videos and audio recordings can be difficult to verify, the negative impact on reputation can be difficult to recover from, even when verified as a Deepfake.

The Prime Minister further said that the 'Vocal for local' cam-

paign has found people's support and that the idea of a fully developed India was not just mere words but had touched ground reality.

The PM further said that local businesses had blossomed under the vocal for local campaigns and stated that we all must prioritise our local products.

"We now have a strong position on a global level, the world now acknowledges our achievements," added the prime minister.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the BJP leadership arrived for the 'Diwali Milan' program at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) central office in the national capital. Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda have also arrived at the event that has been organised by the ruling party.

Additionally, journalists from the Indian media were invited by BJP party chief JP Nadda to attend the programme.

New challenges arising from Israel-Hamas conflict, PM warns Global South

NEW DELHI, Nov 17 (Agencies): New challenges are arising from the situation in West Asia, cautioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi while inaugurating the virtual Second Global South Summit here on Friday.

one voice speak for greater global good. In order to achieve the objective of 'One earth, one family, one future', he suggested 5 Cs - Consultation, Cooperation, Communication, Creativity and Capacity-building.

Summit in January that India wanted to make it inclusive and human-centric, said the PM, while recounting the pro-global South initiatives taken at the New Delhi summit in September - permanent membership for the African Union, unanimity on major reforms in multilateral banks to provide sustainable finance to developing countries, a fresh action plan to reinvigorate the push towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) and "unprecedented seriousness" on climate finance.

"For global prosperity what we need is 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas'. But we see new challenges arising in West Asia. India had condemned the heinous attacks on Israel on October 7. We have stressed dialogue and diplomacy along with restraint. We have strongly condemned the killings of civilians in the Hamas-Israel conflict. After speaking to Palestine Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, we sent humanitarian aid for the people of Palestine," said PM Modi in his first public remarks on the recent West Asia conflict.

The PM also announced the inauguration on Friday of a Global South Centre for Excellence to promote development and knowledge sharing initiatives among developing countries. The PM recalled that he had made an announcement to this effect at the first virtual Voice of the Global South summit hosted by India.

The PM also exhorted developing countries to join the Global fuel alliance and reiterated India's plan to hold an Artificial Intelligence Global Partnership Summit next month. India will also share its capabilities in digital public infrastructure with the entire Global South, he added.

This is the time, he counselled, when the Global South must in

India was also working on the proposal announced at the G20 summit to make available weather and climate monitoring to developing countries.

"After India took over the G20 Chair, we mentioned at the first Voice of the Global South

Inspired me: As MP votes, PM sends strong message to tribal Shahdol

NEW DELHI, Nov 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sent a strong signal of solidarity to Madhya Pradesh as the state voted in single phase elections.



"Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh inspired me," the PM said at BJP's Diwali Milan event in the national capital citing two instances that demonstrated hyper local capacities of the country to become a developed nation by 2047.

four generations consisting of national level football players. Even Brazil would not have this capacity. It's this that gives me the confidence that India can become a developed nation soon."

what she did with the money, she said she bought a scooter for her husband who used to travel by a cycle. She later even took a bank loan to buy a tractor. This inspired me to decide that our government will work to make two crore Indian women associated with SHHs lakh pati didis," the PM said sending a signal of solidarity with the voters, especially tribals.

In the first instance, he heaped praises on MP's tribal Shahdol where a large number of people play football.

"I was told Shahdol is mini Brazil...every alley has a football club. There are families with

In the second instance, the PM mentioned the women associated with Shahdol self-help groups with more than Rs 1 lakh earnings.

"When I asked a lady

Dharavi project rules changed to benefit Adani: Congress

NEW DELHI, Nov 17 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday alleged that the Maharashtra Urban Development department had changed a rule in the Dharavi Redevelopment Project to benefit the Adani Group.



"Is there any sector of the economy that is not being converted into a Modi-made Monopoly (3M) for his friends?," the party asked in a statement.

communications Jairam Ramesh said he had earlier asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi questions about how the Adani Group was allowed to bag the Dharavi Redevelopment Project in Mumbai in 2022 with a bid of Rs 5,069 crore, lower by

originally expressed its reservations about relaxing the rules - has been compelled to issue a notification that removes the provision of indexation in Dharavi's real estate Transferable Development Rights (TDR) and made it mandatory for all Mumbai builders to buy the first 40 per cent of their TDRs from Adani," Ramesh said.

This has the effect of greatly increasing the value of TDRs accruing to Adani - and Adani alone - from the Dharavi project," Ramesh added.

or cultural significance or similar reason - to be compensated with extra construction rights in other approved areas.

Ramesh said TDR is a transferable credit that allows builders who agree to give up their rights to build in sensitive areas - for reasons related to the environment, historical

The decision to remove indexation means that TDRs generated in low-cost areas like Dharavi can be used to develop expensive real estate in premium locations such as Bandra, south Mumbai and Juhu, Ramesh said.

The Congress leader said that the policy changes are expected to further push up prices in Mumbai's already expensive housing market.

"This one policy change that benefits only Adani is yet another 'revdi' offered to the Prime Minister's most favoured business group," Ramesh said.

Three killed, one injured in road accident in Odisha's Angul

BHUBANESWAR, Nov 17 (Agencies): Three persons were killed and another injured when a speeding truck hit them in Odisha's Angul district, police said on Friday.

bus (in which they were travelling) developed a flat tyre.

While two passengers succumbed to injuries at Rairakhol Hospital, another died while undergoing treatment at Kishorenagar Hospital.

The accident took place at Baragapali near Kishor Nagar on Thursday night when the victims were standing on the road as their

The speeding truck rammed into them and left the spot, a police officer said.

The condition of the other passenger, Trilochan Nayak, is stated to be critical.

The Kishor Nagar police started an investigation into the incident. After conducting post-

The deceased were identified as Nayan Kumar Nayak, Ghansyam Barik of Jharsuguda district, and Anand Nayak from Sundergarh district.



mortems, the bodies will be handed over to their

family members, the police officer said.

Fire erupts in Mumbai high-rise; several stranded residents rescued

MUMBAI, Nov 17 (Agencies): A fire erupted on the eighth and the 12th floor of a residential building in the Grant Road area of south Mumbai on Friday morning, and no casualties were reported, an official said.

race through the staircase, he said.

was confined to electrical wiring and installations, furniture, doors, and household articles of apartments on the 8th and 12th floors.

The fire brigade rescued several residents stranded on the 15th, 21st and 22nd floors of the building and shifted them safely to the ter-

The blaze broke out around 9.30 am on the 8th and 12th floor of Dhavalgiri Building on August Kranti Road, the official said.

The fire brigade rescued stranded residents who were stranded on different floors of the building, including eight persons from the 15th floor, the official said, adding that the firefighting operations are underway.

No casualties were reported in the incident, and the cause and origin of the fire on both the floors is yet to be ascertained, the official said.

According to the fire brigade, the level 2 fire

Eight killed as pick-up vehicle falls into gorge near Nainital

NAINITAL, Nov 17 (Agencies): A pick-up vehicle fell into a gorge on the Chedakhan-Midar motor road in Uttarakhand's Nainital district early Friday, leaving eight people dead, police said.



site direction, he said. While six people were killed on the spot, two died at a hospital.

the loss of lives in the accident and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The accident occurred at around 8 am when the vehicle was going from Patlot to Amjad village, Nainital Senior Superintendent of Police Prahlad Narayan Meena said.

A couple and their son were also among those who died in the accident, the SSP said.

Three persons injured in the accident have been admitted to the Community Health Centre, Okhalkanda, the SSP said.

The vehicle fell into the gorge while trying to save a motorcycle coming from the oppo-

Madhya Pradesh polls: Congress candidate's aide killed in Chhatarpur district; sporadic clashes reported

BHOPAL, Nov 17 (Agencies): An aide of a Congress candidate was killed after two groups fought in the Rajnagar constituency of Madhya Pradesh and a few clashes were reported in other parts of the state, where assembly elections are being held on Friday, officials said.

the early hours of Friday which resulted in the death of one Salman.

Police Shailendra Singh said, "The trio was called for a meeting the previous day where they agreed upon coming to the police line. This has been an old practice," he added.

Five persons were injured in a skirmish between two groups in the Mhow area of Indore district, while two men were wounded in a clash in Morena district's Dimani constituency, where Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar is contesting, they said.

The Congress candidate for the seat, Vikram Singh, alias Nati Raja, has alleged that Salman used to drive him around.

Morena is a part of the Chambal region that was once infamous for producing dreaded dacoits.

According to Chhatarpur Superintendent of Police Amit Sanghi, supporters of two political leaders faced off in the Rajnagar constituency in

However, BJP nominee Arvind Pateria dubbed the incident a conspiracy and sought a judicial probe into it.

Earlier, SP Singh had said that a clash between two groups was reported from Mirdhan village over attempts to stop voters from casting their ballots in Dimni constituency in which two persons were injured.

"Two persons, identified as Ajay Sharma and Rampratap Sharma, were injured by sticks in the fight. The news of bullet injuries is wrong," he said, adding that additional police personnel have been deployed in the area.

He said some channels ran inaccurate reports claiming that there was firing and subsequent bullet injuries in the village.

Meanwhile, five men were injured in a fight between two groups of political parties at Manglia village of Mhow tehsil on Friday morning, Sub Divisional Officer of Police Dilip Chowdhary told agency.

In the Jhabua constituency, Congress candidate Dr Vikrant Bhuria's security guard was injured after stones were pelted at them around Thursday mid-night.

Shiv Saniks pledge to restore rights of sons of the land, warns terrorists and narco terror

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 17: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni on Friday called upon the terrorist organizations and macro terror operating in Jammu and Kashmir to completely stop their nefarious activities otherwise they would have to face serious consequences, on the death anniversary of Hindu Hriday Samrat venerable Bala Saheb Thackeray.

In the tribute program organized at the party state central office, leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu Kashmir unit paid their floral tribute to the venerable Balasaheb Thackeray.



Party state chief Manish Sahni, while addressing the state leaders and workers after Shraddha Suman, said that venerable Balasaheb Thackeray is not physically among us today but his thoughts and ideas are always alive in the hearts of every Shiv Sainik.

Balasaheb Thackeray had given the slogan of giving preference to the sons of the land. Apart from this, he also worked to unite people to hoist the flag of Hindutva. Venerable Balasaheb Thackeray was also the one who gave the slogan of saying proudly that we are

Hindus. Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir has been burning in the flame of terrorism for more than three decades. Thousands of people including security personnel have been martyred. Kashmiri Hindus have been living a displaced life in their own country

and state for the last 35 years. Rehabilitation of all these and protection of the rights of the sons of the land will be the true tribute from every Shiv Sainik to venerable Balasaheb Thackeray. Remembering the venerable Bala Saheb Thackeray, all the Shiv Sainiks present took a pledge to restore the rights of the local people and to give a befitting reply to terrorism and narco terror. On this occasion, President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Secretary Youth Wing Rajesh Handa, Women Secretary Mamta Devi and many others were present.

GDC Neeli Nallah organises an awareness rally on Nasha Mukht Bharat



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 17: NSS Unit, "Sewak", Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur, organized an awareness rally on "Nasha Mukht Bharat" under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The programme was organized under the able guidance of worthy Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj. In his address he emphasized that the purpose of the rally was

to raise awareness among the students and general masses about the serious issues and hazardous impacts caused due to drug abuse. The rally was flagged off from the college premises by the Principal of the College. Further the students proceeded with slogans in the nearby village Neeli Nallah. A large number of students participated in the rally. During the rally, students raised slogans

spreading the message of coming together to fight against the substance abuse and they also interacted with general masses around to aware them regarding the health issues related to drug misuse and their rehabilitation. The faculty members- Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Radha Rani, Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Dr. Mahima Bhagat, Pradeep Kumar and Dr. Muntazir (PTI) also accompanied the rally.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp held at Batambis, Choskor-A Panchayats in Kargil

Top News Report

KARGIL, Nov 17: To ensure the saturation of flagship schemes of the government, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp was today organized at Ghar Batambis and Choskor-A Panchayats in Kargil district. During the event, block-level officers of RD&PRD, Health, Fisheries, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, PHE Kargil, ICDS, NABARD, NRLM, Handloom, NYK, KVK, Cooperative Department besides other line departments were present. DPO Kargil Padma Angmo, BDO Kargil Samina Khatoon (Day Nodal Officer), CDPO Kargil Parveen Akther, DIO Dr. Jaleel, NT Kargil Sajjad Hussain, District Development Manager, NABARD, Tsewang Diorjaj, PRI members, Junior Scientist KVK Kargil, Dr. Mansoor Hussain and concerned officials of Agriculture, Horticulture,



Fisheries, NYK Kargil and other concerned officers and officials were present. The villagers were informed about various direct beneficiary-oriented schemes, aiming to uplift their lives. During the program, Viksit Bharat pledge was taken by participants. During the camp, a thorough health screening was held, encompassing essential health check-ups such as blood pressure and sugar level assessments. In addition to health services, agricultural, horticulture, NRLM and other departments, related concerns were

addressed by experts on-site. The experts assisted in resolving issues related to Agriculture and Horticulture, NRLM ensuring that the farming community received valuable insights and solutions to enhance their productivity. The camp also focused on Jal Jeevan Mission initiatives, offering guidance and support to mitigate water-related challenges in the region. One of the aspects of the event was the provision of direct beneficiary-oriented benefits to the villagers on the spot. Besides others, the ICDS Department also informed the people about benefi-

ciary-oriented schemes to the people. This included the distribution of various benefits and resources designed to uplift the community and improve their quality of life. During the program, various government departments distributed pamphlets showcasing diverse welfare schemes to the participants. Initially, the BDO briefed about the goal of Viksit Bharat. She underlined the program's mission to transform the country into a developed nation. She expressed gratitude to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement in this crucial endeavor. The District Development Manager, NABARD, also briefed about the successful saturation of the Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan Scheme and also informed the public about the training programs of SHGs, including MEDP and LEDP.

Investiture ceremony organised at GDCW Kathua



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 17: Govt. Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua organised Investiture ceremony for the newly elected executive body of the college. The elected executive body actively participated in the ceremony. Prakriti of sem-5th as President, Dalu Mangotra as Vice-Presi-

dent, BhomiKa Rajput as General Secretary, Tania Rajput as Treasurer, Literary Secretary, Kashish, Cultural Secretary, Sonika were honoured by badges by worthy Principal. Principal of the college, Dr. Savi Behl advised the newly elected class representatives to work actively for the smooth functioning of the college so that the quality in

academics as well as in curricular activities may be strengthened. She advised the students to work for the betterment of the institution with positive attitude and responsibility. The ceremony was organised under the guidance of Dr. Rachna Devi, convener DSW. Senior faculty member Prof. Ashwani Kumar Khajuria, HOD Food

Science and quality control and members of DSW, Dr. Vaishano Devi, Dr. Deepti, Dr. Surekha and Roshan Lal Sharma were also present in the function. Principal of the College Dr. Savi Behl appreciated the whole team of DSW for organising such program and suggested to organise various such awareness programs in future for the welfare of the students. Proceedings of the program were conducted by Dr. Surekha Rani and formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Rachna, and she also guided the student's council members to be role models and render their responsibilities sincerely as the nation builders of tomorrow.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp conducted in two Panchayats of Zanskar

Top News Report

KARGIL, Nov 17: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp, envisaged by the Union Government as a major step towards attaining saturation of welfare schemes was observed today at two Panchayat Halqas of Zanskar and Lungnak Block (Padum and Raru-Muney). During the event, Day Nodal Officer/BDO Zanskar, Tsewang Rigzin along with all the officers and employees of the line departments and Panchayat members were present at CFC Padum and CFC Raru Muney.



The event was started by welcoming the IEC (Information, Education and Communication) Van. All the line departments were engaged for the entire day to ensure the saturation of flagship schemes of the government for the eligible

beneficiaries. Mass awareness about all the ongoing schemes of respective departments was given on the spot. The online registration of left out eligible beneficiaries was also done and they were registered under vari-

ous Centrally Sponsor Schemes. Viksit Bharat pledge was taken by participants, including the Sarpanchs of both Padum and Raru-Muney in presence of general public of the both Panchayat Halqas.

Challenges faced by teachers in private schools: Altaf Dar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: Prominent Social-Political Activist And Senior Trade Union leader Mohammad Altaf Dar in a statement issued to press express his concern over teachers play a pivotal role in shaping a well educated society, yet in many private schools in Union territory J&K, they are denied their due rights and respect. In stark contrast to Western countries where teachers are revered, Union terri-



tory J&K private school teachers often face torture, humiliation, and receive minimal salaries. Teaching, considered a noble profession, is unfortunately treated as a servile role by private

school owners. Despite charging hefty fees, these schools exploit teachers, providing them with low salaries and subjecting them to unethical treatment, including public humiliation. This behavior not only negatively impacts teachers but also leaves a detrimental impression on students, contributing to an illiterate and unethical society. Prominent Social-Political Activist And Senior Trade Union Leader Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) said While

the private school sector thrives, with owners accumulating immense wealth, teachers are relegated to the status of mere sales people. Despite exorbitant fee hikes, teachers' salaries remain dismally low, leading to dissatisfaction and discontent among educators. The key issues in the private sector, including poor salaries, disrespect, and autocratic administration, highlight the concerning treatment of teachers in these institutions.

NHM Association Doda organizes blood donation camp

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 17: As a part of good will gesture and in its endeavours to have moral responsibility to donate blood in the service of humanity, the National Health Mission (NHM) Employees under the banner of All J&K NHM Employees Association District Unit Doda on Friday organized a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Associated Hospital, Govt Medical College Doda. The event was organized in association with District Administration Doda, Govt Medical College Doda and District Health Society Doda. The inauguration of the event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Doda Sh. Harvinder Singh (IAS) along with Principal GMC Doda Dr. Puja Vimesh, CMO Doda Dr. Ab

Hamid Zargar, MS AH GMC Doda Dr. Tanveer Ahmed, HOD Pathology GMC Doda Dr. Sumat ul Khurshid, BMO Ghat Dr. Ab. Gafoor Ahmed, President NHM Union Doda Dr. Nasir Masood Indrabi and others. During the camp, more than 10 donors take part and donated their red wealth for the cause of society. Speaking on the occasion, the DC Doda urged people to donate blood voluntarily as it is a great service to humanity and helps in saving precious lives. While lauding the contribution of blood donors, the DC Doda acknowledged the remarkable dedication and humanitarian spirit displayed by the NHM Employees of the health department for their life saving contributions. The President NHM Associa-



tion Doda Dr. Nasir Masood, who was also among the blood donors, informed that it is for the first time in UT J&K, such event of blood

donation by NHM employees which depicts their dedicated services rendered in the department besides benevolent and noble gesture for

the cause of humanity. The NHM Association members stressed that every healthy person should come forward and donate

their blood for this noble cause to increase the blood capacity in our health system. Later, the Deputy Commissioner Doda along with other dignitaries gave away certificates of appreciation to all donors as a part of their encouragement. Principal GMC Doda Dr. Puja Vimesh expressed gratitude to NHM Employees Association Doda, all the distinguished guests, dedicated staff of Blood Bank and the generous blood donors for their presence & participation, emphasizing the profound impact their contribution would have on saving lives. The members of NHM Union Doda and staff of Blood Bank AH GMC Doda offered their dedicated services in management and in making the camp successful.