

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Tourist slips to death while taking selfie at Doodpathri resort

SRINAGAR, Oct 5 (Agencies): A tourist died and another was injured after they slipped while taking selfies at Doodpathri resort in the Khansahib area of central Kashmir Budgam district late last evening.

Quoting a police officer, news agency NVI reported that at least two tourists were injured after they slipped while taking selfies at Doodpathri.

He said the duo was moved to a hospital in Srinagar where one of them was declared dead on arrival.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Malik (70), and the injured person as Naseema Khatoun (55).

Cop dies of heart attack in Poonch

JAMMU, Oct 4 (Agencies): Head constable of Jammu and Kashmir Police posted in Poonch died allegedly after suffering heart attack.

An official said that a head constable identified as Kashmir Singh, resident of Nowshera, Jammu, suffered heart attack today during the morning hours. As per sources, he was posted as a driver and collapsed as he reached the office.

He was immediately shifted to nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

A police official also confirmed about this incident and said a case has been registered in this regard and investigation has been taken up.

Rajouri man injured in bear attack in Kangan, hospitalised

GANDERBAL, Oct 5 (Agencies): A 50-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a bear in Cherwan area of Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the man identified as Manzoor Ahmad Khan son of Ahmad Khan of Rajouri was attacked by a bear in forest area in Cherwan

He said the injured was rushed to SDH Kangan for treatment where from he was referred to SKIMS Soura.

Cong, NC, PDP opposes 'move' to nominate 5 MLAs before govt formation

JAMMU, Oct 5 (Agencies): The Congress, National Conference and PDP on Friday strongly opposed the nomination of five MLAs before the government formation in Jammu and Kashmir, labelling any such move as an assault on democracy and the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

For the first time in J&K, five nominated Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) will have a significant role in forming the new government following a decade-long hiatus. The lieutenant governor (LG) will nominate these members based on the advice of the Home Ministry, according to reports.

This process follows an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which was further revised on July 26, 2023 to introduce



these nominations.

In that case, the J&K assembly will expand to 95 members, increasing the majority threshold to 48 seats to form a government.

"We oppose the nomination of five MLAs by the lieutenant governor before the government formation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Any such a move is an assault on democracy, the people's mandate, and the fundamental principles of the Constitution," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) senior vice president and chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma told reporters here.

Flanked by working president

Raman Bhalla, he expressed disapproval and opposition to fight it tooth and nail.

They emphasised that such attempts highlight the BJP's desperation to manipulate numbers, despite lacking the means to form the government.

"Under the constitutional framework, the lieutenant governor must act upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers. Misusing the provision of nomination to alter majority or minority status post-election would be detrimental," Sharma said.

He said according to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, the LG has the power to nominate five MLAs, including representation from Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)

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Infiltration bid foiled, two terrorists killed along LoC in Kupwara



SRINAGAR, Oct 5 (Agencies): Security forces on Saturday said they killed two infiltrators along LoC in North Kashmir's frontier Kupwara district.

An official that based on intelligence inputs with respect to likely infiltration bids, a Joint Operation was launched by Indian Army & J&K Police on the intervening night of 04-05 Oct 24

at Gugaldhar, Kupwara. Alert troops spotted suspicious activity and challenged, which resulted in terrorists opening indiscriminate fire. Vigilant troops responded with effective fire, which ensued the killing of two infiltrators.

"Two terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces in the ongoing Operation GUGALDHAR.

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Omar Abdullah is 'Mr Confused', likes to spread 'Misleading' information: Tarun Chugh

NEW DELHI, Oct 5 (Agencies): BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday criticised Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC)



Vice President Omar Abdullah, calling him "Mr Confused" for spreading what he termed as "misleading" information.

"Omar Abdullah is always in a state of con-

fusion and continues to mislead the public with false narratives," Chugh said.

This statement came in response to Abdullah's recent claim that

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J&K | NIA raids at Baramulla linked to JeM terror outfit

BARAMULLA, Oct 5 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is conducting searches at multiple locations across India including at Baramulla

district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Officials said that NIA is carrying out searches at 22 locations in 5 states including J&K, Maharashtra, UP,

Assam and Delhi. They said the case is related to activities of Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfit.

NIA teams have conducted searches since this morning in

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Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava takes Commando of Srinagar-Based Chinar Corps



SRINAGAR, Oct 5 (Agencies): Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava on Saturday assumed command of the strategically impor-

tant Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, which manages the country's border with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, besides fighting terror-

ists in the Valley.

Lt Gen Srivastava took charge from Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who will assume command as the director general of military operations at the Army headquarters.

The change in command comes shortly after the completion of the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir held after a gap of 10 years.

Following the assumption of command, Lt Gen

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"Will never go with BJP," says Farooq Abdullah ahead of Election results

SRINAGAR, Oct 5 (Agencies): National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said that the party will never forge an alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.



that any party that will side with BJP will get

vanished in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that there was no question of forging an alliance with BJP, saying that the vote in favour of NC was against the BJP.

"We cannot expect anything, but let the results be declared and

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DroneAcharya FPV drones set high altitude, top speed record in Ladakh



LEH, Oct 5 (Agen-

cies): The DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations, which has supplied First-Person View drones to the Indian Army, has reached a major milestone by setting a top speed and new benchmark of flying at an altitude of over 17,000 feet, one of the highest ever

recorded in Ladakh.

Unparalleled in the 7-10-inch category, DroneAcharya's First-Person View (FPV) drones also achieved a top speed of 129 km per hour, far exceeding the required minimum of 60 km per hour, and covered a range of 6.39 km.

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Bimla Hangshoo** W/o Tej Krishan Hangshoo of Sangrampora Sopore on 03-10-2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 12-10-2024, 08:30 hrs at Muthi Ghat near Dir. School Education A/p H No. 102 Ambika Vihar Gole Gujral Camp near PHC Talab Tillo Jammu.

Grief Stricken :
Tej Krishan Hangshoo (Husband) - 9419210890, 9796062628 (Brother & Bhabhi)
Smt Sunita & Sanjay Hangshoo - 9419206730, 9149607885
Daughter & Son in law
Smt Kanchan & Sunil Ji Bhat - 9906356219
Sister & Brother in law
Smt Bimla & S K Bhat (Lalad) - 9419220100
Smt Sharma Koul - 9990296723
Smt Sunita & P J Bhat - 8492094581
Smt Lovely & M K Pandta - 9419157873
Grand Child: Nidhaan



Smt Bimla Hangshoo

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, Kurjwani 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. Parpalini Chaku & Lt. Sh. Ashok Chaku
Mrs. Meenakshi & Kanwal Chaku
Mrs. Jyoti & Sunil Chaku
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Mrs. Reeta & Sunil Kaul
Mrs. Asha & Rakesh Tickoo
Grand Children: Vasundra, Malvika, Mrinali, Ayush, Adityaom, Anmol, Anuj & Anav
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)

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma** S/o Lt. Om Prakash Sharma R/o H.No. 10, Sector 3, Sanjay Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 5th October, 2024 (Saturday) at 11.30 am at our residence.

Kriya will be performed at our residence at 1.00 pm on 6th October (Sunday).

DEEPLY LOVED AND MISSED BY :
Sharma Family
Mob. : 7006540638, 9419181825



Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma (Retd) Sr. Manager Allahabad Bank

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we wish to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **S. Sohan Singh (Retd from Army)** S/o S. Lachman Singh R/o 386/4 Govindpura, Chatha on 27-09-2024.

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on Sunday 6th of October, 2024 at 9:30 am at our residence 386/4, Govindpura, Chatha.

Antim Ardas will be held at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Panchayat Govindpura Chatha on 6-10-2024 from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law
S. Gagandeep Singh and Sdn. Gurbinder Kour (Jammu University)
Late S. Mohan Singh (Brother)
Late S. Jeevi Singh (Brother)
Daughter and Son-in-law
Sdn. Tejinder Kour and S. Anmol Singh
Sdn. Amarjeet Kour and Davinder Singh
Mobile No. 9419104360, 9797592580



S. SOHAN SINGH (RTD FROM ARMY)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Kamla Gupta** W/o Late Mehta Bansi Lal Gupta (Master Ji) who left for heavenly abode on 26-09-2024.

10TH DAY of our beloved Mother Late Smt Kamla Gupta will be performed on 5th Oct 2024 at 10.30 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 8th Oct 2024 at 11.30 AM both at our residence 247-A Kachi Chowki (Gali Tanga Wali)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Raju Mehta-Son
Sh. Sandeep Mehta-Son
Daughters & Sons in Law
Ramni Gupta & Kulbushan Gupta
Anita, Vijay Sonia
MOBILE NO. 9419104259, 7889597516, 9682369073



SMT KAMLA GUPTA

SHADMOS

Six months have passed without your physical presence but your warm presence in our mind & heart will never evade.

Shadmos of our beloved mother **Late Omashori Bhat** w/o Late Nath Ji Bhat R/o Ladhoo Pampore will be performed on 6th of October at our Anuradhapuram Residence, Barnai.

Remembered by whole Bhat Pariwar of Ladhoo.



Late Omashori Bhat

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sheela Bhat** W/o Sh. Daya Krishan Bhat originally resident of Chinkral Mohalla, HabbaKadal, Srinagar, presently at 12/3, Sector 1, K.B Nagar, Bantalab, Jammu on 2nd of October, 2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 11th of October, 2024 (Friday) at 9am Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh. Daya Krishan Bhat (Husband)
Smt. Janak Rani (Jethani)
Smt. Pushpa Rani (Nanand)
Smt. Uma Tickoo (Sister)
Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat, Smt. Vijanti Koul (Son & Daughter in law)
Sh. Bushan Lal Bhat, Smt. Nimmi Pandita (Son & Daughter in Law)
Sh. Deepak Raj, Smt. Bharti Bhat (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Sh. Ajay Bhan, Smt. Jyoti Tickoo (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Sh. Sahil Bali & Nupur Bhat (Grand Son-in-Law & Grand Daughter)
Grand Children: Akhil, Satyarth, Devanshi and Dhruvika
Contact: 7006366320, 7006416918, 9070812356, 9419107579
And Samast Parivaar, Bhat's, Bhans, Tickoos, Kouls, Sharabis, Panditas, Balis and Dhars.



SMT. SHEELA BHAT

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bipul Kohli** S/o Lt. Sh. Shashi Kohli R/o 106-A, Ramvihar, Old Janipur, Jammu and Khelani Doda on 27/9/2024.

Tenth Day shall be performed on 8/10/2024 (Sunday) at Community Hall, Opp. India Public School, Janipur, Jammu from 11.00 am.

Kriya / Uthala on 9/10/2024 (Wednesday) at Shiv Mandir, Janipur Colony, Opp. Govt. Qtr. from 12.00 Noon and Uthala from 4.00 to 5.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Asha Kohli W/o Lt. Sh. Shashi Kohli (Mother)
Smt. Neha Kohli (Wife)
Smt. Anjali Kohli & Atul Kohli (Bhalya & Bhabhi)
Smt. Shivani Suri & Rahul Suri (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Aarav Kohli (Son) & Vanika Kohli (Daughter)
Note : Tenth Day / Kriya of Late Smt. Kamla Kohli Grand Mother of Bipul Kohli shall also be performed on same date and Venue.



Bipul Kohli

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Kanta Devi Bhan** W/o Lt. Sh. MOHAN LAL BHAN originally resident of Salspora Srinagar at present Jagti Block 168 Flat 16 Lane 25. We are **MOURNING** at Community Hall, lane no 4, Near Block 14 Back Side Jagti Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 01 Oct 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 10 Oct 2024 Thursday, Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education at 8 AM onwards.

Assembly at 10 AM Community Hall lane no 4 Near Block 14 Back Side Jagti Nagrota.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Reeta Bhan (DAUGHTER IN LAW)
(GRAND SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
Hannah Bhan & Poja Bhan
(DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW)
Mrs Kiran Koul & Mr Anil Koul
Mrs Champo & Mr Bilu J Rana
Mrs Neelu Bhat & Mr Raj Nath Bhat
GRANDCHILDREN: Jyoti, Pooish, Vansha, Mohit, Sai, Gungun



SMT KANTA DEVI BHAN

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Bhan, Koul, Rana and Bhat Parivars
CONTACT NO: 962222951, 7006740075

SHADMOS/ VAHARVAR

A year has passed since you left us, yet not a single day goes by without your presence in our hearts. Your wisdom, love & kindness continue to guide us through our lives. Though you are no longer with us, your spirit continues to live in our cherished memories. May Almighty bestow peace to the noble departed soul.

SHADMOS & VAHARVAR of our beloved Gudiji, **Smt. Premlata Kaushik (Manwati)** D/o Late Sh. Jagannath Manwati of 82 - Gund Ahalmar, Nai Sadak, Srinagar (Kashmir) presently R/o H.No.2139, Thandapadder, Udampur will be performed on 6th/7th October, 2024 at Sharda Sadan, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

GRIEF STRICKEN
PRADEEP KAUSHIK MOBILE: 9419205338
KAUSHIKS, MANWATIS & ALL NEARS & DEARS.



Late Smt. Premlata Kaushik (Manwati) (Gud Sab) 04.08.1948-18-10.2023

10TH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you all the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Sukhdev Singh** S/o Late Th. Amar Singh original resident of Mirhama, Kulgam presently residing at H. No. 433/2 Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 3rd October Thursday at 11 AM at their residence.

13th Day / KRIYA will be performed on 6th October Sunday 2024 at 12 Noon at their residence

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Pushpa Devi - Wife
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Balbir Singh & Anju Mankotiya,
Dilawer Singh & Sandhya Devi
Zorawar Singh & Mala Mankotiya
Daughters & Son-in-Laws
Susheela Devi W/o Late Sh. Ashok Singh
Jyoti Devi & Sohan Singh
Alka Jamwal & Sunil Singh
Grand Children: Youdhvir Singh, Vanshvir Singh, Chaitanya, Vidushi, Ranvir Singh, Divya Drishti, Shamsher Singh, Shivraj Singh, Shivani, Yashwardan Singh, Ridhi, Sidhi, Pihu and Divyansh,
Contact : 9682119109, 9149909004, 9419650350



SH. SUKHDEV SINGH MANKOTIYA (1938-2024)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that sad demise of our beloved sister **Smt. Leela Devi** W/o Sh. Sham Lal R/o Channi Rama near Police Line Jmu, who left for heavenly abode on 2-10-2024 (Wednesday).

Fifth Day will be performed on 6-10-2024 at 11 AM at Mohalla Lakhnotra Lane No.2, Bantalab, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Brother & Bhabhi
Sh. Mir Chand Lakhnotra & Smt. Shreshtha Devi
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Lt. Smt. Shakuntla Devi W/o Sh. Anant Ram
Smt. Lajwanti & Lt. Sh. Behari Lal
Smt. Raj Rani & Sh. Jagan Nath
Smt. Babli Devi & Sh. Surinder Kumar
From: All Lakhnotra Family
M.No: 9419141621, 9682342481, 9622227642



SMT. LEELA DEVI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Our beloved and revered mother **Smt. Phoola Bhat** W/o Late Sh. Brij Nath Bhat, originally resident of Adina, Magam (Kashmir), at present Lane No. 26, H.No. 13/C-II, Bhawani Nagar Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 28th September, 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 7th October, 2024 (Monday) at 8.30 AM at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Muthi, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

Ravinder Bhat & Manju Bhat -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sushil Bhat & Jolly Bhat -Son & Daughter-in-law
Aryan, Vgyat & Krishi -Grand Children
Samast Bhat Parivar, Panditas, Pahalwans, Tickoos, Ganjoos, Lidhus
Mob: 9419874914; 7006112663; 9006388842



SMT. PHOOLA BHAT

TENTH DAY

We deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved and revered mother **Smt. Gulshan Kanotra** W/o Lt. Sh. Raj Kumar Kanotra, R/o House No. 169, Sector-4, Channi Himmat Colony, Jammu. She left for heavenly abode on 27/9/2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 6/10/2024 from 11 am to 12 Noon at her residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son and Daughter-in-law
Smt. Romika and Sh. Sanjay Kanotra
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Smt. Seema and Sh. Naresh Kochhar
Smt. Shama and Sh. Sanjay Kapoor
Grand Children: Madhav Kapoor, Rya Kapoor
Contact: 9419140361, 9419317002



Smt. Gulshan Kanotra

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 Do. Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Razdan, originally from Salla, Anantnag, who left for her heavenly abode on 28th 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, Palam 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:

Sunil Krishna and Latta Handoo- Son and Daughter in law
Premdhan Krishna and Dulal Handoo- Son and Daughter in law
Abhinav Handoo W/o Lt. Subash Handoo- Daughter in law
Renu and P.L. Bhat - Daughter and Son in law
Grand Children
Admanu, Suneet, Meenakshi, Anuj Ji, Vishal, Sakshi, Sachin, Shaurya, Shrut, Suman & Gupta
Arunita, Anshu, Myra- Great Grandchildren
and the entire HANDOO, BHAT, RAZDAN, RAJIA families, relatives, friends and well-wishers.



Smt. Mohan Rani (Aaji)

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Advisor Dr Kotwal chairs meeting to discuss establishment of Zanskar, Drass Winter Sports Academy

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 5: The Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting to discuss the establishment of the Zanskar and Drass Winter Sports Academy in Conference Room at Civil Secretariat, Leh.

Pradhuman Pathak from Ronmas (India) Private Limited delivered a detailed presentation during the meeting, outlining the key agenda of the project for the Zanskar and Drass Winter Sports Academy including the introduction and vision for the projects; Project sites and alignments in Drass and Zanskar; Project facilities; Sustainable strategies; Utilities required; Preliminary budget and approvals required.

The project is designed to promote winter sports, foster local talent, and transform the region into a global hub for adventure tourism.

To promote winter sports in the region, the Advisor has instructed the relevant authorities to establish a committee



of experts. This committee tasked with carefully reviewing and examining the "concept notes" related to the proposed Winter Sports Academies in Zanskar and Drass.

The committee of experts will evaluate the viability, infrastructure, and potential of the proposed Winter Sports Academies to ensure that they meet the project's goals. Their assessment will focus on aligning the academies with the broader vision of promoting winter sports; fostering local talent and positioning the region as a global adventure tourism destination.

The Advisor directed the concerned authorities to collaborate with the

Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM), Gulmarg, in setting up the Winter Sports Academies in Drass and Zanskar. He emphasized that the Ministry of Tourism has already sanctioned an IISM branch in Kargil, and the IISM would leverage its expertise to prepare a detailed proposal for the development of the academies.

The Advisor stressed the importance of securing full approval and ensuring adequate funding to drive these projects forward.

The proposed Winter Sports Academies in Zanskar and Drass aim to significantly enhance training facilities, nurture local talent, and

boost sports tourism in the region. These academies will focus on winter sports, particularly skiing, and will be equipped with specialized infrastructure such as chairlifts, ropeway chairlifts, ropeways, and ski drag lifts.

These facilities are designed to improve accessibility to ski slopes, offer professional-level training, and make the region a more attractive destination for winter sports enthusiasts.

The Winter Sports Academies in Zanskar and Drass are designed to provide year-round opportunity for youth development, focusing on improving sports infrastructure and contributing to the local economy.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled to be held after ten days, where the relevant stakeholders will reconvene to further deliberate on the project's progress, address any challenges, and refine the next steps toward implementation.

The Winter Sports Academy project in Zanskar and Drass will operate under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism, with both approval and funding provided by the Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretary, YSS, UT Ladakh, Vikram Singh Malik; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Srikanth Balasubrahmanyam; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Zanskar; Chief Engineer, PWD, UT Ladakh; Superintending Engineer, PWD, Kargil; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Drass; Executive Engineer, PWD, Kargil; Executive Engineer, PWD, Zanskar; District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kargil. The officials stationed outside attended the meeting virtually.

Chairman LAHDC visits newly appointed DGP SD Singh Jamwal

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 5: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsong; Executive Councillor for Rural Development, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Culture, Stanzin Chosphele; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, made a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Director General of Police (DGP) for Ladakh, Dr. Shiv Darshan Singh Jamwal.

CEC congratulated Dr. Jamwal on his recent promotion, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India order No. 15041/03/2023-UTS-I dated September 30, 2024, which officially redesignated him from Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) to DGP of Ladakh.

CEC Gyalsong commended the proactive role of the Ladakh Police, particularly in their efforts to provide employment opportunities within the



department, highlighting their significant contributions to the community's safety and well-being. CEC further extended best wishes to DGP for his leadership as he guides the Ladakh Police in maintaining peace and security in the region. The delegation also

took the opportunity to recognize the contributions of outgoing Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sheikh Junaid Mehmood for his successful tenure in Ladakh. They wished him well in his future endeavors at his new posting in Jammu and Kashmir.

NC welcomes India's Foreign Minister visit to Pakistan for SCO Summit

Rattan Lal terms visit as crucial step towards Dialogue & Peace between two countries

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has warmly welcomed the announcement of India's Foreign Minister's upcoming visit to Pakistan on October 15 & 16, to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

In a statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC, expressed hope that this visit will serve as a crucial step towards the long-awaited restoration of dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The senior NC leader recalled the words of late former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji who had famously said, "We can change



our friends but we cannot change our neighbors." He emphasized that a stable and peaceful relationship between India and Pakistan is essential not only for the progress of both nations but also for the overall stability of the state.

He further added, "This visit aligns with the vision of our Party President, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who has consistently advocated for meaningful dialogue between the two countries as the only way forward to resolve long-standing issues, particularly those

affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Rattan Lal Gupta expressed hope that this diplomatic engagement could pave the way for renewed talks, which would address critical issues and foster an atmosphere of cooperation and peace in the state. He reiterated the Party's long-held belief that dialogue, not conflict, is the key to resolving differences and promoting harmony between India and Pakistan.

"As we welcome this important diplomatic step, we remain hopeful that this visit will mark the beginning of a new chapter in the relations between the two countries, ultimately benefiting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been yearning for peace and prosperity," he added.

Army empowers youth in Pir Panjal Region at Peda Gali

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Oct 5: The Indian Army has launched an impactful two-week training initiative aimed at preparing youth from the southern Pir Panjal region at Peda Gali, Rajouri for recruitment into the defense forces through the Agnipath scheme.

This program is part of a broader effort to provide employment opportunities and instill valuable skills among young individuals in remote areas, particularly amidst rising concerns over youth unemployment.

The Agniveer scheme, a government initiative, allows individuals aged 17 to 21 to serve in the armed forces for a limited tenure of four years.

After this period, they can choose to either extend their service or transition to civilian life, armed with the skills and experience gained during their military training.

This flexibility is designed to attract a diverse pool of candidates, ensuring that the Indian Army can benefit from the energy and perspectives of the youth.

The training program includes rigorous physical fitness sessions, basic military drills, and team-building activities, all tailored to enhance the participants' readiness for military service.

Conducted in collaboration with local educational institutions, the initiative aims to ensure that training is accessible and relevant to the youth of the Pir Panjal region.

Engagement with community leaders and educators has also been a critical component, fostering an environment that encourages local youth to participate. In addition to military preparation, this initiative seeks to cultivate important life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and resilience. These competencies are not only valuable within the context of military service but also enhance employability in various civilian sectors after service completion. By focusing on holistic development, the training program aims to equip participants with a well-rounded skill set that prepares them for the challenges of both military and civilian careers.

Retired employee of J&K Waqf Board wait for release of pension

SRINAGAR, Oct 5 (Agencies): As Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court next week is set to hear the case of 40 former Waqf Board employees who have been denied pension by the board, the retired employees said that authorities are yet to release their pension.

This after, the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh high court in August order had asked authorities to "consider the processing of case of the petitioners for grant of pension on the analogy of similarly situated employees."

In August, Justice Sanjay Dhar, after hearing a petition that 40 employees had issued notices to commissioner secretary revenue, chairperson and chief executive officer of J&K Waqf Board.

The former employees had said that employees who retired after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Darakshan Andrabi was appointed chairperson in March 2022 are not receiving their pensions.

On Saturday, one of the retired employees said that they continue to wait for the pension and they

have been made to suffer for no reasons.

"We were hopeful that board authorities will start approving the cases of the employees. But, over a month has passed and nothing has happened. We continue to wait for it," the employee said.

Another employee said that their families are suffering and no one is ready to listen to them. "In absence of any pension now, it has become difficult for everyone to feed their families," he said.

Chief Executive Officer, J&K Waqf Board Zaheer Ahmed Kalifi, said the issue of the retired employees has been addressed and it may take some more days.

"The issue has been resolved, the retired

employees may have to wait for some more days," he said.

The petitioners in the court had pleaded that the Supreme court has laid down that the right to pension is a right to property guaranteed under Constitution and infringement of the same amounts to violation of human rights.

"The petitioners in order to vindicate their grievances submitted detailed representation, however, the said representation has also not been disposed of in accordance with law as a result thereof the petitioners' rights guaranteed under Article 14, 21 & 300-A of the Constitution have also been infringed," the petition read.

The court is all set to hear the case on Monday.

Soldier shoots self dead in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Oct 5 (Agencies): An army personnel allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. Uttarakhand native Sepoy Manish Bisht was

on sentry duty at a post in Behrote in Balakote sector when he took the extreme step, the officials said.

They said police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the cause behind his taking such a step.

Under Amrit Kaal, mega exhibition "Rise in Jammu and Kashmir 2024" held in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: On the final day of the exhibition, there was tremendous enthusiasm among the people. Over 10,000 students from more than 60 educational departments of Central and state government names of few are- DRDO, ISRO, CWC, MOES, NHPC, ICAR, ICMR, APEDA, GSI, CSIR, COIR BOARD, NIB and many more along with city residents, visited the exhibition and praised the various stalls showcasing the state's achievements.

Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana and GSI Deputy Director General PS Mishra also reviewed the exhibition. On the closing day, everyone shared their thoughts, emphasizing the need for such exhibitions to be regularly organized in Jammu. Certificates were distributed, and the event saw the participation of around 10,000 youth.

It was expressed that Jammu's youth should take full advantage of such exhibitions. It is indeed fortunate that through the efforts of MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, such an exhibition was organized in Jammu, greatly benefiting the youth.

The stall of DRDO was declared the winner of the exhibition, with the second place awarded to the Geological Survey of India and the third to Power Grid Corporation. The exhibition was organized by Tarmeh Events, Delhi. The organization's directors, Tarun Jain and Mehak Jain, were present at the event.

Kalki Movement submits memorandum to DC Jammu on Bovine Transportation Regulations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: The Kalki Movement has submitted a detailed memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, advocating for stricter regulations on the transportation of bovines. The memorandum highlights several loopholes in the current system that are being exploited by offenders, contributing to a rise in bovine smuggling incidents.

Among the key proposals outlined in the memorandum is the need to revamp the permission process for transporting bovines. The movement suggests implementing a more stringent application procedure that requires applicants to provide a photograph of the bovines, a specific transport route, a defined period of validity, and a character certificate issued by the local police station. This comprehensive approach aims to enhance accountability in the transportation process.

Additionally, the Kalki Movement proposes the introduction of a digital tracking system. This would involve a unique tagging system that displays the credentials of individuals transporting bovines, along with the authorized route and duration of transportation. Such measures would facilitate easier verification and monitoring by law enforcement agencies, thereby improving oversight.

Furthermore, the movement demands stricter penalties for repeat offenders involved in bovine smuggling. They argue that habitual offenders should be denied character certificates and face harsher penalties to deter unlawful activities. This approach aims to strengthen the enforcement of existing laws and discourage violations.



The Deputy Commissioner of Jammu assured the Kalki Movement that their recommendations would be taken seriously. The matter has been delegated to Additional DC (Law and Order) Ms.

Ansuya Jamwal, who will work with the relevant authorities to implement necessary changes. Specific instructions have also been issued to the Animal Husbandry Department and law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance and curb incidents of smuggling.

During the submission of the memorandum, prominent members of the Kalki Movement, including Pritam Sharma Ji, Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Sanjeev Dubey, and others, discussed the issues in detail. They emphasized the urgent need for effective action to combat bovine smuggling. The Kalki Movement remains hopeful that these suggestions will lead to significant improvements in the enforcement of existing regulations and contribute to curbing bovine smuggling in the region.

EDITORIAL

National Mission
on Edible Oils

The National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) is a strategic initiative launched by the Government of India aimed at enhancing domestic production of edible oils. With India being one of the largest consumers of edible oils globally, the mission seeks to reduce the dependency on imports, ensuring food security and promoting self-sufficiency in oil production.

India's edible oil imports have been a significant concern for the economy. In the financial year 2020-21, the country imported around 14 million tonnes of edible oils, which accounted for over 60% of its total consumption. The heavy reliance on imports not only strains foreign exchange reserves but also exposes the economy to volatile global oil prices. The NMEO is a response to these challenges, aiming to make India self-reliant in edible oil production and reduce the import burden.

The mission aims to enhance the production of oilseeds through improved agricultural practices, the introduction of high-yielding varieties, and better irrigation techniques.

A significant focus is on R&D to develop improved varieties of oilseeds, pest-resistant crops, and advanced farming techniques.

The mission seeks to provide adequate support to farmers through subsidies, training, and financial assistance, encouraging them to cultivate oilseeds.

The NMEO promotes an integrated approach to agriculture, linking oilseed production with allied sectors like dairy, poultry, and fisheries to optimize resource use.

The mission also aims to improve the oilseed processing industry, ensuring that the produce is efficiently converted into edible oils.

The government has allocated significant financial resources to support the cultivation of oilseeds. This includes direct benefits to farmers, incentives for production, and funding for research initiatives.

The mission emphasizes the need for awareness campaigns to educate farmers about the benefits of cultivating oilseeds. Training programs will focus on best practices in farming, pest management, and post-harvest handling.

The success of the NMEO depends on collaboration with state governments, which play a crucial role in agricultural policy and implementation. States will be encouraged to adopt tailored strategies based on local conditions.

The mission encourages collaboration between the government and private sector players. PPPs can enhance investment in the oilseed sector, bringing in technology and expertise.

A robust monitoring mechanism will be established to evaluate the progress of the mission. Regular assessments will help identify challenges and facilitate timely interventions.

By boosting domestic production, India aims to significantly reduce its reliance on imported edible oils, thereby strengthening its economy.

By providing support and enhancing oilseed cultivation, the mission will help increase the income of farmers, improving their livelihoods and economic stability.

The focus on improved agricultural practices will promote sustainable farming, reducing the environmental impact associated with oilseed production.

Ensuring a steady and sufficient supply of edible oils will contribute to overall food security in the country.

The expansion of the oilseed sector will create job opportunities in farming, processing, and distribution, contributing to economic growth.

The National Mission on Edible Oils represents a significant step towards achieving self-sufficiency in edible oil production in India. By focusing on boosting domestic production, supporting farmers, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, the mission not only aims to reduce import dependence but also strives to enhance the livelihoods of millions of farmers. As the initiative unfolds, it will play a crucial role in shaping the future of India's agricultural landscape and ensuring food security for its growing population.

J&K elections: "All is well that ends well."

By Omkar Dattatray

They say well begun is half done and "All is well that ends well." Both the old adages fit well with the crucial and historical Assembly elections of J&K. But at last the adage of all is well that ends well neutralizes the adage of well begun is half done as the assembly polls ended on a welcome, positive and encouraging note which shows that democracy has once again triumphed in this part of the country. The voting percentage eclipsed the voter turnouts of the first two phases of the polls as in the third and last phase of JK polls the voter turnout was more than 68.50 percent which is significant by every standard and surpassed the vote percentage of even the recently held Lok Sabha polls. The significant voter turnout in the third and last phase of elections surprised the poll pundits and they were taken unawares and there is a mood of jubilation and satisfaction not only among the people of the Himalayan region, but it is a matter of pride for whole country as well because the crown of India which Jammu and Kashmir has overwhelmingly and significantly vote this time and proved beyond doubt that at last democracy triumphed as the people of JK UT have voted for the formation of a democratic, peoples and popular government which will care for the people and will sincerely work for addressing the mundane issues of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a matter of satisfaction and pride that all the three phases of JK elections passed peacefully and violence free elections is significant because the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is on its last leg, but has not died down completely as yet. It is particularly significant that elections passed on peacefully and not a single life was lost in these elections. The peaceful conduct of polls is a feather in the cap of the election commission of India and on the UT's electoral administration. It also reflects the faith, trust and confidence of JK people in the democracy of the country and the unprecedented

and larger participation in the elections this time shows the peoples resolve to see democracy thriving in this part of India. The ever larger participation and peaceful culmination of assembly elections symbolize that the by and large people of the UT are for change and democracy. The historical polls which have taken place after a long gap of 10 years and also first since 1887 assembly polls signify a significant change in the attitude of the people and their faith in the resilience of democracy. This election has been held totally in a free and fair manner since the assembly elections of 1987 and thus the outcome of this election will be based on truth and so the peoples verdict will reflect the true aspirations of the gullible voters of the Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve commendation and pat at their back for the peaceful and successful culminations of the crucial polls because after all it is the people of the UT who participated in the elections in large numbers and also cooperated with the ECI and UT electoral authority to make this democratic exercise successful. The eyes of the international community were set on these elections and the foreign dignitaries have personally watched the conduct of assembly polls and have conveyed their approval of the sanctity of these elections and have praised Indian democracy and its vibrant character. Whichever and whatever government comes to power after the counting of votes on October 8, should build on the mass participation of the voters and try to end militancy and also to attend to address the important issues of the people besides fulfilling the promise made in election manifesto. The potential government which in all certainty will be a coalition arrangement should try to build Naya Jammu and Kashmir and wiped the tears from the eyes of alienated people of J&K, and also try to perform and deliver to the best of its capacity so that people will no longer feel ditched and deceived any more as in the past those elected to power have disregarded the electorate after coming to power. This should not be allowed to

happen and continue again in Jammu and Kashmir as the people have voted for change, development and end of the political vacuum and uncertainty. Those elected to power should come up to the expectations of the people who voted them to power and they should not consider themselves as kings and princes as the monarchy and autocracy has long age ceased and had paved way for democracy. The rulers should realize that people in a democracy are supreme and it is they who can make or mar a government and keeping this in mind that people are the masters and real sovereigns in a democracy should try to satisfy the people who elected them to corridors of power. This crucial election has empowered different sections of the J&K society. For the first time since the independence of the country and electoral democracy, the West Pakistan Refugees and Valmiki Samaj community have voted and as such a long demand of these communities has been fulfilled and they have said that it is really such emotion which cannot be expressed in words. Similarly people residing very near at the line of actual control and also those living near international border have voted in large numbers. Another significant and noteworthy thing about this poll is that people residing in villages have participated in large numbers in voting as compared to urban people. Besides it has come to fore that people this time have voted for change, development and for empowering themselves so that the fruits of democracy and development reaches not only to them but to the last man in queue. People of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected violence and gun culture which in fact was alien to their culture and thus ballot has defeated bullet and it is no ordinary thing but is significant feature of the current elections which have just culminated successfully and peacefully. The fact that in the third and final phase of polls, long queues of voters were seen waiting in front of the polling booths and this is diversion from the past practices in JK elections and this election is significant in more than one way. It is no less than

an important political development and change from past practice that in north Kashmir such as Sopore, Baramulla and Kupwara which were known for poll boycott in the past three decades, this time witnessed a overwhelming rush of the voters is a significant and positive development. The people of north Kashmir have also voted in big numbers for change and development and employment. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election has in fact been a spectacle of what democracy means. The electors of Jammu and Kashmir have broken all previous records as they have registered a significant and unprecedented voter turnout which points towards the fact that the voters have voted in large numbers and vouched and approved democracy and Modi's policies of developmental politics away from the negative politics of pseudo secularist congress and other such parties. There is significant deepening of democracy in J&K because of this assembly election is opined and observed by Rajiv Kumar chief election commissioner. The fact is that people, this time have voted for Naya Jammu and Kashmir and now it is in the court of New Delhi and the new potential government to implement the vision of Naya Jammu and Kashmir and balm the hurt feelings and bruised wounds of the people here. In short it can be appropriately stated that the last and the third phase of JK polls has ended on a happy and positive note and so it can be opined that "All is well that ends well." This election will be written in golden letters in the electoral history of Jammu and Kashmir. Salute to the sagacious voters of Jammu and Kashmir who have seized the momentous opportunity to vote in large numbers to give themselves a democratic and popular government which will care for the people.

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

Social media is making us less social

By: Vijay GarG

While social media allows our society to interact virtually with one another, the idea that social media makes us "social" is deceptive, as it does quite the opposite.

The wave of anti-socialness that hit this generation is due to a sharp decline in people interacting in person. Communicating in the virtual world gradually replaced face-to-face conversation. It seems more convenient to send someone a text, rather than call or find time to meet them in person.

The problem with digital communication isn't just reading words sent on a screen. A large portion of interaction comes from what is not said in non-verbal clues and body language. These include hand gestures, faces made or posture throughout a conversation. Without being able to see one another, we don't know the full extent of what someone is trying to say.

When you lose body language, tone and non-verbal cues, misunderstandings and conflicts are much more

prone to happen. Overtime, we lose our ability to detect these communication patterns or their value. By only understanding a fraction of an interaction, social media makes us increasingly less social.

Additionally, the lack of genuine and full interactions over social media has significantly increased loneliness. While we can technically interact with others via social media at any time of the day, that doesn't replace the emotional gratification that in-person interactions possess. It was found that people who spend time on social media double the chances of feeling socially isolated from their peers. This isolation tends to push people back to social media to make friends since it doesn't involve the unfamiliarity of face-to-face interactions. It's a vicious cycle of isolation.

Loneliness is mentally draining, contributing to mental health illnesses like anxiety and depression. But, loneliness can also cause serious physical repercussions. These include heart disease, high blood pressure and weakened immune systems. These physical and mental

problems that ensue from social media make this generation that much less social with one another as they face these detrimental consequences.

Social media creates the assumption that we have these meaningful connections when we get followers that like and comment on our posts, but this is not remotely the same as having a genuine relationship with someone.

Many people are quick to brag about their large community of supporters on social media of whom generate uninterrupted attention. At the end of the day, though, lots of these people don't have close to the same amount of people cheering them on in their personal life.

Just because someone will comment on every picture you post, doesn't mean you talk to them or have a genuine connection with them at all. This is backed up by studies showing that people who spend more time on social media don't have as many close relationships in their lives and have even lower levels of social support.

Social media still brings about countless benefits

for its users, and that's not to be discounted. People across the globe are now able to interact with one another, which can help keep long-distance relationships and friendships alive. Social media also gives its users a platform to speak up for a variety of causes, bringing awareness to countless issues. However, social skills outside the online world are practically nonexistent, which remains a major pitfall in social media.

Overall, our need for social interaction has seemingly been filled by social media, but the reality is much more complex. Social media has made people less social by limiting the need for face-to-face interaction, honest dialogues and meaningful connections. While we cannot change social media, we can acknowledge these downfalls and work to build and maintain meaningful relationships without social media.

(Vijay GarG Retired
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DPS Junior Kathua celebrates World Animal Welfare Day with participation from UKG students

Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 5: On the occasion of World Animal Welfare Day, the young learners of Class UKG at Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua, participated in a heartwarming and educational event aimed at raising awareness about animal care and protection. The event, guided by the dedicated teachers Mrs. Anu Bala, Mrs. Sonam Gupta, Mrs. Anu Jasrotia, and Ms. Rabita, showcased the children's enthusiasm, creativity, and empathy as they took part in a special activity designed to instill compassion towards animals.

Each student was assigned an animal character, and with remarkable confidence, they delivered three to four lines about their respective animals. This engaging activity not only helped them learn about different species but also provided an opportunity to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. To make the event



even more interactive and enjoyable, the teachers encouraged the students to mimic the sounds of their assigned animals. This playful approach made learning fun while also driving home important lessons about animal care and welfare.

The presence of Monika Singh, the School In-charge, added further significance to the event. In her address to the gathering, Singh emphasized the importance of educating children about kindness and compassion towards animals, especially on a day dedi-

cated to their welfare. She spoke passionately about the role of such activities in shaping the moral foundation of young minds, instilling values of responsibility and empathy. Singh also took the opportunity to express her heartfelt gratitude to the parents for their unwavering support and involvement, recognizing that the success of the event was greatly enhanced by their cooperation.

She remarked, "Teaching children about the importance of animal welfare from a young age helps nurture kindness

and responsibility. We are proud to see our students engage in this activity with such enthusiasm and care."

The event concluded with an acknowledgment from the school management and principal, who commended the combined efforts of both the students and the teaching staff. The management praised the dedication of the teachers, whose careful planning ensured the day was both educational and memorable for the students. The principal also highlighted the value of such activities in the

holistic development of young learners, reinforcing the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded, compassionate individuals.

The World Animal Welfare Day celebration provided a meaningful platform for the UKG students to learn and grow, not only in their knowledge of animals but also in their social and communication skills. Through this event, the children gained a deeper understanding of the importance of caring for animals and respecting their place in the world.

This memorable celebration, focused on fostering compassion for all living beings, left a lasting impression on the students, teachers, and parents alike. It was a vivid reminder of the school's dedication to instilling core values of kindness and responsibility in its students, and it will undoubtedly serve as a cherished memory for all those involved in making the day a success.

Bharat Chipli's well fought innings goes in vain as Konark Suryas Odisha defeated India Capitals by 5 runs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: In another closely contested match, banking on a solid knock by Kevin O'Brien and some clinical bowling performances, Konark Suryas Odisha registered their second win in Legends League Cricket 2024 (LLC) as they defeated India Capitals by 5 runs at the Molana Azad Stadium in Jammu on Friday.

After losing the toss and put into bat first, Richard Levi and Jesse Ryder opened the innings for Konark Suryas Odisha. They were down to 12/2 in 3.3 overs. While Levi made just 1 from 3 balls, Ryder added 3 from 10 balls. Kevin O'Brien and Dilshan Munaweera added 77 runs for the third wicket before Munaweera was dismissed for 33 from 44 balls by Iqbal Abdulla. Kevin O'Brien went onto complete his half century and remained unbeaten on 55* from 46 balls. Yusuf Pathan scored 12



from 13 balls. At the end, Konark Suryas Odisha posted a total of 127/4 in 20 overs.

For India Capitals, Iqbal Abdulla remained the pick of the bowlers who took 3/16 in 4 overs. Dhawal Kulkarni took 1/22 in 4 overs.

Chasing a target of 128 on the board, Dwayne Smith and Faiz Fazal opened the innings for India Capitals. They also faced an early setback as they lost their first two wickets for just 12 runs on the board. Skipper Ian

Bell could only manage to make 10 from 13 balls. Bharat Chipli remained the only batter who showed some intent in the middle. He remained unbeaten on 61* from 48 balls. India Capitals could manage to score 122/7 in 20 overs.

For Konark Suryas Odisha, Diwesh Pathania (1/22), Keven Cooper (1/12), Shahbaz Nadeem (1/18), Pravin Tambe (1/29), KP Appanna (1/11) and Yusuf Pathan (1/4) took one wicket each in the innings.

Dimple threatens to call Jammu Bandh against nomination of five MLAs by LG

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood movement, strongly criticized the central government over its approach to governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a press conference here on Saturday, Dimple called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to withdraw the powers currently held by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, specifically regarding the nomination of five MLAs.

Dimple alleged that this nomination process is part of a larger conspiracy to undermine democracy and maintain control over the region. He claimed that the powers granted to the LG and Chief Secretary exceed those of elected officials, further diminish-



ing the democratic voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged all political parties, including the National Conference, Congress, PDP, Apni Party, People's Conference, and Ghulam Nabi Azad's party, to unite against this perceived infringement on democratic rights.

Dimple threatened to organize a "Jammu Bandh" if the situation does not change, emphasizing that allowing the LG to nominate MLAs would constitute a grave threat to democracy.

Highlighting the dispar-

ity in electoral strength, Dimple noted that the NC, Congress, and other like-minded parties could collectively win 62-65 MLAs, while the BJP may only secure 12-16.

He announced plans to file a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking the restoration of statehood and a return to democratic norms, insisting that it should be the elected government that nominates MLAs, not the lieutenant governor acting on the Union Home Ministry's advice.

Dimple reiterated his demand for the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, the implementation of the Instrument of Accession, and the resumption of the Darbar Move, asserting that these actions are essential for restoring democratic governance and honoring the rights of the people.

Only elected Govt can nominate 5 MLAs: Ajeet Bhagat



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 5: In a strong statement on Saturday, Ajeet Bhagat, senior leader and spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in the Chenab Valley region, condemned the Lieutenant Governor's recent move to nominate five MLAs to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. He described the action as unconstitutional and undemocratic, asserting that such powers should reside exclusively with an elected government.

Bhagat emphasized that, according to the Constitution, the right to

nominate MLAs is the prerogative of an elected body, not the Lieutenant Governor.

He pointed out that once elections are held, all legislative powers, including the nomination of MLAs, should be transferred to the elected government.

Accusing the BJP of unethical practices, Bhagat claimed that the party, after losing assembly elections, is resorting to desperate measures, including trying to sway independent candidates.

He argued that this strategy demonstrates the BJP's refusal to respect the democratic will of the people and highlights their attempts to manipulate the political landscape in their favor.

Bhagat warned that such actions undermine the foundation of democracy and erode public trust in impartial governance, stressing the need for all political entities to uphold democratic principles.

Vivek Bali inaugurates Singh Chicken Corner Restaurant at Hutmurah



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Oct 5: Vivek Bali, Senior political leader, inaugurated Singh Chicken Corner, a newly opened restaurant in Hutmurah, Anantnag, on Saturday. The new culinary venture is set to provide a platform for local entrepreneurs and offer a distinctive dining experience for food lovers in the area.

During his speech, Vivek Bali expressed his enthusiasm for the project, stating, "I am delighted to inaugurate this new

venture, which will not only provide a platform for local entrepreneurs but also offer a unique experience to food lovers in the area."

Addressing the youth of Kashmir, Bali encouraged them to think about starting their own businesses, saying, "I urge young people to consider new start-ups, remain independent, and make a name for themselves not just in Kashmir but across the country."

The launch of Singh Chicken Corner repre-

sents a boost to local entrepreneurship, inspiring youth to pursue their own ventures while contributing to the local economy.

Vivek Bali congratulated the owner Ravneet Singh and staff of Singh chicken corner and wished them success in their endeavor.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior leaders Dilawar Singh, Bashir Ahmed Shah, local residents, workers, and prominent business leaders.

Hindi Pakhwada Samapan, prize distribution ceremony held at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 5: The Hindi Pakhwada Samapan and Prize Distribution Ceremony was held with great enthusiasm at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Matrika Auditorium.

The event celebrated the spirit of Hindi as the official language, promoting its use in administrative and academic spheres. The ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries, with Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, serving as the Chief Guest.

Swami Yagyadharanand, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu was present as the Special Guest, offering his blessings and thoughts on the importance of language in cultural and spiritual unity. The Guest of Honor, Shri Sanjiv Verma, IAS, highlighted the significance of Hindi in governance and administration,

encouraging the youth to actively contribute to its promotion.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Anurag Kumar, Nodal Officer and I/c Hindi Cell, who emphasized the role of Hindi as a medium of communication in diverse fields and the importance of Hindi Pakhwada in reinforcing its usage. In attendance were various faculty members, staff, and students, with special presence of Prof. A.K. Das, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences.

A cultural program was held as part of the event, showcasing the talents of students through songs, poetry recitations, and Bhajan, all aimed at celebrating the richness and beauty of the Hindi language. The performances captivated the audience, reflecting the creativity and cultural pride of the participants.

The ceremony concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Madhupal Chaturvedi, who expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries, participants, and organizers for making the event a grand success, highlighting the special role of student volunteers, particularly Dheeraj Kumar and his team.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions held during the Hindi Pakhwada, recognizing their excellence in essay writing, poetry, debates, and more. The efforts of the participants were applauded, with encouragement to continue nurturing the love for Hindi.

The event was a resounding success, strengthening the collective commitment to promoting Hindi in academic and administrative spaces.

Institute of Music and Fine Arts hosts monthly Baithak

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: The Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) proudly organized its monthly Baithak on October 5, 2024, at the Dance Department. This enriching event showcased the talents of students from five departments: Vocal, Sitar, Violin, Tabla, and Kathak Dance.

The Baithak featured a series of impressive presentations by students, highlighting their skills and dedication to their respective disciplines. In addition to the performances, Dr. Jasmeet Kour conducted an informative orientation on research paper formats, equipping students with essential academic skills.

The event was graced by the presence of Senior Faculty Member and former instructor, Guru Parshotam Kumar, who shared his insights and encouragement with the students.

The program was conducted by Pragma Sharma, a first-semester student of Kathak Department, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Barkat from the second semester of the Vocal Department.

Also, the students who performed in the event are as follows: Sobia Kousar, Hilal Farooq, Shubham Aryan, Tashi Dorje, Arpana Kumari, Harsh Dev Singh, Anmol Maniyal, Ajay Kumar, Gautam, Shashi Kumar, Sonia and

Manu who were accompanied by Prabhat Bali, Amit Anand, Raj Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Rudra Sharma, Sohal Wani & Navraj Singh. Their performance was prepared by Dr. Priya Dutta, Dr. Sumit Madaan, Sh. Sunil Raina, Suraj Singh, Rajesh Kumar and Prabhat Bali. Stage managed by Vijay Kumar. Faculty members were also in attendance, fostering an atmosphere of support and camaraderie.

The monthly Baithak continues to serve as a platform for students to express their artistic talents and engage with the academic community, reinforcing IMFA's commitment to excellence in the arts, said Guru Parshotam Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal IMFA, Prof. Sohaib Malik congratulated HoD Music Dr. Priya Dutta and other faculty members for initiating such a step where students of all the departments will get opportunity to perform on stage and boost their confidence.

He further said that IMFA is a prime institute and for organizing such event on monthly basis all the facilities and requirements will be fulfilled to make it successful.

Members present on the occasion were HoD Music Dr. Priya Dutta, Rajkumar Sharma, Shivani Kapoor, Rajesh Kumar, Parbhat Bali, Amit Anand and Mohit Kumar.

Apni Pary holds post-election review meeting 'High voter turnout in recent elections indicates the restoration of public faith in the democratic process'

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: The leadership of the Apni Pary expressed gratitude to the people, particularly the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, for their significant participation in the recently concluded assembly elections. The party leaders stated, "The high voter turnout in the recent assembly elections reflects a renewed public trust in the democratic process. The enthusiastic public participation in the assembly polls indicates that people now have full faith in elections, whereas earlier, this faith had been shattered."

According to a press release issued here, the party leaders held an extraordinary meeting to review the post-election scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, convened at the party headquarters in Srinagar, was presided over by party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari. Prominent leaders present at the meeting included Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, the party's Parliamentary Affairs Committee (PAC) Chair-



man, Mohammad Dilawar Mir, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiddin, and others.

During the meeting, the party leaders evaluated the current political environment in Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the recent elections. They remarked, "The extensive and enthusiastic public participation in the elections is truly an encouraging development that has occurred after several decades. The high turnout indicates the restoration of public faith in the democratic process."

The leaders credited the Election Commission of

India (ECI) for reinstating public trust in the electoral process within Jammu and Kashmir, saying, "First, the ECI successfully facilitated free and fair parliamentary elections in the region, and now it has ensured that the assembly elections were conducted peacefully, fairly, and democratically."

In the meeting, the leaders also discussed certain party matters and public issues. They shared their ideas and personal feedback about the grassroots-level situation across J&K, highlighting the need for continued engagement with the public to address their concerns effectively.

Celebrities share what Navratri means to them

As the festival of Navratri is being celebrated, actors share how they immerse themselves in the spiritual essence of the festival, honouring age-old rituals. Navratri is not just a time for festivity, but a reflection on the victory of good over evil — a theme that resonates deeply with their personal and professional journey.

Celebrities reveal how they make time for the nine-day celebration amidst their busy schedules and how its spiritual significance influences their life.

Energetic vibe: Anupama Solanki

It is my favourite time of the year. Mumbai becomes energetic after the Ganapati festival in August, followed by Navratri, Dussehra, Diwali, Govardhan and Bhai Dooj. In between, my birthday falls on November 2, so it's back-to-back celebrations. The thing I love the most about Navratri is Garba. During my childhood, I used to go to the Dussehra mela, and of course, my all-time favourite, Ram-leela, which always reminds me that truth is never defeated.

For strength and motivation: Megha Sharma
I'm excited to celebrate Navratri this year. I plan to keep fasts on the first and last day of the festival. During Navratri, we light a diya and keep it burning continuously for all nine days, and we



perform a lot of pujas during this time. I truly believe Navratri brings me a lot of strength and motivation. There's an energy during these nine days that makes me feel like I can overcome anything. It's a deeply spiritual experience for me. Usually, the Navratri festivities happen in the evening, so I can sometimes take out a day or two to celebrate in the traditional way. Navratri is special because it marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura on the ninth day, and then we celebrate Dussehra.

Diyas and mantras: Sherleen Dutt
I celebrate Navratri by lighting a diya every morning and offering prayers to Goddess Durga. I also try to visit a nearby temple during these days, which gives me a sense of peace. If I'm home, I make time for a puja with my family, where we chant mantras and offer fruits and

flowers to young girls for blessings. Navratri is a time of spiritual renewal and a reminder of the feminine divine power. It resonates with me personally because it symbolises strength and inner resilience, qualities I try to embody in my life. Navratri reminds me to stay strong, trust my instincts, and continue pushing forward, no matter what.

Cultural bonding: Ekta Tiwari

Forming a deep bond with our culture has always been important to me. One such occasion that resonates with me is Navratri. At this stage in my life, my work schedule doesn't always allow me to celebrate as freely as I'd like. During my childhood, I used to run a Garba group. Along with that, I would do puja, fast, and observe other rituals during the festival. To me, Navratri represents the nine different forms of Goddess Durga. Each

day is dedicated to a different roop (form) of the Goddess.

Honour the divinity: Raviraa Bhardwaj

Navratri is more than just a celebration—it's a time for me to reflect and honour the divine feminine energy that we all carry within us. For me, this vibrant festival is a tribute to strength, spirit, and resilience. I may not follow specific rituals, but the cultural energy and devotion that come alive during Navratri are truly uplifting. I make time to attend Garba nights at least once or twice during the festival. I usually don't fast, but I absolutely love indulging in the traditional Navratri foods like sabudana khichdi and kutu ki puri. Navratri also symbolises the victory of good over evil, which is something I draw parallels with in my own life. No matter the challenges, perseverance, hard work, and a positive mindset will always lead to success.

Stay on path: Rohit Choudhary

Navratri, for me, is a time of deep reflection and mindfulness. It's a reminder to always treat all women with respect, as they are the embodiment of strength and grace. Ashtami and Navmi hold a special place in my heart, where I celebrate with chole poori and honour little girls as living forms of the goddess. Navratri truly symbolises Nari Shakti — the strength of women. This festival serves as a beautiful reminder to stay on the path of positivity, and I carry its lessons with me throughout the year.

Close to roots: Nikhil Nanda

Navratri has always been special. It's a period where we consciously remember and honour the Goddess for nine days, following certain rituals that bring us closer to our roots. Being a vegetarian and a teetotaler, I live this lifestyle year round, but I know many people make the conscious decision to abstain from non-vegetarian food and alcohol during this time, which is a beautiful gesture of devotion and discipline. In our home, we celebrate these nine days with special food prepared for Mata Rani. Fasting is another significant aspect of Navratri that many people observe, and we make sure to prepare special dishes suited for the occasion.

Tanya Abrol gets candid about her role in television show Badall Pe Paon Hai



Tanya Abrol is thrilled to play the character of Lali in Badall Pe Paon Hai. Life has come a full circle for Tanya as her debut film Chak De India had a song titled Badall Pe Paon Hai, and now she is part of a show that has the same title.

She says, "Lali is unlike any role I've played before, which made it an exciting challenge for me. The cast has been amazing to work with. It's a fantastic team and I have been having a great time working with the cast."

On how she prepped for the role, she says, "I read the script several times to understand the character and her unique traits. The creative team gave me a clear brief, which really helped. I have to say,

playing Lali has been an amazing experience so far, and I'm thoroughly enjoying bringing her to life."

Tanya believes that it's essential for TV shows to have progressive characters like Lali. "I think it's fantastic that the channel and the show's creators have developed such a progressive character like Lali. She defies the stereotypical image of a house help by asserting her independence and self-worth, and that's something I'm really proud of. It's crucial for TV shows to reflect this kind of thinking because it challenges outdated stereotypes and promotes a modern, empowering perspective that resonates with today's audience."

The central theme of the show also excites Tanya. She sees Baani as a well-balanced character represents today's women — ambitious, modern, and determined, yet rooted in traditions. "Her journey of navigating the stock market world and trying to uplift her family's life, while dealing with societal expectations and personal struggles, is incredible. What makes the show even more special is how every member of the household plays a crucial role in creating a mix of joyful and bittersweet moments, making the narrative heartwarming and meaningful for the audience."

Without revealing too much, Tanya hints at upcoming twists involving Lali during the Navratri celebrations. "Lali's influence will play a significant role in the events surrounding the celebration. So, I'd definitely suggest viewers stay tuned to Badall Pe Paon Hai to see how everything plays out."

To her fans who have supported her throughout her journey, Tanya expresses gratitude, "I feel extremely blessed and fortunate to receive such love and support from my fans. I am truly grateful for the warmth and well-wishes they send my way. I will do my best to make it worthwhile for them while I am on screen."

Vaishali Arora talks about television and society

Vaishali Arora, who plays the role of Ria in Rahul Tewary and Rolling Tales Production's Udne Ki Aasha, says both society and TV influence each other. She adds that many new things are introduced on TV, which are adopted by society.

"I think it works both ways, pretty much 50-50. Sometimes, what's happening in society is picked up by writers and producers, which is then showcased on television, making it more relatable for the audience. It helps them connect with us, the actors, and at the same time, it sends out messages. On the flip side, new and creative things are often introduced — something different, something liberal.

People watching shows or any visual medium get attached to the stories and characters. They start picking up on the things they see," she says.

She adds, "For example, I've been getting a lot of messages from young girls who love the sense of style of Ria, my character. They want to dress like her, ride a Scooty, and be independent. So, it's a bit of a mix. Most daily soaps beautifully resonate with the values and beliefs of society while also trying to reflect certain issues and bring about change."

About her own show, she says, "When you look at the stories and characters, you'll notice that the essence — the



crux — of the story is rooted in a strong belief system. My character, Ria, resonates with girls because she has a strong value system, even though she's modern. She loves and cares deeply for her husband, which connects with the audience. If you pay attention to each scene, you'll see that almost everything reflects society.

Luggage lost, friends found: Anoushka Shankar delivers packed performance in Berlin with borrowed kit

Sitarist Anoushka Shankar's cry for help in Berlin after she lost her luggage in transit caught the attention of many social media users who helped her source a 'mizrab, makeup and more'—and saved her sold out concert at the Berlin Philharmonic.

It all started when Shankar, who was in Berlin for the last performance on her Europe tour, lost her luggage that included all her clothes other than her 'super casual travel gear', but more importantly her 'mizrabs' - a custom-fitted finger pick or plectrum.

"Help!!! Anyone in Berlin play sitar and have mizrabs I can borrow for my show TONIGHT?! And any clothes smarter than my super casual travel gear?! Lost baggage strikes again!" Shankar wrote on X, tagging KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

The 43-year-old musician and daughter of



sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar was on a tour of Germany, Netherlands, and Belgium, according to her website.

Social media networks got into action.

Some offered help by reaching out to contacts in Berlin and there were others who suggested

stores in Berlin selling Indian clothes.

However, there was no further communication from Shankar till Thursday midnight when she put out a post on Instagram.

The concert happened, and was clearly a success.

Shankar posted a photograph of herself, wearing an elegant black dress and holding the sitar, thanking Saurabh Shekhar Verma for the borrowed mizrab and social media at large for spreading her request across different platforms.

"What a whirlwind our final date of tour was, from the moment we touched down in Berlin! Yesterday's airline-displaced suitcase with my sitar kit including mizrab (custom-fitted finger pick), in-ear monitors, plus all of my show outfits and makeup, was a pretty gnarly start to the day!

'No matter though, because in true chaotic by-hook-or-by-crook tour fashion we sourced a locally-owned mizrab, makeup and more just in time for us to take to the stage for our sold out show at @berlinphil. (I'm glad I had one nice dinner outfit in my personal bag),' the London-

based musician said.

She added that despite the inevitable stress of it all, 'how beautiful it is to have a crew and a wider community that comes together so quickly for a common goal'.

Acknowledging the power of social media, she said she was in awe of how quickly her 'cry for help' was tagged and reshared.

'And what a special show it was—no time to settle or get comfortable. We played on the tips of our toes last night, feeding off the energy of our incredible, generous audience, so alert to each other, so responsive. I'll never forget it. Special shout out to @saurabhshekhhar for the borrowed mizrab - I couldn't have played properly without it!' she wrote.

If it weren't for social media, Shankar quipped that she had plans to use 'duct tape, a roll of wire and little pliers' to create makeshift mizrabs.

Goreyan Naal Lagdi Zameen Jatt Di set to release on October 18

Goreyan Naal Lagdi Zameen Jatt Di is an engaging new film that takes an in-depth look at the lives, dreams and challenges of the Punjabi people. Set to hit theatres worldwide on October 18, this thought-provoking film offers a moving portrayal of contemporary issues that resonate with the Punjabi community.

The film tells the story of Jassa and Tara, two young Punjabis who move to the UK seeking better opportunities, but soon find themselves in the midst of local conflicts over jobs and identity.

"Our film strives to present an authentic portrayal of Punjabi life, illustrating the dreams, struggles and realities faced by our community. I believe audiences will deeply connect with the characters and their journeys," said Sukh Sanghera, a renowned Indo-Canadian director celebrated for his contributions to



Punjabi cinema and music videos. The film will release across theatres in India, with select screenings in the UK, Australia, USA, and Canada.

The film's hero, Armaan Bedil, said, "Punjab's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is bringing a film city to the state, which will boost the industry and provide employment to thousands of people. In a film, it's not just the actors but also hundreds of support staff involved, and everyone will benefit from this." Armaan mentioned a very family-like atmosphere on the film's set, which was shot in just 34 days.

Preet Aujla said that this was her first film in a lead actress' role. Before this, she had worked in music videos, and collaborated with renowned artists like Sidhu Moosewala and many others. She shared that the film's director, Sukh Sanghera, got the idea for this film by observing his father's hard work. "While people see success, they don't always recognise the years of effort behind it," she shared.

Sumit Singh talks about her role in Shaitani Rasmein



The show Shaitani Rasmein is set to take

a thrilling turn with the introduction of Sumit

Singh as Pinni. As the storyline progresses, Sumit joins the cast in a major role, and she couldn't be more excited about this new journey.

About her entry into the show, Sumit says, "I'm happy to be playing Pinni.

This show isn't your typical saas-bahu drama; it's on a completely different level.

The storyline, the themes, and the incredible co-actors I'm working with make this an amazing experience."

PM launches ~23,300-cr projects for agriculture, animal husbandry sectors in Maharashtra

Offers prayers at Jagdamba Mata temple at Poharadevi in Washim

WASHIM, Oct 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched initiatives worth Rs 23,300 crore for the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors at Washim in Maharashtra.

Modi, who is on a one-day visit to Maharashtra, arrived at the Nanded Airport in the morning, from where he was flown to Washim in a helicopter.

In Washim, he offered prayers at the Jagdamba Mata temple in Poharadevi. He later paid tributes to Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj at their 'samadhis' (memorials) in Poharadevi. The PM then inaugurated Banjara Virasat Museum, celebrating the rich heritage of the Banjara community.

During an event held later, Modi disbursed PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi's 18th instalment of Rs 20,000 crore to



around 9.4 crore farmers. With the release of this instalment, around Rs 3.45 lakh crore had been released to farmers under this scheme, officials said.

The PM also launched the fifth instalment of NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana, disbursing nearly Rs 2,000 crore. He inaugurated more than 7,500 projects under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), worth

over Rs 1,920 crore. The major projects include custom hiring centres, primary processing units, warehouses, storage and grading units, cold storage projects and post-harvest management projects among others.

Modi also launched 9,200 farmer producer organisations (FPOs) with a combined turnover of around Rs 1,300 crore. He launched the unified

genomic chip for cattle and indigenous sex-sorted semen technology. This initiative is aimed at increasing the availability of sex sorted semen at an affordable price to farmers and reducing the cost by around Rs 200 per dose. Unified genomic chip, GAUCHIP for indigenous cattle and MAHISHCHIP for buffaloes, have been developed, along with genotyping services. With the implementation of genomic selection, young high-quality bulls can be identified at an early age.

Modi inaugurated five solar parks with a total capacity of 19 MW across Maharashtra under Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana 2.0'. During the programme, he also honoured beneficiaries of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, the Maharashtra Government's financial assistance scheme for women.

India successfully flight tests VSHORADS missile



NEW DELHI, Oct 5 (Agencies): India conducted three successful flight tests of a very short-range air defence missile system at Rajasthan's Pokhran firing ranges.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday congratulated the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army for the flight tests of the fourth-generation VSHORADS (Very Short-Range Air Defence System) missiles.

"The @DRDO_India has successfully conducted three flight tests of the 4th Generation,

technically advanced miniaturized weapon system VSHORADS, from Pokhran," Singh's office said on 'X'.

Singh said this new missile, equipped with modern technologies, will give further technological boost to the armed forces against aerial threats, it said.

VSHORADS is a man-portable air defence system designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.

The missile incorporates many novel technologies including a miniaturised reaction control system (RCS) and integrated avionics which have been successfully proven during the tests, the ministry said in a statement.

21 cops hurt as mob hurls stones seeking FIR against Hindu seer

AMRAVATI, Oct 5 (Agencies): Twenty-one policemen were injured after a mob hurled stones at them in Maharashtra's Amravati city to demand registration of a case for a Hindu seer's "objectionable" remarks against Prophet Muhammad, police said today.

The police later registered a case against Yati Narsinghanand Maharaj from Ghaziabad, they said.

At least 10 police vans were damaged in the stone-pelting incident that took place on Friday night outside the Nagpuri Gate police station in Amravati city, they said.

A case against 1,200 people has been filed and the police have identified 26 of them, an official said.

"A huge mob, includ-

ing members of some organisations, came to the Nagpuri Gate police station around 8.15 pm to press for their demand of registration of a case against Yati Narsinghanand Maharaj of Ghaziabad," Amravati Police Commissioner Navin Chandra Reddy told reporters.

The in-charge of that police station told the mob that one FIR has already been registered in connection with their demand and an inquiry is on, following which the mob went back, he said.

"But as some people circulated the video of the Hindu seer's remarks, a large group of people returned to the Nagpuri Gate police station. But when the police officers were trying to persuade the crowd, the mob suddenly start-

ed throwing stones at the police personnel," Reddy said.

Seniors police officers handled the situation well and dispersed the crowd. Extra police force was sent to the spot, he said.

"Some police personnel and officers got injured in the attack and police are taking action against the mob," he said.

The police have issued a prohibitory order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) barring the assembly of five or more people in Nagpuri Gate area, he said.

Another senior police official said 21 cops were injured and 10 police vans damaged in the stone-pelting incident.

Pak visit for multilateral event, not to discuss diplomatic ties: S Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Oct 5 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is scheduled to visit Pakistan later this month for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, said on Saturday that his visit to the neighbouring country is for a multilateral event, not for discussions on India-Pakistan relations.

"It (visit) will be for a multilateral event. I'm not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I'm going there to be a good member of the SCO. But, you know, since I'm a courteous and civil person, I will behave myself accordingly," the Union Minister said.

Jaishankar noted that typically the Prime Minister attends such high-level meetings with heads of state, but "it changes" sometimes.

"So your question, I think, is, what am I planning for it? Of course, I'm planning to go... In my business, you plan for everything which you're going to do,



and for a lot of things which you're not going to do and which could also happen. I mean, you plan for that as well," he said.

Pakistan is hosting the SCO summit in Islamabad on October 15-16. India confirmed on August 30 that it had received an invitation from Pakistan for the upcoming summit.

Jaishankar's trip to Islamabad will mark the first visit by a high-ranking Indian minister to the country in nearly a decade. The

last external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj, who travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

The SCO was founded as a political union of Central Asian nations--Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan--to discuss security and economic matters. India and Pakistan became permanent members

in 2017.

The External Affairs Minister further stated that the conflict situation in the Middle East is a "great cause of concern," as Israel intensifies its attacks in Lebanon and a conflict with Iran is likely imminent.

"The Middle East is not an opportunity. The Middle East is a cause of great concern and deep worry. The conflict is widening - what we saw as a terrorist attack, then the response, then we saw what happened in Gaza. Now you are seeing it in exchange in Lebanon, between Israel and Iran. The Houthis are firing on the Red Sea. This is actually costing us. It's not that somebody is neutral and you benefit," he said.

Jaishankar added, "... I would say honestly today, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the conflict in the Middle East West Asia, these are big factors of instability, big factors of concern. I think the entire world, including us, is worried about it."

Won't resign on Opposition's false accusation: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

RAICHUR (KARNATAKA), Oct 5 (Agencies): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday reiterated that he would not resign from his position based on the 'false accusations' of the opposition parties.

He said he would present the actual position before the people of the state.

"If the opposition parties demand (my) resignation based on false accusations, should I resign? We will reply to the false charges. We will tell the truth to the people," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Reacting to a query on

hectic political activities within Congress where Dalit and scheduled tribe leaders were meeting after the MUDA site allotment case came to light, Siddaramaiah said people are speculating unnecessarily.

"Ministers will discuss but should you speculate? People speculate when state Public Works Minister Satish Jarkholi meets the AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge or Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju meets some minister. In the past too such meetings took place and are still going on but why such speculations are gaining cre-

dence?" Siddaramaiah wondered.

On senior JD(S) MLA G T Deve Gowda backing him during the inauguration of Dasara celebrations in Mysuru, the CM said he has only explained the truth.

"G T Deve Gowda is the core committee chairperson of JD(S) and one of the members in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). He only said the truth. What is wrong in that?" he asked.

There is mounting pressure from the opposition parties on Siddaramaiah to resign from his post after a special court ordered the Loka-



yukta police on September 25 to investigate him in the MUDA site allotment case.

Accordingly, the Lokayukta police on September 27 registered an FIR against Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi, brother-in-law Mallikar-

juna Swamy, Devaraju -- from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi -- and others.

The order of the Special Court came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor

Thawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah.

The ED has also registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), equivalent to an FIR by police, against the Chief Minister over the alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA.

The MUDA on Tuesday decided to take back the 14 plots allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife, following her decision to relinquish their ownership and possession. The MUDA has ordered to cancel the sale deed of these plots, its Commissioner A N Raghunandan had said.

Girl's body found in Bengal, locals torch police outpost

KOLKATA, Oct 5 (Agencies): The body of a 10-year-old girl was found in a marshy land in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Saturday, triggering arson by locals at a police outpost there.

Villagers alleged that the minor, who was missing since Friday evening, was raped and murdered, and the police did not act on their complaint immediately.

As the body of the girl was recovered by locals in Jaynagar area early this morning, a mob torched the police outpost and pelted the policemen with stones.

They also vandalised several vehicles parked outside the outpost and the policemen were forced to leave the premises, a senior officer said.

A huge police force was sent to the area and tear gas shells were fired to quell the mob which tried to confine the SDPO and other senior personnel at the spot. "The family members of the girl lodged an FIR at the Mahismari outpost in the area but the police did not act on the complaint immediately," a local claimed.

The police responded in the same manner as they did after the body of a woman doctor was found at RG Kar hospital, another villager said. "We will continue our agitation till all those behind the rape and murder of our minor daughter are punished. We also demand action against those who responded to the complaint late, which might have resulted in her death. Had the police acted promptly, the girl could have been rescued," Ganesh Dolui, a local, said.

The police, however, said the action was taken immediately after the complaint was received and an accused was arrested in connection with the alleged rape and murder of the girl.

"After lodging of FIR at 9 pm on Friday, police swung into action and arrested an accused this morning after an initial probe. Investigations are on and we are with the family of the deceased.

"Those involved in arson at the police outpost and destroying of all important documents will be identified and action taken against them," the official added.

Teenage girl gang-raped in Vadodara in presence of male friend

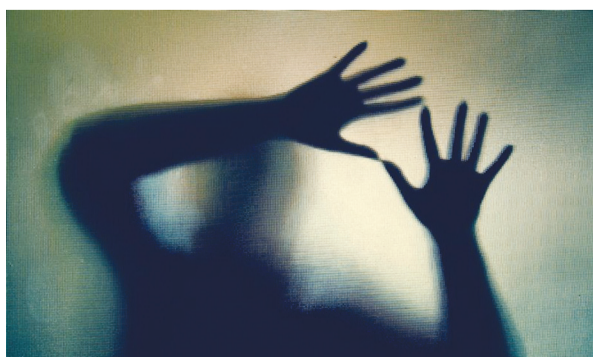
VADODARA, Oct 5 (Agencies): A teenage girl was allegedly raped by two unidentified persons, whose accomplice restrained her male friend, on a deserted stretch on the outskirts of Gujarat's Vadodara city, police said on Saturday.

The alleged crime was committed on a Navratri night when revellers come out in large numbers to participate in

garba events organised throughout the city.

The survivor told the police that she had gone out to meet her childhood male friend at the city's Laxmipura area at around 11 pm, said Rohan Anand, Superintendent of Police -- Vadodara (rural).

"They were returning through the Bhayli locality on a Scooty when at around midnight, five persons on two-wheel-



ers intercepted them on an isolated road," the police officer said.

Two of them left after

some argument, while three others remained. Of these three, two individuals raped the teen-

age girl, while the third person restrained her male friend, he said.

"As soon as the culprits left, the teens informed the police. Cops reached the spot, cordoned off the area and collected evidence. Teams have been formed to identify the culprits using technical surveillance and other means," Anand said.

The Gujarat Government has lifted restric-

tions on garba celebration timings for this year's Navratri festival.

In a similar crime, a 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by three unidentified persons, who also tied her male friend using his clothes and belt and assaulted him, at an isolated place on the outskirts of Pune in Maharashtra on Thursday night, police had said.

Israel should hit Iran's nuclear sites first, worry about rest later: Trump

Donald Trump's remark came after US President Joe Biden said that an "all-out war" in the Middle East was unlikely and should be avoided.

WASHINGTON, Oct 5 (Agencies): Former US President Donald Trump said Israel should target Iran's nuclear facilities in response to the Islamic Republic's recent missile barrage. His remark came after President Joe Biden said that an "all-out war" is unlikely and should be avoided in the Middle East amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran.

Trump was referring to a question posed to President Biden about the possibility of Israel targeting Iran's nuclear facilities in response to the 200-missile attack.

"They asked him, what do you think about Iran? Would you hit Iran? And he goes, 'As long as they don't hit the nuclear stuff. That's the thing you want to hit, right?'" Trump said.

He added, "Isn't that what you're supposed to hit? I mean,



it's the biggest risk we have, nuclear weapons." The Republican Presidential candidate for the November 5 US elections said that Biden should have asked Israel to attack Iran's nuclear sites and "worry about everything else later."

"If they're going to do it, they're going to do it. But we'll find out whatever their plans are," Donald Trump added.

The 78-year-old's remark came a day after President Joe Biden said that an "all-out war" in the Middle East was unlikely. When asked how confident he was about a massive war breaking out in the Middle East as Lebanon and Iran try to corner Israel, Biden said, "How confident are you it's not going to rain? Look, I don't believe there is going to be an all-out war. I

think we can avoid it."

When asked if he would send American troops to help Israel, he responded: "We have already helped Israel. We are going to protect Israel."

Notably, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in his first Friday sermon in five years, called Iran's attack on Israel "legal and legitimate" and the minimum punishment for "Israel's crimes".

"Israel pretends to win through assassinations, destruction, bombing and killing of civilians. This behaviour increased the resistance's motivation. This reality shows us that every strike launched by any group against Israel is a service to the region and to all humanity," he said.

His first sermon since 2020 also came just a few days before the one-year anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel.

A van packed with migrants skids off a road in Croatia, killing 2 and injuring 25



ZAGREB, Oct 5 (Agencies): A van packed with migrants slid off the road and overturned in central Croatia early Saturday, killing two people and injuring 25, including some seriously, police and doctors said.

The accident happened around 1 a.m. near Peklenica, some

100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Zagreb, the capital, said a police statement.

A patrol spotted the van with German license plates overnight and started to follow it when the driver increased the speed, the statement said. After several kilometers (miles), the off-

icers saw the van overturned in a ditch by the road after it apparently hit a concrete bridge, a house and a power pole.

Doctors told Croatian media that 9 people were seriously injured and were being treated in hospitals in the area. They include people from Iraq, Turkey and Syria, as well as Palestinians.

A similar accident in Croatia in September injured 14 people, illustrating the dangers migrants face as they flee wars and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Migrants often seek help from people smugglers to cross borders without authorization to reach wealthy Western European countries. Migrants are often forced to travel in cramped boats or vans.

Militants kill six Pakistani soldiers during a shootout in the country's northwest

PESHAWAR, Oct 5 (Agencies): Militants killed six Pakistani soldiers during a shootout in the northwest, the army said Saturday. It's the latest unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan and is a base for armed groups including the Pakistani Taliban.

The troops died in an overnight operation in North Waziristan on Saturday, according to an army statement. The statement also said six militants were killed.

The army said a separate operation killed two militants in Swat, also in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. One of them was said to be involved in an attack on a convoy of foreign ambassadors in the area earlier this month.



Also Saturday, cellphone services remained suspended in Islamabad as it entered a second day of a lockdown aimed at thwarting rallies in support of ex-leader Imran Khan. He is in prison on multiple charges.

Shipping containers have blocked off the city's entry and exit points, but videos from Khan's political party

showed his supporters piled into vehicles and attempting to head toward Islamabad.

The chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, and others in the convoy worked throughout the night to remove shipping containers from the road, the party said.

Khan's PTI party said it plans to hold a rally in Lahore.

Rescue teams search for missing after floods, landslides kill at least 16 in Bosnia

JABLANICA, Oct 5 (Agencies): Rescue teams on Saturday searched for those still missing after flash floods and landslides hit parts of Bosnia, killing at least 16 people and injuring scores more.

Construction machines worked to remove piles of rocks and debris covering the central town of Jablanica after the rain-storm early on Friday.

Huge quantities of rain fell in the area around Jablanica and nearby Konjic, causing sudden floods that broke into people's homes as they were sleeping.

Surging waters also triggered landslides that collapsed roads and hills, covering villages in mud and cutting off entire areas.

Bosnian media are reporting that rocks from a nearby quarry fell on the village of Donja Jab-



lanica, burying houses.

Alka Gusic, a resident of Donja Jablanica, lost her brother and his entire family while her own son has been hospitalized. Overnight on Friday, she said, a frightening rumble woke her up from her sleep. "I thought it was an earthquake," said Gusic.

She waited until morning to venture out. "I saw my brother's son being pulled out. He was lying

on the ground - it was obvious (he was dead)." "God help us," she cried. "I lost four of them, house destroyed completely, no one stayed alive, no one."

Officials have said that at least 16 people are confirmed dead so far, including a baby. At least 10 are still missing while dozens are injured.

Rescuers sealed off Jablanica, banning any

entry for outsiders while the search took place. Some houses were submerged up to their roofs and as the water withdrew, rescuers could be seen walking over piles of rubble left behind.

Near the town of Konjic that was also hit by the storm, officials said some villages remained cut off on Saturday.

"Kilometers of roads no longer exist, nearly

all bridges have been destroyed," Husein Hodzic from the local civil protection unit told regional N1 television. "There is no electricity, all power poles have been swept away. There are no phone lines."

Bosnia's election authorities said local elections set for Sunday will be postponed in the flood-hit municipalities.

Human-caused climate change increases the intensity of rainfall because warm air holds more moisture. This summer, the Balkans were also hit by long-lasting record temperatures, causing a drought. Scientists said the dried-out land has hampered the absorption of floodwaters. Flooding was also reported in Croatia and Montenegro in the previous days but caused less damage and no fatalities.

Imran Khan's party invites Jaishankar to 'join' anti-govt protest in Pak

ISLAMABAD, Oct 5 (Agencies): A leader of jailed former Premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has invited External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to "join" the party in its protest in Islamabad against the country's government.

Jaishankar will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of Government (SCO-CHG) meeting in Pakistan on October 15 and 16.

Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information, Muhammad Ali Saif, while speaking on a Geo News programme on Friday, invited Jaishankar to participate in the protest by PTI.

"PTI will invite Jaishankar,



Indian External Affairs Minister, to come and join PTI's protest and speak to our people and see that Pakistan is a strong democracy where everyone has a right to protest," Saif said in response to a question.

He also said the foreign delegations would be happy to see the party protest.

The PTI has been staging pro-

tests, claiming that the government should adhere to the constitution and is pressing for the judiciary's independence.

It is also demanding the release of its 72-year-old founder Khan, who has been in jail since his arrest on August 5, 2023. Facing dozens of cases, he has been convicted in a few of them.

On Saturday, Pakistan army troops were deployed in Islamabad to ensure security ahead of the protest called by Khan. The army will remain in the city from October 5-17 to maintain law and order for the upcoming SCO. The authorities have taken strict measures to stop the PTI from entering Islamabad, blocking all highways leading to the city, banning pillion riding and suspending mobile phone services.

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which bans public gatherings, political assemblies, and demonstrations, has also been imposed in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to outlaw any political assembly or protest.

Floods inundate Thailand's northern tourist city of Chiang Mai



BANGKOK, Oct 5 (Agencies): Chiang Mai, Thailand's northern city popular with tourists, was inundated by widespread flooding Saturday as its main river overflowed its banks following heavy seasonal rainfall.

Authorities ordered some evacuations and said they were working to pump water out of residential areas and clear obstructions from waterways and drains to help water recede faster.

Dozens of shelters were set up across the city to accommodate residents whose home were flooded. The Chiang Mai city government said the water level of the Ping River, which runs along the eastern edge of the city,

was at critically high levels and was rising since Friday.

However, the provincial irrigation office on Saturday forecast that the water level was likely to remain stable and recede to normal in about five days.

Thai media reported that efforts to evacuate elephants and other animals from several sanctuaries and parks on the outskirts of the city were continuing Saturday. About 125 elephants along with other animals were taken to safety from the Elephant Nature Park, from where some escaped on their own to seek higher ground. About 10 animal shelters in the area have been flooded.

Chiang Mai Gov. Nirat

Pongsithavorn said that the latest flooding, the second in six weeks, exceeded expectations.

Thailand's state railway suspended service to Chiang Mai, with trains on the northern line from Bangkok terminating at Lampang, about 1 1/2 hours ride to the south. Chiang Mai International Airport said it was operating as usual on Saturday.

Flooding was reported in 20 Thai provinces on Saturday, mostly in the north. At least 49 people have died and 28 were injured in floods since August, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said.

In the Thai capital Bangkok, the government said Saturday it will let more water flow out of the Chao Phraya Dam in the central province of Chai Nat over the next seven days, as it risks exceeding its capacity. The release of the water may affect residents downstream who live near waterways in Thailand's central region, including Bangkok and surrounding areas.

Russian prosecutors seek 7-year sentence for US man accused of fighting for Ukraine

MOSCOW, Oct 5 (Agencies): Russian prosecutors asked for a seven-year sentence in the trial of a U.S. citizen accused of fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine against Russia, Russian news agencies reported Saturday.

Prosecutors asked the court to take into account 72-year-old Stephen Hubbard's age and said he has admitted guilt, according to Interfax. They asked that Hubbard serve the sentence in a maximum-security penal colony.

In Russia, participating in mercenary activities is a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment for a term of 7-15 years.

Prosecutors accuse Hubbard of signing a contract with the Ukrainian military after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, for which he allegedly was to receive at least \$1,000.

He reportedly underwent training, received a personal firearm and fought in the Ukrainian military as a mercenary until April 2022, when he was detained by

the Russian military.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow told The Associated Press it was "aware of the reports of the arrest of an American citizen," but said it could not comment any further "due to privacy restrictions". Russian courts convict more than 99% of defendants, and prosecutors can appeal sentences that they regard as too lenient.

Arrests of Americans have become increasingly common in Russia in recent years. Concern has risen that Russia could

be targeting U.S. nationals for arrest to later use as bargaining chips in talks to bring back Russians convicted of crimes in the U.S. and Europe.

The U.S. and Russia in August completed their largest prisoner swap in post-Soviet history, a deal involving 24 people, many months of negotiations and concessions from other European countries who released Russians in their custody as part of the exchange. Several U.S. citizens remain behind bars in Russia following the swap.

New Nissan Magnite launched at introductory price of Rs 5.99 lakh

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: Nissan Motor India today launched the New Nissan Magnite with bold aesthetics, enhanced safety, and advanced tech. The Magnite's bold presence is accentuated by a tougher, more robust exterior that exudes confidence and enhances its already impressive road presence. The New Magnite continues its commitment to innovation and customer-centric design, hitting the market today at an introductory price of Rs 5.99 lakhs. The Magnite is a testament to Nissan's 'Make-in-India, Make for the World' vision, surpassing cumulative sales of 150,000+ units till date and making a powerful impact in both Indian and international markets since its December 2020 debut.

The introduction of the new Nissan Magnite marks a significant step in expanding the brand's export markets. The continuing demand and popularity of the 'Made in India' Magnite across



international markets has allowed the company to expand its export footprint to 47 new markets taking the total export footprint to over 65 international markets now including Left-Hand Drive markets. With this new development, the export markets for Nissan now stand at 65+ countries.

Speaking at the launch, Frank Torres, Divisional Vice President-AMIEO Region Business Transformation & President, Nissan India Operations, said, "The Nissan Magnite's success since its 2020 launch, both in India and international markets, embodies the

enduring value of our 'One Car, One World' philosophy."

Building on its previous success, the New Nissan Magnite exemplifies MAGNITE-ness with a tougher, bolder and more robust exterior that enhances its commanding road-presence. The Magnite has sleek LED Headlamps with lightsaber-style turn indicator, Best-in-Class LED Taillamps with 3D Gradient "Honeycomb" pattern, and Magnite's signature L-Shape Daytime Running Lights (DRL).

Inside, the New Nissan Magnite sets new benchmarks with its refined

interior, offering an impressive array of color themes and advanced features. With First-in-Segment unique 360 leather pack – including a Brownish Orange leatherette wrapped dashboard, leatherette seat upholstery with unique "Honeycomb" quilting pattern, leatherette all door trim, parking brake lever, steering, and front armrest – the New Nissan Magnite provides a no compromise premium package that is sure to impress.

The New Nissan Magnite comes loaded with 20+ first & Best-In-Segment features including premium quilted leatherette seat with Heat Guard Tech, continuous multi color Ambient Light with memory function, Plasma Cluster air ionizer, new global smart key with Remote Engine Start with 60m range, Walk Away Lock (WAL) & Approach Unlock (AUL) function, biggest electronic bezel-less auto dimming IRVM, Full LED Exterior pack including LED Headlamp, LED Taillamp, LED Daytime Running Light, LED

Indicator, and LED Front Fog Lamp.

New Nissan Magnite continues to offer a range of sporty & fun-to-drive powertrains that provide a thrilling driving experience for customers. The HRAO 1.0 turbo engine is one of the most fuel-efficient engines (20Kmpl) among B-SUVs in the market, delivering higher torque at lower speed, giving a dynamic feel with strong acceleration at take-off.

As safety is paramount for Nissan, the New Magnite has further pushed the envelope to ensure Best-in-Class Safety - with 40+ standard active & safety feature and 55+ total safety features. These include: 6 Airbags (2 Front Airbags/2 Side Airbags/2 Curtain Airbags), Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), Traction Control System (TCS), Hill Start Assist (HAS), Hydraulic Brake Assist (HBA), Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD), Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).

Clean Street Food Challenge held at SPPND GDC Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, Oct 5: The NSS Unit Maitri of SPPND Government Degree College Samba, in collaboration with the Department of Home Science, celebrated NSS Foundation Day with 'Clean Street Food Challenge' on the theme 'Safai Ke Saath Swaad Ka Safar'.

The event commenced with the auspicious lighting of the lamp by esteemed dignitaries, symbolizing knowledge, purity, and positivity. Following this, the participants were immersed in a spiritual atmosphere with the recitation of the Saraswati Vandana, invoking the blessings of the Goddess of wisdom and learning for the success of the initiative.

The event was organized under the esteemed leadership of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

In her address, she emphasized upon the importance of participating in NSS and encour-



aged the students to engage in various community service activities that lead to nation-building and personal development.

She also appreciated the NSS Unit and the Department of Home Science for their efforts in organizing such an impactful program, stressing the need to maintain hygiene and cleanliness in the preparation and serving of street food.

Earlier NSS PO Prof. Kamlesh Bala welcomed the chief guest and outlined the importance of NSS by highlighting the core ideals of unity, discipline and compassion as the hallmarks of the National Saving Scheme

(NSS).

This initiative aimed at creating awareness about food hygiene and cleanliness, while celebrating the flavors of Indian street food.

The Clean Street Food Challenge received overwhelming support from students and faculty, with numerous stalls displayed by students offering hygienic versions of popular street food dishes.

The event was followed by felicitation of best volunteers of NSS for their participation in seven day special camp at Balore. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Ramandeep Kaur Head Department, Home Science.

NSS, Tejass Ek Pahal Foundation propose naming of Bhagat Singh Chowk in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Oct 5: Sulinder Parihar, Director of NSS, along with Koshal Singh, Youth President of Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation NGO, and NSS team members Sahil Pandit, Simran Sharma, and Amarjeet Singh, recently met with the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh to propose naming the starting point



of Parmaz Road Doda, near the Home Guard Line, as "Bhagat

Singh Chowk."

The initiative aims to honor the legacy of Bhagat Singh, a revered freedom fighter and national icon. The proposal also includes the installation of a statue of Bhagat Singh at the designated site, further commemorating his contributions to India's independence movement.

Parihar emphasized the importance of recognizing historical fig-

ures who inspire youth and foster patriotism in the community. The team believes that this initiative will not only enhance local heritage but also encourage civic pride among residents.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda expressed appreciation for the proposal and assured the team of his support in facilitating the necessary processes for this significant endeavour.

Yoga session organized at GDC Marheen

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Oct 5: NSS Unit of GDC Marheen organized a Yoga Session on Saturday under the patronage of Prof. (Dr) Anupama Gupta, Principal of GDC Marheen.

The principal appreciated the efforts of NSS unit for organizing an informative Yoga- Session. She added that Yoga is beneficial for our health and day to day routine work which will reduce the tension, stress and work pressure of the students.

On this occasion Radha, Ruchi and Sheetal NSS Volunteers displayed demo regarding Yog Asanas and gave tips for improving health standards of the society and the students as well.

The large number of students and NSS volunteers participated in the program. The event was managed by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Shaluu and Prof Manu Saini.

The faculty members were present on the occasion; Prof Anoop Sharma, Dr. Munisha and others.

FROM PAGE 1

Cong, NC, PDP opposes 'move' to nominate 5 MLAs before govt formation

refugees. "However, under the constitutional framework, he must act upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers. Nominating MLAs before the formation of the government would be a misuse of this provision and could unfairly shift the balance of power in the assembly," he said.

He asserted that the Congress-NC alliance is expected to secure a comfortable majority and any premature nomination would be undemocratic and a betrayal of the people's vote.

Sharma emphasised that the nomination process should only begin after the new government takes office and recommends candidates for the positions. He also criticised the BJP for promising adequate representation in the assembly for PoJK refugees, KPs and other minorities but failing to deliver.

"The example of Sikkim's assembly model, where Buddhist monastic communities enjoy reserved seats. We are questioning the BJP's logic in proposing only one seat for the PoJK community against an earlier commitment of eight seats," he said.

The Congress leaders strongly condemned the attempted attack on former deputy chief minister Tara Chand at his residence in Khour. They criticised the police for inaction despite the Election Commission's acknowledgment of Chand's complaint.

They raised concerns about the safety of candidates and the general public if such incidents go unchecked.

Meanwhile the National Conference raised strong objections against the nomination of five MLAs to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly by the lieutenant governor, saying this move is "unconstitutional and undemocratic".

The National Conference said such powers lie solely with an elected government and cannot be exercised by the lieutenant governor in the absence of an elected body.

"We have raised strong objections against the nomination of five MLAs to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by the LG. Any such move is unconstitutional and undemocratic," Jammu and Kashmir National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta said here.

"The power to nominate five MLAs lie solely with an elected government. These powers cannot be exercised by the lieutenant governor (LG) in the absence of an elected body," he added.

The National Conference leader said it is the prerogative of an elected government as per the Constitution to nominate the MLAs and not the lieutenant governor.

Gupta explained that all legislative powers, including the authority to nominate the MLAs, shift to the government after the elections.

"In a democratic set up, the elected government must have the authority to make these nominations. The LG, though part of the administration, does not have the constitutional right to take such decisions in the presence of an elected government," he said. Accusing the BJP of resorting to unethical practices, the National Conference leader said, "Having lost the assembly polls, the BJP has now turned to desperate measures, including indulging in horse-trading by approaching independent candidates."

Meanwhile, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also criticized the BJP's move to nominate five MLAs before government formation, calling it a direct affront to democracy.

Dr. Mehboob Beg, senior PDP leader and former Parliamentarian, in an interview with a local news agency expressed serious concerns over the decision, saying that replacing elected representatives with nominated members is an assault on the already disenfranchised people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Elected members represent the will of the people, and they cannot be substituted by nominees chosen by the Lieutenant Governor," he said, adding, "This move is not just unhealthy, but it's also an insult to the democratic institution in the region. It appears the BJP is playing a dangerous game with national interests by undermining the essence of elections."

Infiltration bid foiled, two terrorists killed along LoC in Kupwara

War-like stores have been recovered", read a post of Chinar Corps—Indian Army. Search of the area is underway and Operation is in progress, it further reads

Omar Abdullah is 'Mr Confused', likes to spread 'Misleading' information: Tarun Chugh

the BJP has accepted defeat in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The BJP has clearly accepted defeat in J&K. Why else would the Chief secretary be assigned the duty to change transac-

tion of business rules of the government to curtail the powers of the Chief minister/ elected government and assign the same to the LG?" he questioned in a post on X.

"This information has come to me from within the Secretariat. Officers would be well-advised to resist any pressure to further disempower the incoming elected government," he added.

Chugh dismissed these allegations, saying, "If you look at his constant tweets and speeches, he presents misleading facts to the public. Not a single word has been altered in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019."

He accused Abdullah of attempting to distract the public from his party's shortcomings.

"Now, since you are not winning, you are clueless. To hide his crushing defeat in the Union Territory, Omar Abdullah is making desperate attempts to divert attention from his party's failures," he further said.

He further stressed that nepotism, dynastic politics, corruption, and terrorism will no longer have a place in Jammu and Kashmir, and the public will take action against those who promote such practices.

J&K | NIA raids at Baramulla linked to JEM terror outfit

Baramulla district, officials said.

Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava takes Commando of Srinagar-Based Chinar Corps

Srivastava paid his tributes at the Chinar War Memorial in the Badami Bagh Cantonment, a defence spokesperson said.

A battle-hardened soldier, Lt Gen Srivastava held numerous prestigious posts and staff appointments during his 34-year illustrious military career, the spokesperson said.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), he has significant combat experience, particularly in areas marked by high levels of insurgency.

Before this appointment, he led the Awantipora-based 'Victor Force', a crucial commando overseeing counter-insurgency efforts in south Kashmir.

Commissioned into an elite parachute battalion of the Special Forces on June 9, 1990, Lt Gen Srivastava has completed all the essential career courses, including the Defence Services Staff Course in Wellington, the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College in the US.

He also holds a master's degree in strategic studies and philosophy. Recognised for his exemplary service,

Lt Gen Srivastava was awarded the Sena Medal in 2011. His extensive operational experience is particularly relevant at a time when the Valley is facing rising tensions linked to infiltration from the Jammu region into South Kashmir.

On assuming command, he extended his greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming his commitment to work closely with the civil administration and the community to build a peaceful and prosperous future.

"He also urged members of the society to join hands with the security forces to overcome the challenges posed by terrorism," the spokesperson said.

As the mantle of leadership passes on, Chinar Corps remains a symbol of unity, resilience and hope, dedicated to securing the region, he added.

The 16-month period during which Lt Gen Ghai was at the helm witnessed a strong security architecture facilitating peace and stability in the region, the spokesperson said.

His tenure saw the conduct of two incident-free Amarnath Yatras, the Parliamentary elections in May 2024, and the recent three-phase Assembly polls.

The Chinar Corps also achieved numerous successes in counter-infiltration operations along the Line of Control (LoC) and in the Valley, thereby dealing a significant blow to the terror network, the spokesperson said.

The outgoing GOC will be remembered for his humane and friendly approach, he added.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Ghai extended his greetings to the people of Kashmir and wished them the very best for a bright and promising future.

"Will never go with BJP," says Farooq Abdullah ahead of Election results

decks will be cleared about who has done what in the elections," he said while replying to the Exit Polls today.

Furthermore, he said that Congress will also emerge victorious in the Haryana assembly elections, saying that the people who have bore the brunt of present dispensation have decided to vote in favour of Congress.

DroneAcharya FPV drones set high altitude, top speed record in Ladakh

surpassing the five-km target set by the Army.

DroneAcharya demonstrated the capabilities of its FPV drones at Wari-La, a high-altitude area in Ladakh, showcasing their effectiveness in operations.

"The company's first-person-view or FPV drones recorded an altitude of over 17,000 feet (604 metres above launch altitude), possibly the highest in the recent history at such altitudes in Wari-La in Ladakh," an official said.

"Inducted into the Army in April 2024, FPV drones are now part of the forces and recently it has achieved this milestone," Prateek Srivastava, co-founder and managing director of DroneAcharya, said.

He praised the achievement as a significant milestone for the company.

"This record-setting accomplishment is a huge achievement for us. It highlights our innovation and commitment to providing the best technology for the Indian armed forces," Srivastava said.

DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations Ltd has demonstrated the capability of its drones to be deployed in security and counter-insurgency operations by performing quick manoeuvres and scaling very high altitudes in very short time, he added.

He said the drones, prepared on short notice, demonstrated their ability to meet and exceed the military's stringent parameters.

Built for high-speed manoeuvrability in extreme environments, DroneAcharya's FPV drones are ideal for military use.

"These drones, which can operate with or without GPS, are equipped with water resistance, electromagnetic hardening and advanced targeting capabilities," he said.

They are suitable for a range of military applications, including reconnaissance, arsenal delivery and kamikaze strikes, he added.

Major General (Dr) Mandip Singh (retd), president of Strategic Alliances at DroneAcharya, emphasised the importance of this achievement.

"The ability of our drones to operate at extreme altitudes and in challenging environments demonstrates DroneAcharya's potential to provide innovative and reliable solutions for the Indian armed forces," Singh said. The company's FPV drones offer real-time reconnaissance capabilities for up to seven kilometers and can carry payloads of up to two kg. They are highly effective for counter-insurgency operations, providing tactical commanders with a versatile and reliable tool for various military missions. DroneAcharya aims to continue innovating and delivering advanced drone technology to support the operational needs of the Indian armed forces. The company has demonstrated its drones' capability to be deployed in security and counter-insurgency operations by performing quick manoeuvres and reaching high altitudes in a short time.

J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association distributes cheques for conduct of district championships

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association Kuldeep Kumar Gupta under the guidance of President Anil Gupta who is friend, Philosopher and guide, has created new idea to handover the "Grant Cheques" personally to all the Presidents/Secretaries/Chairman of the District Kabaddi Association to organize the District Kabaddi Championship in three categories i.e Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior in Girls and Boys section as per the domestic Calendar 2024-25 already issued by the Association recently in Collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

Anil Gupta President of the Association along with Kuldeep Kumar Gupta General Secretary handed over the district "Grant Cheques" for the year 2024-25 in the presence of Surinder Mohan Technical Director (J&K and Ladakh), Anil Modi, Treasurer, S.S. Gill Tech-



nical Director of the Association, Sandeep Singh Rissam Chairman Anti Doping Committee and Tejinder Singh National Medallist.

The cheques distributed among the District units for conducting District Championship include Rs. 15000 each to Sanjeet Kumar District Secretary, Jammu District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 to Ashok Kumar Chairman, Udhampur District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 to President, Samba District Kabaddi Association Rs. 15000 to Mohd. Yakoob District Secretary, Kathua District Kabaddi Association Rs. 15000 to Basharat Khan Chairman, Poonch

District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 to Sushil Kumar Jammu Chairman, Rajouri District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 to Mohammad Shafi Chairman, Gandarbal District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 to A.R. Paddar Chairman, Anantnag District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 Mohd. Ganai Chairman, Pulwama District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 Mohd. Syed Baba President, Baramulla District Kabaddi Association, Rs. 15000 to Gulzar Ahmed Ahanger District Secretary, Srinagar District Kabaddi Association and Rs. 15000 to Nazir Ahmed Mir District Secretary, Budgam District Kabaddi Association.

Further Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta General Secretary and Mr. Anil Gupta President of the Association has also allotted Sub-Junior UT Kabaddi Championship for boys and girls section to Srinagar District, Junior UT Kabaddi Championship for boys and girls section has also been allotted to Udhampur District and Senior UT Kabaddi Championship in Men and Women section has also been allotted to Poonch District. All the UT Kabaddi championships will be conducted after the completion of all District Championships of each category organized by the district units will be announced very shortly and in the meanwhile President has assured to release the UT Grants to these three districts at the earliest. All the district championships and UT Championships will be organized by J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

Further, Anil Gupta

President said the "Swadeshi Khel--Khel Kabaddi" is being played in each Nook and Corner of the UT particularly in rural areas and also decided to allot UT Championships on rotational basis to every district units. The association thanked Nuzhat Gul Secretary, J&K Sports Council who has given boost to Swadeshi Game -- Kabaddi and tried her level best to provide infrastructure on the patron of Independent International Kabaddi Stadium in the premises of MA Stadium, Jammu. Nuzhat Gul has also assured to complete the Kabaddi Stadium with in timeframe.

Moreover, Gupta also directed to all district presidents and secretaries that no player of any district will be allowed to participate who has not registered himself/herself with J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India will not be allowed to participate in coming National Championships also.

AIIMS Jammu debuts Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeries

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: AIIMS Jammu marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its first Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu.

The surgical procedure involved the enucleation of a large odontogenic cyst, provisionally diagnosed as an Odontogenic Keratocyst, in the right maxilla. The surgery, followed by chemical cauterization, was performed under general Anaesthesia.

The surgical team was led by Dr. Amanjot Kaur, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, with the Anaesthesia team headed by Dr. Raksha Khandel and Dr. Sandeepika.

This achievement marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at



AIIMS Jammu.

The Department aims to expand its services to include advanced procedures such as TMJ ankylosis surgery, Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Genioplasty, Bilateral Sagittal Split Osteotomy (BSSO), LeFort surgeries, and Distraction Osteogenesis (DO), among others.

Prof. (Dr.) Saurabh Kumar Gupta, Head of the Department of Dentistry, congratulated Dr. Amanjot Kaur and her team for this significant accomplishment, which enhances the department's profile.

With the initiation of

oral and maxillofacial surgeries, AIIMS Jammu will now cater to patients with maxillofacial problems across the regions of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Leh-Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Amanjot Kaur expressed that the department's outpatient services are already seeing strong patient response. She emphasized that the upcoming introduction of TMJ and jaw correction surgeries will bring great relief to patients from Jammu & Kashmir and neighboring states, eliminating the need to seek treatment outside the region.

Dogra Degree College participates in exhibition event "Rise in Jammu & Kashmir- 2024"

Top News Report

SAMBA, Oct 5: Students of Dogra Degree College participated in an educational visit to Mega Exhibition Event "Rise in Jammu & Kashmir- 2024" on the Saturday to showcase the students India's progress across various sectors, reflecting the country's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth.

The event has brought together nearly 45 national and state-level institutions, including prestigious organizations such as the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Power Grid, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Coir Board, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Centre for Devel-

opment of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The exhibition/workshop gave a wonderful opportunity to the students to interact directly with experts, and engage them in discussions that deepened their understanding of various scientific and technological advancements.

By exploring exhibits related to cutting-edge research and innovations, they gained valuable knowledge and insights that extends beyond classroom learning. The exposure to real-world applications of science and technology inspired many students to consider careers in these fields. Furthermore, the interaction with scientists allowed students to ask questions and clarify doubts, enriching their academic experience.

The workshop equipped

the students with the new insights in the field of science and technology and motivated them to pursue new career opportunity in the related field.

These sessions provided hands-on experiences, allowing them to apply theoretical concepts learned in their courses to practical scenarios.

The students were encouraged to think critically and creatively, fostering a mindset conducive to innovation. This engagement not only enhanced their technical skills but also improved their understanding of the relevance of research and development in solving real-world problems.

The whole program was managed by Ashish Thakur, Lecturer in Management, DDC under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College.

Ved Raj Khajuria calls for CBI inquiry into misappropriation of funds within PHE Deptt

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 5: Ved Raj Khajuria, the Youth President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference for the Nag-seni Paddar constituency, has called for a CBI inquiry into alleged misappropriation of funds within the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department in Paddar, Kishtwar District.

Khajuria claimed that the PHE Department has drawn significant amounts of money for maintenance and repair work at various locations in Nag-seni Paddar. Despite these funds, he highlighted a severe shortage of drinking water in the area, forcing residents to travel long distances to fetch water.



He urged authorities to investigate these allegations, particularly pointing out that the PHE Department has reportedly received substantial funds for survey work without adequate results. Additionally, Khajuria recommended a reshuffle of the PHE staff in Paddar to expedite the completion of drinking water supply schemes, ensuring better access to water for the community.

Students' committee continues efforts for student nutrition through Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Top News Report



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: Under the National Level Green Program as part of the Prime Minister's Nutrition Empowerment initiative, a dedicated students' committee—including Sukhjit Singh, Paramjit Singh, Nigahpreet Singh, Sumanpreet Kaur, and Rishu Rani—has been actively working to enhance the nutrition provided through the mid-day meal scheme. Led by Master Avnish Kumar and Rishi Sharma, the committee recently conducted a detailed audit of the food preparation area, focusing on aspects such as food quality, cleanliness, and the availability of seasonal vegetables and fruits.

The student committee is committed to ensuring that nutritious food reaches all students. Master Avnish Kumar emphasized the team's

dedication to providing high-quality meals, highlighting ongoing efforts to include seasonal produce in the mid-day meals. Additionally, they are vigilant about maintaining personal hygiene, which includes promoting handwashing and ensuring proper seating arrangements during meal times.

The committee actively seeks and implements suggestions from students to continuously improve the program. Under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Scheme, they have successfully arranged for a modern kitchen setup, complete with clean benches for seating, with support from various donors. This initiative reflects a strong commitment to the health and well-being of students, aiming to create a nurturing environment that promotes both nutrition and hygiene.

Suhana brings laurels at CBSE North Zone Taekwondo Championship

Top News Report

SAMBA, Oct 5: Suhana Slathia a student of Bhargava Public School Samba brought laurels to the school by clinching silver medal at the CBSE North Zone Taekwondo Championship held at Sonapat, Haryana.

It is pertinent to mention here that she has been selected for the CBSE National Taekwondo Championship 2024 to be held at Mother India Public School, Udhampur (Uttarakhand) from 03 October to 13th October 2024.

It is also worth men-



tioning here that 15-18 schools participated in the CBSE North Zone Taekwondo Championship held at Sonapat, Haryana where only 03-04 students were able to clinch Medals out of 60+ students from the

Union Territory of J&K. Chairman & Principal of the school congratulated the budding student and her Mentor Pankaj for his valuable directions from time to time and wished them "Good Luck" for the next National level round.

GD Goenka Public School hosts Goenkan Commerce Fest

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: G.D. Goenka Public School, Jammu, Governed by Om Prakash Bansal Charitable hosted the Goenkan Commerce Fest, a vibrant Inter-School event, welcoming prestigious schools from across Jammu to compete in a series of exciting and intellectually stimulating events. The fest was inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Dr. Atul Hans, Director Academics cum Principal, International Daily Rising School, Jammu; Sanya Bansal, Director G D Goenka Public School, Jammu, Arindam Roy Choudhury, Principal, Susmita Roy Choudhury, Dean Academics and Coordinator of Senior Wing, Shakun Choudhury from the host school. A pious and powerful dance performance on the Mahishasur Mardini Stotram by Goenkan students set the tone for a day filled with energy and enthusiasm.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Coordinator of Senior Wing, Shakun Choudhury, who highlighted the importance of fostering creativity, innovation, and collaboration in students. She expressed her gratitude to the participating schools and emphasised how such events prepare students for the challeng-

es of the future business world.

The Principal Arindam Roy Choudhury also took the opportunity to address the gathering, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering business acumen and collaborative learning through the Commerce Fest.

Following the welcome address, the Chief Guest Dr. Atul Hans, a renowned educator, author, and Director Academics cum Principal, at International Daily Rising School, Jammu, took the stage. Sharing his valuable insights on leadership and entrepreneurship, Dr. Hans inspired the young minds with anecdotes from his illustrious career, motivating students to strive for excellence and innovation in their future endeavours.

The fest featured a variety of competitions that showcased the participants' creativity, critical thinking, and business acumen. Pitch Perfect saw students presenting innovative business ideas, with Jodhamal Public School taking first place. In Economic Escape, teams raced against time to solve complex economic puzzles, with GD Goenka Public School emerging victorious.

In the Trading Triumph competition, participants navigated a simulated stock market, with RM Public School securing

the top spot. The Tatter Tycoon event challenged students to turn discarded materials into creative products, with Jodhamal Public School winning for their resourcefulness. Biz Bingo added a fun twist to the day as participants matched business terms and concepts, testing both their speed and knowledge. GD Goenka Public School took first place in this exciting event.

The day also saw heated debates in Fiscal Faceoff, where the team from KC International School demonstrated their knowledge of pressing economic issues and won the competition. The fest concluded with a grand prize distribution, crowning Jodhamal Public School as the overall champion of the event.

The event ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dean Academics, Susmita Roy Choudhury, who expressed her deep sense of gratitude to all participating schools for their zealous participation, praised the efforts of the organising team and commended the students for their putting their best foot forward.

Commerce Fest 2024 was not only a celebration of competition but also an opportunity for students to exchange ideas, collaborate, and build lasting memories of learning and camaraderie.

Zone Gandhi Nagar wins U-19 yrs girls Basketball title

Top News Report



Top News Report

JAMMU Oct 5: Zone Gandhi Nagar won the trophy of Inter Zonal District Level Basketball U-19 Girls Tournament organized by Department of Youth Services and Sports Jammu at MA Stadium, here on Saturday.

The competition was organised under the patronage of Director General Youth Services and Sports JK UT Rajinder Singh Tara under the guidance of Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu

Ved Parkash and the overall supervision of DYSSO Jammu Sunil Kumar Sharma along with I/C DYSSO Jammu Harvinder Kour.

About 100 participants was drawn from various private and government Schools of District Jammu. The primary goal of this competition is to select the best talent for further participation in the next competition coming ahead.

The competition was conducted by experts of the department including Vaneet Pangotra, Rajesh Bandral, Amit Kalsi, Ran-

veer Singh and other technical officials of the department.

Harvinder Kour appreciated the participants and guided them to play with team spirit and dedication to achieving their goal. She distributed medals and certificates among winners and runner up.

Final Results
SEMI-FINALS: Zone Miran Sahib beat Zone Satwari by (2-0) points and Zone Gandhi Nagar beat Zone Bhalwal by (19-14) points. **FINAL:** Zone Gandhi Nagar beat Zone Miran Sahib by (20-05) points.

Kargil delegation thanks LAHDC Leh for formation of New Districts

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 5: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson was called upon by a delegation from Kargil District, led by Vice President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Er. Kunzes Dolma to express their gratitude for the recent formation of new districts. The delegation included Padma Dorje, an elected councillor, Rigzin Gyurmet, a nominated councillor, Dorje Namgyal,



president of the LBA Kargil Youth, and Sonam Disket, president of the LBA Kargil Women.

During the meeting, the delegation acknowledged the positive impact of the new districts on local

governance and community development. They emphasized the importance of collaboration among different regions to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity for the people of Ladakh.

A New Goal: PR Sreejesh times his transition from player to mentor perfectly

NOIDA, Oct 5 (Agencies): After a storied career guarding India's goalpost, PR Sreejesh has officially stepped into a new role. No longer clad in the goalkeeper's gear that became his second skin for over 15 years, Sreejesh has swapped the action-packed turf for the sidelines, taking on the role of Director and Mentor for the Delhi SG Pipers, one of the franchises in the newly-revived Hockey India League (HIL), starting December 28.

For someone who spent years donning the pads and helmet with unwavering commitment, this transition marks a significant shift. But for Sreejesh, the move was a natural evolution—one that he had been preparing for long before his retirement. "It's not a preparation of one-and-a-half months; it's a preparation of the last few years," he told agency.

"Coming out of the system is tough. Getting out of the player's mentality is really tough."

The decision to leave behind his playing days didn't come easily, but it was carefully timed. Fresh off the high of securing his second Olympic medal with the Indian men's team at the Paris 2024 Games, Sreejesh had the option to continue competing. Yet, he chose to walk away when the world was still applauding his brilliance.

"Somewhere in my mind, I wanted to play one or two more seasons of the Hockey India League. But I wanted people to remember me finishing on the top note. Paris was the best," he said.

Sreejesh's retirement, and his decision to not participate in the HIL player auction, signalled that the curtain had closed on one phase of his career—but it also opened the door to an exciting new opportunity.

The return of the HIL after a seven-year hiatus had tempted Sreejesh to lace up his boots once more. Initially, he had even signed up for the player auction, before reconsidering and pulling out. "After consulting with everyone—my coaches, my well-wishers, my family - we all came to the conclusion that I



had my best time in Paris and I needed to move on," Sreejesh explained.

It was at that crucial moment that tennis legend Mahesh Bhupathi, CEO of the SG Pipers group that owns the Delhi franchise, stepped in. Bhupathi's approach couldn't have been better timed.

"At the right time, Mahesh bhai approached me with this offer. He said the right things, and I was convinced that this is the right platform," Sreejesh recalled, his excitement for the new role evident.

"I think HIL is the right platform for me to test myself and mature into a different challenge. I am looking forward to it, let's see where it goes in the next three years."

Working with Bhupathi, another athlete who understands the pressures and demands of elite sport, was part of the reason Sreejesh was drawn to the Delhi SG Pipers.

Bhupathi himself echoed that sentiment, revealing that their shared background as top-level athletes helped build mutual trust. "I think we are both athletes; that definitely played a big part in it," Bhupathi said. "I gave him comfort on our vision. I think it fits right in with what he wanted to do in his second innings as well."

Sreejesh had reportedly received offers from several franchises, but Delhi felt like the right fit.

"Everyone wants experts," he said, referring to the wave of interest from other teams.

"Initially, I declined all the offers because I thought I was

going to play the Hockey India League. Then, when I made the decision [to retire], Mahesh bhai was there right in front of me. It was easy for me to work with another sportsperson."

For Bhupathi, landing someone of Sreejesh's calibre was a no-brainer.

"Sreejesh is a champion," he said. "He has achieved special things for India and for himself. When we started the franchise, we wanted to be associated with special people. It happened very quickly, and we are very happy."

Sreejesh's appointment comes as the Hockey India League is set to return with a lot of expectations. The league, which had been a springboard for many of India's top players between 2013 and 2017, is expected to provide the same platform once again. For Sreejesh, this is one of the biggest reasons he was drawn to the HIL in a non-playing capacity.

"Hockey India League is a nursery for young Indian players," Sreejesh said, emphasising the importance of the league for grooming future stars.

"They get to play with all kinds of players. When foreign players come, they can learn about how they train, how they play, how they prepare for the matches and team meetings."

For Sreejesh, the pressure of playing in front of large crowds is a crucial part of the development process.

"When it comes to pressure management, they are playing in front of 20,000 people," he explained, noting that venues like Rourkela, which will host the men's leg of the tournament, can

draw upwards of 15,000 fans. "From Day 1, these players will learn."

Sreejesh isn't speaking from theory. The last editions of the HIL, he believes, played a significant role in India's hockey success in recent years.

"When the last edition of Hockey India League happened, that helped Indian hockey, not just at the grassroots level, but at the top level," he said, attributing part of India's recent triumphs—including two Olympic medals—to the players' exposure to high-pressure situations in the HIL.

As the HIL gears up for its much-anticipated return, Sreejesh is ready to embrace his new challenge with the same dedication that defined his career on the field.

"I am quite busy right now," he said, outlining his new schedule that involves working with Delhi SG Pipers and joining the junior national team on October 6.

Despite his new role, the competitive spirit that drove him throughout his playing career remains undiminished. "I will train for sure," he quipped, admitting he still has the urge to put on his goalkeeping gear—but now, it's just for fun.

Asked if he might switch to a more formal wardrobe, given his new administrative role, Sreejesh laughed and shook his head. "No. Once I am out of here, it's always going to be a jersey and t-shirt," he said.

For Sreejesh, the mentor role with Delhi SG Pipers is more than just a job—it's a calling, an opportunity to give back to the sport that has given him so much. He's excited, but he's also realistic about the challenges that lie ahead.

As the Hockey India League gears up for its much-anticipated return, all eyes will be on Sreejesh and the Delhi SG Pipers. For the Indian hockey legend, this is just the beginning of a new chapter—one where he trades his goalkeeper pads for a mentor's cap but remains, as always, a guiding force for Indian hockey.

India star Rinku Singh reveals stunning details of his 'God's Plan' tattoo



GWALIOR, Oct 5 (Agencies): Rinku Singh opened up about his much-talked-about tattoo in the lead-up to the T20I series between India and Bangladesh in Gwalior. Speaking to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Rinku shared intriguing details about the tattoo, his first after making a name for himself at the highest level of cricket.

Rinku Singh got inked in September, with the words "God's Plan" written inside a ring that symbolises the sun's rays. He explained the special markings on his tattoo, highlighting the straight lines that point in the direction of the sixes he hit during that memorable over against Yash Dayal in an Indian Premier League (IPL) game in 2023. Rinku had hit two sixes in the cover region, one over long-on, one over long-off, and one into the deep fine-leg stands, and he had them all marked in his special tattoo.

"I keep saying 'God's Plan.' I designed my tattoo based on that. It's been a few weeks since I got it. The words 'God's Plan' are written inside a circle, which symbolizes the sun. The main aspect

of the tattoo is the representation of the five sixes I hit in the IPL. It changed my life, so I thought I would include them in the tattoo," he added.

Rinku shot into the spotlight after that fateful over in an IPL game between Kolkata Knight Riders and Gujarat Titans. In the final over of the game, with KKR needing 29 runs to win, Rinku Singh faced Yash Dayal and delivered an unprecedented performance. He hit five consecutive sixes off Dayal's bowling, turning the game around in an instant.

Each of the last five balls of the innings was dispatched over the boundary, with Rinku Singh capitalising on full tosses and slower deliveries from Dayal. The dramatic over not only earned Rinku Singh instant stardom but also left a lasting impact on Yash Dayal, who faced significant criticism and personal turmoil following the incident. However, Dayal has since shown remarkable resilience and has gone on to earn his maiden Test call-up for India.

Rinku Singh will be in action in the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh, starting October 6. Rinku will be keen on getting a bigger role with the bat against Bangladesh. The KKR star has had a lean patch in T20Is, managing just 62 runs in his last 8 matches, which included a three-match series in Sri Lanka and a five-match series in Zimbabwe. Rinku also played a Duleep Trophy match in Anantapur in September.

India bag U18 team silver in women's section at Asian Youth Archery

NEW DELHI, Oct 5 (Agencies): Promising archer Vaishnavi Pawar showed impressive presence of mind to help India clinch team silver in the recurve U-18 women's category at the 2024 Asian Youth Archery Championship in Chinese Taipei.

Vaishnavi took the first shot for the three-member Indian team, also comprising Pranjal Tholiya and Jannat, in every round and han-

dled the pressure well as they pipped fancied South Korea in the semifinal in a shoot-off.

In the gold medal round, India found themselves in a similar situation, fighting back from a 2-4 deficit to force a shoot-off against Chinese Taipei, who ultimately prevailed.

"I am incredibly proud to represent India alongside my teammates. Beating South Korea in the semifinals was a

significant milestone for us," Vaishnavi said.

"Winning silver at the Asian Youth Archery Championship is a testament to our hard work and dedication, and it inspires me to aim even higher in the future."

The Maharashtra archer finished fourth in the trials to make it to the Asian Youth Archery Championships, also she reached the quarterfinals in the individual category.

Andre Russell, Nicholas Pooran among four west indies stars to skip t20is against sri lanka

BARBADOS, Oct 5 (Agencies): West Indies will be without their senior players Andre Russell, Nicholas Pooran, Akeal Hosein and Shimron Hetmyer as the quartet has opted out of the upcoming three-match T20I series in Sri Lanka citing "personal reasons." The revamped selection committee under head coach Darren Sammy recalled opening batter Evin Lewis and Brandon King, while handing maiden call-ups to pace bowling allrounders Terrance Hinds and Shamar Springer, according to a CWI release. Lewis makes a comeback after the 2022 T20 World Cup, while King returns after recovering from a side injury that largely kept him out of the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

Rovman Powell was retained as the captain with Roston Chase continuing in his role as vice-captain.

"The tour of Sri Lanka gives us a chance to test our depth and assess players in different situations, especially with several senior players missing out for various reasons, including a need for rest and rehabilitation from injury. We are confident in the



squad's ability to compete strongly against Sri Lanka," Sammy stated in the release.

WI have moved to third spot in the rankings following 3-0 clean sweep of South Africa earlier this year and they will now tour Sri Lanka for a three-match T20I and ODI series from October 10-27.

Shai Hope will continue as ODI captain, and Alzarri Joseph as his deputy. This series provides an opportunity for CWI to focus on building its ODI team ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

A notable inclusion is Jewel Andrew, the young Antiguan wicketkeeper-batsman who has impressed the selectors to earn his place in the squad.

The squad also sees

the return of several key players, including King and Sherfane Rutherford.

West Indies: T20I Squad: Rovman Powell (c), Roston Chase (v-c), Fabian Allen, Alick Athanaze, Andre Fletcher, Terrance Hinds, Shai Hope, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd and Shamar Springer.

ODI Squad: Shai Hope (c), Alzarri Joseph (v-c), Jewel Andrew, Alick Athanaze, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd and Hayden Walsh Jr.

Mayank faces fitness and form test, chance for fringe players to shine

GWALIOR, Oct 5 (Agencies): Pace sensation Mayank Yadav is expected to unleash his raw speed while the absence of India's T20 regulars will provide another opportunity to the fringe players in the three-match series against Bangladesh, beginning here Sunday.

Having consistently generated speed over 150 kmph in his maiden IPL earlier this year, Mayank had drawn the attention of the cricketing world before a side strain ruled him out of the tournament.

Usually, one has to prove fitness in domestic cricket to be considered for national selection but the 22-year-old has been fast-tracked into the side considering his special talent.

The series against Bangladesh will be a test of his fitness and temperament.

It remains to be seen if he can display the same accuracy and control that he exhibited in the IPL.

Besides Mayank, fellow Delhi pacer Harshit Rana and all-rounder Nitish Kumar could also make their India debut over the course of the series.

Nitish was picked for the Zimbabwe tour post the T20 World Cup but got injured while Harshit



did not get to play in the five-match series in Harare.

With Tests against New Zealand given preference, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mohammed Siraj and Axar Patel have been rested from the T20s against Bangladesh.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya are the two big names in the squad while the other two who were part of the triumphant World Cup unit here are Shivam Dube and Arshdeep Singh.

The break to the regulars will give an opportunity to the likes of Abhishek Sharma to build his credentials following a hundred in Zimbabwe at the top of the order.

Sanju Samson could get to open alongside the southpaw in the series opener.

Riyan Parag has got six T20s since July but he could not replicate the sizzling form he

showed in IPL 2024.

The Bangladesh games give him another chance to make a strong impact.

The series will mark the comeback of mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy, whose international career came to an abrupt halt following the disastrous 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE.

The other specialist spinner in the squad is Ravi Bishnoi.

Jitesh Sharma, who has been picked as the reserve wicket-keeper, has not played since the IPL in June.

The Vidarbha cricketer has not done much to write home about in the nine T20s he has been part of.

He will be desperate to get a game.

The three games will serve as an audition for the four T20s in South Africa next month with the majority of the T20 regulars remaining unavailable due to the proximity of the Australia Tests, starting

November 22.

The series will also provide the IPL franchises more clarity on the Indian players they want to retain ahead of the mega auction.

Bangladesh starts life without Shakib Al Hasan. It is almost impossible to fill the shoes of someone like Shakib Al Hasan but Bangladesh will have to plan life without the champion all-rounder.

Shakib recently announced his retirement from Tests and T20s, leaving a huge void in the team.

Bangladesh were outplayed in the preceding Test series but with the majority of the T20 players not part of those two games, they won't be carrying any baggage into the white-ball leg of the tour.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz has been recalled to the side after 14 months.

Veteran batter Mahmud Ullah stands at the crossroads of his career and a productive series against the world champions might give him an extra dose of motivation to continue.

International cricket returns to Gwalior after 14 years. Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Stadium, built on the outskirts of the city, will make its interna-

tional debut on Sunday.

Organising an international match in a smaller centre does have its fair share of challenges but host MPCA is ready despite a few hiccups.

A wall on the periphery of the stadium had caved in last month following unusually heavy rains in the region but has been repaired.

Captain Roop Singh Stadium in the city had hosted Gwalior's last international match in 2010 when Sachin Tendulkar smashed a famous double hundred.

Squads: Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Captain), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumer Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.

India's squad for 3 T20Is against Bangladesh: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravathy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav.

LAHDC celebrates decade of compassionate Animal Welfare and World Animal Day

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 5: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, marked a significant milestone on World Animal Day by celebrating ten years of transformative work by the Live to Rescue Centre.

The event was graced by Hon'ble Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Adv. Tashi Gyalson as the chief guest, along with His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, His Eminence Choskyong Palga Rinpoche; Drupon Khamtak Rinpoche; Founder President and Spiritual Director, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena; Hon'ble Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, served as the guest of honor; Executive Councillor for Culture, Stanzin Chosphel, DC/CEO LAHDC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, SSP Leh Shruti Arora; Councillors of different constituencies and various other dignitaries.

H'CEC along with the dignitaries inaugurated the newly built visitor centre, a facility designed to enhance public engagement and education about animal welfare. Following the inauguration, attendees were shown a documentary titled "Live to Rescue: A Decade of Impact," presented by former YDA Leh President Rinchen Wachar. The film provided an in depth look at the organization's unwavering dedication to



animal welfare, showcasing the countless lives it has touched over the past decade. Rinchen spoke passionately about the transformative impact of the center, emphasizing the importance of community support in achieving its goals.

Guests were then escorted on a guided tour of the animal center by Project Coordinator Rigzen Dorje. During the tour, Rigzen shared insights into the facilities and their ongoing operations, highlighting the various rescue and rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the team.

In his welcome speech, Rigzen reflected on the achievements of Live to Rescue over the last ten years, expressing gratitude for the community's support and the hard work of all involved.

He noted that the center has become a beacon of hope for countless animals and has significantly contributed to the welfare

of stray animals in the region.

Cultural performances by the Women Wing of YDA Leh added vibrancy to the event, with modern Ladakhi songs followed by an Eastern Ladakh dance performance, celebrating the region's rich cultural heritage.

During the appreciation ceremony, CEC Tashi Gyalson; His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche; DC Santosh Sukhadeve presented certificates and mementos to key contributors, acknowledging their tireless efforts in animal welfare.

Dr. Stanzin Rabgais, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, delivered a compelling speech on the necessity of effective population control measures through spay neuter programs and vaccination drives. He stressed that such initiatives are essential not only for managing stray dog populations but also for reducing

human-dog conflicts in the community. Dr. Rabgais asserted, "It is our responsibility to ensure that our animal population is healthy and that they coexist peacefully with humans. Our approach must be sustainable and compassionate."

Executive Councillor Tashi Yakzee spoke passionately about the moral obligation to protect stray animals and prevent cruelty.

DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve emphasized the importance of community collaboration, stating that the administration alone cannot achieve significant progress. He expressed appreciation for everyone involved in this movement, highlighting the collective effort that makes real change possible.

His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche reflected on the Buddhist principles of compassion and kindness, emphasizing that caring for all beings

is a fundamental aspect of our spiritual journey. He highlighted our intrinsic connection to animals and how much we relate to them in our daily lives. Rinpoche expressed gratitude to everyone involved in supporting animal welfare and rescue missions, urging people to contribute to this vital cause. He also thanked the Grand Dragon for generously providing leftover food for the animals.

In his closing remarks, Hon'ble CEC Tashi Gyalson extended heartfelt congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Live to Rescue and World Animal Day. He recognized the vital contributions of community members whose support and vision were instrumental in establishing the Live to Rescue Centre in 2014. CEC Gyalson praised Skyabgon Drukpa Rinpoche for his unwavering efforts across various fields, including education, environmental protection, and animal rescue.

He highlighted that without the establishment of Live to Rescue in 2014, Leh would have faced a significant crisis regarding the care of abandoned and injured animals. Additionally, he reiterated the importance of civil participation, echoing the earlier sentiments expressed by the DC, emphasizing that community involvement is essential alongside administrative support to ensure continued success in these initiatives.

Stage set for Legends League Cricket at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar is all set to witness one of the most exciting sporting events in recent memory as it hosts the final leg of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) tournament.

With seven thrilling matches scheduled from 9th to 16th October, cricket fans are buzzing with excitement at the prospect of seeing international stars such as Shikhar Dhawan, Dinesh Karthik, Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, and Ian Bell in action.

Given the significance of the event, security arrangements are at the forefront of preparations.

Senior officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with other

security agencies, have devised a comprehensive plan to ensure the safety of players, officials, and spectators.

Large number of security personnel will be deployed around the stadium and key areas, while multiple security checkpoints and surveillance systems will be in place. Additionally, more CCTV cameras have been installed in and around Bakshi Stadium, constantly monitored by top officials to prevent any untoward incidents.

Speaking about the meticulous security planning, a senior police official said, "We have left no stone unturned in ensuring maximum security. Multi-tiered checkpoints, constant surveillance, and enhanced patrolling will be part of our strategy. We are fully prepared to handle any situation

and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone."

Apart from the physical security presence, special arrangements are being made for crowd management. Barricades and designated entry points will control the flow of spectators, while strict frisking will be conducted to maintain a peaceful environment inside the stadium.

Local authorities have assured fans that the measures are meant to facilitate their comfort and safety, encouraging families and individuals alike to enjoy the cricketing festivities.

The tournament will culminate in a grand finale on 16th October, and preparations are in full swing to ensure a seamless and memorable experience for both players and spectators.

All post-retirement service extensions will end under NC-Congress Alliance Govt in J&K: Tony

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 5: Senior Congress leader and MLA candidate for Bahu Constituency, Taranjit Singh Tony asserted that all post-retirement service extensions will be terminated once the National Conference (NC) and Congress Alliance comes into power in Jammu & Kashmir.

The senior Congress leader stated this while addressing various deputations here on Saturday.

Tony firmly criticized the current system, stating that many qualified and deserving individuals are being denied promotions at higher posts in almost all department of Jammu and Kashmir due to the undue influence of money and political power.

He pointed out that those benefiting from post-retirement extensions are contributing to a culture of favoritism and inefficiency. "Despite the availability of promotions, qualified individuals are deprived of their rightful positions, as the system favors those who wield influence. This unjust system will be dismantled the moment our govern-



ment takes charge," Tony asserted.

The Congress leader expressed deep concern over the demoralization among the service class. He said, the practice of granting extensions to retired officials not only demotivates current employees but also creates an atmosphere of discontentment and dishonesty within the workforce.

"Granting extensions to retired individuals demoralizes hardworking employees and promotes resentment, dissatisfaction and inefficiency within the system," he remarked.

Tony emphasized that the new NC-Congress government would make it a priority to restore fairness and integrity in the public sector.

"All practices of corruption and favoritism, which

have kept deserving individuals away from their due promotions, will be brought to an end. The most corrupt and lethargic individuals who are enjoying these extensions will be terminated immediately upon the formation of the new government," he vowed.

The senior leader further added that the brewing resentment among the service class is palpable and pledged that the Congress will work to undo all the wrongs committed by the BJP in J&K. "We will bring fairness, equality, and justice to the forefront of governance, ensuring that merit prevails over influence. The Congress is committed to eradicating the culture of favoritism and promoting a transparent, accountable system," he said.

Food safety team conducts inspections in Srinagar's Qamarwari, Bemina areas

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: A team from the Food Safety Department of Srinagar carried out an inspection drive on Saturday targeting food business operators in the areas surrounding Anjum Masjid in Qamarwari and the main markets of Bemina.

The inspections focused primarily on bakeries, restaurants, and other food establishments to ensure compliance with hygiene and safety standards.

"The initiative is part of the department's ongoing efforts to maintain stringent food safety measures across the city, with a particular emphasis on good hygiene practices (GHP) and correct labeling on packaged food products, especially baked goods such as breads and cakes", Assistant Commissioner Yameen Ul Nabi, who was also part of the team, said.

During the inspections, several food business operators were issued warnings and provid-

ed with instructions to improve hygiene standards. In some cases, penalties were imposed under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, which allows for the imposition of fines for non-compliance with food safety norms.

"We are committed to ensuring that all food establishments, particularly those that cater to large numbers of people, adhere to the highest standards of food safety and hygiene," said Assistant Commissioner Yameen Ul Nabi.

"Our inspections today were focused on identifying any lapses in hygiene, improper labeling, or substandard practices in food handling. Where necessary, we have taken action and will continue to monitor these businesses closely."

The inspection team visited several bakery shops and restaurants, scrutinizing food preparation areas, storage conditions, and the labeling of packaged products.

The officials emphasized the importance of

maintaining clean kitchens, properly sanitizing food preparation tools, and using fresh ingredients to prevent contamination.

Labels on food products were also checked to ensure that they clearly mentioned manufacturing and expiry dates, as well as the ingredients used, to help consumers make informed choices.

Several bakery owners acknowledged the importance of the inspection drive. "We welcome these inspections as they remind us of the importance of adhering to

strict hygiene practices," said Shabir Ahmed, the owner of a popular bakery shop. "We have been implementing changes to ensure that our food is prepared in a clean and safe environment."

While most food business operators were found to be following proper safety measures, the team issued specific instructions for the improvement of labeling practices, particularly on baked goods like breads and cakes. "Good labeling is critical not just for regulatory compliance but also for the safety of

consumers. Customers should be aware of what they are eating, including all ingredients and the freshness of the product," said Yameen Ul Nabi.

The inspection team also provided guidance on maintaining proper storage conditions, avoiding cross-contamination, and following hygiene protocols in the handling of food, particularly in high-demand establishments such as bakeries and restaurants. "Strict hygiene is non-negotiable, especially in businesses that serve ready-to-eat."

NSS Unit of GDC Chatroo conducts Cannabis Cleanliness Drive

Top News Report

CHATROO, Oct 5: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo successfully organized a cannabis cleanliness drive on the college campus and its surrounding areas. This initiative, aimed at promoting environmental awareness and cleanliness, witnessed active participation from NSS volunteers, faculty members, and Principal Dr. Ved Kumar.

The drive emphasized the importance of maintaining clean natural surroundings and engaged volunteers in various cleanup activities. Dr. Ved Kumar commended the efforts of NSS Coordinator Prof. Chander Parkash for spearheading this initiative and highlighted the significance of such events in fostering community responsibility.

This cleanliness drive is part of a broader program focusing on environmental stewardship, which will continue over the coming days. At the conclusion of the event, refreshments were provided to all volunteers, fostering a sense of community and appreciation for their hard work.

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