

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Ladakh receives season's first snowfall

LEH, Oct 10 (Agencies): The Union Territory of Ladakh on Wednesday night received season's first snowfall, giving the mountains of the cold desert a whitish look. The snowfall, as per the former weather man Sonam Lotus occurred at many places of Ladakh including the villages adjacent to the Leh city. The forecast, however, says the weather will remain partly cloudy till 25th of this month in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Lotus said.

Night temperature drops after snowfall on higher reaches of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): Night temperature dropped at most weather stations of Kashmir valley and recorded below normal on Thursday after higher reaches of Kashmir valley experienced fresh snowfall on Wednesday, officials said.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar predicts mainly clear to partly cloudy weather with the possibility of light rain at isolated places in Kashmir division during the next 24 hours.

The weather is likely to remain dry till October 16, it said.

Barring Kupwara, where the minimum temperature was recorded at 1.3°C above normal, all other weather stations observed the night temperature below normal after snowfall on higher elevations in Kashmir valley.

The minimum temperature recorded during the intervention nights of Wednesday and Thursday at Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was 0.2°C below normal of 7.5°C, the MeT office said.

Pahalgam recorded 2.4°C against the normal of 6.6°C, and it was 1.4°C below normal for the famous tourist destination of south Kashmir.

Kokernag had a low of 7.6°C against the normal of 7.8°C, and it was 0.2°C below normal for the Picnic spot of south Kashmir.

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CEO Pole meets LG Manoj Sinha on successful completion of J&K Assembly Polls



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Pandurang K. Pole, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K accompanied by Pramod Kumar Sharma, Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India; Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Special Secretary and Anil Salgotra, Joint CEO in Chief Electoral Office, J&K met the Lieutenant Governor

Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

A copy of the Notification issued by the Election Commission of India, in pursuance of Section 73 of the Representation of People Act 1951 (43 of 1951), containing the names of the Members elected to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir following the polls, was submitted by them to the

Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Shri Pandurang Pole, Chief Electoral Officer, UT of J&K on the successful completion of the electoral process. He also appreciated the efforts of the Election Officials, J&K Police and security personnel for successfully completing a peaceful, transparent, free and fair election.

Omar Abdullah chosen as legislature party chairman, set to become J&K chief minister



SRINAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah Thursday said that in the Legislature Party meeting, Omar Abdullah was chosen as the chairman of the LP, which means Omar is the Chief Ministerial candidate of the party.

Omar will now get the

letter of support from ally Congress and then meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to stake claim on government formation with 49 legislators on board.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at NC headquarters, Nawa-e-Subh complex, Dr Farooq said that in the LP meeting, Omar has

been chosen as the chairman.

A NC leader present in the meeting told news agency that the NC-Congress combine will stake claim on government formation by Saturday. "Tomorrow is the Congress meeting and let's get their support first," he said.

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"Battle was between Truth, Lie..." NC leader Surinder Choudhary on J&K polls



RAJOURI, Oct 10 (Agencies): After the Congress-NC alliance emerged victorious in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, National Conference leader Surinder Choudhary said that the JK polls was between the truth and lie not between BJP and NC.

Surinder Choudhary won JK polls from Nowshera constituency against BJP President Ravinder Raina by a margin of 7819 votes. The NC leader said,

"This battle was not between PM Modi and Farooq Abdullah, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Farooq Abdullah and between BJP and National conference. It was between the truth and the lie. It was between Ravinder Raina and Surinder Choudhary...It seemed like this election was not between me and Ravinder Raina but between me and the whole civil administration here."

In Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-Congress alliance secured an absolute majority in the Union Territory by winning 49 seats, with the former taking 42 and the latter 6 seats.

Earlier, NC MP Ruhullah Mehdi on Wednesday asserted that the

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Suspicious object found along Handwara Baramulla Highway destroyed

SRINAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): A suspicious object found along the Handwara Baramulla highway in north Kashmir was destroyed on Thursday morning, officials said.

They said a suspicious object was found on a roadside at Thokerpora along the Handwara-Baramulla Highway, leading to the suspension of traffic in the area as a precautionary measure.

Officials said the area was sealed and a bomb disposal squad was called.

"The suspected object was blasted in a

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Pakistan National arrested along International Border in Jammu

JAMMU, Oct 10 (Agencies): A 31-year-old Pakistani intruder was arrested by Border Security Force (BSF) troops along the International Border here, security officials said.

Shahid Imran, a resident of Sargodha in Pakistan's Punjab, was taken into custody

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Bureaucrats will have to respond to MLAs: Omar Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) vice president and the Chief Ministerial candidate Omar Abdullah has said

that the bureaucrats are accountable to an elected government.

Omar, who was once elected as India's youngest Chief Minister and is now set to take that

chair again, although with less powers, said, a DC (District Commissioner) can't ignore an MLA, neither can an SP (Superintendent of Police).

"So, people's work will get done. Up until now, they just haven't had a voice. These officers haven't been willing to listen to anybody," Omar told Indian Express.

He said wait for the government to form and see how people will flock the Secretariat. The

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No chance of changing stance on Article 370, says NC's Masoodi

SRINAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) leaders Thursday said that there was chance of backtracking from the party's promises, especially the restoration of Article-370.

Speaking to reporters at the party headquarters in Srinagar, the JKNC leader from Zadibal seat, Tanvir Sadiq said that they will



fight hard for the promises they made in their manifesto.

Another JKNC leader and a former Member of Parliament, Justice Has-

nain Masoodi said that the party "will reciprocate the trust that people have put in us."

Asked about party's stand on the revoked status, Masoodi said that restoring of Article-370 is the first promise in their manifesto and that there "was no question on changing the stance on it."

Party's winner from north Kashmir's Gurez,

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ECI ends Model Code of Conduct

SRINAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has officially lifted the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in Haryana and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, effective immediately. This follows the declaration of results for the recent General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of both states.

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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 Sunila & 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 -09990298723
Smt Sunila & P J Bhat - 8492094581
Smt Lovely & M K Pandita - 9419157873
Grand Child: Nidhaan



Smt Bimla Hangshoo

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you about the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Rama Devi** W/o Sh. Omi Chand (Ex. Chairperson of B.D.C Bhaderwah).

Tenth Day will be performed on 16-10-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence R/o Gwari Galta Bhaderwah at 10.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Omi Chand - **Husband**
Smt. Arti & Daya Krishan - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Smt. Anu & Mukesh - **do -**
Smt. Usha & Pritam Singh - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Smt. Vidya & Dijeet - **do -**
Smt. Guddi & Lekh Raj - **do -**
Smt. Asha & Late Inder Krishan - **do -**
Smt. Pammi & Rakesh Raina - **do -**
Grand Children: Vimal, Lavya, Kashab, Dhristi



Smt. Rama Devi

Mob:- 7006093107

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,
Bhats, Bhans, Tickoos, Kouls, Sharabis, Panditas, Ballis and Dhars.



SMT. SHEELA BHAT


TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of beloved mother **Mrs. Leela Gandotra** (W/o Late Sh RD Gandotra).

10th Day will be performed on Thursday 10th Oct, 2024 at our residence 426 A/B, Near Post Office, Gandhi Nagar at 11 AM.

Kriya will be performed on 12th Oct, 2024 at our residence at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Daughters-in-Law & Sons
Mrs Anjna & Mr Rajinder Kumar Gandotra and Family
Mrs Rita & Late Col. Ravi Kumar Gandotra and Family
Mrs Kiran & Late Mr Shyam Kumar Gandotra and Family
Sh Ramlal Gandotra (Devar) and Family
(Daughters & Sons-in-law)
Smt Sudha & Sh Radhe Sham Abrol and Family
Smt Reva & Sh V.K. Abrol and Family
Contact No: 94191-16347, 94191-04425



MRS. LEELA GANDOTRA

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Saligram Mussa** (Retd. Branch Manager, National Insurance Company) S/o Lt. Sh. Hriday Nath Mussa R/o Martand, Mattan Anantnag Kashmir, Presently at H.No. 220/B, Lane No-3, Friends Sector, Subash Nagar, Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 12th of October 2024 (Saturday) at 9:00 AM near Directorate of School Education Muthi, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Kanta Devi - **Sister**
Smt. Usha Ji & Sh. Sanjay Mussa (LIC of India) - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Smt. Sunita Santoshi & Sh. Sunil Mussa - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Smt. Nisha & Sh. Bimal Ji Khar - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Grand Children : Rahul, Neha, Rohit, Deepika, Surbhi, Shubam, Sheen, Duggu & Arshu.
Contact : 9419307072, 7889418178, 9697208649
Samast Mussa's, Kichloo's, Tickoo's & Khar Parivar



Sh. Saligram Mussa
(Retd. Branch Manager, National Insurance Co)

CREMATION

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT NIMI ZAROO** W/O LATE SH CHAMAN LAL ZAROO ON 8-10-2024 R/O H.NO. 194, SEC-2, EWS COLONY BUTTA NAGAR NEXT-INN, NEAR RADIO SHARDA.

SMT NIMI ZAROO

THE CREMATION WILL BE PERFORMED ON 11TH OCTOBER 2024 (FRIDAY) AT 12.30 PM AT CREMATION GROUND, BANTALAB.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SHEETAL ZAROO -**DAUGHTER**
RAHUL ZAROO -**SON**
ENTIRE ZAROO FAMILY
PH.NO. 9599123387



TENTH DAY

of our beloved
Late Shri Inder Krishan Kar
son of Late Shri Sham Lal
Resident of House No. 248/49, Lane No. 7, Lakkar Mandi, Janipur, Jammu will be performed on 11th of October (Friday) at Muthi Ghat at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Kar Family



Late Shri Inder Krishan Kar

7889755477, 8492001155

10TH DAY/KRIYA

We are heartbroken to share that **RAMAN KUMAR** (S/o Lt Sh. NEK RAM & Smt. CHANCHALA DEVI) has left us all at very young age.

We regret to inform about unexpected Loss of **RAMAN KUMAR**.

The **10th day** will take place at Kashyap Sabha Nai Basti on Friday (11-10-2024) at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Ajay Kumar (Brother)
Ph No. : 9419159473



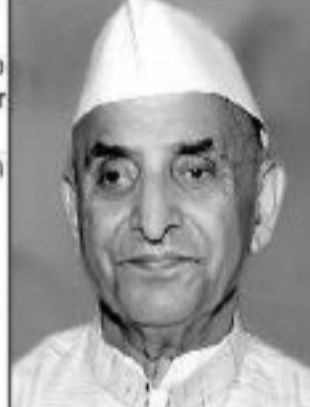
RAMAN KUMAR

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Dr. Dwarka Nath Dhar Durani (Frisal Kulgam).

10th Day will be performed on Saturday, 12th October 2024 at Alandi Ghat, Pune at 9:00 A.M.

Grief Stricken:
Mohini Dhar (Wife)
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Kundan and Bharat Bushan Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Manoranjan & Sarla Dhar Suman Dhar (Daughter)
(Grand Children)
Nidhi, Siddhi, Rounak, Amulya, Nishant & Shweta Raayna & Yuvaan (Great Grand Children)
Ph 9599227234



Dr. Dwarka Nath Dhar Durani

10TH DAY

With profound grief and pain, we inform that our beloved **Smt. Leela Devi** W/o Sh. Sham Lal R/o Channi Rama near Police Line Gate Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 2-10-2024.

The **10th Day** shall be performed on 11-10-2024 (Friday) at 11.00 am at our residence.

Grief Stricken
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Rajinder & Shaya Ravinder & Inder
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Roma and Tirth Ram Uma and Shamsher
Grand Children: Ritik, Karun, Gourav, Ridhima, Kanya, Garv & Satvik
Mob.: 7006157838, 9682120526



Smt. Leela Devi
10-03-1955 - 02-10-2024

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left all of us on your heavenly journey, but your sweet memories will always remain with us. You may no longer be with us physically, but we feel your presence and blessings in every moment of life.

BARKHI of our beloved **Mrs. Neelam Nargotra** W/o Mr. J.P. Nargotra, will be performed at our residence 37-A, B/C Gandhinagar Jammu at 12 Noon on Friday 11th October 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
NARGOTRA Family
Ph 9906354125, 8899788756




Mrs. Neelam Nargotra

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Tenth Day Kriya of **Shri Badri Nath Bhat** S/o Late Shri Jia Lal Bhat, original resident of Wandhama, Ganderbal, Kashmir, at present H.No. 274/72, Lane No. 2, Amar Colony, Talab Tillo, Jammu shall be performed on Saturday, 12th, Oct 2024 at 8.30am, Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education), Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Raj Dulair (Wife)
(Sisters & Brothers-in-law)
Smt. Shanta Bhat (W/o Lt. Sh. Sri Kanth Bhat) (Retd: JKP)
Smt. Mahesh (Bhat) Sh. Ashok Bhan (Retd. Education Dept.)
(Sisters-in-law & Brothers)
Sh. Pushkar Nath Bhat (Vijayshwar Kanyasulk, Talab Tillo)
Smt. Santosh & Sh. Bushan Lal Bhat (Retd: AG Office)
Smt. Punima & Sh. Pram Nath Bhat (Retd: JKPDD)
Smt. Rajesh & Sh. Tej Krishna Bhat (Retd: Airports Authority)
(Daughters-in-law & Sons)
Smt. Jilce & Sh. Sanjay Bhat (J&K Bank)
Smt. Sippy & Sh. Amt Bhat (Gensumesh India Pvt. Ltd.)
(Daughters and Sons-in-law)
Smt. Resita & Sh. Ashwani Salaya (Ag Office & Agricultural Dept.)
Smt. Suneeta & Sh. Rajesh Raina (Income tax Dept.)
Kaul (Habba Kadal), Mattoo (Marrigam) & Raina (Thejwa), Parisar
Mob: 9596622698, 9596715770, 8767033661



Shri Badri Nath Bhat

10th DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Janak Gupta** W/o Lt. Sh. Kul Bhushan Gupta (Ramnagar Wale) R/o 267-A, Last Mohr, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu-180004

10th Day will be performed on 11th October, 2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM at Arya Saraswati Mandir, Shastrji Nagar.

KRIYA shall be performed at our residence on 11th October, 2024 (Monday) at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Rajesh Gupta and Nisha Gupta
Sunita Gupta and Veerendra Gupta
Sh. Jatinder Gupta and Smt. Suman Gupta (Devar & Devari)
Smt. Usha Dogra W/o Lt. Sh. Surinder Mohan Dogra (Sister-in-law)
Brothers and Sisters-in-Law
Sh. Kewal Krishna Vaid & Lt. Smt. Tripta Vaid
Lt. Sh. Subash Chander Vaid & Smt. Rani Devi
Sisters & Jiji
Lt. Smt. Kamla Devi & Lt. Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta
Smt. Veena Gupta & Sh. Suresh Gupta
Ajay Gupta & Tina Gupta (Nephew & Daughter-in-law)
Aul Gupta (Nephew)



Smt. Janak Gupta

Grand Children: Karan /Sparsh/ Lakshmi/ Ishita
Contact No. 9149798929, 9453910618, 9419144187, 941972777

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

It is exactly one year since our beloved Late **S. Gurdeep Singh** (Insp. JKAP) has left this ephemeral world. To commemorate his loving memory.

Arambh of Shri Akhand Path Sahib is being organised at our residence and **Kirtan and Antim Ardas** will be performed at Gurudwara Bhetabh Mahant Mehar Singh Ji Near Distt. Hospital Poonch as per following programme:

Arambh Shri Akhand Sahib -11th Oct, 2024 at our residence.
Bhog Shri Akhand Sahib - 9:00 AM to our residence on 13th Oct, 2024
Kirtan and Antim Ardas
Gurudwara Shri Manjeet Sahib ji near District Hospital Poonch from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
GRIEF STRICKEN :
PALVINDER KOUR (WIFE)
HITKAR SINGH (SON)




S. GURDEEP SINGH (INSP. JKAP)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Tenth Day Kriya of our Revered **Karam Yogi Pt. Chaman Lal Koul Padroo** S/o Late Arjan Nath Padroo, originally a resident of Bohri Kadal / Karan Nagar, Srinagar, Kashmir, at Present: H.No. 204, Wazir Lane, behind Devan's Wine Factory, Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu, will be held at MUTHI GHAT Jammu, near the Directorate of School Education on Sunday, 13th October 2024. The assembly will be held at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sanjay Koul & Dolly Koul
Sunil Koul & Jyoti Koul
Mino Koul & Suman Koul
Daughters and Sons-in-law:
Jangra & Rajinder Koul
Shikani & Vikas Koul
Smriti & Abhishek Raiba
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Veera ji Koul
Santosh Koul & Santosh Kakpuri



Karam Yogi Pt. Chaman Lal Koul Padroo

Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Sarla & Ashok Ganpo
Sanjay Kaloo
Grand Children:
Sanchit, Nripa, Sunyot, Bulbul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Jagat Rani Kaul** (Sheelaji) W/O Lt. Sh. Jagan Nath Kaul originally Resident of Gund Jaffer Anantnag, Kashmir, left for heavenly abode on 07/10/2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 16/10/2024 (Wednesday) at Ganga Ghat, Murad Nagar and Assembly at A-19, FM-1.82, Shalimar Garden Ext. 2, Ghazabad, UP at 11:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughter's and Sons in law
Smt. Sarla Wali and Sh. B L Wali
Smt. Pami Kandoo & Lt. Sh. Ramesh Chander Kandoo
Smt. Anla Bazaz W/o Lt. Sh. Raja Ji Bazaz
Son and Daughter in law
Sh. Sunil Kaul (Buboo ji) and Smt. Shanno Kaul
Sh. Rakesh Kaul (Rajji ji) and Smt. Neera Kaul
Children: Rashu, Sethi, Jimmy, Deepak, Komal, Gopi, Rishab, Anshu, Chetan, Kesav
Your memories will always remain in our hearts.
Also remembered by Raina's, Kauls, Pandita's, Wal's, Kandoo's and Bazaz's
Contact: 981172375, 8178394476, 9891128616, 778999622, 941910582




Smt. Jagat Rani Kaul (Sheelaji)

Obituary/ Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Indrawati Tak** W/o Lt. Sh. Jai Lal Tak originally resident of Sangrampora, Sopore, A/P 111/A, Janaki Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu on 2nd Oct. 2024.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Friday, 11th Oct at 8:30 hrs at Muthi Ghat, Jammu (near Directorate of School Education)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Raj Nath Tak & Smt. Usha Tak
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-inlaw
Ashwani & Ayusha Anil & Namrata Arun & Aparna
All Grand Children
Samast Tak & Zutla Parivar.
M/S GULPOSH, Patel Bazar, Jammu.
Contact: 9419201258, 7889525299



Smt. Indrawati Tak

TENTH DAY/KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dr. Kuldeep Raj Sharma** S/o Lt. Sh. Jai Ram original resident of Ward No. 02, Mohala, Paresh, Paloum, at present resident of H.No. 10(A), Sector-3, Pangesh Colony, Main Stop Janipur, Jammu on 3rd of October 2024 (Thursday).

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence on 11th of October, 2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM.
KRIYA will be performed at our residence on 12th of October, 2024 (Saturday) at 1:00 PM.
UTHALA will be performed at our residence on 12th of October, 2024 (Saturday) at 4:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Lt. Smt. Shyama Sharma (Wife)
Quarun Sharma & Kanakshi Sharma (Son & Daughter in law)
Daughter & Son in law
Santoshi Sharma & Anil Sharma
Brother & Bhabhi
Sh. Ram Paul Sharma & Smt. Sukesh Sharma
Sh. Ram Singh Sharma & Smt. Nisha Sharma (Nursing)
Sh. Sushil Sharma & Smt. Sujana Sharma (Nursing)
Sister & Brother in law
Smt. Kanta Devi & Lt. Sh. Shashi Parrott
Smt. Santosh Devi & Lt. Sh. Jagdish Chander Koshal
Brother in law & Sister in law
Lt. Sh. Madan Lal & Lt. Smt. Kanchan Devi
Sh. Bhupaj Ram & Smt. Ashu Rani
Sh. Sh. Deepak Sharma & Smt. Suresh Kumar
Sh. Sh. Satish Sharma & Smt. Nisha Sharma



Sh. Dr. Kuldeep Raj Sharma

Mob : 6006424551 979855878

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Jammu to host first-ever Gandhi Shilp Bazaar celebrating handicrafts

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: The Handicrafts Service Centre in Jammu, under the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, is set to host the Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, a week-long exhibition showcasing exquisite handicraft and handloom products. This event will take place at Jammu Haat from October 11 to



October 17, 2024, featuring the craftsmanship of 50 artisans and weavers from across the country. The Gandhi Shilp Bazaar aims to present

a diverse array of crafts from various regions, highlighting the rich tapestry of India's artisanal heritage. Visitors can explore an impressive range of products, including bamboo and jute crafts, dry flowers, and Sital Patti from the North East. The exhibition will also showcase embroideries and Madhubani paintings from Bihar and West Bengal, as well as Kasuti sarees from South India, Gujarati embroi-

deries, Banarsi sarees, and intricate stone carvings. Moreover, the event will feature traditional rugs and durries, Zari Zardosi from Uttar Pradesh, woodware and art metal ware from Rajasthan, and Phulkari, wood inlay, and jutties from Punjab. Attendees can also admire Kullu shawls and a variety of terracotta crafts, candles, and hand block prints from other states.

CS flags off longest cycling expedition 'Race Across India' from Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today flagged off India's longest cycling expedition from Polo View Ground that would be culminating at the farthest point of the country, Kanyakumari. The expedition mainly sponsored by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is the 2nd edition of 'Race Across India' participated by 22 teams including national as well as international cyclists this year. The race is first of its kind in which participants of different age categories and professions are taking part. On the occasion, the Chief Secretary applauded the efforts of both J&K Sports Council and IOCL for their collaboration in organising this event in J&K. He showed optimism about the diversity and growth in number of participants registered for this year's event. He maintained that the expedition is gaining fame internationally that has materialised into attracting cyclists from some other nations besides a large number from different parts of the country. He observed that it gives him confidence that this

event would become the annual affair, attracting highest number of participants in the years to come. Dulloo further pointed out that numerous events of international prominence are now being organised in the UT with large participation of sportspersons of great repute. He specified the ongoing Legends League cricketing event and the Kashmir Marathon event to be held on 20th of this month exuding hope that many more significant sporting events would be held in the times to come. He said that last year some of the cyclists covered this herculean task of reaching to Kanyakumari from here in just 6 days. He expressed hope that this year too they would register new records while extending best wishes to the athletes. Secretary, YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, who was present in the ceremony, also bestowed his wishes on the participants. He remarked that this international event along with others has put J&K among the most sought of sporting destinations in the country. He reiterated that the infrastructure and equipment has

been largely upgraded in the UT to chisel the talent of local youth besides enabling hosting of events of such repute. The Divisional Head, IOCL, called this event significant that would give opportunity to the cyclists to experience India in its true diversity. It would enrich individuals by giving a chance to come into contact with diverse weather, food and languages besides giving message about good health, environmental and oil conservation for overall good of the nation. It is worth mentioning here that this cycling expedition is the largest organised event in the country with cyclists destined to start from Srinagar and conclude at Kanyakumari more than 3750 km away from here. It has around 15 solo riders and 22 teams comprising two or four members categorized in different age groups. Cyclists including Doctors, Professors, Students along with those from Army and Paramilitary forces from different parts of the country are participating enthusiastically in this year's edition of 'Race Across India' to make it one of the famous sporting events of the nation.

Dimple congratulates Omar Abdullah as CM Candidate; advocates for local governance and statehood restoration

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Sunil Dimple, President of the Mission Statehood, held a press conference today to congratulate Omar Abdullah on his election as the Chief Ministerial candidate by the National Conference (NC) legislature party. Dimple extended his best wishes to NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, acknowledging the significant victory of the NC-Congress alliance in the recent assembly elections. In a message to the media, Dimple stated, "Omar Abdullah is widely accepted by the people of Jammu and Kashmir as the Chief Minister." He emphasized that the clear majority mandate for the NC-Congress alliance reflects the public's desire to see Abdullah in leadership. Dimple also expressed a pressing need for a local, non-political Lieutenant Governor (LG) to be appointed in Jammu



and Kashmir, suggesting that such a change should coincide with the formation of the new government. Planning to visit Kashmir on October 12, Dimple aims to bring a message of love, communal harmony, and brotherhood from the people of the Jammu region. He will engage with various community groups and youth to foster unity among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In his remarks, Dimple appealed to all 29 BJP MLAs to travel to Delhi on a special chartered plane to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Home Minister Amit Shah. He urged them to advocate for the immediate restoration of the Darbar Move, the reinstatement of Jammu and Kashmir as a state, and the regularization of contractual, daily wage, and casual workers before the new government is formed. Dimple reaffirmed the priorities of his mission, stating, "Our focus will be on restoring Jammu and Kashmir's status as a princely state and addressing issues like unemployment and the return of state subjects." He noted that the Mission Statehood is currently pursuing legal avenues in the Supreme Court for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's status, including Article 370 and 35A. The press conference was attended by senior leaders Ashok Sharma and Sanjay Sethi, who echoed Dimple's sentiments regarding the future governance of Jammu and Kashmir.

Arun Gupta welcomes smart city initiative and urges action on health concerns

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, has expressed strong support for the recent decision by Jammu Smart City Ltd. to replace old electric poles with new installations. He emphasized that this initiative is expected to streamline electrical supply and reduce unnecessary faults. In his statement, Gupta highlighted the presence of numerous old electric poles in the city, particularly in areas like Canal Road and Gandhi Nagar, which are no longer in use by the Power Development Department (PDD) or any other agency. He noted that these unused poles are not only a safety hazard but also obstruct traffic flow and pedestrian movement. "We request the

authorities to remove these non-functional electric poles to enhance the free movement in our streets," he said. Additionally, Gupta raised concerns about the rising cases of Dengue and Chikungunya in Jammu district. He called for immediate action to combat these health issues, urging the Jammu Municipal Corporation to intensify fogging operations throughout municipal areas. "There is an urgent need to take concrete steps to control the spread of these diseases, especially as cases continue to rise," he stated. Gupta's remarks underscore the need for both infrastructure improvement and public health initiatives to ensure the well-being of Jammu's residents.

ARO Jammu's Initiative To Help Shortlisted Candidates To Understand Documents Required During Recruitment Rally

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Army Recruiting Office (ARO), Jammu compliments the shortlisted candidates who had appeared in the online CEE conducted as part of Phase I of selection procedure for Army Recruitment for the year 2024-25. The result of which was uploaded on the official website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. The shortlisted candidates will now be called for the Phase II; Physical Test, Documentation and Medical Examination in the month of Feb 2025. ARO, Jammu this year has undertaken a noble initiative to help the shortlisted candidates to understand the docu-

ments required during the documentation stage for which a help desk has been created at ARO, Jammu (Rehari, Jammu). The desirous candidates can visit ARO, Jammu between 0830h to 1030h, against dates mentioned against their Districts/ Tehsils. Rajouri: 14 Oct 24 (All Tehsil) Jammu: 15 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Jammu North, Jammu South & Marh) Jammu: 16 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Akhnoor, Arnia & Balwal) Jammu: 17 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Bahu, Bishnah, Chowki Choura, Dansal & Samba) Jammu: 18 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Kharawali, Maira Mandrian, Mandal,

Nagrota, Pragwal & Suchetgarh) Jammu: 19 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Khour & Jammu West) Jammu: 21 Oct 24 (Tehsil: RS Pura & Jaurian) Kathua: 22 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Bani, Bilawer, Lohai Malhar, Mahanpur & Nagri Parole) Kathua: 23 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Marheen & Ramkot) Kathua: 24 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Kathua) Kathua: 25 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Basholi, Dinga Amb & Hiranagar) Samba: 26 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Ghagwal & Samba) Samba: 28 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Bari Brahmana, Rajpura, Ramgarh &

Vijaypur) Udhampur: 29 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Ramnagar & Chenani) Udhampur: 30 Oct 24 (Tehsil: Udhampur & Majalla) Doda, Kishtwar & Reasi: 01 Nov 24 (All Tehsil) Poonch & Ramban: 02 Nov 24 (All Tehsil) Category AVTECH, AVTD, AVTDT & AVOA (All Districts & All Tehsil): 04 Nov 24 Candidates are advised to take benefit of this initiative and visit ARO during the given dates with complete set of documents which are required for the rally as mentioned in the Rally Notification along with CEE admit card/identity proof and mobile number linked with Aadhaar card.

BOMIS Pampore student shines at Inter School debate competition



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 10: BOMIS Pampore celebrated a remarkable achievement as Khan Asmat, a Grade 10 student, was awarded the Best Speaker Award at the Annual Inter-School Debate Competition hosted by Delhi Public School, Srinagar. The event saw participation from thirteen prestigious schools across Kashmir, all engaging in a spirited debate on the topic, "Morality is a Regressive Social Construct." Khan Asmat, repre-

senting BOMIS Pampore alongside fellow student Aarizoo Shafi, delivered compelling arguments against the motion, emphasizing the vital role of morality in fostering societal cohesion and personal growth. Her articulate presentation and persuasive delivery captivated both the audience and judges, earning her the top honor. "I am honored to receive this award," Asmat stated after the event. "I want to thank my teachers and classmates for their unwavering support. The culture of debates

at BOMIS Pampore has significantly boosted my confidence and ability to engage with diverse perspectives." Dr. Mehnaz Rehman, Principal of BOMIS Pampore, congratulated the students on their outstanding performance, highlighting the school's commitment to promoting debate and public speaking. "This achievement showcases the dedication and talent of our students. We are immensely proud of Asmat and Aarizoo and encourage all our students to engage in such intellectually enrich-

ing activities." The competition was judged by a distinguished panel, including Prof. Nighat and Prof. Farooq Ahmed, who assessed participants on the depth of their arguments, clarity of thought, and overall presentation. This success reinforces the importance of debate as a key element in nurturing critical thinking and communication skills at BOMIS Pampore, empowering students to engage thoughtfully with pressing social issues and express their views with confidence.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/49/2024-25 Dated: - 09-10-2024

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on **Percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Facelift and Repair/ renovation of Main PHQ building in PHQ Complex Jammu (by way of Painting windows of PHQ building, Grill and main Gate etc.)	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	1.35 lacs	200/-	2700/-	10 working days	18-10-2024	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
2	Facelift and Repair/ renovation of PHQ, APHQ and other structures in PHQ Complex Jammu (by way of Exterior Emulsion in Boundary wall, Entry Gate, Sentry Post, Barrack etc.)	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	1.51 lacs	200/-	3020/-	10 working days	18-10-2024	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
3	Facelift and Repair/ renovation of Main PHQ building in PHQ Complex Jammu (by way of Exterior painting in porch, Foot Path etc off PHQ main building)	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	1.39 lacs	200/-	2780/-	10 working days	18-10-2024	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
4	Facelift and Repair/ renovation of PHQ Complex Jammu (by way of Road Marking Strip, Cleaning of water Tank and other allied works)	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	2.02 lacs	200/-	4040/-	10 working days	18-10-2024	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
5	Facelift and Repair/ renovation of Main PHQ building in PHQ Complex Jammu (by way of Exterior emulsion in Main building of PHQ).	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	2.49 lacs	200/-	4980/-	10 working days	18-10-2024	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
6	Facelift and Repair/ renovation of General Toilet blocks of PHQ Complex Jammu (by way of Sanitary fittings, Glass Panes, Cleaning of Septic Tanks and other allied works).	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	2.49 lacs	200/-	4980/-	10 working days	18-10-2024	"A", "B", "C" & "D"

- Date of Publishing 09-10-2024 at 1600 hours.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1630 hours on 09-10-2024.
 - The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11-10-2024 to 17-10-2024 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 18-10-2024 on line.
 - The complete bidding process will be on line.
 - Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 18-10-2024 at 1100 Hrs.

Sd/-
(Er. Neeraj Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.

DIP/J-5276/24

EDITORIAL

Mental Health Day

Every year on October 10th, the world observes International Mental Health Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues, advocating for better mental health support, and combating the stigma surrounding mental illnesses. This year's theme emphasizes the importance of mental health in our communities and highlights the urgent need for global action to improve mental health services. Mental health is a critical component of overall well-being, affecting how we think, feel, and act. It influences our ability to handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental illnesses, such as anxiety disorders, depression, and schizophrenia, can significantly impair daily functioning and quality of life. Yet, despite their prevalence—affecting one in four people at some point in their lives—mental health issues often remain misunderstood and neglected. The stigma surrounding mental health can deter individuals from seeking help, perpetuating a cycle of suffering and silence. Fear of judgment or discrimination can make it difficult for people to discuss their struggles openly. International Mental Health Day aims to break down these barriers, encouraging individuals to seek support and engage in conversations about mental health. Raising awareness about mental health is vital for several reasons. Firstly, it educates the public about the signs and symptoms of mental illnesses, helping individuals recognize when they or someone they care about may need assistance. Increased awareness can lead to earlier intervention and treatment, which is crucial for improving outcomes. Secondly, awareness campaigns can promote understanding and empathy, fostering a more supportive environment for those living with mental health conditions. By sharing personal stories and experiences, advocates can humanize mental illness, challenging stereotypes and misconceptions. When communities come together to support mental health, it cultivates an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion. Despite progress in recent years, mental health services remain inadequate in many parts of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing mental health issues and created new challenges, leading to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions. Many people experienced isolation, loss, and uncertainty, highlighting the urgent need for accessible mental health support. In low- and middle-income countries, mental health services are often underfunded and limited in scope. Stigma, lack of resources, and insufficient training for healthcare professionals can hinder the delivery of effective mental health care. As we observe International Mental Health Day, it is crucial to advocate for policies that prioritize mental health funding and ensure equitable access to services for all individuals, regardless of their background or location. This International Mental Health Day serves as a call to action for individuals, communities, and governments. Here are several ways to contribute: Learn about mental health issues and share this knowledge within your community. Understanding the complexities of mental health can help reduce stigma and promote empathy. Start conversations about mental health with friends, family, and colleagues. Open discussions can normalize mental health issues and encourage those in need to seek help. Support policies that improve mental health services and funding. Engage with local mental health organizations to promote initiatives that address mental health in your community. Reach out to friends or family members who may be struggling with their mental health. A simple act of kindness or listening can make a significant difference in someone's life. Take time to care for your mental well-being. Practice self-care, seek help when needed, and encourage others to do the same. As we observe International Mental Health Day, let us recognize that mental health is an integral part of our overall health. By raising awareness, fostering understanding, and advocating for better mental health services, we can create a supportive environment for all individuals. Together, we can break down the stigma surrounding mental health and ensure that everyone has access to the care and support they need to thrive. Let this day be a reminder of our shared responsibility to promote mental well-being and advocate for a world where mental health is prioritized and celebrated.

Career counselling transforms learning by focusing on students' strengths, guiding personal and professional growth beyond academic grades

By: Vijay GarG

It fosters competency-based education, helping students develop real-world skills for a successful and fulfilling future

In increasingly competitive educational dynamics, students are usually made to run after grades instead of exploring and working on their true potential and talent. The relentless pursuit of good grades, also pushed by societal pressures and institutional expectations, has overwhelmed a lot of students, eventually resulting in them feeling stressed and directionless.

The culture of competition has not only caused personal development but also triggered a rise in student suicides - a crisis highlighted in the IC3 Institute's recent report, Student Suicides: An Epidemic Sweeping India Vol 2.

While the number one cause of death for adolescents worldwide is road accidents, in India, it is suicide. Additionally, over the last decade, the population of 0-24-year-olds in India has slightly decreased from 582 million to 581 million, yet the number of student suicides has nearly doubled, rising from 6,654 to 13,044.

Furthermore, while total suicides in India have increased by 2 percent annually on average over the past 10 and 20 years, student suicides have risen at twice that rate, increasing by 4 percent annually. In response, there is an urgent need to rethink our educational paradigms and focus on career counselling, to talk more about the mental health of students.

Ganesh Kohli, Founder, IC3 Movement has shared how career counselling transforms learning by focusing on students' strengths.

REDEFINING SUCCESS BEYOND ACADEMIC GRADES

Traditionally, success is often measured by high grades and academic achievements. However, career counselling redefines success by envisioning a broader spectrum of competencies. It helps shift the focus on critical thinking, communication, creativity, and emotional intelligence - skills that are important for surviving the complexities of the modern world.

By working along with career counsellors, students can get a better understanding of their strengths, weaknesses, interests, likes, dislikes, and much more. This personalised guidance helps them understand that success extends far beyond academic performance; it includes acquiring skills in real-world contexts.

To help our students succeed in their future, every educator should be transformed into a career and college counsellor, offering not just academic guidance but also emotional support.

Career counselling can help young people find meaning and purpose in everyday life, turning learning into a joyful experience rather than a chore. Instead of separating fun from learning in our educational institutions, we must integrate joy into the learning process.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 supports this shift by pushing people towards competency-based education. Recognising the importance of career counselling, NEP 2020 also emphasises establishing career counselling for students starting from middle school. This policy enables them to be aware of various career options and make informed decisions, helping them have a well-rounded skill set that prepares them for hardships in the future.

GUIDING STUDENTS TOWARD PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Each student is unique, with dis-

tinct strengths, interests, and learning styles. Career counsellors act as mentors, guiding students through the complexities of self-discovery and professional development. They assist students in setting realistic goals, fostering a growth mindset, and building resilience to navigate life's challenges.

This personalised approach enables students to select courses, extracurricular activities, and career paths that align with their profiles.

Preliminary findings from IC3 Institute's upcoming Student Quest Surveys highlight the significant impact of personalised career counselling. Early data suggests that a majority of students who received career counselling felt that it helped them set realistic and achievable career goals. This, in turn, positively influenced their academic engagement and performance.

By personalising education, career counselling empowers students to take ownership of their learning and career paths, leading to more fulfilling and successful outcomes.

Strategies for integrating competency-based learning into the education system

To shift from a competition-based model to one focused on competencies, many strategies can be implemented in our education system, including:

1. Systemic counselling: There is an urgent need to integrate career and college counselling into every school activity - classroom lessons, assembly, sports day, annual day, etc. Making counselling a central function is paramount to helping students find purpose and their competence.

2. Training school teachers and principals: Every teacher and principal in school needs to have training and a reasonable understanding of coun-

selling that enables them to integrate counselling into their curriculum and activities. Every teacher's endeavour must be to help students link classroom lessons with the real world.

3. Love-based vs fear-based approach: A student rarely loves or hates the subject, they love or hate their teacher. While examination results are important, students that are in love with their subjects produce better results than those that are in fear of the examinations. Counselling brings context, which is key to invoking this love-based approach.

4. Extracurricular as the real curriculum: Every hobby and fun activity that the student is involved with is the best foundation on which the curriculum can be wrapped around.

Students who benefit from career counselling are better equipped to meet the vast demands of the 21st-century employment market. They graduate with important skills such as communication, teamwork, and adaptability, which are crucial for success in any career field. This comprehensive preparation fosters a more resilient, innovative, and productive workforce, which can enhance growth and innovation in the broader economy.

Supported by the NEP 2020 and other progressive policies like the Ministry of Education's UMMEED guidelines, these strategies can help in building a more dynamic, student-centered education system.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist street kour
Chand MHR Malout
Punjab)*

Saffron surge in Jammu & red surge in Kashmir

By: Omkar Dattatray

The just concluded J&K Assembly polls will be written in golden letters in the annals of the history of the elections in this part of India. The UT elections of 2024 were different from all other Assembly elections held so far in many ways. It was the first poll after the assembly elections of 2014 and also the first poll after the abrogation of controversial Article 370 and downsizing and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UT's of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. This Assembly poll was held in a terror free, peaceful environment and in the backdrop of no stone pelting, calls for the boycott of the elections were totally absent and it was the most free and fair election. The people of Jammu and Kashmir participated in the 2024 Assembly elections overwhelmingly and enthusiastically. There were long queues of voters in front of the polling stations in all the three phases of the crucial and historical polls. There was witnessed unprecedented voter turnout in all the three phases of the polls. The voter turnout together in all three phases of the Assembly polls was 63.45%. The voter turnout was 65.65% in third phase. In the first phase of polls, there was a voter turnout of 61.38% and in the second phase on 25 September the voter percentage was 57% and all this shows that people of Jammu and Kashmir voted in an unprecedented way. This shows the people's trust and faith in democracy. The election results indicated that democracy has once again triumphed and it is a matter of pride and satisfaction for the ECI, government, political parties and public at large. But the election results on October 1, 2024 showed that in this election, there was intense and acute polarization in both regions or divisions of the UT, that is the people of Jammu by and large voted in favor of BJP and as against this the voters of Kashmir region voted en-masse in

favor of National Conference. Thus there was sharp divide seen in the voting in the two divisions. It can be said that the people of Jammu voted more or less in favor of the Saffron party of BJP and the Kashmiris in the valley voted in favor of JKNC unprecedentedly. Thus it can be opined that there was saffron surge in Jammu region baring some places of Pirpanchal and in Kashmir region, there was red surge everywhere from cities to villages. In Kashmir people voted in favor of Plough of the National Conference. NC got 37 Assembly seats from its stronghold of Kashmir as Kashmiri Muslims voted in favor of NC in huge numbers and this can be described as the red revolution. There was red, red everywhere as its party flag is red with a white plough. So the people of Kashmir have voted in favor of the mainstream and traditional party NC. It has come to fore that NC poll campaigners created some sort of suspicion and fear among the voters that if BJP wins, there will be bulldozer Raj in Kashmir and the people will have to suffer. The peace, change, normalcy and development narrative of BJP paled into insignificance before the false narrative created and sustained by the activists of NC and the party which boasts that NC is not a political party only but a movement has been successful in extracting major chunk of the votes of the Kashmir region. The Jammu region by and large rallied behind the nationalistic and development politics and policies of the BJP and voted in very large numbers in favor of the saffron party. For the first time in the electoral history of Jammu and Kashmir, BJP got an emphatic win in Jammu region as it crossed all its previous records and won 29 assembly seats all from Jammu region. So there was saffron surge in Jammu division as the lotus bloomed in Jammu. Despite sincere efforts and campaigning by BJP across Kashmir valley and despite unprecedented development, change and peace and largest tourist footfall and spending of huge amounts of money on development projects, BJP failed

to open its score in valley as it did not win a single seat from Kashmir region. Thus there was sharp divide and polarization in the two regions of the UT, where Jammu voted by and large in favor of BJP. But in Kashmir region in contrast to Jammu, Kashmir region voted en masse for JKNC and thus there was red surge everywhere across Kashmir. Communal voting is proscribed and prohibited in India as per the constitution. But the just concluded assembly poll results showed that the people of the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir have voted on communal and religious lines. The Muslim majority belt of Kashmir has voted in favor of NC, while the Hindu majority belt of Jammu region has backed BJP and voted in its favor and gave the BJP record 29 assembly seats for the first time. So there is no exaggeration in saying that the two regions namely Jammu as well as Kashmir voted on religious lines. Jammu rallied behind BJP and Kashmir rallied behind NC. We claim that democracy has triumphed in Jammu and Kashmir as people have once again shown trust and faith in democracy. It is all right but the glaring and striking fact is that there was sharp polarization in the two regions of the UT and the voters of Jammu and Kashmir both voted on religious bases and it does not augur well for our democracy, secularism and pluralism and the country. Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections reveal deep political divides, with NC dominating Kashmir and BJP thriving in Jammu, reflecting religious and regional divide and preferences. An array of jagged mountain ranges and a state-of-the-art tunnel are not the only barriers between the two regions that make up India's most restive region and its newest Union Territory. As the results of the assembly polls showed Jammu and Kashmir are also separated by their political preferences, which tracked closely with dominant faiths in these regions. The 2024 polls threw up among the most polarized results in J&K - with both the NC and BJP posting their

best-ever results in the region. NC won 35 of the 47 seats in Kashmir and emerged as the single largest party in the valley. The BJP won 29 out of 43 seats in Jammu, similarly emerging as the party in the Hindu-majority region. The roots of these differences are contested and longstanding. The region of Jammu subsumes within itself 10 districts, out of which only four are Hindu majority while other six - these are more sparsely populated, to be sure - are Muslim majority. Bitterness between the two main regions is old but has mounted over allegations of eroding Hindu majority and an economic downturn reflected in a lack of job opportunities for young people. Allegations of favouritism to Kashmir are a common trigger for the grouse. All this was in play to determine the stark difference in campaign narratives this election season. In Kashmir, the discourse revolved around deeply ideological questions of restoration of statehood and restoration of Article 370 - two things promised by both major parties in the valley, the NC and PDP. The real issues concerning roads, health, school and the like played second fiddle. In Jammu, which is far more integrated with India, the question of Article 370's abrogation evoked a very different response, there was no question of its restoration even among people who argued that it had not benefitted them to the extent imagined. Pakistan and cross-border terrorism was a constant presence was ironically absent in Kashmir in these polls because the militants had shifted their focus to several areas of Jammu region and thus it was an issue in polls in Jammu region. To conclude it boils down to the fact that polarization and that too deep was revealed by the election results and there is saffron surge in Jammu and red surge in Kashmir.

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

AIIMS Jammu leads way forward in diagnostic & procedural dermatology

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: The Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy which deals with the diagnosis and management of various disorders related to skin, hair and nails, treatment of various sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV as well as leprosy, is working tirelessly to offer elaborate, comprehensive and breakthrough dermatological care to patients of Jammu & Kashmir, adjoining areas of Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. The Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy is actively involved in providing outpatient, inpatient, phototherapy, and minor OT services. Various disorders of skin including eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo, various bacterial, viral, fungal and other skin and subcutaneous infections, acne, melasma and other disorders of pigmentation, connective tissue disorders, autoimmune vesiculobullous skin disorders, nails, hairs, oral and genital mucosa are being routinely seen and treated in the department. Alongside patient care services, the department is also involved in teaching and training of undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, community services, and participating in relevant national health programs.

Various services which are being provided in the department include:
Outpatient Depart-



ment Consultation- Both appointment based and walk-in patients are being seen, assessed and treated in an holistic manner. Since the OPD has become functional approximately 3800 patients have been benefited, including 500 patients seen when the dry run services were being provided by the institute. On an average, the department sees anything from 70 to more than 100 patients per day, a number which has been constantly rising since the inauguration of health care services.

Diagnostic services: The constant endeavour of the specialists in the department to provide best diagnostic services in the form of latest facilities like dermoscopy, ultraviolet fluorescent dermoscopy, videodermoscopy of skin, trichoscopy for hair, onychoscopy for nails is helping patients on a daily basis. Dermoscopy is a relatively new advancement in the field of dermatology which helps visualise skin and deeper structures non-invasively, giving instant diagnostic clues to various skin, nail,

and hair disorders.

The department has experts in the field of dermoscopy, with Dr. Payal Chauhan, Associate Professor & Head, who is MAMC, PGI Chandigarh, and AIIMS trained working prominently at national and international level in association with International Society of Dermoscopy. She has been working in the field of dermoscopy and dermatopathology over the past decade, and believes that comprehensive and enhanced diagnostic services can be provided to patients when a clinician supplements clinical examination with dermatoscopy, and dermatopathology clues. This will especially help patients of the region, who many a times have to leave the state undiagnosed to centres outside.

Along with dermoscopy and dermatopathology services, microbiological studies are also being done which include Gram stain, Giemsa stain, Ziehl-Nielsen stain, wet mount staining and KOH staining for various types of bacterial, viral, fungal, and mycobacterial skin infec-

tions. The department is equipped with high end trinocular microscope with camera and Ipad attachment, videodermoscope, Wood's lamp, handheld dermatoscope with pigment booster and ultraviolet light enhancement.

Diagnostic procedures including cutaneous, mucosal, nail and scalp biopsies for histopathological examination and direct immunofluorescence studies are being routinely done. All the skin biopsies done for diagnostic purposes are seen and a comprehensive clinico-dermoscopic-histopathological correlation is done by clinicians to increase diagnostic yield. This is along the lines of AIIMS Delhi, which is also the mentor institute of AIIMS Jammu.

Procedural dermatology: The department is also carrying out 10-15 procedures daily on an average in the minor OT which is equipped with procedure chair, OT table, electrocautery machine. The procedures being offered to the patients include skin biopsy, shave excision, chemical cautery for xanthelasma, warts, intralesional injections for alopecia and hypertrophic scars/keloids, immunotherapy for warts and molluscum contagiosum, electrocautery for skin tags, DPNs/SKs, warts, freckles, mole removal, and pairing for callus/callosity/corn. Microneedling for acne scars, comedone/milia extraction, nail

biopsy and nail removal, cyst removal, curettage, cautery, cryotherapy of benign epidermal and vascular tumours including pyogenic granuloma is being done.

Therapeutic UV B phototherapy is available and is being offered to multiple patients for vitiligo and psoriasis.

A sustained, diligent and robust effort is being made under the able leadership of our worthy Executive Director & CEO, Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta and Medical Superintendent, Lt. Gen (Dr) Sunil Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.), to continuously upgrade the departmental services, equipment, and provide the latest services and procedures for the best possible care available in the state. The department plans to start patch and photopatch test, chemical peeling, platelet rich plasma services, and vitiligo surgery soon.

In continuation of this, departmental faculty and residents are conducting extensive research and publications aimed at better understanding the etiopathology and diagnosis of diseases and therapeutic modalities available.

The department of dermatology aims to provide evidence-based, ethical, affordable and compassionate health care to the patients suffering with various skin diseases and to establish a centre of excellence in teaching and research.

JKMS celebrates "Tiny Twirls and Dandiya Swirls"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: International Montessori PreSchool, elementary wing of JKMS hosted "Tiny Twirls and Dandiya Swirls," a captivating Navratri celebration for mother-daughter duos.

This festive event aimed to strengthen bonds of love and honor our traditions. The event commenced with Navdevi Pooja, a reverent ceremony honoring Goddess Durga's nine forms, accompanied by soulful devotional songs. The beautifully deco-

rated venue, and vibrant Garba music created an electrifying atmosphere. Students and their lovely mothers clad in traditional attires and armed with Dandiya sticks, danced with joy, rejuvenating their spirits.

The Garba music and exquisite decorations made the event unforgettable. The highlight of the event was the energetic Dandiya Dhamaal session, where mothers, daughters and teachers joined in the colorful dances. Apurv Gupta, Dean of Academics, and Ojsevy, Sonia Kapoor

, coordinator elementary wing esteemed guests, attended the event and applauded the combined effort of students and teachers for presenting a wonderful show.

Apurv in his address stated that "Navratri symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. This celebration reinforces values of family, tradition, and cultural heritage and create lifelong memories. The School Management ensured the event's resounding success, making "Tiny Twirls and Dandiya Swirls" an unforgettable experience.

Lecturers' Forum calls on Sunil Sharma

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 10: A delegation of All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum District Kishtwar led by District President of the forum, Pardeep Koul today called on Sunil Sharma who has been elected MLA from District Kishtwar.

The forum delegation was accompanied by Jagdish Chauhan, Suresh Mattoo, Daleep Badyal, Sandeep Singh, Amarjeet Singh Kotwal and others. The delegation extended congratulations on behalf of the forum to Sunil Sharma on his election as MLA from Nagseini-Padder Assembly segment.

Koul expressed gratitude to Sharma for his continued and unconditional support to the Forum vis-a-vis 'a few genuine demands of the Forum--- regularisation



and grant of Assured Career Progression (ACP).

Due to continued growth of political stature of Sharma, it was felt and conveyed that Sharma would use his influence to address the most genuine issues of the forum.

Some important matters also came under serious discussion between newly elected MLA, Sunil Sharma and the members of All J&K Lecturers' Forum Kishtwar. Pardeep Koul, Presi-

dent of the forum conveyed congratulations to Sharma from the central Body of the forum which is led by RS Salathia, Chairman.

Pardeep Singh Rakwal, President, Fida Gulzar, Chairman Kashmir and Shakeel Ahmed Butt, President Kashmir.

Sharma, while expressing gratitude to the forum delegation led by Pardeep Koul, President assured that he would do everything for the welfare of the most elite class of the society.

National College of Education organized Induction Programme for B.Ed students



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: The Induction Programme for the newly enrolled students of the B.Ed programme (Session 2024-26) was held today. The event aimed to acquaint the students with the college environment, faculty and the various aspects of their chosen B.Ed programme.

Yashumati Jamwal, Senior Faculty of National College of Education, warmly welcomed the students, setting a hospitable and engaging atmosphere for the induction. She extended heartfelt congratulations to the students for opting

to pursue teacher education programme. She highlighted the professional nature of the B.Ed course and encouraged the students to actively engage both in academic and professional development throughout their two years journey.

The faculty members introduced themselves and provided an orientation to their respective subjects. This session allowed the students to become acquainted with their educators and different courses they will be studying. Newly enrolled students introduced themselves and shared their motivation for choosing the teacher

education programme.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Ajay Singh Jamwal (Dean Administration) appreciated the student's choice of teaching profession and highlighted the importance of quality education. Vote of thanks was delivered by Neetu Sharma. She extended the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all individuals who contributed to the success of Induction Programme. Other faculty members Aneesa Jamwal, Meenakshi Sharma, Pooja Gupta, Kusum Lata and Abhinav Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Jammu sculptor Ganesh Sharma confers International Nobel Prize in Art and Literature

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Eminent sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma, a senior contemporary artist from Jammu and Kashmir, has been honored with the prestigious "International Nobel Prize for Art and Literature." This recognition was awarded by the Iraqi Falcon Academy for Arts and Literature and Peace in collaboration with the International World Peace Coalition.

The award was presented to Sharma during a virtual ceremony attended by Counselor D. The Fragrance Ben Maryam, Vice President of the Academy, and Counselor D. Omer Al-Baghdadi, Head of the Coalition. This honor acknowledges Sharma's significant contributions to promoting art, culture, and literature on international platforms.

With over 45 years of experience in the field, Ganesh Kumar Sharma has participated in thousands of international art



exhibitions and events, showcasing his creative works both virtually and physically around the globe. He has received numerous awards at international, national, and state levels, reflecting his impact and recognition in the art community.

Many of Sharma's works are now part of permanent collections in various art galleries in India and abroad, further cementing his legacy as a key figure in contemporary art. This latest accolade highlights his dedication to the arts and his commitment to fostering cultural exchange worldwide.

GGM Science College observes World Mental Health Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: In observance of World Mental Health Day, a highly insightful and impactful lecture on the topic "Emotion Regulation: The Hidden Driver Behind Psychopathology, Academic Struggles, Relationship Conflicts, Narcissism, and Substance Abuse" was delivered by Prof. Bal Krishan, Assistant Professor, Zoology and Convener, Manodarpan - Psychological Counselling Cell at GGM Science College, Jammu. The event was held under the esteemed patronage of Princi-

pal, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta.

The lecture emphasized the critical role of emotional regulation in managing mental health, academic performance, and interpersonal relationships. Prof. Bal Krishan provided in-depth insights into how improper emotional regulation could contribute to various psychological conditions.

Many students attended the lecture and participated enthusiastically in the Interactive Session that followed. The programme offered a platform for the students to gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of

emotional regulation.

The programme was attended by Dr. Lekh Raj, Head, Department of Zoology, Dr. Narinder Kumar, Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Neha Mahajan, Dr. Arjun Singh Rathore, Dr. Arun Sharma, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, Dr. Reetika Rani and Dr. Nisha among others. Dr. Jyotdeep Kour Raina presented the welcome address and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Akanksha Parihar. The lecture was part of the college's ongoing commitment to promoting mental well-being and providing psychological support to students and faculty alike.

JK assembly election was Hindu vs Muslim: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: In a controversial statement, Hinduist Sanatani leader Guruji Raju Chandel asserted that the recent Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections represented a "Hindu vs Muslim" conflict. Speaking to journalists in Jammu, Chandel expressed frustration over the electoral performance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kashmir, where he claimed that the majority of Muslims did not support the party.

Chandel revealed that he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the cessation of all government facili-



ties for Muslims in Kashmir. He characterized many in the region as having a "Jihadi mindset," claiming they consistently fail to vote for the BJP despite the development initiatives undertaken by the party.

Highlighting the BJP's success in Jammu, where the party secured 29 assembly seats, Chandel emphasized the

demographic differences, noting that Jammu has a significant Hindu population compared to the predominantly Muslim Kashmir Valley. He expressed concern that if current voting patterns continue, a Hindu may never be able to become Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chandel voiced his belief that the Kashmiri Pandit community continues to face discrimination and land disputes, alleging that their ancestral lands have been illegally occupied. He lamented the lack of justice for Kashmiri Pandits over the past 75 years and criticized those within the community who have aligned with the National

Conference party.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Chandel called for Jammu to be recognized as a separate state from Kashmir and urged the swift passage of a Population Law Bill to address what he described as an increasing Muslim population in the region. He concluded by stating that Hindus have become a minority in Jammu and Kashmir, despite being the majority in the rest of India.

The statements have sparked significant debate about communal tensions and the political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir as the region navigates its complex identity and governance issues.

IYC addresses press conference on drug issues and youth engagement

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Maan Singh Rathore, National Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) and Incharge of Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress, held a press conference today at the PCC headquarters in Shaheed Chowk, Jammu. In his address, he raised concerns about the rampant drug issues affecting the youth in India and criticized the ruling BJP government for its perceived inaction.

Rathore pointed to the recent drug seizures at the Adani Port in Gujarat, highlighting the substantial quantities involved and questioning why there has been no significant follow-



up or accountability. He lamented that while media coverage focuses on drug-related incidents in Delhi, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh, the broader implications for youth across the nation remain unaddressed.

He accused the BJP of fostering a culture that distracts and intoxicates young people, inhibiting

their potential and aspirations. Rathore emphasized the importance of youth empowerment and called for a concerted effort to elevate India's standing on the global stage through the contributions of its younger generations.

Under the leadership of Youth Congress National Chairman Bhanu Chib,

Rathore announced plans for a major mobilization effort on October 16, where the Youth Congress will encircle Parliament to protest against what they deem a "dictatorial" government.

He urged the youth to join this movement to awaken the government to the pressing issues affecting their lives.

Joining Rathore at the press conference were Ricky Dalotra, Incharge of HQ Jammu Youth Congress, and Rahul Tandon, General Secretary of JKPYC, among other leaders. The meeting concluded with a call to action for the youth of India to reclaim their voice and work towards a brighter future.

A lila, a legacy: Here's a look at Ramlila hotspots in the region

Ram, Sita, Lakshman and Ravan were not the only stars on stage at the all-women Ramlila at Peer Muchalla. There was Naseem Ahmad — coach of double Olympics medalist Neeraj Chopra; Nishad Kumar — double silver medalist at the 2020 and 2024 Paralympics, Swami Rajeshwaranand and Baba Manmohan Singh. Keeping up to theme of Jadon Se Judo — connecting to the roots — each in their own way and context gave a message of working together to strengthen India as a world power.

Amongst the robust chants of Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jai Shri Ram and Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguruji Ki Fateh, children and elders watched in awe as Ritu Kapoor mesmerised them with her exaggerated eye rolls as Ravan. Nishad Kumar's glittering silver medal invited happy cheers and loud screams. Stories from Guru Granth Sahib to Lord Krishna's life depicted how values can help us navigate this increasingly materialistic life. The scenes enacted were that of Shurpanakha Lakshman Samvaad and Sita haran. Coupled with impressive light and sound design, the actors lip synced but that did not take away from the spectacle that was created with backdrop projection and stage fog.

The role of Sita was played by a class 12th girl Payal, Ram by HDFC financial advisor Pratiha Singh, Hanuman by class 11th girl Janvi Nagpal, and in Ravan's majestic get up, looking menacing, was dance teacher Ritu Kapoor.

Ekta Nagpal, a social activist, who has brought this all-women cast together, called it as a small but definitive step towards women empow-

erment. "I fail to understand why our definition of women empowerment is restricted to being Western — to be able to drive the car or go out for jobs. True empowerment for me is how women can lead the society by being able and capable," she said. One amongst as many as 45 Ramlilas running in tricity, this particular group not just had an all-women cast, but also much of the crew. Pooja managed projection for the huge crowd and live stream for their YouTube channel. Together, they offered a picture of resilience and strength. Amongst the group, the youngest to play the baal roop of Ram was six-and-a-half-month-old Manisha, while the oldest was 81-year-old Pushpa Juneja, who played Gurumata at Balmiki Ashram.

Each day of Ramlila is dedicated to a certain social cause and this one paid homage to our soldiers with the ITBP band playing for the crowd, as specially-abled children sang Ram bhajans. Amongst the other causes that became part of the spectacle were cyber safety, beti bachao, beti padhao and saving the environment. Seeing the enthusiastic response each year, Ekta proudly shared. "In our home we have three generations of women, and each one of us is connected with Ramlila in one way or another."

"It's my second time playing Ravan. I am glad how this has given me a distinct identity. It feels great to be appreciated on stage. With so many people turning up, we have been successful in connecting the past and the present," Ritu shared.

In their third year now as the audience figure swelled, so did the budget. This year, it was



close to Rs 20-22 lakh. "The response is rousing, different sections of society contribute in different ways. What we take pride in is ensuring that our values and tradition is kept alive," said Ekta, before hurrying back to rehearsals.

Meanwhile, many different groups are performing Ramlila in tricity and innovating. Abhishek Sharma, director, Tagore Theatre, has stayed connected to Ramlila. "This year, our writers at Uttarakhand Yuva Samiti, Sector 28, have given huge weightage to the character of Jamwant. Also, Hanuman's portrayal in Ramlilas is traditionally aggressive, so we have tried to show his sewak bhav. Shrupnakha's prem prastav too has been written beautifully."

Props rule in Jalandhar Ramlila in Jalandhar is never star-studded. There are no fancy stalls put up along the venue to draw bigger crowds. But still there are four-five Ramlila groups that are popular because of their vibrant depictions

of various scenes, bringing out the essence of Ramayana. These popular venues include Basti Sheikh, Jalandhar Cantt, Burlington Park and Partap Bagh. The Ramlila presentation at Basti Sheikh stands out, where a bunch of 40-50 middle-aged men have formed Jai Mahabir Club and give their best performance.

The club team is a bunch of businessmen, who spare five-six hours daily from their busy schedules to plan, prepare and perform the shows every evening. "Tonight, we shall have the maximum viewers for we are going to depict the scene of Laxman Murchha. I will be playing the role of Mahabir and will bring the booti to cure Laxman," said Sunil Shoor, a jeweller by profession, who plays the roles of Dashrath and Mahabir in the Ramlila every year. A gathering of 800-1000 people, mostly families, assemble around the venue at 10 pm daily to watch the show.

A very interesting part

of the Ramlila organised by this group is the use of Pushpak Viman. "We have created this flying chariot of Ravan for Sita haran by welding various iron railings and covering it with wooden planks. There is a loud applause when we bring such props in our show and the kids watch it with more enthusiasm. We used it yesterday in our show and have kept it back for use in the coming year," said Sanjeev Sondhi, who directed the show, where Vicky Sharma plays Ram, Harsh Sondhi Laxman and Ravi Sondhi Sita.

In Delhi, it's political! In a city where the Dasehra season is synonymous with grand Ramlila performances, actor-turned-politician Manoj Tiwari is stealing the spotlight. Dressed as Parshuram, an avatar of Lord Vishnu, Tiwari's powerful return to the stage at the Luv Kush Ramlila at Red Fort is a celebration of both tradition and showbiz.

While his political career often takes cen-

trestage, Tiwari's passion for performing has never faded. This year, he's not only wowing audiences in Delhi but is also set to play Bali in Ayodhya's Ramlila. And he's not doing it alone. Sharing the stage with him as Meghnad (Ravan's eldest son) is AAP leader Brijesh Goyal, proving that even rivals in politics can unite for the love of Ramayana!

But Ramlila in Delhi is more than just about big names. Hundreds of Ramlilas across the city are keeping the festive spirit alive. From traditional storytelling to modern twists, there's a Ramlila for everyone, but the Luv Kush Ramlila is a crowd favourite, as it brings Bollywood flair to the age-old epic.

Usually the go-to place for political rallies and protests, Ramlila Maidan transforms into a cultural hub during Dasehra. Here, under the glittering lights and soaring stages, audiences witness the tale of Lord Ram unfold in all its glory. Madhavdas Park, located opposite

Lajpat Rai Market, near Red Fort, hosts one of the most technologically advanced Ramlilas. Another prominent venue is Subhash Maidan, home to the renowned Sampoorna Ramlila, performed by Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra since 1957. Known for its dance-drama rendition of the Ramayana, it has become a staple for Delhiites seeking an artistic portrayal of the epic.

In Pitampura, the DDA Ground hosts one of the oldest Ramlilas, where generations gather to watch the same stories unfold year after year, creating a strong sense of community and cultural continuity.

Daresi Grounds the hotspot in Ludhiana

In Ludhiana, the oldest form of Ramlila is held every year at Daresi Grounds. The dolas or chariot in which Ram, Sita and Lakshman sit together pass through several places in the interior parts of the city before finally reaching the Grounds, where Ramlila is enacted in a strictly religious manner. Interestingly, the roles of Ram, Lakshman and Sita are often played by those belonging to the families of Pandits! The former councillor of the area, Parminder Mehta, shared, "Ramlila has been staged at the Daresi Grounds since the past six-seven decades or even more. Along with it, a mela is held with stalls of eatables, decorative articles, swings, etc, which attracts huge crowds."

Apart from Daresi, the Ramlila is held in many other areas of Ludhiana, including Agar Nagar, in PUDA grounds near Vardhman, and in other localities while a huge mela is held at the Government College for Girls.

Adaptability in Amritsar

The age-old tradition of retelling Ramayana, with a usual dose of drama, has got an upgrade with costumes, LED background screens and professional light and sound. With the audience for the traditional Ramlila decreasing, there have been adaptations to make the experience larger-than-life without compromising on authenticity.

The Vaishno Dramatic Club, which has been organising Ramlila for the past four decades in Naraingarh and Chherhara areas of Amritsar, is among one of the most visited Ramlila productions in the city. From hiring local theatre artists for playing various characters to creating light and sound effects on several important scenes and composing their own music, the group has ensured that their audience gets a novel experience every year. "Traditions have to give away for some adaptability and, so, we bring in novelty in terms of our presentation and production on stage, and not the storytelling. The characters on stage have an impact on the audience. The Ramlila has today become like a theatre show, where every character gets his own unique entry and presence. For that, we have to get everything in the right order," said Sunil Sharma, who has been playing the role of Ravan for years.

Other elements include rotating the stage, using elements of fire, water and wind through technology-based tools to add more realistic appeal to the scenes. While there are some temple committees that organise Ramlila every year with big budgets, there are also youth clubs that hold functions with their limited resources.

Bhagyashree: Navratri and Durga Puja are all about celebrating womanhood and Shakti

Actor Bhagyashree, who recently travelled to Kolkata to explore the pandals during Durga Puja, shares her heartfelt connection to the city and its vibrant celebrations. "I have been going (to Kolkata) on and off for years," she reveals. "The way they celebrate, it's absolutely amazing because the pandals are so beautiful. Each and every artisan makes a story and there's a theme to it. How Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated in Bombay, Durga Puja is like that in Kolkata. Each pandal describes something special and different."

In addition to the stunning artistry of the pandals, Bhagyashree enthusiastically highlights the irresistible delicacies that accompany the festivities. "The city is known for its puchka. I enjoy it, and had it this year too. I am not a person who goes for sweets as such, but mishti doi is something even I can't resist," she admits, illustrating her love for the local cuisine.

The 55-year-old actress, who recently made a comeback and was last seen in Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video



(2023), expresses her joy during this auspicious season. "Navratri in Mumbai was all about garba and dandiya. As we were growing up, we used to dress up in the most vivid colours and dance through the night," she reminisces. "This time, not just Calcutta, but I've been travelling to Raipur, Indore, and I can see that the same enthusiasm is all over India actually. People enjoy the festivities during this time with the same amount of fervour."

Furthermore, Bhag-

yashree reflects on the deeper significance of Navratri and Durga Puja, emphasising the celebration of womanhood and inner strength. "Navratri and Durga Puja are all about celebrating womanhood and Shakti that is inside all women. We tend to forget about this power but Durga Puja brings all that out. Not only strength, but compassion, beauty, caring, sympathy and empathy, that a woman is made out of. Navratri is nine emotions of a woman for me."

From Salman Khan to Rajamouli: Bollywood pays respect to Ratan Tata's legacy

Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Diljit Dosanjh, and SS Rajamouli were among the prominent cinema personalities who mourned the death of Tata Group's chairman emeritus and legendary industrialist Ratan Tata.

Tata, known for his philanthropy besides being a respected industry leader, died at a private hospital in Mumbai on late Wednesday night. He was 86.

In a post on X, Salman said he was "deeply saddened" by Tata's passing.

"Goodbye to The Titan... Fly high like you loved... and oh how you taught us to love," Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote alongside a picture of a younger Tata, who held licenses to fly both jets and helicopters, sitting in a fighter plane.

Ajay, who was one of the first film stars to pay condolence, said the world mourns the loss of a visionary.

"Ratan Tata's legacy will forever inspire generations. His contributions to India and beyond are immeasurable. We are deeply grateful. Rest in peace, Sir," he wrote on the microblogging site.

Priyanka said Tata touched the lives of millions through his kindness.

"Your legacy of leadership and generosity will continue to inspire generations. Thank you for your unmatched passion and dedication for everything you did for our country. You have been an inspiration to us all and will be greatly missed, Sir. #Ratan-



Tata," she said.

Alia Bhatt said Tata taught multiple generations "what it is to give".

Diljit, who is currently on the European leg of his 'Dil-Luminati Tour', paid homage to the entrepreneur at his concert in Dusseldorf, Germany.

"It was important to mention his name here because his life was all about hard work. I never read anywhere that he spoke ill of anyone.

"He did hard work and charity, and that's what life is... To be helpful to people. He lived an unblemished life," said the singer-actor, in a video posted by his team on Instagram.

The mortal remains of Tata were brought out of the hospital in an ambulance escorted by police vehicles early on Thursday and taken to his residence in Colaba.

Tata will be accorded a state funeral on Thursday.

Legends are born, and they

live forever, said Rajamouli.

"It's hard to imagine a day without using a TATA product... Ratan Tata's legacy is woven into everyday life. If anyone will stand the test of time alongside the Panchabhootas, it's him," the filmmaker said.

Akshay Kumar said he was "heartbroken" to hear about Tata's demise.

"The world bids farewell to a man who built more than just an empire... His legacy of kindness, innovation, and leadership will continue to inspire generations. Rest in peace, a true legend. Om Shanti," he wrote on X.

Dharmendra said his dream of meeting Tata remained unfulfilled.

"A humble king, who after his workers like his own children. Sir, you will always be remembered with great love and respect," the veteran star said in an Instagram post.

Actor-host Simi Garewal, who once hosted Tata on her popu-

lar talk show "Rendezvous With Simi Garewal, penned a heartfelt note for him.

"They say you have gone. It's too hard to bear your loss... too hard... Farewell my friend," she wrote.

For Kamal Haasan, he was a "personal hero".

"A national treasure whose contributions in nation-building shall forever be etched in the story of modern India. His true richness lay not in material wealth but in his ethics, integrity, humility and patriotism," he wrote.

The "Indian 2" star recalled meeting Tata in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks while he was staying at the iconic Taj Hotel.

"In that moment of national crisis, the titan stood tall and became the embodiment of the Indian spirit, to rebuild and emerge stronger as a nation." Actor and fellow Parsi Boman Irani praised Tata for his contributions to the country, ranging from industry, philanthropy, elegance, humanity and his angel like devotion to animals.

"Ratan Tata will remain even in the afterlife as one of the finest citizens of modern India. Rest in eternal peace Ratansha," he added.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic news of Shri Ratan Tata. He upheld the values of integrity, grace, dignity through everything he did and was truly an icon and Taj of India. RIP Sir, you have touched so many lives," wrote actor Anushka Sharma.

East Asia Summit an opportunity to further deepen engagement with ASEAN countries: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (October 10, 2024) expressed confidence that his visit to Laos to attend the ASEAN-India and East Asia summits will further deepen engagement with ASEAN countries.

In his departure statement, Mr. Modi noted that India is marking a decade of Act East policy this year.

"I will join the ASEAN leaders to review progress in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and chart the future direction of our cooperation," the Prime Minister said.

The East Asia Summit will provide an opportunity to



deliberate on the challenges to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, he said.

Mr. Modi said India shared

close cultural and civilisation ties with the region, including with Lao PDR, which are enriched by a shared heritage of Buddhism and Ramayana.

Leaving for Lao PDR to take part in the 21st ASEAN-India and 19th East Asia Summit. This is a special year as we mark a decade of our Act East Policy, which has led to substantial benefits for our nation. There will also be various bilateral meetings and interactions with various...

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) October 10, 2024

"I look forward to my meetings with the Lao PDR leadership to further strengthen our bilateral ties," he said.

Mr. Modi is visiting Lao PDR at the invitation of Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia summits.

Top business, political leaders line up to pay homage to Ratan Tata



MUMBAI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Thousands of people from different walks of life, including politicians and corporate leaders, gathered at the NCPA here on Thursday to pay homage to the legendary Ratan Tata, whose identity transcended beyond being the top industry icon.

The body of Ratan Tata, who died in a hospital here on Wednesday night, was brought from his Colaba home in a hearse decked with white flowers to the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) in south Mumbai.

The mortal remains were kept at the NCPA in a casket with a Tricolour covering it.

Among the early ones who arrived to pay respect were Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar, his daughter MP Supriya Sule, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Navnirman Sena chief Deepak Parekh and Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Even before Tata's mortal remains were brought to the NCPA from his residence, many people waited patiently in queues to get a last glimpse of the person who held an immense respect in their hearts for different reasons.

His body will be taken to the Prayer Hall at the Worli crematorium later in the day.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said Ratan Tata will be accorded a state funeral.

Leader of opposition in the Maharashtra assembly Vijay Wadettiwar and assembly speaker and local MLA Rahul Narwekar were among those who reached the NCPA.

The employees and top executives of the Tata group were also present to pay respect.

Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, Special Commissioner Deven Bharti and Joint Commissioner of Police Satya Narayan Chowdhary were among the top officials who also paid homage to Tata at the NCPA lawns.

In view of the heavy

footfall anticipated at the NCPA, the Mumbai police have beefed up security arrangements and also imposed traffic restrictions in parts of Nariman Point.

Tata, who is credited with transforming the Tata Group into a globally renowned conglomerate, died at age 86 at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday night.

CM Shinde, his deputy Devendra Fadnis, Maharashtra's education minister Deepak Kesarkar and industrialist Mukesh Ambani were among those who rushed to the hospital after hearing about Tata's death.

Before the hearse carrying Tata's mortal remains left from his home, located a couple of kilometres away from the NCPA, the Mumbai Police band played a tune as a mark of respect to him.

Several people had gathered outside his house also since early morning to pay tribute.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was among the early visitors at Tata's home.

The Maharashtra government has declared a day of mourning in the state on Thursday to pay tributes to Ratan Tata, the Chief Minister's Office said.

A statement quoting CM Shinde said the national Tricolour on government offices in Maharashtra will be flown at half-mast on Thursday as a sign of mourning.

Newborn girl abandoned in Tamil Nadu toilet, rescued by sanitation workers

A newborn girl was found abandoned in a public toilet at a bus stand in Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu. She was found by the sanitation workers who rescued her and rushed her to the hospital.

CHENNAI, Oct 10 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a newborn girl was found abandoned in a public toilet at the New Bus Stand in Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu on October 10, Thursday. The baby, only a few hours old, was discovered by the public toilet's sanitation staff, who immediately took her to the hospital, where she is currently receiving care.

The newborn was found after concerned members of the public alerted the staff about a bucket suspiciously left

upside down inside one of the bathrooms. Upon inspection, the workers were horrified to find under the bucket a baby lying on the ground with her umbilical cord still intact.

Without wasting time, the workers rushed her to the district government hospital. The newborn was handed over to the neonatal ward personnel for urgent medical attention. Hospital officials confirmed that the baby is in stable condition and is receiving necessary care.

Local police were noti-

fied of the situation and have launched an investigation to track down the parents. Authorities are trying to determine why the baby was abandoned in such a manner. As of now, no suspects have been identified, but the police are appealing to the public for any information that might help in locating the child's parents.

Two days ago, another newborn girl was found abandoned behind a house in Cuddalore district's Pichavaram town near Chidambaram. She was rescued by the vil-



lagers and taken to the hospital for treatment.

Cases of child abandonment, especially of girl child, are raising concerns about child safety among the general

public. Many are praising the quick response of the sanitation workers in Mayiladuthurai, whose prompt actions may have saved the baby's life.

Ratan Tata had courage to speak truth to power: Former PM Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday described Ratan Tata as a stalwart of the Indian industry and said he had the courage to speak truth to those in power.

In his condolence letter to Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran, Singh said Tata was much more than a business icon.

"Deeply saddened by the demise of Shri Ratan Tata ji, a stalwart of Indian Industry. He was much more than a business icon, his vision and humanity demonstrated in the work of several charities founded and nurtured during his life," the former prime minister said.

"He was having the courage of speaking the truth to the men in power. I have fond memories of working very closely with him on several occasions," he



added.

"I take this opportunity to convey my deepest condolences on this sad occasion. May his soul Rest in Peace," Singh also said.

Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata, who played a key role in transforming the group into a global conglomerate, passed away on Wednesday night in Mumbai. He was 86.

Two killed as heap of soil collapses on them in Chhattisgarh's Surguja

AMBIKAPUR, Oct 10 (Agencies): Two men were killed when a portion of earth caved in while they were digging soil in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday near Jamdara village under Kunni police chowki when the victims were digging white clay (chhui mitti), a police official said.

As per preliminary information, the victims, identified as Hiran Yadav and Shiva Yadav, along with some other villagers were digging soil, when

a portion of earth caved in due to which they got trapped under the debris.

Both of them died on the spot, he said. Locals had been digging soil at the spot for a long time and it had taken the shape of a tunnel which collapsed, the official said.

After being alerted, a police team reached the spot and retrieved the bodies, he said.

The bodies were sent for postmortem and further investigation was underway into the incident, he added.

UP couple sacrifices child to cure mother's disease, hides her body in jungle

MUZAFFARNAGAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): A couple have been arrested for allegedly sacrificing their one-month-old girl child in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Thursday.

According to police, the mother, Mamta was ill for quite some time when the couple took

an exorcist's advice to kill the child for curing her.

The incident took place in Belda village of Bhopa area on Wednesday night and the neighbours informed the police when they found the child missing. Additional Superintendent of Police, (Rural) Aditya

Bansal told agency.

During interrogation, Mamta and her husband, Gopal Kashyap confessed that after killing their daughter they hid her body somewhere in a jungle, Bansal said.

Efforts are underway to recover the body and nab Harendra, the exorcist, he said.

Great Nicobar project must be paused, reviewed: Congress' Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday said the Environment Ministry's claim that 8.5 lakh trees will get felled for the Great Nicobar Integrated Development Project is a "gigantic underestimate" and asserted that the only sensible way forward is for the project to be paused and reviewed.

The former environment minister shared a media report on X, which said that the government claimed that only 50 percent of this forest area, around 6,500 hectares, would actually be deforested and that around 8.5 lakh trees would be cut, however, according to calculations by a rainforest ecologist with three decades of experience, these deforestation figures are gross underestimates.



In a post on X, Ramesh said, "The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change has been claiming that 8.5 lakh trees will get felled while executing the Great Nicobar Integrated Development Project."

"This has been known to be a gigantic underestimate. Now we have independent estimates that anywhere between 32 lakh and 58 lakh trees will have to be destroyed. It could even be much more depending on the rich forest areas being cleared

out," he said.

The only sensible way forward is for this disaster of a project to be paused and reviewed thoroughly by an independent and professionally competent team, the Congress general secretary said, adding that "egos and prestige" must be set aside.

Ramesh has been asserting that the present design of the Great Nicobar Island infrastructure project "endangers ecology" in a "needlessly unacceptable manner."

In a letter to Environ-

ment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Ramesh had also questioned the credibility, composition, and conclusions of a high-powered committee (HPC) tasked to revisit the environmental clearances granted to the Great Nicobar Island infrastructure project.

Ramesh and Yadav have had a series of exchanges via letters on the project.

Ramesh on August 27 had hit back at the Environment Ministry's assertion that clearances for the Great Nicobar Island project were granted after careful consideration, saying the Environmental Impact Assessment study for it appears to have been primed to ensure its clearance in the form proposed by the NITI Aayog.

In a 10-page letter to Yadav, Ramesh had

said even if one were to accept the strategic and defence importance of the project, it would not preclude any discussion of its impact on the island's tribal communities and natural ecosystem.

"Nobody can be against 'strategic considerations' but surely a better balance between them and ecological concerns can and must be struck, which is certainly missing in this case," he had said in his communication to Yadav, which came in continuation of a series of letter exchanges between the two.

In response to a letter from Ramesh on August 10, Yadav, on August 21, had said the environmental and forest clearances granted by his ministry have "withstood judicial scrutiny."

RG Kar horror: Junior doctors continue fast unto death amid Durga Puja festivities

KOLKATA, Oct 10 (Agencies): The junior doctors, agitating over the rape and murder of their colleague at the RG Kar hospital, continued their fast unto death for the fifth day on Thursday amid the Durga Puja festivities across West Bengal.

At 9.30 am, the fast by the nine junior doctors of various medical colleges entered its 108th hour.

The junior doctors began the fast unto death on Saturday evening at the Dorina Crossing in Dharmatala in the heart of Kolkata after ending the total cease work that had crippled healthcare services.

Meanwhile, the state government convened a meeting on Wednesday evening with the

protestors but failed to break the deadlock.

Following the meeting, which was chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, the protesting doctors alleged that they received nothing concrete from the state except "verbal assurances".

"Our friends have been protesting without food for over four days, and the government says it will consider our demands only in the third week of October, after the pujas. We never expected such insensitivity," said Debashish Halder of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front.

At the protest site, the doctors also criticised the police for apprehending their colleagues

who were demonstrating and distributing leaflets outside some Durga Puja pandals in the city on Wednesday.

The protesting doctors emphasised that securing justice for the deceased woman medic remains their foremost priority.

They also called for the immediate removal of Health Secretary NS Nigam, alleging administrative incompetence and inaction against corruption in the department.

Other demands include the establishment of a centralised referral system for all hospitals and medical colleges in the state, the implementation of a bed vacancy monitoring system, and the formation of task forces

to ensure essential provisions for CCTV, on-call rooms, and washrooms at their workplaces.

They are also demanding increased police protection in hospitals, recruitment of permanent women police personnel, and swift filling of vacant positions for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers.

The junior doctors went on to cease work following the rape-murder of a fellow medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

They ended their stir after 42 days on September 21 following assurances from the state government to look into their demands.

Hurricane Milton destroys homes, leaves 2 million without power in Florida

Hurricane Milton spawned at least 19 tornadoes causing damage in numerous counties in Florida, destroying around 125 homes.

FLORIDA, Oct 10 (Agencies): Hurricane Milton marched across central Florida on Thursday after making landfall on the state's west coast hours earlier, whipping up deadly tornadoes, destroying homes and knocking out power to nearly 2 million customers.

The storm made landfall around 8:30 p.m. EDT (0030 GMT) on Wednesday as a Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 120 miles per hour (195 kph) near Siesta Key, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

By early Thursday, wind speeds reduced to a still dangerous 90 mph (150 kph), dropping Milton to a Category 1 hurricane, with heavy rains and damaging storm surges. The hurricane was located about 45 miles (75 km) west-southwest of Cape Canaveral, home to NASA's Space Force Station.

A flash flood emergency was in effect for the Tampa Bay area including the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, the hurricane center said, with St. Petersburg already receiving 16.6 inches (422 mm) of rain on Wednesday.

The eye of the storm made landfall in Siesta Key, a barrier island town of some 5,400 off Sarasota about 60 miles (100 km) south of the Tampa Bay metropolitan area, which is home to more than 3 million people.

Governor Ron DeSantis said he hoped Tampa Bay, once



seen as the potential bull's eye, could dodge major damage and that the worst of the predicted storm surge could be avoided thanks to the landfall coming before the high tide. Forecasters said seawater could still rise as high as 13 feet (4 meters).

DeSantis reported Milton had also spawned at least 19 tornadoes caused damage in numerous counties, destroying around 125 homes, most of them mobile homes.

"At this point, it's too dangerous to evacuate safely, so you have to shelter in place and just hunker down," DeSantis said upon announcing the landfall.

At least two deaths were reported at a retirement community following a suspected tornado in Fort Pierce on the eastern coast of Florida, NBC News reported, citing St. Lucie County Sheriff Keith Pearson. His department did not immediately respond to a request for details.

Pearson estimated 100 homes were destroyed in the county where some 17 tornadoes touched down, NBC said.

More than 2 million homes and businesses in Florida were without power, according to PowerOutage.us.

The storm was expected to cross the Florida peninsula overnight and emerge into the Atlantic, still with hurricane force, on Thursday.

Milton is forecast to maintain hurricane intensity while crossing Florida later on Thursday morning but after moving into the Atlantic it is likely to gradually lose tropical characteristics and slowly weaken, the Hurricane Center added.

In a state already battered by Hurricane Helene two weeks ago, as many as two million people were ordered to evacuate, and millions more live in the projected path of the storm.

Much of the southern U.S. experienced the deadly force of Hurricane Helene as it cut a swath of devastation through Florida and several other states. Both storms are expected to cause billions of dollars in damage.

US President Joe Biden was briefed by emergency authori-

ties on the initial impacts of the hurricane, according to a White House statement.

Zoo Animals Protected While human evacuees jammed the highways and created gasoline shortages, animals including African elephants, Caribbean flamingos and pygmy hippos were riding out the storm at Tampa's zoo.

Nearly a quarter of Florida's gasoline stations were out of fuel on Wednesday afternoon.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had moved millions of liters (gallons) of water, millions of meals and other supplies and personnel into the area. None of the additional aid will detract from recovery efforts for Hurricane Helene, the agency's administrator, Deanne Criswell said.

Trucks have been running 24 hours a day to clear mounds of debris left behind by Helene before Milton potentially turned them into dangerous projectiles, DeSantis said.

About 9,000 National Guard personnel were deployed in Florida, ready to assist recovery efforts, as were 50,000 electricity grid workers in anticipating widespread power outages, DeSantis said.

Search-and-rescue teams were prepared to head out as soon as the storm passes, working through the night if needed, DeSantis said.

"It's going to mean pretty much all the rescues are going to be done in the dark, in the middle of the night, but that's fine. They're going to do that," DeSantis said.

Suspected militants shoot police in vehicle in northwest Pakistan, killing 2 officers

PESHAWAR, Oct 10 (Agencies): Suspected militants riding on a motorcycle opened fire on a vehicle carrying police officers Thursday in a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban, killing two of them and wounding two others, police said.

The attack happened in Tank, a city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, local police official Sher Afzal said.

No group has claimed responsibility, but sus-

picion is likely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban, known as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, who often target security forces.

The TTP are outlawed in Pakistan. They are separate from but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban who control neighboring Afghanistan.

The latest violence came a day after at least three people were killed in clashes in the northwestern town of Jamrud between police and sup-

porters of a banned right group Pashtun Protection Movement or PTM, which authorities say supports TTP.

The government has also barred PTM from holding rallies in the northwest, allegedly because the demonstrations are against the interests of Pakistan. PTM denies backing the Pakistani Taliban, and tension was growing Thursday after the group vowed to resist the ban on their rallies.

Suspected attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels target ship in Red Sea

DUBAI, Oct 10 (Agencies): A series of suspected attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship on Thursday in the Red Sea, authorities said.

The attack comes as the rebels continue to threaten ships moving through the Red Sea, a waterway that once saw \$1 trillion in goods move through it a year, over the ongoing conflicts in the Mideast stemming from the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

A ship in the Red Sea skirting the coast of the East Africa found itself struck first by a projectile that damaged the vessel, but sparked no fire and caused no injuries, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The private security firm Ambrey identified the ship as a Liberian-flagged chemical tanker.

At least two more projectiles later fell in the waters around the vessel, which was a distance away from Hodeida, the Houthi-controlled port from which many of the rebels' attacks have been launched.

The rebels did not immediately claim the attack. However, it can take them hours or even days to acknowledge their assaults.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels as well.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the U.K. to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

In Thursday's attack, Ambrey said it "assessed the vessel to have a strong affiliation with the Houthi targeting profile," without elaborating.

China will lift 4-year ban on Australian lobster imports, Australia's prime minister says

MELBOURNE, Oct 10 (Agencies): China will resume importing Australian live lobsters by the end of the year, removing the final major obstacle to bilateral trade that once cost Australian exporters more than 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year, Australia's prime minister said Thursday.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made the announcement after meeting Premier Li Qiang on the sidelines of a Southeast Asian summit in Vientiane, Laos.

The ban on lobsters was the last of a series of official and unofficial trade barriers that Beijing has agreed to lift since Albanese's center-left Labor Party government was elected in 2022.

"I'm pleased to announce that Premier Li and I have agreed on a timetable to resume full lobster trade by the end of this year," Albanese told reporters.

"This of course will be in time for Chinese New Year and this will be welcomed by the people engaged in the live lobster industry," he added.

Albanese has given assurances that relations with China have been improved without compromising Australian interests. Beijing is unhappy with restrictions Australia has placed on some Chinese investments because of security concerns.

"What's important is



that friends are able to have direct discussions. It doesn't imply agreement, it doesn't imply compliance and I'll always represent Australia's national interest. That's what I did today; it was a very constructive meeting," Albanese said.

"I'm encouraged by the progress that we have made between Australia and China's relationship in producing stabilization to the benefit of both of our nations and with the objective of advancing peace and security in the region," Albanese added.

China's Embassy in Australia did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday.

Australian lobster exports to China had been worth AU\$700 million (\$470 million) in 2019.

Beijing ended trade with Australia in 2020 on a range of commodities including lobster, coal, wine, barley, beef and wood as diplomatic relations plumbed new depths.

Conservative Prime

Minister Scott Morrison had angered Beijing that year by demanding an independent investigation into the origins of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom Ryan, a manager at lobster exporter Five Star Seafoods at Port MacDonnell in South Australia state, said he was disappointed that his trade would be the last to resume with China.

"It's been a long time coming," Ryan told Australian Broadcasting Corp. of Albanese's announcement.

"Between myself and other people in Port MacDonnell, it's an absolute relief," he added.

The industry had found new markets for lobster products but at lower profit margins, Ryan said.

Li said during a state visit to Australia in June that he had agreed with Albanese to "properly manage" their nations' differences.

Beijing had severed minister-to-minister contacts during the conservatives' nine years in power.

No right to represent us: Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te's message to China

TAIPEI, Oct 10 (Agencies): China has no right to represent Taiwan, but the island is willing to work with Beijing to combat challenges like climate change, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Thursday, striking both a firm and a conciliatory tone, drawing anger from China.

Lai, who took office in January, is detested by China, which calls him a "separatist". Beijing claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, a view Lai and his government reject.

Giving a keynote national address outside the presidential office in Taipei, Lai reiterated that the Republic of China - the island's formal name - and the People's Republic of China are "not subordinate to each other".

"On this land, democracy and freedom are growing and thriving. The People's Republic of China has no right to represent Taiwan," he said.

Taiwan's determination

to defend its sovereignty, maintain peace in the Taiwan Strait and seek equal and dignified talks with China all remain unchanged, Lai added.

"I will also uphold the commitment to resist annexation or encroachment upon our sovereignty," Lai said.

But he also held out an offer of cooperation with China.

"We are willing to work with China on addressing climate change, combating infectious diseases, and maintaining regional security to pursue peace and mutual prosperity for the well-being of the people on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait."

In Beijing, China's foreign ministry rejected Lai's overtures, saying that Taiwan has "no so-called sovereignty", as it is part of China, and that Lai had sought to "deliberately sever" the historical connection between the two.

"It again exposed his stubborn stance of Taiwan independence and sinister intention of increasing tensions



in the Taiwan Strait to seek political gain," ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular news briefing.

Lai added that he hoped China could live up to the international community's expectations, and apply its influence and work with other countries toward ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East.

"And we hope that it will take up its international responsibilities and, along with Taiwan, contribute to the peace, security, and prosperity of the region and the globe," he said.

MILITARY DRILLS Taiwanese and Western officials have warned

China could stage more military drills in response to his speech.

A senior official in the Taiwanese presidential office, briefing reporters after the speech, said Lai had extended an olive branch to China and used a "positive narrative" when describing the government in Beijing.

It was not Taiwan who was provoking or seeking to change the status quo, and China did not need an excuse for military activity, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They are ready and waiting," the official said, adding that Taiwan is watching the situation closely.

China has no justification for using Lai's speech as a pretext for military pressure, the United States, Taiwan's most important international backer despite the absence of diplomatic ties, said on Wednesday.

Lai has repeatedly offered talks with Beijing but has been rebuffed. He says only Taiwan's people can decide their future.

Lai also praised Taiwan's diversity, highlighting Nymphia Wind, the first East Asian to take the crown in RuPaul's Drag Race, and Olympic gold medalist Lin Yu-ting, one of two boxers at the centre of a gender dispute at this year's Paris Olympics.

"The people of Taiwan are diverse, and they are fearless. Our own Nymphia Wind is a queen on the world stage. The people of Taiwan are truly courageous. Lin Yu-ting, a daughter of Taiwan, is a queen of the boxing world," he said.

Palestinian officials say Israeli strike on Gaza shelter kills 13

DEIR AL-BALAH, Oct 10 (Agencies): An Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in Gaza killed at least 13 people on Thursday, with the toll likely to rise, Palestinian medical officials said.

Israel has continued to strike at what it says are militant targets across the Palestinian enclave even as attention has shifted to its war against Hezbollah in Lebanon and rising tensions with Iran. Israel has been carrying out a dayslong air and ground operation against Hamas in northern Gaza.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the bodies were brought, confirmed the toll from



the strike in the central town of Deir al-Balah. Agency reporter saw ambulances arriving

at the hospital. Many of the bodies arrived in pieces, and the death toll was expected to rise.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Witnesses said the strike targeted a makeshift post of the Hamas-run police inside the shelter.

Israel has repeatedly attacked schools-turned-shelters in Gaza, accusing militants of hiding out there.

Hamas has continued to launch attacks on Israeli forces and fire occasional rockets into Israel more than a year after its Oct. 7 attack ignited the war.

Army Organised Medical & Veterinary Camp at Gambhir Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Oct 10: In an effort to address the healthcare needs of residents in the remote areas of Rajouri, Indian Army organised a free Medical and Veterinary camp on 10 Oct 2024 at Gambhir for Gujjar & Bakarawal. This initiative aims to extend crucial medical services to the underprivileged communities, fostering health and well-being.



The camp offered free consultations, basic

health check-ups and distribution of essential medicines. The Indian Army is committed to ensuring that residents in these remote areas have access to quality healthcare, promoting a healthier and stronger community. This initiative aligns with the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to serve the nation beyond defence, exemplifying their dedication to the well-being of citi-

zens. A total of 78 Male, 28 Female, 07 Children and 07 Buffalo, 40 goat, 12 Mule and 02 Horse were screened in the camp and provided with proper Medicare and free medicines by the doctors from the Indian Army. The free medical camp underscores the Army ethos of solidarity and support, showcasing the positive impact that collaborative efforts can have on the health.

NueGo Flags Off Historic Kashmir to Kanyakumari (E-K2K) Electric Bus Expedition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: National, 8th October 2024 – NueGo, India's leading electric bus brand from GreenCell Mobility, is proud to announce the official commencement of the Kashmir to Kanyakumari (E-K2K) Electric bus expedition. This historic journey marks a significant leap in promoting sustainable mass mobility in India. With this expedition, NueGo is set to become the first EV bus brand in the world to accomplish such a historic feat. NueGo aims to cover over 4,000+ kms from 3,500 feet above sea level to the coastline.

As the bus passes through over 200 cities and towns, it will serve as a symbol of India's rich cultural heritage, while also spreading the message of sustainability. The E-K2K bus will be making a positive impact throughout its journey by engaging in various meaningful activities, such as student workshops, tree plantation, clean-up initiatives, safety-themed Nukkad Natak in cities like Jaipur, Hyderabad, Bhopal and

Bangalore. Doing such impactful events along the way—truly embodies the spirit of "the E-bus that does good."

The journey was kicked off in Jammu by Dr Devansh Yadav, CEO Jammu Smart city and JMC Commissioner. Today at the NueGo depot hub in Ghaziabad, several distinguished guests gathered for the flag-off ceremony from Delhi NCR. Sudhendu J. Sinha, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Dr. Sanjeev K. Lohia, Senior Advisor, The World Bank; Mahua Acharya, Ex-MD & CEO at CESL; Abhijeet Sinha, Project Director at NHEV; and Amit Bhatt, MD at ICCT India; were present as guests of honor to witness the beginning of this groundbreaking journey.

Devndra Chawla, CEO and MD of Green-Cell Mobility, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the need for green mass mobility solutions in India. "NueGo's ambitious E-K2K journey will see us travel over 4,000 Kms from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, demonstrating the resilience of electric

buses across diverse terrains in India. This expedition is more than just a record-breaking feat; it symbolizes India's rich cultural heritage. By passing through 200+ cities and towns, the journey will inspire transition to EV buses. Engaging in various impactful activities, the E-K2K bus truly embodies the spirit of "the E-bus that does good" while highlighting India's commitment to innovation and green technology, said Chawla.

Dhanpal Jhaveri, CEO – Eversource Capital said, "We applaud GreenCell in its groundbreaking 'Kashmir to Kanyakumari' (E-K2K) expedition. This initiative is a significant step toward demonstrating the commercial viability and environmental benefits of electric mobility in India. At Eversource, we believe that investments in clean technologies, such as electric vehicles, are critical to addressing the climate challenge while creating long-term value and accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy, fostering long-term value for both people and the planet."

Army Organised Lecture On Career Possibilities For Women At Harni Poonch



Top News Report

POONCH, Oct 10: Army organised a lecture on "Career Opportunity for women" at Harni, Mendhar on 10 Oct 2024. With an aim to educate and spread awareness on Women empowerment and Career Opportunity for Women in Jammu

and Kashmir, Indian Army organised a lecture at Harni, Mendhar to highlight importance of choosing streams after matric & related career opportunity therein to women. In recent years, there has been a significant shift in the role of women in the workforce. The main objective of the lecture

was to spread awareness amongst the youth on the latest opportunities for induction of women in the Armed Forces. During the lecture, various entry schemes and entries for commission and enrolment in the Indian Army were explained to the students including qualification requirements.

BSP General Secretary Rajesh Gupta congratulates Omar Abdullah on election victory

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 10: Rajesh Gupta, General Secretary and Media Head of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Jammu and Kashmir, visited the residence of

lah's leadership. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the region and improving the lives of its residents. The meeting underscored the BSP's commitment to



Chief Minister Designate Omar Abdullah at Gupkar Road today. During the meeting, Gupta extended his heartfelt congratulations to Abdullah for his impressive electoral victory.

Gupta acknowledged the significance of the win and expressed optimism about the future governance under Abdul-

supporting a government that prioritizes inclusivity and social justice.

As Omar Abdullah prepares to take on the responsibilities of Chief Minister, the gesture from Gupta reflects a spirit of unity among political parties in the pursuit of better governance for Jammu and Kashmir.

Galaxy A16 5G set to launch in India soon

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, is excited to announce the upcoming launch of Galaxy A16 5G smartphone in India. Galaxy A16 5G marks a significant advancement in mid-range smartphones by providing 6 generations of OS upgrades and 6 years of security updates. Samsung Galaxy A16 5G boasts segment-defining features while offering exceptional value to consumers.

The Galaxy A16 5G is set to adorn the premium Galaxy A-Series design with the signature 'Key

Island' aesthetic. The new glass back pattern, coupled with a larger display and thinner bezels, transforms Galaxy A16 5G into a truly immersive entertainment device, perfect for streaming visual content. Galaxy A16 5G will be available in three stunning colours: Gold, Light Green, and Blue Black.

By providing an unmatched 6 generations of OS upgrades and 6 years of security updates in its segment, Galaxy A16 5G is set to redefine the value proposition in India's smartphone industry and deliver unmatched experience in mid-range smartphones, enabling users to enjoy

the latest features over a long period of time.

Galaxy A16 5G is the first mid-range Galaxy A series smartphone to provide an IP54 rating for water and dust resistance. It will come with 'Knox Vault Chipset' for securing essential data, including pins and passwords.

Adding to its unmatched longevity, Samsung Galaxy A16 5G will come with versatile features such as a triple camera system with ultra wide lens designed to capture stunning images and expansive landscapes. Galaxy A16 5G builds upon Galaxy A series' rich heritage of delivering exceptional camera capabilities, allowing users to express their creativity like never before. In addition to its impressive camera system, a vibrant Super AMOLED display further enhances the viewing experience with brilliant colours and deep contrasts.

Additionally, an upgraded MediaTek processor will bring hyper-fast connectivity, high-performance multitasking capabilities as well as great gaming experience. Samsung Galaxy A16 5G also comes with its defense grade Knox security solutions offering features such as Auto Blocker, Secure Folder, Private Share, PinApp, etc. to enable protection of users' personal data and safeguard against unauthorized sources, malware, and blocking any malicious activity.

Army Organized Lecture On Women Empowerment at Parat Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Oct 10: Army organised an inspiring session on Women Empowerment for girl students at Government High School, Dharoon. The engaging session aimed to inspire and uplift young minds, promoting the importance of self-belief, education, and the collective power of women was attended by 50 girl students and 08 teachers. The Girl students were acquainted with some of the most influential women in history of India, Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams, Mithali Raj, Indira

Gandhi, Mary Kom, Kiran Bedi, Arundhati Roy, Dr Tessy Thomas "Missile women of India" to name a few, who made significant contributions in their fields and have been role model for generations to come. The students were later called upon on stage to express their ambitions in life. Lecture was focused on giving impetus to education and financial independence which is a powerful tool in the journey of empowerment. Important aspects like the well-being of women, women's equality, opportunities for women for self-development, and how

empowered women can be the building block of the nation were brought out by the girl students through discussions. As the event concluded, students and teachers expressed their gratitude towards Indian Army for organising a truly enlightening interaction session and for their continuous support towards motivating and guiding the youth for better life. The lecture on women empowerment served as a powerful reminder that investing in girls' education and supporting their dreams paves the way for a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Army conducts lecture on importance of physical fitness at Salani Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, Oct 10: Indian Army conducted a lecture on the importance of physical fitness at Government High School, Salani, District Poonch (J&K) with an aim to raise awareness about importance of physical fitness for youth and local populace. Lecture was attended by the students in a positive spirit. The representative of the Indian Army discussed the importance of Physical Fitness and emphasized that exercise is important for every-



one including young & old. The Government of India's 'Fit India Initiative' is an initiative which intends to boost the overall health of the popula-

tion by Primary Physical Fitness. Thus, children, adolescents and adults of all ages need regular physical activity. The lecture was successful

in instilling confidence and competitive spirit amongst the populace of Government High School, Salani, District Poonch (J&K).

FROM PAGE 1

Pakistan National arrested along International Border in Jammu

from Makwal after he sneaked into this side from across the border Tuesday evening, the officials said.

They said two knives, one each smart watch, cigarette packet, an empty SIM card holder and a Rs 5 coin in Pakistani currency were recovered from Imran's possession, they said.

Bureaucrats will have to respond to MLAs: Omar Abdullah

lines outside the Secretariat today tells how disconnected the present administration has been from the people they are supposed to be serving.

He further said that getting into a fight with LG from day one won't help him address his voters' concern.

"I'm trying to draw a line between what

NC and BJP do and what J&K govt and Union govt do. And if we can ensure that those lines don't get blurred... it'll be to mutual advantage of both"

He said the huge mandate his party got leaves him with a "sense of humility" and that he is humbled. "It leaves us with a great sense of responsibility," he said.

The third-generation politician from Abdullah family said, "You don't get a mandate like this without people expecting to see visible change. And that obviously becomes a huge responsibility for us."

This responsibility, he said, will have to be fulfilled by navigating uncharted waters, referring to being the first Chief Minister of a Union Territory.

"This is the first time the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) is going to have to work with an elected government," he said.

There are many firsts that the new government has to figure out how to understand, he said.

"We need to understand what departments ours are. What powers are ours. What decisions we can take. How far we can push the line. So, we'll figure it out," said Omar, who is dubbed as the most articulate political leader of Kashmir right

Omar Abdullah chosen as legislature party chairman, set to become J&K chief minister

He said in the meeting all newly elected members vowed to stay united and to work for peoples' welfare, fulfil their aspirations.

No chance of changing stance on Article 370, says NC's Masoodi

Nazir Gurezi said, it is a responsibility of the party to serve people, for they have given a huge mandate to it, news agency NVI reported.

Yesterday, party's vice president and the Chief Ministerial candidate Omar Abdullah said, it was foolish to expect restoration of Article-370 from the party that took it away. He was referring to the BJP government at

the centre. Omar's statement drew flak on social media by Kashmiri users.

ECI ends Model Code of Conduct

MCC, enforced upon the announcement of the election schedule, remains active until the completion of the electoral process. With the results now declared by the respective Returning Officers, the MCC is no longer in effect. The ECI has directed that all concerned parties be notified of this development.

The lifting of the MCC signifies the formal conclusion of the election process and the return to normal political activity in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir.

"Battle was between Truth, Lie..." NC leader Surinder Choudhary on J&K polls

process for forming the government has begun. Speaking to media persons, JKNC MP

Ruhullah Mehdi said, "... Everyone will come to know about the government formation within a day or two... The process for forming the government has begun..."

Suspicious object found along Handwara Baramulla Highway destroyed

controlled explosion," officials said. It was not immediately clear whether the suspicious object was an improvised explosive device (IED) or something else.

Night temperature drops after snowfall on higher reaches of Kashmir

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.0°C during the intervention nights of Wednesday and Thursday, and it was 1.7°C below normal for the famous ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the MeT office said.

DSW Kathua distributes baby care kits on International Day of Girl Child

Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 10: The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) Kathua marked the International Day of the Girl Child by distributing 12 Baby Care Kits to newly born baby girls at the Obstetrics & Gynecology Ward of Government Medical College Kathua. This initiative supports the theme "Girls' Vision for the Future," highlighting the significance of empowering girls for their healthy development.

Led by District Social Welfare Officer Varun



Kumar Chaudhary, JKAS, the event was organized by the Sankalp: HEW Shakti team. Dr. Meenakshi Rana, HOD of the Obstetrics &

Gynecology Department, also supported the initiative. In addition to the Baby Care Kits, the team provided healthy diets for the mothers, promoting

both maternal and infant health.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign is vital for advocating the rights and well-

being of girls in India. Such initiatives not only meet the immediate needs of families but also drive long-term societal change by fostering respect and equality for girls. Ensuring every girl has the opportunity to thrive is crucial for building a brighter future for our nation.

Through these programs, we reaffirm our commitment to creating an environment where girls can envision and achieve their dreams, paving the way for a society that values and empowers every girl.

NILM J&K Organized School Level Painting Competition at Modern Public H S S



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: National Incredible Literacy Mission organized school level painting competition to aware school students about the importance of our environmental and natural resources. Students of Modern Public Higher Secondary School Patyal Chak, Marh (Jammu) took part in this painting competition.

This competition aimed to aware the school children about green wealth and need of conservation of forest, water and other need full environ-

ment resources. "This year thousands of students actively participated in this competition and has evaluated their approach for environment and water conservation through painting" Vidya Devi Vice President NILM J&K said.

During the painting competition P L Sharma Principal Modern Public Higher Secondary School along with Neelam Sharma Vice Principal of said school and other staff including Sat Pal, Sheetu Bhat, Sakshi Sharma, Sunita Sharma, Sikha Sharma, Tania Verma, Neha

Sharma, Ashu Sharma, Anuradha Sharma and Gopal Sharma remain present.

Painting competition certificates were distributed among the participants by the Project Director NILM J&K at the end of event. R S Thakur Project Director NILM said, "This type of competitions are specially designed by our NGO to make a positive attitude among the children to love their surrounding and environment." He further added that students are passionately participating in the competition.

Deep Shikha awarded Ph.D. in Education by CUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Deep Shikha, daughter of Shankar Singh and Satya Devi from Barwal, District Kathua, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Education by the Central University of Jammu. She is married to Vikas Aithmia, son of Chamel Singh and Neera Aithmia, who resides in Gandhinagar, Jammu.

Deep Shikha's research focused on the topic "Effectiveness of Blended Learning Applications on Scientific Attitude and Self-Regulated Learning of Secondary School Students." Her work was conducted under the guidance of Prof. J.N. Baliya, a distinguished professor in the Depart-



ment of Educational Studies at the Central University of Jammu.

Her achievement highlights the growing importance of innovative educational methodologies in fostering scientific attitudes and promoting self-regulated learning among students. This accomplishment not only reflects her dedication and hard work but also contributes to the broader field of education.

Who hacked Star Health Insurance? Stolen data of 31 million customers put on sale online

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Leading insurer Star Health Insurance admitted to a shocking data breach after private data of millions of customers were compromised.

The leaked data not only includes personal info like names, dates of birth, mobile numbers and email IDs, but also sensitive details like PAN, salary, residential addresses, policy numbers, pre-existing conditions and other health details.

Who hacked Star Health Insurance?

A user, identified as xenZen, took responsibility for the hacking, alleging that Amarjeet Khanuja, the Chief Information Security Officer at Star Health Insurance, sold the data to them directly for \$43,000.

The insurance details of the customers have now been put on sale by the hacker who allegedly leaked 7.24 TB data consisting information about more than 31 million cus-

tomers. The whole data was offered for \$150,000 while they were partially offered in bundles of 1 lakh customer records at \$10,000.

The incident came to light when X user Deedy Das raised alarm about the data leak, saying "Nothing is private in India." Deedy alleged that Khanuja contacted xenZen through Tox, an encrypted chat messenger, on July 26. They allegedly cut a deal for \$28,000 Monero, a cryptocurrency, in exchange for the data.

Following this, hacker made the payment and accessed the data using login credentials and API details allegedly provided by Khanuja via ProtonMail.

Khanuja allegedly sold more data for another \$15,000 on July 20. Deedy alleged that Khanuja, however, revoked the access within a week, demanding \$150,000 for senior management. But the hacker refused and later the data was listed for sale online.

Independent Candidate Rao thanks voters for embracing change in Jammu North

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, an Independent candidate from the 79-Jammu North Assembly constituency, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the voters who chose to support independent candidates, signaling a desire for change and rejecting the traditional political parties. In a statement, Rao emphasized that despite the attempts of local leaders from established parties to divide the electorate along caste and religious lines, the voters made a commendable choice.

Rao highlighted a concerning trend in politics, where traditional political parties continue to mislead voters through divisive tactics. He pointed out that these parties often propagate the false narrative that certain religious groups would be targeted if opposition parties gained power. He condemned this



approach, labeling it as a dangerous agenda aimed at manipulating the poor and maintaining the status quo.

"The current political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir is marred by corrupt practices and caste-based politics," Rao stated. He urged the voters of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those in Jammu North, to stand united against these traditional parties in the upcoming Panchayat and Municipal elections. He called for a collective effort that transcends caste, creed, and religion, emphasizing that no community is safe from the ramifications of

corrupt politics.

Rao criticized the past policies of both the PDP and BJP, asserting that they perpetuated nepotism and favoritism, despite their harsh critiques of previous NC-Congress governments. He lamented that job opportunities in J&K are often reserved for the relatives of politicians, leaving the common people without prospects. Furthermore, he noted that while development is concentrated in urban areas, rural regions remain neglected.

Concluding his remarks, Rao denounced the "pseudo-secularism, pseudo-nationalism, and pseudo-development" propagated by traditional political parties, which he claims have led to unprecedented levels of corruption and misgovernance. He reiterated the importance of exposing these tactics and encouraged voters to prioritize integrity and unity in their political choices.

Judges Should Decide Legal Questions Shunning Popular Morality: CJI

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Judges are supposed to act in a manner that is "unencumbered" by popular morality while deciding constitutional and legal questions, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has said.

The CJI on Wednesday was speaking at the Bhutan Distinguished Speakers' Forum, a part of the Jigme Singye Wangchuck Lecture Series, on the subject of 'Judicial legitimacy through accessibility, transparency and technology: the Indian experience'.

He also spoke on the credibility of judiciary and the "institutional trust" bestowed in courts.

The 50th CJI said institutional trust in courts and their credibility was the very basis of a thriving constitutional order and the courts did not directly hold resources as trustees of people.

"Public trust is central to the credibility of the judicial branch which is otherwise insulated from public opinion in its operations — as it must be. The Indian Supreme Court prides itself in being the people's court," the CJI said.

Judiciary on several occasions questioned the distributive fairness of state largesse such as contracts and natural resources by other wings of the government, he added.

He further opined that though as public functionaries, courts were vested with the responsibility to give effect to

equity, these judicial bodies were not directly in charge of the manner in which resources were to be distributed.

"It does, however, fall upon us to adjudicate the fairness of that distribution, should it be questioned," added the CJI.

Distinguishing between the role of the political executive and the judiciary, he emphasised that at the level of the trial courts, judicial officers were trained to apply the letter and the spirit of the law with clinical detachment from the popularity of their decisions.

"Judges are supposed to act in a manner that is unencumbered by popular morality when deciding Constitutional or legal questions," he said.

According to the CJI, it was in that sense that neither the appointment, nor the continuity of judges was determined by the popular mandate enjoyed by their decisions.

"In fact populist decision-making sits rather uncomfortably on the sinewy shoulders of judicial independence," he said.

Highlighting the importance of transparency, CJI Chandrachud said sunlight was not only the best disinfectant but also begets public trust and helps keep the house in order and serves as an internal check on the functioning of the courts across the country.

"It ensures that our institutions are better managed and use their resources effectively," he said, adding that

measures such as live-streaming of court proceedings have helped foster internal efficiency, accountability and institutional stability.

He also referred to the concept of Public Interest Litigation jurisdiction in India and said it became a unique part of the nation's constitutional order, which was co-opted by several other jurisdictions.

"Substantive outcomes are only a part of the courts' accountability. Judicial institutions are assessed by the people based on substantive metrics such as consistency of outcomes and adherence to constitutional values of equity, fairness and justice," he said.

Pointing out that not only judicial decisions but also the roads leading up to them, must be transparent, navigable by everyone with or without a legal education and must be broad enough to accommodate everyone, the CJI said India has been using technology to counter barriers to accessibility to the courts.

"The perceived fairness of our decisions as well as the ease of obtaining them are important. Justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done. Outcomes are rarer than process-stuck people in the courts. Thus, not only the constitutional outcomes but the constitutional journeys matter. Open courts, accessible courts are a crucial part of the mission. Technology and simpler processes will be key to these journeys," he said.

The CJI also referred to hybrid hearings in courts and said they were introduced in order to tackle COVID-19-induced nationwide lockdown and now, are a feature of Indian courts.

"Virtual Courts and video-conferencing have helped us overcome the massive geographical limitation faced by our litigants from smaller pockets of the country. Also, persons with physical impairments, pregnant women, and persons in their advanced years can now access the courtroom virtually," he said.

The CJI also said that technology is not a one-stop panacea for all social inequalities but the country must not shy away from tech-enabled measures that further judicial accountability.

Tata Chemicals, Tata Teleservices rise over 5 pc. How are the Tata stocks doing today?

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Shares of Tata Group companies, Tata Chemicals and Tata Teleservices, rose over 5 per cent on Thursday, even as the nation mourns the death of Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata who played a key role in transforming the group into a global conglomerate.

At the time of writing this report, Tata Teleservices was up over 6 per cent while Tata Chemicals gained over 5 per cent. The stock of Tata Investment Corporation soared 10.47 per cent to trade at Rs 7,235.80 apiece.

Other major gainers from the Tata pack of

companies include Tata Coffee which went up by 3 per cent, Tata Elxsi, which rose over 2 per cent, and Tata Power which was trading nearly 2 per cent higher.

Nelco, Indian Hotels, Tata Technologies, and Tejas Networks rose over 1 per cent. Tata Steel rose 0.91 per cent, Tata Communications (0.84 per cent), TCS (0.21 per cent), Tata Consumer Products (0.17 per cent), and Voltas went up by 0.24 per cent.

However, Trent slipped 0.90 per cent, Titan fell and Tata Motors was down 0.40 per cent even as Sensex was trading higher by 220 points at

81,699.

"Investors can pay tribute to Ratan Tata and the great corporate empire he built by buying stocks like TCS, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consumer and Indian Hotels. Ratan Tata, while pursuing the group's growth, contributed substantially to India's growth and millions of ordinary investors gained from the great man's vision," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, TCS cancelled a press conference scheduled on Thursday to announce its second-quarter results.

From Tetley to Jaguar Land Rover, how Tata went global under Ratan Tata's leadership

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): It was 1999, just a year since Tata Motors, the country's largest truck and bus maker, had made ambitious forays into the passenger car market with the Indica hatchback. But, things were not going to plan. Despite a lot of initial euphoria, sales were not so great. That was when the company led by Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata himself approached US car giant Ford to sell the struggling car business.

Ford officials reportedly questioned Tata's decision to start the passenger car division and said they would be doing a favour by buying it. Perhaps humiliated, Tata never went ahead with the deal. The tables turned in almost a decade later when Tata Motors acquired the luxury Jaguar Land Rover business from the same Ford in 2008.



Praveen Kadle, a long-time Tata Group veteran would recall years later, how Bill Ford, the Ford chairman thanked Ratan Tata, for doing them a big favour by buying JLR.

Jaguar Land Rover marked a watershed moment for Tata Motors. Up until then Tata Motors was a small car company, targeting the masses. In

2008 only, it had launched the Rs 1 lakh car Nano. It had been a dream of Tata to launch an affordable car for the masses.

The acquisition of the marquee British brands Jaguar and Land Rover propelled Tata Motors into a formidable player in the global luxury car market. It was among the most ambitious acquisitions by the Tata

Group.

But, the first major acquisition under Tata's chairmanship was a decade earlier. Tata Tea, over the 1980s and 1990s was transforming from a tea plantation company to a branded tea company. But, it still lagged the much larger Unilever at that time. Opportunity knocked Tata's doors when Britain's best tea brand Tetley was put up for sale in 2000. Tata snapped up at the opportunity to acquire the company that had invented tea bags. The audacious buyout of Tetley, which was then twice the size of Tata Tea put the Tata brand on the global map.

Tata had earlier in 1995 tried to acquire Tetley, but was unsuccessful given the size of the deal. When opportunity knocked back in 2000, Tata and RK Krishna Kumar, the MD of Tata Tea then, were not going to let it pass.

"It was a defining and historic moment. Tata Tea had created history by acquiring a global brand and business several times its size. It had created history for itself, for the Tata Group and for India," recalled Tata group veteran Harish Bhat in 2020.

There was no looking back after that. Tata Tea followed up the acquisition of Tetley by buying Eight O'Clock Coffee, Good Earth Tea in the USA, Jemca in the Czech Republic and Vitax in Poland over the next few years. In the 2000s, Tata Tea had transformed into Tata Global Beverages. Today, it is known as Tata Consumer Products.

Tata Tea was not the only Tata firm venturing overseas. Under the chairmanship of Tata, Daewoo Commercial vehicles was acquired by Tata Motors in 2004, Corus Steel was acquired by Tata Steel

in 2007 and Tata Chemicals bought British Salt in 2010. Other major acquisitions by Tata Group companies during the time included NatSteel in Singapore and Millennium Steel in Thailand by Tata Steel, Tyco Global Networks by Tata Communications in the US and General Chemical Industrial Products by Tata Chemicals.

"I hope that a hundred years from now we will spread our wings far beyond India, that we become a global group, operating in many countries, an Indian business conglomerate that is at home in the world, carrying the same sense of trust that we do today," Tata said in 2004.

Many of Tata's acquisitions have stood the test of time and today have made Tata a household name across continents, at the same time propelling Indian industry to global heights.

Sachin Tendulkar mourns death of Ratan Tata: In life and demise, he moved the nation

After sharing an emotional note, mourning the death of industrialist Ratan Tata, Sachin Tendulkar visited the industrialist's residence early on Thursday to pay homage. BCCI secretary Jay Shah was among the many who expressed condolences.

MUMBAI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Cricket great Sachin Tendulkar mourned the death of industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata in a heartfelt social media post on Thursday, October 10. Tendulkar was among the many who visited Ratan Tata's residence in Mumbai and paid respects to the national icon, who died aged 86 at a hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Sachin Tendulkar recalled his interactions with Ratan Tata, saying those who knew him and those who didn't have the opportunity to meet him feel the same grief after his death.

"In his life, and demise, Mr Ratan Tata has moved the nation. I was fortunate to spend time with him, but millions, who have never met him, feel the same grief that I feel today. Such is his impact. From his love for animals to philanthropy, he showed that true progress can only be achieved when we care for those who don't have the means to take care of themselves. Rest in peace, Mr Tata. Your legacy will continue to live through the institutions you built and values that you embraced," Sachin Tendulkar said in his



social media post.

Sachin Tendulkar was seen entering Ratan Tata's residence and heading out after paying his respects. The legendary cricketer was even spotted interacting with a few known faces as the public came out in large numbers to pay homage to the industrialist.

Indian cricket board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah also took to social media to express his condolences on Ratan Tata's demise. Notably, the Tata Sons has been IPL official title sponsor since the 2022 edition.

Ratan Tata began his career with the Tata Group in 1962, working on the shop floor of

Tata Steel, which provided him with hands-on experience in the family business. He quickly rose through the ranks, taking on leadership roles at companies like National Radio and Electronics (NELCO) and Empress Mills. Despite initial challenges, his leadership skills and vision eventually led him to succeed J.R.D. Tata as the chairman of Tata Sons in 1991.

Under his leadership, the Tata Group underwent significant transformation and expansion. Tata oversaw the acquisition of several global brands, including Tetley in 2000, Corus in 2007, and Jaguar Land Rover in 2008. He also launched the Tata Nano, aimed at creating the world's most affordable car, and drove the growth of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) into a global IT powerhouse. During his tenure, the group's revenue grew from \$5.7 billion in 1991 to nearly \$100 billion by 2012.

The Tata Group's diverse portfolio and its contributions to education, healthcare, and social development have had a ripple effect on various aspects of Indian society, including sports.

Sai Sudharsan determined to make a mark in red-ball cricket



CHENNAI, Oct 10 (Agencies): As India continue to prepare and get ready for the eight Test matches ahead, the one highly talked about spot is the back-up opener. With Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal being regular openers, the selectors and team management would be looking at standby options who can travel with the team to Australia.

Keeping this in mind, Tamil Nadu opener B Sai Sudharsan is keen to start the Ranji season on a positive note. A proven performer in white-ball cricket, the youngster is not thinking about the IPL mega auction and wants to start well against Saurashtra in Coimbatore.

"I am not thinking about the IPL auction right now. My focus is on the Ranji trophy and the Test matches that are also coming. My focus is to do well for Tamil Nadu and try and make it to the national team in both formats," Sai Sudharsan told this daily.

Tamil Nadu will be led by Sai Kishore and L Balaji is the new coach. "We have a good team. The team has the right mixture of experience and youth.

We are keen to start the season on a positive note and carry forward the momentum," said Sai Sudharsan.

Saurashtra are always a competitive side and they have been in the same Group as Tamil Nadu for a while. "At this level (first-class) none can take any team lightly. We are aware of the task ahead and will play accordingly. We do not believe in putting unnecessary pressure on ourselves. As I said earlier we wish to start well and go with the flow," explained the 22-year old.

In his last first-class game, Sudharsan played for Rest of India in the Irani Trophy, got a good start but couldn't convert the same. "I had a decent start in the Irani Trophy. Could have definitely converted it into a big score as it was a good wicket to bat on. I was disappointed, but then it happens and it was part of the game. I am keen to make amends in the Ranji and perform well," he insisted.

The youngster derives strength from his County stint where he made a century for Surrey. "The experience at Surrey was pleasant. Glad to make some runs. Professional County cricket is tough and I am happy that I got to spend some time in England where the conditions are different before our domestic season," he said.

Sai Kishore has been leading the Tamil Nadu side with a lot of fire and zest. He is a captain who does not believe in dull draws and always looks for results. "He has a positive attitude and always wants the team to win. He prepares us mentally on how one should go and try for full points. Plus he backs the players," said Sudharsan.

Women's T20 World Cup: Batters finally come good as India revive campaign with Sri Lanka thumping

DUBAI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Seasoned performers Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur were back to their sizzling best as India gave a massive boost to their net run rate with an 82-run hammering of Sri Lanka in the Women's T20 World Cup here.

The 98-run stand between Shafali Verma (43 off 40) and Smriti (50 off 38) set the tone for the innings after India opted to bat. Harmanpreet (52 not out off 27) then got welcome runs in the death overs to push India past 170, the highest total of the competition thus far.

Sri Lanka, who had got the better of India in the Asia Cup, could never really get going in the run chase and were all out for 90 in 19.5 overs. There were three wickets apiece for Asha Sobhana (3/19) and Arundhati Reddy (3/19), while Renuka Singh took two wickets, including one with the very first ball of the innings.

The loss to New Zealand had put a severe dent to India's net run rate and they needed a big win to make amends, something they managed. It was also India's biggest margin of victory in the tournament history, pushing their run rate to positive from negative. India's last group game is against the mighty Australia.

"It was one of those days where I was in my zone, I was thinking positively and



hitting anything that was in my zone," Harmanpreet said after smashing her fastest fifty in T20Is.

Harmanpreet completed her half-century off 27 balls. Her previous fastest fifty — off 29 balls — also came against Sri Lanka back in 2018. "These wickets aren't very true for batting. You have to keep rotating strike and only when the ball is in the zone can you swing your bat," she said.

"Smriti and Shafali gave us a very good start. We discussed that, we didn't want to throw our wickets away. That's exactly what the openers did and gave us that platform," she added.

Brief scores: India: 172/3 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet 52*, Mandhana 50, Verma 43); Sri Lanka: 90 all out in 19.5 overs (Asha 3/19, Arundhati 3/19, Renuka 2/16).

India vs Bangladesh: REDDY OR NOT

Nitish Reddy shines with all-round show as India beat Bangladesh by 86 runs in 2nd T20I

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Agencies): Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto had said his team had to perform better to stay in the series after a demoralising loss to India in Gwalior. The show they put on at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday — India registering an 86-run win for an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series — was far from satisfactory.

In fact, the amateurish batting approach shown by Shanto's team made it so easy for his counterpart Suryakumar Yadav that he started to experiment with his bowlers mid-match. Bangladesh's chase of 222 runs was practically over by 5.1 overs when Parvez Hossain Emon, Shanto and Litton Das were all dismissed. Arshdeep Singh accounted for Emon, while Washington Sundar had Shanto holding out to mid-on and Varun Chakravarthy fooled Litton to castle him.

Yadav, knowing that the visitors were struggling to mount a challenge, then handed the ball to Abhishek Verma instead of regular bowlers Mayank Yadav and Hardik Pandya.



Verma, who bowls left-arm spin, yorked Towhid Hridoy in his first over itself. If Emon and Shanto, who started their innings with a flurry of boundaries, were guilty of losing their wickets while trying to force the scoring rate, the others were at fault for failing to steady the innings in the hope of making a dash at the end.

Even Riyan Parag, who was given a chance to roll his arms, managed to get his name in the wickets column. Parag dismissed Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who tried to hit over the covers but gave a straightforward catch to substitute fielder Ravi Bishnoi

at long off.

Jaker Ali and Rishad Hossain, who was brilliantly caught by Pandya off the bowling to Chakravarthy, were dismissed in quick succession to leave Bangladesh tottering for 93/7. If not for a mature innings by Mahmudullah, who was playing his 140th T20I, the loss would have been even more embarrassing. He was the ninth batsman to be dismissed after scoring a 39-ball 41.

Even all-rounder Nitish Reddy chipped in with two wickets as Bangladesh's innings folded at 135/9.

If Bangladesh's batting failed

miserably to make use of the small boundaries, Indian batters accounted for 15 sixes to score a mammoth 221/9. The innings was based on a 108-run partnership between Reddy and Rinku Singh.

Reddy, playing his second T20I, plundered a 34-ball 74, which included seven towering sixes to demoralise the opposition bowlers. Rinku was equally swashbuckling with a 29-ball 53. The duo had to steady the innings first after India were reduced to 41/3 by the sixth over. After looking for singles in the initial overs, the duo started to open the arms as India raced to 100 inside 10 overs.

The plundering continued till Nitish was at the crease and the run rate never dipped below 10. Once he was dismissed, Pandya took over the hitting as he brought the innings past 200 with a 19-ball 32.

Brief scores: India: 221/9 in 20 overs (Reddy 76, Rinku 53, Hardik 32; Taskin 2/16, Mustafizur 2/36); Bangladesh: 135/9 in 20 overs (Chakravarthy 2/19, Reddy 2/23).

After Joe Root, Harry Brook hits double hundred in record partnership for England

MULTAN, Oct 10 (Agencies): Harry Brook continued his fine run against Pakistan as the 25-year-old scored his maiden double hundred during the Multan Test on October 10, Thursday. Brook brought up his 200 right after Joe Root had gone past the landmark on Thursday as the duo continued to pile on the misery on the hosts in Multan. Brook got to the landmark in 245 balls with his innings consisting of 18 boundaries and a six.

Starting the day on 142, Brook looked at ease on the day and gave away no chances for Pakistan on Thursday. The 25-year-old started off slow, by taking singles and doubles. Brook would see Root take on the charge upfront before he got his first boundary of the day in the 107th over bowled by Naseem Shah.

Brook would find his rhythm and the boundaries started to flow from his bat freely as England would overhaul Pakistan's score of 556 and take the lead. Both men would then shift gears and looked to



extend the lead quickly as Brook would get to his landmark with an easy single.

This was also Brook's highest score in first-class cricket as he and Root became the second pair to score double hundreds in the same innings of a Test for England. Graeme Fowler and Mike Gatting were the first pair to do it back in 1985 against India in Chennai.

This was also the 20th time two batters from the same team has

scored double hundreds in the same innings.

Multiple double-hundreds in the same innings for England G Fowler (201) & Mike Gatting (207) vs IND, Chennai, 1985 Joe Root (246*) & Harry Brook (201*) vs PAK, Multan, 2024 Brook would go into lunch unbeaten on 218, while Root was 259.

The partnership between both men went past the 400-run mark.

Tom Latham looks forward to giving own spin to kiwi brand of cricket in India tour

WELLINGTON, Oct 10 (Agencies): Newly-appointed New Zealand Test captain Tom Latham says he is looking forward to his progression from a "caretaker" to a full-time leader of the side that will allow him to put his "own spin on things" starting with the tour of India this week. Latham, who has captained the Black Caps Test side in nine previous matches, took over as full time captain from Tim Southee, who stepped down last week. He will lead a 15-strong squad, including Southee, to India on Friday for the three-match series starting October 16.

"It's obviously a special feeling to be named full-time captain. It's massive honour and a huge privilege. I think in the past, it's always been



a little bit of a caretaker role... But I guess, it's a different situation where I would be able to put a little bit of my own spin on things and what that looks like," the 32-year-old Latham said in a short video posted by New Zealand Cricket.

"I am not 100 per cent

sure yet but hopefully we will see where it does look a little bit different. As a Test team, in the past, we have a done huge amount of good things. We have been successful playing a brand of cricket that is true to us as Kiwis," he added.

"It's obviously a great group, a bunch of leaders, a bunch of older guys, and also some amazing talent coming through. So it's certainly an exciting time and yeah, it will be a great challenge." The series against India will begin in Bengaluru, followed by games in Pune and Mumbai.

Gary Stead will lead the Kiwis' coaching staff, alongside batting coach Luke Ronchi and bowling coach Jacob Oram. Sri Lankan spin great Rangana Herath will continue his role as spin-coach for the series.

Former captain and star batter Kane Williamson will be joining the team later due to a groin strain. He will require some rehabilitation before linking up with the squad.

Dandiya Function at St. Mary's Infant Convent School celebrates Spirit of Navratras

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: St. Mary's Infant Convent School (SMICS), Jammu, came alive with festive fervor as it hosted a vibrant Dandiya function to mark the celebration of the auspicious occasion of Navratras. The event, held in the school premises, saw enthusiastic participation from students, staff, and parents alike, blending traditional culture with youthful energy.

The Navratri celebration commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony. Chairperson of the school, Mrs. Anna Mary, invoked the blessings of Goddess Durga for prosperity and happiness. Principal, Mrs. Sheetal Anthony, welcomed the attendees, highlighting the significance of Navratri and Dandiya. She emphasized the festival's power to unite people, fostering



a sense of community and cultural appreciation.

The school premises transformed into a colorful space as students, dressed in traditional attire, performed vibrant Dandiya and Garba dances. Accompanied by the rhythmic beats of traditional folk music, the

students showcased well-coordinated performances, reflecting the cultural heritage of India while celebrating the divine feminine power of Navratri.

The Dandiya Raas, a signature part of Navratri celebrations at SMICS, saw enthusiastic participation from the parents

and staff. Families danced together, creating a heartwarming sense of community. Teachers guided the students throughout the event, ensuring that everyone enjoyed the festivities while also learning about the cultural and spiritual significance of the Navratri festival.

In addition to the dances, the school organized various activities for students and families. A traditional attire competition showcased students' creativity, with winners receiving prizes. Mothers also enjoyed participating in fun games which added to the festive cheer. Chairperson Anna Mary and special guests, Anju Maini and Amrit Maini, awarded prizes to the mothers who won various games.

The evening concluded with refreshments, where parents, teachers, and students bonded over conversations and festive treats, making it a memorable occasion for everyone involved. The Dandiya function at SMICS was a grand success, spreading joy and excitement while keeping the spirit of Navratras alive in the hearts of the school community.

BMO Nowshera organizes awareness programme on mental illnesses

Top News Report

NEWSHERA, Oct 10: In India, nearly 15% of adults require intervention for one or more mental health issues, and over 1 in 5 youth (ages 13-18) have experienced a serious mental illness at some point in their lives.

In observance of "World Mental Health Day 2024," BMO Nowshera, Dr. Iqbal Malik, in collaboration with the Tehsil Legal Service Committee Nowshera, organized an event to raise awareness about mental illnesses. The event was conducted under the supervision of the Director of Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra, and the Chief Medical Officer, Rajouri, Dr. Manohar Rana.

During the event, Dr. Malik, who also holds the charge of the District Mental Health Programme Rajouri, delivered a PowerPoint presentation and interacted with ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, prominent citi-



zens, PRI members, and NGOs. He provided a comprehensive lecture on mental disorders.

He highlighted that, according to the World Health Report of 2001, the prevalence of mental disorders in the adult population ranges from 10% to 15%, contributing to 20% of the economic burden in India. Statistics show that 1 in every 5 Indians is grappling with some form of mental disorder. Additionally, 25% of patients seeking primary health-care exhibit one or more mental disorders, and 1 in 4 families has at least one member with a mental disorder at any given time.

Dr. Malik further stated that mental and neu-

rological conditions account for 30.8% of all years lived with disability. Depression stands out as the leading cause of disability, comprising 12% of the total, and ranks as the fourth leading cause of disease burden globally. By 2020, it is projected to become the second leading cause of disease burden worldwide.

Advocate Haq Nawas Choudhary added that mentally ill individuals are often neglected due to supernatural beliefs, misconceptions, and stigma, resulting in 90% of patients not receiving the necessary medical help. He urged people to seek treatment for mental illness, emphasizing that it is a curable condition.

BPCL Jammu CUF honours Tarun Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Jammu (BPCL) CUF honour Tarun Sharma for his exceptional contribution, Dedication, Hardworking efforts in as an Actor, Director, Martial Artist and his impactful role as a Social, Sports, Cultural and Political Activist.

Tarun Sharma was honored with an award by Rabinder Kumar, Project Head and Incharge of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Jammu CUF, recognizing his exceptional contributions and dedication.

Tarun Sharma was born in Jammu, India in a Sharma Hindu family. He is a son of Dinesh Sharma and Pooja Sharma and Grand son of Late Shri B.R Sharma (Chief Accounts Officer & Financial Advisor J&K Government) and Late Smt. Shimla Sharma.

Presently Tarun Sharma is an active social worker, Actor, Director, Martial artist, President Nat Manch, President Japan Shotokan Karate-Do kanninjuku Organization J&K, President Shri Bhagwan Parshuram Trust J&K youth wing, Head Cultural cell BJP Youth wing J&K.

Tarun Sharma is a Former President YUVA, Former General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Brahman Sabha, Former Secretary PMJKKY, Former National member of World Brahman Federation National Youth Team and Former member AKAJK. Tarun Sharma was an Ambassador of J&K Government Department CCDU in the year of 2018 and Sanskarshala programme of Dainik Jagarn Hindi National newspaper 2018 to 2019.



Tarun Sharma is working for the welfare of society on various issues like Plastic Waste Management Programme, Blood Donation, Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, plantation drives, Water conservation, creating awareness for improvement of the status of women, free coaching classes to underprivileged students, free self-defence training for girl child & womens, drugs awareness camp with theme "Say No to Drugs" and environmental awareness programmes.

In the pandemic time of COVID-19, he did an excellent humanitarian service for the welfare of society by his work. He provide food, dry rations, hygienic kit, masks, sanitizers, sanitary pads to thousands in need and helping them access government aid. He organised number of medical and Ayurvedic camps. Till now he has donated 30 times blood and planted more than 3000 saplings.

Tarun Sharma has been involved in various artistic endeavors including Theatre programs, Street plays (Nukkad Natak), mega events, Short films, Video songs, Bhajan,

advertisements, Reality Shows and Films.

Tarun Sharma with his acting and direction has graced number of Video songs, Devotional songs, advertisements, TV serial and Films for various channels and production house.

Tarun Sharma won the Title of Mr. Jammu and Mr. North India in 2009. Tarun Sharma of Jammu and Kashmir won Talent Hunt Online competition with more than 30000 shares. This talent hunt online competition was being presented by Entertainment Channel of Boss Punjabi TV Canada in which more than two

hundred and fifty boys and girls from all over the world participated.

Tarun Sharma directed and acted in more than 1000 nukkad natak with the theme of social issues.

Tarun Sharma have also done National School of Drama (NSD) Theatre Workshop.

Tarun Sharma with his team made a record of 51 nukkad natak plays in one day at different places in Jammu.

Tarun Sharma has been the host of All India Radio Jammu and Kashmir's program "Meri Pasand".

Tarun Sharma also presented its own reality show 'Jammu Boys' through which many participants from different parts of the State participated. Tarun Sharma acted as main Character of Tarun Choudhary in serial "Naya Kurukshetra" by Canvas Films and TV telecasted DD Prabha, DD National and Zee Prime in the year of 2021. Tarun Sharma's Documentary film "Paani" awarded with Best Documentary Film in 2nd Karnataka International Film Festival 2022.

In karate, Tarun Sharma learned different martial arts including Goju-ryu, Gi Toku Kai, Shotokan, Shi-

to-ryu and Seiko KAI. He is 3rd Dan Black Belt from Style and National Federation, won 2 time gold medal for India, Judge & Referee from National Federation Karate India Organisation (KIO), President Japan Shotokan Karate-Do kanninjuku Organization J&K, EX. Member Amateur Karate-Do Association of Jammu and Kashmir (AKAJK).

Tarun sharma trained more than 5000 people from all over India. He organised and participated in number of Karate Championship and camps for promotion of Karate.

Tarun Sharma honoured with the certificate of World Honour Records for The World Record of "Maximum People Performing Karate and Taekwondo Part 1" is mass Achieved by World Honour Records, India in the year of 2019.

Tarun Sharma has been awarded an honorary doctorate from SN Foundation of India and Sahara Charitable Trust in recognition of his outstanding contributions to art and the Sports in the year of 2023. Recently Tarun Sharma honoured with "Vishwa Ratna Samman" 2024 and Prestigious book of World Records.

Navratri celebration held at GDC R S Pura



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: GDC RS Pura embraced the vibrant spirit of Navratri with devotion, dance, and huge spiritual fervor. The event was organized in the college campus, with students, faculty, and staff joining in to celebrate the triumph of good over evil and to honor the divine feminine.

The main aim of celebration was to inculcate the idea among the students to embrace inner power, overcome adversities, and be resilient in the face of

obstacles.

Navratri celebration was an exciting blend of traditional rituals and cultural performances organized under the patronage of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour. The Principal of the college emphasized the importance of holding such celebrations for prioritizing spiritual growth and to cleanse the minds and bodies from negative influences. A special Navratri Puja and Aarti was performed to invoke the blessings of Goddess Durga and to promote unity and

peace in campus. The main attraction of Navratri festival, where students and staff participated in traditional Garba.

The campus ground was transformed into a colorful dance arena as everyone enjoyed the rhythmic beats of folk music. Such initiatives send a message to the society in general and student community in particular that women can take charge, lead with strength and compassion, and make impactful decisions in various fields of life—be it family, society, business, or politics.

JKBS members hails Singer Sawan Singh Lakhotra's Bhajans

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members at their special meet held here today, hailed Ranbir Singh Pura based singer Sawan Singh Lakhotra's 'Bhajans'.

JKBS General Secretary R.L. Kaith said, In his formative years Lakhotra would practice for hours but now his voice is trained.

Lakhotra expressed his happiness on the unique position his par-

ticular brand of music occupies.

Devotional music can never go out of style, as long as there are Hindu festivals. I feel very lucky that people listen to my bhajans. When people tell me that my music gives pleasure to their souls, I feel very honored, said Lakhotra.

When asked about secret of his ever smiling disposition, Lakhotra replied, My face exudes peace because what I have inside is peace. I am happy from within.

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