

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Women like us must stand up for the vulnerable and the exploited, says Tisca Chopra



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Andhra Pradesh deputy CM Pawan Kalyan renounces 11-day penance at Tirumala

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France's Macron slams Iran's attacks on Israel, urges Hezbollah to stop violence



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-272 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

LG Sinha grieves over sad demise of Syed Mushtaq Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha Wednesday expressed grief over the sad demise of a prominent Pahari leader Syed Mushtaq Bukhari.

He expressed his deep condolences to the bereaved family, and said the deceased will be remembered for his commitment to the welfare of people.

The Office of LG J&K in a post on X (formerly twitter) said: "Deeply pained to learn of the demise of Shri Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Bukhari, a prominent Pahadi leader. He will be remembered for his commitment to the welfare of people and upliftment of weaker sections of society".

"My condolences to his family," the post on X said.

CJM Leh gets Addl charge of Principal Magistrate JJB Leh

JAMMU, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Department of Law and Justice, Union Territory of Ladakh has assigned additional charge of the post of Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) Leh to Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Leh, in addition to his own duties.

One person killed, 2 seriously wounded after car runs over pedestrians in south Kashmir's Verinag

SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): One person was killed while as two others were injured on Wednesday after a vehicle hit them at the main road in Bongund area of Verinag in south Kashmir's Anantnag, reports said.

Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that a vehicle hit three pedestrians at main road in Bongund.

They said one person died on the spot while the other two were seriously wounded and have been shifted to district hospital Anantnag.

The officials identified the deceased as **Turn to page 9**

J&K Assembly polls: New history scripted; people have understood futility of gun, power of vote: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): Expressing gratitude to the people of J&K, especially Kashmir for coming out in record numbers to exercise the franchise in the just concluded Assembly polls held after a decade, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said people of Kashmir have understood the power of vote and futility of gun.

Speaking to a gather-



ing at Raj Bhawan on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (father of nation), the LG, said

that historic voter turnout was witnessed in the Assembly polls as they were held peacefully across the UT.

"The candidates of political parties were engaged in political rallies and road shows till midnight. Great enthusiasm was seen among candidates as well as voters," the LG said.

He said that 1.40 Crore people showed their **Turn to page 9**



Gandhi Global Family J&K commemorating 155th birth anniversary of Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi in a function at historic Dewan-e-Aam, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, Jammu on Wednesday. (Pic by Aman Sharma)

Sonam Wangchuk detained again after release, indefinite fast continues



NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and 150 other protestors from Ladakh who are under detention

on Wednesday continued their indefinite fast, saying they find their rights "trampled upon" on Gandhi Jayanti, a day that symbolizes peace

and democracy.

Wangchuk was leading 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began from Leh a month ago. They were detained on Monday night.

In a statement issued on Wednesday morning, Jigmet Paljor, Coordinator Apex Body, said their detention, which is continuing for over 24 hours, is illegal.

"We, the 'padyatris', find ourselves in an alarming situation. We have been detained

for over 24 hours. This detention is illegal, as the 24-hour period has elapsed, and we must be produced before a magistrate," Paljor said.

"Some groups have been released after just under 24 hours, only to be returned to the police station. Last night, the police attempted to forcibly relocate us to an unknown location, but we stood our ground in resistance," he added.

"Our phones have **Turn to page 9**

Poll body revises voter turnout to over 69% in Third Phase of J&K Assembly Election

JAMMU, Oct 2 (Agencies): Over 69 per cent voter turnout has been recorded in the third phase of assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir, the poll body said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the approximate voter turnout of 69.65% has been recorded in 40 constituencies in the third phase. "The same shall continue to be updated by the field level officers



as the remaining polling parties keep returning and updated figures will be available AC and district wise live at Voter Turnout App," the state-

ment reads.

According to figures, Bandipora recorded 67.68 percent turnout, Baramulla recorded 61.03 percent, Jammu 71.40 percent, Kathua 73.34 percent, Kupwara 66.79 percent, Samba 75.88 and Udhampur recorded 76.09 percent turnout.

The poll body said that this is an approximate trend, as data from some **Turn to page 9**

2 pilots among 3 killed as helicopter crashes, bursts into flames in Pune

PUNE, Oct 2 (Agencies): Two pilots and an engineer were killed after a helicopter crashed and caught fire in Maharashtra's Pune district on Wednesday morning, police said.

The helicopter belonging to the Delhi-based Heritage Aviation, a private firm, took off from the Oxford County Golf Course helipad here and was heading to Juhu in Mumbai when it crashed at 7.40 am, they said.



The incident took place near a hilly terrain in Bavdhan area, which is close to the gold course, according to police "Three persons have

died in the helicopter crash. Our teams along with fire department vehicles have reached the spot," Pimpri **Turn to page 9**

BJP's Surankote candidate Bukhari dies of heart attack in Poonch

JAMMU, Oct 2 (Agencies): Former minister and BJP candidate for Surankote, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari, died on Wednesday after collapsing at his residence in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, party leaders said. He was 75 and is sur-



vived by his wife, two

daughters and a son.

Bukhari was unwell for some time and suffered a heart attack at 7 am, leading to his death, a BJP leader said.

Bukhari, a two-time former MLA from Surankote, joined the BJP in February this **Turn to page 9**

Four days after going missing, 22-year-old's body found in Srinagar stream

SRINAGAR, Oct 2 (Agencies): A body of a 22-year-old youth who went missing on September 28, was recovered last night from a stream at Pahloo Brane in Nishat area of Srinagar, reports said Wednesday.

Quoting an official,

news agency NVI reported that the youth had been missing since September 28, 2024, while his family filed a missing person report at Nishat Police Station on October 1, 2024.

The body was discovered last night by locals who then informed the

police.

The official said that the body was later shifted to a hospital in Srinagar for legal formalities and further investigation.

The deceased has been identified as Roman Nazir, a 22-year-old resident of Danpora **Turn to page 9**

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OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishan Raina** S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Raina S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Raina R/o 892/1 Sector 40A Chandigarh-160036, originally R/o Pinglish, Tral, Kashmir on 25th September 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4th October 2024 (Friday) at Gagar Ghat Banks at 9:30 AM near roundabout of Sec 24 and Sec 26 Panchkula.

Grief Stricken:
Smt. Inca Raina - Wife
Dr. Ashok and Anshu - Son & Daughter-in-law
Daughter and Son-in-law
Sunita and Rakesh Koul
Meenakshi and Vikram Raina
Hira Krishan Raina and Gita Raina (Brother & Sister-in-law)
Ranjinder Krishan Raina and Lalita Raina (Brother & Sister-in-law)
Dr. M. K. Koul and Jaya (Brother-in-law & Sister)

ALL NEARS AND DEARS
CONTACT DETAILS: 99155567338, 9419294862, 98527798652



Sh. Avtar Krishan Raina

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely and tragic demise of our beloved son **Sh. Vinod Kumar Raina** S/o Sh. Poshkar Nath Raina R/o Akirgam (Bongma), Kashmir at present Roop Nagar, Enclave-B, Lane No. 2/6, H.No. 30.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 03.10.2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 9:00 a.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Prana Raina & Sh. P.N. Raina (Mother & Father)
Smt. Sunita Raina (Wife)
Smt. Shashi Raina & Sh. Satish Raina (Brother & Bhabhi)
Smt. Renu Koul W/o Lt. Sunil Koul (Sister)
Smt. Nancy Raina (Aunt)
Smt. & Sh. S.L. Raina (Uncle & Aunt)
Smt. & Sh. K.J. Raina (Uncle & Aunt)
Smt. & Sh. Sanjay Raina (Uncle & Aunt)
Sarthak Raina (Son) Satyam Raina (Son)
Supriya, Shruti, Anisha (Daughter)

SH. VINOD KUMAR RAINA
(SAMEER JI)

SAMAST RAINA PARIVAR, RAINA ART PRINTERS
MOBILE: +91-9419240910, 9419141499




OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. M.L.Sharma (Raina)** original resident of Kharyar Habba Kadal Srinagar (Kashmir) and presently resident of Swaran colony Trikpur Road Gole Gujral Jammu expired on 26/09/2024 after brief illness and cremation has taken place on 27/09/2024 at Shanti Ghat Gole Gujral Near SOS school Jammu. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** and assembly will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 05/10/2024 at 8.30 am.

MOURNING FROM INLAWS will also be held at the above address.

Sh. M.L.Sharma
(Raina)

GRIEF STRICKEN
ALL NEARS AND DEARS.
7006900425.



10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Sheela Devi** R/o At present H.No. F 660, Near Jain Temple, Talab Tillo, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 26th September, 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA on 5th October, 2024 (Saturday) 9:00 AM at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

IN GRIEF:-
Sh. O. N. Jotshi (Husband) 9149520538

Daughters-in-laws & Sons
Raj & A.K. Jotshi - 9419195152
Babli & Anil Jotshi - 9419143636
Sanju & Sunil Jotshi - 9796043202
Indu & Rakesh Jotshi - 9811873885
Shanu & Amit Jotshi
Rohani & Arun Jotshi

Daughters & Sons-in-laws
Sunita & Sanjay Rewoo - 9906571716
Esha & Ankit Raina - 7011078471

Grand Children: Aman, Anshika, Parth, Rishul, Arush, Arvi, Anika, Ansh

Samast Dhanwati Parivar of Bijbehara

SMT. SHEELA DEVI




OBITUARY/TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely and sad demise of our adored **Sh. Brij Krishan Bhan** S/o Late Sh. Tara Chand Bhan on 25th Sept 2024, originally from Rainawari, Kashmir presently at 253/A, Last Morh, Sarwal Colony, Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA and Assembly will be performed on 3rd Oct 2024 (Thursday) at 9.00 AM at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Kanta Bhan - Wife
Sons and Daughter-in-Law
Naveen Bhan & Sushma Bhan
Mahesh Bhan & Sheetal Bhan
Grand Children: Hitaishi, Kaniya, Vanya, Viransh & Anaya
Samast Koul & Bhat Parivar
CONTACT DETAILS: 9906000299, 9622006383, 9419222042

SH. BRIJ KRISHAN BHAN



OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Karamyogi Smt. Rattani Chaku (Rani)** originally resident of Karan Nagar, Srinagar, presently residing at House No. 144/B, Greater Jammu, Kunjwani Bypass, Jammu on 27th Sept. 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 06th Oct. 2024, Sunday at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Mrs. Paripalini Chaku & Lt. Sh. Ashok Chaku
Mrs. Meenakshi & Kanwal Chaku
Mrs. Jyoti & Sunil Chaku
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Mrs. Roela & Sunil Kaul
Mrs. Asha & Rakesh Tickoo
Grand Children: Vasundra, Malika, Mrinali, Ayush, Adityaom, Anmol, Anuj & Annav
And Samast Parivar of Chaku's, Kaul's, Tickoo's, Bamzai's, Taing's, Aima's, Koul's, Hashia's and Bhan's
Mobile Numbers: 8437045445, 9018276467




Smt. Rattani Chaku
(Rani)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that **10TH DAY** of our beloved father **Late Sh. Nitya Nand Khajuria** will be performed on 04-10-2024 at 11:00 AM and **KRIYA** will be performed on 05-10-2024 in Village Kanachak at their residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Naresh Khajuria & Anita
Shiv Khajuria & Shrishtha
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Sunita and Subash Sharma
Sneh Lata and Raghunandan
Contact: 9419318143, 9796868098



Late Sh. Nitya Nand Khajuria

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Rumal Singh** on 20th Sept 2024 R/o H. No 11 Sarwal Colony Jammu (J&K).

TENTH DAY will be performed on 29-09-2024 (Sunday) at our residence (11.00 AM)
KRIYA will be performed on 02-10-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence (12.00 Noon).
UTHALA will be performed on 04-10-2024 (Friday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony Jammu (4.00 PM to 5.00 PM).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Shanti Devi - Wife
Sons & Daughter in law
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Rajinder Singh, Asstt Adm Officer (MES)
Smt. Meenakshi & Sh. Surinder Singh, Defence Fire Services (15 FAD)
Daughters & Son in Law
Late Smt. Poonam Singh & Sh. Pawan Kumar (Information Deptt)
Smt. Geeta Devi & Sh. Ankush Mehra, AAO (Defence Estate Office)
Grand Children: Haishita, Bhagav, Kanishka, Devansh, Ananya, Anant, Bhavya & Divyansh
MOBILE NO: 9419218946, 7006657710

SH. RUMAL SINGH
EX ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (MES)
15-05-1941- 20-09-2024



10TH DAY KRIYA

With Profound Grief and Sorrow, We Would Like to Inform you all that **Smt. Shanti Devi** W/o Late Sh. Amir Chand Manhas R/o Village Malhotra (Panshyee) Tehsil Bhella, District Doda. A/P House No. G-68/A Shanti Nagar, Toph Sherkhania Jammu expired on 25-09-2024 at 8:20 pm.

10th Day will be performed on 04/10/2024 at House No. G-68/A Shanti Nagar, Toph Sherkhania Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN BY:
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Late Sh. Janak Singh & Smt. Shakuntla Devi
Sh. Harmam Singh & Smt. Shakuntla Devi
Sh. Joginder Singh & Smt. Nirjala Devi
Late Sh. Pritam Singh (Son)
Daughters and Son-in-laws
Smt. Anara Devi & Late Sh. Harmesh Lal
Smt. Acchi Devi & Sh. Aramath Chouhan
Smt. Raja Devi & Late Sh. Jagdish Raj
Smt. Kaushalya Devi & Sh. Bir Singh
Smt. Suresha Devi & Sh. Chaman Singh

Grandsons and Granddaughters
Sh. Sunil Singh Manhas
Sh. Saheel Singh Manhas
Sh. Sandeep Singh Manhas
Sh. Pardeep Singh Manhas
Mr. Anil Singh Manhas
Mr. Anil Singh Manhas
Sanchaya Manhas
Radha Devi
Pooja Devi
Ari Manhas

Smt. Shanti Devi



10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you all the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Baj Singh** S/o Late Th. Balwan Singh original resident of Reshi Nagari Shopian at present H No. 567 Subash Nagar near Old Post office Rehari Colony Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 3rd October Thursday at 11 AM at Temple near Petrol Pump Subash Nagar Jammu.

Grief Stricken:
Smt. Saro Devi - Wife
Sons & Daughter in laws
Jagdish Singh & Kavita Jamwal (Pinky)
Joginder Singh & Rita Jamwal (Shashi)
Grand Sons
Virender Vikram Singh & Manik Singh
Contact: 9596666667, 7889934427

Sh. Baj Singh



TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Raman Kumar Gupta** S/o Lt. Lala Thoru Mal Mahajan (Mule Check Wale) R/o 247, Near Last Morh Sarwal Colony Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 21 Sept 2024.


Tenth Day will be performed on 30th Sept 2024 (Monday) from 10.30 am to 11.30 am at Mahajan Hall Shalimar Road Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on 3rd Oct 2024 (Thursday) at our residence at 12 O' Clock.

Deeply Missed & Remembered By:
Smt. Meenakshi Gupta - Wife
Sparsh & Vaishali Gupta - Son & Daughter-in-law
Mehak - Daughter
Sh. Roop Lal Gupta & Smt. Krishna Gupta - Father-in-law & Mother-in-law
Suresh & Dharam Pal Mehta - Sister & Brother-in-law
Suman & Deepthi Mahajan - Sister & Brother-in-law
Suman & Subhash Chander - Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Rekha W/o Late Dharam Pal - Bhabhi
Smt. Neelam & Ajay Vaid (Siggy) - Bhabhi & Brother
M's Thoru Mal & Bros
M's Gopal Krishan & Co.
M's Vaid Bros
M's Om Prakash & Co.
Lakhdatta Bazar Jammu

Sh. Raman Kumar Gupta

Contact No: 94191-54633, 94198-09600, 94191-81573



BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow we wish to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Ravinder Kaur Gandhi** W/o S. Swatanter Singh Gandhi on 29th September 2024 at Delhi.

Antim Ardaas will be held as per program at Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar (Opp. Hotel Fortune Inn Riviera)

Aarambh Shri Akhand Paath Sahib on Wednesday, 2nd October 2024 at 10:30 a.m

Bhog Shri Akhand Paath Sahib on Friday, 4th October 2024 at 10:30 a.m
Kirtan from 10:30 a.m -12:00 Noon, followed by **Guru Ji Ka Langar**

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Vineet Raina (Vinny) & Lalit Raina (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Jasleen Kaur & Randeep Singh Gandhi (Rinnu) (Daughter-in-Law & Son)
Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-Law:
Smt. Rajni & Shri Bharat Gandhi (Ex-MLA)
Sdn. Sarabjeet & S. Vijay Gandhi
Smt. Akshi & S. Prakash Gandhi
Sdn. Manpreet & S. Puran Singh Gandhi (Retd. Chief Engineer)
Sister & Brother-in-Law:
Smt. Vignyan Bharti Kaila & Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila (Retd. AIR)

Bhabhis & Brothers:
Sdn. Rajinder Kaur & Lt. S. Kulbir Singh
Sdn. Parvinder Kaur & S. Sujinder Singh
Sdn. Manjeet Kaur & S. Manvinder Singh

Sisters & Brothers-in-law:
Lt. Pupinder Kaur & S. Pritam Singh
Sdn. Harjinder Kaur & Lt. S. Jasjit Singh Sachdeva
Sdn. Jatinder Kaur & S. Baldev Singh (Advocate)
Sdn. Manjeet Kaur & Lt. S. Harjit Singh

Grand Daughter:
Sanvi Raina
Contact no. 9419111239; 8825065356; 7889357105




BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SARDARNI AMRIT KOUR (GUDDI)** ON 24-9-2024 TO PAY OUR OBEISANCE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL, **ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PAATH SAHIB** ON 01.10.2024 AT 9.30 AM & **BHOG SRI AKHAND PAATH SAHIB** ON 03.10.2024 AT 10.00 AM SHALL TAKE PLACE AT OUR RESIDENCE 76/6 NEW PLOT JAMMU NEAR JK STATE MOTOR GARAGE JAMMU.

ANTIM ARDAAS WILL BE PERFORMED AT GURUDWARA SRI KALDHAR SAHIB, REHARI ON 03.10.2024 FROM 11.00 AM TO 12.30 PM FOLLOWED BY GURU KA LANGER.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
COL Ajab Singh - Husband
SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
Col Ajt Singh & Manmeet Kour
S. Jaswinder Singh & Arvinder Kour
Kulwinder Singh and Gagandeep Kour
Charanjit Singh and Gurmeet Kour
Brother and Sister in law
S. Surinder Singh and Jagget Kour
Contact: 849297470, 9419530721, 9419883230, 9419137871, 9419279297

SARDARNI AMRIT KOUR
(GUDDI)



TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Tara Devi Ji** W/o Late Sh. Kripa Ram Sharma R/o H.No. 104, Patoli Magotian Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 13-9-2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on Saturday 21-9-2024 at Bus Datti Temple Patoli Magotian Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on Sunday 22-9-2024 at our residence after 12 Noon onwards.

Uthala will be performed on Friday 4-10-2024 at Bus Datti Temple Patoli Magotian from 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Sheela Devi & Late Sh. Dev Raj Sharma
Smt. Krishna Devi & Sh. Ganpat Sangra
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Ballesh Kumar & Sh. Sat Pal Sharma (Former Secretary Red Cross, Jammu Region)
Smt. Anita Kumari & Sh. Ravinder Sharma (Retd. DM SFC)
Dr. Sukham Sharma & Dr. Rajiv Saini - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law
Er. Manik Magotra - Grand Son
Er. Adish Magotra & Dr. Sunaina Sharma (JKAS) - Grand Son & Daughter-in-law
Great Grand Children: Advait, Medhaansh
Contact No.: 9419108501, 982246282

Smt. Tara Devi Ji



OBITUARY

With profound grief, we inform sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Dulari Tikoo**, W/o Shri Shubhan Ji Tikoo on Saturday, 28th September 2024 at Gurgaon. (Original resident of 9, Bagdagi, Rainawari Srinagar, Kashmir)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Murad Nagar, on Monday 7th October, 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
TIKU'S, TURKI'S AND KOU'L'S RESIDENCE,
MS-10, FLAT NO. 504, KENDRIYA VIHAR, SECTOR -56, GURUGRAM, HARYANA
PIN CODE: 122011
Ph. 9810745760

Smt. Raj Dulari Tikoo



TENTH DAY

With profound sorrow & grief we regret to inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kamla Jamwal** W/o Late Capt. Sarishat Singh Jamwal on 18 Sep. 2024

The **10TH DAY** will be on 27 Sep 2024 at 11 am.

13TH DAY - 30 Sep 2024
RASAM PAGRI is on 4th Oct 2024 at 12 pm.

At our residence H. No - 16994, Kunj Vihar Lane, Nanak Nagar.

Bereaved:
Mrs & Mr. Sutanter Singh
Mrs & Mr. Sumer Singh
Mr. Sikander Singh
Mrs & Mr. Bishan Singh
All Grand & Great-grand Children
9419796436, 9018150582

Smt. Kamla Jamwal



OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA


With deep sorrow and profound grief, we announce the sad demise of **Smt. Mohan Rani (Aaji)**, beloved wife of Late Sh. Mohan Lal Handoo and D/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Handoo, originally from Salla, Anantnag, who left for her heavenly abode on 29th September, 2024 at Delhi. A pillar of strength and kindness, she was cherished by all who knew her for her warmth, and dedication to her family.

Her loss is deeply felt by her loved ones, including her children, grandchildren, great-grand children and relatives. The family will hold prayers in her honor and requests friends and well-wishers to keep her in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held at Gaur Shankar Mandir, Patim Vihar, Gurgaon on 7th October, 2024 at 6:30 a.m. and assembly will be held at our residence, Golden Heights Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sunita Krishan and Lalita Handoo - Son and Daughter in law
Prestina Krishan and Dhan Handoo - Son and Daughter in law
Meenakshi Handoo W/o Lt. Subash Handoo - Daughter in law
Renu and P. Bhai - Daughter and Son in law
Grand Children:
Abhinav, Sumet, Meenakshi, Anuj, J. Vishal, Sakshi, Sachin, Shruya, Shubh, Suman & Suja
Anurina, Anshu, Mrs. - Great Grandchildren
and the entire HANDOO, BHAT, RAZDAN, RAINA families, relatives, friends and well-wishers

Smt. Mohan Rani (Aaji)



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JMC observes Gandhi Jayanti at 'Muskan'

Div Com Jammu pays floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: In observance of Gandhi Jayanti, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) organized a special function on Wednesday at 'Muskan' Home for Mentally Challenged Children, Chhani Rama. The event was graced by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, along with other dignitaries, who paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. He urged citizens to contribute towards keeping the city clean and neat, calling on everyone to work hand-in-hand with relevant agencies including JMC to maintain cleanliness.

He also stressed the need to avoid the use of polythene to protect the



environment and encouraged the use of dedicated vehicles for garbage collection.

While interacting with the children at the home, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the potential of specially-abled children and assured to provide them platforms to excel at local, national, and international levels, particularly in Paralympic events.

Welcoming the participants, Commissioner JMC, Dr Devansh Yadav

informed that various teams of JMC today organized comprehensive sanitation drives at various locations in different wards of JMC. This initiative was aimed at honoring Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of cleanliness and public health.

The sanitation drive involved a series of activities designed to enhance the overall hygiene and aesthetic appeal of the wards he said and added that it would be regular

feature to give the city an aesthetic look.

In addition to paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, the Divisional Commissioner and dignitaries also paid homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. As part of the occasion, saplings were planted in the premises of the home to promote environmental consciousness.

The event featured skits presented by the inmates and students from various

educational institutions, showcasing the life, philosophy, and principles of Mahatma Gandhi. These performances were met with great applause from the audience.

Prominent attendees included Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, (Secretary, Home for Mentally challenged Children) Ansuja Jamwal; Joint Commissioner (R&E), Rakesh Gupta; Joint Commissioner (H&S), Abdul Star; Joint Commissioner (Works), Firdous Ahmad Qazi; Deputy Commissioner (North), JMC, Sanjay Badyal; Deputy Commissioner (South), JMC, Lal Chand; Chief Accounts Officer, Sandeep Manhas; Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, and other senior officers from District Administration and JMC. The dignitaries also distributed certificates among the participants of the event.

Election Commission deliberately ignoring violation of MCC violation by JU authorities: Ex JURSEA Prez

Scholars and students hold protest demonstration, raises demands



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: Dr. Vikas Sharma, former president of the Jammu University Research Scholars Executive Association (JURSEA), launched strong accusations against the Election Commission of India and the authorities at Jammu University (JU).

The protest was led by Dr. Vikas Sharma, former president of the Jammu University Research Scholars Executive Association (JURSEA), who claimed that JU was fast-tracking key administrative appointments in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which is currently in effect due to the on-going Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir whereas the Election Commission was deliberately turning a blind eye towards this violation.

The protesting students and scholars raised slogans against the JU and Election Commission for being hand in glove with each other to benefit sympathisers of a particular political party.

Dr. Sharma vocally criticized both JU and the Election Commission, alleging they were colluding to benefit individuals affiliated with a particular

political party. "Despite the MCC being in place, JU is rushing to fill long-vacant positions such as Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Director of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), and Director of IT, with interviews scheduled for October 4-5," Dr. Sharma stated.

The core of the controversy revolves around what Dr. Sharma described as the illegitimacy of some candidates shortlisted for these positions. "There are candidates with questionable qualifications, including those with fraudulent PhD degrees, as highlighted in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report. This process seems engineered to favor individuals tied to a political faction," he alleged.

Further intensifying his remarks, Dr. Vikas pointed out that while the J&K Government has halted contractual appointments of lecturers due to the MCC, JU is proceeding to fill permanent administrative posts that have been vacant for over 15 to 20 years. "JU's justification that the post notifications were issued prior to the election announcement is a blatant lie. Just recently, JU issued a selection list for contractual teach-

ers," he asserted. Dr. Sharma demanded the Election Commission immediately intervene and halt the recruitment process, calling for the cancellation of the interview notifications. He warned of escalating protests if the issue is not addressed.

Additionally, Dr. Sharma highlighted a violation of university norms, stating that certain candidates are directly involved in the recruitment process, which he emphasized is against the established rules. "Those who are candidates for the top posts are directly involved in the recruitment process which is a mockery of the system but the Vice Chancellor is a mute spectator as if he is willingly a party to this wrong-doing," he stated.

He also highlighted an instance from the past wherein a person without having any academic credentials was directly appointed as Professor just because he had high level connections.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Sharma urged the public and authorities to take a stand against this alleged breach of democratic principles, vowing that protests would continue until justice is served.

PCC paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: JKPC held an impressive functions here today at PCC HQ Shahidi Chowk Jammu in which rich tributes were paid to Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

Floral tributes were also paid to Former Prime minister Lal Bhadur Shastri on his birth anniversary today.

The function was presided over by Raman Bhalla, Vice President PCC and attended by Ravinder Sharma, Sr. Vice President & Chief Spokesperson PCC, Ved Mahajan, Vice President PCC Incharge HQ, Gurmukh Singh, Th. Manmohan Singh (DCC President Jammu Urban), Shashi Sharma, Amrit Bali, Narinder Sharma, Praveen Sarwar Khan, Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Bhavishya Sudan, Manjit Singh Jatt, Neeraj Gupta, Thakur Hoshiyar Singh, Sahil Sharma, Michael Wazir, Ricky Dalotra, Rakesh Sharma, Manjeet Singh Bedi, Dara Singh, Zahoor Tantery and others.

Addressing the gathering Raman Bhalla said that the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi is relevant



for all times to come and even more relevant today when an atmosphere of conflicts and violence prevails in different parts of the world. He said that Mahatma Gandhi led the nation to freedom through non-violence against the mighty British rulers. He said that India is known all over world by the philosophy of Non-Violence and tolerance, since India as a pluralistic society has proved itself to be the most successful democracy in the world.

He said that Mahatma Gandhi was torch bearer of peace, religious harmony, Non-Violence and truth in the world and his birth day has been declared as international Non-Violence

day by the united nations. He said that there is conflicts of ideology between those who followed the ideology and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and those who were opposed to his philosophy and assassinated him. Today is the time that those who truly believe in his ideology must follow and strengthen his ideology for the unity and integrity of the country.

He also remembered the contributions of Lal Bhadur Shastri and paid rich tributes to him for his outstanding role in the freedom struggle and later in different capacities especially as Prime Minister. He said that Shastri Ji was symbol of honesty,

integrity, and dedications towards the nation.

Ravinder Sharma while paying floral tributes to the Mahatma Gandhi said that the stalwarts of freedom struggle under Mahatma's Leadership suffered a lot of hardships and made several sacrifices to achieve freedom. It was based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi that the idea of India was translated into action as a free country based on equality and justice to all, irrespective of caste, creed, color or religions and the country has withstood the challenges all these years as a vibrant democracy both from within and outside . He referred to the contri-

bution of Lal Bhadur Shastri, who gave the slogan of Jai Jawan and Jai Kisan and led the nation to victory in 1965 war .

He said that Gandhi philosophy is the only way out to sort out and resolve the conflicts and end violence in the world and on June 15, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, October 2nd, as International Day of Non-Violence, the entire World had learned lesson from the philosophy and ideology of Mahatma Gandhi for mutual Co-Existence of people of different faiths and interests, he added.

Th. Manmohan Singh-DCC President Jammu Urban, who co-ordinated the holding of functions, paid rich tributes to the Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bhadur Shastri and said that entire world draws lesson from the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and Shastri.

He said that it is the time to further strengthen the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi in order to create a harmonious atmosphere of living in the country and the world.

Nat Manch, Bharat Petroleum host drawing competition for cleanliness

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti, Nat Manch, in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum, successfully organized a Drawing Competition and Awareness Drive in Jammu as part of the Swachta Hi Sewa campaign. This initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and environmental awareness within the community, encouraging collective action for a cleaner environment.

The event attracted distinguished guests, including Tarun Sharma, Actor and Director, who also serves as the President of Nat Manch, along with Mahatma Tilak Ji and Shri Rabinra Kumar, Project Leader at BPCL. Site engineers Shri Prince Gupta, Shri Shubham Agarwal, and Miss Princy Manwani also attended, underscoring the importance of community involvement in environmental initiatives.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation from schools across Jammu, showcasing the creativity and commitment of young artists. Winners were recognized for their exceptional contributions: 1st Prize went to Medhansh Verma from KC Public School, 2nd Prize was awarded to Purnajay Sharma from KV School, and 3rd Prizes were shared between Aatulya Keshav from Dewan Devi Higher Secondary School and



Shavya Sharma from St. Peter School. Their artworks highlighted innovative ideas on cleanliness and sustainability, inspiring others to take part in environmental protection.

Nat Manch and Bharat Petroleum extend their

gratitude to all participants, schools, and volunteers for making this initiative a success. Together, they aim to foster a cleaner and greener Jammu, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship in the community.

Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra: Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand to arrive in Jammu on Oct 22

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: As part of the ongoing Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand Ji Maharaj of Jyotirmath is set to arrive in Jammu, J&K on 22nd October 2024.

Co-convenor of the Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra, Gobhakt Vikas Patni, along with Akhilesh Brahmachari and state convener Deepu Raina, addressed a press conference on Wednesday, highlighting the significance of this movement. They informed that, from 12 PM to 3 PM on 22nd October, Shankaracharya Ji will preside over the installation of the Gau Dhvaj and deliver an address at the Gau Mahasabha in Jammu. Following the event, he will continue the Yatra towards Leh, Ladakh.

Sanatan Dharma holds the cow in high regard, with its significance mentioned across religious texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, and Puranas. It is not merely an animal but a mother—this is the sacred belief and faith



of the Sanatan Dharmi Hindus. With this deep devotion, a nationwide Gau Pratishtha Andolan is being carried out to elevate the cow to the status of 'Rashtra Mata' by moving cow protection from the state list to the central list in the Constitution, and to make India free of cow slaughter.

Since India's independence, continuous efforts have been made to protect and honor the sacred cow. One notable movement was the 1966 GauRaksha Andolan, led by Dharma Samrat Yatichakrachudamani Pujya Karpatri Ji Maharaj, in which thousands of cow devotees sacrificed their lives. Continuing the mis-

sion, Param GauBhakt Pujya Gopal Mani Ji has led the Gau Pratishtha Andolan, and has kept it alive across the country. This sacred movement is blessed by the Jagadguru Shankaracharyas of the four peethas, who organized a Gau Sansad to demand the status of Rashtra Mata and the implementation of legislation against cow slaughter. In this event, the Rama Gau Pratishtha Samhita Bill has been passed along with a 42-point Dharmadesh.

To ignite the momentum of this movement, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand Ji Maharaj of Jyotirmath, lit a sacred

flame of cow ghee and declared this year as the Gau Samvatsar (Year of the Cow). From March 14 to March 28, 2024, he led a barefoot march from Govardhan to Delhi. Under his guidance, the Gau Pratishtha Andolan continues to thrive across India.

As part of this movement, the Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra began on 22nd September which will visit all Indian states and union territories, with a sacred Gau Dhvaj being installed at each state capital.

In each state capital, a grand Gau Pratishtha Sammelan will be held, beginning in Ayodhya—

where Ram Lalla, a Gau rakshak and GauBhakt, resides. The Yatra will travel across the east, west, south, and north of India, culminating in the national capital on October 26. Pujya Gopal Mani Ji will accompany Shankaracharya Ji throughout the journey. During the Yatra, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Ji will honor distinguished cow devotees from across the country.

The goal of this Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra is to awaken cow devotees nationwide, unite them for a common cause - restoring the dignity and honor of the sacred cow, and conferring upon her the status of 'Rashtra Mata'; and the motto is "Gau Mata, Rashtra Mata - Rashtra Mata, Bharat Mata."

Following this Yatra, a nationwide Gau Pratishtha Mahasamela will be held on the occasion of Gopashtami in Delhi, on November 7, 8, and 9, which will decisively appeal to the Government of India to end the curse of cow slaughter and honor the cow as Rashtra Mata.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No:- 778-W168WA-1/2R-179-2024-25-ADEN-JRC, 180-2024-25-ADEN-JRC & 182-2024-25-ADEN-LDH acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below listed tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date 16.10.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original sealed bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against the tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
179-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders: 27.09.2024			
Bid Starting Date: 07.10.2024		Bid Closing Date/Time: 21.10.2024	
Details of Tender			
179-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/ P-Way/MEX and Cleaning vegetation on oases and beyond along the track in the Jurisdiction of ADEN-JRC	Advised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer/Period of Completion
		90,30,543.51	60 Days/ 12 Months
180-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/ P-Way/JRC under ADEN-JRC	Advised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer/Period of Completion
		67,30,899.15	60 Days/ 12 Months
182-2024-25-ADEN-LDH	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/ P-Way/NSS under ADEN-LDH	Advised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer/Period of Completion
		59,99,943.47	60 Days/ 12 Months

3093/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

WELCOMING
NAVRATRAS

Navratras, a sacred nine-night festival dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga, is one of the most vibrant and significant celebrations in Hindu culture. This festival, observed twice a year—during the spring (Chaitra) and autumn (Ashwin)—is a time for spiritual rejuvenation, reflection, and community bonding. As we welcome Navratras, let's explore the rich traditions, customs, and the spiritual essence that this festival embodies.

The word "Navratra" translates to "nine nights," during which devotees celebrate the triumph of good over evil through the worship of the divine feminine energy represented by Goddess Durga. Each of the nine nights is dedicated to different forms of the goddess, including Shailputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri. Each form embodies unique qualities and virtues, symbolizing strength, wisdom, and compassion.

The festival is not just a time for devotion but also for introspection and self-improvement. Many devotees observe fasting, refrain from consuming non-vegetarian food, and engage in prayers and rituals aimed at purifying the mind and soul. It serves as an opportunity to cleanse one's thoughts and actions, allowing for a deeper connection with the divine.

Navratras are celebrated with great enthusiasm across India, with each region showcasing its unique traditions. In the north, particularly in states like Jammu and Uttar Pradesh, people set up colorful pandals, organize 'garba' and 'dandiya' nights, and participate in vibrant processions. The rhythmic beats of traditional music fill the air as devotees dance in unison, celebrating the divine presence of the goddess.

As the festival approaches, homes are adorned with beautiful decorations, and idols of the goddess are placed in homes and community spaces. Devotees engage in daily prayers, offering flowers, fruits, and sweets to the goddess. The ritual of 'Kanya Poojan' is especially significant, where young girls, symbolizing the goddess, are worshipped and treated with love and respect.

Fasting is a common practice during Navratras, with many devotees choosing to consume only fruits, nuts, and specific grains. This practice not only serves as a form of penance but also helps in detoxifying the body and promoting spiritual focus.

The chanting of mantras and singing of devotional songs, known as 'bhajans,' fills the atmosphere with a divine aura. The 'Aarti' performed in the evening serves as a moment of collective devotion, allowing the community to come together in reverence.

As we welcome Navratras, it's also a time for personal renewal and transformation. The festival encourages individuals to set aside negativity, embrace positivity, and cultivate virtues such as patience, kindness, and resilience. This aligns with the message of Goddess Durga, who represents the strength to overcome challenges and adversities.

Moreover, Navratras also emphasize the importance of community and togetherness. Whether it's through communal prayers, dancing, or sharing meals, the festival fosters a sense of belonging and unity. It is a reminder that spiritual journeys are often best traveled together, with shared experiences enriching the path of devotion.

In essence, Navratras is a celebration that transcends mere rituals; it is a holistic experience encompassing spirituality, culture, and community. As we enter this auspicious period, let us embrace the teachings of Goddess Durga, celebrating her strength and nurturing qualities within ourselves. May this Navratras bring peace, prosperity, and joy to all, as we unite in devotion and celebration, welcoming the divine feminine into our lives.

JK Polls- should not be "much ado about nothing"

By: O.N.KOUL

The adage "much ado about nothing" seems to perhaps fit the assembly election scenario of 2024. No doubt the people of the troubled J&K are very enthusiastic about the elections which are taking place after a long pause of 10 years and also being the first election after the centers overriding and significant decision of the abrogation of article 370, article 35 A coupled with the reorganization of the erstwhile state of J&K and its bifurcation into two UT's of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in August 2019. The people of the UT are taking active part in the assembly elections as is evident from the overwhelming and significant voter turnout in the very first phase of polls held on 18 September in which there was aggregate voter turnout of 61% and this record voter turnout has even surpassed the voter turnout of the Lok Sabha polls which were concluded not much before. So far so good and encouraging but the way political parties and politicians have taken this crucial and historical election, forces one to opine that there are enough indications that at the end of the political churning of elections, there is no possibility of a majority government of a single party and if everything goes well at the end of the day there may be a fractured and hung verdict at the most and this will give rise to some coalition government which experiment has failed at least two times in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir as after 2014 assembly elections, the coalition government of PDP-BJP did fall

in the mid way and gave birth to governors rule which continued in one or other form for the long ten years and robbed the people of JK of a democratic and popular government. Similarly before this coalition experiment, the coalition arrangement entered between the NC and congress also did not last for the full term of 6 years and the coalition government fell midway. Thus it is the history of coalition that in J and K coalition experiment and arrangement has not been a viable and stable option. There are enough indications that after the assembly elections at the most there will be the chances of a coalition government which will not be stable and strong and in all probability will fall in the mid way. Besides, it will not be a responsive and people friendly government and will hardly come up to the expectations of the people who stand robbed of the special status and statehood. The way there is mushroom growth of the regional political parties and the way a large number of independent candidates are in the fray for all the three phases of polls, it is enough to surmise that there are big chances of the division and subdivision of votes, with the result both NC's, PDP's as well as the national party Congress's votes will be divided besides the Apni party of Altaf Bukhari, Peoples conference of Sajad Lone and the Engineer Rashid's Awami Ithad Party and the new political development of Jamat-i-Islami jumping in the poll fray but both of these parties are not recognized by the election commission of India and thus are fielding their candidates as independents in big number gives

credence to the fact that in these polls, the votes will get divided, with the result no single party will be in a position to get majority and form a government on its own. Thus coalition government is the foregone conclusion and hundred percent possibility. Realizing this, NC and Congress has entered into a pre-poll alliance and other parties are also in favor of doing post poll alliance if the situation demands. People of Jammu and Kashmir should vote consciously, carefully and decisively so that at the end of the voting a stable coalition government is formed which will care for the people and work sincerely for addressing the problems confronting the people. But in any case even if there is a coalition government, it is definitely better than a governors rule or LG dispensation. The people should vote cautiously, carefully and consciously so that there will be no chances of again putting the J&K on LG rule which will be a dangerous situation and the sagacious and matured voters should ward against this unfortunate and sad possibility as this will be akin to robbing the people of their democratic rights. Thus a great responsibility lies on the shoulders of the voters of Jammu and Kashmir and they should not allow the division and subdivision of votes rather the sagacious voters should vote decisively so that at the end of the electoral exercise there will be a viable, stable and responsive coalition arrangement which will balm the wounds and hurt psychic of the alienated and isolated people of the UT and will also address the issues of the people so that they

will feel a bit relieved. So the onus of great responsibility rests on the beleaguered and gullible people of Jammu and Kashmir and as such they should vote in such a manner as to not result in the unwanted dispersal and division of votes and at the end of the election exercise, a stable coalition government will be formed which will care for the people and work in their interest. The sagacious and mature voters should show their maturity and sagaciously vote so that the Jammu and Kashmir will not again fall in the trap and ditch of governors rule or LG dispensation. There are forces at work which are working to see that the UT again is under the LG dispensation and centre rule which will be against the wishes and aspirations of the people. The political parties, politicians and the voters at large should guard against this possibility happening and thus save the gullible people of J&K again falling in the ditch of LG administration. The political scenario as it is obtaining and emerging in Jammu and Kashmir and the indications coming from the political see saw is enough to surmise that the current Jammu and Kashmir polls point to the old adage "much ado about nothing" and this possibility should not be allowed to happen and spoil the whole elections which people of J&K are enthusiastically participating.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

Celebrate Festivals, but also follow these festive mantras to keep your body healthy

By: Vijay Garg

During this period, people are neither able to control their eating habits nor are they able to keep in mind which thing is good for their body and which is not. During this period, fried food, sweets and alcohol are consumed extensively. When there is such a variety of delicious things to eat around, it becomes a little difficult to take care of health and digestion. Some people consider their stomach as a dustbin and keep putting something or the other in it throughout the day. In such acidity, flatulence, headache and sometimes even heart attack can occur. This heart attack is also called festive heart syndrome, which occurs due to excessive eating and heat. Problem of overeating during festive season Ravikant Chaturvedi, a doctor of internal medicine in Ranchi, says that the months of October, November and December are festival months. The biggest problem during this time is overeating, which causes flatulence, acidity, food poisoning and related problems. Apart from this, consuming excessive amounts of alcohol this also leads to the problem of acidity and gastritis. Consuming too much alcohol increases the sugar level, blood pressure or cholesterol level in the blood rapidly. This is especially seen more in those people who are already suffering from diabetes and hypertension. Excessive use of flour and sugar during festivals There is a lot of use of flour and sugar during festivals,

which is quite harmful for our body. There is silver work on the sweets, which is actually made of aluminium. This is not good for health. Apart from this, to make sweets beautiful, artificial colors and chemical preservatives are added to them, which can damage the kidneys and liver. Nowadays, there is a trend of giving dry fruits or nuts to friends or relatives instead of sweets, which is a good option. Food items are made in poisonous oil, there is a risk of heart attack During festivals, sweets or snacks made in shops are repeatedly fried in burnt oil. Oil gets converted into poisonous chemicals due to repeated burning. Using cooking oil more than three times when ingested it becomes carcinogenic. A carcinogen is an agent that causes cancer. Apart from cancer, blockage in heart veins, kidney and liver diseases can occur. Burnt oil increases low density lipoprotein i.e. bad cholesterol in the body. It increases heart attack and heart stroke. Eating burnt oil can cause throat irritation and acidity. There is a risk of obesity and diabetes. Women who eat too much sweets suffer from depression National Institutes of Health In a study, the effect of sugar was seen on 69 thousand women. Researchers found that women who consumed more sugar had a higher risk of depression. Whereas women who took less sugar did not fall prey to depression. These methods will maintain your health during the festival Overeating: How to control it Drink plenty of water every now and then throughout the day. Maintain

moisture in the body. If you go somewhere to eat, first sit down and eat at one place only. Set a time to eat. putting something in the mouth every once in a while Don't stay. Do not open food packets received as gifts during festivals and sit together. Eat only a little. Take only any three food items in your plate. Finally, have some freshly prepared sweet or dessert. Alcohol: stay away or drink fruit juice Any kind of alcohol can cause harm. It is better to stay away from it. If you want to have a drink, have it only after eating food. Be sure to drink a glass of water between two drinks. Instead of alcohol, have fruit juice or coconut water. If your health is unstable then do this the next day Work Adopt normal routine. Neither eat fast nor less nor exercise too much. Start the day with a glass of water. If you have a headache, eat banana. If you have acidity or flatulence, you can also eat Gulkand. Stay away from market sweets, take fiber in your diet According to doctors, during the festive season we get to eat only puri-kachori, pakodas, snacks, samosas etc. Stay away from them once you eat them. Make sure to use curd in your food. Wherever you go, minimize the amount of carbohydrates in food. Take it. Apart from this, take special care of the following things- 1. Eat more fiber and protein rich things. Eat plenty of salad. 2. Most sweets are made from milk, cream and sugar. Instead, you can eat sweets made from jaggery. 3. Avoid market sweets. 4. Do not leave regular exercise even

during festivals. 5. Keep drinking plenty of water throughout the day. Drink at least 8 glasses of water. 6. Drink fresh homemade juice, lemonade, salty lassi, buttermilk, cucumber or fruit juice or coconut water. 7. Adequate sleep of 8 hours should take. With this, the health lost during festivals can be regained. During the festival season, some measures can be adopted at home to improve the condition of the body and detoxify it. Detox your body like this 1- Drink lemon in lukewarm water as soon as you wake up in the morning or soak mint in water at night. Drink this water throughout the day. 2-Take fresh homemade juice, lemonade, salty lassi, buttermilk, cucumber or fruit juice throughout the day. 3-Do not eat any solid food. Use only liquid. You can take khichdi or porridge, but Neither pulses nor pulses are to be eaten. 4-Eat salad of vegetables and fruits. If you do not like raw vegetables or fruits, then make juice, soup or smoothie and drink it. 5-Do not take dairy products like milk, cheese. Take ginger and turmeric water. Eat fruits at regular intervals. 6-Drink detox water. To make this, keep chopped mint, cucumber and lemon in water overnight. Drink this water little by little the next day.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street Kaur Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

AYUSH organises field visit for students to institute of 'High Altitude Medicinal Plants Bhadarwah'

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Oct 2: To explore the High Altitude Medicinal Plants, a field visit was organised by the Department of AYUSH Bhadarwah for the Students of the department of Botany GDC Bhaderwah to the Institute of High Altitude Medicinal Plants (IHAMP) here at Thanthera in collaboration with Department of AYUSH Doda.

In this connection, a press release said that the objective of the field visit was to provide the students of Botany with the hands-on experience while enhancing knowledge for medicinal plants. "About 30 students accompanied by Dr. Ravinder Singh Rana HoD Dept. of Botany, Dr. Swarn Singh and Prof. Yunis Rashid along with



other staff from Govt. Degree College Bhaderwah visited the site of IHAMP Garden at Thanthera Bhaderwah," release said.

It added that the visit was co-ordinated by Dr. Iftkar Ahmed Malik-Nodal Officer IHAMP Bhaderwah who represented AYUSH. Dr. Malik informed the visitors with a detail regarding the functioning of the institute and the plants growing there.

Dr. Manjeet Singh-DNO AHWCs Jammu Divi-

sion discussed the benefits of medicinal plants and scope in healthcare and pharmacology. The experts described the utility of the institute, garden and cultivation procedures, release further said.

"Students were acquainted with the garden showcasing different medicinal plant species and were taken to the sites where polygreen house, dried seed cultivation and storage Unit are located. Also interactive sessions were held

by the experts on plant identification, cultivation techniques and usage," release informed.

It said that the Students were provided detailed knowledge regarding cultivation, conservation and preservation besides post harvest techniques of high altitude medicinal plants.

Later, Students also visited Seed Germ Plasma Centre where different kinds of seeds of High altitude medicinal plants have been stored under controlled conditions.

Specific medicinal properties of the plants which cater to the overall healthcare of humans and other animals and importance of natural way of medication were highlighted.

While expressing gratitude to the Department of AYUSH Bhadarwah, students and staff on this occasion said, "We are thankful to the department of AYUSH for organising such an informative field trip that has immensely added to our knowledge through practical on hand experience. We thank Director AYUSH Dr Mohan Singh, District AYUSH officer Doda Dr Ajay Kumar Tickoo and Principal Degree College Bhadarwah as well as the coordinating team for providing us this opportunity to explore fascinating world of Medicinal Plants".

Kusht Mukti Abhiyan Rath launched at Doda on Gandhi Jayanti



Top News Report

DODA, Oct 2: To mark the Gandhi Jayanti, the Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the Department of Health under the banner of District Leprosy Society Doda conducted the Kusht Mukti Abhiyan, besides taking a pledge on Cleanliness & Leprosy at CMO Office Doda.

The programme was held under the able guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about cause, transmission, sign and symptoms, treatment, prevention of leprosy and social stigma associated with the disease among the community.

On the occasion, the

Para Medical Supervisor Sh Surinder Singh administered a pledge to all the staff to maintain cleanliness in and around their surroundings besides generated awareness about the Leprosy disease.

Medical Officer Leprosy Unit Doda Dr Javed Ahmed Parray, Mohd Shafi Attu, staff of CMO, Dy CMO and a large number of students from ANMT Doda were present on the occasion.

The speakers on this occasion sensitized the participants about the symptoms, causes and treatment of leprosy and stressed upon the staff to work with dedication in conducting the survey with the hope that an effective campaign will help in detection of

hidden leprosy cases in remote areas in the District.

They said that leprosy is not contagious, has a long incubation period and its patients should not be loathed or hated. They stressed on its early treatment as it is curable. Later on, Dr Javed Parray along with others flagged off the Kusht Mukti Abhiyan Rath as a part of IEC, which will aware the general masses about the early sign and symptoms of leprosy.

Meanwhile, the department also enjoined upon all the field staff to spread mass awareness about this disease in the community and to clear all the misconception about the leprosy disease from the people.

Mission Statehood pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: On October 2nd, Mission Statehood paid rich floral tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The event also featured a protest advocating for the restoration of the Dogra state and the immediate resumption of the Darbar move.

Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led the tribute to Gandhi and also honored Lal Bahadur Shastri. Speaking to a large and diverse gathering, which included prominent scholars and members of the Dogra community, Dimple pledged to resist what he termed the "wrong communal policies" of the BJP, aiming to unify the country against divisive forces.

Dimple highlighted the contributions of freedom struggle heroes such as Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, and others, asserting that their sacrifices forged the beautiful nation of India. He criticized political parties that he alleged were dividing



the country along communal lines, specifically targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its stance on Jammu and Kashmir.

He described the BJP as an "anti-J&K Dogra state political party," rejecting its decisions made on August 5 regarding the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, and the transition of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory. Dimple argued that true tributes to Gandhi would involve the unification of Ladakh, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), and Gilgit-Baltistan, as well as honoring the conditions of accession laid out by Maharaja Hari Singh.

Praising Maharaja Hari Singh for introducing the Darbar move, Dimple

noted that it fostered communal harmony and trade among the regions of Ladakh, Kashmir, and Jammu, lamenting that the current government has disrupted this unity.

Dimple affirmed that the mission for statehood and the fight for rights, including the reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35A, will continue vigorously. He projected that the National Conference would secure 40 MLA seats while the BJP would win around 16 seats, according to recent voting reports.

Other leaders present at the event included Manjeet Anand, Sachin Soi, Arjun, Anmol, Rupesh Bhat, Divanshu, Rakesh Singh, and Virjesh Jamwal, among many others.

Rich Harvest celebrates Gandhi Jayanti cum Swachhata Diwas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: Rich Harvest School (RHS) celebrated Gandhi Jayanti cum Swachhata Diwas with Enthusiasm and gaiety.

In a special assembly rich tributes were paid to the Mahatma via poetry recitation and speeches. The students participated in numerous activities reaffirming the School's commitment to cleanliness, community service and the values espoused by Mahatma Gandhi.

The staff and students took a pledge to keep their localities clean and healthy.

To mark the occasion, RHS Cadets descended



upon the Sarore Nehar Park to clean it by collecting trash and beautifying it for the benefit of local inhabitants.

The Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia urged students to imbibe the father of the Nation's teachings of peace and non violence for the progress and growth of our great Nation.

8th Edition of Prabhat Pheri scheduled for Oct 10-11 in Katra

Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 2: The Jammu & Kashmir Association of Prabhat Pheri, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and the District Administration, is excited to announce the 8th edition of the annual Prabhat Pheri, set to take place on October 10 and 11, 2024.

Traditionally, Prabhat Pheri processions are held from the 2nd Navratra until the festival's conclusion in Katra during the auspicious Navratra period. However, due to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct ahead of upcoming elections, this year's Navratra celebrations have been shortened. To main-

tain the festive spirit, the Prabhat Pheri will be celebrated on these adjusted dates.

The procession will follow a route starting from the Bus Stand in Katra, proceeding to Ban Ganga Road, Chintamani Mandir, CRPF Gate, Main Bazaar, and returning to the Bus Stand.

Since its inception in 2017, the Prabhat Pheri has evolved into a cherished tradition in Katra, symbolizing devotion and community spirit, and attracting hundreds of devotees and tourists.

All residents, pilgrims, and visitors are warmly invited to join this special procession and celebrate the divine festival of Navratras with enthusiasm, despite the revised schedule.

Jodhamal students excel in J&K UT Swimming Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Inter-District UT Level Swimming Competition, organized under the aegis of the Youth Services and Sports Department, was held recently at Jodhamal Public School. This prestigious event saw participation from various schools across Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing the exceptional talents of young swimmers in the region.

The outstanding performances by Jodhamal Public School students resulted in an impressive medal tally of 32 medals in various events and categories. The announcement of the dates and venue for the subsequent level will be made soon by the Youth Services and Sports Department.

In the Under-19 Category, Kartikeya Choudhary bagged a Gold Medal in 100-metre Butterfly Stroke and a Silver Medal in 50-metre Butterfly Stroke, Priyom Jain won a Gold Medal in 200-metre Breast Stroke, two Silver Medals, one each in 50-metre and 100-metre Breast Stroke, Aditya Pratap Singh won a Silver Medal in 200-metre Free Style and a Bronze Medal in 100-metre Free Style, Priyal Kapoor won a Gold

Medal in 100-metre Free Style, Tanisha Jaggi won two Gold Medals, one each in 50-metre and 100-metre Breast Stroke, Avnee Aethmea won a Gold Medal in 100-metre Back Stroke and a Silver Medal in 50-metre Back Stroke whereas Adaliya Narang won a Silver Medal in 200-metre Free Style and a Bronze Medal in 100-metre Free Style.

In the Under-17 Category, Vihan Goel won two Gold Medals, one each in 200-metre and 400-metre Free Style, Mohd Ibrham won two Silver Medals, one each in 200-metre Free Style and 100-metre Breast Stroke, Prabhdeep Singh bagged a Silver Medal in 50-metre Free Style and Divya Gupta got a Gold Medal in 100-metre Back Stroke and a Silver Medal in 50-metre Breast Stroke.

In the Under-14 Category, Vivaan Yadav won a Gold Medal in 100-metre Breast Stroke and a Silver Medal in 100-metre Butterfly Stroke, Pragyan Sharma won a Silver Medal in 400-metre Free Style, Ayaansh Gupta won a Bronze Medal in 200-metre Free Style, Riyan Choudhary bagged a Silver Medal in 50-metre Butterfly Stroke, Riaan Mahajan

won two Gold Medals, one each in 50-metre and 100-metre Back Stroke, Advait Sharma won a Bronze Medal in 50-metre Breast Stroke, Hitanshi Yadav won a Gold Medal in 50-metre Back Stroke, Shranya Sharma bagged a Silver Medal in 200-metre Free Style and Ananhitra won a Silver Medal in 50-metre Breast Stroke.

Thus the total Medal tally of Jodhamal students stands at: 13 Gold Medals, 15 Silver Medals and 04 Bronze Medals.

The Trustee and Principal of Jodhamal Public School congratulated the students and their coaches Pooja Bassan, Malkeet Kour, Rajan Bakshi and Romesh Chander for their remarkable achievements and dedication.

Their hard work and perseverance have brought pride to the school and set a benchmark for future competitions. The school administration expressed its gratitude to the Youth Services and Sports Department for organizing this event and providing a platform for students to excel in swimming. The event not only highlighted the competitive spirit among the participants but also fostered a sense of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Rajan demands ban on sale of non-veg during Navratra Festival

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: Rajan Gupta, the President of Sarv Shakti Sena, Jammu & Kashmir, has appealed for a ban on the sale of non-vegetarian products during the sacred Navratra festival. In his statement, he emphasized the importance of this Hindu festival, which is celebrated with great reverence across the region.

Rajan has requested the Municipal Commissioner and District Officers to take immediate action in implementing this ban to honor the religious sentiments of the Hindu community during the festival



period. He expressed that such a step would not only respect the cultural values of Hindus but also maintain the sanctity of the Navratras.

He further urged the local authorities to ensure that the environment during the festival remains spiritually pure and free from activities that may hurt religious feelings.

Vishal Khatri Sabha hosts Bhandara at Utterveni for Amavasya

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Vishal Khatri Sabha organized a Bhandara at Utterveni to commemorate Amavasya, led by President Devender Seth. The event saw a large turnout, highlighting the community's commitment to traditional rituals.

Amavasya is considered an auspicious day for performing Shradha rituals to honor ancestors and conduct Kalasarpa Doshha puja. Following the prayers and rituals, Seth offered his prayers for peace in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that such events foster unity and strengthen community bonds.

Seth urged attendees to remain connected to their cultural roots and actively observe these rituals to preserve heritage. He noted the historical richness of Jammu, mentioning its temples, palaces, and water bodies that, if developed, could attract visitors nationwide.

He stressed the importance of unity, harmony, and peace among the people of Jammu and Kashmir, encouraging a collective effort to isolate divisive forces that threaten communal harmony. Seth called for a spirit of selflessness and high-



teousness, fundamental to all religions, asserting that only through unity can society counteract hate and promote a pluralistic ethos.

He particularly urged the youth to play a proactive role in this endeavor, warning that religious polarization poses a significant threat to the region's stability.

Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies celebrates Gandhi Jayanti



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at GGM Science College, Jammu, marked the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with a series of events aimed at commemorating his life, principles, and enduring legacy.

The entire program was organized under the patronage of the esteemed principal, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, and the convener of the centre, Dr. Seema Gandotra.

The day began with a solemn prayer meeting to honor the Father of the Nation, reminding participants of Mahatma Gandhi's lifelong commitment to truth, non-violence, and selfless service to humanity. The prayer service was followed by the

screening of a movie on Mahatma Gandhi's life, providing students with a deeper understanding of his role in India's freedom struggle and the power of non-violent resistance.

A large number of students participated enthusiastically, pledging to resolve conflicts peacefully and promote harmony in their daily lives. The event aimed to inspire the younger generation to adopt Gandhian principles in fostering a compassionate and peaceful society.

In his address, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, emphasized the relevance of Gandhian philosophy in today's world, underscoring the need for a revival of these values to create a more peaceful and harmonious society. He called upon students to

take up the responsibility of extending selfless service to their communities and nation, highlighting the importance of character building, morals, and virtues in personal and societal growth.

Dr. Seema Gandotra, Convener of the Gandhian Centre, spoke on the inspiring life of Mahatma Gandhi, encouraging future initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of Gandhian values in contemporary times. She also emphasized the need for more such events to engage youth in discussions about peace and non-violence. Earlier, the event began with a welcome address by Dr. Shalini Sharma, and was coordinated by Prof. Mehnaz Bano. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sunita Kumari, bringing the successful event to a close.

This Gandhi Jayanti, celebrate the great man and the values he championed with these films...

Gandhi Jayanti, a day to mark the enduring values that the Mahatma championed — truth, non-violence, and the profound power of simplicity. The man on our currency is as ubiquitous on the screen. Some biographical, others fictional — filmmakers love for Gandhi continues to grow.

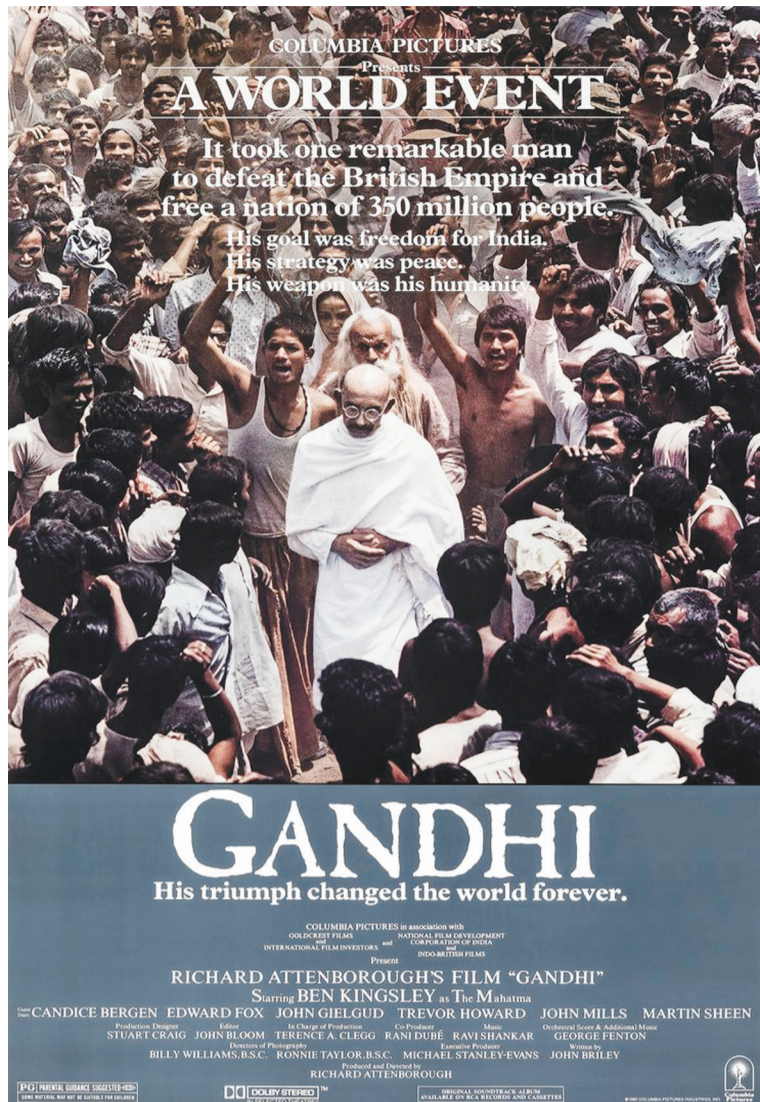
Here's a list of films and stories that celebrate the man who taught how 'In a gentle way, you can shake the world'.

Gandhi

After being unjustly thrown out of a first-class train compartment despite holding a valid ticket, Gandhi is spurred into action, sparking his lifelong commitment to justice. The 1982 Ben Kingsley-starrer masterpiece, directed by Richard Attenborough, engagingly captures his early victories setting up the stage for his iconic role as a leader who would change the course of history.

The Making of the Mahatma Directed by Shyam Benegal, The Making of Mahatma, which was released in 1996, offers a look at the transformative years of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's life in South Africa. It captures the complex and turbulent journey of a young Gandhi that shaped his philosophy of non-violence. It's a powerful portrayal of how a single man's resolve and courage ignited a revolution.

Gandhi, My Father



The 2007 Indian biographical drama film by Feroz Abbas Khan gives an intimate look into the complex and strained relationship between Mahatma

Gandhi and his son Harilal. Far from the typical portrayal of the revered leader, this film dives into the personal struggles and conflicting ideologies that tore a

father and son apart.

Lage Raho Munna Bhai The 2006 Rajkumar Hirani directorial, this Sanjay Dutt - Arshad Warsi satirical comedy revived an interest in Gandhism under a new label - Gandhigiri. Relatable and hip, here Gandhi in a gangster's imagination led to a blockbuster.

Gandhi Godse — Ek Yudh The 2023 Rajkumar Santoshidirectorial fictionalises Gandhi being saved despite Godse's bullet. How the two serving time together in prison engage in multiple debates and arguments and get to understand each other is the core of this Deepak Antani-Chinmay Mandelkar film.

Maine Gandhi Ko Nahin Mara Another fictional drama follows a retired professor Uttam Chaudhary's (played by Anupam Kher), who believes he killed Gandhi accidentally while playing with a toy gun that had real bullets. The film won laurels for Kher and Urmila Matondkar, who played Prof Chaudhary's daughter

Upcoming show Hansal Mehta is helming a three-season web series on Gandhi with actor Pratik Gandhi playing the titular role.

Book mark

If movies not style, you can tap into audio books - Gandhi's Story, Mahatma Gandhi: The Father of the Nation and Hind Swaraj are some of the titles available on Audible.

Guru Randhawa on Shahkot backlash



Singer and actor Guru Randhawa, who is gearing up for the release

of his upcoming movie Shahkot, has addressed the controversy sur-

rounding protestors burning the film's posters due to concerns that it supports Pakistan. He expressed that the public's perceptions are largely based on their initial reactions to the trailer, emphasising the importance of understanding the film's true narrative before jumping to conclusions.

Recently, the Shiv Sena Punjab had organised a protest against the release of the film Shahkot. During the demonstration, the protestors had burned posters of the film, and chanted slogans against Pakistan.

Reacting to the same, Guru, who was present in Delhi for the promotions of the film, said, "Jab tak aap mujhse mile nahi ho as an artiste aap kuch bhi perception bana sakte ho. Jo log iska virodh kar rahe hain unko lag raha hai ki ye film ek alag direction me ja rahi hai." (Unless you meet me as an artiste you can create any perception about me. Those who are opposing it feel that this film is going in a different direction.)

Women like us must stand up for the vulnerable and the exploited, says Tisca Chopra

Seventeen years on and Tisca Chopra still loves to bring Taare Zameen Par into her conversation. Not just because the Aamir Khan-directorial was India's official entry to the Academy Awards that year and got her the top awards and a score of nominations for her portrayal of Maya Awasthy, but for the lessons the movie imparted and the message it conveyed. The film, overall, made a deep impact on her as a person.

Tisca revived the memory of the beautiful film during her interaction with the students of Chitkara University recently. Among other topics like work-life balance, parenting, integration of theatre in education and mental health, she spoke about how being part of the heart-warming story of a dyslexic child moved her, and made her sensitive to other people's needs and desires.

This trait has been ingrained in her persona. She is not just sensitive towards others' needs, but vocal too when the situation demands. She recently condemned the Kolkata rape case in strong words. "As the mother of a young girl, how do I feel when another woman is raped? An 'independent', educated working woman at her place of work, after working a 36-hour shift. A doctor," she wrote in her post. Earlier, she had spoken on the exploitation of women in the film industry. Her outbursts brought her admiration and ire from her fraternity in equal measure. During an informal chit-chat, she tells us about her activism, both online and on ground. "To be silent when such a heinous crime is committed against a woman, will be no less than a crime. Women like us, who are educated and have a voice, must stand up for the vulnerable and the



exploited. Most of the times we remain silent thinking our solitary voice will get drowned in the cacophony of trolls, but speak we must! Even if a few listen to what we have to say and amplify that voice, that's enough. A small step toward the right direction is what I am aiming for," she says.

Does she harbour any political ambition? "No, not at all," she clears her stand. "Let's say, as a mother of a growing girl, I am trying to bring a change in society so that my daughter feels safe."

At the mention of her daughter's name, Tara, the conversation veers to the territory of motherhood. And that brings us to her Insta reels on cooking. "I'm not very fond of cooking. My tryst with pots and pans started during the lockdown as there was no other alternative. Now, I cook for my daughter. I love to try out new dishes and surprise her. That's my way of showing my love, I guess," she says.

While her love for pots and pans is a now-off-now-on affair, her love for storytelling is only getting intense by the day. Her cinematic

journey has certainly crossed a milestone as she just turned director for a movie, Saali Mohabbat. "The story is the heart of film-making and I have always loved telling or backing a good story," she says, referring to her earlier venture, a short film titled Chutney, which she wrote and produced.

How does it feel to wear the director's hat for a film, a thriller no less! "I love thrillers... Pataal Lok, Kohhra, you name it. When I locked down on the script, I thought 'mazze karte hain'. Having Manish Malhotra on board as the producer added to the fun factor."

Has she taken inspiration from her favourite thrillers, or the latest web show Murder Mubarak, in which she played a prominent role? "I am not going to say anything about the film. It's for the audience to find out whether they see glimpses of other thrillers in it when they watch Saali Mohabbat. In fact, I would like them to tell me whether they see the story through a male gaze or a female gaze..." she leaves it at that, to keep the suspense building.

Govinda to be shifted from ICU to ward, wife Sunita Ahuja shares his health update

Actor Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja on Wednesday morning visited Criticare Hospital to check on her husband, who sustained a bullet injury on the leg from his revolver.

Sunita Ahuja shared Govinda's health update, saying he is "better" and will be discharged in two days.

"He is better. We will admit him to the normal ward today. He is much better than yesterday. He will be discharged the day after tomorrow. With everyone's blessings, he has recovered... He has a great fan following, so people are praying for him...I would like to tell the fans to not panic, he is fine," she said.

The incident took place around 4:45 am on Tuesday when Gov-



inda's licenced revolver accidentally discharged while he was putting it back in the cuPunjaboard, according to Mumbai Police. He was preparing to leave for Kolkata at the time. Govinda's manager, Shashi

Sinha, told agency over the phone, "Govinda was getting ready to leave for Kolkata and was putting his licenced revolver back in the cuPunjaboard when it slipped from his hand, and the gun went off, hitting him in the

leg. The doctor has removed the bullet, and his condition is stable. He is still in the hospital." Hours after the incident, Govinda, in an audio message, thanked the doctor who treated him and his well-wishers.

"Hello, this is Govinda. With the blessings of my fans, my parents and God, I am doing better now. I was hit by a bullet, which has now been removed. I thank the doctor here, Dr Agarwal ji. I thank all of you for your prayers," Govinda said in Hindi in the audio message.

Soon after learning about the incident, director David Dhawan and veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha came to the hospital to inquire about Govinda's health.

Coldplay hints at retirement amid black marketing of concert tickets in India



Coldplay announces retirement amid black marketing of concert tickets in India; cites 'Less is More' philosophy

The highly-anticipated Coldplay concert in Mumbai in January 2025 has been marred by concerns about black marketing ticketing scams, as millions of fans struggle for tickets.

The band has three shows at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on January 18, 19 and 21 next year as part of its "Music of the Spheres World Tour 2025".

Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay said the British band plans to release 12 "proper albums" out of which it has already put out 10, including the upcoming "Moon Music".

The five-member group, also comprising guitarist Jonny

Buckland, bassist Guy Berryman, drummer and percussionist Will Champion, and manager Phil Harvey, is currently on its "Music of the Spheres World Tour".

In an interview with Apple Music's Zane Lowe, Martin said it's important to set a "limit" to what Coldplay needs to do as a group.

"We are only going to do 12 proper albums, and that's real... because less is more. And for some of our critics, even less would be even more. It's really important that we have that limit.

"There's only 12 and a half Beatles albums. There's about the same Bob Marley, so all of our heroes. And also having that limit means that the quality control is so high right now, and for a song to make it, it's almost

impossible, which is great," the 47-year-old said.

His comments hark back to a 2021 interview Martin gave to BBC Radio 2 in which he said that Coldplay will stop recording new music in 2025, adding the band will only tour then and maybe "do some collaborative things".

Coldplay, known for songs such as "Yellow", "The Scientist", "Clocks", "Fix You", "Paradise", "A Sky Full Of Stars" and "Magic", was formed in London back in 1997.

In the new interview, Martin said the members are trying to improve day-by-day instead of "coasting" at this stage of the band's career.

"That will always continue in some way, but there's something about the Coldplay thing. I don't know where the songs come from, but that's just been coming to me for about four or five years now.

"Like, 'You have to finish like this,' and I trust that just like I trust the songs. So if we do something together after that creatively beyond touring, then it'll be something different, or it'll be a side thing, or it'll be a compilation of things we hadn't finished," he added.

Another reason why the singer wants to retire from making

albums is because he wants to give "the others some of their life for themselves".

"I don't want to be, when we're 60, be like, 'Will, we need you. Come on! We can do better than this!'"

According to Martin, the quintet is having more fun now "than ever".

"Because of getting older, because of Covid, because of everything going on in the world, because of how lucky we know we are, because of the places we get to go, because of the optimism that it gives us to see all different kinds of people gathering together, because of songs that arrive from nowhere, because we go at a slower pace. All these things mean that we love it," he said.

Coldplay's "Music of the Spheres World Tour" -- which began in 2022 in San Jose, Costa Rica -- will also come to India to perform three shows in Mumbai in January. The tour will conclude on September 8, 2025, with a show in London.

The Mumbai police have recorded the statement of the chief operating officer of online ticket aggregator BookMyShow in connection with a complaint alleging black marketing of tickets for shows of British rock band Coldplay, an official said.

President Murmu Pays Tribute To Gandhi, Shastri On Birth Anniversary

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and India's second prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary. "On behalf of all citizens, I pay my humble tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary," she said in a post on X. The president, in another post, said Shastri presented highest ideals of simplicity, honesty and patriotism



throughout his life. "On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, I pay my humble tribute to him," she said. "Shastri ji presented the highest ideals of simplicity, honesty and

patriotism throughout his life. Under his strong leadership, India achieved economic, strategic and other successes. Let us take inspiration from his life and pledge to build a strong India," Murmu said in the post in Hindi.

Centre committed to tribal development, projects worth rs 83,700 crore to boost growth: PM Modi

HAZARIBAG, Oct 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled development projects worth over Rs 83,700 crore in Jharkhand, reaffirming his government's commitment to the state's progress.

He emphasised the importance of tribal development, stating that Mahatma Gandhi's vision for this demographic is "our asset."

Modi launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, which will be implemented at a cost of Rs 79,150 crore, aimed at ensuring comprehensive and holistic development for tribal communities across the country.

"Mahatma Gandhi's vision for tribal development is our asset, he (Mahatma Gandhi) believed that India can develop only when tribal communities will develop. BJP government accords top priority to tribal development and Rs 80,000 crore will be spent on Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan to develop 65,000 tribal villages," he said.

Rays of development are now reaching remote tribal villages, he said. The Prime Minister expressed his grati-



tude for being part of Jharkhand's development journey.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan will benefit over 5 crore tribals in 549 districts across 30 states and Union Territories. The scheme aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions carried out by 17 central ministries and departments.

Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple projects under the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), valued at over Rs 1,360

crore. These include the construction of more than 1,380 km of roads, 120 anganwadi centres, 250 multi-purpose centres, and 10 school hostels.

Additionally, the Prime Minister announced the electrification of over 75,800 households belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in around 3,000 villages.

Other initiatives include the operationalisation of 275 mobile medical units, 500 anganwadi centres, establishment of 250 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, and the provision of piped water (Nal se Jal) to more than 5,550 PVTG villages.

"I had come to Jamshedpur from where I had launched several schemes. Beneficiaries got pucca homes," he said.

This is Modi's second visit to Jharkhand in about a fortnight where elections to the 81-member assembly are due with the tenure of the present Vidhan Sabha set to expire on January 5.

Notable attendees at the event included Union Ministers Jual Oram, Annapurna Devi, and Sanjay Seth besides Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

Centre seeks report over 'Kashmir azadi' slogans at RG Kar protest rally: Sources

KOLKATA, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Centre has sought a report from the West Bengal government regarding the alleged chanting of 'Kashmir Munge Azadi' (Kashmir wants freedom) slogans at a rally organised to protest the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical Centre and Hospital, sources told agency on Wednesday. As many as 15-20 participants of the rally, who allegedly raised the controversial slogans, have also been identified by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), sources in the Union Home Minis-



try added. A major controversy broke out after a video went viral on social media in which some unidentified people were heard raising "Kashmir

Munge Azadi" slogans. After the video went viral, the Kolkata Police filed a case under Sections 152 (related to actions that threaten the sovereignty, unity,

or integrity of India) and 285 (related to the safety of people in public places such as public roads) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS). The rally was organ-

ised in the Jadavpur area of Kolkata seeking justice for the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered on August 9. The incident sparked a wave of protests by healthcare professionals across India, demanding guidelines for their safety at workplaces.

According to sources, the organisers of the rally are also likely to be summoned by the Kolkata Police, sources informed agency.

The ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal condemned the purported video, saying that Kashmir was an internal part of India.

PM Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri on birth anniversary



NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (October 2, 2024) paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the most iconic figure of India's freedom movement, on his birth anniversary.

In a post on X, Modi said the revered Bapu's life and ideals based on truth, harmony and equality would always be an inspiration for the country's people.

Mahatma Gandhi, hailed as the father of the nation, steadfastly

followed the principles of truth and non-violence, inspiring generations of politicians and activists around the world.

PM Modi also paid tribute to India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was also born on this day.

"He dedicated his life to the country's soldiers, farmers and pride," PM Modi said of Shastri, who raised the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" and whose simplicity and honesty earned him wide respect.

IAF helicopter makes emergency landing in Bihar's Muzaffarpur

Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar says the helicopter was coming from adjoining Darbhanga after air-dropping relief material

MUZAFFARPUR, Oct 2 (Agencies): An Indian Air Force helicopter made an emergency landing in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar on Wednesday after it developed a snag, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar said the helicopter was coming from adjoining Darbhanga after air-dropping relief material. "The helicopter made an emergency landing in a water-logged area in Aurai block. All the occupants were IAF personnel and they



were pulled out by locals by the time officials reached the spot," said the SSP.

District Magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen said, "All four occu-

pants appear safe and unharmed. However, as a precaution, they are being taken to a local hospital for check-up and treatment, if required."

Andhra Pradesh deputy CM Pawan Kalyan renounces 11-day penance at Tirumala

TIRUPATI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Andhra Pradesh deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday visited the Tirumala temple here and renounced his 11-day penance (Prayaschitta Deeksha), which he undertook to atone for the alleged sins of the previous YSRCP government at the hill shrine.

The deputy chief minister was accompanied by his daughters Aadhya Konidela and Palina Anjani Konidela.

"Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan who undertook an 11-day penance for the protection of Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) vis-



ited Sri Venkateswara Swamy on Wednesday and renounced his penance," said an official press release.

During his visit, the deputy chief minister carried 'Varahi Declaration' book with him to the deity, the contents of which he will reveal in a

meeting in Tirupati on Thursday.

"Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena president Pawan Kalyan had Tirumala Srivari (deity) darshanam (visit) today. Pawan Kalyan took Varahi Declaration book along with him," said a Janasena press release.

Currently, Kalyan is on a three-day visit to the temple. Following his visit to the deity, the Janasena founder had lunch at MatrAmritsari Tarigonda Vengamamba Nitya Annadana (blessed food) centre. Before visiting the temple, Kalyan's youngest daughter, Palina Anjani Konidela, gave a declaration at Tirumala temple that she has faith in Lord Venkateswara.

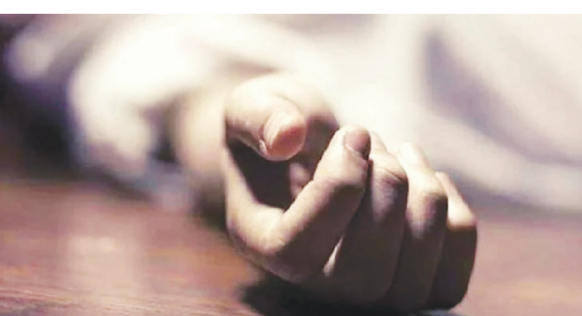
Palina Anjani Konidela is reportedly a non-Hindu and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) - the official custodian of Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati - rules mandate that non-Hindus have to declare their

faith in the deity before making a visit to the temple.

"Palina Anjani Konidela gave the declaration for Srivari (deity) visit in Tirumala. She signed the documents provided by TTD staff. As Palina Anjani is a minor, her father Pawan Kalyan also endorsed the documents," said a Janasena press release.

The declaration assumes significance as BJP leaders and several Hindu outfits had demanded that YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, a Christian, has to issue a similar declaration before his recent cancelled visit to the temple.

4 of family found dead inside Nagpur house, suicide note recovered



NAGPUR, Oct 2 (Agencies): A couple and their two sons were found dead at their home in Maharashtra's Nagpur district on Wednesday morning, with police suspecting it to be a case of suicide.

A purported suicide note found in the house pointed to the family being under stress due to the arrest of one of the sons in a fraud case,

a Nagpur rural police official said.

Some neighbours noticed unusual silence at the family's residence at Mowad village and alerted police.

When the police broke open the house door, the four family members were found hanging from ceiling hooks, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as

retired teacher Vijay Madhukar Pachori (68), his wife Mala (55) and their sons Ganesh (38) and Deepak (36), the police official said.

A purported suicide note recovered from the premises indicated the family was under immense stress due to Ganesh's arrest earlier this year in a fraud case registered at Pandhurna police station in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

The note had the signatures of the four family members, the official said.

The Narkhed police have registered a case of accidental death and are conducting further investigation into the matter, he added.

India calls for restraint as tensions escalate in West Asia

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): In its first reaction to fresh escalation of tensions in West Asia, India on Wednesday called for restraint by all sides and said the conflict must not take a wider regional dimension.

India's comments came a day after Iran fired around 200 missiles into Israel in response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan NAMritsarallah and other commanders of the militant outfit.

New Delhi said it is deeply concerned over the escalating security

situation in West Asia and called for addressing all issues through "dialogue and diplomacy".

"We are deeply concerned at the escalation of the security situation in West Asia and reiterate our call for restraint by all concerned and protection of civilians," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"It is important that the conflict doesn't take a wider regional dimension and we urge that all issues be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy," it said in a statement.

Schoolboy dies after being hit by excavator in Kolkata's Bansdronei



KOLKATA, Oct 2 (Agencies): A class 9 student was killed as an excavator allegedly hit him in south Kolkata's Bansdronei area on Wednesday morning, police said.

The boy was on the way to his tuition classes when the accident

happened near Dinesh Nagar auto stand, they said.

He was taken to the Bangur Hospital in Tollygunge by locals and doctors there declared him dead.

Following the accident, locals protested, alleging that the acci-

dent happened because of the deplorable condition of the road, which had not been repaired for long.

They also alleged that police arrived late at the spot after the accident.

Some people also vandalised the excavator that was involved in the accident.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation's ward 113 councillor Anita Kar Majumder said road repair work was going on in the area following underground drainage work.

The boy was hit by the rear arm of the excavator, she said.

US condemns Iran's 'unacceptable' attack on Israel, pledges support

Iran fires nearly 200 missiles at Israel, world condemns

WASHINGTON, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Iranian missile attack on Israel appears to have been defeated and ineffective, US President Joe Biden said, hours after Tehran fired nearly 200 missiles at Israel.

The Israeli military reportedly said there were no news of injuries from the attack.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Biden said, "At my direction, the United States military actively supported the defence of Israel. We are still assessing the impact but, based on what we know, the attack appears to have been defeated and ineffective and this is a testament to Israeli military capability... (It is) also a testament to intensive planning (between) the United States and Israel to anticipate and defend against a brazen attack." "Make no mistake, the United States is fully supportive of Israel. And I just spent the morning and part of the afternoon in the situation room, meeting with my whole national security team... The national security team, as I said, is in constant contact with Israeli officials and counterparts..." he added.

Biden directed the US military to aid Israel's defence against Iranian attacks and shoot down missiles targeting the country, the White House said.

While most of the missiles were destroyed before reaching their target, some did impact and cause minimal damage, the Pentagon press secretary Major General Patrick S Ryder said.

Two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers -- the USS Cole and USS Bulkeley -- deployed in the eastern Mediterranean fired a dozen interceptors at the incoming Iranian ballistic missiles as



part of its defence of Israel, he added.

Condemning the attack, Vice-President Kamala Harris said, "I condemn this attack unequivocally. I am clear-eyed -- Iran is a destabilising, dangerous force in the Middle East and today's attack on Israel only further demonstrates that fact." Iran is not only a threat to Israel but also to American personnel in the region, American interests, and innocent civilians across the region who suffer at the hands of Iran-backed and backed terrorist proxies, she added.

"We will never hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to defend US forces and interests against Iran and Iran-backed terrorists. And we will continue to work with our allies and partners to disrupt Iran's aggressive behaviour and hold them accountable," Harris said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that this was Iran's second direct attack on Israel in five months.

"This is totally unacceptable and the entire world should condemn it," he said.

"Initial reports suggest that Israel, with the active support of the United States and other

partners, effectively defeated this attack. We have demonstrated, once again, our commitment to Israel's defence. We will remain in very close touch with Israel and other partners in the region in the hours and days ahead," Blinken said.

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters that the US military coordinated closely with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to help defend Israel against the attack.

"Based on what we know at this point, this attack appears to have been defeated and ineffective. This was first and foremost the result of the professionalism of the IDF but in no small part because of the skilled work of the US military and meticulous joint planning in anticipation of the attack," he said.

"We are also aware of reports of a terrorist attack in Jaffa that took the lives of a number of Israeli civilians and wounded several others today. Our condolences go out to the families of the victims and to the family of the Palestinian civilian in Jericho..." he added.

Sullivan further said the US would consult with the Israelis on the next steps in terms of the

response.

Before and during the attack, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant, said Ryder.

"He reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to the defence of Israel and underscored that the US remains well-postured throughout the Middle East region to protect US forces and defend Israel in the face of threats from Iran and Iran-backed terrorist organisations," he said.

Former president Donald Trump, on the other hand, blamed the Biden administration for the attack.

"The world is on fire and spiraling out of control. We have no leadership, no one running the country. We have a non-existent president in Joe Biden, and a completely absent Vice-President Kamala Harris, who is too busy fundraising in San Francisco... No one is in charge and it is not even clear who is more confused: Biden or Kamala. Neither has any idea what is even going on," he said in a statement.

"When I was president, Iran was in total check. They were starved for cash, fully contained, and desperate to make a deal. Kamala flooded them with American cash and, ever since, they have been exporting terror all over... Under 'President Trump,' we had no war in the Middle East, no war in Europe, and Harmony in Asia, no inflation, no Afghanistan catastrophe. Instead, we had peace. Now, war or the threat of war is raging everywhere and the two incompetents running this country are leading us to the brink of World War III. You would not trust Joe or Kamala to run a lemonade stand, let alone lead the free world," Trump said.

2 explosions rock the area around the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, Oct 2 (Agencies): Police in the Danish capital said two pre-dawn explosions took place Wednesday in the vicinity of the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen, prompting the nearby Jewish school to close for the day.

Police said no one had been injured and they were investigating whether there was a link between the blasts at around 3:20 a.m. and the Israeli diplomatic mission, which is close to several other embassies.

They declined to say whether anyone had been arrested.

Heavily armed officers, search dogs and forensic teams were inspecting the area which had been cordoned off.

Copenhagen's Jewish school, Carolineskolens, which is just down the street from the embas-

sy, was already due to remain closed on Thursday and Friday for the Jewish New Year holidays, Michael Rachlin, a spokesperson for Denmark's Jewish community told agency.

There will also be extra security around the main synagogue in downtown Copenhagen, the Jewish community said in a statement. Community chairman Henrik Goldstein wrote that he "would like to encourage people to be aware when moving in public spaces."

"And be critical of what you hear on social media and rumors," he wrote, adding that "there is no reason to refrain from participating in Jewish life."

Police refused to give details about the intensity of the reported blasts or the damage they may have caused.

Denmark's Justice Minister Peter Hummelgaard told broadcaster TV2 that the incident was "inherently serious," adding it was too early to say anything about a motive.

On Tuesday night, the area around the Israeli Embassy in Stockholm was also closed off after a loud bang was reported. Police later announced that findings from the scene indicated that the embassy was hit by bullets. No one has been arrested, they said.

Swedish broadcaster TV4 said that a weapon and an empty shell casing had been found at or near the embassy. Sweden's domestic security agency told the news agency that it was not conducting a preliminary investigation linked to Tuesday's incident in Stockholm and referred to the ordinary police.

France's Macron slams Iran's attacks on Israel, urges Hezbollah to stop violence



PARIS, Oct 2 (Agencies): French President Emmanuel Macron said he strongly condemns Iran's new attacks on Israel, adding that, in a sign of its commitment to Israel's security it has mobilised its military

resources in the Middle East on Wednesday.

Macron reiterated France's demand that Hezbollah cease its terrorist actions against Israel and its population, the French Presidency said in a state-

ment.

Macron also wished for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be reinstated in strict compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the presidency statement added.

Iran said early on Wednesday that its missile attack on Israel was finished barring further provocation, while Israel and the US promised to retaliate against Tehran's escalation as fears of a wider war intensified.

UK leader Starmer is on a 1-day visit to EU headquarters hoping to heal ties battered by Brexit



BRUSSELS, Oct 2 (Agencies): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer traveled to Brussels on Wednesday on a mission to try to improve ties with the European Union, which disintegrated as the country left the world's biggest trading bloc four years ago.

Starmer wanted to focus his talks on security, migration and trade. He was due to hold talks with the leaders of the bloc's main institutions: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, EU Council President Charles Michel and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola.

"The U.K. is undeniably stronger when it works in lockstep with its closest international partners. This has never been more important -- with war, conflict and insecurity all knocking on Europe's door," Starmer said in a statement released by his office ahead of the one-day trip.

Starmer said that he is "determined to put the Brexit years behind us and establish a more pragmatic and mature

relationship with the European Union."

Better cooperation, he said, "will deliver the benefits the British people deserve -- securing our borders, keeping us safe and boosting economic growth."

The EU, for its part, wants to build bridges between young people on either side of the English Channel by introducing a scheme that would allow young EU and U.K. citizens to study, work and live for short periods in the U.K. and the EU respectively. Supporters of Brexit oppose it.

Since his center-left Labour Party's resounding election win on July 4, Starmer has sought a larger role for Britain on the global stage after years of soured relations with Europe over Brexit.

He has vowed to reduce some of the post-Brexit barriers for people and goods that have undermined ties between Britain and the bloc. Starmer insists though that he won't reverse Brexit, or rejoin the EU's single market and customs union.

Pope Francis opens second phase of big reform project

Pope Francis' big Catholic reform project has opened with widespread calls for women to take up more positions of responsibility in the church topping the agenda

ROME, Oct 2 (Agencies): Pope Francis opened the second phase of his big Catholic reform project Wednesday, with widespread calls for women to take up more positions of responsibility in the church topping the agenda but ordained ministry still ruled out.

Francis presided over an opening Mass in St. Peter's Square with the 368 bishops and laypeople who will meet behind closed doors for the next three weeks to discuss the future of the church and how to make it more responsive to the needs of Catholics today.

Several of the most contentious issues are officially off the table, after they encountered resistance and objections during the first session of the synod, or meeting, last year. They include ministering to LGBTQ+ Catholics and allowing women to serve as deacons.

Francis has entrusted these topics to 10 study groups that are working in parallel to the synod, raising questions about what exactly will come out of the gathering when it concludes Oct. 26 with a final set of proposals for Francis to consider.

Francis launched the reform process in 2021 to put in practice his goal of creating a church that is more inclusive, humble and welcoming, where ordinary Catholics have a greater say in decision making than

the all-male priestly hierarchy.

The process, and the two-year canvassing of rank-and-file Catholics that informed it, sparked both hopes and fears that real change was afoot.

In his marching orders Wednesday, Francis urged delegates to leave aside their long-held and self-interested positions and truly listen to one another to "give life to something new." "Otherwise, we will end up locking ourselves into dialogues among the deaf, where participants seek to advance their own causes or agendas without listening to others and, above all, without listening to the voice of the Lord," he said in his homily.

The first phase of the synod process ended last year by concluding it was "urgent" to guarantee fuller participation by women in church governance positions, and calling for theological and pastoral research to continue about allowing women to be deacons.

Deacons perform many of the same functions as priests, such as presiding over baptisms, weddings and funerals, but they cannot celebrate Mass.

Advocates say allowing women to be deacons would help offset the Catholic priest shortage and address longstanding complaints that women have a second-class status in the church: barred from the priesthood yet respon-



sible for the lion's share of the work educating the young, caring for the sick and passing the faith onto next generations.

Opponents say ordaining women to the diaconate would signal the start of a slippery slope toward ordaining women to the priesthood. The Catholic Church reserves the priesthood for men, saying Christ chose only men as his 12 apostles.

Francis has repeatedly reaffirmed the all-male priesthood and as recently as this week-end sharply criticized "obtuse" agitators pressing for a female diaconate. After a contentious visit to Belgium where he was challenged by female students, Francis said such calls were an attempt to "make women masculine."

His arguments have outraged proponents of women's ordination, who have organized a series of events outside the synod this month in Rome to press their case.

"It's so insulting to keep on saying that the only valid role that will

get the approval of this pope is to be nurturing, is to be a mother, while you can be nurturing and mothering and be a priest," said Miriam Duignan, a trustee at the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research. "He is putting a spiritual stamp of approval on sexism," she said at a prayer event this week co-organized by the Women's Ordination Conference. "It is so irresponsible and dangerous for him to constantly criticize, belittle, dismiss and demonize women who are just saying 'Stop lying. Stop hiding and stop trying to relegate us to second-class citizenship.'"

While ordained ministry for women is out of the question, a host of other proposals are being discussed, including calls for women to have greater positions of responsibility in seminaries and sit as judges on canonical courts that decide everything from marriage annulments to priest discipline cases.

There are 368 members of the synod, including 272 bishops and 96 non-bishops. In

all, 85 women are participating, including 54 with the right to vote.

In addition to delegates who were selected by their respective bishops conferences, Francis named a few members himself to participate, including two bishops from mainland China, many of his closest cardinal advisers and the exiled Nicaraguan Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez.

Also on the list of pontifically nominated members is the retired prefect of the Vatican's doctrine office, Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, who has been critical of the synod process and Francis' pontificate as a whole.

In an essay this week on German Catholic site kath.net, Mueller took particular aim at the penitential liturgy that Francis celebrated Tuesday during which he begged forgiveness for a host of sins as a way to atone for the church's transgressions before the start of the meeting.

Mueller blasted what he called "newly invented sins" -- including sins against the synod itself and the sin "of using doctrine as stones to be hurled," a reference to how conservatives have criticized Francis' reform efforts as undermining traditional church doctrine.

Mueller said such a laundry list of invented sins "reads like a checklist of woke and gender ideology, somewhat

laboriously disguised as Christianity."

Non-bishop members named by the pope include the Rev. James Martin, an American Jesuit who runs an LGBTQ+ outreach ministry. Martin has a sympathetic ear in both Francis, who approved same-sex blessings unilaterally after the first session of the synod ended, and the Rev. Timothy Radcliffe, who is one of the "spiritual assistants" for the synod.

In an essay this week in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Radcliffe argued strongly for even doubters in the church to recognize the good in LGBTQ+ Catholics and their relationships, and why the church ought to welcome them.

"The acceptance of gay people is seen in some parts of the church as evidence of Western decadence," he wrote. "But the church must fight for the lives and dignity of gay people, still liable to capital punishment in 10 countries and criminal prosecution in 70. They have the right to live," he said.

At the same time, those opposed to a pastoral approach to gays have gifts the Western church should appreciate, including a deep sense of the divine life in all of creation, he said. "The Body of Christ needs all our gifts," he concluded.

SGWF observes Gandhi Jayanti across Union Territory

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) commemorated Gandhi Jayanti, paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Lala Hans Raj Mahajan (Sher-E-Duggar) across the Union Territory with a series of Swachhta Abhiyans.

This initiative saw widespread participation, with numerous volunteers joining from different regions to spread the message of cleanliness and social responsibility.

Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO of SGWF, led the Swachhta Abhiyan at Jia Pota Ghat, Akhnoor, where she was joined by morning walkers and renowned citizens of Akhnoor, including Raju Bajighar and his team. The event focused on maintaining cleanliness along the riverbanks and enhancing environmental awareness among the local community.

Makhani Devi, General Secretary of SGWF, conducted the Swachhta Abhiyan at Chowki Chora, where she mobilized

women volunteers from nearby localities to participate in the cleanliness drive. Her efforts ensured that the campaign reached every corner of the area, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

Reeta Verma, National President of the SGWF, spearheaded the Swachhta Abhiyan at Mera Mandrian and its surrounding areas with the involvement of numerous volunteers. Her leadership played a vital role in spreading the message of cleanliness and honoring the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Dogar Nath and his team observed the Abhiyan at Rajouri, while other SGWF volunteers conducted similar drives at different locations, ensuring the message of cleanliness and community responsibility reached all corners of the Union Territory.

Dr. Sonia Verma highlighted the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary, emphasizing his principles of truth, non-violence, and cleanliness. She also

reflected on the legacy of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, honoring his famous slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan,' which continues to inspire millions across the nation. Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO of SGWF, emphasized Mahatma Gandhi's core values of truth, non-violence, and cleanliness. She discussed how Gandhi's concept of 'Swaraj' was not only about political independence but also about self-discipline, self-reliance, and maintaining personal and community hygiene. Dr. Verma encouraged participants to adopt Gandhi's vision of 'Sarvodaya,' the upliftment of all, by contributing to societal well-being through acts of cleanliness and environmental conservation.

Reeta Verma paid tribute to Lala Hans Raj Mahajan, popularly known as "Sher-E-Duggar," on his birth anniversary. She spoke about his contributions to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing his role in promoting social upliftment and education in the region. Reeta Verma, National President of SGWF, reflected on the

teachings of Lal Bahadur Shastri, who stood for simplicity, integrity, and patriotism.

She highlighted Shastri's famous slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," which underscores the importance of farmers and soldiers in building a strong nation. Reeta Verma called on everyone to support sustainable agricultural practices and protect our environment, much like Shastri advocated for the welfare of farmers and the need for self-sufficiency. Remembering Lala Hans Raj Mahajan, Reeta Verma spoke about his relentless efforts in promoting social justice, education, and upliftment of the marginalized communities in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized that Mahajan's life was a testament to dedication, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to societal betterment. SGWF draws inspiration from his teachings, working tirelessly to ensure environmental preservation and community service.

Makhani Devi, who is also a school teacher, conducted a debate com-

petition at Chowki Chora, where students from various classes participated, remembering the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. This activity aimed to instill Gandhian values among the younger generation, encouraging them to become responsible citizens.

Sandeep Sharma, Treasurer of SGWF, along with Nitish Abrol, Rahul Dogra, Ashok Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Rahul Sharma, Parkreet Mehta, Kanav Sharma, and Raghuvir Abrol, led the Swachhta Abhiyan at Shri Hari Mandir Namandhar Akhnoor, further reinforcing SGWF's commitment to environmental cleanliness and sustainability.

The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation's collective effort to observe Gandhi Jayanti through the Swachhta Abhiyan stands as a testament to their dedication to promoting cleanliness, environmental sustainability, and the teachings of great leaders. The foundation continues to work towards creating a cleaner, greener, and more socially conscious society.

Gandhi Global Family J&K celebrates 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: Gandhi Global Family J&K on Wednesday organized a function to commemorate the 155th birth anniversary of Father of Nation at historic Dewan-e-Aam, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, Jammu.

I D Soni, who was the presiding officer on the occasion, paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi along with other dignitaries.

While speaking on the occasion, I. D. Soni impressed upon the students to imbibe the 'Gandhian values' in their day to day lives to lead a peaceful life.

He also highlighted the philosophy of non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi and its importance in present times. He further stressed upon promotion of national integration and equitable development of all sections of the society.

The cleanliness of self and surroundings is of paramount value which was exercised by Mahatma Gandhi, he added.

Dr. S P Varma, President, Gandhi Global Family J&K in his appeal from Srinagar to Prime Minister of India via Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha to intervene in West Asia to cease war in the Middle East and to strengthen global brotherhood & peace worldwide.

With simplicity, non-violence, truthfulness, self-reliance and compassion at the core, Gandhian principles offer valuable insights into addressing contemporary global challenges, he added.

The day is also being observed as International Non-Violence Day wherein students of various schools & colleges threw light on Mahatma Gandhi's contribution towards bringing peace

and non-violence in the World. Besides, the students also celebrated the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India Lal Bahadur Shastri. People from all walks of life including students from various schools & colleges, teachers, senior citizens & dignitaries paid rich floral tributes to Father of Nation on his 155th Birth Anniversary.

The proceedings of the day were conducted by Sumi Seth, Vice President, GGF Women Jammu, assisted by Puneet Kour, GGF Women Jammu member.

The event was organised under the overall supervision of the organising committee which includes I D Soni, Chairman, Dinesh Gupta, Co-Chairman, Robin Gill, Mumtaz Ahmed Din Kabir, Rajinder Singh, Dr. Perinder Kaur, Manish Joshi, Rajinder Singh, Dr. Alka Sharma and Amit Varma.

DLSA Ramban celebrates Gandhi Jayanti, conducts cleanliness drives

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Oct 2: To pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi Ji on his 155th birth anniversary and as a part of National Campaign launched by Government of India under the banner "Swachhata hi Sewa - 2024", District Legal Services Authority, Ramban organized different activities including Cleanliness drives in collaboration with Municipal Council Ramban.

Awareness Program on the topic "Safayi Apnao Bimari Bhagao" and an awareness Rally was also organized at District Court Complex, Ramban.

The activities were conducted as per the directions of the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and under the effective leadership of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ramban Deepak Sethi.

The "Swachhata Hi Sewa" program witnessed enthusiastic participation of Judicial Officers from Dis-

trict Court Complex, Ramban, dedicated staff members of District Judiciary Ramban and DLSA Ramban, members of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Panel Lawyers, devoted Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and diligent officials from the Municipal Committee, Ramban.

The Chairman DLSA, Ramban in his special address, highlighted the importance of Gandhi Jayanti and the significance & history behind Swachhta Divas/ Swachhta Hi Sewa Campaign 2024.

He also delivered an inspiring address on the importance of sustainability and the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives to save the mother nature.

Secretary, DLSA Ramban Anjana Rajput presented the welcome address while vote of thanks was presented by Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Ramban Shilpa Dogra.

The objective of organizing these programs was to spread awareness through community par-

ticipation and also to give impetus to implementation of Swachhta Hi Sewa Campaign 2024, to disseminate the importance of Sampoorna Swachh Ramban and to reinforce the concept of Sanitation as everyone's duty.

The event commenced with an inspiring cleanliness drive within the District Court Complex, setting the tone for a cleaner and greener environment. Participants in a collective effort to clean and beautify their surroundings took up brooms to sweep away the debris of neglect, breathing new life into the surroundings.

Later, an awareness rally was also organized by DLSA Ramban in collaboration with Ramban Public School which was flagged off from District Court Complex in the presence of Judicial Officers, Prosecuting Officers, Panel Advocates, Faculty Members and students of Ramban Public School in which cleanliness drive was taken out in and around the streets of Court Market, Ramban.

Bukhari pays glowing tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari paid glowing tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation.

In his message, Apni Party President Said, "This special day not only marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi but also celebrates his enduring philosophy of peace and non-violence, which continues to resonate with people across

the nation."

He further said, "The Father of the Nation taught us how to peacefully resist injustice and oppression, and how to stand up for justice and the fundamental rights of the people, without resorting to violence. His teachings and principles will forever serve as a beacon of light for our nation, guiding us toward a life of peace and harmony. Let's strive to uphold these values in our everyday lives. Happy Gandhi Jayanti!"

Sharan of Rich Harvest outshines in International Arena

Top News Report

Jammu, Oct 2 Sharan Arayan, alumnus of Rich Harvest School made the school and India proud by winning a gold medal in Kickboxing in the SBKF 10th International Games 2024.

He outsmarted many athletes from India, Malaysia, Singapore,

Sri Lanka and Thailand during the prestigious event held in Singapore and Malaysia in the last week of September.

His incredible journey speaks volumes about his hard work, humility, dedication and devotion to the game. RHS Family saluted Sharan's achievements and unwavering spirit.

Bukhari expresses grief over passing of Syed Mushtaq Bukhari

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Syed Mushtaq Bukhari, a prominent political leader from the Pir Panjal region, who passed away this morning at his residence in Pamrote, Poonch, after battling a prolonged illness.

In his condolence message, Bukhari said, "The passing of Syed Mushtaq Bukhari Sahib has created a void in the political landscape of J&K, especially in the Pir Panjal region. His immense contributions to society, particularly for the upliftment and welfare of the Pahari community, will always be remembered. Throughout his long political career, he served twice as a legislator from Surankote,

tirelessly working for the betterment of the people he represented."

He added, "It is deeply saddening that he passed away just a week before the election results, in which he was the BJP candidate from Surankote, Poonch. May the Almighty grant his soul eternal peace, and may Allah give his bereaved family the strength to bear the pain of this irreparable loss."

Swachhata Hi Seva campaign held at Civil Secretariat Leh

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 2: As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 (SHS) campaign, a massive cleanliness drive was held at the Civil Secretariat, Leh. This was the culmination of the weeklong cleanliness activity undertaken by the officials serving in the Civil Secretariat, who undertook weeding out old records, obsolete items etc, to make their own workspaces clean.

To make the cleanliness drive within the area of the LAHDC campus and the campaign a vibrant one, Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department, Michael

D'Souza, chaired a preparatory meeting with concerned officials and divided them into several teams, aimed at carrying out a successful drive of Swachhata Hi Seva.

Officers and officials from the various Departments of the Civil Secretariat cleaned the entire premises of Civil Secretariat, Hill Council Secretariat, and Culture Academy, Leh.

The drive witnessed full participation of the officers and officials of Civil Secretariat Leh. During the drive, the concerned officers and officials collected all sorts of non-biodegradable waste strewn all around like plastics,

metals, etc. The event was focused to raise awareness among the general public and the officials about the significance of cleanliness and responsibility everyone shares toward maintaining a clean environment.

It is pertinent to mention here Swachhata Hi Seva is an initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission, aims to generate greater public participation, reinforce the concept of "sanitation as everyone's business".

Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar and Administrative Secretary, Michael D'Souza joined in the cleanliness campaign.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K Assembly polls: New history scripted; people have understood futility of gun, power of vote: LG Sinha

great interest in strengthening the democracy in J&K by coming out to vote in record numbers. "The youth deserve all the credit as they voted in huge numbers. In this election, people showed that they no longer believe in guns and stones and rather they want to use vote as a tool to get their demands fulfilled," the LG said.

Urging the youth to follow the footsteps of Gandhiji, the LG said that would be the best tribute to the father of the nation. "Now it's the duty of the youth to keep this peace intact and contribute towards pushing J&K to achieve new heights," the LG said.

He said some people continue to misguide youth and it's the duty of the new generation to defeat such people and their designs. "They are the people who can't digest peace and want to keep the pot boiling," the LG said adding that "Its for the youth to defeat such forces as they aren't able to digest peace in J&K."

Sonam Wangchuk detained again after release, indefinite fast

continues

been confiscated at the Bawana Police Station, leaving us cut off from the outside world," Paljor said in the statement.

Delhi Police, however, said that the 'padyatris' were released last night and detained again.

Wangchuk and other detained Ladakhis were allowed to go on Tuesday night but they were adamant to march towards the central part of Delhi, therefore, they were detained again, a senior police officer told agencies.

The 'padyatris', who started from Leh on September 1, marched all the way, except upon entering poll bound Haryana where they boarded buses. They were detained at Delhi's Singhu border on Monday night and taken to different police stations, where they started an indefinite fast.

"Also all the 'padyatris' are on 'anshan' since 36 hours. Today, October 2nd, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, we had intended to visit Gandhi Samadhi to pay our respects. Instead, we find our rights trampled upon on a day that symbolizes peace and democracy," Paljor said. "This situation raises serious concerns about the state of our democracy. We call upon everyone to stand in solidarity with us during this critical time," he added.

The march was organised by the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading an agitation for the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh, seek its inclusion under the Sixth

Schedule of the Constitution, early recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

Wangchuk has been kept at the Bawana police station along with few others while others have been kept at Narela Industrial Area, Alipur and Kanjhawala police stations, he added.

Poll body revises voter turnout to over 69% in Third Phase of J&K Assembly Election

polling stations takes time and this trend does not include postal ballot. "Final actual account of votes recorded for each PS is shared in Form 17 C with Polling agents at close of polls," it said.

2 pilots among 3 killed as helicopter crashes, bursts into flames in Pune

Chinchwad Commissioner of Police Vinaykumar Choubey said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Vishal Gaikwad said the helicopter, belonging to Heritage Aviation, took off from the helipad of Oxford County Golf Course and crashed near Bavdhan in the hilly terrain, killing two pilots and an engineer onboard the chopper. An official from the Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) also said the incident took place at 7.40 am and confirmed that the Agusta 109 helicopter which crashed belonged to the Heritage Aviation.

After the crash, the chopper caught fire, police said.

Fire tenders and water tankers were rushed to the spot, according to fire officials.

"The deceased have been identified as Girish Kumar, Pritam Singh Bhardwaj and Paramjeet Singh," Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation's fire officer Anil Dimle said.

The helicopter took off from the helipad of the Oxford County Golf Course at around 7.30 am, Pimpri Chinchwad's Joint Commissioner of Police Shashikant Mahavarkar said.

Primary information suggested that fog in the area led to the accident of the helicopter.

"A detailed investigation will ascertain the exact cause of the crash," he said.

BJP's Surankote candidate Bukhari dies of heart attack in Poonch

year after the Centre granted Scheduled Tribe status to his Pahari community. He was fielded from Surankote, which went to polls along with 25 other segments in the second phase on September 25.

Bukhari had quit the National Conference in February 2022 after four decades long

association following an argument with party president Farooq Abdullah over the Scheduled Tribe status.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and the leaders of other political parties condoled Bukhari's death.

"Bukhari was a mass leader and his death left a void which is very hard to fill," Raina said.

Four days after going missing, 22-year-old's body found in Srinagar stream

Brein, Nishat, said the official. Police have initiated an inquiry to determine the cause of death, he said.

One person killed, 2 seriously wounded after car runs over pedestrians in south Kashmir's Verinag

Ghulam Nabi Mir 67, son of Gani Mir. While the injured were identified as Haseena 62, wife of Ghulam Nabi and Mushtaq Ahmad Mir 46, all residents of Chingund Dooru.

Meanwhile police have registered a case in this regard, and the investigation has been taken up.

LG Mishra attends concluding ceremony of 15-day long Swachhata Hi Seva 2024

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 2: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the concluding ceremony of the 15-day long Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 under the theme 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata' at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

The LG inaugurated the WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) facilities for safaikaramchhari of Municipal Committee Leh (MC Leh) established at Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plant in Leh and felicitated Ghulam Hadi and Deachen Yangzes, who are Safai Mitras, with cheques of Rs 20,000 each. He also paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on the occasion.

Stating that the entire nation is celebrating

the Jayanti of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri today who were visionary and worked for the welfare of the nation and the people of India, the LG emphasised remembering our ancestors as we are indebted to them for showing us the righteous path. He highlighted the path of non-violence and truth shown to us by Mahatma Gandhi and his contributions such as Salt Satyagrah or Dandi March to liberate the nation from British colonial rule. He stated that cleanliness or Swachhata should be a habit and emphasised teaching young children about the importance of keeping one's surroundings and oneself clean.

Stating that today's Swachhata Hi Seva campaign is a landmark for cleanliness in India, the LG appreciated the Prime

Minister, Narendra Modi, for coming up with such visionary initiatives for the nation's development. He appealed to everyone to come together along with their kids to assist Safai Karamchhari in keeping our surroundings neat and clean. He also asked the staff of the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat to reuse plastics and tetra packs to avoid pollution.

The LG also remembered Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was Prime Minister of India from 1964 to 1966, on his Jayanti. He stated that despite Lal Bahadur's short stint as the Prime Minister of India, he would be remembered for his leadership and slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan during the 1965 War in which India defeated the Pakistani army.

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur

Shastri on their Jayanti, the Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, informed about the conclusion of the 14-day Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 campaign which commenced on September 17, 2024. He termed Safai Karamchhari of Municipal Committees of Leh and Kargil as 'our strength' for their contribution towards keeping the surroundings neat and clean.

He also informed about the conduct of health check-ups of Safai Karamchhari along with providing the best protective gear/equipment to them on their duties.

Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Sanjeev Khirwar informed the LG that the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 programme started with the Swachhata pledge in the Leh Main Market on September 17.

He also informed about Mega Cleanliness Drives conducted by the Municipal Committees and Rural Development Department across Ladakh.

He further informed about various events conducted during the 15-day Swachhata Hi Seva-2024 programme, including food stalls, sports events, plantation drives, workshops for stakeholders and the Army, Waste to Art exhibition and cleaning of water bodies, etc.

First Lady, Neelam Mishra; Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Moses Kunzang; Executive Officer, MC Leh, Stanzin Rabgais; officials; Safai Karamchhari from MC Leh; staff of Lt Governor's Secretariat and Raj Niwas were present during the event.

BJP OBC Morcha pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: On the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, the BJP OBC Morcha, led by Brahm Jyot Satti (Incharge, BJP OBC Morcha JK-UT), gathered to pay floral tributes at Ward No. 29, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

The event saw the participation of several BJP leaders, including Perveen Badyal (District Vice President, OBC Morcha), senior BJP leader Darshna Choudhary, Bharat Bushan (Kaka), and social activist Sachin Choudhary. The program was organized by Perveen Badyal, who emphasized the significance of remembering the contributions of these iconic leaders.

Brahm Jyot Satti remarked that on this holy occasion, the OBC



Morcha pays tribute to these noble souls, acknowledging their profound impact on the nation. He highlighted Gandhi's principles of 'Satya' (truth) and 'Ahimsa' (non-violence), asserting that while these ideologies are commendable, the current geopolitical climate necessitates a more robust response to threats posed by terrorists and separatists.

Satti noted that Gandhi and Shastri are rare per-

sonalities whose legacies will endure in the hearts of the people. He affirmed that the BJP is the only political party that truly recognizes and honors the contributions of such heroes who dedicated their lives to the motherland.

The event served as a reminder of the values championed by Gandhi and Shastri, reinforcing the commitment of the BJP OBC Morcha to uphold these principles in contemporary society.

JKRSA hosts Kathua District Skating Championship



Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Rollers Skating Association (JKRSA) presented the Kathua District Skating Championship at Delhi Public School Rajbagh Kathua.

This event brought together skaters from various age groups, showcasing their exceptional talent and passion for the sport.

The championship was a vibrant display of skill and sportsmanship, with enthusiastic participation from young athletes eager to demonstrate their prowess on skates.

The event not only celebrated the sport of roller skating but also fostered a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie among the participants.

The Jammu and Kashmir Rollers Skating Association President G.S Khurmi extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and participants.

The championship was a testament to the growing enthusiasm for roller skating in Kathua and a crucial step in nurturing the next generation of skating champions.

The recent roller skating

competition showcased the exceptional talent of young athletes across various age categories, with participants competing fiercely for top honors.

In the 5-7 years age group, Abhiyan Sangral claimed the gold medal in the boys' category, while Kamakshi Saini secured the gold in the girls' category. Their impressive performances set a positive tone for the event.

In the 7-9 years age group, the loose bearing category saw Avyan taking home the gold, with Divashish earning a silver medal and Aarav Sedra securing bronze in the boys' division. In the girls' division, Divyanshi triumphed with a gold medal. Meanwhile, in the quad category for the same age group, Rabnoor won gold, followed by Priyanshu with silver and Davik with bronze for the boys. Amayra Gupta shone in the girls' category, winning gold, while Rizal Jammal and Rishita Dogra took silver and bronze, respectively.

As the competition progressed to the 9-11 years age group, Dhairy achieved gold in the boys' quad category, with Udhav and Reey-

ansh taking silver and bronze. For the girls, Suhani won gold and Vanika followed with silver. In the inline category for this age group, Gunvansh excelled with a gold medal, Bhavaneer earned silver, and Jaskeertat took home bronze, while Divanshi won gold in the girls' category.

In the 11-14 years age group, Munish topped the boys' quad category, earning gold, with Daksh and Alex winning silver and bronze, respectively. Avyasu dominated the girls' quad category, winning gold, while Yajeashwar and Raghav claimed silver and bronze. In the inline division, Samarth led the boys with a gold medal, followed by Tarun in silver and Maheshwar in bronze.

Finally, in the 14-17 years age group, Sushant achieved gold in the boys' quad category, with Chirag and Ahemdeep taking silver and bronze. In the girls' quad category, Parik won gold, Rigved secured silver, and Kaniya claimed bronze. Additionally, Ashmita and Tanish both showcased outstanding performances to win gold medals.

Jammu Airport launches special campaign 4.0 for cleanliness

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: Airport on Wednesday launched "Swachhata Abhiyaan Special Campaign 4.0," a month-long cleanliness drive as part of its commitment to creating a clean and hygienic environment.

The campaign, running from October 2 to October 31, 2024, aims to enhance the cleanliness standards at the airport, contributing towards the nationwide mission for cleanliness and hygiene. The inaugural event of the campaign was led by Airport Director, S.K. Garg, B.M.Kaul GM(Engg)-Project and CASO C/ISF, Daniel Dhanraj, who actively participated in the cleanliness drive along with other staff members.

The event commenced at 10:30 AM with airport staff and stakeholders

coming together to clean the premises, creating an inspiring atmosphere of community participation and responsibility.

The Swachhata Abhiyaan is part of the larger "Special Campaign 4.0" initiative to address cleanliness in public areas and enhance public services. Jammu Airport aims to set an example by maintaining a safe, healthy, and clean environment for all its passengers, visitors, and staff.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various teams and departments, highlighting the airport's collaborative effort to support the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. As part of this campaign, Jammu Airport will continue its efforts to enhance the cleanliness and efficiency of its services for the rest of the month.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan organized at Army Public School Akhnoor

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Oct 2: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) is a nationwide cleanliness campaign initiated by the Govt of India. The campaign aims to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management across India. The mission focuses on creating a cleaner environment, improving sanitation practices and promoting hygiene through public awareness and participation. Focus Areas of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Elimination of Open Defecation, Construction of toilets specifically in rural areas to eliminate open defecation, Solid Waste Management, Promoting waste segregation, recycling, and proper disposal methods. Spreading Awareness among



people about hygiene, sanitation and the importance of cleanliness. Clean Public Spaces. Cleaning streets, roads and infrastructure to enhance urban and rural environments. This campaign involves the active participation of citizens, organizations, and local governments making it a people-driven movement for a cleaner and healthier India. In order to motivate the students at budding stage, a clean-

ing drive was conducted by students of Army Public School, Akhnoor at Ambaran Village under the theme of "Swabhav Swachhata Sanskaar Swachhata". Total Str of 40 students including 20 NCC cadets participated in the drive. Students participated with zeal & enthusiasm and cleaned the public spaces and carried out solid waste management under the able guidance of teachers.

BLSKS celebrates Birth Anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi, Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) commemorated the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 120th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri with a special event held at its rehearsal hall in Durga Bhawan, Janipur. The celebration took place in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production during its 462nd Wednesday Series Musical Play titled "Swachhata Hi Seva."

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Anju Dogra from the Health Department of J&K Government. Among the distinguished guests were Mukesh Singh, a media person from Jammu, and Sh. Romesh Chander, Advisor to Shashvat Art Gallery, who served as the Guest of Honor. The program commenced with heartfelt renditions of songs, including "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye," "Bolo Jai Jai Kar Gandhi Ji Ki," and "Aao Sab Jawano - Jai Jawan Jai Kisan," among others. These pieces were beautifully written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, with musical assistance from Master Raju Bajgal.

In her speech, Dr. Dogra highlighted the importance of the "Swachh Bharat Diwas," which coincides with Gandhi Jayanti. She echoed the sentiments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,



stating, "On behalf of all countrymen, salutations to Pujya Babu on his birth anniversary. His life and ideals based on truth, harmony, and equality will always remain an inspiration for the countrymen." The entire event was recorded and shared on social media platforms to extend its reach to the wider community.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the enduring relevance of Gandhi's principles in today's society. He stressed the necessity of acting on Gandhi's teachings for the survival and progress of humanity, urging the audience to contribute to making India a "Proud Nation." He also acknowledged the significance of Lal Bahadur Shastri's contributions to the country, particularly his leadership during challenging times like the 1965 Indo-Pak War and his iconic slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan."

M.C. Kotwal, Secretary

of BLSKS, spoke about honoring the legacies of both leaders, underlining Gandhi's message of non-violence and truth. He noted that Gandhi Jayanti and Shastri Jayanti are national holidays celebrated across India, marked by special prayers and tributes. Various events, including competitions in schools and colleges, are held to remember the contributions of these great leaders.

The cultural program featured performances by talented singers, musicians, and actors from the Music and Computer Institute, including K.K. Joshi, Rajni Gupta, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Rahul Kumar, and Sudesh Manhas, who captivated the audience with their acts. Deepak Kumar concluded the event with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the successful conclusion of the program and the collective effort that made the celebration meaningful.

NSS SMVDU organizes cleanliness drive at Nau Devi Temple Katra

Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 2: National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of SMVDU Katra organized cleanliness drive at Nau Devi temple Katra under the campaign "Swachhata Hi Seva".

The campaign is currently being promoted throughout the country between 17th September to 2nd October, 2024. NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers had organized various events during the said campaign since 17th September, 2024.

Volunteers this time cleaned the surrounding areas of the Nau Devi

temple in Katra. Volunteers enthusiastically worked for two hours and collected around 70 Kg of single use plastic from the temple surroundings.

Volunteers also organized awareness session for the nearby shopkeepers to keep the area clean and safe. NSS student coordinators Sadvi Sharma and Abhishek Sharma led the whole drive. NSS programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the drive. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers for organizing the event.

Holy Chhari Yatra of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi departs for Darshan on First Navratri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The 42nd Holy Chhari Yatra of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi commenced today from the renowned Shri Raghunath Ji Temple in Jammu, taking the form of a vibrant Shoba Yatra. The journey was flagged off by Bal Saint Shri Sahil Ji Maharaj, who raised the saffron flag, marking the start of this auspicious event. The Chhari Puja is scheduled to take place at the Holy Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Darbar on October 3, coinciding with the first day of Navratri.

Following a ceremonial worship at the historic Shri Raghunath Ji Temple, the Holy Chhari and Akhand Jyoti embarked on their journey amidst a festive atmosphere. The procession, filled with devotion, swayed to the rhythmic beats of drums and the chants of "Maa's Jai," traversed through Raghunath Bazaar, Purani Mandi, and



Rajtilak Road, making its way to the Kol Kandoli Temple in Nagrota. After paying homage to Maa Bhagwati there, the Yatra continued towards the religious city of Katra.

Upon reaching Katra, the Yatra was warmly welcomed by the Shiv Sena Katra unit. State party chief Manish Sahni expressed that on October 3, devotees would have the privilege of performing the Chhari Poojan and experiencing the holy Darshan of Maa Vaishno Devi. He emphasized his prayers for the prosperity, progress, peace, and mutual

brotherhood of the nation and Jammu and Kashmir. Sahni also voiced his strong discontent regarding the lack of support from the administration during the Chhari Yatra, while extending appreciation to the Dharmarth Trust for their cooperation in facilitating the event.

The occasion saw Bal Sant Sahil Maharaj as the chief guest, with party national organizer Ashok Tiwari and Dharmarth Trust secretary Ashok Sharma attending as special guests, further adding to the significance of this holy journey.

Gambhir vs Dravid: Could India have pulled off Kanpur heist under former coach?

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): The Green Park Stadium in Kanpur has hosted two starkly different Test matches in recent times -- one in 2021 and the other in 2024. Both posed challenges for India, but the outcomes were worlds apart.

In November 2021, under Rahul Dravid's newly minted tenure as head coach, India came tantalisingly close to victory against New Zealand but were forced to settle for a hard-fought draw. The match saw New Zealand's last-wicket pair bat out close to 10 overs to deny India a win. In contrast, in October 2024, led by Gautam Gambhir in his first home Test series as head coach, India pulled off a remarkable victory against Bangladesh in a rain-curtailed Test, becoming the first Indian side to win a Test match in which two full days of play were washed out.

Dravid's first Test as coach of the Indian cricket team in Kanpur was a closely contested affair. India, after scoring 345 in their first innings, bowled out New Zealand for 296, securing a 49-run lead. The team, however, found themselves in a tricky position at 51 for 5 in their second innings. It was Shreyas Iyer (65), Wriddhiman Saha (61), and Axar Patel (28) who managed to steady the ship, taking India to 234 for 7 before declaring late on Day 4. Critics questioned the timing of the declaration, as it left New Zealand with enough time to save the match.

On Day 5, despite India's best efforts, the Black Caps managed to bat through the day, with their last pair holding on for a memorable draw. Many pointed to the lack of urgency in India's batting and the late declaration as reasons for the missed opportunity.

THE MIRACLE IN KANPUR IN 2024

Fast forward to October 2024, the Test match against Bangladesh was meandering towards a damp draw. After wet weather wiped out nearly three days of play, India found themselves in a race against time to secure a victory over Bangladesh. The visiting team resumed their first innings only on Day 4—at 107 for 3—and were bowled out



for 233, giving India a narrow window to force a result.

What followed was a display of breathtaking aggression. India scored 285 runs in just 34.4 overs in a little over a session on Day 4—at an astonishing 8.22 runs per over, the fastest team innings (minimum 100 runs) in Test history. With captain Rohit Sharma showing the way, the team smashed records for the fastest 50, 100, 150, 200, and 250 in Test cricket. India declared with a 52-run lead and proceeded to bowl Bangladesh out for a second time on Day 5.

Coach Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma were both elated when Rishabh Pant struck the winning runs, securing victory with a session to spare. India needed just six sessions to defeat a hapless Bangladesh side, which struggled to respond to India's aggressive onslaught. The dominant start to India's home Test season has given wings to the dreams of fans, who witnessed the highs and lows of the senior national team during Rahul Dravid's tenure as head coach.

NOT DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

By no means does the stark difference between the two Kanpur Tests reflect negatively on Dravid's legacy as the head coach in Tests.

Gambhir and Dravid stand at opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to body language. Gambhir wore his heart on his sleeve, while Dravid approached the game with monk-like composure. Both men poured their hearts into serving the team's interests.

As a coach, Dravid rarely displayed his emotions. He was guarded during press interactions, never revealing more than what was already apparent. Even when selection debates or

controversies arose, Dravid, in his characteristic style, kept his cards close to his chest, leaving plenty of room for speculation. In contrast, Gautam Gambhir has been more candid in his responses during his first few media conferences.

"The best style is the winning style," Gambhir stated before his first assignment as Test coach, and he has certainly walked the talk over the past two weeks.

KANPUR 2021 ONE-OFF FOR COACH DRAVID?

During Dravid's tenure, India played 24 Tests, winning 14 of them, with seven losses, including two at home. The team drew only three times during this period and reached the final of the World Test Championship in 2023, where they ultimately lost to Australia in the summit clash.

Was the Kanpur Test of 2021 merely a one-off for Rahul Dravid? It certainly appears that way.

In 2022, during a rain-affected Test match in Port of Spain, India adopted an aggressive batting strategy in the second innings, aiming for a favourable outcome. They scored 181 runs in just 24 overs, achieving an impressive rate of over seven runs per over. However, India was unable to secure a win as rain completely washed out the final day's play.

Dravid's first overseas tour as coach was disappointing, with South Africa sweeping the Test series 2-0, marking the end of India's glorious overseas run. However, India redeemed themselves in the 2023-24 tour, returning home with a hard-fought 1-1 draw.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy victory in 2023 was crucial, as India fended off a formidable challenge from Australia, winning the series 3-0. Under the guidance of Rohit and Dravid,

India was clinical in their performance.

Earlier this year, India played fearless cricket during a highly anticipated five-match Test series against England. The pressure was palpable, especially with the absence of their star player, Virat Kohli, as England arrived in the subcontinent brimming with confidence. The cricketing world was eager to see if the much-talked-about "Bazball" strategy could end India's impressive home run. However, it did not. Dravid and Rohit's measured approach effectively deflated the hype and exposed the flaws in England's all-out aggressive strategy.

WHEN DRAVID LED INDIA'S WHITE-BALL REVOLUTION

Despite the ups and downs, Rahul Dravid concluded his coaching tenure on a high note, playing a pivotal role in India's T20 World Cup triumph in June in the USA and the West Indies.

Dravid's role in India's white-ball redemption is undeniable. Among his most significant achievements were instilling role clarity for players and helping the team overcome the fear of failure.

Following the disappointment of the 2022 T20 World Cup, Dravid and Rohit emphasised these principles, allowing their players greater freedom. This strategy yielded positive results, as India nearly captured the home World Cup, dominating the tournament until the final against Australia. The team did not stray from their course after the heartbreak of November 19; their persistence paid off as India ended an 11-year-long wait for an ICC trophy under the management duo of Dravid and Rohit.

Dravid's steady hand guided India through a challenging phase in world cricket, and his influence will undoubtedly continue to shape the team in the years to come.

The combination of Gambhir and Rohit holds promise for a brighter future. The captain-coach duo will face their toughest challenge in Australia later this year. If India can continue displaying the intent they demonstrated in Kanpur, a hat-trick of Test series wins Down Under could very well become a reality in January.

Big injury setback for Mohammed Shami, report says pacer likely to be out for...



NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Indian cricket fans are eagerly waiting to see the highly-anticipated comeback of pacer Mohammed Shami, who has been out of action due to a knee injury. After giving a memorable performance in the ODI World Cup 2023, Shami underwent a surgery for his injury and has been recovering from it since then. It was expected that the star pacer will return to the national duty for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia in November this year but a recent development has left all the fans worried.

As per a report by agency, Shami has now suffered a swollen knee, which will apparently take another six to eight weeks to heal.

This means that his participation in the five-match Test series against Australia will now be uncertain.

"Shami had resumed bowling, and he was looking on track to make a comeback to competitive cricket soon. But this knee injury has flared up recently. BCCI's medical team is assessing the injury, but it may require quite a bit of time," TOI quoted a BCCI source.

"It's a jolt for the NCA medical team. They have been working on him for over a year. They have one of the best workload management systems in place. The medical team is trying its best to put him back in the park soon."

Earlier in September, Shami had revealed that he is putting his best efforts to return to the field for Team India at the earliest.

"Koshish jaldi hi kar raha hoon kyun ke main janta hoon kaafi time ho gaya hai team se bahar rehte hue (I am working hard to make a comeback soon because I know I have been out of action for quite some time). However, I want to ensure there is no discomfort when I return. I've to work on my fitness, so that there is no discomfort," Shami had said.

"The stronger I return, the better it is for me. I don't want to rush and risk getting injured again, be it against Bangladesh, New Zealand or the Australia series. I've already started bowling, but I won't take any chances until I am 100% fit," he added.

Irani Cup: Sarfaraz Khan hits hundred after returning from India squad

LUCKNOW, Oct 2 (Agencies): Sarfaraz Khan has marked his return to the Mumbai squad in fine fashion in the Irani Cup as he scored his 15th first-class hundred on October 2, Wednesday against the Rest Of India side. Sarfaraz would reach his landmark in 150 balls to put Mumbai in a strong position heading into lunch on Day 2 of the match at the Ekana stadium in Lucknow.

The Mumbai batter was one of the members in India's squad for the 2-match Test series against Bangladesh recently and was released from the side ahead of the start of play in the Irani Cup. Sarfaraz didn't take part in any of the matches against Bangladesh as KL Rahul was ahead of him in the pecking order. Sarfaraz had come in on Day 1 with Mumbai at 4 for 139. He would then join hands with Ajinkya Rahane and the duo would steady things for the defending Ranji Trophy champions.

Rahane and Sarfaraz added 98 runs by the end of Day 1 to ensure Mumbai finished at 237 for 4. The duo would add 43 more runs on Day 2 before Rahane would agonisingly miss out



on a deserved hundred as he was dismissed by Yash Dayal for 97 runs.

Sarfaraz was then joined by Shams Mulani at the crease, but the latter wouldn't last long as he was cleaned up by Mukesh Kumar. This meant that Sarfaraz had to now take charge of things and started to score runs freely. He was joined by Tanush Kotian and the duo scored 58 runs to guide Mumbai to 338 for 6 by lunchtime in Lucknow.

Sarfaraz would hit his 100 in the 92nd over after he survived a close call in the previous one. The Mumbai batter would head into lunch unbeaten on 103 off 155 balls, with 14 boundaries to his name.

Babar Azam resigns as Pakistan captain from limited-overs cricket

KARACHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): Babar Azam has tendered his resignation for the second time as Pakistan's captain with Mohammad Rizwan likely to replace him in limited-overs formats later this month.

Babar released a statement on X around midnight on Wednesday announcing he had informed the Pakistan Cricket Board and team management about his desire to quit sometime last month.

While Babar did not state when he had informed the board and team management about his decision to quit, the 29-year-old said he wanted to focus on his batting while shedding off the workload as a skipper.

"I'm sharing some news with you today. I have decided to resign as captain of the Pakistan men's cricket team, effective as of my notification to the PCB and Team Management last month," Babar wrote.

"It's been an honour to lead this team, but it's time for me to step down and focus on my playing role," he added.

Babar had quit Pakistan captaincy after their dismal show in the ODI World Cup in India 2023 but was reinstated as the skipper in white-ball formats in March this year.

However, his second stint had no change in fortunes for the team and Babar as the leader, as Pakistan performed abysmally in the T20 World Cup in the Americas in June, losing to the US and India and failing to make it to Super Eight stage.

Babar said captaincy had been a "rewarding experience" but also added a "significant workload" for him.

"Captaincy has been a rewarding



experience, but it's added a significant workload. I want to prioritise my performance, enjoy my batting, and spend quality time with my family, which brings me joy," he said.

"By stepping down, I will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth."

"I'm grateful for your unwavering support and belief in me. Your enthusiasm has meant the world to me. I'm proud of what we've achieved together and excited to continue contributing to the team as a player," he added.

Babar was first made the T20 captain in 2019, before taking charge of the Test and ODI teams in 2020.

Babar's resignation adds more to Pakistan's woes as they are set to embark on three away assignments after hosting England for a Test series starting on October 7.

Pakistan will tour Australia for three ODIs and three T20Is in November followed by a tour to Zimbabwe for as many matches later in the month.

Pakistan will then head to South Africa for three T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests in December after which the team will return home for a series against the West Indies and New Zealand. Pakistan are also slated to host the Champions Trophy early next year.

Tim Southee quits New Zealand captaincy ahead of India tour, Latham to take over

AUCKLAND, Oct 2 (Agencies): Tim Southee has stepped down from New Zealand captaincy ahead of the three-Test series against India and Tom Latham has been appointed in the veteran pacer's place.

Southee captained New Zealand in 14 Tests in which the Kiwis won six, lost six and drew two.

"I've always tried to put the team first throughout my career and I believe this decision is the best for the team," said Southee in a New Zealand Cricket statement.

"I believe the way I can best serve the team moving forward is focusing on my performances on the field and getting



back to my best, to continue taking wickets and helping New Zealand win Test matches."

The 35-year-old right-arm pacer has so far played 102 Tests alongside 161 ODIs and 126 T20Is. With 382 wickets, he is the second-highest wicket-taker for the Kiwis after legendary

Richard Hadlee (431).

"I will, as I've always done, continue to support my teammates, especially the exciting young bowlers making their way on the international stage.

"I wish Tom all the best in the role and he knows I'll be there to support him on his jour-

ney, as he has done for me over the years," said Southee.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said Southee took the decision in the best interests of the team.

"Tim's a fantastic player and a very good leader who is held in high regard by the players and support staff."

"He's been a great servant of New Zealand Cricket over nearly 17 years playing on the international stage, and I'd like to acknowledge his humility in stepping down from the role as Test captain.

"It's not easy giving up something you love, but Tim is a true team-man and he's made the decision with the team's best

interests at heart. He's one of our greatest ever players and we still very much see him playing a part in our Test side moving forward."

Southee took over as New Zealand captain after Kane Williamson stepped down from the role in December 2022.

Currently on tour of the subcontinent, New Zealand have played a two-Test series in Sri Lanka while their one-off Test against Afghanistan in Noida was washed out.

New Zealand will take on India in a three-Test series with the first match in Bengaluru from October 16-20, second in Pune from October 24-28 and third in Mumbai from November 1-5.

Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in India to be held next year

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (Agencies): The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup will be held in India next year and will feature 16 men's and women's teams from 24 countries and six continents. Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) made

the announcement on Wednesday. "Kho Kho has its roots in India and this World Cup will highlight the rich cultural heritage and competitive spirit of the sport. Today, the sport that started in the mud and has gone to the mat now has a global pres-



ence with 54 countries playing the sport across the world," KKFI said.

"Our ultimate goal is to see Kho Kho recognised as an Olympic sport by 2032 and this World Cup is the first step towards that dream," said KKFI president Sudhanshu Mittal.

GGM Science College pays tributes to Gandhi, Shastri, Sher-e-Duggar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: GGM Science College, under the supervision and guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, organized a solemn and heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Lala Hans Raj Mahajan (Sher-e-Duggar) on their birth anniversaries.

The event was organized by the NSS volunteers under the supervision of NSS Program Officer Dr. Rahul Kait, in collaboration with Dr. Asha Hussain, Co-Convenor of the Cultural, Seminars, and Debate Committee of the College.

The occasion featured a range of activities including speeches, skits on communal harmony, and a painting competition, highlighting the achievements and contributions of these three



iconic leaders. Students actively participated in the events, paying homage to the values of peace, simplicity, and social reform championed by these historical figures.

Dr. Seema Gandotra convener Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict studies of the College along with other members Dr. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Sunita

Kumari and Prof. Mehnaz Banoo also participated in another function held at GCW Parade Ground Jammu on eve of Gandhi Jyanti which was marked by a special address by LG of J&K Manoj Sinha via online mode.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Gupta while addressing the students in the College emphasized the significance of Mahatma

Gandhi's teachings in uniting society against divisive forces and fostering national integration.

He also reflected on Lal Bahadur Shastri's invaluable contributions to the nation, particularly his dedication to honesty, simplicity, and the Gandhian philosophy, and his famous slogan, "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan." Dr. Gupta also paid

tribute to Lala Hans Raj Mahajan, affectionately known as Sher-e-Duggar, calling him a prominent leader in Jammu's history. He praised Mahajan's lifelong dedication to social reform, his fight against social evils such as dowry, child marriage, and untouchability, and his advocacy for widow remarriage and social justice. Mahajan's efforts to promote Khadi and his role in the Swadeshi movement were also highlighted, along with his significant contributions to education and infrastructure in Jammu, including his role in the establishment of GGM Science College and the construction of the Chenab River Bridge at Akhnour.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving participants inspired by the legacies of these three remarkable leaders.

MSSC Trust celebrates Birth Anniversaries of Lala Hans Raj Mahajan, Gandhi, Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: Neeraj Dewan, President of the Mahajan Sewa Sangh Charitable (MSSC) Trust, along with key members including R.K. Gupta, General Secretary; Advocate Anil Gupta, Cashier cum Secretary; Apurav Gupta, Youth President; Monika Gupta, President of the Women's Wing; and Krishna Gupta, commemorated the birth anniversaries of esteemed leaders Lala Hans Raj Mahajan, Mahatma Gandhi, and Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Trust's Jammu office on Wednesday.

The event celebrated Lala Hans Raj Mahajan ji, a prominent reformer of the Mahajan community and the visionary behind the establishment of the Central Sabha of Mahajans. The attendees reflected on his contributions, which have significantly uplifted the community and fostered unity.

Neeraj Dewan emphasized the importance of these leaders in shaping



India's values and aspirations. "Today, we not only honor the birth anniversaries of these great leaders but also reaffirm our commitment to their ideals of service, unity, and integrity," he stated. "Their legacies continue to inspire us to contribute positively to society."

The gathering also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, and Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister of India. The contributions of these leaders to India's independence and their dedication to the nation were

celebrated with heartfelt speeches and remembrances.

As a gesture of goodwill, the Trust distributed sweets among attendees, fostering a sense of community and joy. The event served as a reminder of the enduring values of compassion, service, and leadership that these figures embodied.

The Mahajan Sewa Sangh Charitable Trust remains dedicated to promoting social welfare and honoring the rich heritage of the Mahajan community.

18th annual Cultural Extravaganza "Rajni" organised by Aryans



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 2: Aryans Group of Colleges, on Wednesday organized its 18th Cultural Extravaganza "Rajni" at Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh. Thousands of students of B.Tech, B. Pharma, Physiotherapy, Paramedical MBA, LL.B, BA-LL.B, BBA, BCA, B.Com, GNM, ANM, B.Sc(Agri), BA, B.Ed, MA(Edu), Diploma etc students participated in various cultural activities.

The function started with Sarswati Vandana as welcome by Pankaj Upadhyay & group. Students showcased their

exuberant performances of various folk dances like rajasthani & Bhojpuri dance by Aman & group, Folk Dance by Charanjeet, Giddha by Khushpreet & group.

The solo dance performance, folk orchestra and folk songs were equally engaging.

Zaheer from Jammu & group performed Dogri dance & exhibited the culture of Jammu & Kashmir. Modeling of North East made the audience to clap repeatedly. Nati by Sachin & Group while Bihari dance by Amit and group made audience to get mesmerized.

Bhangra by Jasgam & Group enthralled the audience with hit Pun-

jabi music and dance. Comedy skit by Ishan & group, Anand & group refreshed the mind and mood of the audience and made them laugh. Modeling by all students sashayed the ramp with different cultural attires.

Dr. Anshu Kataria speaking on the occasion said that Aryans Group has students from all over India who are studying in various courses. The students presented their respective cultures through their dances in the function. He added that besides studies, extra co-curricular activities are equally important. They help in the overall development of the students.

Kaith Biradari hails twin sisters Kanan and Anwsha for achieving excellence in dance

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Kaith Biradari has hailed the twin Kaith sisters: Kanan Kaith and Anwsha Kaith of Delhi Public School Udhampur on achieving excellence in dance competition



organised at Greater Kailash and being awarded the 'India ke Rockstar Season 1 First Prize' by

Feel the Beat.

Kaith Biradari members said, We are extremely with their amazing dance performance and fervently hope to see them reach the sky height.

They also congratulated the Delhi Public School Udhampur and

their parents: Kumari Anmol and Shammi Kumar for this fabulous achievement.

Bhagwat Mahapuram Katha concludes with religious fervour

Top News Report

KOTRANKA, Oct 2: The week-long "Shrimad Bhagwat Tatva Gyan Yagya" (Bhagwat Katha) culminated today at the Irrigation Ground near Shiv Mandir, Kotranka, with great zeal and religious fervor. Devotees from surrounding areas gathered to immerse themselves in the divine stories of Lord Krishna and gain insights into his teachings.

The event began on September 27 and was held under the guidance of His Holiness Atal Pithadishwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj. Swamiji emphasized the transformative power of listening to the Bhagwat Katha, suggesting that it can significantly alter one's life.

During his discourse, Swamiji remarked, "God is in all, but he is also the most different; he is with us every moment." He stressed the importance of truthfulness and the impact of one's expres-

sions on reality. Throughout the Katha, he elaborated on various episodes from Lord Krishna's life, utilizing characters such as Vaman, Sudama, and Kansa to illustrate his teachings.

The Katha included vivid descriptions of significant incidents, such as King Parikshit's curse, the arrival of Guru Sukhdevji, the origin of Brahmaji, and the playful pastimes of Lord Krishna. Swamiji recounted how Krishna granted visions to mother Yasoda and Vasudevji, and narrated the tales of his victories over Putana and Kansa. Other highlights included the pride of the Gopis, Krishna's inner meditation, the Maharaasilla, and the message delivered by Krishna to the Gopis. On the concluding day, a grand langar was organized, where numerous devotees partook in prashad and offered their respects to Swamiji.

The event not only celebrated the teachings of Lord Krishna but also strengthened the bonds of community and devotion among attendees.

GHS Dekri Edu Zone Inderwal celebrates Gandhi Jayanti



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 2: Government High School (GHS) Dekri Edu Zone Inderwal celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with great pomp and show. The event, held to honor the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, featured a series of activities aimed at remembering his teachings and contributions to India's freedom struggle.

The day began with a debate competition on Gandhi's non-violence movement, where students passionately expressed their views on how non-violence shaped India's fight for indepen-

dence. A quiz competition focused on the life journey of Mahatma Gandhi followed, testing the participants' knowledge of his philosophies and milestones. Additionally, a painting competition showcased students' artistic interpretations of Gandhi's contributions to the Indian freedom movement.

In line with Gandhi's vision of a clean and self-reliant nation, a cleanliness drive was conducted. Students and staff participated enthusiastically, promoting the ideals of Swachh Bharat. The event concluded with a pledge on the Nasha Mukta Abhi-

yan, reflecting the school's commitment to a drug-free society.

The winners of the various competitions were felicitated by the school staff, while all participants received certificates of appreciation for their efforts.

Headmaster Joginder Lal delivered the valedictory speech, highlighting Gandhi's lifelong dedication to truth, peace, and non-violence. He urged students to carry forward his legacy by embracing these principles in their lives.

The event was a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, leaving students inspired to follow in his footsteps.

Kusht Mukti Abhiyan organized at Nowshera



Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Oct 2: On the direction of Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director of Health Services Jammu, and Manohar Rana, Chief Medical Officer of Rajouri, the Kusht Mukti Abhiyan was organized on 2nd October 2024. The event was led by Dr. Iqbal Malik, Block Medical Officer of Nowshera, with the participation of ASHA workers to ensure the message reached the grassroots level.

The purpose of this

event was to raise awareness within the community about leprosy, its causes, transmission, signs and symptoms, treatment, prevention, and the social stigma surrounding the disease. The Kusht Mukti Abhiyan was also observed at other health institutions in the Nowshera block.

Various activities were conducted during the event, including a pledge-taking ceremony, awareness campaigns in health institutions, Anganwadi centers, and among the community.

Cleanliness drives were also held in health institutions, with an emphasis on early detection and treatment, which is provided free of cost at all health facilities.

The event concluded with a commitment from the health officials and ASHA workers to continue their efforts towards eradicating leprosy by ensuring early detection and treatment. The Kusht Mukti Abhiyan is a crucial step towards achieving the goal of a leprosy-free India and providing quality healthcare to all.

Nations Development Association celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's 155th Birth Anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 2: The Nations Development Association (NDA), affiliated with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Sushil Singh Charak, Founder, Nations Devel-

opment Association (NDA), the tribute alongside Er. Ashu Kumar, students, and NDA members.

This event commemorates Gandhi Jayanti, celebrating Gandhi's pioneering nonviolence philosophy. The United Nations recognizes this

day as International Day of Non-Violence. NDA's gesture aligns with NYKS's mission to empower rural youth.

Sushil Singh Charak praised Padma Shri S. P. Varma, renowned social worker and peace activist, for promoting Gandhian values.